

The Porter

St. Conrad Fraternity, Annapolis, MD
Secular Franciscan Order – December 2020
<http://stconradannapolis.sfousa.org/>

The Porter deadline for the January issue is January 8. **Please send news, prayer requests, poems, or interesting items** that you think other members may enjoy to: Joan Faltot, 8217 Grainfield Rd, Severn, MD 21144, or send by email to jd6bouv@verizon.net.



Fraternity Meeting

Saturday, December 19, 2020 * 10:00 AM**
Via Zoom – Invitation will be sent on Friday, Dec 18th

Prayer Requests



(Please help us update this list. Send changes/additions to jd6bouv@verizon.net)

For physical and spiritual healing of:

Ed Wilbourne, Susan Greif, John Gemmell (husband of Mary Cicero Gemmell), Kellie Eye (granddaughter of Susan Greif), Katherine Henry (daughter-in-law of Mary Henry), Mary Henry and her niece, Stephen (great-grandson of Mary Henry), Mary Jo Johnson, Joe McGeady, John McHugh (brother of Joe McHugh), Michelle (niece of Denise Miente), Bill Mulqueen, Ruth Shea's husband, Evelyn Jones niece, Jimmy Wilbourne (son of Genny Wilbourne), Gerard Malak (brother of Genny Wilbourne)

Birthdays

Marie Shelton – 12/26
Jenny Moreira – 12/31

George Ryan—01/07
Tessie Chitty—01/21

Profession Anniversaries

Santa Ragot – 12/14/1980 HAPPY 40th ANNIVERSARY!!

Treasury

Current balance: \$1,502.28

Many thanks to all who have continued to support the fraternity throughout the year. During this month, donations were sent to: St. Vincent de Paul (rent & utility protection), Amazon Relief, Franciscan Center, St. Francis International School, Lighthouse (bus tokens), Franciscan Family Apostolate, Phoenix Academy.

Please mail your monthly contribution to:

Joe McHugh at 1740 Tedbury St, Crofton, MD 21114

Council Meeting

Zoom meeting, January 1 & 15, 2021

Save the Date

February 27, 2021. 42nd Annual Social Ministry Convocation. Event will be virtual this year. Be on the lookout for more details. <https://www.catholiccharities-md.org/volunteer/parish-social-ministry/>

March 21-23, 2021. Regional Retreat at The Loyola Retreat Center in Faulkner, MD. Fr. Kevin Treston, OFM from the Holy Land Monastery in Washington, DC will be the weekend facilitator



Minister's Minute

December has not been kind to our fraternity.

On December 3, Susan Greif fell in her apartment and fractured her ankle in three places. Surgery was required to repair it and was successful, but she now has a 10-pound boot on her foot. Fortunately, it was Susan's weak foot that suffered the fracture. She is currently in a rehab facility, but will hopefully move back to her apartment in a week (possibly by our fraternity meeting). She sends her love to all our fraternity members. She has her cell phone with her in the facility (410-858-7570, caller id = Eye Sara). The facility allows no visitors, not even clergy, so she would love to receive phones between her occupational and physical therapy sessions.

Ed Wilbourne was admitted to BWMC on Sunday, December 6th because of worsening diabetes and an inability to walk. He moved to rehab on December 11. It is also possible that he suffered a second stroke. Jeanne also needs prayers also to deal with all these challenges. Contact Genny Wilbourne for more information.

In addition to these misfortunes, I imagine many of us will be having a simpler Christmas, perhaps even a disappointing Christmas, as we face the reality of COVID-19 and separation from some of our extended family and friends. However, with no parties and less shopping, we will have more time to dwell on the real meaning of Christmas. At our fraternity meeting this Saturday, we will take some time during our social portion to share some of our happiest memories of Christmas with one another, hoping that it will bring some cheer to the season. In case you haven't tried it, singing Christmas carols together via Zoom does not work. PAX and BONUM. Joan

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM REJANI ROY, OUR FAMILY IN INDIA

I hope and pray that you are safe and good in health. We are aware about the situation in the USA through social media. Let us strengthen each other with prayers during this very difficult time of pandemic. Here we were under strict lockdown and cluster containment. Now there is little changes had came.

I received your help you are sending for my house also. Now we build a work area also. Thank you very much for same. Now we have a proper shelter for living. My younger daughter joined for medical lab technician course. I have no work.

Wishing you the peace and joy of Christmas and a blessed New Year 2021 filled with every blessing from our loving God.

*Yours sincerely
Rejani Roy*

THOMAS CELANO'S "THE MANGER HE MADE IN CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S BIRTHDAY"

From Chris Grubach

Finally, the day of joy has drawn near,
the time of exultation has come.
From many different places the brethren have been called.
As they could,
the men and women of the land with exultant hearts
prepare candles and torches to light up the night
Whose shining star has enlightened every day and year.
Finally, a holy man of God comes
and, finding all things prepared,
he saw them and was glad.
Indeed, the manger is prepared,
The hay is carried in,
and the ox and ass are led to the spot.
There a simplicity is given a place of honor, poverty is exalted,
humility is commended,
And out of Greccio is a new Bethlehem.



The night is lit up like day
delighting both man and beast.
The people arrive, ecstatic at this new mystery of new joy.
The forest amplifies the cries
The brothers sing, giving God due praise,
and the whole night abounds in jubilation.
The holy man of God stands before the manger,
Filled with heartfelt sighs,
contrite in his piety,
and overcome with wondrous joy.
Over the manger the solemnity ones of the Mass are
celebrated
and the priest enjoys a new consolation.

[Greccio-A Pilgrim Experience](#)

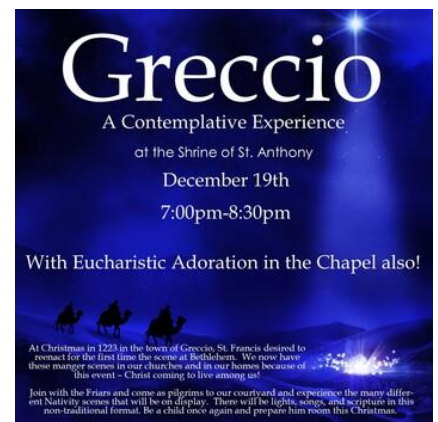
Saturday, December 19, 2020, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Shrine of Saint Anthony, Ellicott City

At Christmas in 1223 in the town of Greccio, St. Francis desired to reenact for the first time the scene at Bethlehem. We now have these manger scenes in our churches and in our homes because of this event – Christ coming to live among us!

Join with the Friars and come as pilgrims to our courtyard and experience the many different Nativity scenes that will be on display. There will be lights, songs, and scripture in this non-traditional format. Be a child once again and prepare him room this Christmas.

Our Chapel will be available for Eucharistic Adoration and private prayer during this joy-filled night.

Come as a pilgrim – leave as an evangelizer!



APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA

From Denise Miante

"Many of you may know that this is an apostolate that we've joined at this time of the year - during the Advent season for as far as I can remember. This is a little background:

We usually make up Christmas shoe boxes filled with various personal items; hats, gloves & socks; as well as candy and small puzzle books -- The AOS gives us a list of what is needed (see below).

Ship visitors drive an AOS van to ships. They bring seafarers to the AOS Center in Dundalk where they are welcomed to Baltimore as fellow Catholics given books, magazines, religious reading material, used clothing, and religious icons. Provisions are made for the Seafarers' transportation, communication, personal and professional needs, especially facilitating the practice of their Catholic faith.

In the years before Social Distancing became a common phrase in our everyday lives, we collected these boxes at our Fraternity meetings and then Joe McGeady and Jerry Miante would bring them to the AOS Center in Dundalk.

Andy, the AOS Agent in Dundalk, he said there are several ways to keep this Apostolate going:

- (1) They are still collecting the boxes that we traditionally bring. If you wish to do the boxes, please contact Denise at rubob903@gmail.com
- (2) Buy in bulk certain items that are in list below [perhaps from Amazon, Walmart, or Target, etc.] and have items shipped to AOS directly. If you shop locally, you may send items yourself
- (3) A monetary donation may also be sent to them directly.

Please send items or your donation to:

Apostleship of the Sea
6 Dunman Way
Dundalk, MD 21222 443-845-7227

APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA CHRISTMAS BOX LIST

Toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, combs, nail clippers, mouthwash, shampoos, conditioners, soap, shaving cream, deodorant, q-tips, disposable razors, socks gloves, scarves, caps, pens, pencils, writing supplies, English dictionaries, 2021 calendars, pocket-sized address, books/planners, scotch tape, playing cards, travel sized games, reading materials (magazines, paperbacks), non-perishable foods/snacks/candy, a small Christmas card or blessing signed from a member or members of your organization.

Star of the Sea, Light Our Way

Star of the Sea so radiant in the glory of God's Love
Your crown outshining all the stars of heaven above,
O, lovely Queen of Peace, gowned in azure's of the sea,
Help us find the way to Jesus, in your wise serenity.
We ask you Pearl of Grace to grant us vision, courage, will,
So 'peace on earth', that miracle, at last might be fulfilled!
Dear Mother of the Church, blessed beacon of God's Light,
May you always guide your children on the stormy seas of life.
Make our hearts into safe harbors where dear Jesus is received
Hear our prayer, O, Spiritual Vessel, Mother of God, Star of the Sea.

Thank you for considering the continuation of this apostolate in the way that suits you best."

SAVE THE DATE!

42ND ANNUAL
SOCIAL MINISTRY
CONVOCATION

Persistence in *the march towards justice*



**Due to COVID,
this year's event will be held virtually.
More details to come!**

- Keynote Address:
Ashley Morris, Assistant Director for the Intercultural Office of the
Archdiocese of Atlanta.
- New workshop topics, plus workshops in English and Spanish!
- Awards nominations opening soon!

If you have technology needs for participating in this virtual event please contact St. Francis of Assisi Church at 410-235-5136 and we will try to assist you.

FEBRUARY 27, 2021