

The Porter

St. Conrad Fraternity, Annapolis, MD
Secular Franciscan Order – January 2021
<http://stconradannapolis.sfousa.org/>

The Porter deadline for the February issue is February 12. 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, January 16, 2021 * 10:00 AM**

Via Zoom – Invitation will be sent on Friday, January 15th

As is customary for our January meeting, our prayer will focus on pro-life. Our ongoing formation will make a U-turn and focus on making preparations for Sister Death, which none of us will escape. (This discussion was scheduled for November, but we ran out of time.)



Prayer Requests

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

For the soul of: Sister Mary Jane

For physical and spiritual healing of: Jan Parker (National Minister), 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

Tessie Chitty — 01/21

Kathleen Sievers – 02/10

Mary Jo Johnson — 02/10

Joan Kvetkas – 02/11

Profession Anniversaries

Harry Thompson – 01/10/1991 – HAPPY 30th ANNIVERSARY!!!

Lita Millan – 01/10/2002

Margaret Jackson – 02/08/1998

Treasury

Current balance: \$2,447.28

General Constitutions. Article 30, paragraph 3 expands on our Rule 25: In a family spirit, each brother and sister should make a contribution to the fraternity fund, according to each one's means, to provide the financial means needed for the life of the fraternity and for its religious, apostolic, and charitable works.

This should apply to both active and excused members within their financial and physical means. Although we are not meeting, we continue to reach out with our donations to local needs.

Please see page 3 for the 2020 Treasurer's Report. And THANK YOU for your generosity in 2020.

Please mail your contribution to: Joe McHugh at 1740 Tedbury St, Crofton, MD 21114

Save the Date

February 27, 2021. 42nd Annual Social Ministry Convocation. Event will be **virtual** this year. 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.

Council Meeting

Zoom meeting, Monday, February 1, 2021. Planning session date TBD, but plan on sometime during the last 2 weeks of January.



Minister's Minute

Goodbye 2020! One would hope that 2021 could not be any worse, but then came the riot on the US Capitol on January 6, 2021. One shining moment, hopefully not too brief, was that Congress expressed the need to engage in more civil conversations. I pray that this civility continues, not only in Congress, but in our own lives; that differences of opinion should not obscure the love that we as Franciscans should extend to all we meet.

Update on our members -please continue to pray for:

- Mary Cicero Gemmell's husband, John, who was scheduled for surgery at Georgetown Hospital this past week to remove esophageal and stomach cancer. However, the doctors elected to cancel the surgery and to try chemotherapy first.
- Susan Greif had tested positive for COVID-19 but has not had any symptoms other than a mild sore throat. She plans to be retested soon. The community where she lives has received the COVID vaccine and Susan received it without side effects. The community remains on lockdown. This situation, the cast on her leg, and the move have left Susan a bit depressed. Luckily, she can see the dog park from her window. She could use a card, or call, as she adjusts to her new surroundings: (410) 858-7570; 11001 Austin Lane, Apt 10406, Austin TX 78758.
- Ed Wilbourne is home from rehab. He was hospitalized when his blood sugar went out of control. He also suffered a stroke. Genny is helping Jean learn about insulin and blood sugar. Thankfully, Ed remains upbeat.

Something New Has Come to the PORTER from Denise Miante

At our last Council Meeting, I mentioned how much I enjoyed starting to read "*The Seraphic Order.*" It was a birthday present to me in September, but I was reading it daily in a hit or miss fashion. The Council asked me to write a short summary about how I've taken pleasure in reading it since the beginning of the year. Hopefully, this feature will continue and include your favorite "book reports" during the coming year.

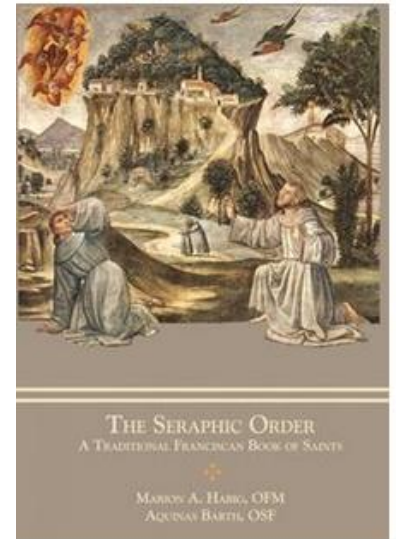


To put it simply, the book is a revised edition (2020) of **THE SEPRAPHIC ORDER; A Traditional Franciscan Book of Saints**, authored by Sister Aquinas Barth, OSF, and Father Marion A. Habig, OFM. This updated version has a Franciscan Saint, Blessed, or Servant of God for every day of the year. The daily summaries are very short, with a little meditation and ending with a prayer of the Church. I particularly like to read it early before or after my morning prayers. Sometimes I find it soothing to read it in the quiet of the night when everyone is asleep, and I can meditate more fully with a cup of tea. Truly a blessing to know my Franciscan family.....and there are a lot of us!!

I did buy this book through the [MEDIATRIX Press](#) publishers; since they are the ones who did the hard work of this modification. They also have some additional and interesting books on their website.

Pax et Bonum, Denise. ST. JOSEPH, PRAY FOR US.

WARNING: The book is almost 3inches thick!!!



St. Conrad Fraternity (Annapolis) #57105, Secular Franciscan Order
Calendar-Year 2020 Annual Treasurer's Report to the Membership

Beginning Balance as of 01/01/20		\$1,571.28
Income		
Contributions from members	+\$7,791.00	
Income Total		\$9,362.28
Expenses and Donations		
Facility use at St. John's (Feb. only)	50.00	
Gifts for Ordination/Mbr. Wedding	250.00	
Fair Share Assessment (\$1,500-\$320)	1,180.00	
Franciscan Family Apostolate*	1,200.00	
Phoenix Academy+	1,025.00	
Lighthouse Tokens^	675.00	
Franciscan Ctr. (Baltimore)	1,000.00	
St. Camillus Food Pantry	700.00	
St. Vincent de Paul (Baltimore)	500.00	
Amazon Relief	500.00	
St. Francis Int'l School	500.00	
Total		\$7,760.00
Year-End Balance as 12/31/20		\$1,602.28

Approved by the Council on January 1, 2021

*Support Kommandy family #1178 in India, through the Franciscan Family Apostolate.

+Donated funding through Denise Miente, OFS monthly.

^Purchased tokens for residents at the Annapolis Lighthouse Shelter.

Remember, when making your donation to the fraternity, you can use the memo line of your check to designate where you wish your contribution to be directed. There are 3 possible designations:

- **Common Fund (this covers fraternity operations and the Sabu family in India)**
- **Tokens (bus tokens for the Lighthouse Shelter clients)**
- **SFIS (St. Francis International School) – Since the Phoenix Academy is teaching remotely, the “Backpack” food program is not active. The council has decided that any money designated to it will instead be sent to the St. Francis International School in Silver Spring. The school provides a week's worth of free meals for SFIS students in need.**

OUTREACH – DENISE MIANTE

From the Light House

Hi Denise,

I hope this email finds you well and enjoying the BEAUTIFUL day!

I wanted to write to you again to express my gratitude for your unwavering support of The Light House through your generous donation of \$400 in lieu of UNBagged Lunches for October! We are so grateful for this donation and your pass support of our UNBagged Lunch program!

I hope that this time will soon have passed and I can thank you and the St. Conrad Fraternity in person for your continued support. 😊

I hope you have a wonderful rest of your week, Denise!

Sarah E. Ryan, Volunteer Programs Administrator
The Light House - A Homeless Prevention Support Center
www.annapolislighthouse.org

Dear Fraternity: I would like to add my thanks for the continuous support of the Apostolate to the Light House Shelter with Bus Passes and Lunches. The needs are just growing larger each month. God's blessings be with you all; and HAPPY NEW YEAR! Denise

From Chris Grubach

I received this poem on Christmas Day by Symeon the New Theologian. He is recognized as the first Byzantine mystic to freely share his own mystical experiences. It so much reminds me of the love and peace expressed by St Paul, St Francis, St Bonaventure, and Blessed John Duns Scotus.

We awaken in Christ's body
as Christ awakens our bodies,
and my poor hand is Christ, He enters
my foot, and is infinitely me.

I move my hand, and wonderfully
my hand becomes Christ, becomes all of Him
(for God is indivisibly
whole, seamless in His Godhood).

I move my foot, and at once
He appears like a flash of lightning.
Do my words seem blasphemous? —Then
open your heart to Him

and let yourself receive the one
who is opening to you so deeply.
For if we genuinely love Him,
We wake up inside Christ's body

where all our body, all over,
every most hidden part of it,
is realized in joy as Him,
and He makes us, utterly, real,

and everything that is hurt, everything
that seemed to us dark, harsh, shameful,
maimed, ugly, irreparably
damaged, is in Him transformed

and recognized as whole, as lovely,
and radiant in His light
we awaken as the Beloved
in every last part of our body. [1]

[1] Symeon the New Theologian, "Hymn 15," from *The Enlightened Heart: An Anthology of Sacred Poetry*, ed. Stephen Mitchell (Harper Perennial: 1993), 38–39.

Servant of God Mother Mary Lange, O.S.P

1784-1882. Co-founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence.

Elizabeth Clarisse Lange was born about 1784 in Santiago de Cuba, in a Haitian community where she received an excellent education. In the early 1800s she immigrated to the US. According to oral tradition, she first arrived at Charleston, South Carolina, moved to Norfolk, Virginia and then to Baltimore, Maryland by 1813. Baltimore was home of a fair-sized, French-speaking African Caribbean population. To help meet the demands of the growing free African American population, Lange started a school for them in her home in Fells Point.

Under the direction of Sulpician priest James Nicholas Joubert, S.S., Elizabeth Lange and Marie Balas started a women's religious order to teach African American children. Lange and Balas and 3 other women took their first vows on July 2, 1829. "Sister Mary" Lange became the first superior general of the new community.



The first class had 20 students. In addition to the school the sisters later conducted night classes for women, provided vocational and career training, and established homes for widows and orphans. By 1860, all of the Catholic schools for "colored" children in Baltimore were taught by Oblate Sisters: Saint Frances Academy, Saint Joseph's School for Boys and Saint Michael's. Saint Frances had four schools under one roof: the academy for children whose parents could pay, the boy's school, a free school for children whose parents could not afford to pay, and the orphans' school.

After her death on February 3, 1882, many Catholics in Baltimore began to venerate her as a saint. In 1991, Cardinal William Henry Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore, officially opened a formal investigation of Lange's life to study it for her possible canonization. In 2004, documents describing Lange's life were sent to the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints which then opened the cause for her sainthood.

See more at <http://motherlangeguild.homestead.com/history.html>

Amazon Second Chance *from Joan Faltot*

<https://smile.amazon.com/amsc>

Sometimes you must wonder if Amazon is taking over the world. However, I must admit that I am surprised by the commitment Amazon has made for a sustainable future, including The Climate Pledge—their goal to reach net zero carbon across Amazon business operations by 2040, one decade ahead of the Paris Agreement. This includes purchasing 100,000 electric delivery vehicles, moving to using 100% renewable energy by 2025, funding reforestation projects, and more. But my favorite find was the "[Second Chance page](#)." This page provides information on the following topics.

Recycling your packaging? - for each type of packaging (pictures provided), you can select the type and link to a page that provides recycling information and recycle locations by zip code.

Have items you no longer want? - describes ways to trade-in, recycle or return an item. Includes information on recycling or trading in electronic devices for an Amazon gift card.

Looking for open-box or pre-loved items - includes used, refurbished, returned, open boxed items that have been inspected and tested. Includes pre-owned Amazon devices (Echo, Fire tablets, Kindle) with same limited warranty as new devices.

PRO-LIFE EVENTS

January 28, 2021: 8:00 pm Rosary for Life followed by Mass and Holy Hour at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C. All prayer events will be televised by EWTN.

January 29, 2021: National March for Life, Washington, D.C.

February 4, 2021: Maryland March for Life, Annapolis, MD



DATE: Thursday, February 4, 2021

TIME: 4:30pm-6:30pm EST

LOCATION: Public Sidewalks Outside

Miller Senate Bldg.

11 Bladen Street, Annapolis

**Join the family-friendly, peaceful,
prayerful witness to LIFE in Annapolis!**

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to create numerous challenges. We would never dream of pausing or canceling the lifesaving work our coalition engages in each year during the General Assembly Legislative Session. However, we have to recognize the need to adapt to the current situation.

We will not be allowed to host our regular religious services, youth rally, Lawyer's Mall Rally, or post-march mixer due to restrictions in place at all of our regular venues. All back-up options have been explored. We intend to host a "Life Chain-like" event on the public sidewalks outside the Miller Senate Building with individuals or family groups spread 6-feet apart. In accord with current Annapolis-specific executive orders, this event will require face coverings for attendees (unless unable due to age or medical conditions).

Lastly, with the potential for a shortened legislative session AND the expectation that crucial legislation will be introduced early this year, **we are moving the 2021 Maryland March for Life UP to Thursday, February 4, 2021 from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm.** Please check out our website at mdmarchforlife.com for additional information.

[REGISTER FOR THE MARCH](#)