

# The Porter

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

The Porter deadline for the April issue is April 10. 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](mailto:jd6bouv@verizon.net).



## Fraternity Meeting

**Saturday, March 20, 2021 \*\*\* 10:00 AM**

**Fr. Paul Dressler will speak on Repent**

**Via Zoom – Invitation will be sent on Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**

**NOTE:** Capuchin College will live-stream the friars' Mass on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at 8:30 or 8:35 am for the sake of the Capuchin College Secular Fraternity and for our fraternity. Live-streamed link: <https://youtube.com/channel/UctFahWBDM9tTx-pb-EJG4og>  
The recording of this Mass will also be available from the same link later that day.

## Prayer Requests



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

*For the soul of:* Bill Fey, OFM Cap, Richard Lubomski, OFM Cap, Reginald Russo, OFM Cap

*For physical and spiritual healing of:* Evelyn Jones, Mary Henry, Tessie Chitty, John Gemmell (husband of Mary Cicero Gemmell), Fran Cicero (Mary's mom), Jan Parker (National Minister), Ed Wilbourne, Susan Greif, Kellie Eye (granddaughter of Susan Greif), Katherine Henry (daughter-in-law of Mary Henry), Stephen (great-grandson of Mary Henry), Joe McGeady, John McHugh (brother of Joe McHugh), Bill Mulqueen, Ruth Shea's husband, Evelyn Jones' niece, Jimmy Wilbourne (son of Genny Wilbourne), Gerard Malak (brother of Genny Wilbourne)

## Birthdays

Joe McHugh — 3/19	Jean Gaes — 3/25
Sarah Ranke — 3/19	Mary Cicero — 4/6
Susan Burns — 3/20	Susan Greif — 4/7

## Profession Anniversaries

Dennis Mallon — 4/6/1955

## Treasury

Current balance: \$2,730.28

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

**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)

## An Unfree Person

No man who simply eats and drinks whenever he feels like eating and drinking, who smokes whenever he feels the urge to light a cigarette, who gratifies his curiosity and sensuality whenever they are stimulated, can consider himself a free person. —Thomas Merton

<b>Save the Date</b>	<p><b>May 22, 2021.</b> Regional Retreat via Zoom, 9:00am – 4:00pm. Fr. Kevin Treston, OFM from the Holy Land Monastery in Washington, DC will facilitate: “Secular Franciscans, A Prophetic People.” To register to attend, send an email to Bob Longo, <a href="mailto:blongosfo@gmail.com">blongosfo@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>October 1-3, 2021.</b> The Saint Francis Fraternity (at Cap College) has invited our fraternity to join their fraternity in a Fall Retreat under the direction of Fr. Paul Dressler at Claggett Retreat Center, 3035 Buckeystown Pike, Adamstown, MD. Stay tuned for registration details.</p>
<b>Council Meeting</b>	Zoom meeting, Monday, April 5, 2021



## Minister's Minute

Hello Springtime!!! Our fraternity meeting this Saturday will coincide with the first day of Spring. To celebrate the renewal of life that spring brings, we will be making our recommitment to the Secular Order during our Zoom meeting. Fr. Paul Dressler will be with us and will talk on **Repentance**. Fortunately, I don't expect an old "fire and brimstone" talk about all our

shortcomings. Just has my home needs of a thorough spring cleaning, my spiritual life needs refreshing as I reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus and the boundless mercy of our Father. And as I begin sowing seeds in my garden, I need to know that I should be sowing seeds of new life elsewhere in my life.

There will be a Zoom Regional Retreat on May 22<sup>nd</sup> instead of our Regional Retreat that was originally scheduled for May 21 – 23. Fr. Kevin Treston, OFM from the Holy Land Monastery in Washington, DC will be our facilitator. It starts at 9 AM and ends around 4 PM or earlier. The theme is “Secular Franciscans, A Prophetic People.” To register, send an email to Regional Minister Bob Longo at [blongosfo@gmail.com](mailto:blongosfo@gmail.com). On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, around 8:45 AM, you will receive an invite to join the Retreat. All you need to do is click on link, “Join Meeting”. For those who think a 7-hour Zoom meeting is the worse sort of penance, I attended the Zoom Social Ministry meeting which was equally long and enjoyed it. I even ate lunch while conversing with others on Racial Justice. Whenever you get stiff, feel free to walk around or do some exercises while you listen. You can attend even in your pajamas.

For those longing for a personal gathering, Jan Benton, minister, of the Saint Francis Fraternity (at Cap College) has invited our fraternity to join hers in a Fall Retreat under the direction of Fr. Paul Dressler, OFM Cap on October 1-3. It will be held in the beautiful countryside at the Claggett Retreat Center, 3035 Buckeystown Pike, Adamstown, MD. Registration information will be provided later. In the meantime, send me an email if you are interested.

**From Our Fraternity Family:** Keep up the prayers for John Gemmell and Mary's mom, Frances. Mary Henry is grateful for all the cards and messages. Evelyn (fractured hip) is doing well! They are pushing her in PT; she is enjoying having visitors and the activity. Recently she was transferred to a rehab facility in Denton. Tessie's surgery went well but she is now facing chemo and radiation.

On a Happier Note: Susan Greif, who lives down in Austin, Texas, survived the power/water shutdown. She has gotten out to Mass at St. Louis Church and reports that it offers a lot of senior activities. Linda Haney has a new grandson! Baby "Grant Johns Haney" was born March 1<sup>st</sup>, 6 lbs. 3 oz, 21 inches long. He, and Rilynn Ryan Haney, and their mom Courtney are doing wonderfully!

Pax & Bonum. Joan

P.S. There is still time to volunteer to serve on the Regional Council. Nomination procedures and form can be found at

<https://saintmargaretof cortona.org/upcoming-events/>

The election will take place on April 24<sup>th</sup>.



## A PRAYER OF OSCAR ROMERO

A prayer in celebration of the canonization of St. Archbishop Oscar Romero. St. Romero reminds us in his homilies, and in his actions, that Jesus stands always with those who suffer from poverty, injustice, violence, and hunger. This prayer was composed by Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw, Michigan, and drafted for a homily by Cardinal John Dearden in Nov. 1979 for a celebration of departed priests. As a reflection on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Bishop Romero, Bishop Untener included it in a reflection book. The passage is titled "The mystery of the Romero Prayer." The "mystery" is that the words of the prayer are attributed to Oscar Romero, but they were never spoken by him.

This prayer was read by the keynote speaker at the Baltimore Social Ministry Conference.

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.  
The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,  
it is even beyond our vision.  
We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction  
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.  
Nothing we do is complete,  
which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.  
No statement says all that could be said.  
No prayer fully expresses our faith.  
No confession brings perfection.  
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.  
No program accomplishes the Church's mission.  
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.  
This is what we are about.  
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.  
We water seeds already planted,  
knowing that they hold future promise.  
We lay foundations that will need further development.  
We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.  
We cannot do everything,  
and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.  
This enables us to do something,  
and to do it very well.  
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,  
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.  
We may never see the end results,  
but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.  
We are workers, not master builders;  
ministers, not messiahs.  
We are prophets of a future that is not our own. Amen.

## BOOK REVIEW: *from Joan Faltot*



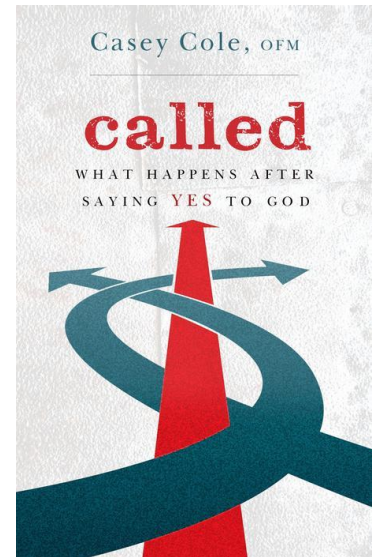
Did you enjoy the You Tube video "Don't Give Anything Up for Lent" presented by Casaey Cole, OFM? [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IH1CMXYPi\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IH1CMXYPi_w)

I have been gradually reading his book *Called, What Happens After Saying Yes to God*. This is a collection of what Cole wrote on his blog page as he journeyed to become a friar, and explores his decision to continue training to be ordained a priest. I am not a great reader; mild dyslexia runs in the family. The book has been arranged in chapters; then further divided into topics that run about two pages in length. I enjoy reading a topic and using it for prayerful reflection.

The topics covered are suitable for anyone trying to live a Christ-centered life: how to discern God's call, how to pray, poverty, relationships, building up the kingdom of God. He shares his wonder, sorrow and joy, challenges and encouragement. It's hard to describe this book, but I enjoy it. I can ignore it for a month and

then pick up where I left off at the next topic and continue on from there.

Published by Franciscan Media, it has 192 pages, and is light enough to travel with. It is available through Amazon in paperback, Kindle, or audiobook format, and has a 4.6 out of 5-star rating.



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## THE PEACE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

During a formation lesson many years ago, I learned that St. Francis did not write the prayer (Lord make me an instrument of your peace...). I was informed that it was written by a bishop in New York. So after searching the web for the Prayer of Oscar Romeo (which was not written by Oscar Romeo), I decided to try and find the name of the Bishop that wrote the Prayer of St. Francis. I found the following in Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prayer\\_of\\_Saint\\_Francis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prayer_of_Saint_Francis)

The earliest known publication of the prayer appeared in 1912 written in French in a small spiritual magazine called *La Clochette (The Little Bell)* published in Paris by the Catholic organization, The League of the Holy Mass (La League de la Sainte-Messe). No author was given though some have speculated that the editor of the magazine, Fr. Esther Bouquerel, was the author. The prayer was heavily publicized during World Wars I & II.

The first known English version of the prayer appeared in the Quaker magazine *Friends' Intelligencer* in January 1917, with the misspelled title Prayer of St. Francis of Assissi. American Archbishop and Military Vicar, Francis Spellman, distributed millions of copies of the prayer during World War II. It has since been quoted by many leaders world-wide, composed in several songs, and even read into the Congressional Record by Senator Albert W. Hawkes.

A friar summarized the relationship between the prayer and St. Francis: "One can safely say that although he is not the author, it resembles him and would not have displeased him." However, a church historian disagrees, saying the style of the prayer is not like St. Francis. Each line of the prayer has the words either "me" or "I" and the words "God" or "Jesus" never appear once, only "Master." The structure of the second part of the prayer, however, is similar to the *Golden Sayings* of Blessed Giles of Assisi:

Blessed is he who loves and does not therefore desire to be loved;  
Blessed is he who fears and does not therefore desire to be feared;  
Blessed is he who serves and does not therefore desire to be served;  
Blessed is he who behaves well toward others and does not desire that others behave well toward him;  
And because these are great things, the foolish do not rise to them.

## ***HONORING ST. JOSEPH***



The following is the closing prayer to the Apostolic letter *Patris Corde* by His Holiness Pope Francis on the 150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church.

**Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.**

**Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.**

Given in Rome, on 8 December, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary