



The Porter

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

The Porter deadline for the April issue is June 11. 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, May 15, 2021 * 10:00 AM**

Via Zoom – Invitation will be sent on Friday, May 14th

Fr. James Watson will talk on Unity in the Church

And for our prayer service we will be reciting the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary

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Regional Virtual Retreat – May 22, 2021 * 9am-4pm**

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, blongosfo@gmail.com

Prayer Requests



For the soul of: Joan Robinson, OFS and comfort of her family

For physical and spiritual healing of: Ed Sievers (Kathleen’s husband), Fr. Paul Dressler’s sabbatical, Evelyn Jones, Tessie Chitty, John Gemmell (husband of Mary), 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), Bill Mulqueen, Ruth Shea’s husband, Evelyn Jones’ niece, Jimmy Wilbourne (son of Genny), Gerard Malka (brother of Genny Wilbourne), Carolyn Melka (sis-in-law of Genny Wilbourne (Please help update -send changes/additions to jd6bouv@verizon.net))

Birthdays

Mary Anne Novak – 5/18
Louise Ryan – 5/25

Judith Tyrrell – 5/29
Ruth Shea – 6/05

Profession Anniversaries

Jeanne Wilbourne – 5/15/1976
Ed Wilbourne – 5/15/1976
Marie Shelton – 5/29/2000

Catherine Gonzalez – 5/21/2016
Audrey Donnelly – 5/21/2016
Emily McGeady – 6/12/1979

Treasury

Current balance: \$1,519.69. Current balance reflects full annual payment of our Fair Share to the Region. 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)

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| Save the Date | <p>May 22, 2021. 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, blongosfo@gmail.com</p> <p>October 1-3, 2021. 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> |
| Council Meeting | Zoom meeting, Monday, June 7 at 1:00 pm |



Minister’s Minute

I am so looking forward to our fraternity meeting this month. If all goes according to plan, we will be blessed with Fr. James Watson’s smiling face and thought-filled talk and comments. For prayer time we will have a 5-decade rosary with the Joyful Mysteries in response to Pope Francis’ invitation to pray the rosary every day in the Marian month of May to ask for the end of the pandemic. Thirty sanctuaries located all over the world and dedicated to the Virgin Mary will take part in reciting the rosary in unison, each one in turn leading the prayer. The Aleteia website carries Vatican’s live feed of the daily rosary online from one of the sanctuaries at <https://aleteia.org/2021/05/04/watch-the-daily-rosary-for-end-of-pandemic-live-here/> The Rosary is broadcast each evening at 6 p.m. Rome time (12 p.m. EST) on the link above. You can find the list of the assigned sanctuaries at <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2021-05/shrines-around-the-world-linked-for-recitation-of-the-rosary.html>, with links to a recording of the live streams that have already occurred.

Please remember to register for the **regional retreat day** on May 22. Fr. Kevin Treston, OFM, will be our facilitator as we explore *Secular Franciscans, A Prophetic People*. The retreat is free via Zoom. However, you must send an email to Bob Longo at blongosfo@gmail.com in order to receive a Zoom invitation with the connection information.

Finally, spring has not been kind to our fraternity as we faced the death of a second member, Joan Robinson, on April 28th. Joan Robinson was one of our fraternity’s founding members. She was received into the Secular Franciscan Order in 1970 and was Professed on October 4, 1971, by Fr. Edwin Dorzweiler at St. Conrad’s Capuchin Monastery in Annapolis. She was part of the first group of four people to be professed in our fraternity. She served the fraternity as:

- Vice-Minister Prefect of Lay Council from March 1978 to July 1979
- Minister Prefect of Lay Council from July 1979 to December 1980
- Secretary 1980-1982

Joan was also an advocate for the creation of the Secular Franciscan Fraternity at Holy Family Church in Davidsonville. It was sponsored by our fraternity and canonically established on October 19, 2019, as Pope St. John XXIII Secular Franciscan Fraternity.

Our Fraternity Family: Keep up the prayers for:

Fr. Paul Dressler, OFM Cap – that his spiritual sabbatical will renew him and provide direction on his spiritual journey
 John Gemmell – Is restarting chemo, as the previous attempt made him extremely ill. Pray that John tolerates it better this time.

And on a happier note:

Ashley Smith’s transfer paperwork has been received and on May 3, the council approved her transfer to our family. Welcome Ashley!!! She will now begin her formation as a candidate.

Our Capuchin brothers, David Domanski and Andrew Corriente, celebrated their Diaconate Ordination on Saturday, May 1st at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Invitations were restricted due to COVID-19. You can watch Br. Andrew First Diaconate Mass on May 2nd on YouTube but be warned, the Mass starts 22 minutes into the recording at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F74ZyKpy5Xw>

ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA REGIONAL ELECTION

Below is the official email sent out by the Presider of the Election, Joshua Molisoe

Election Results - April 24, 2021

In the Name of Christ Jesus! Amen!

I joyfully announce the results of the elections for the Region of St. Margaret of Cortona #57.

Minister: Bob Longo, ofs

Vice Minister: Mike Huether, ofs

Secretary: Mary Rohde, ofs

Treasurer: Peter Noyes, ofs

Formator: Rita Colleran, ofs

Area Councilor-Metro DC: Janice Benton, ofs

Area Councilor-PA/MD: Jacqueline Holzel, ofs

Area Councilor-Middle/Northern Virginia: Thomas Bender, Jr., ofs

Area Councilor- Middle/Southern Maryland: Mary Badjo, ofs

We were most grateful for the presence and words of wisdom of Fr. Ignatius Harding, OFM, who kindly served as Friar Witness for these elections.

Special thanks to Monica Zavallos, ofs, previous regional formator, and secretary of Sacred Heart Shrine, for helping provide us with the facilities to gather safely, and also served as secretary of elections! A big thank you to Regional Minister Bob Longo for allowing himself to be elected to office once again, and for organizing this gathering.

Praise God! from whom all Blessings Flow!

Pace Bene!

Joshua Molisoe

Congratulations to Mary Rohde, professed in 2018 by our fraternity, and now a member of Pope St John Paul XXIII fraternity in Davidsonville. She is now the Regional Secretary.

Joan Faltot, minister of our fraternity, was present for the election. She was surprised that the rules for this election required all voting members to be remain physically present during the election. There was a roll call to establish who was present to vote. If any member left, including going to the rest room, they lost their privilege to vote. There was a minor delay to the roll call and start of the proceedings while short lines formed at the two restrooms available at the church.

It was obvious that this was not Joshua Molisoe's first time presiding over an election. He was efficient and kept things running without any delays. There was a slate with a candidate for each position and in one case two people nominated for one of the Councilor positions.

ST. JOSEPH

In the Apostolic Letter “Patris corde” (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis recalled the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church and proclaimed a “Year of Saint Joseph” from December 8, 2020, to 8 December 2021.

To help us reflect on St. Joseph, Denise Miente has been on the lookout for different prayers to St. Joseph. For this month, Denise has chosen the prayer of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade.

O chaste spouse of the most pure and most holy of creatures, how happy you must be for having found such favor and grace before the Eternal Father, who gave His Son; before the Son who made you the tutor of His sacred humanity; before the Holy Spirit who entrusted his spouse to you so that you could be like the cherubim who guarded the fruit of life in the garden of Eden. How happy and blessed are they whom you love and whom you take under your protection.

O faithful guardian of the Mother of God, keep those who honor you amid the trials and joys of this life. Loveable tutor of Jesus, help your servants in the dangers and difficulties of their exile; may they feel the effects of your love. Obtain for them devotion to your spouse, fidelity to your Son, unflinching respect for the Eternal Father who reigns with the Holy Spirit through endless ages. Amen.

THE PRAYERFULNESS OF RAIN

By Gerald Schiffhorst

Genny Wilbourne subscribes to the Franciscan Spirit Blog from Franciscan Media and really enjoyed the following article.

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Rain helps this author slow down and connect with God.

I have become something of a rain fan. Celebrating rain is one of many poetic habits I have acquired from 30 years of living with my wife, Lynn, a writer of stories for children. She’s one of the world’s great rain enthusiasts, invariably announcing its arrival by proclaiming, “It’s raining!” She then goes to watch it from every window in the house.

Although I am usually aware of the rain, I know her announcement is really saying, in effect, let’s stop and appreciate what’s happening.

A good soaking rain means that no interruption can ruin the reverie created by the sound of water beating on the roof—drowning out other sounds and other realities, cloistering us in the timeless present. I am reminded of the old Chinese custom of happily listening to the sound of raindrops on banana leaves and my own experiences of losing myself in the sound of rain.

Sacrament of the Present Moment

One of my favorite descriptions of this type of rain comes from Thomas Merton, the American Trappist monk and writer. He was fully attentive to the lessons to be found in the natural world and writing prolifically about what he saw

and heard. One thing that Merton appreciated about the comforting Kentucky rain is that it allowed him to be fully present to the reality of the moment. He has been given permission to do nothing but listen.

In the Christian tradition, this practice of meditative attention to God's presence has been called the sacrament of the present moment.

In the Buddhist tradition, attention to the now is called mindfulness. It is one of those key areas in which the great spiritual traditions converge, teaching us that focusing on the present is not only a source of inner peace, but also an encounter with the infinite.

Mindfulness requires a bit of practice; rain, falling naturally, requires no effort except our appreciation of what happens in the moment. But the challenge of being aware of the now—of finding contemplative time—is especially complicated by the fast-forward movement of our busy lives, with smartphones and tablets that so easily prevent us from truly being where we are.

Even a Beer Can

One way out of this dilemma is to slow down, be quiet, stop the flow of ongoing chatter in our minds, and pay attention to the ordinary realities that constitute our day.

Can we notice a beer can on the road without judging or analyzing it and be aware of nothing else? This is mindfulness. To keep the beer can from triggering our anger at the carelessness of motorists who toss things out of windows, we have to step out of our entrenched habit of noticing things that are problematic, as well as our habit of grieving for things that are gone.

Because we have been trained so extensively to focus on the future or the past—and to treat the present as if it doesn't exist—I have to make a special effort to be conscious of that beer can and the way it gleams in the sun before I stop to pick it up, grateful for the chance to perform a simple, positive, wordless act.

And when nature cloisters us with a downpour, I can find inner peace and joy in not being distracted from savoring a moment out of time. The “comforting speech” of rain is the language of silence, the language of prayer.

Prayer, at its best, is utterly simple. No words are needed. In fact, the humility of silence is preferable. To connect myself to the divine presence beyond words requires, above all, conscious attention to something or someone other than myself.

Get Lost

Whether I find it through rain, reading, music, or movies (or even a beer can that catches my eye), I am able to lose myself. In this loss of ego, I can find my true self.

When we make our daily tasks a kind of prayer, we enter what the Benedictine monk [David Steindl-Rast](#) has called “the now dimension of time,” the fullness of the unique, unrepeatably present moment where God is found. This type of prayer, as I have learned from Merton and others, is so much more than petition. If we think of it as attention to the reality of the present moment, we see how awareness of the most ordinary aspects of our lives, such as listening to rain's comforting speech, can make almost anything prayerful.

Although, at times, the present is painful and something to be escaped, we know that God is there. If we believe that God is present to us in our awareness of the moment—whatever the circumstances—we can rest in God anywhere, using the most trivial things.

Yet this raises the question: If such ordinary experiences are sacraments of the present moment, is anything we encounter really trivial?