

# Up to Now

Newsletter of the St. Margaret of Cortona Region of the Secular Franciscan Order

Covering the District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia,  
and portions of West Virginia and Pennsylvania



Fr. Philippus Philippus, OFM/Cap

Volume 24, Issue 4

*Let us begin again, for up to now we have done nothing.*

May 2021

## YouFra

**P**ease and All Good, brothers and sisters of the Franciscan family!

It is a pleasure to let you know that San Damian Fraternity has been officially recognized nationally as the first YouFra in the East Coast Region of the United States! Whole-heartedly, we would give thanks to the Region of St Margaret of Cortona and Del Camino Fraternity for urging us forward and supporting our aspirations. There is a lack of words to describe the joy, delight, and excitement among our members at this huge accomplishment. From participating in mission trips to giving back to the community, we are delighted to take upon this title, as the second YouFra group in the United States!

Our brother St Francis of Assisi, at the beginning of his journey, gave back his name and fortune to his father, Pietro. Emptying his life of the materialistic, he allowed the Holy Spirit to guide his life and touch the hearts of many through his example. Following his example and jolted with an undying excitement at our accomplishment, we would love to extend our enthusiasm to all fraternities around the world to work alongside the youth. For many members of our group, our parents introduced us to the Franciscan lifestyle at a very young age. While they attended their general meetings and formation classes, they would designate two professed Secular Franciscans to entertain us with puzzles, movies about Franciscan saints, and discussions about God's infinite love. Although we were initially obligated to participate in these activities, as we contin-

## Regional Council St. Margaret of Cortona Region

### Minister:

Bob Longo, OFS

### Vice Minister:

Michael Huether, OFS

### Secretary:

Mary Rohde, OFS

### Treasurer:

Peter Noyes, OFS

### Formation Director:

Rita Collieran, OFS

### Regional Councilor (MD/PA):

Jackie Holzel, OFS

### Regional Councilor (VA):

Thomas (Randy) Bender, OFS

Sita Chakrawarti, OFS

### Regional Councilor (MD/DE):

Mary Tchida Badjo, OFS

### Regional Councilor (DC/Metro):

Janice Benton, OFS

### Regional Spiritual Assistants:

Br. Michael Meza, OFM Cap

Anne Mulqueen, OFS

(OFM Conv delegated)

Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR

### Regional Youth and Young

Adult Commission Co-Chair:

Vacant

### Regional JPIC Chair:

Gil Donahue, OFS

### Regional Interfaith/Ecumenical

Committee Chair:

Mike Huether, OFS

### Regional Multicultural Chair:

Vacant

### Regional Archivist

Bob Longo, OFS

### Regional Newsletter Editor:

Mary Lou Coffman, OFS

<http://saintmargaretofcortona.org/>

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## **Regional Minister's Message**

### ***Looking Ahead and Looking Back***



Dear sisters and brothers in Francis and Clare,

Wow! what a quick three years since our 2018 Regional Elections. As we start the 2021-2024 term with a new elected council, I want to thank our sisters and brothers who served on the 2018-2021 council:

Mary Catherine Bibro, Mike Coleman, Rita Colleran, Barbara Countryman, Gil Donohue, Harry Ford, Peggy Gregory, Michael Huether, Peggy Nicholson, Peter Noyes, Vera Stewart, and Monica Zevallos. Thank you for stepping up to the plate as servant leaders.

I would also like to thank our Spiritual Assistants who served from 2018 - 2021:

Br. Matthew Hindelang, OFM Cap., Brother Michael Meza, OFM Cap., Fr. Charley Miller, OFM, Anne Mulqueen, OFS, (OFM Conv. delegated), Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR, Fr. Kevin Treston, OFM. The past regional council appreciates your work, time and efforts you unselfishly gave to the region and to our Secular Franciscan sisters and brothers.

I would like to introduce the newly elected 2021 - 2024 regional council, and a big THANK YOU for your desire to respond to the Holy Spirits call to serve:

Vice Minister - Mike Huether, OFS

Secretary - Mary Rohde, OFS

Treasurer - Peter Noyes, OFS

Formation Director - Rita Colleran, OFS

Regional Area Councilor for MD/PA Area -

Jackie Holzel, OFS

Regional Area Councilor for Central & So. MD/DEL

Area - Mary Tchida Badjo, OFS

Regional Area Councilor for Metro DC Area -

Janice Benton, OFS

Regional Area Councilor for VA

Area - Randy Bender, OFS and

Sita Chakrawarti, OFS

The new council welcomes our returning Spiritual Assistants, Br. Michael Meza OFM Cap., Anne Mulqueen, OFS, OFM Conv. (Delegate), and Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR.

As all are aware, COVID-19 has certainly put a damper on our regional fraternal visitations and elections' schedules, not to say our local

fraternity activities. Although we were not able to attend public gatherings, we were able to make adjustments by taking advantage of modern technology (Zoom).

In the past year, most fraternities were able to communicate by Zoom and hold monthly online gatherings. However, this must not be the norm; once we are able to meet together in public for our monthly gatherings, Zoom must not be an option for active members. In person Fraternity gatherings are necessary for continued growth and are the life support of an active fraternity..

As we slowly come back to some sort of normal, the area councilors will once again be contacting the local fraternity ministers to schedule in-person fraternal visitations and pastoral visitations. We will need to start from scratch to set up a new three-year schedule for each fraternity. Please be patient with us.

As for local fraternity elections, many of the fraternities were able to gather publicly to hold their scheduled elections. Top priority will be given to fraternities who are overdue for elections.

We have two events scheduled for the rest of the year. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not have a weekend retreat as originally planned at The Loyola Retreat Center in Potomac, Md. Instead, we will have a one-day Zoom Retreat on Saturday, May 22, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Our Zoom subscription will allow us to host 100 people for the retreat. We still have several slots open. If you would like to attend, please email [blongosfo@gmail.com](mailto:blongosfo@gmail.com) to be placed on the Zoom invite list. In your request, please indicate which fraternity you belong to.

The new council will be looking into possibly holding a weekend retreat for 2022 at The Loyola Retreat Center. This will depend on where we are with COVID-19 in 2022.

At the May regional council meeting, we will begin to look for a host place for our November 2021 Chapter of Ministers Meeting. Again, this will depend on the status of COVID-19 as to whether we will be able to publicly hold the Chapter. If we are still under restrictions in the fall, we will have another Zoom Chapter. Stay tuned for updates.

Your Franciscan brother in Christ,

*Bob Longo, O.F.S.*

St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Minister

<http://saintmargaretofcorona.org>

## Franciscan Mission Service

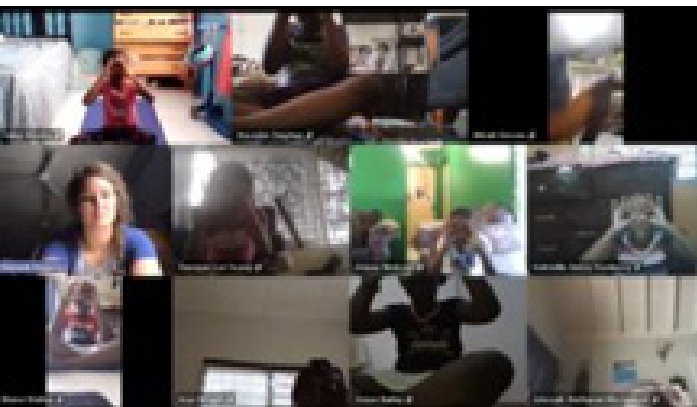
### *Listening to Each Other.*

*Editor's Note: Franciscan Mission Service's Overseas Lay Missioner Hannah Hagarty shares her experience of ministering in Jamaica during the pandemic. For more reflections from FMS program participants, please read their [blogs](#).*

When I returned to Jamaica after being home in the states during COVID, I had to find my place in the school again. I was thinking about the students on their devices all day every day and how they need something else. Not academics, not computer related, something new and stimulating. I talked with my principal, Ms. Sherol Dixon-Lewis, about teaching a holistic physical, psychosocial, wellness class. She loved it. She told me to give her an idea of what I wanted to teach the kids, and then we could chat. I got my thoughts together, and Auntie Hannah's Healthy Mind, Healthy Body class was born.

There has never been a guidance counselor at Alvernia Prep School. Mental health is stigmatized here in Jamaica. I was nervous about how my class was going to be received by the parents of my students, but I have been overwhelmed by the positive response. I teach all grades at the school. 10 sections, 197 students. The children love having a space to share how they are feeling. I just finished my first set of parent-teacher consultations and was affirmed that this class is important to the kids, and even the parents are learning from it too!

I start every class, every grade with a two to six minute meditation. Then we do check-ins. I give them different prompts every day, i.e., how they are feeling on a scale of one to ten, one adjective to describe how they are, how their weekend was, one good thing and one bummer from the week/weekend, etc. Then we go into the lesson for the day. We discuss a wide range of different topics: mindfulness, honesty, how to be a good listener, empathy, intentionality, breathing exercises, body awareness, vulnerability, and courage, COVID and everything involved, virtual



*A section of my students looking through their yoga glasses to find out what our next yoga adventure is going to be.*



*The Homepage for the virtual Classroom I created for my students this year. Each image links to an activity, resource, or homework for the evening.*

school, anxiety and how it manifests, coping skills, identifying triggers, healthy vs. unhealthy relationships, stretches/yoga, self-esteem, confidence/self-worth/self-compassion, positive self-talk, social skills, turning mistakes into opportunities and so much more.

It has been so eye opening to have a space to talk with these children, but it can also be very taxing physically and emotionally. In talking with my spiritual director, she invited me to pay attention to my own thoughts and self-care practices while I am teaching, and to see what jumps out. Teaching is the best way to learn! I have been inspired by how open and honest these kids are in sharing with me in front of their classmates. The most profound thing I have witnessed so far with my students is how they have grown in listening to each other.

When my class first started, I would call on a student to do a check-in, I'd listen and comfort, give feedback, laugh, whatever the appropriate response. Then I move to the next student. Everyone sat patiently for their turn to talk to Auntie Hannah. About a month and a half into my class I noticed a shift. Instead of only me responding to the student who was sharing, other students in the class started asking questions, comforting, affirming, showing empathy. It was beautiful.

The first time it happened was in one of my grade 1 sections, and I had to turn off my camera because I had tears in my eyes. All I really had to do was facilitate the discussion and sharing by calling on the next 6-year-old who was about to move me to tears. Of course I chimed in, but I let the kids do most of the talking. They had learned empathy. Now, my students love the check-ins; sometimes check-ins take almost the whole class-time, and I don't have time for my lesson! But I don't mind at all, as long as the sharing stays focused. The students need space to share how they are really feeling. That is the purpose of my class. Healthy Mind, Healthy Body.

One of the most important parts of my job as the Guidance Counselor at school is to help make the students

(See "Listening" on page 4)



(“YouFra” from page 1)

ued to be cultivated in this environment, we endeavored to imitate the abundant Franciscan saints we heard about. Observing the constant encouragement Del Camino Fraternity provided, we pushed along as a group to create an official YouFra group dedicated to calling more youth into this lifestyle.

Keeping the Franciscan mission of expansion in mind, we urge all our readers to allow the excitement of our new YouFra group to penetrate you and propel you to partake in calling adolescents. Parents, grandparents, and members of the Third Secular Franciscan Order, we ask you to invite your sons, daughters, grandchildren, nephews, and nieces to your fraternities. Just as our sponsoring frater-



(“Listening” from page 3)



*One of my favorite Kindergarten boys Stuart showing off his bandana shirt Jamaica day 2019.*

feel comfortable, safe, loved, heard. One way I was able to do that was through a virtual assembly for Reggae/Black History Month in February. The 26th of February marked Jamaica Day, and the end of Reggae/Black history month here in Jamaica. Only this time, it was celebrated in a new COVID-friendly way. Last year, it was cancelled. COVID just came about and the children were sent

home from school, unsure of what was going to happen. Two years ago, on my first Jamaica day, it was a CELEBRATION. Each grade, preschool through grade 6, spent all month preparing an act to perform at The Jamaica Day Assembly. Each class got a turn to go up on stage in the hall and show off to all the teachers and their schoolmates what they had been practicing all month long.

This year, we had to get creative. Instead of cancelling as we did last year, our principal wanted to try to give the children a little bit of “pre-covid feelings.” She asked me if I could put together a virtual assembly for the school. I was a little hesitant, because I am not Jamaican, and I don’t really know much about Jamaican Heritage or Reggae music. I definitely know more now than I did before I moved here two years ago, but still, I wasn’t completely confident. I said some prayers to Jesus, asked for help, worked together with a colleague, and, with cooperation of all the classroom teachers, we were able to pull it off. While the students weren’t able to perform any acts, (mostly because we didn’t think of this virtual assembly idea until a day

nity called us at a young age, there is a growing number of juveniles in the world waiting for you to call and show them the beautiful Franciscan lifestyle. Do not be afraid to attract the youth. Do not be afraid to open your doors to a world of possibilities. The youth will not only re-energize your fraternities but will also create a movement to call for more youth in the church. Just as Pope Francis stated, we “are not the future, but the now of God,” thus let our hearts and souls partake in God’s vision for the youth.

*Denis E Castillo  
JUFRA Animator  
San Damian Fraternity*

and a half before Jamaica Day) we still instructed the kids to dress in their Jamaican best for virtual class. We told them we would have a surprise for them in the afternoon. In the morning before the assembly, I called in to every class and took pictures to be featured in the assembly.

The virtual assembly was a success, and it was an important lesson for all of us. Even during these COVID times when everything is uncertain and uneasy, it is important to find ways to come together as a community and celebrate what deserves to be celebrated, recognize what should be recognized, and find joy and love in any way that we can

For more information about Franciscan Mission Service, go to <https://franciscanmissionservice.org/>. For more information on how to join FMS or support the work, please refer to the [FMS website](#).



*Two grade 3 girls, Romelia and Harmony, performing an act at Jamaica Day 2019 dressed in traditional Jamaican Bandana Clothing.*



*A collage of all the students from our virtual Jamaica Day Assembly this year at Alvernia Prep School.*



## Regional Chapter of Elections





## Catholic Interreligious Dialogues in the USA— A Brief History, Part 2

“That they all may be one” (John 17:21)

*This is part two of my article that appeared in the February issue of Up-To-Now on the history of Catholic interreligious dialogues in the USA. It is based on a reference guide of the same name by the Secretariat of Ecumenical and Religious Affairs of the USCCB.*

### MUSLIM DIALOGUE

Over the last thirty years, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops held regional dialogues in the Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, and West Coast areas with corresponding Muslim organizations: the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California (ISCSC), and the Islamic Educational Center of Orange County (IECOC). Together, they have established a foundation for dialogue and relationship while making progress in setting up mutual understanding among all the communities involved by means of annual meetings, public events, mutual support and advocacy in the public square, and educational reports on a variety of topics, including marriage, education, and revelation. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Nostra Aetate, a plenary meeting was convened at the Catholic University of America, where a unanimous decision was reached to advance the workings of the organizations by establishing a National Catholic-Muslim Dialogue from members of each of the Muslim regions.



Recent work of the dialogue included the following: Confronting religious prejudice (2018), and Equipping congregations nationwide with accessible user-friendly materials on mutual misconceptions among our communities and having a purpose of raising awareness and contributing to deepening trust (2019).

### HINDU DIALOGUE

In May 2015, at the request of H.E. Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, past president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (SEIA) convened a public meeting in Fairfax, Virginia, at the Durga Temple with Cardinal Tauran as the keynote speaker. This event was co-sponsored by regional Hindu communities, including the International Society of Krishna Consciousness, Hindu American Community Services, Inc., Sri Siva Vishnu Temple of Lanham, Maryland, Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America, the Hindu American Foundation, and the Hindu Mandir Executive Conference. After this successful initial event, the SEIA has since coordinated annual public gatherings with these associations. One of these



events was held in October of 2018 at Georgetown University. It focused on youth, and Cardinal Blaise Cupich was the keynote speaker.



The SEIA has also participated in the Vaishnava-Christian Dialogue, which was organized by Christian and Vaishnava scholars in 1998. In this dialogue, Vaishnava participants include the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), among other Vaishnava groups. This meets annually in Potomac, Maryland, to address key issues in spirituality and theology. The SEIA no longer functions as a co-sponsor in this dialogue, but staff members still occasionally participate on an individual basis. In the past few years, work of this dialogue has included: exclusivity and pluralism in Hindu and Catholic traditions (2015), Hindu and Catholic approaches to environmental justice (2016), curricula development and editorial review of religious texts in Catholic schools with special attention on Hinduism (2016), love of neighbor in the Catholic and Hindu traditions, with special emphasis on nationalism, war, and poverty (2017), and the future of the role of faith in the public square, especially with regard to youth and rising young leaders (2018).

### BUDDHIST DIALOGUE

The Bishops Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs co-sponsored an annual northern California Ch'an/Zen Buddhist-Catholic dialogue between 2003 and 2009. The purpose of this annual dialogue was to promote the understanding of the differences and similarities between Buddhism and Christianity. Topics for these discussions included transformation, vows, meeting, grace, community life, abiding in Christ, and taking refuge in the Buddha, among others.



Due to financial constraints, the national dialogue was concluded in 2009, but it promoted initiatives organized on the local level. The SEIA continues to participate and provide consultation in a number of these initiatives and networks according to availability, need, interest, and invitation. In June of 2015, the SEIA coordinated a Buddhist-Catholic dialogue in Rome on the topic of “Suffering Liberation and Fraternity”. This included a private audience with Pope Francis.

My next few articles will cover the history of Catholic Ecumenical dialogues in the United States.

Mike Huether  
Regional Vice Minister and  
Ecumenical/Interfaith Chairman

## **A Note from Your Regional Formation Minister**

### ***Happy Spring!***

It's a wonderful time of year, especially this year. For too many months, our fraternities have had to be flexible and come together in a variety of ways. I believe that many have had Zoom meetings, as well as frequent emails among each other. Some members have had the joy of greeting each other at their parishes when the Mass was again activated for attendance. In my fraternity, we have deeply missed each other and our monthly in person meetings, as I'm sure the same is true in yours.

This is a wonderful time of year as fraternities are beginning to get the okay to meet in person again on a regular basis. This gives a time of renewal within our fraternities and how we proceed to the future. As you may be aware, last month, I was elected to serve you as Regional Formation Director. I am humbled by this calling, as I know that there is a need among fraternity Formation Ministers for assistance, collaboration, and support.

Our fraternities are wonderful families where we love and know each other, we pray for each other, and we come together for encouragement and growth in our Franciscan spirituality and way of life. It is a joyful witness when a fraternity works together to serve in its parish and in its community – especially the poor and disenfranchised, showing the love of our Lord and living the Gospel as St. Francis envisioned and directed us to do. There are many who individually serve the poor, needy, and afflicted—a further reason to love our Franciscan way of life.

In my heart, the word “animate” gives bearing. In the Rule, General Constitutions, Statutes, etc., this word and phrases of the same meaning are repeated. Often these essential documents tell us that our “presence” is especially important. Yet in my experience, and from what

I hear from others, it can be something we struggle with in our fraternities. A council member asked me once, “what does animate mean?”

It means to “do.” The Merriam Webster Dictionary defines it succinctly: “to give life to, to move to action.” This is key in bringing life to the Gospel and rebuilding the church. Some

believe they are doing as they should because they are praying and make daily devotions. Yet in our essential documents, prayer, devotions, the sacraments are separate instruction and are a given that we as good Catholics involve in our lives already. To animate is to encourage and instruct beyond this core.

There are some fraternities that have fallen in slumber. Members do not rise to serve as a united family outside the fraternity itself. It can be discouraging when so few of our members care to participate in fraternity/group efforts to physically serve, whether it be teaching CCD children about St. Francis in the autumn of each year or bringing St. Francis to teen and young adult ministries by assisting them with their activities, or meeting at a charity to offer service. Within our own fraternities, so few offer themselves to serve on the council that in many elections the slates barely have names on them. Too often it is the same members who serve in these posts time and time again. A wise woman shared with me something a person who serves the poor said to her, “Don’t just throw your money and bags over the wall; come around the wall and serve with me.”

We Franciscans have so much to give, and thus we have much responsibility to give it. It is my hope and prayer that together with Formation Ministers around the region, we can bring about knowledge and inspiration that will, with the Holy Spirit, “animate” our members to bring the Gospel to life in service as a fraternity to our parishes and communities. I have faith that step by step with open hearts, Our Lord will bring to bear all He wishes for us to do. St. Francis pray for us.

Blessings,

*Rita Colleran, OFS, Formation Minister  
St. Margaret of Cortona Region*



## ***Fraternal Work Against Human Sex Trafficking***

*Submitted by the Social Justice Network of the St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity*

Increasingly, people have become aware of the sufferings and miseries of victims of human sex trafficking. What can we in our fraternities do to help stop this gross and deeply inhumane injustice?

First, we can become educated about sex trafficking in all its forms and help to educate others. It might be happening in your neighborhood, but if you learn the signs, you can alert the proper authorities. Please review this excellent video on prostitution and sex trafficking made by Sister Linda Haydock of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, which will teach you about human trafficking, including sex trafficking: <https://vimeo.com/365160326>. This would be a great video to share with your Fraternity.

While female immigrants, homeless teen runaways, and young girls living in inner city poverty are highly vulnerable to being trafficked, it can and does happen to people of both sexes, all classes and backgrounds. Recently, we learned of a young man from Maryland who as a college student travelled to the West Coast to meet up with some peers and was kidnapped while hitchhiking from the airport. He suffered six months of captivity before he could escape, during which time he was drugged, hand-cuffed, repeatedly raped/sexually-trafficked, near-starved, and treated like an animal in the most squalid of conditions. Ten years later, despite the love, support and prayers of his family, as well as medical and psychiatric treatments and medicines, he is still emotionally and physically devastated and fully disabled from his ordeal.

How can we identify whether a sex worker is being trafficked or is consenting? The most informed position is to consider prostitutes in general as human sex trafficking victims. Human trafficking is generally defined as causing someone to perform commercial sexual acts by the use of force, fraud, or coercion. In reality, almost all prostitutes are trafficked by force or coercion. The majority of prostitutes in the United States are black females who were lured as children and young teens into being trafficked by males who preyed upon them and then used violence and intimidation to keep them in prostitution. In the United States, the average age of entry into a life of prostitution is between 11 and 14 years of age—hardly the age of consent. Frequently, pimps show “ownership” over their sex workers by branding them with tattoos. Prostitutes are frequently beaten and suffer far higher rates of being murdered than other groups. While there is a continuum of coercion, the reality is that prostitutes are almost always the victims of being trafficked. This is recognized by the large cohort of nuns around the globe who fearlessly risk their lives to try to help all sex workers free themselves from being commercially trafficked.

See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xUzp6Vp2Aw>. These brave nuns go right into the streets in the United States and around the world and offer real help to the prostitutes, standing up fearlessly to the pimps and Johns who are truly menacing figures.

Second, in addition to learning about sex trafficking, you can help change the laws with respect to prostitution to make them more humane to those who are being trafficked. In the summer of 2020, our Fraternity’s Social Justice Network sent out a letter to each and every Maryland legislator asking them to follow the highly successful Swedish model of laws on prostitution, which keep prostitution a criminal offense for Johns and pimps but removes the criminal sanctions for the sex workers and offers them job training, counseling, and support. Sweden’s levels of prostitution dropped dramatically after the Swedish Model was adopted, and some other countries have since emulated them. We hope to send such letters to each and every state in the Union. We welcome other fraternities who wish to cooperate with us in lobbying for more humane treatment of the sex-trafficked.

Laws are just beginning to change in this area for the better, as some United States law makers are beginning to recognize that sex workers need deliverance, not prosecution. For example, South Carolina is now considering a bill that stiffens the criminal penalties for Johns and pimps while commercial adult sex workers have an affirmative defense to criminal prosecution if they can show that they were the victims of force, fraud, or coercion. Minors are free of all prosecution. That is a step in the right direction, but it is still very onerous and torturous for a sex worker to try and prove facts of force, fraud, or coercion. Not everyone is kidnapped but most are coerced.

The worst possible laws remove all penalties relating to prostitution including prosecution of Johns and pimps. This is nothing but a free license for such evil, and where you see such lack of laws, the levels of prostitution increase dramatically. Some District Attorneys (including those in Baltimore, Md., and Manhattan, N.Y.) have taken this tactic without even bothering to change the laws, by simply announcing they will no longer be enforcing the laws against prostitution. Public pressure is necessary to stop this evil from spreading.

Please contact us at [StMarysFraternity@gmail.com](mailto:StMarysFraternity@gmail.com) if you would like to dialogue with us on this issue or even help us write emails to lawmakers across the Nation. Together, we can reach many legislators and educate many people about human trafficking and help change the laws. Together, we can bring the change necessary to bring help and deliverance, not jail time and a criminal record, to sex-trafficked victims.





# **Zoom Retreat May 22, 2021**

**Due to the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, our scheduled May 21st—May 23rd Regional Retreat at the Loyola Retreat Center in Faulkner, Maryland is canceled. Instead, we will have a Zoom Regional Retreat on May 22nd.**

**Fr. Kevin Treston, OFM from the Holy Land Monastery in Washington DC will be our facilitator. We will start at 9 AM. and end around 4 PM or earlier.**

## **Theme for the Retreat**

**Secular Franciscans  
A Prophetic People**

**If you would like to attend the Regional Zoom Retreat, please email Bob Longo, [blongosfo@gmail.com](mailto:blongosfo@gmail.com). On May 22nd, around 8:45 AM, you will receive an invite to join the Retreat. All you need do is click on “Join Meeting”.**

## Around the Region

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW INQUIRERA

Kelly Passero, Tau Fraternity, Herndon, Va.  
Jennifer Rothwell, Tau Fraternity, Herndon, Va.

### NEWLY ADMITTED

Dorothy (Dottie) Gray, OFS, St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity, Triangle, Va.  
William (Tom) Gray, OFS, St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity, Triangle, Va.



St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity newly admitted: Bobbie Ruiz, OFS, sponsor; Dottie Gray, OFS; Tom Gray, OFS; Bob Ewald, OFS, sponsor; Mike Ryan, OFS, Formation Director

Lisa Jaeger, OFS, Tau Fraternity, Herndon, Va.



Tau Fraternity newly admitted: Josh Goldberg, OFS; Lisa Jaeger, OFS; Kimberley Heatherington, OFS; Cyndy Filan-Kim, OFS.



### NEWLY PROFESSED

Anne Dulik, OFS,  
St. Padre Pio of  
Pietrelcina  
Fraternity,  
Aberdeen, Md..  
Roland Willard, OFS,  
St. Padre Pio of  
Pietrelcina  
Fraternity,  
Aberdeen, Md.



### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED Regional Council.

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-Virginia: Thomas Bender, Jr., ofs  
and Sita Chakrawarti, ofs  
Area Councilor- Middle/Southern Maryland:  
Mary Tchida Badjo, ofs

**Swap hot incandescents for cool LED bulbs.** Not only do LED bulbs use a fraction of the energy of a traditional incandescent bulb – they also give off 70-90% less heat so they can help cut home cooling costs. Look for ENERGY STAR certified LED bulbs for guaranteed performance.

Newly elected Regional Council: (Front Row) Bob Longo, OFS, Miniter; Michael Huether, OFS, Vice Minister; Mary Rohde, OFS, Secretary; Peter Noys, OFS, Treasurer; Rita Colleran, OFS, Formation Director; Fr. Iggy Harding, OFM; (Back Row) Janice Benton, OFS, Area Councilor; Randy Bender, OFS, Area Councilor; Jackie Holzel, Area Councilor; Mary Tchida Badjo, Area Councilor

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( "Around" from page 10)

### **Del Camino Fraternity, Washington, D.C.**

Minister: Francisco De Jesus Hernandez Gonzales, OFS,  
Vice Minister: Monica Esperanza Zevallos, OFS,  
Secretary: Maria M. Martinez, OFS,  
Treasurer: Sandra Marina Martinez, OFS,  
Formation Director: Maria Angela Meza, OFS,  
Councilor at Large: Maria Gladis Jovel, OFS



*Del Camino Fraternity newly elected: Francisco De Jesus Hernandez Gonzales, OFS, Minister; Monica Esperanza Zevallos, OFS, Vice Minister; Maria M. Martinez, OFS, Secretary; Sandra Marina Martinez, OFS, Treasurer; Maria Angela Meza, OFS, Formation Director; Maria Gladis Jovel, OFS, Councilor at Large*



### **LOSSES IN THE FAMILY**

Connie Baker, OFS, February 17, 2021. She was a member of St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity and was professed on November 11, 2011.

Mark DiSalvo, OSF, May 20, 1937-April 28, 2021. He was a member of Mt. St. Sepulchre Fraternity and was professed in 1956, 65 years ago.



Catherine (Kay) Flynn, OFS, November 10, 1931-March 11, 2021. She was a member of Tau Fraternity and was professed on September 2, 2000.



Mary Ellen Levin Henry, OFS, March 4, 1937-April 8, 2021. She was a member of St. Conrad Fraternity and was professed on May 21, 2016. She served as Vice minister from 2016 to 2019 and will be remembered for her deep faith and abundant gratitude, despite any struggle she faced.



Mary Catherine Kohut, OFS, June 9, 1934-April 5, 2021. She was a member of Mt. St. Sepulchre Fraternity and was professed in 1997.

### **St. Clare Fraternity, Delaware**

Minister: Thomas Carter  
Vice Minister: Kevin Mumford  
Secretary: Katherine Meire  
Treasurer: Andrea Lipchek  
Formation Director: Marinela Wintjen  
Councilor: Judy Bennett  
Councilor: Marty Rendon



*St. Clare Fraternity Delaware Council: Andrea Lipchak, OFS, Treasurer; Judy Bennett, OFS, Secretary; Kate Meire, OFS, Counselor; Marty Rendon, OFS, Counselor; Tom Carter, OFS, Minister; Father Rigo Azanwi, OFM Cap., Spiritual Assistant; Kevin Mumford, OFS, Vice Minister; Nela Wintjen, OFS, Formation Director*

### **St. John the Beloved Fraternity, Arlington, Va.**

Minister: Tom White, OFS  
Vice Minister: Rita Evans, OFS  
Secretary: Claudia Carpenter, OFS  
Treasurer: Scott A. Graham, OFS  
Formation Director: Ruth T. Higgins, OFS



*St. John the Beloved Fraternity newly elected: Tom White, OFS, Minister; Rita Evans, OFS, Vice Minister; Claudia Carpenter, OFS, Secretary; Scott A. Graham, OFS, Treasurer; Ruth T. Higgins, OFS, Formation Director*

Marie Lindung, OFS, January 18, 1938-April 12, 2021. She was a member of St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity and was professed on December 16, 2009.



Joan Robinson, OFS, October 19, 1934-April 28, 2021. She was a member of St. Conrad Fraternity, Annapolis, and was professed on October 4, 1971, part of the first group of four people to be professed in the fraternity. She served the fraternity as Vice-Minister, Minister, and Secretary.



**Chaplet for the Release of Souls from Purgatory**  
**St. Gertrude Prayer to Release Souls from Purgatory**

*(Each time this prayer is said, 1,000 Souls are released from Purgatory)*

*The Prayer of St. Gertrude, is one of the most famous of the prayers for souls in purgatory. St. Gertrude the Great was a Benedictine nun and mystic who lived in the 13th century. According to tradition, our Lord promised her that 1,000 souls would be released from purgatory each time the prayer is said devoutly.*

**The Release of Holy Souls Chaplet**

The Apostle's Creed:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

Hail Mary...

Glory be to the Father,,,

**Pray:** *Holy Souls pray for us as we pray for you.*

**The Prayer of St. Gertrude said 10 times:** *Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.*

Glory be to the Father...

*(You can say this decade once or on all five decades of your rosary. If you pray this prayer using the five decades, you will release fifty thousand souls from Purgatory. Remember a majority of us will be there someday and we will want prayers said for us.)*

Chaplet created by Bob Longo, OFS



## Franciscan Saints, Blesseds and Feasts

(Click on the name to go to a Web link.)

### NOVEMBER

- 17 [St. Elizabeth of Hungary](#), Secular Franciscan, Patroness of the Third Order (July 7, 1207-November 17, 1231)  
[Bl. Jeanne de Signa](#), Secular Franciscan Order, hermit (1244-November 9, 1307)
- 18 [Bl. Salome of Cracow](#), Franciscan Third Order Secular (1201-November 17, 1268)
- 19 [St. Agnes of Assisi](#), Order of St. Clare; St. Clare's younger sister (c. 1197-November 16, 1253)  
[Bl. Salvatore Lilli and companions](#), Priest, Franciscan First Order, Martyrs of Armenia (June 19, 1853-November 22, 1895)
- 20 [Bl. Maria Milagros Ortells Gimeno](#), Capuchin Poor Clare, Martyr (November 29, 1882-November 20, 1936)  
[Bls. Paschal Fortuño Almela and Companions](#), First Order friars, martyrs of Spain, d. 1936
- 21 [Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)
- 24 [Commemoration of All the Deceased of the Seraphic Order](#)
- 25 [Bl. Elizabeth of Reute](#), Third Order Regular (November 25, 1386-November 25, 1420)  
[St. Humilis of Bisignano](#), Religious, Order of Friars Minor (August 26, 1582-November 26, 1637)  
[Bl. Louis Beltrame Quattrocchi](#) (1880-1951) and [Bl. Maria Corsini-Beltrame Quattrocchi](#) (1884-1965) Third Order Secular, first Secular Franciscan couple beatified together
- 26 [St. Leonard de Port-Maurice Priest](#), Order of Friars Minor (December 20, 1676-November 26, 1751)
- 27 [St. Francis Anthony Fasini](#), Priest, Order of Friars Minor Conventual (August 6, 1681-November 29, 1742)
- 28 [St. James de la Marche](#), Priest, Order of Friars Minor (c. 1391-November 28, 1476)
- 29 [All Saints of the Seraphic Order](#)  
We pray the Franciscan Litany of the Saints
- 30 [Bl. Antoine Bonfandini](#), Priest, Order of Friars Minor (d. 1482)

### DECEMBER

- 2 [Bl. Mary Angela Astorch](#), Capuchin Poor Clare (September 1, 1592-December 2, 1665)

- 2 [Bl. Raphael Chylinski](#), Priest, Order of Friars Minor Conventual (January 8, 1680/90-December 2, 1742)
- 4 [Bl. François Galves](#), Priest, Order of Friars Minor, martyr (d. 1623)  
[Bl. Pietro Tecelano](#), Third Order Secular (c. 1190-December 1289)
- 5 [Bl. Peter of Sienna](#), Third Order Secular (d. December 4, 1289)
- 7 [St. Mary Joseph Rosello](#), Third Order Secular before founding another institute (1811-December 7, 1811)
- 8 [Feast of the Immaculate Conception](#), Patroness of the Seraphic Order, Holy Day of Obligation, Plenary Indulgence for tertiaries and cord bearers
- 9 [Bl. Clara Isabella Fornari](#), Poor Clare Nun (June 25, 1697-December 9, 1744)
- 11 [Bl. Francis \(Arthur\) Bell](#), Priest, Order of Friars Minor, martyr of England (January 13, 1590-December 11, 1643)  
[Bl. Hugolinus Magalotti](#), Third Order Secular (d. 1373)
- 12 [Finding the Body of Our Holy Father St. Francis](#)  
[Bl. Bartolo da San Gimignano](#), Priest, Third Order Secular (1228-December 1300)  
[Bl. Pius Ludwik Bartosik](#), Priest, Friars Minor Conventual, martyr (August 21, 1909-December 12, 1941)  
[Our Lady of Guadalupe](#)
- 14 [Bl. Jean Discalceat Priest](#), Franciscan (c. 1278-December 1349)
- 15 [Bl. Mary Frances Schervier](#), Founder Religious Sisters of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis (January 8, 1819-December 14, 1876)
- 23 [Bl. Nicolas Factor-Estaña Priest](#), Order of Friars Minor (June 29, 1520-December 23, 1583)
- 24 [Bl. Bentivolio of Bonio](#), Priest, Order of Friars Minor (d. 1231)
- 25 [Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ](#)
- 28 [Blessed Matthia Nazzarei](#), Poor Clare Nun (March 1, 1253-December 28, 1319)
- 29 [Bl. Gerard Cagnoli](#), Lay Brother, Order of Friars Minor (c. 1267-c. 1342)
- 30 [Bl. Margaret Colonna](#), Poor Clare Nun, (c. 1255-December 30, 1280)

## JANUARY

- 1 **Mary, Mother of God**
- 3 **Most Holy Name of Jesus**
- 4 **Bl. Christina of Tuscany**, Virgin, Third Order Secular (d. 1310)
- 5 **Bl. Didacus Joseph of Cadizi**, Priest, First Order Capuchin (1743-1801)  
**Bl. Ruggiero da Todì**, Religious, Order of Friars Minor (d. 1237)
- 6 **St. Charles of Sezze**, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (October 19, 1613-January 6, 1670)
- 7 **St. Angela of Foligno**, Widow, Third Order Secular (1248-January 3, 1309)
- 8 **Bl. Eurosia Fabris**, Third Order Secular (1866-1932)
- 9 **Bl. Giles of Laurenzana**, Lay Brother, Order of Friars Minor (1443-January 10, 1518)
- 10 **Bl. Gregory X**, Pope, Third Order Secular (c. 1210-January 10, 1276)
- 11 **St. Thomas of Cori**, Priest, Order Friars Minor (1655- 1720)
- 12 **St. Bernard of Corleone**, Priest, First Order Capuchin (1605- 1667)
- 13 **Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ**
- 14 **Bl. Odoric de Pordenone**, Priest, First Order (1286-1331)
- 16 **Sts. Berard de' Leopardi of Calvi, Peter de' Bonanti of Sangemini, Otto de' Pet-ricchi, Accursio Vacuzio and Adjutus of Narni**, Protomartyrs of the Franciscan Order (d. 1220)
- 17 **Bl. Giuseppe Tovini**, Third Order Secular (1841-1897)  
**Bl. Matthew of Girgenti**, Bishop, Order of Friars Minor (d. 1451)
- 20 **Bl. Jean-Baptiste Triquerie**, Priest, First Order Conventual (m. 1794)  
**St. Eustochia Calafato**, Virgin, Poor Clares (March 25, 1434-January 20, 1485)
- 22 **Bl. Joseph Nascimbeni**, Priest, Third Order Secular (1851- 1922)  
**St. Vincent Pallotti**, Priest, Third Order Secular, Founder Pallottine Fathers (April 21, 1795-January 22, 1850)
- 23 **St. Marianne Cope**, Third Order Regular (January 23, 1838-August 9, 1918)

- 24 **Bl. Paula Gambara-Costa Widow**, Third Order Secular (March 3, 1463-January 24, 1515)
- 27 **St. Angela Merici**, Founder, Third Order Regular (March 21, 1474-January 27, 1540)  
**Bl. Paul Joseph Nardini**, Priest, Third Order Secular, Founder of the Franciscan Sisters of the Holy Family (July 25, 1821-January 27, 1862)
- 28 **Bl. Bienvenu de Recanati Priest**, First Order (1289)
- 29 **St. Francis de Sales**, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, Corderbearer (August 21, 1567-December 28, 1622)
- 30 **St. Hyacintha de Mariscotti**, Third Order Regular (1585-January 30, 1640)
- 31 **St. John Bosco**, Priest, Third Order Secular (August 16, 1815-January 31, 1888)  
**Bl. Louisa Albertoni Third Order Secular (1473-January 31, 1533)**

## FEBRUARY

- 3 **Bl. Andrew of Segni**, First Order Lay Brother (1240-February 1, 1302)
- 4 **St. Joseph de Leonisse**, Priest, First Order Capuchin (January 8, 1556-February 4, 1612)
- 5 **St. Jane of Valois**, Founder, Franciscan Order of the Annonciades (1464-1505)
- 6 **Martyrs of Japan**, First Order Priests, Lay Brothers, and Third Order Secular (m. 1597)
- 7 **St. Colette of Corbie**, Foundress, Colettine Poor Clares (January 13, 1381-March 6, 1447)  
**St. Giles Mary of St. Joseph**, Lay Brother, Order of Friars Minor (November 16, 1729-February 7, 1812)  
**St. Giovanni of Triora**, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Martyr (March 15, 1760, February 7, 1816)  
**Bl. Pius IX**, Pope, Third Order Secular (May 13, 1792-February 7, 1878)
- 8 **Bl. Anthony of Stroncone**, Lay Brother, Order of Friars Minor (1391-February 7, 1471)
- 9 **Bl. Leopold of Alpandeire**, Lay Brother First Order Capuchin (June 25, 1864-February 9, 1956)
- 10 **Bl. Alojzije Stepinac**, Bishop, Martyr, Third Order Secular (May 8, 1898-February 10, 1960)  
**Bl. Clare of Rimini**, Poor Clare Nun (1282-February 10, 1346)
- 13 **St. Eustochium of Messine**, Poor Clare Nun (March 25, 1434 - January 20, 1485)
- 15 **Translation of the relics of St. Anthony**
- 16 **St. Veridiana**, Virgin, Third Order Secular (1182-1242) **Mayo**