



The Porter

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

The Porter deadline for the next issue is August 14th. 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, July 17, 2021 * Mass at 9:30 AM**

Our Lady of the Fields

1070 Cecil Avenue, South, Millersville, MD 21108

Meeting at 10:00 – 11:30 AM at the Picnic Pavilion

Bring your mask (not sure of policy inside at Mass), a snack & drink.

Muffins & Coffee will be provided by the Council

Note: rest room facilities will be available at this location.

And don't forget your Common Fund donation... Joe will have the basket out.

Prayer Requests



For physical and spiritual healing of: Gertrude Shelton (Marie's mom), 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 (sister-in-law of Genny Wilbourne)

(Please help update -send changes/additions to jd6bouv@verizon.net)

Birthdays

Santa Matarazza – 7/20

Profession Anniversaries

Brigid Cobb – 8/3/1983

Treasury

Current balance: \$1,869.69. *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:

- COM - Common Fund (this covers fraternity operations and the Sabu family in India)
- BUS - bus tokens for the Lighthouse Shelter clients
- SFIS - St. Francis International School

Don't forget

October 1-3, 2021. For those who have preregistered and paid their deposit, Fall Retreat under the direction Fr. Brian Stacy at Claggett Retreat Center, 3035 Buckeystown Pike, Adamstown, MD.

Save the Date

20th Quinquennial Congress on August 3 – 7, 2022 in Phoenix, Arizona. For more information: <https://secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/1-General-Information.pdf>



Minister's Minute

Pope Francis concludes his apostolic exhortation "Evangelii Gaudium" quoting chapter 21 of the Book of Revelation: "It is the Risen Christ who tells us, with a power that fills us with confidence and unshakeable hope: 'Behold, I make all things new.'"

St. Bonaventure tells us that towards the end of his life St. Francis would tell the other friars: "Let us begin again, brothers, for up until now, we have done little or nothing."

Well, after 16 months of lock-down and Zoom meetings, the council feels it is time try and return to some normalcy for our fraternity and to meet in person again. To be extra cautious, we will be meeting outside at the Our Lady of the Fields picnic pavilion, located in the rear beyond the school and parish offices. We should be able to spread out. For those not vaccinated or extra cautious, we will try and set up an area up wind.

During this meeting, we will have the joy of Welcoming Brian Blick who has completed his orientation and is beginning his period of inquiry.

A gentle reminder: Active fraternity members are expected to participate, both by attending fraternity gatherings, and by providing financial support to the community. (Yes, Joe will have the basket out for your contribution.) Please make every effort to attend the Mass, followed by our fraternity meeting. At least come by and get a muffin and a cup of coffee. If you find the heat too oppressive, you may excuse yourself at any time during the meeting. Pax. Joan F.

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 – Chemo treatment has weakened John and he has recently returned home after another hospital stay.

Please send me some happy news to share with the fraternity!!

Treasurer's Report

The ending balance in June was		\$1,444.69	
OLF Rental fee	- \$100.00	\$1,344.69	
July Deposit	+ \$625.00	\$1,969.69	
Franciscan Family Apostolate	- \$100.00	\$1,869.69	July Ending Balance

During 15 months of lockdown, you must have

Read something interesting,

Discovered a new website,

Found a new poem or prayer that inspired you,

Learned something new.



Please consider sharing it in *The Porter*. Send it to jd6bouv@verizon.net.
Deadline for August issue is August 14.

20TH QUINQUENNIAL CONGRESS IS COMING !!! *(but not until next year)*

**IT'S OUR JUBILEE ... THE 800TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR ORDER AND
THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR NATIONAL QUINQUENNIAL CONGRESS
August 3 – 7, 2022 D Sheraton Phoenix Downtown
3rd Street Phoenix, AZ 85004**

So why all the hoopla now??? **Registration starts August 1, 2021 and the early birds get discounts.**

• Special group room rate is \$89 plus tax, per night but is only available until January 31, 2022
• Quinquennial “early bird” registration is \$175 until December 31st ...
wait until May 28, 2022 and pay the “late owl” rate of \$250

So check out the information at:

<https://secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/1-General-Information.pdf>

Du bist der Arme, “You Are the Poor” *from Chris Grubach*

The following poem is by Rainer Maria Rilke, an Austrian poet. I would like to share it with my sisters and brothers. It so reminds me of St Francis' and Jesus' humility.

You Are the Poor

You are the poor one. You are the destitute.
You are the stone that has no resting place.
You are the diseased one whom we fear to touch.
Only the wind is yours.
You are poor.

Like the spring rain that gently caresses the city.
Like wishes muttered in a prison cell without a world to hold them.
And like the invalid turning in his bed to ease the pain.
Like flowers along the railroad tracks, shuddering as the train roars by.
Like the hand that covers our face when we cry.

Ours is the suffering of birds on a freezing night. Of dogs who go hungry for days.
Yours is the long, sad waiting of animals who are locked up and forgotten.
You are the beggar who averts his face.
You are the homeless person who has given up asking.
You are the howling inside of every storm.

Prayer to St. Joseph

St. Joseph, the Dreamer,
help us hear and heed God's voice.

St. Joseph, the Protector
give us courage to guard those
in our care as you risked the journey to Egypt protect your son.

St. Joseph, the Husband,
grant us chastity and fidelity
in our committed relationships,
as you modeled for us with your wife,
the Virgin Mary, Mother of God,

St. Joseph, the Father,
move us to offer love, instruction,
and faith to any youth in our care,
as you journeyed many times
to the temple, taught Jesus a trade,
and searched for him when lost.

St. Joseph, the Worker,
strengthen us as we toil in our labors,
as you worked with hammer and nails to
provide for your holy family.

St. Joseph, Friend of the Forgotten Souls,
guide us, your missionaries, and all believers,
to seek out the lost and forgotten.
as you humbly left this world
without a recorded word.

O, St. Joseph, intercede for us,
now and at every moment of need.
Amen,

From the Glenmary Missionaries

Extract from: What You Need to Know Before Spraying for Mosquitoes

By David Mizejewski & David Weber

From the National Wildlife Federations' Blog. Read the entire article at:

<https://blog.nwf.org/2020/09/what-you-need-to-know-before-spraying-for-mosquitoes/>

Most residential mosquito control companies use an insecticide derived from chrysanthemum flowers known as pyrethrins (natural form) or pyrethroids (synthetic). Sounds nice... killing with a flower; however, the spray is highly toxic to bees, butterflies, ladybugs, dragonflies, and other beneficial insects. Mosquito-control insecticides have been linked with declines of native pollinators and even mosquitoes are pollinators.

Insects are also part of the base of the food web, without which other wildlife cannot survive. Most backyard birds rely on insects as the exclusive food source for their babies. Insect populations are rapidly plummeting; 30% of the North American bird population has disappeared in just the last 50 years.

Runoff from the chemicals can wash into surface water and poison aquatic organisms, such as fish and crustaceans, which are highly sensitive to pyrethroids. Pets can experience vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy and other symptoms.

The best way to reduce the mosquito population in your yard is to eliminate any pools of standing water which is required for mosquito larvae to develop. There are also products that contain the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis*, or "Bt," which targets mosquito larvae and other biting flies, but is essentially harmless to other wildlife and people. You might try attracting more wildlife to your property. Mosquitos are eaten by turtles, frogs, dragonflies, and birds. A major predator to mosquitos are copepods. [I had to look that one up]... very tiny shrimps that are found in nearly every freshwater and saltwater habitat. These can be easily mass-produced, although only larger copepod species (greater than 1.4mm) are effective for larvae control. Vietnam has been trying this in hopes of significantly reducing diseases which are caused by mosquitos in tropical areas.

Interesting Tidbit on the Maryland Landfills – OOPS!

Report Finds Md. Greatly Underestimated Landfill Methane Emissions For Over a Decade

By Elizabeth Shwe. Maryland Matters Website. June 11, 2021

<https://www.marylandmatters.org/2021/06/11/report-finds-md-greatly-underestimated-landfill-methane-emissions-for-over-a-decade/>

The Environmental Integrity Project issued a report in June 2021 that estimated that municipal landfills in Maryland released about 51,500 tons of methane and 500,000 tons of carbon dioxide in 2017.

The Maryland Department of Environment had estimated that in 2017 the landfills would emit just 12,500 tons of methane and 136,000 tons of carbon dioxide.

Oops. Several factors contributed to the significant under estimation. Read the article for reasons. Estimates have been revised, starting with 2006.

Bottom line: new estimates show that landfills are the leading source of methane emissions in Maryland, accounting for 37% of overall methane emissions. One big contributor... organic matter. Steps are being taken to try and keep food waste out of the landfill. Millersville landfill now has a dumpster for food scraps which will then be composted. Maryland will be exploring multiple ways to keep food and organic waste out of the landfill. I can't wait to see what guidelines they have for pet waste.