

The Porter

St. Conrad Fraternity, Annapolis, MD
Secular Franciscan Order – January 2022
<http://stconradannapolis.sfousa.org/>

The Porter deadline for the next issue is February 11th. 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 15, 2022 * 10:00 AM**
Via Zoom – Invitation will be sent on Friday, January 15th

As is our tradition, the January meeting will focus on pro-life issues. Our prayers, ongoing formation, and discussion will all center on pro-life issues from conception to whenever God calls one home.

Refreshments



Grab a doughnut or bagel and feel free to munch on it during our Zoom session.

Prayer Requests



For physical and spiritual healing of: John McHugh (Joe's brother), Judith Tyrrell, Gertrude Shelton (Marie's mom), Ed Sievers (Kathleen's husband), Evelyn Jones, Tessie Chitty, Jan Parker (National Minister), Ed Wilbourne, Kellie Eye (granddaughter of Susan Greif), 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 this list by sending changes/additions to jd6bouv@verizon.net)

Birthdays

Ed Wilbourne – 01/16 Kathleen Sievers – 02/10 Joan Kvetkas – 02/11
Tessie Chitty – 01/21 Mary Jo Johnson – 02/10

Profession Anniversaries

Margaret Jackson – 02/08/1998

Save the Date

March 5, 2022: Day of Reflection for Inquirers and Candidates. Topic: "Yes, this is what I want" presented by Fr. Stephen King, OFM Conv. 9:00 am-4:30 pm, at the Shrine of St. Anthony, Ellicott City, MD. Registration: \$55, deadline: February 20, 2022. See Denise Mianté for more information.

May 13-15, 2022: Regional Retreat at Loyola on the Potomac Retreat House in Faulker, MD. All rooms are single rooms. Cost for the weekend is \$250.

August 3-7, 2022: 20th Quinquennial Congress in Phoenix, Arizona. For more information: <https://saintmargaretofcortona.org/upcoming-events/> and click on the 20th Quinquennial Congress icon to download all 4 pages of information.

Council Meeting

Friday, February 4 at 7:00pm via Zoom



Minister's Minute

HAPPY NEW YEAR !! 🎉

Unfortunately, it is starting to look like last year. Our January fraternity meeting will be via Zoom. Even for people fully vaccinated with booster, that is no guarantee that you will not get the new Omicron variant. The number of people testing positive is at an all-time high. Although most cases appear to be less serious, the hospitals and medical staff are being overwhelmed by the sheer number of cases. For the sake of those heroic front-line medical workers our meeting will be virtual as we do our best not to add to the problem. Medical "experts" feel that the surge will peak in mid-January and then start to decline. I hope and pray that we will resume meeting in person in February.

It appears that the renovations at St. John the Evangelist church are completed. I have sent our schedule to Stacy Golden, requesting the 3rd Saturday in the Youth Room. Hopefully, I will have a reply from her before our Zoom meeting.

Our January Zoom fraternity meeting will focus on pro-life issues, from conception to when God is pleased to call us home. Please don't forget the pledges that you made for Spiritual Bouquet to End Abortion in the US. Your pledges (Hours of Adoration, Masses, Rosaries, Acts of Secret Service, and Pro- Life Witness) were due to start on or before, January 6, and end on January 22.

News from our membership:

- Toby Harkleroad has settled into his new apartment. His new address is 13901 Castle Blvd, Apt 23, Silver Spring, MD 20904. His email and telephone number have not changed.

THANKS TO EVERYONE IN OUR FRATERNITY

Your generosity during the past year has allowed our fraternity to assist the following organizations:

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Franciscan Family Apostolate | \$1,200.00 |
| Hope for All | \$500.00 |
| St. Francis International School | \$1,170.00 |
| Glenmary -- in memory of Mary Henry | \$100.00 |
| Catholic Charities -- in memory of Joan Robinson | \$100.00 |
| Catholic Relief Services | \$500.00 |
| Archbishop of Haiti - Earthquake relief | \$500.00 |
| Bus Tokens to Lighthouse Shelter | \$680.00 |
| Amazon Relief | \$200.00 |
| Franciscan Center - Baltimore | \$200.00 |
| Casa Franciscana Outreach | \$300.00 |
| Franciscan Missions | \$100.00 |
| St. Augustine's Province | \$200.00 |
| St. Vincent de Paul @ St. John the Evangelist | \$450.00 |
| Phoenix Academy | <u>\$180.00</u> |
| TOTAL | <u><u>\$6,380.00</u></u> |

*Fraternity contributions should be mailed to:
Joe McHugh
1740 Tedbury St
Crofton, MD 21114*

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

- COM - Common Fund (this covers fraternity operations and the Sabu family in India)
- BUS - bus tokens for the Light House shelter clients
- Phoenix – Phoenix Academy 'backpack' food program

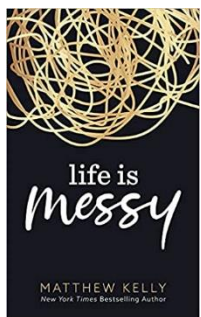
From the Region: Our region is looking for accountants. Fraternities are now required to have their treasury records audited before the fraternity elections, preferably 4-6 months prior to elections (i.e, May-July 2022 for our fraternity). The “Auditor” must be someone outside of the fraternity and need not be an OSF. The Region is planning to compile a list of people within the region who can do audits. Please let Joan Faltot know of anyone you think would be interested in being added to this list. There will be financial compensation. The records that each fraternity keeps are fairly simple.

National Membership Database: The membership records are moving to a new database, AND in order for a record to move it must contain the member’s year of birth. Our fraternity would also like to maintain a list of emergency contacts for each of our members. So if you actually read this, please send your name, year of birth and emergency contact info (name, email and/or phone) to Joan Faltot at jd6bouv@verizon.net

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES – DENISE MIANTE

Phoenix Academy “Backpacks” – 24 food bags were packed on Wednesday, December, 15th. The next filling of bags with “Backpack Food” will be Wednesday, January 19th. at 9:45AM. Contact Denise for more information at Rubob903@gmail.com

Lighthouse Shelter Lunches: We have started making sandwiches in person again. Catherine hosted the group at her home on Thursday, December 30th. We delivered 25 sandwiches and various accompanying snack items to the shelter-- water bottles, fruit cups, mac & cheese, individual bags of popcorn, and peanut salty snacks. Thanks to all who participated (Lita, Joan K, Joe, and Brian who stopped by to join in following an appointment)! The lunch crew meets on 4th. Thursday of each month, so January 27th, and February 24th will be the next meetings. Members get together at Catherine’s House at 9:30AM to make 25 sandwiches and they bring the extra items. Contact Catherine for more information at mcmgonzalez59@outlook.com



Life is Messy by Matthew Kelly – review from Joe McHugh

This past Christmas, several parishes in the Baltimore-Washington area distributed to its parishioners as a gift a book entitled “*Life is Messy*” written by Mathew Kelly (founder of Dynamic Catholics). I didn’t start to read this book as I was finishing a book I had from the County library. So, I started to read it around New Year’s Eve or day, and after I read the first seven or eight pages, I thought ‘Oh no, another “I’m okay, you’re okay” book.” I picked up the book the next day thinking I might have been too critical of it, and I was right. Mr. Kelly covers a number of issues related to life being messy, such as:

- Grief, which happens to everyone. And it doesn’t make appointments. It has its own timetable.
- The normalization of evil. By definition, this is the reason for the escalation of evil in our world, although it might not be obvious at first. It all hinges on the immoral content found in our movies and television shows which continually interferes with our moral compass.
- Social media. Over the years it has evolved away from being a family- oriented platform with pictures of our kids first day at school, or the birth of new child. However, over time it has become a politicalized space where postings are broadcast without being fact-checked and come from individuals both foreign and domestic. This has caused a great rift in our country, leading to a “us vs. them” mentality.
- Gossip also takes its place within social media and the end result can be the destruction of one’s reputation for the rest of one’s life.

I strongly recommend that each of our Fraternity members read this book as it might reaffirm our vow to lead the Gospel life.

JUST A THOUGHT – from Catherine

From Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe:

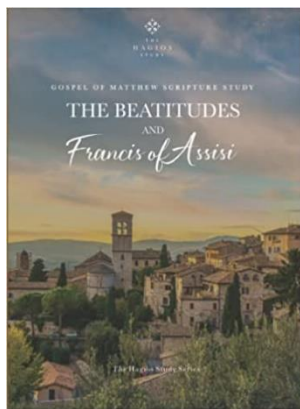
“...that in this way one can identify many good people of good will who might cause harm, but more out of ignorance than bad faith. Personally, approaching another puts to rest many preconceived notions on the part of both one and the other.”

I believe his context was the people he was with in the concentration camps.

This seems relevant today when there seem to be preconceived notions of ours/others opinions of the vaccines, COVID and its variants, masks, distancing, Bishops’ and elected officials’ decisions, schools open/closed, virtual/in-person learning, virtual meetings/work vs. in person, etc.

Simple, thoughtful questions with a real interest to hear and understand the other could really go far to deepen unity.

The Beatitudes and Francis of Assisi: Bible Study of Matthew 5 -- part of The Hagios Study Series



St. John the Evangelist Church will be hosting a new Bible Study during Lent 2022 this year. Dates/time have yet to be announced.

The Beatitudes & Francis of Assisi is an 8-part Bible Study of Matthew 5:1-12, the section of scripture referred to as "The Beatitudes." These eight principles are explored through a pilgrimage of study with full-color images of the real places discussed in each section.

In this book, you'll also explore how these teachings influenced St. Francis of Assisi, a true example of a holy and intentional response to God's word. Pairing this Christian saint with how he responded to scripture gives us perspective on how we can apply Christ's teaching to our time and culture.

The Beatitudes and Francis of Assisi is the first study in the Hagios Study Series. The name come from the Greek word *hagios* meaning "holy, set apart by God, saint."

- Four sections each week provide well-paced progression:
 - ❖ Read - Explore the featured verse by viewing it alongside supporting verses. By comparing verses that share the same words across the Greek versions of the Old and New Testament you will better understand the English translation and how these parallel verses give insight into the main reading.
 - ❖ Reflect - View a skillfully crafted meditation video on the Hagios Study mobile app along with short reflections from early Church Fathers to aid you in journaling your thoughts on the readings.
 - ❖ Respond - Discover the story of a Christian brethren and how they responded to the main scripture for the week. Approachable questions will aid you in prayerfully determining application to your life.
 - ❖ Rest - The final section brings together all the previous three sections for a moment of final considerations. Begin by listening to a contemporary praise song on the mobile app while meditating on the verses from the week. Then finish with an inspired prayer from our communion of saints.
- Discussion questions for small groups or personal reflection
- Journal pages
- Audiovisual meditations in The Hagios Study mobile app (the free mobile app companion for the study)

The book is available from [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com), though you may wish to see if the church places a bulk order.

FRANCISCAN CENTER NEEDS OUR HELP

The following email from received from the Franciscan Center on January 7th. The council has approved a donation of \$1,000 to the Franciscan Center in the name of our fraternity.

In the nearly 22 months between the start of the government-led response to Covid 19 in mid-March 2020 and the beginning of 2022, the Center tripled the number of people it feeds on an average day and started its first-ever delivery program, providing meals to homeless encampments, senior centers, and public-housing residents in need.

Volunteers took the lead in preparing more than a thousand sandwiches a week, in addition to the hot, scratch-made meals our incredible kitchen crew provided our guests. Remarkably, in all of 2020 and 2021, only one Franciscan Center staff member became ill with Covid.

Unfortunately, since January 1st, seven of our colleagues – nearly a third of our staff – have gone into quarantine after testing positive. As a result, we’ve instituted new protocols to seek to prevent the further spread of the virus, including temporarily suspending our volunteer program.

This is a critical loss of helping hands at the worst possible time: in the middle of winter. Nonetheless, we are committed to making sure our guests continue to receive meals and other services they need to sustain their lives and improve their circumstances.

To get it done, we’re going to take on at least an additional \$15,000 in expenses we hadn’t anticipated: longer hours for current staff, temporary staff, an even stronger emphasis on keeping our work spaces “Covid clean,” buying additional rapid testing kits, masks and sanitizer and helping our team mates who are currently suffering from having COVID19.



20th Quinquennial Congress

3-7 August 2022

REGISTRATION & GENERAL INFORMATION



Please read all 4 pages below before registering

Registration opens August 1, 2021

Q Registration Cost:

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------|----------------------------|
| Full "Early bird" * | \$ 175 | August 01- Dec. 31, 2021 |
| Full Regular * | \$ 205 | January 01 - May 27, 2022 |
| Full "Late Owl" * | \$ 250 | May 28 - July 1, 2022 |
| One day only "Early bird" ** | \$ 83 | August 01 - Dec. 31, 2021 |
| One day only ** | \$ 100 | January 01 - July 01, 2022 |

Young adults (Age 18-35) Scholarships available, please email:
ofsusa.qcongress@gmail.com

* Includes meal plan: 4 dinners, 3 breakfasts and 3 lunches, beginning with dinner on Wed. Aug.3

** Includes 1 lunch and 1 dinner

Meals on your own Sunday, Aug.7

Registration closes July 1, 2022. We cannot accommodate walk-ins

BEFORE REGISTERING: please read all 4 pages of information provided on the regional website:

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- A non-refundable \$100 per person deposit is due at time of registration.
- One-day-only registration (\$83) is not refundable.
- After you register, you may log in to your account and make payments as well as add information such as flight arrival and departure times.
- Remaining balance will be automatically charged to your credit card July 1, 2022.

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