



**January 2022**

**Ordo Saecularis Franciscanus  
St. Margaret of Cortona Region**

**Next Fraternity Gathering**

Will be on **Zoom Jan 24th**

**Agenda**

**7:30:** Opening Prayer  
Ongoing Formation: Read Chapter 6 in preparation for discussion in Dating God of questions on pages 91-92  
Facilitator: Ginger Bahr  
Extraction of Saints will take place when we are able to meet in person.

**January Profession**



**Stan Glodek 1/31/2015**

**Prayer Intentions**

Mary Simmons and family  
Ron Teller  
Jeffrey Teller Jr.  
Baby Ava (Donna's Grand Niece)  
Wes Wise  
Catherine Fischer and her sister Mary Anne  
Margaret Wise's mother Ruth  
Armando- Ginger's father  
David- Anne's husband  
Richard Elliott and his family  
Joan Jackson  
For all those in our Book of intentions

**Apostolates**

December	Franciscan Center	\$20
January	National Center Padre Pio	\$20

**Words of Padre Pio**

" Let us be on the outlook for even the slightest symptom of anxiety and as soon as we notice that we have fallen into discouragement let us turn to God with a child's trust and total abandonment."

From: *Words of Light*. Compiled and with an introduction by Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa. Paraclete Press, Brewster, Mass.2000.English edition translated by Andrew Tulloch

Prayer Request for the safety and protection of Samuel Wenke deployed in Eastern Europe.

While we are meeting on Zoom again, please send your **Fair Share donation to:**

**Anne Dulik, O.F.S.  
610 W. Bel Air Avenue  
Aberdeen, MD 21001**

**Welcome to Richard Elliott**

**Affiliate of the Fraternity**

At our January 17th meeting, the Council approved Richard's affiliation with Padre Pio Fraternity. Family health issues caused Richard to leave the formation program and his road to permanent profession. Richard expressed a desire to remain connected with the fraternity because of the impact his formation had on his spirituality and the fraternal bonds he made. "Affiliate brothers or sisters will have no juridical bond with the Secular Franciscan Order and are, therefore persons welcomed to love and be loved 'as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ' (SFO Rule Art. 13). They may share the experiences and activities of the fraternity, without the right to vote." *Art 13b. NAFRA Statutes*

### Minister's Message

In December, I heard many comments that people were glad to see 2021 ending after a year of Covid-19 illness, deaths, restrictions and shut downs. With the arrival of 2022, things don't seem to be greatly improved with the new Covid variant of Omicron. A myriad of other issues political, cultural, economic, social and world affairs add to the havoc the virus is causing. The end result for many is fear, discontentment, confusion and perhaps anger depending on what the focus is at the time. (By anger I do not include righteous anger but rather refer to anger that would be displeasing to God or destructive in nature emotionally, physically or spiritually). These negative emotions or states of being are not of God and we should ask for God's grace to dispel them.

Listening to the news oftentimes provides the spark that sets aflame these negative feelings and moods. Although we don't wish to be ignorant of what is going on in our community, country and world, it is wise to limit how much we dwell upon what we hear on the news. While praying evening prayer on January 9th,

Psalm 112:7-8 resonated with me. The psalmist starts off in verse 1 "Happy the man who fears the Lord" and then in verse 7-8, "He has no fear of evil news, with a firm heart, he trusts in the Lord." A firm heart to me means a heart filled with faith and hope in and love for Jesus Christ. How wise and true are the words of Scripture. Through prayer and love of Jesus, the stronger the virtues of faith, hope and love become. Love engenders trust because we trust those we love.

Whatever is happening in the world, we know the Lord is with us. We try to act with prudence and good judgement. We best serve ourselves and others by focusing on Jesus not on displeasure permeated by the news; focusing on Love not fear. Prayer and God's grace will fortify us. As Franciscans, joy should remain in our hearts. The story of Francis conveying the meaning of perfect joy to Brother Leo is appropriate in our present time. No matter what is happening in the current circumstances of our personal life or in the world around us, we need to have joy. The perfect joy Francis spoke about is not celebratory joy, fun, laughter or always being in a happy mood. Rather it is the calm,

steady assurance that comes from within of God's love and care us no matter what storms and trials we experience. Let us remember God's words, "Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." Isaiah. 41:10. Jesus we place our trust in You. Bonnie Ng, O.F.S.



Photo by Richard Elliott

#### Utility Pole with Vines

One never knows where, when or how we will be reminded of Jesus' great love for us!

#### **Update on Joan Jackson**

Joan is doing better. She now owns a 3 wheel scooter to navigate her way around Oakcrest with her oxygen tank. When the elevator doors open she yells "I am coming out" to avoid hitting anyone! Can we imagine that? Residents are eating alone in their rooms and no one can come in from outside due to Covid. Joan hopes to join us at our Zoom Meeting on January 24th. Hope to see Joan then!