

## **What is a Chapter of Mats?**

**Our Father Francis knew it was important for his brothers to gather at intervals to listen to one another and renew their enthusiasm and commitment to spreading the gospel and rebuilding the Church. In 1221, St. Francis called his brothers to a general chapter. The number of brothers had grown so large that they had to bring mats to sleep on. Some say 5,000, and some say 3,000 friars assembled and lived in huts or tents made of these reed mats. It was a joyful reunion and an opportunity to share their experiences on the road. Francis himself called this gathering a Chapter of Mats.**

**The name has great significance for us. It was the first time St. Francis assembled all his brothers from Italy and beyond to gather as one body. And for us, it is a time to assemble all Secular Franciscans from all fraternities within St. Margaret of Cortona Region to share and seek the Holy Spirit's guidance for the path we are to take in the coming years.**

**Anne Mulqueen, ofs**

***“Return to the excitement of the founding story so as to be re-energized to address the issues of contemporary society at their roots. To do so is to willingly enter into the Paschal Mystery (death) so that new life emerges. It is less about vision and planning, more about entering into the mystery of God's plan.”***

**Sr. Brenda Hermann, M.S.B.T.**

# St. Margaret of Cortona 2024 OFS Chapter of Mats



Register **NOW** for St. Margaret of Cortona 2024 OFS Chapter of Mats

Registration is **NOW OPEN** for our **September 6-8, 2024 Chapter of Mats** to be held at the beautiful **Claggett Center** in Adamstown, Maryland. Under the theme of **The Next 800 Years**, we will explore where we have been, where we are now, and where we are going.

**How are we as Secular Franciscans poised to bring Christ to our world?  
What unique gifts do we have to offer?**

The early-bird registration has been extended to May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Register between NOW and May 31st to receive the early-bird rate.**

This discount is a gift from the region to assist you in participating in the Chapter of Mats.

## **Deadlines:**

Early-bird discount	Submit online registration form	<b>Due by May 31, 2024</b>
Non-Refundable Deposit	<b>\$150.00</b>	<b>Due by June 1, 2024</b>
Full remaining balance	Based on housing selection	<b>Due by Aug. 1, 2024</b>

**Note: See payment options on page 2. After August 1, all reservations are final and non-refundable.**

## **Housing Options:**

Housing options will include double hotel-like rooms with private baths in the, **Christiane Inn** in close proximity to the dining room and meeting rooms. Accommodations are also available in cottages, downhill from the dining and meeting space. **Cottages** have two twin beds per room and shared baths down the hall.

## **Event Costs:**

All meals (Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast) and registration fees are included in the cost of the rooms. The lodging cost is based on the type of housing selected from the options below. There are no additional fees.

- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for 2 persons (\$225 per person by May 31/**\$275 per person after May 31**) – roommate may be designated or assigned
- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for three persons (\$200 per person by May 31/**\$230 per person after May 31**) – must designate roommates
- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for four persons (\$188 per person by May 31/**\$210 per person after May 31**) – must designate roommates
- Cottage – two twin beds per room for 2 persons (\$185 per person by May 31/**\$235 per person after May 31**) – roommate may be designated or assigned (**no single rooms in cottages**)

(Below is a map of the Claggett Center)

To take advantage of the extended early-bird discount and to secure your room preference, we encourage you to register and pay the \$150 deposit ASAP.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE from the region is available. To request an application, contact Janice Benton [jbentonsfo@gmail.com](mailto:jbentonsfo@gmail.com) or download from this link: [Financial Assistance Fund Request Form](#)**

**Payment Options:** Payment can be made via check or credit card (subject to 3.5% fee).

- Checks should be made payable to **St. Margaret of Cortona Region**, and mailed to **Randy Bender, 929 North Danville St. Arlington, VA 22201-1921.**
- If you wish to pay by credit card (with additional 3.5% fee), mark that box on the registration form and you will receive an invoice and payment instructions from Randy Bender.

To enhance the participation of all our brothers and sisters, **disability and dietary accommodations**, and **language interpretation/translation** will be available throughout the Chapter of Mats. Please indicate your requests on the registration form.

### WE NEED YOU!

To make our upcoming OFS Chapter of Mats memorable, we wish to include in the planning fraternity members willing to share their talents by working with the subcommittees in the various capacities listed below. Please indicate on the registration form the subcommittee(s) for which you would like to volunteer:

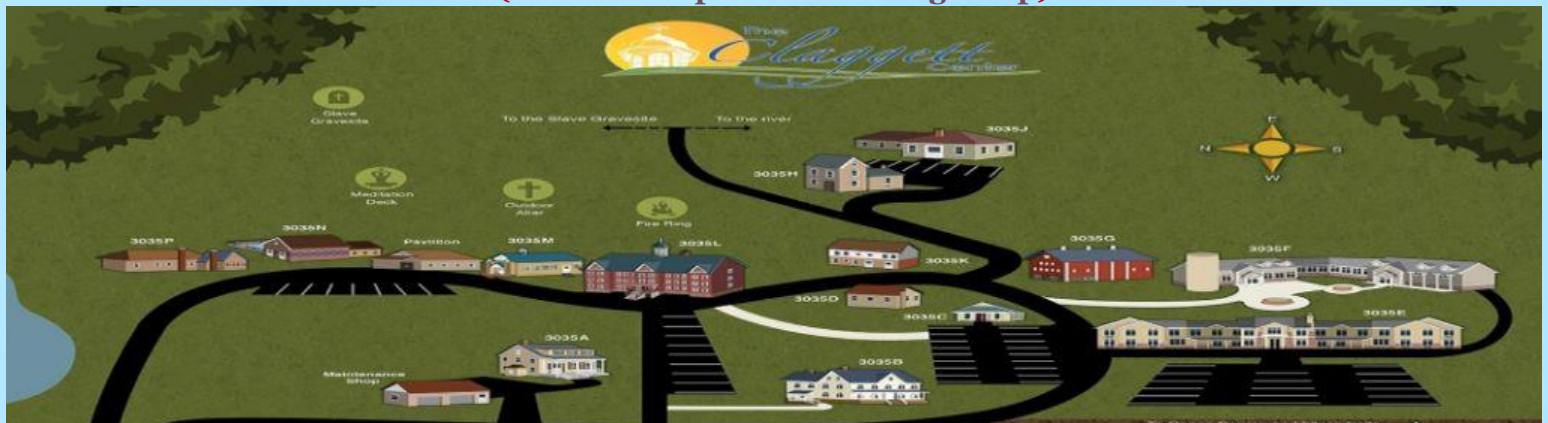
- Program
- Publicity
- Registration and Welcome
- Onsite volunteer (usher, guide, etc.)
- Liturgy and Environment
- Access
- Social

To Register, [click here](#) for fillable form.

If you have any questions or need help with registering, email Peter Noyes at [benderclan@verizon.net](mailto:benderclan@verizon.net) and to Janice Benton at [jbentonsfo@gmail.com](mailto:jbentonsfo@gmail.com).

**NOTE:** Please indicate on the form whether paying by check or credit card. (Reminder: credit cards are subject to a 3.5% fee)

Below is a map of the campus  
(Click on the picture to enlarge map)



## Emergency Medical Form

All attendees must fill out an Emergency Medical Form to keep in their room while attending the weekend Chapter of Mats. Click on the blue 2023 [Emergency Medical Form](#), fill out the form, print a copy, and bring it with you to the Chapter of Mats.

