

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



## St. Margaret of Cortona 2024 OFS Chapter of Mats

Register [NOW OPEN](#) 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?**

### **Deadlines:**

|                        |                            |                              |
|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Deposit                | <b>\$150.00</b>            | <b>Due with registration</b> |
| Full remaining balance | Based on housing selection | <b>Due by August 1, 2024</b> |

**Note: Full refunds are available until July 15, feast of St. Bonaventure. After July 15, all reservations are final and non-refundable.**

### **Housing Options:**

Remaining 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.

The Commuter Option is now available. The cost is \$150 and includes all meals, liturgies, and group sessions for all three days. Please consider requesting financial assistance for overnight housing if you are choosing this option due to cost.

### **Event Costs:**

All meals (Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast) and registration fees are included in the cost of the rooms and the commuter fee.

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 (\$275 per person) – roommate may be designated or assigned
- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for three persons (\$230 per person) – must designate roommates
- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for four persons (\$210 per person) – must designate roommates
- Cottage – two twin beds per room for 2 persons (\$235 per person) – roommate may be designated or assigned (no single rooms in cottages)
- Commuter fee – meals, liturgies, and group sessions for all three days (\$150 per person)

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

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

**To Register, [Click here](#) for fillable form**

If you have any questions or need help with registering, email Randy Bender 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 or applying for financial assistance. (Reminder: credit cards are subject to a 3.5% fee). If you are requesting financial assistance, please mention your request in the cover email that you send with your registration form to Randy Bender and Janice Benton.**

Below is a map of the campus

(Click on the picture to enlarge map)

