

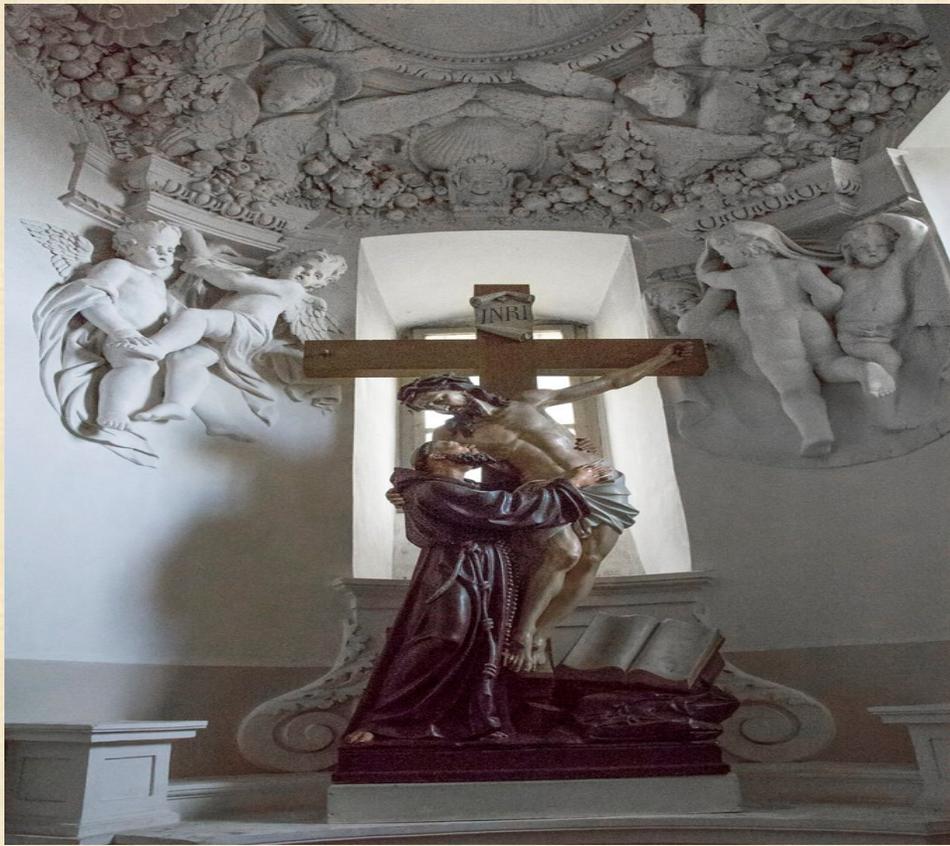
St Mary of The Angels Fraternity  
Order of the Secular Franciscan  
The Angelus  
July 21, 2024



**Minister: Michael Oliver**  
**July Guest Minister: Michaelle Sylla**  
**Vice-Minister: John DiBenedetto**  
**Spiritual Assistant: Michael Huether    Formation Director: Carmencita Fiesta**  
**Secretary: Susan Jamison    Treasurer: Portia Fiesta**  
**Counselors: Aurea Roland, Tom McGrath, Michaelle Sylla**  
**The Angelus this Month: Michael Oliver**

**July - Month of the Most Precious Blood**





## **July Meeting Agenda**

**Opening Prayers - Page 35 in the Ritual book**

### **Business**

**Welcome to all visitors and Gary Burton, our Region Minister  
Upcoming Chapter of Mats in September**

### **Formation**

**Saint presentation on Mary Magdalene – Greg  
Region Minister remarks and Q&A – Gary**

### **Food and Fellowship**

**Liturgy of the Hours Evening Prayer**

**Closing Prayers - Page 36 in the Ritual book**

I was inspired by a Formation Friday article by Diane Menditto, “**Time to examine our Love and Commitment**” and would like to share some key points she offered about our Way of life.

The first point to consider was *Conversion* which can be described as the letting go of one's ego. It is dying to a false self that tries to Be God, who tries to be in control of everything in their life.

Another important area of focus was the reality that *We are a community and we need each other*. Given this truth, what can I do to make beneficial changes in my attitudes about fraternity and fraternity life? Here are a few suggestions:

Prayerfully participate in electing and supporting my local council.

Pray for them every day.

Use my God-given talents to collaborate on and assist with all projects.

Consider if you have talents and abilities to serve on the Council?

Beyond community and the need for one another, how can I show *Love for my fraternity*?

Here are some ideas:

Be present at gatherings.

Listen attentively to my brothers and sisters.

Offer to help out in and outside of gatherings.

Reach out to excused members or to anyone who has missed a meeting. (Phone, email, card)

Pray for our deceased members and for specific requests.

Take note that for Franciscans, fraternity is a way of life (not just another thing to do)

As Secular Franciscans, we must *know and love our Rule*. After all, this is what we promised at profession. Here are a few suggestions:

Read, pray and meditate on the rule daily or weekly.

Know that our Rule and Constitution encourages us to deepen our prayer life so act on it!

As we love our Rule, so must we also *Love Scripture*. As we know, St Francis based everything he said or wrote on Scripture. So how can we emulate him?

Resolve to read a little Scripture each day.

Focus on going from Gospel to life and life to the Gospel.

Finally, it is important that we *Strive for daily conversion*. This is sometimes easier said than done. Changes can be significant while at other times they are quite minor. Regardless, here are some ideas to consider:

Attempt to be a little better every day at some aspect of your OFS journey.

Make use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation often.

Love the Eucharist and be changed by it.

## SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT'S MESSAGE

July, 2024

Hello, again to all of you!

This is the fifth of my articles on our Franciscan sisters and brothers of other Christian churches around the world. Their organization and Rule follow very similarly to the charism of our Ruler.

Finishing with the CFC, or the Community of Francis and Clare, their members take vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience into an evangelical and contemporary way of life of simplicity, fidelity, and humility. Within their communities, they have diverse ministries as the Spirit and needs of the church prompts them. Founded on all Saint's Day of November 1, 2018, the community has membership in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

### LUTHERAN FRANCISCANISM

In Germany, besides the high church movement, the Evangelical Church has the Protestant Evangelische Kanaan Franziskus-Bruderschaft (Kanaan Franciscan Brothers}, who are affiliated with the Evangelical Sisterhood of Mary.

In the Church of Sweden, there is the Helige Franciskus Systraskap (Sisterhood of Saint Francis), a religious community of Klaradal Convent in Sjovik.

The Franciscan Brothers of Saint Michael (FBSM), who are also in North America and within the Evangelical Marian Catholic Church, is a congregation of men, women, and children. They are now a branch of the American Orthodox Catholic Church.

In the Lutheran Church of other countries, there has been further interest in Franciscan Spirituality. In Denmark, the "Assisi-Kredsen", and in Finland, the "Franciskus-Sallskapet" are both ecumenical societies which arrange and conduct journeys to Assisi and other Franciscan monuments.

### Lutheran Third Orders

In Europe, there are nine Franciscan third orders, two of which are moswt common:

\*Evangelische Franziskanerbruderschaft der Nachfolge Christi, a Lutheran Franciscan Tertiary founded in Germany in 1927 within Hochkirchliche Vereinigung.

\*Franciskus Tredje Orden (FTO) in the Church of Sweden, is part of the European Province of the Third Order of the Anglican Society of Saint Francis.

In my next and last article, we will look at ecumenical associations of Franciscan inspiration.

Peace,

Mike

## **No July birthdays or Profession anniversaries**



**Our monthly Mass for our Living and Deceased Fraternity Members will be celebrated on July 21st, at Our Lady of Grace Church at 11 AM.**

**A friendly Secular Franciscan reminder!**

**If health or a special family obligation hinders you from attending our gathering, please contact our Vice Minister, John Di Benedetto, and let him know.**

**301-873-7883**

## 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**

Registration remains 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 \$150.00 Due with registration Full remaining balance Based on housing selection Due by August 1, 2024

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.

# St. Margaret of Cortona 2024 OFS Chapter of Mats

**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 in the brochure attached to the email on this topic.

- 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