



May 2024

THE CALL

St. Thomas More Fraternity, Secular Franciscan Order *From Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel*

Minister: Andrea Bender, OFS; Vice Minister: Sita Chakrawarti, OFS; Secretary: Randy Bender, OFS; Treasurer: Ann Wester, OFS; Formation Director: Janette Martin, OFS; Councilors-at-Large: Ann Corro, OFS, Michael Landrigan, OFS

*Sunday, May 12, 2023, Mother's Day - **NO FRATERNITY MEETING***

Sunday, May 19, 2024 – POOR CLARES VISIT

- We are collecting nonperishables to donate to the Poor Clares.
- Vespers - 3:30 p.m. *Listen to Poor Clares praying Vespers*
- Rosary - 4:00 p.m.
- Benediction - 4:30 p.m.
- Followed by Dutch treat dinner at Panera Bread, 6670 Richmond Highway, Alexandria VA

Minister's Notes

This month I will review the formation director's role. The formation director co-ordinates the formation activities of the fraternity with the help of other members of the council and the formation team, The formation director instructs and enlivens the inquirers during the period of initiation, the candidates during the period of initial formation, and the newly professed; informs the council concerning the suitability of candidates for a commitment to live according to the Rule.

Chapter of Mats - we have a number of members already signed up for this weekend (9/6-8/2024). The early bird registration has been extended to the end of May.

Behold the Lamb of God. This phrase has been haunting my prayer life recently. It is yet another phrase we have heard countless times. Does it call to mind John the Baptist? Easter Season seems the wrong time of year for that. Maybe your mind

jumps to the Book of Revelation. Actually, my prayer came from the Communion Rite at Mass. One morning I focused on *behold* with the awareness that in moments I would hold the Lamb of God in my hands as I received Holy Communion. Hold echoed through my day. The next morning, I was paying attention, waiting to hear *behold* again. I didn't. I heard *be*. Be the Lamb of God. Be the sacrifice.

I have googled "behold the Lamb of God." I have followed multiple scripture references. I have tried to trace the meaning of behold-apparently, only in English do we have a word for look that also carries to hold and to become.

What are you becoming? Does holding the Lamb of God-either in your hands or on your tongue influence your becoming? Have you tried to be Christ to someone this month?

Pax et Bonum,
Andrea

Prayer Intentions

For...

- Peace in the Holy Land and the Middle East and the victims of the violence.
- Peace in Ukraine and protection for her Ukrainian and Ruthenian Rite Catholics.
- Grace Coipuram, OFS
- Patricia Kennedy, mother of Joseph Kennedy, OFS who is recovering from congestive heart failure.
- Bill Wester, Ann's husband, for successful treatment of his heart ailment.
- Virginia Roccapiore, widow of Joseph Roccapiore, OFS
- For Marie, cousin of Anne Pastorkovich, OFS, who is undergoing chemotherapy.
- Louis, son of Clarissa, of STM Parish, for depression.
- The sister of a friend of April, who does not want her sister to pray for her
- April's friend, whose husband avoids Church, and his ex-wife who never went to Church.
- The Poor Holy Souls in Purgatory.
- Religious freedom and for all persecuted for their belief in God.
- Prisoners, sick, poor, hungry, lonely, homeless, unemployed and those with no one to pray for them.
- The health, protection and guidance of all priests and bishops including Pope Francis.
- The union of all Christians.
- For vocations to all branches of the Franciscan family.

Professions

none

Birthdays of May/June

Janette Martin (3rd)

Anne-Marie Pastorkovich (16th)

Anna Claire Smith (20th)

Michael Landrigan (22nd)

Sita Chakrawarti (7th)

Necrology

Rose McDonough – May 21, 1980

James A Joyce – May 1988

Evelyn Gibney – May 2, 2005

Wilma Harrington – May 5, 2014

Judy Manuel – May 17, 2019

Shane Potts – May 26, 2020

Secretary's Note

Besides putting in another plug for the Chapter of Mats, it is time to reissue the *St. Thomas More Fraternity Directory*. Information has changed since the last one was printed in 2021 (?). Please send me any updated information and whether you want a paper copy. Also, I will be adding an "alumni" section with contact info for members of our Fraternity who have transferred out.

A big reason for updating the Directory is that we had elections for a new St. Margaret of Cortona Region Executive Council. Sita was elected councilor for the Virginia Area and I have been elected treasurer as Peter Noyes, OFS had served a maximum number of terms and could not be re-elected (much his relief). Mary Badjo, OFS is our new councilor. Here is a list of the entire council:

Minister: Gary Burton, OFS

Vice Minister: Michael Oliver, OFS

Secretary: Maria Martinez, OFS

Treasurer: Randy Bender, OFS,

Formation Director: Rita Colleran, OFS

Area Councilor for Northern Maryland/Southern

Pennsylvania: Michael Huether, OFS

Area Councilor for Central/Southern Maryland/

Delaware: Toby Harkleroad, OFS

Area Councilor for Metro DC: Mary Badjo, OFS

Virginia Area Councilor: Sita Chakrawarti, OFS

Lastly, May 16th is the feast of St. Margaret of Cortona, Patroness of our Secular Franciscan Region. She was proposed as patroness for our region by Fr. Stephen Sabbagh, OFM who was involved in establishing our fraternity. Peace and Good, Randy

PRAYER FOR THE ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA REGIONAL CHAPTER OF MATS

September 6-8, 2024

Most high and glorious God,
we ask for your blessing
upon our upcoming Chapter of Mats.

We thank you for our call to live the Gospel
following the example of our Seraphic Father Francis.

We thank you for those who have gone before us,
who preserved our charism throughout the centuries.

We thank you for our current leaders,
who serve us and help us to grow in our understanding of our vocation.

And we thank you for future leaders,
the shepherds that are to come.

We ask you to send down your Holy Spirit upon us as we journey toward
our 2024 Chapter of Mats.

Prepare all of us, Lord, as we ask
for fraternal Love to love as you love;
Humility to listen to one another;
Wisdom to see the future you would have us build;
Courage to follow your direction; and
Grace to spread seeds of goodness and joy throughout our time at Chapter and beyond.

Lord, as we anticipate coming together to celebrate
Where we were, where we are, and where we are called to be
as Secular Franciscans,
let us remember to see and treat all
“...as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ.”¹

And so we pray,
Holy God, draw us together as a community,
take charge of our Chapter of Mats,
and lead us into the future.

Father, we adore you and give you all praise, honor, and glory,
Through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
In union with the Holy Spirit. Amen.

¹ OFS Rule, Article 13 - As the Father sees in every person the features of his Son, the firstborn of many brothers and sisters, so the Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ. A sense of community will make them joyful and ready to place themselves on an equal basis with all people, especially with the lowly for whom they shall strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ.

St. Margaret of Cortona 2024 OFS Chapter of Mats

The Next 800 Years, 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?

WE NEED YOU!

First, to be there! But to make our upcoming OFS Chapter of Mats memorable, we wish to include fraternity members willing to share their talents in the planning by working with the subcommittees. 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.)

Registration is NOW OPEN for our September 6-8, 2024 Chapter of Mats to be held at the beautiful Claggett Center in Adamstown, Maryland.

Deadlines:

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

Note: See payment options below. After August 1, all reservations are final and non-refundable.

Housing Options include double hotel-like rooms with private baths in the [Christiane Inn](#), in close proximity to the dining room and meeting rooms. Accommodation is also available in cottages, downhill from the dining and meeting space. [Cottages](#) have two twin beds per room and shared baths down the hall. Single rooms are sold out!

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 June 1*) – 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 June 1*) – must designate roommates!

- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for four persons (\$188 per person by May 31/\$210 per person after June 1) – must designate roommates!
- Cottage – two twin beds per room for 2 persons (\$185 per person by May 31/\$235 per person after June 1) – roommate may be designated or assigned (no single rooms in cottages)

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

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

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.

Click <https://saintmargaretofcorona.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Registration-for-Mats-2024-.pdf> for the fillable form to register. If you have any questions or need help with registering, email Randy Bender at benderclan@verizon.net and to Janice Benton at jbentonsfo@gmail.com.

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

Saints of the Month

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Franciscan-Saints-2022-1-Catalog-by-Mary-Lou-Coffman-OFS.pdf>

May 1

St. Riccardo Pampuri, Confessor, was a tertiary before joining another religious institute (August 2, 1897-March 1, 1930)

https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_19891101_pampuri_en.html

Bl. Vivaldo of San Gimignano, Franciscan Friar, Hermit (1260-1320)

<http://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0501-30.htm>

May 3

Bl. Edward Joseph Rosaz, Priest, Founder, Third Order Secular and Regular (February 15, 1830-May 3, 1903)

<https://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0504-23.htm>

May 4

Bl. Thomas Bullaker, Bl. Henry Heath, Bl. Arthur Bell, Bl. John Woodcock, and Bl. Charles Meehan, Franciscan Martyrs of England and Wales, First Order

<http://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0504-34.htm>

- May 4
- Bl. Ladislav de Gielniow, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin (c. 1440-May 4, 1505)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-ladislav-of-gielniow.html>
- Bl. Ceferino Giménez Malla, Third Order Secular, Martyr, First Gypsy to be declared Blessed
 (August 26, 1861-August 8, 1936)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ceferino_Gim%C3%A9nez_Malla
- Bl. Tommaso da Olera, Friar, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin (1563-May 3, 1631)
<https://anastpaul.com/2020/05/04/saint-of-the-day-4-may-blessed-tommaso-da-olera-ofm-cap-1563-1631/>
- May 5
- Bl. Benvenuto Mareni, Lay Brother, Order of Friars Minor, Conventual (d. May 5, 1269)
<http://catholicsaints.info/blessed-benvenuto-mareni/>
- May 6
- Bl. Anne-Rose Gattorno Founder, Franciscan Third Order Regular (October 14, 1831-May 6, 1900)
https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20000409_beat-Gattorno_en.html
- Bl. Catherine Troiani, Third Order Regular, Missionary (1813-May 6, 1887)
https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=7113
- May 7
- Bl. Agnellus of Pisa, Order of Friars Minor, First Minister Provincial in England (1195-1236)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agnellus_of_Pisa
- May 8
- St. Amato Ronconi, Third Order Secular (c. 1225-May 8, 1292)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amato_Ronconi
- May 11
- St. Antonio of St. Anne Galvao, Franciscan Priest, Founder of the Conceptionist Sisters
 (1739-December 23, 1822)
<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-antonio-de-santanna-galvao>
- May 11
- St. Ignatius of Laconi, Lay Brother, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin
 (December 10, 1701-May 11, 1781)
https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=6982
- May 12
- St. Leopold Mandic of Castelnuovo, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin
 (May 12, 1866-July 30, 1942)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leopold_Mandic
- May 13
- Bl. Gerard of Villamagna, Third Order Secular, Hermit (1174-May 13, 1242)
<http://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0513-23.htm>
- May 16
- St. Margaret of Cortona, Third Order Secular, Patroness of our OFS Region
 (1247-February 22, 1297)
<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-margaret-of-cortona>
- St. Theophilus of Corte, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (1676-June 17, 1740)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-theophilus-of-corte.html>
- May 17
- St. Paschal Baylon, Friar, Order of Friars Minor (May 16, 1540-May 17, 1592)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-paschal-of-baylon.html>

May 18

St. Felix de Cantalice, Lay Brother, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin (May 18, 1515-October 18, 1587)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-felix-of-cantalice.html>

May 19

St. Crispin of Viterbo, Friar, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin November 13, 1668-May 19, 1750)
https://www.capuchin.org/saints_blessed/saint-crispin-of-viterbo/

St. Marie-Bernard Bütler, Foundress, Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Help of Sinners
(May 28, 1848-May 19, 1924)

https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/2008/ns_lit_doc_20081012_verena_en.html

Bl. Umiliana de' Cerchi, Third Order Secular (1219-May 19, 1246)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-humiliana-cerchi.html>

St. Yves of Brittany, Third Order Secular, Patron of Lawyers (October 17, 1253-May 19, 1303)

<https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08256b.htm>

May 20

St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest, Missionary, Order of Friars Minor (September 8, 1380-May 20, 1444)

<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-bernardine-of-siena.html>

May 21

Bl. Franz Jägerstätter, Third Order Secular, Martyr (May 20, 1907-August 9, 1943)

https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20071026_jagerstatter_en.html

Blessed Franz Jägerstätter, OFS Quotes

“Shouldn’t we become even greater saints than the first Christians?”

“Love as the outer wear is the ‘uniform’ of Jesus’ disciples. His disciples are known by their love.”

“I have to do what I have to do. I just know I have to do it. My family doesn’t understand, my friends criticize me, but I know it is the Word planted in my heart for me at this time.”

“We must go courageously on the way of suffering, whether we begin sooner or later. They may build many beautiful streets today, but they cannot change the way to heaven. This way will always remain rugged and rocky.”

“I would not exchange my small, dirty cell for a king’s palace if I was required to give up even a small part of my faith. Disciples of Jesus must learn to perceive the suffering of their master as unavoidable and to apprehend the religion of Jesus as the religion of the cross.”

St. Edith Stein and Blessed Franz Jägerstätter were martyred on the SAME DAY one year apart during WWII. Edith Stein was gassed to death on August 9, 1942 in the Auschwitz concentration camp for being of Jewish descent, though she was a Catholic convert. Franz Jägerstätter was beheaded one year later on August 9, 1943 in Brandenburg, Germany for being an Austrian who refused to take the oath to serve Hitler unconditionally when called back into the military to serve as a Nazi soldier for a third time.

- May 22
 St. Joaquina Vedruna de Mas, Secular Franciscan, Founder, Carmelite Sisters of Charity (April 16, 1783-August 28, 1854)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-joachima-de-vedruna.html>
 Bl. John Forest, Priest, Friars Minor Regular Observance (1471-May 22, 1538)
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/forest-john-bl>
- May 24
 Dedication of the Basilica in Assisi, 1253
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basilica_of_Saint_Francis_of_Assisi
 Bl. John of Prado, Priest, Martyr, Barefooted Franciscans of the Strict Observance (c. 1563-May 24, 1636)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-john-of-prado.html>
- May 26
 St. Mariana of Jesus de Paredes, Third Order Secular, Hermit (October 31, 1618-May 26, 1645)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-mariana-of-jesus.html>
- May 27
 Bl. Gerard of Lunel, Third Order Secular (1275-1298)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-gerard-of-lunel.html>
- May 30
 St. Joan of Arc, Secular Franciscan, "Maid of Orleans" and martyr of France (c. 1412-May 30, 1431)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/st-joan-of-arc.html>
 St. King Ferdinand III, King of Spain, Third Order Secular (1199/1201-May 30, 1252)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saintfernando.html>
- May 31
 St. Camilla Battista da Varano, Princess, Poor Clare Abbess (April 9, 1458-May 31, 1524)
<http://poorclarepa.org/st-camilla-batista-varano/>
- June 2
 St. Felix of Nicosia, Friar, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin (November 5, 1715-May 31, 1787)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felix_of_Nicosia
 Bl. John Pelingotto, Secular Franciscan Order (1240-Jun3 1, 1304)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giovanni_Pelingotto
- June 3
 Bl. Andrew of Spello, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (November 30, 1194-June 3, 1254)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-andrew-of-spello.html>
- June 5
 Bl. Pacific of Cerano, Priest, First Order Franciscan (1424-June 4, 1482)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-pacific-of-cerano.html>
- June 7
 Bl. Humiliana Cerchi, Third Order Secular (1219-May 19, 1246)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-humiliana-cerchi.html>
- June 8
 Bl. Nicholas of Gèsturi, Lay Brother, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin (August 4, 1882-June 8, 1958)
https://www.capuchin.org/saints_blessed/blessed-nicholas-of-gesturi