



The Little Flower of the Secular Franciscan Order

St. Margaret of Cortona Region

Be His Mirror!!

Next meeting: February 8, 2024

Little Flower Fraternity Family,

Jesus said to His Apostles, "... the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." ~ John 14:26-27.

The mission of Christ and the Holy Spirit is brought to completion in the Church, which is the Body of Christ and the Temple of the Holy Spirit. This joint mission henceforth brings Christ's faithful to share in his communion with the Father in the Holy Spirit. The Spirit prepares men and goes out to them with his grace, in order to draw them to Christ. The Spirit manifests the risen Lord to them, recalls his word to them and opens their minds to the understanding of his Death and Resurrection. He makes present the mystery of Christ, supremely in the Eucharist, in order to reconcile them, to bring them into communion with God, that they may "bear much fruit." ~ CCC #737

I read this piece on January 25, the feast of the conversion of St. Paul and feel it is such a powerful statement of what the Church teaches that I needed to share it with our Fraternity family.

We Are One Body

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." Paul was not persecuting Jesus per se, so why did Jesus refer to himself as the one being persecuted? This mystical encounter with Christ was the impetus behind Paul's transformation from being a zealous murderer to being a great man of God. It was the presence of the living body of Christ—hidden in the collective body of his disciples—that transformed Paul's life. Paul realized that Jesus is not just Jesus. For Paul, we are Jesus, too. We are the body of Christ. To persecute the disciples of Jesus is to persecute the body of the living Christ. . . . [A]fter visiting the men on death row at California's San Quentin Prison, [Mother Teresa] remarked, "What you do to these men, you do to God." She knew that

the men condemned to death were as filled with God as anyone else. They too are the body of Christ.

For St. Paul and the early Christians, what at first was a limited and somewhat exclusive experience—namely, that *they*, the disciples of Jesus, formed the living body of Christ—later grew to include both universal and cosmic dimensions. Paul himself (or at least one of his close disciples) wrote several years later, “Through Christ, God was pleased to reconcile *all things* to himself, whether on earth or in heaven” (Col 1:20). Again, the Letter to the Ephesians says that in the fullness of time God will “gather up *all things* in [Christ], things in heaven and things on earth” (1:10). *All things*, *all persons*—in fact the entire universe—pulsates like one great cosmic body with the spiritual energy of the risen Christ. Nothing, no one, is excluded from this cosmic embrace.

Fr. Brian J. Pierce, *We Walk the Path Together*, is a friar of the US Southern Dominican Province

A Secular Franciscan friend sent this to me. It is excellent advice: Here are 3 important Proverbs for engaging in online conversations in chatrooms, comments boxes, by email or by text.

1. “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger”(Proverbs 15:1). In an increasingly polarized culture, it’s easier to be harsh than gentle.
2. “When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise” (Proverbs 10:19). Sometimes it’s better to bite your tongue.
3. “A fool does not delight in understanding, but only in revealing his own mind” (Proverbs 18:2). Many people are more interested in expressing their opinions than seeking understanding.

I want to thank all of you for your prayers, sympathy cards, and Mass cards in support of Dianne and me and our family during the final illness and passing over to the Lord on December 27, 2024 of Joanne Catherine McCord, Dianne's sister. Please keep our family in your prayers as we get used to life without her.

Keep in mind that our elections are still upcoming, hopefully during our April, 2025 gathering, so please continue praying for those whose names are in nomination and considering placing your name in nomination for one of the offices.

Our next gathering is on Saturday, February 8, 2025 (weather permitting) in Burke Hall, St. Francis of Assisi Church from 10 am to Noon with social time before the gathering beginning at 9:15 am.

The agenda follows:

09:15 am Informal social time

10:00 am Call to Order/Opening Prayer from Ritual Book/ Welcome/ Business

10:25 am Spiritual Growth / Father Bart, OFM

11:00 am Break

11:15 am Liturgy of the Hours

11:30 am Discussion on Bishop Barron's book, pp 69-77 facilitated by Teresa Knauff.

Noon. Closing Prayer/ Ritual Book

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me a sinner. I acknowledge my sins and I am sorry for them. Help me, dear Lord, to continually foster within my heart a greater sorrow for sin and a deeper trust in Your Divine Mercy. I thank You for Your perfect and unfailing love for me and for all. Amen.

Peace and all good,

Phillip Francis Pucher, OFS

Minister, Little Flower Fraternity OFS



Retreat...Connect



Day of Reflection for Inquirers and Candidates- March 29, 2025, 10AM-3PM (All are invited.)

Franciscan Monastery of Holy Land, 1400 NE Quincy St., DC

Given by Br. Michael Meza, OFM Cap., topic to be determined

Pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome (including LaVerna and Greccio!)

October 5-17, 2025 **SAVE THE DATE**

Led by Fr. Russel Murray OFM and Br. Adrian Peelo OFM

<https://www.franciscanpilgrimages.com/product/pilgrimage-to-assisi-rome-october-5-17-2025/>.

EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES EXHIBIT

The Atreem at Soaring Timbers
610 N Bestgate Road, Annapolis MD



- **Knights of Columbus Hall - Next Door to SJN**
- **Sunday February 9th 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

Knights of Columbus Annapolis Council #1384 will host an Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles created and designed by the Blessed Carlo Acutis.

All are welcome to explore the exhibit of this modern-day Saint-to-Be, up for canonization in 2025, and draw closer to the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

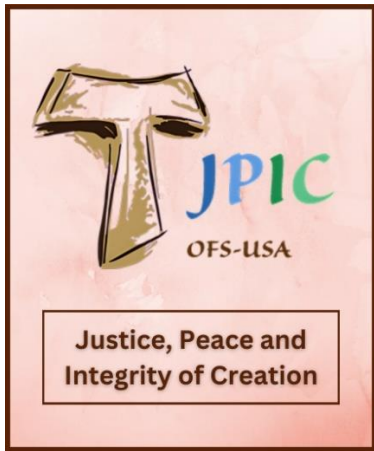


- Veneration of a first-class relic
- A display of over 60 documented Vatican approved Eucharistic miracles
- Eucharistic video and literature

An opportunity to strengthen our Eucharistic Revival, spiritual formation and faith maturation.

*"Sadness is looking at ourselves,
happiness is looking towards God"*
- Carlo Acutis

"Those who believe, don't leave"
- Matthew Kelly



JPIC NEWS from Teresa

Wow what a winter! Spring is just around the corner.

Water, the essence of life on earth, is a vital resource. Yet, a global water crisis continues to challenge people's access to the quantity and quality needed for drinking, cooking, bathing, handwashing, and growing food.

While the number of people lacking access to clean water has fallen from 1.1 billion in 2000 to 703 million in 2022, challenges remain, and water scarcity is one of the critical issues in the world today. In addition to the importance of having basic access to a clean water source, there are also many opportunities to multiply the benefits of clean water through improved sanitation and hygiene behavior change.

We can help! When working in the garden, try using a watering can instead of a hose to focus on areas that need watering. Try to water early in the day to reduce evaporation. These steps can help to conserve dwindling water resources.



Share your blessings! Please bring any nonperishable foods, toiletries, coats, hats, warm winter clothing to the next gathering. These will be donated to help those in need!

February Reflection – from Donna

Venerable Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange

Sister Elaine, SC taught third grade at St. Mary's of the Snow in my hometown of Saugerties, NY. Students in her classroom learned two essential lessons: the power of prayer and the importance of rooting for the hometown team. (Leading her students in prayer she would often slip in a petition for her bellowed NY Mets). Today I would like to keep Sr. Elaine's tradition alive by sharing the story of a holy woman from Baltimore.

The United States has not yet had a canonized saint from the African American Community. Currently there are 6 holy African Americans who have been declared blessed or venerable. This list includes Mother Mary Lange who ministered in Baltimore for most of her life. Ultimately, she founded the Oblates of Providence, the first permanent community of Black Catholic sisters in North America. Today the order remains vibrant and maintains its motherhouse in Catonsville, MD. Their motto: "Providence will Provide."

Born Elizabeth Clarisse Lange around 1784, she was forced to flee the bloodshed of the Haitian Revolution during her youth. Eventually immigrating to Baltimore, Lange was a witness to the adversity and inequality faced by the African American community in a slave state. Even Maryland's Catholic Church was segregated, owned slaves, and barred Black Children from Catholic schools based on color. These conditions did not discourage Lange, instead she was inspired to confront them.

Like most saints, Lange was a visionary and a revolutionary. Despite being a black woman living in a marginalized community marked by profound poverty, Lange sought the hand and will of God. She had been blessed to receive schooling in her youth and became committed to providing Black children with an education. Opening her home to the children, she drew from her own money to run a free school for over a decade.

Responding to God's call to do more, Lange established her order in 1829. The Oblates were primarily a teaching order and focused on assisting those denigrated by slavery. Their first formal school was called the St. Frances Academy, and everyone was

welcome regardless of race or class. Under the leadership of Lange, the Oblates of Providence eventually opened 60 schools for Black and formerly enslaved children.

The Oblates of Providence were trail blazers in other ways. Lange rejected the notion that a woman born into slavery lacked the virtue necessary to profess religious life. All women were embraced! The order was the first US religious order of Black women and first Catholic Sisters to stand against slavery. Committed to upholding the dignity of all lives they were the first order to create Catholic schools that admitted both Black girls as well as boys. The Oblates opened homes for widows and orphans, taught literacy classes at night, and provided vocational training for adults. The order was also essential in nursing the ill and dying during Baltimore's cholera epidemic of 1832.

Mother Mary Lange said, "Our sole wish is to do the will of God." As a result of her devotion to God and her determination to uplift her community, the influence of Lange is still felt in Baltimore today.



Pope's Intention for February: Vocations to the priesthood and religious life

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

Prayer Requests—from Dennis

Joanne McCord (RIP), Fr. Mike Vogt, OSFS(RIP), Paul Bernardo (RIP), Brother Michael Duffy, OFM Conv. (1959-2024) (RIP)

Mike Oliver, OFS & family (Living), Peg Crews, OFS(Living), Kayla W. (Living), Mary Keiser (Living), Loretta Lemmons OFS (Living)

Birthday Celebrants

Donna Dellaglio February 9

Helen Bridges February 11

Profession Anniversaries

Marge Lane 2/27

Frank Passaro 2/27

Deceased Member Anniversary

Margee Williams Foxwell

Mary Rose Scelsi

TREASURER'S REPORT

2025.01.27 TREASURER'S REPORT

BEGINNING BALANCE \$3468.12

EXPENSES:

Archive Storage Jan, Feb, March \$108.00

Donation in Lieu of Mass Card \$25.00

Election Supplies \$34.03

TOTAL EXPENSES \$167.03

DEPOSITS: \$20.00

FINAL BALANCE JANUARY 2025 \$3321.09

Just a note of thanks to our permanently excused member Marge Lane, who recently celebrated her 94th birthday. Marge will be professed 20 years in February and has been a faithful supporter of the fraternity in every way possible. Marge made our January deposit possible and faithfully continues to live up to her profession's promises. Thank you Marge for your great example!

NOTE: Our average monthly bills will exceed \$300.00.
Thanks for your support.

***Please make ALL checks – Common fund as well as monthly charity,
payable to: LITTLE FLOWER FRATERNITY***

*Mail checks to
Albert Gigel OFS
St. Martin's Home, Little Sisters of the Poor
601 Maiden Choice Lane, Apt. 305*

Catonsville, Md. 21228

Little Flower Fraternity Council

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