



The Little Flower of the Secular Franciscan Order

St. Margaret of Cortona Region

Be His Mirror !!

Next meeting: January 11, 2024

Sisters and brothers of Penance,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2025,

Heaven must be our goal. It must be the purpose of our life. What good is it if we obtain much greatness, fame, wealth, and pleasure in this life and fail to make it to Heaven?

Jesus, we recall, once pointed to the fact that His cousin John was not only great because of his humility and all he did in this life, but he was even greater because he is now enjoying the rewards of eternal life in Heaven. Too often we measure our lives from a worldly point of view. We look for greatness here and now and fail to recognize that the eternity of life with God in Heaven is what matters the most.

Think about it. What will you rejoice in for all eternity? Will you rejoice in the fact that you accomplished this or that in this world? That you made lots of money? That you were praised by many in this world? No, from Heaven none of this will matter. What will matter is one thing: charity. The charity we live here and now will radiate from our lives forever in Heaven. Even if our charity is not seen by others, it will be seen in Heaven. Charity is the result of a life lived fully surrendered to Christ.

St. Francis, our Seraphic Father, understood this and he admonished his friars and us to, "Remember that when you leave this earth you can take nothing of what you possess or what you have received, but only what you have given a full heart, enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice, and courage to adorn your immortal soul."

So let us reflect today, upon the ultimate goal of getting to Heaven and look at the fact that daily acts of charity are the road to this goal. Is this your focus in life? If not, look at your priorities and recommit yourself to this eternal calling.

And let us pray, "Lord, I desire to be with You forever in Heaven. Help me to keep eternity as my ultimate focus in life. Help me to build a glorious life in Heaven through the charity I live now. Jesus, I trust in You. Amen."

Sisters and brothers please be present at our gathering on January 11, 2025 at 10 AM as we must have a quorum of professed active members present in order to hold our council elections.

Here is the current slate of nominations. Please pray to the Holy Spirit to guide us as we vote that God's will be done in the choice of leadership for the next three years. And ask the Holy Spirit with a readiness to serve if you should put your name in nomination for any of these positions.

Nominations for Minister

Teresa Knauff, OFS

Nominations for Vice Minister

Sandy Chabot, OFS

Nominations for Secretary

Joan Kane, OFS

Nominations for Treasurer

Al Gigel, OFS

Nominations for Director of Formation

Phil Pucher, OFS

Nominations for Councilors

Mike Huether, OFS
Gary Haigley, OFS
Kelly Frederick, OFS

Nominations for Infirmarian

Dennis Bernardo, OFS

May the peace of the Lord be with you,

Phillip Francis Pucher, OFS
Minister, Little Flower Fraternity OFS

Agenda:
10 AM – Election
12 PM- Dismissal



Retreat...Connect



FRATERNITY ELECTIONS – JANUARY 11, 2025

This is so important! Plan to attend to support your fraternity and to wish new council members many blessings as they accept new responsibilities. We must have a quorum! We are counting on you!!

Bring your ritual books please!!!

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

JPIC NEWS from Teresa

Christmas Trees are wonderful all year round not only do they help clean the air of carbon dioxide; they provide a home for the birds. They use the land that is not conducive for growing crops.

Real Christmas Trees are biodegradable, which means they can easily be reused or recycled for mulch and other purposes. Please recycle your tree by curb side pick-up for recycling, or by taking your tree to a drop off center. Check tree recycling or mulching programs in your neighborhood. Also, by yard waste, cut the tree to fit into your waste container. The gift that keeps on giving.

Dennis' Inspiration

*Heavenly Father, I may not understand how everything will work out,
But I trust You.*

I don't see a way but I know You will make a way.

*I have faith at this very moment You are touching hearts,
Opening doors, and lining up the right breaks and opportunities.*

*Things look dark and bleak now, but I have faith that
my dawn is coming!
In Jesus' name,
Amen.*

January Reflection – Thank you, Donna!

Today's Catholic Church is challenged by a myriad of modern distractions. As a result, young people are turning away from their faith. Carlo Acutis was an exception to this trend. Beatified in 2020, this teenager has become a role model for young people seeking to live a faith-forward life. Holiness was not an abstract concept for him. He said, "To always be close to Jesus, that is my life plan."

Born in London in 1991, Carlo was a true millennial. His parents were not religious and it was Carlo who exemplified faith for his parents. As a young child he insisted on stopping to “say hello to Jesus” anytime he passed a church. It was this example that drew his parents back to the church.

Fascinated by computers, Carlo taught himself to use the internet as well as the basics of programming and graphic design. While he loved playing video games, he ultimately combined his passion for technology with his desire to please God. Nicknamed God’s influencer, he used the internet to spread the message of God’s love and mercy. He built websites dedicated to religious instruction and evangelization. His profound love for the Eucharist was evident in his most enduring legacy: a website dedicated to Eucharistic miracles from around the globe.

Ultimately Carlo was diagnosed with leukemia at the age of fifteen. The illness and subsequent treatments were difficult and caused him to suffer. Despite this, his faith remained unshaken. He offered his pain to God, for the church, and for the intentions of the pope.

Throughout his short life, and especially during his illness, Carlo lived his life radiating joy. He was aware of the suffering of others and responded with compassion. Using money from his weekly allowance, he attended to the needs of the homeless, needy, and immigrants. He explained, “Our lives will truly be beautiful if we discover how to love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves.”

Blessed Carlo is slated to be declared a saint in Assisi in 2025. He requested to be buried in Assisi due to his devotion to Saint Francis. Today he rests upon the very spot where tradition indicates that Saint Francis shed his clothing for a habit and renounced his wealth.

Throughout his short life, Blessed Carlo exhibited a holy wisdom far beyond his years. His life reflected his words – “To always be united with Christ: That is my life’s program,” As devout Franciscans, this should be our endeavor as well.

Pope's Intention for January

The right to education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

Prayer Requests

*Joanne McCord (RIP) Marcus (grandnephew of Cathy Polkowski),
Harry Karopchinsky (friend of Teresa) Abby and her husband (friends of Cindy and Mark),
Jack Dabrowski – RIP (friend of Dennis) Gary Knauff (Teresa's brother)
Terry Neuschafer (Cindy's daughter-in-law) Fran Kneeland (John O'Hara's sister)
Mike Vogt (OSFS) RIP*

Birthday Celebrants

<i>Dennis Bernardo</i>	<i>January 2</i>
<i>Frank Passaro</i>	<i>January 6</i>
<i>Kelly Frederick</i>	<i>January 12</i>
<i>Teresa Knauff</i>	<i>January 19</i>
<i>Albert Gigel</i>	<i>January 20</i>
<i>Cathy Polkowski</i>	<i>January 20</i>
<i>Michael Huether</i>	<i>January 21</i>

Profession Anniversaries

None

Deceased Member Anniversary

None

2024.12.28 TREASURER'S REPORT

BEGINNING BALANCE \$3162.32

EXPENSES:

MASS CARDS, STAMPS (2)
GREETING CARDS \$76.52

LITURGY OF HOURS GUIDES \$63.68

EXPENSES TOTAL \$140.20

DEPOSIT #1 \$425.00

DEPOSIT #2 \$20.00

TOTAL DEPOSITS \$445.00

FINAL DECEMBER BALANCE \$3467.12

REMEMBER THAT WE WILL STILL COLLECT FAIR SHARE AND CHARITY OFFERINGS AT THE ELECTION MEETING THANK YOU!!

*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

Spiritual Assistant: Fr. Bart Karwacki, OFM Conventual

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