



The Little Flower of the Secular Franciscan Order

St. Margaret of Cortona Region

Be His Mirror!!

Next meeting: March 8, 2025

Minister's Message by Phillip Francis Pucher, OFS

Sisters and brothers of penance,

Let us pray.

"Most High, all-powerful, good Lord, Yours are the praises, the glory, and the honor, and all blessing, To You alone, Most High, do they belong, and no human is worthy to mention Your name. ... Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks and serve Him with great humility." ~ St. Francis of Assisi, The Testament.

Our Seraphic Father's spirituality was very simple, "to observe the Gospel." Francis was a unique and attractive personality and the Church gained a unique charism through him called Franciscan spirituality.

He also gave the Church a spirituality proper to us lay people, as contrasted with that of priests. We are properly more concerned with worldly activities than about the business of the Church and liturgical rituals. This idea of lay spirituality featured prominently in the documents of the Second Vatican Council.

Prior to the Council, Pope Pius XII described Franciscan spirituality this way: "There is, then, a Franciscan doctrine in accordance with which God is holy, is great, and above all, is good, indeed the supreme Good. For in this doctrine, God is love. He lives by love, creates for love, becomes flesh and redeems, that is, he saves and makes holy, for love. There is also a Franciscan way of contemplating Jesus...in his human love." The great emphasis, then, is on the fact that God is love and Franciscanism calls us who are in God through and with Jesus and Francis to be love to the world.

Recall the words of St. John the evangelist, echoing Jesus, "God is love and those who abide in love, abide in God, and God in them." (paraphrased)

Every Christian believes this, of course, but some of us choose to emphasize it as Francis did. To live the Gospel as Secular Franciscans according to the spirit of Francis means participating in

communion with Christ, the poor and crucified Savior, in the love of God, in brotherhood and sisterhood with all people and all of creation, in the life and mission of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, in continual conversion as long as we live, in a life of prayer celebrated in liturgical practices, personal and communal prayer, and in the fraternal life of the community gathered to pray, learn and serve as instruments of peace which is absolutely necessary to our growth as Secular Franciscans.

Fraternity is so important and so necessary to our lives as seculars that one Secular Franciscan author writing about our unique vocational call, confirmed by our professions promises and commitment to the Franciscan life, goes so far as to state, "Without Fraternity you are not a Franciscan."

It is in Fraternity where we learn to live the fulness of our rule. It is in Fraternity where our charism as Franciscans is solidified. It is in Fraternity where we learn by our continuing formation to carry our conversion into our world. It is in Fraternity where we strengthen each other to live as Jesus did in service to others. It is in Fraternity where we are commissioned to preach the Gospel in word and action to our family, our parish, our fellow workers, our fellow Franciscans and our world under the guidance and influence of the Holy Spirit.

This fraternal life confirms our lives as Franciscans, as a vocation, a way of life, a full sharing in the life of Jesus Christ, a family of penitents and not just another Catholic social action club. This is why we emphasize attendance at the fraternity gatherings and contact with each other throughout the month for prayer and support. Indeed, without Fraternity we are not Franciscans we are just another social club. Let each of us right now, at this very moment, and daily, rededicate ourselves to our profession and the promise to attend and live the fraternal life of a Secular Franciscan now and always in this life.

In the months ahead many important events and decisions for the life of our Fraternity will be taking place. The Servant Leadership Council remains committed to providing our Fraternity with gatherings that are uplifting, prayerful, and focused on our growth in Secular Franciscan spirituality and living the Gospel Life. Your attendance at these gatherings is very important to the life and growth of your Fraternity.

Important gathering looking forward April 2025 Fraternity Servant Leadership Council

elections. **Here is the agenda for our March gathering:**

9:00 AM Burke Hall opens/Social Time

10:00 AM Opening Prayer from Ritual/Greetings/Minister's message/Fraternity business

updates 10:20 AM Fr. Bart, Spiritual Formation

10:50 AM Break & Refreshments

11:10 AM Liturgy of the Hours

11:25 AM Formation Exposition & Discussion: This is My Body, pp. 77-88, The Witness of the Early Church Fathers...

11:55 AM Closing Prayer & Blessing from the Ritual.

Peace and all good,

Phillip Francis Pucher, OFS

Minister, Little Flower Fraternity OFS

Retreat...Connect



An Afternoon at the Movies! Pack a lunch and enjoy a showing of *Cabrini* after our Fraternity Meeting!

An epic story of faith, determination, and compassion. Don't miss "Cabrini" at St. Leo's! Hosted by St. Leo's Evangelization Committee on Saturday, March 8th, 1:30-4:15 PM in the Church Hall. Free! St Leo's **227 S. Exeter Street, Baltimore, MD**

OLPH Lenten Mission 2025 – Our Lady of Perpetual Help invites you as former Major League baseball writer, evangelist, and best-selling Catholic author Kevin Wells will use the gift of Irish storytelling, zeal, and love for the Church, its poor, and Jesus Christ to encourage participants to become shafts of light and Alleluias of hope for a society often caught up in the travail and secularism of modern times. Each night offers a unique talk, allowing you to attend one or all three. It's happening March 9-11, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the main Church. Visit: https://olphparish.org/lent/lenen_mission/ to learn more about the Mission and sign up to attend.

Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit

Sacred Heart Parish in Glyndon is pleased to announce our upcoming Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit on March 14 – 16. Experience a first-class relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis, known as the patron saint of the internet, and the Eucharistic Miracles of the World Exhibit. Blessed Carlo will be canonized a saint on April 27 of this year. Held in the school gym at 65 Sacred Heart Lane, this exhibit is free of charge.

Contact Peggy Dryden, pastoral associate, at pdryden@shgparish.org for more information.

Stations: A Way of the Cross in Contemplative Song

March 26th—Wednesday Evening—at 7 PM

St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

120 N Front St, Baltimore, MD 21202

Free!

The Stations of the Cross are a Franciscan tradition!

St. Pope John Paul II: His Spiritual Life and What it Means for Us Today

Join world-renowned theologian, scholar, and papal biographer, George Weigel at UMBC (University of Maryland, Baltimore County) on March 26, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. for a presentation on St. Pope John Paul II. The event is free for young adults aged 18-22 and anyone who works in campus ministry. A \$10 fee is for anyone else who would like to attend! Register here: <https://www.catholicretrievers.org/>

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.

Array of Hope

Behold – A Eucharistic Revival

Saints Philip and James Church

April 1, 2, 3, 2025 at 7 PM each evening

<https://arrayofhope.org/behold-the-eucharistic-revival/>

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/>.



Lenten Reflection from Joan Kane, OFS

Reflection on the Eucharist during Lent For a few months, we have been reading and meditating upon Bishop Barron's reflections on the Eucharist. Of course, many others have written on this subject, and in fact, Matthew Kelly has written a book entitled "33 Days to Eucharistic Glory." Kelly provides a way to consecrate oneself to the Eucharist,

and his thoughts are quite understandable and relevant to us all.

His reflection on Day 23, is entitled “The Last Supper,” and his insights are worth sharing with you, so here goes:

“If you knew you only had one night left to live, what would you do? ... You’d spend every moment possible with the people you love. You’d get your affairs in order spiritually. And you’d do whatever you could to ensure your nearest and dearest knew beyond a doubt how much you love them. Facing death has that kind of effect - it clarifies and makes our true priorities quite clear. Jesus did just that.

Jesus, the most significant person to ever live, the source of salvation for all the world, knew exactly when and how He was going to die. So what did Jesus do on His final night on earth? Think about it as Kelly did... He gathered His closest friends, saying to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.” And He took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” And likewise He took the cup, saying “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.” (Book of Luke).

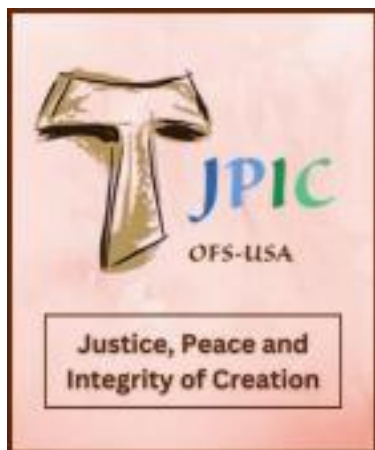
Jesus knew He would die the next day. He knew Judas would betray Him, that His friends would scatter and abandon Him, that He would be brutally tortured and crucified, dying a horrible death. But when one is dying, he doesn’t want to be misunderstood and he doesn’t want his words to be of no importance. He wants to leave his loved ones with a legacy, and so Jesus was clear...He said, “This is My Body. Eat it...This is My Blood. Drink it...Do this in remembrance of me.” Jesus gives a clear, direct command.

So when we commemorate the Passion and Death of Jesus at Mass, and when we reflect on His sacrifice during Lent, let us keep this in mind. And as Kelly writes...”When the priest raises up the Host and Chalice, and says, “This is My Body, take and eat, and This is My Blood...” let it sink in that Jesus is giving us the gift of His entire self and He has commanded us to repeat this sacrifice in remembrance of Him.



Prayer Requests from Dennis, OFS

Kathleen Hale OFS, Lisa Lemaster (Phil Pucher's niece), Jimmy Stephens (Phil Pucher's close friend), Carolyn Szymanski Nuth (cousin of Diane Pucher)-RIP, Pope Francis, Stanley Chrazanowski (Stas) OFS, Loretta Lemmons, OFS



Franciscans are called to respond to poverty.

While global poverty rates have been cut by more than half since 2000, one in ten people in developing regions are still living with their families on less than the international poverty line of US\$1.90 a day, and there are millions more who make little more than this daily amount. Significant progress has been made in many countries within Eastern and Southeastern Asia, but up to 42% of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa continues to live below the poverty line.

This rate is expected to increase in the next few years, due to the appearance of new threats such as climate change, terrorism, food insecurity and conflicts. Furthermore, poverty is more than the lack of income and resources to ensure a sustainable livelihood. Its manifestations include hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion as well as the lack of participation in decision-making.

Economic growth must be inclusive to provide sustainable jobs and promote equality. How can we respond to the needs of the poor here in Baltimore?

Pray for the monthly intentions of the Holy Father!



2025.02.28 TREASURER'S REPORT

BEGINNING BALANCE \$3321.09

EXPENSES:

Spiritual Assistant Jan Feb March \$150.00

Treasurer's Office Supplies (4yrs) \$40.40

SFA Hall Rental February \$75.00

Franciscan Family Apostolate #418 \$225.00

Jan Feb March

EXPENSES TOTAL \$490.40

DEPOSITS:

Deposit #1 \$835.00

Deposit #2 \$20.00

Deposit #3 \$65.00

DEPOSITS TOTAL **\$920.00 (2 MONTH'S WORTH)**

FINAL FEBRUARY BALANCE \$3750.69

THESE ARE ACTUAL PAID EXPENSES AND DO NOT INCLUDE BUDGETED
ITEMS SUCH AS FAIR SHARE (AT \$100+ DOLLARS)
PER MONTH AVERAGE BASED ON OUR FRATERNITY SIZE

***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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Prayer of St. Patrick

May the Strength of God pilot us.
May the Power of God preserve us.
May the Wisdom of God instruct us.
May the Hand of God protect us.
May the Way of God direct us.
May the Shield of God defend us.
May the Host of God guard us.
Against the snares of the evil ones.
Against temptations of the world

May Christ be with us!
May Christ be before us!
May Christ be in us,
Christ be over all!
May Thy Salvation, Lord,
Always be ours,
This day, O Lord, and evermore.
Amen.



WBP-PATRICK

