

Little Flower Fraternity Newsletter March 2026

Ordo Saecularis Franciscanus



St. Margaret of Cortona Region

Next Fraternity Gathering

March 14, 2026

Agenda

Opening Prayer at 10 am
Stations of the Cross with Mary the Mother of Jesus.
Fr. Bart's Presentation on The Beatitudes Discussion
Break
Formation Station
Closing Prayers

No need to bring LOH books.

Prayer Intentions

Mary Lee Carroll R.I.P.
Donna's Dellaglio's Mother
Mary Hebernehl, O.F.S. R.I.P
Gary Haigley, O.F.S.
Fr. George Brownholtz,
O.S.F.S. R.I.P.
Kathleen Hale, O.F.S.
Buzz Norris

Minister's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Blessings to all of you as we continue our Lenten spiritual journey. It has been a challenging winter in many respects. Hang in there! Spring begins soon and its arrival hints at the promise and joy of Easter.

This is also an exciting time for our Little Flower Fraternity. We have embarked on a study of the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes were delivered by Jesus during His Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3-10). It was during the hardship and oppression of Roman occupation that Jesus introduced the Beatitudes as a new

way of living—focused on humility, mercy, and righteousness rather than wealth, vengeance, and social status. If the Commandments show us the “do nots,” the Beatitudes teach us what to “do” in order to follow God’s will and embrace His grace.

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall possess the land.

Blessed are they who mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice: for they shall have their fill.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Each month Father Bart will highlight a different Beatitude. Each Beatitude uplifts us and provides the roadmap for spiritual growth, teaching us to live with humility, seek holiness, and show mercy and peace. Together, they guide us to a life deeply blessed with the promise of everlasting joy. What a gift!

I would also bring to your attention to the Year of St Francis of Assisi. On January 10 Pope Leo XIV established this special time in recognition of the 800th anniversary of his Transitus. I hope we can commemorate this special time by making a Pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Anthony as a Fraternity. I hope to see you at our next Gathering on the 14th at Burke Hall! Peace and All Good,

Teresa

JPIC for March 2026

Members' Responses on Index Cards Suggestions For Gatherings

1. Put Franciscan principles into practice through works of mercy. Explore social justice issues (immigration /right to Life etc at gatherings.
2. I love when we break into groups and share our prayers and our Franciscan journey. Have questions and groups at every meeting have different members share/ do formation. 7 minute talk; not one person going on and on. We have excellent formation are blessed by 'Fr. Bart; his should be the bulk of our formation!
3. I like the interaction of our group, now. We learn what others are doing in their Faith walk.
4. Mass - twice a year as a Fraternity, T.B.D. Springtime Trip as a group perhaps joining with others on a bus trip
5. I like meeting in small groups to answer questions. It helps to exchange ideas.
6. Keep up with group involvement. Have fraternity suggest formation material. Sing at the end of meeting.
7. I like the idea of going into groups.
8. Less long lectures. More small groups which helps us share information and get to know people.
9. Helpful to remind the group of the Rubics of the Liturgy of the Hours so that we know who is doing what. Sometimes we are inconsistent. I would like a treasurer's report at least occasionally as part of the business section of the meetings.
10. Meeting in discussion groups.

Secular Franciscans have a duty to advocate for the sanctity of life. Franciscan pro-life efforts focus on a "consistent ethic of life" recognizing the profound value of every life from conception to natural death.

Here are just a few pieces of pro-life issues currently being debated in the Maryland General Assembly. Please reach out to your elected representative this month and convey your support for pro-life legislation.

Maryland Right to Life strongly urges the members of the Health & Government Operations Committee to give pro-life bills the thoughtful consideration they deserve.

Please contact committee members and your state legislators to request a VOTE on pro-life bills, including the following:

HB-49 Public Health - Abortion (Heartbeat Bill). Prohibits induced abortions when a fetal human being's heartbeat is detectable. Sponsor: Delegate Metzgar- Hearing 3/19 at 1:00 p.m.

HB-714 Health - Abortion Data - Submission to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Requires standard abortion metrics to be reported to the CDC to measure impact of abortion on Maryland women and families. Sponsor: Delegate Grammer- Hearing 3/19 at 1:00 p.m.

HB-1281 Abortion - Health - Abortion - Ultrasound and Wait Period. Protects women and unborn children by ensuring informed consent and an opportunity to view an ultrasound prior to abortion. Sponsor: Delegate Ciliberti- Hearing 3/19 at 1:00 p.m.

2026.02.28 Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance \$4159.80

Expenses.

Archive Storage Rental Fee Feb Debit.	\$46.00
SFA hall Rental	\$75.00
Mass Card.	\$15.00
Minister Office supplies (Jan Debit).	\$96.49
Expenses Total	\$232.49
Deposit #1: 02.20.26.	\$645.00
Deposits total:	\$645.00
Total on hand:	\$4572.31

\$4572.31
 -\$1100.00 **Reserve for Fair Share**
 \$ 3472.31 **Working Balance**

Albert Gigel,OFS Treasurer



Gary Haigley 3/14
 Bonnie Ng. 3/22

Council Members

Minister:	Teresa Knauff	410-300-4452
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	Phil Pucher.	410 243- 2924
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	Fr. Bart Karwacki	919-519-5018
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Newsletter Editor:	Bonnie Ng	410-303-8013

Be A Mirror

Reflect Jesus

FRATERNITY TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2025

LITTLE FLOWER FRATERNITY #57108

**601 MAIDEN CHOICE LANE
 CATONSVILLE MD 21228**

Checking Acct Balance

Begin Year	End year
\$3468.13	\$6054.80

EXPENSES:

ARCHIVE STORAGE	513
INFIRMARIAN AND MASS CARDS	445.11
SFA HALL RENTAL	750
SPIRITUAL ASST AND REGION*	1210
BOOKS, SUPPLIES	679.22
LOAN	270
CHARITY	925
FAIR SHARE	1088
	5880.33

Expenses Total

\$5880.33

Income.

\$8467.00

Net Income or Expense for the Year

\$2586.68

Cash Balance at the end of the Year.

\$6054.80

(Beginning cash +net income -net expenses)

Albert Gigel, O.F.S. Treasurer

“Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matt 4:17

Living the Story of Jesus

The Lenten season may seem like just another time to do extra things - like prayer, almsgiving, penance - hard "things" to be sure. But Lent is so much deeper... It is about rediscovering the story of Jesus - His becoming Incarnate, His life, Passion, Death, and Resurrection. It is about living His story with Him, trying our best to understand why His life mattered so much to Him and why it should mean so very much to us.

For Secular Franciscans, it is a special time to engage in ongoing conversion. How have we failed to live the Gospel life, to be peacemakers, to live with poverty of spirit...? How can we use this time to resolve the issues which hinder our progress toward holiness, which do not reflect the Franciscan spirit?

In addition, besides a personal conversion, does our fraternal life need some conversion too? As fraternity, do we live the Rule, follow the Constitutions and statutes, adhere to the Admonitions of the Order? Do we use these as our guide towards unity and growth?

Pope Leo said on Ash Wednesday that "sin takes shape in the real and virtual contexts of life, in the attitudes we adopt toward each other that mutually impact us." Furthermore, a few years ago Pope Francis reflected on Lent with the following words: "Return to me (says the Lord) return with all your heart: not only with a few outward deeds, but from the depths of our selves... prune the falseness, worldliness, and indifference in ourselves... It is a time to understand that what counts is not approval, the search for success or consensus, but the cleansing of the heart and of life."

How true these statements are, and how worthy they are to be contemplated upon as we examine our consciences over the next few weeks.

As a member of the Church choir, I hear beautiful music and internalize so many of the lyrics. I present a few of the lyrics for your consideration as you meditate upon the goodness of God this Lent and Easter season. I hope they can be uplifting to you.

Healing Waters:

Renew my heart O God, come change my hardened heart,
Come fill my hardened heart with mercy.

Wash me in waters of love, cleanse me, and purify me - for only You can cleanse me.
Refresh my thirsting soul, for You alone can make me holy.

Beyond the Days

God, whose purpose is to kindle, now ignite us with Your fire, and let Your passion inspire us to
Overcome our sinful calmness....

God, who in Your holy gospel will that all should truly live, make us sense our share of failure and our
tranquility forgive.

Wishing you peace on your Lenten journey!

joan