

# Little Flower Fraternity Newsletter April 2026

Ordo Saecularis Franciscanus



St. Margaret of Cortona Region

Next Gathering  
April 11, 2026

## Agenda

Opening Prayer at 10am  
Announcements by  
Minister  
Liturgy of the Hours:  
Saturday within the Octave  
of Easter  
Hymn #118 Jesus Christ is  
Risen Today  
Antiphons on p.427 and  
428  
Psalms and Canticle from  
Sunday, Week 1 p.707  
Reading p.427-428  
Intercessions p. 428-429  
Prayer p.428-429  
Dismissal Prayer p.429  
Antiphonarian -Bonnie  
Reader – Phil  
Presider – Ginger  
Fr. Bart- 2<sup>nd</sup> Beatitude  
Break  
Formation Station – Phil  
Group discussion  
Minister's Final Remarks  
Closing Prayer



Phil Pucher 4/1  
Maria Mercsado 4/2

## Minister's Message

A Blessed and Joyous  
Easter to my fraternity  
brothers and sisters! What  
a glorious feast this is  
recounting Jesus'  
triumphant victory over  
death and sin!

As Spring begins to  
unfold, I am reminded how  
refreshing it feels to watch  
the world return to life  
with beautiful colors  
everywhere. The longer  
days, the first flowers of  
Spring, the warmth in the  
air all seem to carry a  
quiet promise of renewal.  
The Resurrection of Jesus  
Christ makes the sense of  
renewal feel even deeper.  
It is a season that  
strengthens faith, invites,  
hope, reflection and  
gratitude emphasizing that  
new beginnings are always  
possible with Jesus.

Whether one celebrates  
in Church, around the

table with family or in  
silent prayer always  
remember grace is  
present.

May the beauty of the  
Easter Season fill our days  
with peace and joy  
brightening our hearts  
with renewed faith and  
sense of purpose in  
fulfilling God's will as we  
continue the Franciscan  
journey.

Teresa Knauff, O.S.F.

## Prayer List

Lynn Dabrowski  
Fr. Phil Colloton  
Kathleen Hale  
Marge Foor  
Anne Prosser  
Isabella (Phil's granddaughter)  
Giovanni Giannetti  
Kari Thomas (RIP) (Travis,  
Camryn and Colt)

Be a Mirror

Reflect Jesus

**2026.03.31**

**Treasurer's Report**

By Al Gigel, O.F.S.

Beginning Balance. \$4572.31

Expenses:

Archive Storage/Feb \$46.00  
SFA Hall \$75.00  
Fraternity Coffee. \$24.00

Expenses Total \$145.00

03.19.26

Deposit \$445.00  
Deposits Total. \$445.00  
Total on hand. **\$4872.31**

Reserve

Fair Share - \$1100.00

Working

Balance **\$3772.31**

**Profession. Anniversaries**



**Maria Mercado 4/22**

**Phil Pucher 4/27**

**Upcoming Events**

**From now to May 9th  
Spring Clean Your Closets  
and Drawers!**

The Fraternity will be collecting gently used Spring and Summer clothing to donate to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Please bring the clothing to the May Gathering on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Let's have a substantial number of items.

Joan Kane will transport the clothing to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Thanks Joan!

**Two Upcoming Retreats  
in June**

**Regional Retreat**

Living Our Franciscan  
Charism focusing on JPIC  
June 5-7,2026

Priestfield Pastoral  
Center

There are still rooms  
available

Cost is \$350 for single  
room and \$310 for double  
room.

To register:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/  
go/409094DAAA72EAAF94-  
62122762-2026](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094DAAA72EAAF94-62122762-2026)

Retreat master is:

Fr. Stan Fortuna, CFR

Retreat is open to all  
Franciscans.

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Formation  
Retreat**

Be the Light

June 26<sup>th</sup> - June 28<sup>th</sup>

At Priestfield

Still double rooms

available Cost \$295

All Franciscans invited.

Retreat master is Fr. Jude  
Winkler, O.F.M. Conv.

To register:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/  
409094DAAA72EAAF94-  
62604722-2026#/#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094DAAA72EAAF94-62604722-2026#/)

**St. Francis One Easter**

“ Once, on a holy Easter Sunday, while he was staying at a hermitage that was far from any houses that he could not conveniently go begging he begged alms from the brothers, like a pilgrim and beggar, mindful of him who *that day* appeared in the guise of a pilgrim to his disciples travelling on the road to Emmaus. When he had humbly received it, he taught them with sacred eloquence to continually celebrate the Lord's Passover in poverty of spirit....”

Francis of Assisi Early Documents Vol 2.  
Edited by Regis Armstrong, O.F.M. Cap.,  
J.A> Wayne Hellerman, O.F.M. Conv.  
,William Short, O.F.M. New City Press.  
New York.2000. pages 582-583  
(Bonaventure's Major Legend)

## The Mystery of the Resurrection

When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead. (John 20:6–9)

When Jesus rose from the dead, why didn't He visibly reveal Himself to everyone?

Why not post angels at the entrance of the tomb and radiate His glory for all to see, shining even more brightly than at the Transfiguration?

One might think that such a display would have convinced even the Pharisees and Roman guards who condemned Him. Furthermore, why doesn't He appear to the whole world today, ensuring that everyone believes and follows Him? Because the only way to partake in the Resurrection of Christ is through the gift of supernatural faith.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus tells the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (cf. Luke 16:19–31). After they both die, Lazarus is taken to the bosom of Abraham, while the rich man is tormented in the netherworld. The rich man begs Abraham to send Lazarus back to warn his brothers, thinking they will repent if someone rises from the dead. But Abraham replies, "If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead." Hence, even if Jesus' resurrected glory was manifested to all, many would still lack faith.

Supernatural faith is not born from external signs and proofs but from the interior vision granted to hearts open to God. Even the Pharisees heard the reports of Jesus' Resurrection, but they dismissed them, their hearts hardened against the truth.

Jesus did not immediately reveal Himself to all of His disciples either, but He gave them the opportunity to believe through the empty tomb and the burial cloths neatly folded in place. In John's Gospel, we see that Mary Magdalene, upon finding the empty tomb, thought Jesus' body had been stolen. Despite her great love, she did not yet believe and thus did not fully understand the divine mystery of the Resurrection.

When Simon Peter and John heard the news, they ran with hope and zeal to the tomb. Though John arrived first, he waited for Peter to enter. When John entered and saw the burial cloths, "he saw and believed." Yet, even then, the fullness of faith had not yet taken root, for "they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead."

Entering into the mystery of the Resurrection is not just accepting that it happened; it means allowing the mystery to unfold within us, drawing us into a deeper process of faith. This is what happened to the disciples. Although Mary Magdalene didn't yet understand, her great love drew Jesus to appear to her shortly after leaving the tomb—and she believed upon encountering Him.

Simon Peter and John were gifted with Jesus' appearance later that evening, while they were gathered with the other disciples behind locked doors—with only Thomas absent. As the weeks went on and Jesus appeared again and again, their faith deepened, and they recalled all that He had told them during His public ministry.

After Pentecost, the Apostles continued to deepen their understanding of the Resurrection; over time, it transformed their lives more fully. The greater their understanding, the more powerfully the mystery of the Resurrection shaped their hearts and mission.

Reflect today on the historical fact that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took on human nature, was crucified, and physically rose from the dead with a glorified body. Begin by simply placing your faith in this mystery. As you do, acknowledge that faith is not the end but the beginning.

Entering into the mystery of the Resurrection is a lifelong process of believing and understanding. The more you believe, the more you will understand. The more you understand, the more you will believe. Faith in the Resurrection leads us on an upward journey toward ever greater clarity and certainty, drawing us more deeply into love of Him Who is the Resurrection and the Life.

My glorious and resurrected Lord, You triumphed over sin and death, rising from the dead with a new and glorified body. With the utmost faith, I profess that I believe in You; help my unbelief. Give me the humility I need to acknowledge that my faith in Your Resurrection must deepen. Draw me into that living Mystery of Faith, dear Lord, so that Your Resurrection takes greater hold on my life. Amen.

by Father John Paul Thomas (friend of Phil Pucher, O.F.S)  
submitted by Phil Pucher, O.F.S.

#### **Council Members**

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