



The Porter

**St. Conrad Fraternity, Annapolis, MD
Secular Franciscan Order –May 2014**

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The Porter deadline for the June issue is June 1st. Please send news, prayer requests, poems, or interesting things that you think other members may enjoy to: Jean Gaes, 1824 Lang Drive, Crofton, MD 21114 or send by email. Help me update the prayer list!



Fraternity Meeting

Saturday, May 17, 2014- We will be welcoming Catherine Gonzalez, and celebrating the Rite of Admission for Audrey Donnelly and Mary Henry with Br. John Kuzma. He will be making final vows and has been transferred. We will miss him! We are very thankful to have a new spiritual assistant: Fr. Anil Gonsalves, OFM Cap.

Refreshments



Glen Burnie is supplying breakfast for May. Please bring your own cup! Severna Park will be next. Arrange to take the supplies home, restock if necessary, and return them at the next meeting.

Program

Pat Tyrrell will give a short presentation on "Being the Merciful Presence of God." (see below)

Liturgy

Annapolis: (Please assign roles before the meeting.)
Morning Prayer- Saturday Week 4 of Easter (Set up your book ahead of time.)

Outreach

Collection for Annapolis Lighthouse Shelter: diapers (sizes 4 and 5), canned chicken and tuna, canned fruit, boxes of cereal, rice, cash donations to buy bus tokens.

Prayer Requests



Please pray for the repose of the soul of our sister Mary Hannon who died on May 1st and for these sick and/or homebound members: Jennifer (Mary Jo's daughter- in- law) , Brigida Cobb, Mary Musselwhite, Joan Robinson, Pat Troup, Emilie (Genevieve Wilbourne's niece), Gerry Gaes (Jean's husband), Theresa Lawrence (Marie Shelton's sister) , those with chronic illnesses, Pat Troups' grandson and granddaughter, grand-niece of Genny Wilbourne, Emily's grandson, Jane Donahoe, Mary Cooke ,Rita Rossi. (Please help us update this list.)

Birthdays

May 25 – Louise Ryan, May 29 – Judith Tyrrell, June 12 – Barbara Petrisko, June 22 – Lita Millan

Profession Anniversaries

Genny Moreira 5/8/1979, Marie Shelton 5/19/2002, Jeanne Wilbourne 5/15/79, Ed Wilbourne 5/15/1976, Emily McGeady 6/12/1979

Treasury

Common Fund balance: \$903.10

Council Meeting	TBD
Upcoming Events May	Fraternity Meeting- Saturday, May 17 th . Shelter Lunch Bunch- making sandwiches on Wed. May 28 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Christopher's Church. 1861 Harbor Drive; Chester, MD 21619.
June	C4C June 7 th . – 10AM- OLF Fraternity Meeting will be a picnic on June 21 st . at Emily's
Upcoming: July	C4C July 12 th . -10AM-OLF Meeting on the 3 rd . Saturday
August	Our annual visit to the Poor Clares in Washington DC
September	Pastoral Visitation
October	Open House
November	Area group -book sharing presentations
December	Christmas Party

Minister's Minute:

Brothers and Sisters of Penance,

A belated Happy Mother's Day to all. I was thinking about St. Francis and his relationship with his mother. She seemed to be a source a spiritual encouragement to him allowing him to be free in the Spirit to live the life of mystery that a life of faith is for all of us. I am thinking about the time when he returned from battle spurned by his father while he discerned God's voice. What has the Good Shepherd been saying to you lately?

I was watching the canonization of priests in the Diocese of Rome by Pope Francis the other morning and heard him really interrupt his planned talk it seemed to challenge them to a life of mercy after the example of Jesus—a life of even excessive mercy--. I look forward to our meeting Saturday and hearing more about being the "merciful presence of God" from Pat. Our National Minister Tom Bello who spoke of this at the National Chapter has just lost his mother this past week so please keep him and the family in your prayers.

In this month of Mary we might take a look at the prayers that St. Francis wrote to honor Mary (Salutation of the Blessed Virgin) and think about the Rule related to her. In Article 16 of the Constitutions it says "Mary the Mother of Jesus is the model of listening to the Word and of faithfulness to vocation, we, like Francis, see all the gospel virtues realized in her. The brothers and sisters should cultivate intense love to the most holy virgin, imitation, prayer and filial abandonment. They should manifest their own devotion with expressions of genuine faith, in forms accepted by the Church. Mary is the model of fruitful and faith love for the entire ecclesial community. Secular Franciscans and their fraternities should seek to live the experience of Francis who made the Virgin the guide of his activity. With her, like the disciples at Pentecost they would welcome the Spirit to create a community of love."

pax et bonum,
Judith



being the merciful presence of God-

Our National Theme for 2014, adopted by the National Fraternity gathered in Annual Chapter in October 2013 is: "Be the Merciful Presence of God." We are inspired and guided by the words of Pope Francis, "Dear brothers and sisters, let us be enveloped by the mercy of God; let us trust in his patience, which always gives us more time. Let us find the courage to return to his house, to dwell in his loving wounds, allowing ourselves be loved by him and to encounter his mercy in the sacraments. We will feel his wonderful tenderness, we will feel his embrace, and we too will become more capable of mercy, patience, forgiveness and love." <http://www.nafra-sfo.org/NationalMinister/Welcome2014.html>



FRANCISCAN CROWN ROSARY

(see <http://www.prayerfulrosary.com/Franciscan.html>)

The Franciscan Crown Rosary begins directly with the Our Father and consists of praying seven decades in honor of the seven joys of Our Lady:

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ
4. The Adoration of the Magi
5. The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple
6. The Appearance of Christ to Mary after the Resurrection
7. The Assumption and Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven

It is customary to end each decade with the Glory Be and to finish the recitation by adding two Hail Marys in honor of the 72 years Mary is said to have lived on earth and with an Our Father and Hail Mary for the intentions of the Pope. However, when the list of indulgences was simplified in 1968 no specific indulgence was given for the Franciscan Crown. Therefore, many began pray it with a revised list of mysteries that correspond to the five decade Rosary:

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the Adoration of the Magi
4. The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
5. The Finding in the Temple
6. The Assumption of Mary
7. The Coronation of Our Lady as Queen of Heaven

You can find a beautiful description of the history of this devotion which began in the 15th century on the above website. The Franciscan Crown is a crown of prayers for Our Lady. The website above also contains this beautiful description of Franciscan scripture reading and meditation:

Franciscan Scripture Reading

Franciscan reading exhibits qualities of Franciscan spirituality; actions, spontaneity, love, praise, beauty, and delight in creation. This form of reading involves the mental process of entering personally into the text.

Read chapter 53 of Isaiah. The message in the chapter prompts a reflection of the sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross. The Franciscan method invites you to take actions that would prompt obedience and compassion for humankind. You would also gain an appreciation for loving your fellow man. In connecting with the sacrifice of Cavalry, imagine as best you can the experience of dying on the cross. Using a cross with the crucified Savior, hold it in your hands, gazing at the details of the Lord's crucified body. Imagine his pain and suffering.

You might look through today's newspaper and identify places in the world where people are suffering and make a conscious effort to relieve that suffering. You may choose to write a poem expressing your feelings or paint a picture. Such a scene has been captured countless times on canvas.

The Franciscan method of action, love, spontaneity, love, praise, and delight in creation while reading scripture, is a personal connection with God causing the reader to saturate the entire experience with prayer, asking God to make you an instrument of peace in the lives of those who are suffering.

Franciscan Lifestyle

Regarding the Ten Commandments Pope Francis wrote: "They (Ten Commandments) teach us how to avoid the slavery to which the many idols that we ourselves build reduce us. . . They teach us to open ourselves to a wider dimension than the material one; to live with respect for others; overcoming the greed of power, possessions, and money; to be honest and sincere in our relationships; to protect all of creation and to nurture our planet with high, noble, and spiritual ideals."

Respect for life

Human Trafficking:

Boko Haram, smearing the image of Islam, abducted about 300 girls from their school in the northern region of Nigeria. 53 girls have escaped saying they ran risking their lives as opposed to going to the unknown with their captors. Reports are that some of the girls have already been sold. Pray for the girls and their families.

Racism:

"In a matter of 20 days, Cliven Bundy went from being a little-known Nevada cattle rancher to being labeled a conservative folk hero, and then a "racist" who "wondered" if black people were "better off as slaves, picking cotton." (<http://abcnews.go.com/US/cliven-bundy-controversial/story?id=23468481>) Bundy is the person owing us \$1,000,000s for grazing his cattle on Federal land. Why is it "right" for wealthy ranchers to be subsidized from our tax dollars for grazing fees at a rate less than 1/5th of the going rate and it is not "right" to subsidize the poor with food stamps, or head-start programs? The poor have no voice, speak for them.

"The NBA's commissioner came down hard on Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling, ordering him out of his team's business and pushing to force him to sell over racist remarks that caused a firestorm since becoming public days ago." (<http://www.cnn.com/2014/04/29/us/clippers-sterling-scandal/>) What is the measurement of success? Turn to the Ten Commandments to "a wider dimension than the material one." National sports heroes have a voice. The poor have no voice, speak for them.

Violence:

Quoted from Sarah Palin speaking to the NRA . . ."Come on. Enemies, who would utterly annihilate America, they who'd obviously have information on plots, to carry out Jihad. Oh, but you can't offend them, can't make them feel uncomfortable, not even a smidgen," she said. "Well, if I were in charge, they would know that waterboarding is how we'd baptize terrorists." Violent torture linked to an encounter with Christ? "Not only is this comment offensive to Christians everywhere, her comparison is also offensive to our Muslim brothers and sisters, as each human being has inherent dignity given to them by God, which allows for neither forced conversions nor torture." Log on to FAN (FranciscanActionNetwork) to voice your support of FAN's letter to the NRA and Sarah Palin.

Immigration:

As May is the month of Mary our Mother and with a day for all Mothers, let us pray for immigrant mothers. Pray they can live with their families in the US in an environment without fear. In the past 2 years over 200,000 parents have been deported. Immigrant mothers suffer, either they are deported and separated from their family or the husband is deported leaving the mother to suffer separation and the need to support the family. The [Interfaith Immigration Coalition](#) has developed a [Mother's Day Toolkit](#) with all the information you need to take action.

Care for Creation:

At one of the sessions in the *Care for Creation* class, we took a survey of our personal carbon footprint. Most of us were amazed at the poor score. The impact from 1 on our environment is limited but there is no limit to the impact 1 can make in being the call to action to be a good steward of God's gift of creation, contributing to making the environment sustainable for future generations. Some of the ideas the C4C participants have brought forward, thus far, are an organic vegetable garden at Our Lady of the Fields to support the Friday night ministry feeding the Baltimore poor, to promote family participation in the garden, to build a relationship with the "recycle" committee to better inform all parishioners, to be a voice of care for creation in all the ministries where we participate, to develop a Care for Creation reusable bag (no plastic bags).

If you haven't already, log on to *FranciscanActionNetwork*. This web site is great for launching an awareness of Franciscan Values, linking you to a community of Franciscans, or keeping you up to date on events impacting our lives as Christians, as Franciscans.

Peace and all good,
Susan Burns
May 11, 2014



Our Peace Cross is continuing to circulate! Mary Cicero suggested that we continue Pope Francis' request for "Prayer for Peace." In November we began passing around a San Damiano Cross, praying we become instruments of Peace and cry out to all the world for PEACE. (Note: The bag contains many items: the Cross, Pope Francis' "Cry for Peace", St. Francis Novena, Prayer for Peace St. Clare, St. Margaret of Cortona crucifix prayer, Prayers for peace from World Religions (Assisi), Scriptural Rosary for Justice and Peace, Pope Francis Urbi et orbi Christmas Message of 2013, Pope Francis World Day of Peace Message for 2014, Prayer for Refugees and Victims of War, explanations of the San Damiano Cross and a Notebook in which to write your prayer intentions. These are all listed on a yellow folder- replace all materials when you pass it along after a week to the next person on your membership list in your Area.)

For our November group-sharing presentations each group will be selecting a USCCB document from the list on the next page. You may wish to look at some of them before our meeting.



Pursuing Social Justice

Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services (Fifth Edition), 2009

"For I Was Hungry and You Gave Me Food": Catholic Reflections on Food, Farmers and Farmworkers, 2003

Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope, 2003

A Place at the Table: A Catholic Recommitment to Overcome Poverty and to Respect the Dignity of All God's Children, 2002

Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good, 2001

Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice, 2000

A Commitment to All Generations: Social Security and the Common Good, 1999

In All Things Charity: A Pastoral Challenge for the New Millennium, 1999

*One Family Under God, 1995**

Confronting a Culture of Violence: A Catholic Framework for Action, 1995

*Moral Principles and Policy Priorities for Welfare Reform, 1995**

The Harvest of Justice Is Sown in Peace, 1993

*A Framework for Comprehensive Health Care Reform, 1993**

Renewing the Earth: An Invitation to Reflection and Action on the Environment in Light of Catholic Social Teaching, 1992

*Putting Children and Families First: A Challenge for Our Church, Nation and World, 1992**

*New Slavery, New Freedom: A Pastoral Message on Substance Abuse, 1990**

Brothers and Sisters to Us: Pastoral Letter on Racism in Our Day, 1989

Called to Compassion and Responsibility: A Response to the HIV/AIDS Crisis, 1989

*Homelessness and Housing: A Human Tragedy, A Moral Challenge, 1988**