

MARY OUR QUEEN
FRATERNITY

Instrument of Peace

Saint Margaret of Cortona Region

NOVEMBER—
DECEMBER 2014

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December 21, 2014

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Council Members of
Mary Our Queen Fraternity:
Minister Carol Purwin, OFS
443-939-0835;
Vice Minister, Lud Jones,
OFS 410-866-6388;
Secretary, Joe Mantegna,
OFS 410-391-3981
Cell 443-423-9425;
Treasurer, Shirley Sapp,
OFS 443-986-0833;
Formation Director, Bill
Lotz, OFS 410-485-
1591 or 410-804-7947.
Editor of the Instrument of
Peace - Minister

Our Council meeting will be at 11:10 am in the church hall and then attend the Noon Mass.

We will have a short meeting and prayers, then a Christmas Pageant and party.

Our guests are the Little Flower Fraternity. Also, if you would like to bring a spouse, a friend, or relative, they are welcome.

Don't forget to support the common fund of the fraternity.

This money is used for the Fair Share to the Region, our Fraternity needs, as well as stipend for Father and the apostolates that we support.

To my brothers and sisters, I am sorry for my recent absences. I have had chest colds, pneumonia, I fell twice and was bruised up and then the dreadful 'blues' took hold of me. Thank you for all your prayers and support, they were of great help.

I wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a Healthy, Happy and Safe New 2015!

Pax, Carol

I ask that you all keep one another in prayer especially during this time of year.

The loss of loved ones recently or long ago and the wintery weather makes it especially difficult for many of us.

So let us look upon the conditions that Our Lord entered physically into this world — a stable for his birth, swaddling clothes, a feeding trough for his bed, a teenage mother, a carpenter's son. Not counting his family's exile into Egypt as a baby to escape execution.

God Bless You.

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If you can bring non-perishable items to the gathering, it will be donated to St. Clement food outreach program. Cans of tuna, soup, pasta, peanut butter, cereal, jelly, spaghetti sauce, etc. would be a great help.

HAVE A BLESSED AND MERRY CHRISTMAS! As always remember those in need.



SICK LIST — PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAYERS NEEDED: Rosemarie Dick, Pat Hanges, Helen Cave, Sheila Stefonowicz, Gayle Pfeifer, Marge Pfeifer, Kathy Tumas, Gerry Prasch, Sue Fischer, Sharon Hare, Ned Judge, Amelia Reems, Janie Frieson, Theresa Lotz, Mark Porter, Joan Popp, Lud Jones, Bernadine Kordaz, Joseph Mantegna, Donna Aldrich, George Snyder, Regina Lovejoy, Eileen Culatta, Dot Gostomski, Toni Sterner, Phyllis Fowler, Barbara Countryman,

Also please continue to pray for our sick family members and friends: Rebecca Stepke, Bobby, Gerry Kuchta, John Cave, John Tumminello, Marge & Francis Lotz, Rita Kuchta, Janie Jackson, Clare Andreone, Michael Dick, Matthew Dick, Milton Harper, James Benbow, Nan Mulqueen, Bill Mulqueen, Camille [Mercy's Daughter], Kathleen 'Kit' McCloskey, Donald Aldrich, Maureen Curren, Joanne Markey, Jeannette Leitner, Nick Sterner, Christo Mochi, Nancy Tina Cappellini, Gloria Strong, Rose Country-

man, Renzo Anthony Mochi, Reyner Frieson, Mary Campbell and Walter Doleschal.

Please call **Jean Jomidad, infirmatory person, at 410-675-2130** with any news or updates on our sick. To put someone on our phone **prayer tree, please call Bill Lotz at 410-485-1591**

BIRTHDAYS/PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES/CELEBRATIONS

Month of October [end], November and December

Happy Birthday —

- Barbara Countryman - Nov. 5
- Donna Aldrich - Nov. 26
- Eileen Culatta - Dec. 13
- Carol Purwin - Dec. 15
- Anne Mulqueen - Dec. 27
- Jean Jomidad - Jan. 2

HAPPY PROFESSION ANNIVERSARY

- Nancy Cappellini - 10/16/83
- Sandy Asendorf - 10/18/09
- Jeannette Doleschal - 10/18/09

- Helen Cave - 12/19/90
- Barbara Countryman - 1/9/94
- Eileen Culatta - 10/21/12
- Janie Frieson - 10/23/80
- Lud Jones - 10/18/09
- Theresa Lotz - 11/21/84
- Joan Popp - 10/21/12
- Gayle Pfeifer - 10/20/02
- George Snyder - 11/17/85
- Sheila Stefonowicz - 11/21/84
- Kathleen Tumas - 11/28/85

Double Blessings - Dot Gostomski - Profession 1020/02 and Birthday 10/20

Congratulations and Best Wishes!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS PLEASE

Our meeting dates:

Dec. 21—Meeting and Christmas Pageant and party—our guests will be Little Flower Fraternity. You may bring a spouse or friend also.

Fraternity will supply sandwich platter—Please bring a dish, munchies, treat to share if you can.

Jan. 18— regular meeting and picking a saint.

Feb. 15—regular meeting

March 22—regular meeting

Dates to remember:

Retreat—**March 20-22, 2015** Priest-Field—reservations begin NOV.

April 25, 2015 - Election of St. Margaret of Cortona Region Officers

FOOD & RAFFLE

Dec. 21—Christmas—bring something to share if you can.

Jan. 18—need someone for munchies

Feb. 15—need someone for munchies



SAINTS AND FEAST S

Nov. 19—St. Agnes of Assisi
 Nov. 25 - Bl. Elizabeth of Reute—
 commemoration of all Deceased Francis-
 cans
 Nov. 26—St. Leonard of Port Maurice
 Nov. 27—St. Francis Anthony Fasani
 Nov. 28—St. James of the March
 Nov. 29 –All Saints of Franciscan Order
 Dec. 8—Immaculate Conception
 Dec. 10 –B. Peter Tecelano
 Dec. 12—Our Lady of Guadalupe
 Dec. 13—Finding the Body of St. Francis/
 St. Lucy
 Dec. 15 –Bl. Mary Frances Schervier
 Dec. 25—Nativity of Our Lord
 Jan. 1—Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Jan. 3 - Holy Name of Jesus
 Jan. 6—Bl. Diego Jose of Cadiz /
 Epiphany of Our Lord
 Jan. 7—St. Angela of Foligno
 Jan. 8 - Bl. Eurosia Fabris

Prayer to Queen of Peace
 Most holy and immaculate Vir-
 gin, Mother of Jesus and our lov-
 ing Mother, being His Mother,
 you shared in His universal king-
 ship. The prophets and angels
 proclaimed him King of peace.
 With loving fervor in our hearts
 we salute and honor you as Queen
 of peace. We pray that
 your intercession may protect us
 and all people from hatred and

discord, and direct our hearts into
 the ways of peace and justice which
 your Son taught and exemplified.
 We ask your maternal care for our
 Holy Father who works to recon-
 cile the nations in peace. We seek
 your guidance for our President and
 other leaders as they strive for
 world peace. Glorious
 Queen of Peace, grant us peace in
 our hearts, harmony in our families,
 and concord throughout the world.
 Immaculate Mother, as patroness of
 our beloved country, watch over us
 and protect us with your motherly
 love. Amen

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN

O, Good and Gracious God,
 God of mercy, compassion, generosity,
 and love,
 As we live our lives today in the model of
 St. Francis, choosing daily to live the Gos-
 pel life,
 Help us to help others hear Your call.

Help us to help others to recognize
 their vocation as a Secular Franciscan
 that You have already planted in their
 heart.
 Help us, so that together we all may
 work to bring the Gospel to life.
 Amen!



Mary Our Queen Fraternity— information
 See page one for meeting information.

- **ATTENDANCE AT THE GATHERINGS** -
 All active members of our fraternity should make every
 attempt to attend the Gathering every month. If you
 are unable to attend due to illness, work or family obli-
 gations, please call **Carol Purwin @ 443-939-0835** or
Joe Mantegna @ 443-423-9425.
Please make note of these cell phone numbers.
- Please send your monthly donation to **Shirley Sapp**
 at **1429 Union Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21211**
 Please bring your check or money for the Common
Fund. Envelopes available in box. Monthly support
 of the Fraternity is needed for our needs and per capi-
 ta.
- Nancy Cappellini is still accepting cancelled stamps.

- So please bring your cancelled stamps to the
 meeting.
- We will begin with a regular meeting, opening
 prayer, teaching, at 1:30 pm. Please arrive by
 1:10 pm to sign in and get refreshments and have
 a few moments of catch up.
- Your monthly allotment for the **India Apostolate**
 may be given to Barbara Countryman-Mochi at
 the Gathering or mailed to her at P.O. 762 New
Market, MD 21774. Please make your check
 payable to **India Apostolate**.
- There is also donation basket for Good Samaritan
 Apostolate.
- Thanks to all those who have been bringing snack
 items. If you would like to bring a raffle item or
 snacks, please contact me.

This year the Fourth Week of Advent is four days long. Wednesday evening is Christmas Eve and Thursday, Christmas.

Perhaps we can use these days to try to heighten our awareness of *whatever* is going on in our lives these days, and how that can bring us to Christmas. Some examples might help.

So many of us experience the ironic reality that Christmas can be the most lonely time of our lives. Some of these "mixed feelings" or "sad feelings" are difficult to recognize or name.

For some of us, the Christmas we will celebrate this year pales in comparison to wonderful Christmases of our past - perhaps because we were younger or more "innocent" then, perhaps because some of our loved ones who were central to our Christmas are no longer living or not where I am, perhaps because the burdens and struggles of my life or the changes in our world and the war have robbed this Christmas of something that was there before.

For some of us, Christmas will be just another day. Unable to get out to go to church to be with a faith community, and without family or friends to be with, Christmas will be a day we are tempted to ignore.

For some of us, Christmas inevitably means family conflicts. Facing the days ahead, whether it be the last few remaining parties, or conflicting demands of family and friends, or the friend or relative who drinks too much, or the experience I'm having that I drink too much and this season is an easy excuse.

For some of us, Christmas challenges us with terrible financial burdens. Children today become victims of the gross commer-

cial exploitation of the day. For those of us struggling to make ends meet on a day to day basis, feeling the cultural pressure of buying for our children things which we can't afford, can lead us to put more debt on the credit card in ways that simply push us further and further behind.

Some of us, might be really looking forward to Christmas, and not be aware of these struggles with Christmas, yet feel that, in spite of our best efforts to make Advent different this year, there is still something missing, and we still feel unready for Christmas.

For all of us, the story behind these days can draw us in, and invite us to bring our lives to the mystery of how Jesus came into this world and why. Our best preparation for the Holy Night ahead and the Joyful Morning to follow is for us to reflect upon how he came. He came in the midst of scandal and conflict. He came in poverty. He was rejected before he was born. He was born in a feed trough. He was hunted down. And he grew up in obscurity. He did not shun our world and its poverty and conflict. He embraced it. And he desires to embrace us today, in this day. Right where we are. Right where we are feeling most distant. Right where we are feeling least "religious" or "ready." If we let him come into our hearts to be our Savior these challenging days, we will find ourselves entering the sacred night and morning of Christmas "joyful and triumphant" as never before.

***Come, Lord Jesus.
Come and visit your
people.
We await your coming.
Come, O Lord.***

