

MARY OUR
QUEEN
FRATERNITY

Instrument of Peace

Saint Margaret of Cortona Region

DECEMBER 2015



The Council Members of
Mary Our Queen Fraternity:

Minister -Mary Stepke, OFS
410-615-4263

Vice Minister, Carol Purwin, OFS 443-939-0835;

Secretary, Joe Mantegna,
OFS 410-391-3981
Cell 443-743-0948 ;

Treasurer, Shirley Sapp,
OFS 443-986-0833;

Formation Director, Barbara Countryman-Mochi,
OFS 301-928-0496 cell
301-865-4885 home

Editor of the *Instrument of Peace* - Vice Minister

Fr Berard Dudek, O.F.M.Conv.

Spiritual Assistant

410-686-6188

bmdbmd54@yahoo.com

Mary Stepke, OFS

Minister

410-615-4263 Cell

Mary6438@aol.com

DECEMBER 20, 2015

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Our Council meeting will be at Noon in the church hall.

We will gather downstairs in the meeting room around 1:15 pm for Christmas celebration.

There will be a brief meeting and Christmas pageant.

Pax et Bonum

Carol

Personal note—sorry I have not attended meetings—back problems, kidney stones, low sugar — I have been remembering all in prayers.

We are asking if possible, you bring something to share with your brothers and sisters. Some cookies, a dip, a cake, crackers, cheeses, cups, plates, a dish to share or crock pot.

We will be able to enjoy each others company and snacks.

The Council - Mary,

Carol, Joe, Shirley and Barbara—wishes all a very Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year!



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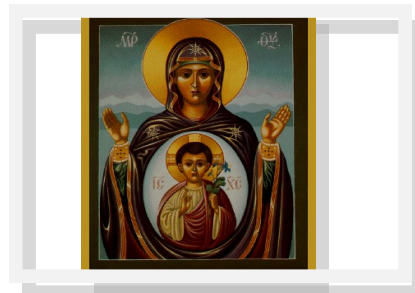
St. Margaret of Cortona Region—

April 2, 2016 — Seventh Annual Day of Reflection for Inquirers, Candidates and Newly Professed. St. Anthony Shrine, Ellicott City, Md.

April 22-24, 2016 — Regional Retreat. PriestField Retreat Center, Kearneysville, W.Va.

June 30-July 4, 2016 — Quinquennial Gathering/National Congress. Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel, St. Louis, Mo.

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, stuffing, pumpkin etc. would be a great help.



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, Theresa Lotz, Mark Porter, Joan Popp, Lud Jones, Bernadine Kordaz, Joseph Mantegna, Donna Aldrich, George Snyder, Regina Lovejoy, Eileen Culatta, Toni Sterner, Phyllis Fowler, Barbara Countryman, Father Berard, Nancy Cappellini

Also please continue to pray for our sick family members and friends: Rebecca Stepke, Bobby, Gerry Kuchta, John Tumminello, Marge & Francis Lotz, Janie Jackson, Michael Dick, Matthew Dick, Milton Harper, Nan Mulqueen, Bill Mulqueen, Camille [Mercy's Daughter], Kathleen 'Kit' McCloskey, Donald Aldrich, Maureen Curren, Joanne Markey, Jeannette Leitner, Christo Mochi, Nancy Tina Cappellini, Gloria Strong, Rose Countryman, Renzo Anthony Mochi, Walter Doleschal, Sophie Wiley and Len Purwin.

Pray for our members, their families and all OFS members. Please call **Jean Jomidad, infirmary 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

End of Nov. & all December —

Happy Birthday —

- Donna Aldrich—11/26
- Eileen Culatta - 12/13
- Carol Purwin—12/15
- Anne Mulqueen 12/27
- Jean Jomidad—1/2



Happy Profession Anniversary:

- Theresa Lotz—profession 11/21/84
- Sheila Stefonowicz—11/21/84
- Helen Cave—12/19/90



MARK YOUR CALENDARS PLEASE

Our meeting dates:

- Dec. 20—Christmas gathering
- Jan. 17, 2016—Gathering
- Feb. 21, 2016—Gathering

St. Margaret of Cortona Region
Dec. 5, 2015—Annual Chapter Ministers' TBD

April 2, 2016 — Seventh Annual Day of Reflection for Inquirers, Candidates and Newly Professed. St. Anthony Shrine, Ellicott City, Md.

April 22-24, 2016 — Regional Retreat. PriestField Retreat Center, le, W.Va.

FOOD & RAFFLE

- Dec. 20—bring something to share
- Jan. 17—need volunteer



SAINTS AND FEASTS

Nov. 19—St. Agnes of Assisi
 Nov. 21—Presentation of Mary
 Nov. 22—Christ the King
 Nov. 23—Clement I
 Nov. 24 —Andrew Dung-Lac and companions
 Nov. 25—Catherine of Alexandria
 Nov. 26—HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
 Nov. 30—St. Andrew
 Dec. 3—St. Frances Xavier
 Dec. 4—St. John Damascene
 Dec. 7—St. Ambrose
 Dec. 8—Immaculate Conception
 Dec. 9—St. Juan Diego

Dec. 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe
 Dec. 14—St. John of the Cross
 Dec. 21—St. Peter Canisius
 Dec. 23—St. John of Kanty
 Dec. 25—BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

 YEAR OF MERCY BEGINS DEC. 8

 "Today, there is an inescapable duty to make ourselves the neighbor of every individual, without exception, and to take positive steps to help a neighbor whom we encounter, whether that neighbor be an elderly person, abandoned by everyone, a foreign worker who suffers the injustice of being despised, a refugee, an

illegitimate child wrongly suffering for a sin of which the child is innocent, or a starving human being who awakens our conscience by calling to mind the words of Christ: 'As long as you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me' (Matthew 25:40)"

Prayer for peace, especially to those who have been suffering persecution and torment by fellow countrymen.

Prayers for the Syrian refugees—may countries and Christians open their hearts.

VOCATION PRAYER FOR O.F.S.

O God, when the world was growing cold, you called blessed Francis to enkindle your love in the hearts of men. Increase in us the warmth of your Holy Spirit.

We also pray that you will increase the number of our brothers and sisters in the

Lay Order of St. Francis, so that through them and all others living a Christian life, the world may be worthy to receive your Peace and Goodness and give glory to you. Through Christ, Our Lord. Amen



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

• **ATTENDENCE 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 obligations, please call **Mary Stepke at 410-615-4263** or **Joe Mantegna at 443-743-0948** .
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 capita.
- Nancy Cappellini is still accepting cancelled stamps.

So please bring your cancelled stamps to the meeting. **PRAYERS FOR NANCY TO HEAL COMPLETELY.**

- 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. Please contact Mary or me [Carol] to help with snacks.

Size Doesn't Matter, Really

by Friar Jim Van Vurst, O.F.M.

In our society, it seems that everything has to be bigger or the greatest. “More is more,” as they say. But the truth is this: size is not really that important.

If we want to consider something *really* big, all we need do is think of the universe. It’s always been a source of wonderment for humanity. Today, with telescopes, we are privileged to see immense stars and galaxies. Scientists have figured out that the universe is composed of more than 100 billion galaxies—each having between 100 and 200 billion stars!

And what’s more: the universe has been around for a very long time. We are sure the beginning of the universe started around 13 billion years ago. And we know the universe is still expanding. Of course, this does not explain how it began. People of faith believe that God is the cause of all that we see, either directly or indirectly. It’s no wonder that we are filled with awe at what is above us. The Psalm said it beautifully: “The heavens proclaim the glory of God.”

One Life: Infinite Potential

Size is not that important, truly. In fact, all the matter, power, and energy in the universe are nothing compared to one tiny human zygote, which we know measures about one-hundredth of an inch—barely visible to the naked eye.

If size is what matters, then it is no contest between that zygote and the universe. But it’s what is *in* that tiny creation of God’s that trumps the universe as far as importance goes. Again, the universe has been expanding for over 13 billion years. But in just nine months, that almost invisible zygote will enter the world as a baby. And the universe—for all of its power and size—cannot hold a candle to the touch of a baby’s skin or a smile that shines from his or her face.

But the difference is that the moment that zygote came into existence, he or she was and always will be the “image and likeness of God.” And the infant has the potential to do things that are impossible for the billions of stars and galaxies in the universe: he or she has the capacity to love and to forgive. The magnificent universe that can overwhelm us by its grandeur pales in comparison to a single human person made in God’s image and likeness. Case closed.

Who among us would ever think of exchanging a newborn infant for the universe?

After all, a tiny infant fits so nicely in our arms!

*Soil, water, mountains:
everything is,
as it were,
a caress of God."*

--Pope Francis

