

The Porter

St. Conrad Fraternity, Annapolis, MD
Secular Franciscan Order – February 2015
<http://stconradannapolis.sfousa.org/>

Council

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Volunteers

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Infirmarian	Evelyn Jones	(410) 827-9023	edjones56@verizon.net

The Porter deadline for the February issue is March 4th. 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.



Fraternity Meeting

**Saturday, February 21st at St. John the Evangelist Church,
607 Ritchie Hwy., Severna Park, MD 21146**
All are invited to attend the 8:30 Mass in the church.
Meeting will begin about 9:15am with refreshments in the Youth Room.

Refreshments



Refreshments will be provided by Annapolis. Remember to bring your own coffee cup! **Bowie/Crofton/Severna Park will be next. Please take supplies home.**

Program



Annual Recommitment to the OFS by all professed members and our affiliate.
“What’s YOUR story?” “Each one of us has a story; a story of grace, a story of sin, a story of journey, many things. And it’s good to pray with our story.” POPE FRANCIS, OCTOBER 7, 2014
This month we ask each Area group to have one person give their witness, conversion story, faith story, why he or she became a Secular Franciscan. See the Minister’s Minute for new Area group designations.





Outreach

Light House Shelter

Next Light House Shelter Lunch-making will be on Monday, February 23 at 10:00 at Joan Kvetkas' home in Annapolis. If you wish to join us, please contact Denise Miantte by email or phone above. *Ongoing collection of money for bus tokens, diapers (sizes 4 and 5), flash drives, canned tuna or chicken, gift cards such as Target.*

Liturgy

Please bring your **Office Books!** We’ll review how to pray Morning Prayer in common. Please see Minister’s Minute for explanation of renewed effort to pray the Divine Office.

Prayer Requests 	Please pray our sick and/or homebound members: Jennifer (Mary Jo's daughter- in- law), Brigid Cobb, Joan Robinson, Pat Troup, Emilie (Genevieve Wilbourne's niece), Theresa Lawrence (Marie Shelton's sister), Pat Troup's grandson and granddaughter, grand-niece of Genny Wilbourne, Emily's grandson, Mary Cooke, Rita Rossi, Eileen, Mari, Dan, Tom, Brian and families (Mary Henry) Evelyn Jones (recent fall)
Birthdays 	Feb 10 - Mary Jo Johnson & Kathleen Sievers, Feb 11 – Joan Kvetkas, Mar 4 – Joan Faltot, Mary Henry, Br. John Paul, Mar 5 – Harry Thompson
Profession Anniversaries	Kathleen Sievers Mar 6, 1994
Treasury	Common Fund balance: 1122.16
Council Meeting	March 8
Calendar February March	Annual Recommitment to the OFS by all professed members and our affiliate. 7 th Baltimore Peace and Justice Convocation 14th Our fraternity meeting (rescheduled to avoid conflict with Regional Chapter of Mats) 20-22 Regional Chapter of Mats at Priest Field (see November <i>Up to Now</i> for registration)

COMMUNITY

Minister's Minute: Brothers and Sisters of Penance (Conversion), On our fraternity meeting day, Lent (see JPIC in the TAU) will have just begun and Jesus in the distressing disguise of the poor will once again be looking at us and we will be looking at Him (RULE 2015; 13). We will be looking back at our lives and examining our consciences—how have we been converted this year, how have we drawn closer to Jesus, how have we responded to the graces He has offered to us to be better Secular Franciscans? How have we lived our Franciscan lifestyle, stood up for gospel values (Lobby Night Feb 16th), been bold in sharing our faith with others (THEME FOR 2015: **Be bold, be the joyful face of Christ**)? How have we spent our time, our talent, our treasure? How have we reached out to the poor and those in need of healing (SCRIPTURE for 2015---Mark 5:21-34)?

Your Council spent this past Saturday at our Annual Planning Meeting examining our year as a fraternity using your Vision sheets and the FAN Franciscan Values sheet. We reflected on our strengths and on the ways we need to change, to grow, to expand as suggested by you and by the Council. As a result we looked at 3 changes we would like to implement. One is the need to reorganize the Area Groups because of members moves, illness and changes; some of the Area groups are too small to carry the weight of the breakfast, presentations (ie. Saint, Social Justice Documents, etc) and Apostolates. So it was decided to join Bowie/Crofton with Severna Park and to ask the Davidsonville Newly Forming Group to be an Area Group. Annapolis and Glen Burnie will continue separately. Thus there will be 4 groups which will rotate providing the breakfast each month. Each Group will present to the fraternity later in the year about their Apostolates:, Annapolis-Light House, Glen Burnie-Care for Creation, Bowie/Crofton and Severna Park-Peace, HOPE and Apostleship of the Sea, and Davidsonville will be deciding on theirs. Each Group will be responsible for leading the Liturgy of the Hours rotating each month as well. This new schedule will be given to you soon. **We are asking each AREA GROUP to invite one of your members to give a short witness, testimony, faith story of his/her conversion to becoming a Secular Franciscan at our meeting this month.**

The second change is to return to using our books for the Divine Office rather than the sheets. It is more difficult to use the books and the Council acknowledges that. However we all should be able to learn to do it better. Using the books (practice makes it easier) will enable us to then be able to do it at home. Let's truly focus on praying it the best we can at our next meeting. We will have "helps" for you.

The third change is to return to doing Parish Visits ("Mary Hannon's" donuts and coffee). Mary has passed, but her vision was for more people to learn about the Secular Franciscan Order and to witness that she grew closer to Jesus through learning about St. Francis. She thought there were more people interested in following St. Francis, but they didn't know how or where. Let's all get that word out more; start with your pastor. Introduce yourself, tell him about the Seculars, where we meet, what we do and encourage him to tell others who are interested where to find us. Some of you have volunteered to have a Parish Visit at your church hall and we look forward to beginning again with Denise Miente, the Tyrrells, and anyone else who would like to help. Our Affiliate Evelyn Jones who has helped with this ministry and the rest of the fraternity will be renewing our Commitment to the Order at our fraternity meeting February 21.

Our Council Planning meeting began after Mass and breakfast with a reflection by Brother Tommy who had been invited by Father Anil. He shared with us about St. Bonaventure's Christology and Mystical Theology in a simple heartfelt way that gave us a glimpse into Bonaventure and a desire to learn more. There are some summer courses at St. Bonaventure's in NY for those interested in studying more (see recent email) and a book by Fr. Andre Cirino, OFM, and Josef Raischl, OFS, *Journey into God: Forty-day Retreat with Bonaventure, Francis and Clare*), based on one of St. Bonaventures's writings, which was helpful for Pat and I.

Please note: Annapolis will be bringing the refreshments and Bowie/Crofton/Severna Park will be leading the prayer. We look forward to seeing you all there and hearing your stories. Do you think we can get Emily McGeady to write her Franciscan Center story for their newsletter? She spent many years helping the poor and the needy at the Center as one of our representatives. pax et bonum, Judith

Praying for Peace! Pope Francis has said,

"We will not resign ourselves to imagining a Middle East without Christians." Also there was an urgent recent appeal from the Guardian of the Franciscan Monastery: "Pray for the survival of Christianity in the Holy Land and for Christian communities there for whom life is often a daily struggle and peace elusive. Pray for the Sacred Places where Our Lord was born, lived, died, and rose again to be reserved."

http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2014/07/13/pope_francis_appeals_for_peace_in_the_holy_land/1102837



The Fraternity Council is asking all of us to pray the Angelus together in spirit, each day at noon, to pray for peace. Our Peace Cross is also continuing to circulate! Please make sure all materials are passed along- a new Pope Francis prayer has been enclosed. The Davidsonville group will be circulating the Cross after Annapolis.

PLEASE PRAY FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS:

Our Lady of the Fields had a Prayer Service for Persecuted Christians and we will be including those prayers with the Peace Cross. We just celebrated Paul Miki and companions recently and there were 15 Secular Franciscans among them. We also learned recently of two Polish Conventuals, Michal Tomaszek, Zbigniew Strzalkowski and a diocesan priest,

Alessandro Dordi who have been approved to be Blessed Martyrs of Peru by the Cardinals' Committee and only await Pope Francis' approval.

C4C Care for Creation by Susan Burns, seburns318@comncast.net 410-245-0890

Plans are underway to expand the straw-bale garden at Our Lady of the Fields parish in Millersville. The next meeting of C4C will be March 7, 9:15 am after the 8:30 am Mass. The initial planning meeting is to be held Feb 14, too late to include the results of the meeting in the Porter, but following is what has taken place over the past month.

Beekeeping – John Connors of Hancock Farms in Pasadena and a member of the Anne Arundel County Beekeeper Association gave a wonderful presentation on honey bees. As a follow up, we'll have bee hives near the straw-bale garden area at Our Lady of the Fields. Two active queens have been ordered and we are in process of ordering the hive equipment.

Straw-Bale Garden – This year we'll be expanding the garden for greater yields. We'll be planting sooner, beginning the bale conditioning in March and planting in late March. The heat generated by the conditioning can be contained by cheese cloth covering, i.e. a greenhouse effect over each bale. This year we'll pay closer attention to the wishes of the guests at the Friday night ministry so we grow more of the produce they cannot readily get on their own. We also have plans to send out teams to provide supplies and instructions about straw-bale gardening to the poor and homebound.

Would you like to help with the garden, with the hives and honey extraction, or be a member of a garden team? Or maybe you would like to make a donation? The estimated cost is approximately \$2,000.

The story of the **Honey Bee** is truly a miracle of **God's Creation**. God created a **queen bee**. She only mates once in her life and from that one encounter with the male bees (drones) she produces in her hive approximately 1,500 eggs per day up to 9 months of the year throughout her 4 – 6 year life.

“LORD, TEACH US TO STEP OUTSIDE OF OURSELVES. TEACH US TO GO OUT INTO THE STREETS AND MANIFEST YOUR LOVE.” POPE FRANCIS

YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE: Pope Francis calls all religious priest, brothers and sisters to look to the past with gratitude... live the present with passion... embrace the future with hope...” He is counting on them “to wake up the world.” In addition he call us, the laity, who share with them the same ideals, spirit and mission” to become more aware of the gifts we have received from the religious family we are close to. Thus we who follow St. Francis and are part of the Franciscan family are to be more aware of the gifts we have received from our Franciscan family, especially our Capuchins. They have a street ministry to the poor in DC working with the Missionaries of Charity and we are learning more about it and how we can help. Please keep them in your prayers.