

MARY OUR
QUEEN
FRATERNITY

Instrument of Peace

Saint Margaret of Cortona Region

JUNE 2015

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JUNE 28, 2015

We will be joining Little Flower Fraternity's gathering on June 28, 2015.

Our Council meeting will be at 11:15 am in the church hall and then attend the Noon Mass.

We will gather downstairs in the meeting room to attend Little Flower's Gathering. Their meeting starts at 1:30 pm.

Welcome Mary Our Queen's new council for May 2015 - May 2018:

Mary Stepke, Minister

Carol Purwin, Vice Minister

Joe Mantegna, Secretary

Shirley Sapp, Treasurer

Barbara Countryman-Mochi, Formation Director

All Peace and Good for a Happy, Safe and Healthy Summer

Carol

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 443-423-9425;
Treasurer, Shirley Sapp, OFS 443-986-0833;
Formation Director, Barbara Countryman-Mochi, OFS 410-485-1591 or 410-804-7947.
Editor of the *Instrument of Peace* - Vice Minister

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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.



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 Cappelini

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, Nick Sterner, Christo Mochi, Nancy Tina Cappelini, Gloria Strong, Rose Countryman, Renzo Anthony Mochi, Reyner Frieson, and Walter

Doleschal.

Pray for our members, their families and all OFS members.

Please call **Jean Jomidad, infirmarium 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 June n Month of JULY:

Happy Birthday —

- Sheila Stefonowicz-June 28
- Mark Porter -June 30
- Sue Fischer—July 1
- Theresa Lotz—July 18
- Gayle Pfeifer—July 12

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL OUR BROTHER FRANCISCANS!

HAPPY PROFESSION ANNIVERSARY

- Jean Jomidad—July 15, 2007
- Shirley Sapp—July 15, 2007
- Mercy Sponaugle—July 15,2007

Ordination Anniversary—Father Berard 6/24/54

Congratulations and Best Wishes!

Celebrate!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS PLEASE

Our meeting dates:

June 28—day to join Little Flower due to Father's Day on our normal time . Mary will bring something to share.

July 19—regular meeting –

August 16—regular meeting

Dates to remember:

July 9-12, - 7th OFS Summer Seminar, Servant Leadership—St. Francis University, Loretto, PA

Dec. 5, 2015—Annual Chapter Ministers' meeting—TBD

April 22-24, 2016-Annual Regional Retreat—PriestField Retreat Center

FOOD & RAFFLE

June—Join Little Flower for their regular meeting.

Bring something to share

July 19– need volunteer

August 16—need volunteer



SAINTS AND FEASTS

JUNE 21—HAPPY FATHER’S DAY

- June 22–St. Thomas More
- June 23 –St. Joseph Cafasso and St. John Fisher
- June 24– Solemnity of Birth St. John the Baptist
- June 26–Bl. Andrew Hyacinth Longhin
- June 28– St. Irenaeus
- June 28– Solemnity of Sts. Peter n Paul
- July 1 –Bl. Junipero Serra
- July 2 –St. Oliver Plunkett
- July 4–St. Elizabeth of Portugal
- July 6 –St. Maria Goretti
- July 8– St. Gregory Grassi & Compan-

- ions
- July 9– St. Nicholas Pick & Companions
- July 10 –St. Veronica Giuliani**
- July 12 –Sts. John Jones and John Wall
- July 14 –St. Kateri Tekakwitha
- July 15 –St. Bonaventure
- July 16–Canonization of St. Francis; and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
- July 17 –St. Francis Solano
- July 21 –St. Lawrence of Brindisi
- Veronica’s desire to be like Christ crucified was answered with the stigmata.

Veronica was born in Mercatelli, Italy. It is said that when her mother Benedetta was dying she called her five daughters to her bedside and entrusted each of them to one of the five wounds of Jesus. Veronica was entrusted to the wound below Christ’s heart.

At the age of 17, Veronica joined the Poor Clares directed by the Capuchins. Her father had wanted her to marry, but she convinced him to allow her to become a nun. In her first years in the monastery, she worked in the kitchen, infirmary and sacristy and also served as portress. At the age of 34, she was made novice mistress, a position she held for 22 years. When she was 37, Veronica received the stigmata. Life was not the same after that.

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NEW PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO 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 443-423-9425**.
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 capita.
- 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.

Continued from page 3 — Church authorities in Rome wanted to test Veronica's authenticity and so conducted an investigation. She lost the office of novice mistress temporarily and was not allowed to attend Mass except on Sundays or holy days. Through all of this Veronica did not become bitter, and the investigation eventually restored her as novice mistress.

Though she protested against it, at the age of 56 she was elected abbess, an office she held for 11 years until her death. Veronica was very devoted to the Eucharist and to the Sacred Heart. She offered her sufferings for the missions. Veronica was canonized in 1839.

The Paradox of Holiness

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

It is understandable that most people struggle with the desire to be holy. And that struggle exists because of a misunderstanding of what holiness really is. The best way to understand holiness is to think of this basic fact: holiness is our relationship with God. In other words, we can't make ourselves holy. Holiness is really a sharing in God's holiness *within* us. We need to seek God's will in all things. Obviously, none of us can do that perfectly. We are born wounded. God knows this. That's why Jesus gave his life for us in love.

We must be open to God working within. And then we grow in holiness! Your next question might be, "But how do I know that I am growing in holiness?" The answer is this: most people won't know. In fact, if someone is always looking for signs of holiness in himself or herself, he or she will be sorely disappointed. The fact is that saints never knew they were saints. They thought of themselves as great sinners. Read any autobiography of a saint and you will find that theme frequently in their writings.

Growth in holiness will not be felt. Holiness is a result of struggle, hard work, and dedication to what the Gospels ask us to do. Sometimes there is more blood, sweat, and tears than any wonderful, ecstatic experiences. This means that our journey through life is indeed a life of faith.

Grace of God

Just look around you and within the circumstances of your life. You will find the path to holiness, though at times it may feel more like a struggle.

What is essential to understand is that God is with us. The Spirit is always leading us, inspiring us, and enlightening us. Jesus, our Lord, is always leading us along the way. Husbands and wives, mothers and dads: they all find holiness in their vocation. I, as a Franciscan priest, find it within the circumstances of my calling. It may look as though I have some special graces that others do not. That is not true. God gives each person the specific grace needed for his or her life.

In the end, that will be part of the revelation of eternity — a never-ending, mind-blowing understanding of our earthly journey with God revealing every graceful detail of our journey with him. It should be utterly wonderful.

