

MARY OUR
QUEEN
FRATERNITY

Instrument of Peace

Saint Margaret of Cortona Region

MARCH 2015

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Editor of the *Instrument of
Peace* - Minister

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March 15, 2015

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

The correct meeting date is **March 15, 2015**. I think part of my brain was frozen when I looked at the calendar.

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

We will have Liturgy of the Hours, meeting and prayers, as well as a teaching.

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

This money is used for the Fair Share to the Region, our Fra-

ternity needs, as well as stipend for Father and the apostolates that we support.

Please pray and think about who you would like to represent your fraternity as: Minister; Vice Minister; Secretary; and Treasurer; also the Formation Director [is usually appointed].

Okay I am tired of this winter and having to cancel meetings. Please Lord let us meet on March 15, as we are in need of our gathering prayers.

Pax, Carol

Please consider attending the Regional Retreat March 20-22 in Priestfield.

Submit form no later than March 6, 2015 . **Make your check payable to ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA REGION*** and mail form with payment to:

Mary Lou Coffman, ofs
2862 Beechtree Lane
Woodbridge, VA 22191
Phone: 703.221.1846
email:
marylousfo@gmail.com

Only a few room remain, please email or call to find out what is left before sending reservation,.

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.

Feed my lambs -



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, 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, 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 Capelini, Gloria Strong, Rose Countryman, 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 April:
Happy Birthday —
Joe Mantegna—April 28

HAPPY PROFESSION ANNIVERSARY
Mary Stepke—4/1/1980
Anne Mulqueen—4/15/1984
Sue Fischer —4/16/1962
Gerry Prasch —4/29/1987

Congratulations and Best Wishes!
Celebrate!

Make note new address
Pat Hanges, ofs
315 Willrich Circle, Unit F
Forest Hill, MD 21050-1351



MARK YOUR CALENDARS PLEASE

Our meeting dates:
March 15—regular meeting
April 19 - nomination for council election
May 17-- Election meeting
June—Father's Day is the usual meeting - Date to be determined

Dates to remember:

Retreat—**March 20-22, 2015** Priest-Field, WV—Chapter of Mats.
April 25, 2015 - Election of St. Margaret of Cortona Region Officers—Franciscan Monastery—Wash., DC

FOOD & RAFFLE
March 15 - Carol P.
April 19—need someone for munchies
May 17—Election meeting— food needed.



SAINTS AND FEASTS

March 18 —St. Salvator of Horta
 March 19—St. Joseph the husband of Mary
 March 20—Bl. John of Parma
 March 22—St. Benvenute of Osimo
 March 23—St. Catherine of Genoa
 March 26—Blessed Didacus Joseph of Cadiz
 March 28 –St. Catharine of Bologna
 March 30 –St. Peter Regalado
 March 31 St. Stephen of Mar Saba
 April 1—St. Hugh of Grenoble
 April 2– St. Francis of Paola
 April 3– St. Benedict the Moor
 April 4 - St. Isidore of Seville

April 5—St. Vincent Ferrer
 April 6 –St. Crescentia Hoess
 April 7—St. John Baptist de la Salle
 April 8—St. Julie Billart
 April 11—St. Stanislaus
 April 12—St. Teresa of Los Andes
 April 16—St. Bernadette Soubirous and St. Benedict Joseph Labre [sometimes celebrated April 17]

Prayer from Bl. Paul VI
 Lord God of peace, we bless you and we thank you because you have sent us your beloved Son, Jesus.

Open yet more our hearts to the needs of all our brothers and sisters, so that we may be better able to build a true peace.

Remember all who are in pain, who suffer and die in the cause of a more just world. For the people of every race, of every tongue, may your kingdom come- your kingdom of justice, of peace, of love. And may the earth be filled with your glory. 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 Gospel 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 obligations, 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 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.

The Journey of Our Lives

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

It's common to describe our lives on this earth as journeys. Each of us weaves a personal history made up of moments in which we are caught up in events—most of which we did not anticipate. And we make decisions and do things that affect others in ways we cannot grasp.

I suspect there are a few of my readers who have kept diaries. I began journaling in 1972 after I had been ordained about 11 years. It was a time when I was going through a bit of a vocational struggle, and I didn't fully understand all that was going on within me. I smile now, 42 years later, realizing what was actually happening. It was the Lord saying to me, "Jim, it is time for you to grow up and mature a bit."

After 13 years of isolated religious and priestly formation, I was still very immature emotionally. My intellect had grown, but not much of myself. But growing up was exactly what I needed to do—both as a priest and as a human being. However, in my own circumstances, it felt as though I was being pushed and pulled, knocked down, and shook. I realize now that real growth and maturity are not something we do. It is what is being done to us as we struggle through it.

I'm sure that most married couples come to a point in their lives when they, too, are struggling. The honeymoon is long gone; personality quirks arise; boredom can creep in. What we don't understand is that what we all go through is perfectly normal in our journeys. Growth, maturity, and wisdom can feel as if we are fighting through a jungle. It's dark and scary without much light ahead. Maturity brings with it scars and bruises as a result of that journey. That's why there is nothing on earth as soft and tender as an infant. Mature adults have a different kind of skin.

Never Alone

As we grow older on our journeys, we realize two important truths: life is made up of our actions and decisions; and life is also composed of events beyond our control. Major events can occur and lives are changed forever. Think of the one moment before the planes crashed into the Twin Towers on 9/11, and what occurred to all of those people. We use expressions such as "just a second," or "in a moment's time." In the life of a single adult, there are countless moments that are packed with potential for good or ill.

What is so important is that we understand and embrace the truth that not a single one of us walks our journeys alone. When God made us in his image and likeness, he also destined us to eternal life with him. If someone is not saved, it will be by his or her choice, not God's. At the same time, God never wants us to struggle alone.

God will never turn from us during our journeys. Never forget that sometimes when we fall, we actually fall *forward*. The miracle is that when we get up, we are better off for that fall. We mature from it. The fact that we can't make ourselves perfect is trumped by the saving death of Jesus on Good Friday.

As we say in modern jargon what Jesus said to each of us: "Just keep doing the best you can even if it's not perfect. Remember, I've got your back. I died for you."

