

# The Little Portion Newsletter

St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina Fraternity  
St. Margaret of Cortona Region

## JULY 2018

Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis



### Next Fraternity Gathering

JULY 23, 2018  
St. Joan's Meeting House

### AGENDA

7:30 pm: **Opening Prayer** page 35 of Ritual Book  
**Liturgy of the Hours:** Mon. of the 16<sup>th</sup> Week of Ordinary Time. Evening Prayer page 942  
**Hymn:** Sing Praise to Our Creator #82 page 1597

Presider: **Barbara Teller**  
Antiphonarian: **Ginger Bahr**  
Reader: **Donna Willard**

Following the Liturgy of the Hours:  
8:00 pm **Ongoing Formation:**  
Session Six -The Law of Self -Giving  
**Read John Chapters 10-12**  
9:00 **Closing Prayer** page 39 - followed by the Social



### Apostolate for June

\$20 to the Poor Clares

### Apostolate for July

\$20 to

The Missionaries of Charity

### Prayer Intentions

**For the Needs and Special Intentions of:**  
**The Simmons Family:** Mary, Ed, Brian,  
Mary Anne, Cecelia, Eliot, Ed Jr., and Noel  
**Mary Rose Scelsi**  
**Pierre LaCour**  
**Jeffrey Teller Jr.**  
**For all those in our Intention Book**

### Some Photos from the Chapter of Mats



Donna, Roland, Bonnie



Bob Longo, Regional Minister



Donna/Anne Mulqueen  
Regional Spiritual Assistant



Mike Huether Regional Vice  
Minister with Gary and Kelly

### Council Members

Minister: Bonnie Ng: 410-836- 9671  
Vice Minister: Margaret Wise: 443-327-7502  
Secretary: Virginia Bahr: : 410-838-7836  
Treasurer: Stan Glodek 410- 838-0461  
Formation Director: Allen Siegel  
Spiritual Assistant: Br. Lawrence LaFlame  
Newsletter Editor: Bonnie Ng

## The Chapter of Mats

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Bonnie our Minister asked me to write a few words about our Chapter of Mats. It was an amazing experience! As my husband had mentioned the people were great and accommodations memorable.

But what I had brought away from there was a feeling of unity. We were all one celebrating our Anniversary of our Rule.

Not just as Seculars but as belonging to the Franciscan Order. Our great heritage that our Seraphic Father Francis set into place for us. It was truly amazing. We looked at the Rule in groups, and discussed our thoughts. We looked at the different Liturgy of Hours and how they progressed through the years. My favorite is still The Geste of the Great King.

Our speakers Patrick Martin, Anne Mulqueen, Our New Regional Minister Bob Longo were well prepared and very interesting.

A great time had by all. We missed you not being there.

Peace and God Bless,  
Donna Willard, OFS

Dear Brothers and Sisters

I went on my first retreat as an Inquirer to Priestfield W.Va. for the Chapter of Mats. We worked on the 26 Secular Franciscan Rules all the weekend. This was the first time I had been introduced to the Rules of the OFS. Bonnie was there and the people were very friendly and helpful. The accommodations were very nice, and the food was great. I look forward to my next retreat.

Roland Willard, Inquirer

## Upcoming Events

### St. Michael's Fraternity Picnic Invitation

**St. Michael's Fraternity** Invites Padre Pio Fraternity to their **Annual Picnic**,

**July 29, 2018**

**2:00PM to 6:PM**

at **the Home of Cindy Evans: 1433 Sussex Road, Essex MD 21221**

**Cindy : 443-253-7460**  
**Mark: 410-585-7520**

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs rolls paper products and ice provided. Please sign up to bring a dish and **call:**

**Fay Trotta at 443-562-1163 with the dish you would like to bring**

### St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity Multi Fraternity Picnic

**Location:**

Shrine of St. Anthony, 1229 Folly Quarter Rd.  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

**Date: Sunday, September 16, 2018**

**Mass at 12 Noon** followed by picnic

**Time: 1pm to 4pm**

Food will be provided but feel free to bring a dish to share.

**Please let Bonnie Ng** know **by September 6<sup>th</sup>** if you will attend so she can give St. Joseph Cupertino the number of attendees from our fraternity.

**Did you know.....**

There are 250,00-300,000 Secular Franciscans in the world.

## Minister's Message

My dear Brothers and Sisters,

The past few weeks have been very inspiring for me as a Franciscan as I interacted in prayer, conferences, discussions and laughter with my Franciscan brothers and sisters in the Region as well as from other parts of the country. I thank God abundantly for the experiences I have enjoyed.

June 29<sup>th</sup> I attended the Regional Chapter of Mats in celebration of 40 years of our Secular Franciscan Rule which was promulgated by Pope Paul VI in 1978. There were three previous Rules which followed *The Exhortation of St. Francis to the Brothers and Sisters of Penance* in 1221 which contains the basis for penitential spirituality. These words of St. Francis are The Prologue to our present Rule. The Rule provides us with inspiration and guidance as to how we should live our OFS vocation. The Rule is something we promised to live when we made our Profession and should be taken seriously. At the Chapter of Mats each attendee was assigned a Group. On the final Day of our Conference, each Group reported. Many suggested an Action regarding the Rule was to pray with the Rule. Some said they would take a Rule each day to focus on and pray with and others one Rule a week. The important thing is to read, pray and focus with our Rule in whatever way one chooses. One of our sisters, Judith Tyrell O.F.S. of St. Conrad's Fraternity has written A Litany and Examination of Conscience based on the Rule of the OFS. The NAFRA website has a video and other resources to read and reflect on the Rule.

July 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Secular Franciscan Conference at St. Bonaventure University. The topic was Becoming Prayer, Becoming Presence. Donna Willard also attended and brought her sister Sandi. Bill Bouffard from St. Margaret of Cortona was also present. The Conference talks were given by Br. Richard Hendrick, OFM, Cap. from Ireland. The focus was prayer in its many dimensions and practices with a Franciscan perspective as well as well touching on some aspects of Teresa of Avila's teachings.

Br. Richard said "the goal of the Christian Journey can be summed up by the word Theosis. Theosis is a Greek word meaning to become as alike to God as it is possible to become. We need to become saints." He mentioned that in the Major Legend of Francis, Bonaventure wrote that "St. Francis not only prayed but became prayer." He cited Mt. 6:6 "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room....." Br. Richard explained that the "inner room" was a familiar image used by rabbis in Jesus' time to illustrate the inner room of the heart and the place of the spirit. Closing the door means turning inward to a time of silence and stillness. "Be still and know that I am God". It is the beginning of contemplative prayer. He mentioned that Teresa of Avila defined prayer as "simply conversing with someone whom I already know loves me".

It is a wonderful experience to pray, eat and socialize with Franciscans from our Region and from other Regions. Donna and I had the privilege of talking with Br. Richard for at least 45 minutes at the evening social. He was very gracious in answering our questions and sharing a little bit about his life in Ireland. The entire weekend was immersed in God's grace with Franciscan joy, love and community. It ended with a Mass in honor of the Feast of St. Bonaventure.

Bonnie Ng, OFS



Group Photo at St. Bonaventure's University following Mass

## Prayer to St. Francis

### For Fidelity to the Rule

Holy Father, loving and most beloved St. Francis, I beseech you by the holy wounds of our Lord Jesus Christ, which were imprinted on your body, assist me to govern the five senses of my body according to the will in the service of the Lord and pleasure of almighty God. Intercede for me so that I may be most faithful in the observance of your Rule of Penance. Obtain for me contrition and devotion, faith, hope and charity, patience and purity of body and soul, together with the grace of persevering in the service of our Lord; so that after this life I may merit to come to you, with you to enjoy eternal happiness, which I hope through your intercession to obtain from Christ our Lord. Amen.

From: Secular Franciscan Companion  
Page 52.

**August 11<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of St. Clare.** "When Clare taught her sisters about prayer, she taught them always to keep in touch with that tender and compassionate heart of Christ, showing them how 'to grow warm again through the exercise of prayer and leaving the listlessness of not caring, to commit their cold lack of devotion to the flames of holy love'."

From : *This Living Mirror* by Sr. Frances Teresa Downing ,OSC, p.68