

# The Porter

St. Conrad Fraternity, Annapolis, MD  
Secular Franciscan Order – June 2018  
<http://stconradannapolis.sfousa.org/>





## Council

<b>Minister</b>	Patrick Tyrrell, OFS	(410) 721-7308	<a href="mailto:jpatricktsfo@gmail.com">jpatricktsfo@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice Minister</b>	Mary Henry, OFS	(443) 949-0600	<a href="mailto:mhenry933@gmail.com">mhenry933@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Joan Faltot, OFS	(410) 969-6354	<a href="mailto:jd6bouv@verizon.net">jd6bouv@verizon.net</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kathleen Sievers, OFS	(410) 544-0618	<a href="mailto:esievers@verizon.net">esievers@verizon.net</a>
<b>Formation Director</b>	Denise Miante, OFS	(410) 643-2782 (h) (410) 253-5555 (m)	<a href="mailto:rubob903@gmail.com">rubob903@gmail.com</a>
<b>Councilor-at-Large</b>	Judith Tyrrell, OFS	(410) 721-7308	<a href="mailto:judithtyrrellofs@gmail.com">judithtyrrellofs@gmail.com</a>
<b>Spiritual Assistant</b>	Br. Diogo Escudero, OFM Cap.		<a href="mailto:friardiogoofmcap@gmail.com">friardiogoofmcap@gmail.com</a>

## Volunteers

<b>Historian</b>	Marie Shelton	(410) 590-5570	<a href="mailto:marifrances14@outlook.com">marifrances14@outlook.com</a>
<b>Infirmarian</b>	Evelyn Jones	(410) 827-9023	<a href="mailto:evelyn88jones@yahoo.com">evelyn88jones@yahoo.com</a>

The Porter deadline for the July issue is July 14. Please send news, prayer requests, poems, or interesting things that you think other members may enjoy to: Joan Faltot, 8217 Grainfield Rd, Severn, MD 21144, or send by email (address above).

 <b>Fraternity Meeting</b>	<b>Saturday, June 16, 2018</b> <b>St. John the Evangelist, 689 Ritchie Hwy., Severna Park, MD 21146</b> <b>8:30 Mass – Church. Meeting 9:15 – Youth Room, School</b>
<b>Program</b>	Joan Faltot will speak on the 40th Anniversary of the Rule (June 24th) and its development, including the 17 Elements of Franciscan Spirituality
<b>Liturgy</b>	Annapolis /Eastern Shore
 <b>Refreshments</b>	Glen Burnie/Pasadena. Annapolis /Eastern Shore will be next, so please arrange to take the supplies home and restock if necessary. <i>Please remember to bring your own cup (and plate and silverware, if possible).</i>
 <b>Prayer Requests</b>	<i>For our sick and/or homebound members:</i> (Please help us update this list.) Jude Dodge, Genny Wilbourne's granddaughter Jessica, Al Gigel (regional councilor), Mary Musselwhite, Joan's husband Bill Kvetkas, Mandy (Kathleen Sievers' niece), Teri Egan, Denise Miante, Pat Troup.
<b>Birthdays</b>	Lita Millan –6/22
<b>Profession Anniversaries</b>	Susan Burns – 7/13/2013 Judith Tyrrell – 07/14/1991
 <b>Treasury</b>	Common Fund balance: \$1,055.82 <b>REMINDER</b> - Please remember to use the memo line of your check to designate how you wish your contribution to be directed. There are 3 possible designations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common Fund (this covers fraternity operations and the Sabu family in India),</li> <li>• Phoenix Academy (for student weekend food backpacks), and</li> <li>• Tokens (bus tokens for the Lighthouse Shelter clients).</li> </ul>

	You can write one check and direct your contribution to any or all three areas. Example: \$20 Com / \$10 Phoenix / \$5 Token. None of these amounts should be interpreted as being what is expected from any particular member. Cash contributions are also acceptable, but checks are preferred.
<b>Outreach</b>	For more information, contact Denise. <b>Lighthouse Shelter Lunches:</b> Thursday, June 28, 9:30 a.m. Contact Denise for location. <b>Phoenix Academy Backpack Program:</b> off for the summer till September
<b>Council Meeting</b>	Tentatively Friday, July 6 , 9:30am at the Tyrrell's house
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	
<b>June 29-July 1</b>	Regional Chapter of Mats. Priest Field Pastoral Center. Registrations closed last Friday.
<b>July 12-15</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> Summer Seminar for OFS, Saint Francis University in Loretto, PA "Francis the Troubadour: How Can I Keep From Singing" presented by Jerry & Cricket Aull, OFS and Br. Bob Herrick, OFM Cap. Registration deadline: June 25. <a href="https://www.francis.edu/News/2018/02/Secular-Franciscan-Summer-Seminar/">https://www.francis.edu/News/2018/02/Secular-Franciscan-Summer-Seminar/</a>
<b>July 13-15</b>	OFS Conference at St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, NY July 13-15, 2018 Becoming Prayer, Becoming Presence: A Workshop for Secular Franciscans Cost for conference, three nights lodging and all meals on campus, approx. \$400. More info and registration at <a href="http://www.sbu.edu/about-sbu/sbu-campus-maps-directions/franciscan-institute/summer-Fall-2018-programs">http://www.sbu.edu/about-sbu/sbu-campus-maps-directions/franciscan-institute/summer-Fall-2018-programs</a>

## COMMUNITY



### ***Minister's Minute:***

The 24<sup>th</sup> of this month is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order of 1978. The Rule doesn't exist just to be studied, but, more importantly, to be lived. On the other hand, to live it you need to know it.

For me, the core principle in the document is in Rule 4, where we are called to go "from gospel to life and life to the gospel." People often ask, "What do Secular Franciscans do?" I think our answer should focus on who we are to be in the world, rather than what we do. We are called to be the loving and merciful presence of God in the world. We are called to love God with all our hearts,

minds, souls, and strength and our neighbors as ourselves.

As a group, the fraternity does this in a tangible way by supporting the Sabu family in Kerala, providing lunches and bus tokens to those at the Light House Shelter and backpacks of food for the weekend for the students at the Phoenix Academy, as well as financially supporting a few other charitable organizations.

Individually, each of us is called to be the presence of God in our own worlds through prayer, service, and charity both in and outside the church. So continue to live the Rule, but study it also to deepen your understanding of just how radical it is to truly live the gospel life.

## JPIC -- JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION

Animator Judith Tyrrell, OFS

On a recent RV trip through the beauty of God's creation in the Green Mountains along the Kancamagus Highway, one of the towns on the map was Passaconaway. In looking it up I discovered the wonderful story of this peacemaking Indian for whom the town is named who worked for peace with the Pilgrims in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Here is the story of one of the first American Indians to meet the English colonists. He did make peace with them. He was a leader among the many small tribes in northern New England in 1620. He was known to be a miracle worker with amazing powers. He was summoned to an Indian Council as chief of the Pennacook Indian Tribe by Massasoit, to deal with the Pilgrims at Plymouth. He decided that the spirits wanted the American Indians to behave peacefully toward the English. He encouraged peaceful coexistence. Traveling in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, Passaconaway was able to save other early colonies as well because he was respected and had counseling skills for peace. Today there is a mountain in NH named for him and although the town of Passaconaway no longer exists there is an historic house on the site called Russell-Colbath on the Kancamagus Highway, NH, and the C.L. Wangan Overlook called "wangan ground" or "Meeting place" of the Native Americans who lived and hunted in this area of New Hampshire with a magnificent view of the mountains.

In today's gospel for Monday of the 10<sup>th</sup> week, we read the Beatitudes from Matthew 5: "...Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. ...." As Secular Franciscans we are called to live in the spirit of the beatitudes with pure hearts (Rule 11) and as it says in Rule 13: "As the Father sees in every person the features of his Son, the first-born of many brothers and sisters, so Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit *accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ.*"

The Holy Father Pope Francis has been calling our attention, especially in the Amazon lately but throughout the world, to the needs of the Indigenous peoples. "These are the first peoples or native peoples, they are ethnic groups who are the original inhabitants of a given region in contrast to groups that have settled, occupied or colonized the area more recently" -Wikipedia. "Pope Francis has expressed his desire to be a spokesman for the deepest longings of indigenous peoples and to raise public awareness about the fact that indigenous peoples continue to be threatened in their identity and even in their existence. He has sought to be a voice crying out throughout the world about the way indigenous lands, culture, rights and dignity are being overlooked or even trampled upon for the narrow economic interests of others. He has praised the way that indigenous peoples look at the land as a sacred gift in which they interact with God, their ancestors and each other. He has lifted up their sense of love and responsibility for our common home and their heightened sense of intergenerational solidarity as a model for all peoples." Zenit.org Holy See Insists on Rights of Indigenous Peoples <https://zenit.org/articles/holy-see-insists-on-rights-of-indigenous-peoples/>

Have you seen the Native American on a horse weeping because of the desecration of the land and sea? Have you wept for the pollution of our land and oceans? We have much to learn from the indigenous peoples. We have the Piscataway Indians right here in Maryland. Do you know their story? Or about Squanto, a Patuxet Indian, who worked for peace as well with the Pilgrims?

## THESE HANDS....

*Mary Henry received the following via email.*

Grandpa, some ninety plus years, sat feebly on the patio bench. He didn't move, just sat with his head down staring at his hands. When I sat down beside him he didn't acknowledge my presence and the longer I sat, I wondered if he was OK.

Finally, not really wanting to disturb him, but wanting to check on him at the same time, I asked him if he was OK.

He raised his head and looked at me and smiled. "Yes, I'm fine, thank you for asking," he said in a clear strong voice.

"I didn't mean to disturb you, Grandpa, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands and I wanted to make sure you were OK." I explained to him. "Have you ever looked at your hands," he asked. "I mean really looked at your hands?"

I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down. No, I guess I had never really looked at my hands as I tried to figure out the point he was making. Grandpa smiled and related this story:

"Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years. These hands, though wrinkled, shriveled, and weak have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back.

As a child my mother taught me to fold them in prayer. They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots. They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent. They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn. Decorated with my wedding band they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special.

They trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse and walked my daughters down the aisle.

They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed and cleansed the rest of my body. They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw.

And to this day, when not much of anything else of me works real well, these hands hold me up, lay me down, and, again, continue to fold in prayer.

These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of my life. But, more importantly it will be these hands that God will reach out and take when he leads me home. And, with my hands, He will lift me to His side and there I will use these hands to touch the face of Christ."

I will never look at my hands the same again but I remember God reached out and took my grandpa's hands and led him home.

When my hands are hurt or sore I think of Grandpa. I know he has been stroked and caressed and held by the hands of God.

I, too, want to touch the face of God and feel His hands upon my face.

Let's continue praying for one another.

## What's Up in the Neighborhood and Elsewhere

*If there is an interesting coming up next month in your parish, please send me and email so it can be included on this page.*

### **Heavenly Earth: Images of St. Francis at La Verna - until July 8, 2018**

National Gallery of Art, West Building, Ground Floor – Gallery 22 (just inside the 7<sup>th</sup> St entrance)

Exhibition of Franciscan imagery spanning the 15th through 18th centuries that showcases the *Descrizione del Sacro Monte della Vernia* (1612), a bound volume that depicts the monastery and rocky terrain of La Verna, the site where St. Francis received the stigmata. This exhibition contains approximately almost 30 paintings, drawings, and etchings of the experience of Saint Francis on Mount La Verna and other Franciscan subject matter. You can see more information and some of the images at <https://www.nga.gov/exhibitions/2018/heavenly-earth-images-of-st-francis-at-la-verna.html>.