



The Porter

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

Council

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Volunteers

Historian	Marie Shelton	(410) 590-5570	marifrances14@outlook.com
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The Porter deadline for the February issue is April 11. 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).

 Fraternity Meeting	Saturday, March 17, 2018 St. John the Evangelist, 607 Ritchie Hwy., Severna Park, MD 21146 8:30 Mass – Church. Meeting 9:15 – Youth Room, School
Program	Br. Diogo, OFM Cap will speak on Prayer: Relationship, Identity, and Mission
Liturgy	Annapolis/Eastern Shore - Saturday, Fourth Week of Lent, Week 4
 Refreshments	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>
 Prayer Requests	<i>For the soul of:</i> Joe Dunn, OFS <i>For our sick and/or homebound members:</i> (Please help us update this list.) Jeanne Gaes, Jude Dodge, Al Gigel (regional councilor), Mary Musselwhite, Joan's husband Bill Kvetkas, Mandy (Kathleen Sievers' niece), Teri Egan, Denise Miante, Pat Troup, John Hoppa, Liz Spears, Jackie Moritz (Susan Burn's sister)
Outreach	For more information, contact Denise. Phoenix Academy Backpack Program: <i>new time & day</i> - Thursday, March 21, 12:30 p.m. at the school Lighthouse Shelter Lunches: Thursday, March 22, 9:30 am, at home of Joan Kvetkas.

Birthdays	Sarah Ranke – 3/19 Joe McHugh – 3/19 Jean Gaes – 3/25	Mary Cicero – 4/06 Susan Greif – 4/07 Fr. James Watson – 4/09
Profession Anniversaries	Dennis Mallon—04/06/1955	
Treasury	 <p>Common Fund balance: \$920.75 <u>REMINDER</u> - 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Fund (this covers fraternity operations and the Sabu family in India), • Phoenix Academy (for student weekend food backpacks), and • Tokens (bus tokens for the Lighthouse Shelter). <p>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.</p>	
Council Meeting	Friday, April 13 at 9:30am at the Tyrrells	
Upcoming Events		
April 21	Regional Elections. Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, Washington, D.C.	
June 29-July 1	Chapter of Mats. Priest Field Pastoral Center. Details and registration form are in the February issue of the Regional newsletter <i>Up To Now</i> emailed to you on or about Feb 16.	
July 12-15	8 th Summer Seminar for OFS, Saint Francis University in Loretto, PA “Francis the Troubador: How Can I Keep From Singing” presented by Jerry & Cricket Aull, OFS and Br. Bob Herrick, OFM Cap. Registration deadline: June 25. https://www.francis.edu/News/2018/02/Secular-Franciscan-Summer-Seminar/	

COMMUNITY

WANTED



Our Fraternity is in need of a **PHOTOGRAPHER**. Telephone camera will suffice. Photos needed include group shots of folks involved in admission and profession ceremonies. Photos of speakers are also needed if the speaker is agreeable. Photos will be sent to the regional *Up to Now* newsletter for inclusion in the “Around the Region” section. Speaker photos may appear on our website or in the Porter.

RIDE NEEDED

Are you going to the Summer Seminar for OFS at Saint Francis University (July 12-15)? A member of our fraternity has inquired by hitching a ride AND perhaps carpools should be considered to save gas and cut down on pollution. Contact Pat or Judith if you are planning to go.

RECOGNIZE IT?



It is part of our fraternity lost and found. Please see Pat or Judith to retrieve it.



Minister's Minute: *Dear brothers and sisters in the LORD,*

Thanks to Br. Diogo and Br. Saül (and Br. Dave, the SA for St. Francis fraternity) for their talks and meditations at last month's fraternity meeting (at our Lenten Day of Recollection at Cap College) and all their other contributions, including a delicious tomato-lentil soup Br. Dave made us for lunch. After lunch, Br. Saül provided a guided meditation during a Holy Hour in the Chapel with the Blessed Sacrament exposed. Although he suggested we just sit with Jesus and the music and his oral meditations and not read or even write anything, I jotted the words, "Stay with me," from the Taizé Community chant of the same name that was playing at one point. (The words are, "Stay here

and keep watch with Me, watch and pray...".) Meditating on this phrase later, I realized that just as Jesus called the disciples to pray with him in the Garden of Gethsemane, so he calls us to stay with Him in our prayer time and in other parts of our lives. His humanity still calls out to our humanity for relationship; prayer is such an important part of that relationship. How can we say no to Him? He is always calling us back to Himself, Who is the center of our spirituality as Franciscans. That spirituality is proclaimed in Rule 4: The rule and life of the Secular Franciscan is this: to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people.

We must be grounded in Jesus Christ if we are to live our lives well and fruitfully. We must be constantly aware of our need for Him. But sometimes we drift away, driven by life and all the noise and trouble that surrounds us—whether near or far. Last month, Judith and I spent a cold, rainy weekend at Bon Secours Retreat Center in Marriottsville, with Oblate of St. Frances de Sales Brother Mickey McGrath. During the retreat, his art, humor, and insights on life in Christ, helped us forget about the weather and share our spiritual lives with the other participants. In an article of his in the current issue of America which arrived last week, Brother Mickey says the following about the state of the world, which can distract us from the narrow way we are on:

In my lifetime of 60 years, I do not recall having so many reasons to cry and send up my sighs to Mary for help and hope: the sharp increase in hate crimes; the blatant homophobia and anti-Semitism; the anti-immigrant, anti-Latino, anti-Muslim fervor that poisons our air; the greed and selfishness that is destroying our common home; terrorism, gun violence and disease; red pews and blue pews in our churches.

Also last week, I picked up a book by Carlo Carretto, called Summoned by Love, which is a "sustained meditation" based on Charles de Foucault's Prayer of Abandonment to God. The prayer follows and provides a refuge of peace and tranquility and a way to be and remain centered on God and focused on what is important in life. The closer we are to God the more strength we will have to enjoy the peace that surpasses all understanding and address the hate, fear, and other injustices in the world (see Rule 15).

Charles de Foucault's Prayer of Abandonment to God

*Father,
I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will.
Whatever you may do, I thank you: I am ready for all, I accept all.
Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures.
I wish no more than this, O Lord.
Into your hands I commend my soul; I offer it to you
with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord,
and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands,
without reserve, and with boundless confidence,
for you are my Father.*

Pat

JPIC -- JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION

Animator Judith Tyrrell, OFS

“May nonviolence become the hallmark of our decisions, our relationships and our actions, and indeed of political life in all its forms”—POPE FRANCIS.

At the Social Ministry Convocation which Pat and I and others from the fraternity attended, Archbishop Lori presented his Pastoral Reflection on the Enduring Power of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s Principles of Nonviolence, honoring the 50th Anniversary of Martin Luther King’s death. He called on us to reflect prayerfully on his teaching, to build bridges with loving and productive dialogue to help address the root causes of gun violence, racism, bigotry and inequality...to become “lights brightly visible”. We’ve ordered copies for the fraternity or you can go online to read it.

In our TAU Winter 2017, the National Fraternity statement is quoted: “Our solidarity with those who are immersed in situations that cause division, fear and hopelessness pointing to refugees fleeing unbearable conditions, families in poverty and people trapped where racism and

hatred and violence prevail challenge us to take actions to promote peace and justice; work to change policies that disrespect the dignity of the least among us, offering a helping hand to those in need and pray always.”

In those two paragraphs are many pro-life-pro-peace and justice issues. Which One Are You Passionate About—is it gun violence, racism, unborn babies, immigrants, poor, migrants and refugees, violence and war and nuclear weapons, and what about the environmental refugees and destruction of creation, the Bay, or prisoners and the death penalty, homeless, abused kids or priest and religious issues, women’s issues, etc. The list goes on... but whatever you are passionate about I think we are being, I am being challenged to greater action. Have you written to the newspaper or TV station or called or visited your congressman, emailed or picketed or marched for your passionate issue? Have you asked others to join you? Can we agree to do better and help each other to do more to take a stand as Secular Franciscans?

Here are a few starters:

There is a provision in a House spending bill that would strip the Environment Protection Agency of its authority in Chesapeake Bay cleanup work. See article:

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/environment/bs-md-hogan-chesapeake-epa-20180215-story.html>

Support the United Nations Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons. Get informed and speak out See: consistentlifenet.org.

Protect those you love and yourself: go to Maryland Right to Life’s website to learn the serious danger of this legislation. <https://www.mdrtl.org/physicianassistedsuicide.html>

[Paxchristiusa.org](http://paxchristiusa.org) - Check out their multifaceted efforts for nonviolence, peacemaking and justice from “an anti-racism perspective”:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2018/01/19/antiabortion-activists-gather-on-the-mall-for-the-march-for-life-today/>

In all of this however “It is the duty of all men and women to build peace following the example of Jesus Christ, through these two paths: promoting and exercising justice with TRUTH AND LOVE.” Pope Francis Let us encourage and affirm one another in our different passions and ministries so that we can work together united in love and right relationship to build the kingdom of God, a kingdom of peace and justice. Rule 15.

Very important social justice, peace and pro-life organizations prepared by Tony Magliano

Please visit the following highly reputable websites to learn more about pro-life, social justice and peace issues. And please sign-up to receive their e-mail advocacy alerts.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops - www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity%20

Maryland Catholic Conference - www.mdccathcon.org

Pax Christi USA/National Catholic peace organization - www.paxchristiusa.org

Veterans for Peace - www.veteransforpeace.org

Catholic Peace Fellowship - www.catholicpeacefellowship.org

Churches for Middle East Peace - cmep.org

Just Foreign Policy - www.justforeignpolicy.org

Catholic Relief Services/U.S. Catholic international emergency relief and development agency - www.crs.org

Catholic Charities USA- www.catholiccharitiesusa.org

Bread for the World - www.bread.org

Students for Life - www.studentsforlife.org

Priests for Life - www.priestsforlife.org

The Center for Bio-Ethical Reform - www.abortionno.org

Network/National Catholic social justice lobby - www.networklobby.org

Parents Television Council - www.parentstv.org

Union of Concerned Scientist s- www.ucsusa.org

Greenpeace - www.greenpeace.org

Catholic Climate Covenant - www.catholicclimatecovenant.org

Institute for Global Labour and Human Rights - www.globallabourrights.org

Fair Trade USA - www.fairtradeusa.org

To acquire a better understanding of Catholic social teaching consider purchasing a copy of "Catholic Social Teaching: Our Best Kept Secret" from the Center of Concern, www.coc.org or call 202-635-2757. Invite Tony Magliano to speak at your next diocesan or parish gathering. Tony can be contacted at tmag@zoominternet.net.

OUTREACH – FRANCISCAN FAMILY APOSTOLATE

*Announcing the marriage of
Sanitha and Binu
7 May 2018
Alleppey, India*



Since 2006, our fraternity has supported Jancy Sabu's family in Alleppey, India. In 2005 the family consisted of Jancy (the applicant to the Franciscan Family Apostolate (FFA), age 28; Sabu her husband, age 30; daughter Sanitha, age 7 in 2nd grade; and daughter Sabitha, age 5 in Kindergarten. They owned a small hut built on a little plot of land that they owned. Disaster struck while they were at church when a fire burned down their hut and all their possessions. They were left with the clothes they were wearing and relying on neighbors for shelter. Fortunately both daughters received a noon meal at school which fulfilled their appetite for the whole day. The only income was Sabu's work as a laborer on fishing boats and Jancy's coir making.

In 2008, Jancy's husband Sabu left home in search of day labor jobs and was on the way home when he was robbed of his wages. In despair, he committed suicide. With the financial assistance of our fraternity and a government grant a new house was built and in 2014 a kitchen was added. Jancy became the sole provider for the family and found cleaning work in a hospital.

Starting in 2017, Jancy faced new struggles as her in-laws (Joseph & Luciamma) who have suffered from poor health due to their age, moved in with Jancy and her daughters. Sabitha is currently in 12th grade. Sanitha has graduated from school, taken a computer course and now attends a Public Service Commission Coaching class. Her groom to be, Binu, is a mason from Alleppey.

Normally the announcement of a wedding is a time for joy. However, for Jancy it brings new financial problems. Although dowries were outlawed in India in 1961, it has been replaced by the practice of making "gifts" to the groom and his family. In India, these "gifts" are very important. In the past, as with dowries, these "gift" practices sometimes lead to violence against the brides by the groom's family, some of which result in death. Alan Ouimet, the retired FBI agent who founded FFA more than 30 years ago, says, however, that is not a big problem in the

To see the life of the poor in Alleppey in India, please go to the website and take the time to view both the videos and the photographs linked on that page. <http://franciscanfamilyapostolate.org/meet-serve/life-poor-india/>

Alleppey and larger Kerala area. Alan and Sister Helen, who is the head of the FFA program in India, both said that the land and the sovereigns remain the property of Sanitha, essentially for her financial security. Nonetheless, the practice can still cause problems in the marriage,

Sr. Helen has advised us that Jancy has promised to provide six or eight sovereigns of gold (valued at about \$380 each) and five cents of land (5/100 of an acre or a little under 2,200 square feet; we don't know how much land costs yet) and to pay for some or all of the wedding expenses (an as yet undetermined amount). As of a month ago, we were advised by Sister Helen that Jancy has two sovereigns of gold in hand and is trying to arrange for about \$5,000 in loans. We are asking Sister to provide more specific and updated information. We hope to have more information by Saturday's meeting.

Since the dowry is important but can also lead to violence, we are concerned that to help fund these expenses may not be the right thing to do. On the other hand, Jancy has no other way than to borrow (probably with the house as collateral) at high interest rates from money lenders who charge 25-40% interest. Alan says that losing one's home because of the inability to pay off the debt occurs often. We certainly want to try to help prevent that if possible.

We would like to discuss this at Saturday's meeting. As of now, the council has decided to maintain our \$100/month support that we send to the Franciscan Family Apostolate (FFA) for Jancy. Once we get more specific information from Sister, we will provide it to you and continue the discussion. In the meantime, individual members may want to consider making a one-time or monthly additional donation directly to FFA for the purpose of helping with the purchases and/or reducing any incurred debt. If you would like to do that, we suggest you write a separate check made out to the Franciscan Family Apostolate and, if you want, we can collect them and send them together with the fraternity's monthly donation.