

Up to Now

Newsletter of the St. Margaret of Cortona Region of the Secular Franciscan Order

Covering the District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia,
and portions of West Virginia and Pennsylvania



Fr. Philipus Philippus, OFM/Cap

Volume 20 Issue 1

Let us begin again, for up to now we have done nothing.

August 2016

2nd Annual Virginia Gathering of OFS

July 30th was a most beautiful day as Secular Franciscans gathered for inspiration and community in the heart of the Virginia mountains. Nearly 50 OFS members attended, representing 13 fraternities from Virginia, as well as from Delaware and Maryland. Mount LaVerna Fraternity hosted the event at Church of the Incarnation in Charlottesville, Va.

The day began with morning refreshments and a warm welcome from Carl Stacy, OFS, minister of Mt. LaVerna Fraternity. He shared a card from the Poor Clares of Alexandria stating that they would keep our gathering in prayer that day, and that



Carl Stacy, OFS,
Minister, Mt. LaVerna
Fraternity

they hold all Franciscan brothers and sisters close to themselves.

Having begun with song and the Liturgy of the Hours, the morning presentation continued with Bill Bouffard, OFS, from Tau fraternity. His presentation, "The Rule: Catch the Charism," on liv-



Bill Bouffard, OFS presents
"The Rule: Catch the Charism"



Mass
celebrated by
Fr. Gregory
Kandt



The room was filled with Franciscans of peace and love sharing the topics of the day.

ing the Franciscan charism and incorporating The Rule into our everyday lives was thought-provoking.

Together we celebrated Mass presided over by Fr. Gregory Kandt, pastor of the Church of the Incarnation. Following, we enjoyed a lunch of barbecued chicken and pork and all the fixins'.

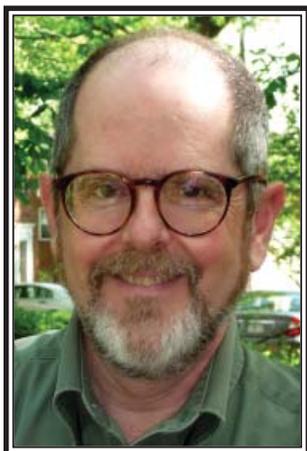
Fr. Kandt spoke to us about the sacraments and some of our practices as Catholics. It was an important presentation, as Fr. Kandt discussed significant truths about our Catholic faith.

(see "Gathering" on page 5)

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Regional Minister's Message



LAUDATO SI' AND THE FRANCISCAN CHARISM

In late 1224, Francesco de Bernardone wrote a poem. He was seriously ill, suffering from an eye disease which was blinding him. He had also received the stigmata by this time. In less than two years, he would be dead at the age of 44. The poem he wrote was the first ever written in the Italian language, or, more accurately, in the Umbrian dialect of Italian. And nearly

800 years later, it is one of the most beloved poems of European and world literature.

Last year, Pope Francis used a line from that poem as the first line of his encyclical on the environment.

At the recent Quinquennial in St. Louis, one of the speakers, Brother Keith Douglas Warner, OFM, Director of Education and Research for the Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship at Santa Clara University, said, with great emphasis: Laudato Si' is the most Franciscan encyclical EVER!

Brother Keith says that Laudato Si' is a Franciscan vision of Christian engagement with society and the environment.

For better or worse, St. Francis will always be identified in popular culture as the "bird bath saint." But we Franciscans know him as so much more, and the little man who would talk to the birds and creatures brought us a much richer and complex attitude to our relationship with all of God's creatures, both animate and inanimate.

Pope Francis recognized this when he chose "Laudato Si'" as the title of his encyclical. And you don't have to look very hard to find our charism reflected throughout the document.

The keynote speaker of the Quinquennial was Father Dan Horan, OFM, and his theme was "Mercy and Minority in the Franciscan Tradition." In the first of his talks, "Creation and Poverty," he visibly and convincingly demonstrated that our Franciscan way of life is best reflected in the "Kinship Model" of creation. We are not stewards of creation. Rather, we are in relationship with creation, with Brother Sun and Sister Moon, with Brother Wind and Sister Water, with Brother Fire and our Sister Mother Earth. In fact, our own Secular Rule specifically states this in Rule 18: "Moreover they should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which 'bear the imprint of the Most High,' and they should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal *kinship*." (my emphasis).

Laudato Si' confirms this:

"Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another. (LS42)

"The ultimate purpose of other creatures is not to be found in us. Rather, all creatures are moving forward with us and through us toward a common point of arrival, which is God. . ." (LS83)

"Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it. (LS139)

Likewise, as our Rule 13 calls Secular Franciscans "to place themselves on an equal basis with all people, especially with the lowly for whom they shall strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ," so, too, does Laudato Si' call all Christians to do the same.

"... a true ecological approach must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." (LS49)

"... we continue to tolerate some considering themselves more worthy than others. We fail to see that some are mired in desperate and degrading poverty, with no way out, while others have not the faintest idea of what to do with their possessions. . . leaving behind them so much waste which, if it were the case everywhere, would destroy the planet." (LS90)

Francis and the Franciscans are held up as authorities and examples in Laudato Si'. The Holy Father specifically references Francis at least nine times in the encyclical. My favorite reference was early on, in paragraph 10:

"I believe that St. Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically. He is the patron saint of all who study and work in the area of ecology, and he is also much loved by non-Christians. He was particularly concerned for God's creation and for the poor and outcast. He loved, and was deeply loved for his joy, his generous self-giving, his openheartedness. He was a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself. He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace."

All Franciscans should rejoice that our charism is presented to the world as an example of living in harmony with nature and the world.

Peace and all good,
Patrick

Regional Formation Director's Message

Brothers and Sisters! Peace be with you! I am writing this article on August 2nd, the great feast of the Portiuncula. How blessed we are to have such a holy founder, who truly thought of the soul and its importance in being reunited with God for all eternity. Nine days from now, we will celebrate the feast of St. Clare. By the time you read this, the feast will most likely have passed. I hope that you were able to take advantage of both of them by spending time in prayer and Franciscan self-renewal.

Let me start out also by saying a BIG thank you to all those who sent in their registrations to the October Formation Workshop Weekend. So far, we have approximately 27 people attending, with the possibility of more. If you have not yet responded, please do so as soon as possible. Loyola Retreat House would like a head count before the end of this month. You can find the registration form on p. 6 of the UTN. Please consider joining us for a weekend of sharing, as well as receiving valuable formation and profession tools.

During the workshop, we will cover the following areas; Discernment to the OFS, Orientation, Inquiry, Candidacy and On-going Formation. There will be five talks, along with PowerPoint presentations. I will also be giving each member a folder with samples of helpful material. Each fraternity will also receive a flash drive with information that can be used during the formation process of instruction. If you have any suggestions or questions that you would like us to answer for you, please email me at vspalding@md.metrocast.net. My formation team and I, will be happy to assist you in any areas of concern you have. Together we can learn from one another!

Tonight I was contemplating the words of Pope Francis and why he chose St. Francis as his model. In 2013, Pope Francis said:

Some people didn't know why the Bishop of Rome wanted to call himself "Francis." Some thought of Francis Xavier, Francis de Sales, even Francis of Assisi. I will tell you the story. At the election I had the archbishop emeritus of Sao Paulo next to me. He is also prefect emeritus of the Congregation for the Clergy, Cardinal Claudio Hummes [O.F.M.]: a dear, dear friend. When things were getting a little 'dangerous', he comforted me. And then, when the votes reached the two-thirds, there was the usual applause because the Pope had been elected. He hugged me and said: 'Do not forget the poor.' And that word stuck here [tapping his forehead]; the poor, the poor. Then, immediately in relation to the poor I thought of Francis of Assisi. Then I thought of war, while the voting continued, until all the votes [were counted]. And so the name came to my heart: Francis of Assisi. For me he is the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and safeguards Creation. In this moment when our relationship with Creation is not so

good—right?—He is the man who gives us this spirit of peace, the poor man.... Oh, how I wish for a Church that is poor and for the poor!

My brothers and sisters, we must contemplate these words often. We must be poor and for the poor! We must pray on a daily basis, receive Holy Communion as often as possible and confess our sins as often as needed. In this great year of mercy, we must entreat God's mercy upon our nation and the whole world.

Article 10 of the SFO Constitutions states: "Christ, 'poor and crucified,' victor over death and risen, the greatest manifestation of the love of God for humanity, is the 'book' in which the brothers and sisters, in imitation of Francis, learn the purpose and the way of living, loving, and suffering."

Franciscanism, therefore, is a continual individual formation process, where we should constantly be striving to live the Gospel in order to bring the peace of Christ into our families and into the whole world. It is a reuniting of our hearts and minds with God and neighbor. Not only should we be reaching out to others who are living, I ask you to please reach out to the poor holy souls and pray for them as well. Each day, I give my graces to Our Lady to give to the holy souls. That, my friends, is a spiritual work of mercy. We should strive for both corporal and spiritual works of mercy as our faith instructs us.

In closing, I would like to ask you to please pray for all our brothers and sisters, especially those who are ill or infirm. Consider making one phone call a month to those who are housebound. It can truly make all the difference in the world.

May God bless each of you, and I hope to see you in October!

*Peace and all good,
Victoria Spalding, OFS
Regional Formation Director*



Mark Your Calendar

October 3, 2016 — Celebration of the Transitus, 7:00 pm, All Saints Catholic Church Chapel, Manassas, Va. RSVP by September 15 to Peggy Gregory, OFS, at margaret.a.gregory@gmail.com or Rita Colleran, OFS at rita.colleran@comcast.net. Additional venues will be announced as received.

October 14-16, 2016 — Formation Directors Weekend. Loyola Retreat House, Faulkner, Md.

November 11-12, 2016 — Regional Chapter and National Visitation, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 1800 Seton Drive, Crofton, Md.

A Weeklong Deep Dive into Franciscan Service and Spirituality in Washington, DC

Franciscan Mission Service knows not everyone can go overseas on mission, but also knows the value and impact even a short-term mission experience can have on one's faith and life choices. For that reason, FMS hosts several short-term service and Franciscan spirituality trips every year. These weeklong experiences seek to give people the opportunity to step out of their comfort zones to learn about issues such as poverty, racism, care for creation and a life-giving, Franciscan response to these challenging issues of our time.

Our short-term trips are unique and customized to fit the educational interests of each specific group. One of our recent programs helped college students put a human face to urban poverty and changed it from a distant issue to one with which they had a personal connection. This past spring, health care students from the Franciscan institution Alvernia University of Pennsylvania spent a week learning about the intersection of poverty and health care.

Students visited and served at a pregnancy center, a food bank, and several health care centers serving impoverished communities. One of the sites, Christ House in Washington, D.C., offers health care to sick men and women who are experiencing homelessness. One student said, "Through

service, this trip allowed me to fully immerse myself and put a face to the social issues our nation faces. Knowing of homelessness and social injustice is different than facing it in the eyes of the person across from me."

At the end of each day, the group took time to reflect on the meaning of their interactions and experiences through Fran-

ciscan reflection, prayer and discussion of the events of the day. In their evaluations, the students shared how much the experienced challenged them and expanded their ways of thinking. "This trip has inspired the group to further our spiritual development, and in turn, to find more ways to serve others,"

shared one of the students.

We look forward to leading another trip for Alvernia students next year and invite you to consider signing up with your fraternity or parish to participate in a Franciscan Spirituality Service Immersion trip with FMS!

by Franciscan Mission Service

Are you or your church group interested in a short-term mission experience? For more information, visit:

franciscanmissionservice.org/programs/trips/
or contact Meghan Meros at
meghan@franciscanmissionservice.org.



Two Alvernia students at Capital Area Food Bank in Washington, D.C.



Alvernia students outside FMS' Casa San Salvador volunteer house.

("Gathering" from page 1)

Br. Mike Meza, OFM Cap., gave the afternoon presentation on the "Joys of Being Franciscan." His enthusiasm about the "perfect joy" that Francis talked about, both the suffering and the pleasures, encouraged us to embrace our Franciscan vocation more deeply.

The day came to a close with praying the Crown Rosary, watermelon, and a deluge of rain! Oh perfect joy!

Sheila Herlihy and Gloria D'Alessandro of Mt. LaVerna Fraternity led us in beautiful music throughout the day.



Br. Mike Meza, OFM Cap



Time together to share and talk. Carl Stacy with our brothers and sisters from Maryland!

Around the Region

RECEIVED AS CANDIDATES

- Sabrina Buckley, St. Thomas More Fraternity, Arlington, Va.
- Renee Theresa Kim, St. Bonaventure Fraternity, Fairfax, Va.
- Madeleine Minetti, St. Thomas More Fraternity, Arlington, Va.
- Dae Kyu Gregory Moon, St. Bonaventure Fraternity, Fairfax, Va.
- Kyung Sook Veronica Moon, St. Bonaventure Fraternity, Fairfax, Va.

NEWLY PROFESSED

- Mi Soon Theresa Cho, OFS, St. Bonaventure Fraternity, Fairfax, Va.
- John Cusick, OFS, St. Anthony of Nagasaki Fraternity, Washington, D.C.
- Audrey Donnelly, OFS, St. Conrad Fraternity, Annapolis, Md.
- Catherine Gonzalez, OFS, St. Conrad Fraternity, Annapolis, Md.
- Mary Henry, OFS, St. Conrad Fraternity, Annapolis, Md.



Tau Fraternity Council: Vice Minister, Bill Richey, OFS; Br. Michael Meza, OFM. Cap; Secretary, Vera Stewart, OFS; Minister, Pamela Brooks, OFS; Treasurer, Terry Rinker, OFS; Director of Formation, Walter Gawlak, OFS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED Tau Fraternity, Herndon, Va.

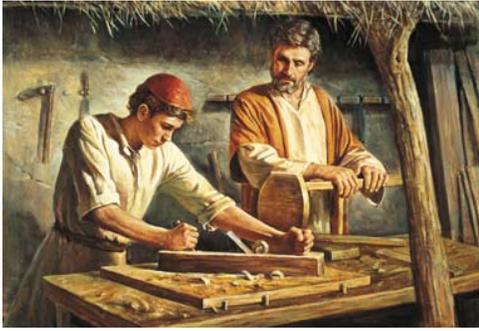
- Minister: Pamela Brooks, OFS
- Vice Minister: Bill Richey, OFS
- Secretary: Vera Stewart, OFS
- Treasure: Terry Rinker, OFS
- Director of Formation: Walter Gawlak, OFS



Cho, Mi Soon Theresa with Fr. Francis Kim, OFM



Bob Longo (Visitor); Kim, Renee; Patrick Martin (Visitor) Fr. Francis Kim, OFM; Moon, Kyung Sook; and Moon, Dae Kyu



Formation Directors Weekend

October 14-16, 2016
Loyola Retreat House on the Potomac
9270 Loyola Retreat Road
Faulkner, Maryland 20632-0009
(301) 392-0800

Providing Formation Tools for Growth in the OFS

REGISTRATION FORM INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Submit form no later than **August 26, 2016.**
2. Please type or print all information clearly. This form can be filled in in Acrobat Reader.
3. Only one participant per registration form.
4. **NON-REFUNDABLE deposit of \$50.00 must accompany this form.**
5. Make your check payable to ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA REGION and mail this form with payment to:

Peter Noyes, ofs
2917 Shepperton Terrace
Silver Spring, MD 20904
Phone: 301-384-8424 tty
email: pnoyesofs@yahoo.com

Cost: \$250 per person. Includes all meals from dinner on Friday night until lunch on Sunday, as well as all materials.

Rooms are single with twin bed, desk, and toilet w/sink. Showers are communal.

Yes! I plan to attend the Formation Directors Weekend

Name _____

Fraternity _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Email _____

Phone _____



**Directions to the
Loyola Retreat House
on the Potomac**

Franciscan Saints, Blesseds and Feasts

(click on the name to go to a Web link)

AUGUST

- 17 [St. Roch of Montpellier](#), Third Order Secular, d. 1327
- 18 [Bls. John-Louis Loir, Protase Bourdon and Sebastian François](#), priests, martyrs of Rochefort, 1st Order, d. 1794
On this day the Conventuals celebrate [Bls. Louis-Armand Adam and Nicholas Savouret](#), priests, martyrs of Rochefort, 1st Order, d.1794)
- 19 [St. Louis of Toulouse](#), bishop, 1st Order, d. 1297
- 21 [St. Pius X](#), pope, 3rd Order Secular, d. 1914
- 22 Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 23 [Bl. Bernard of Offida](#), religious, 1st Order, martyr, 1936
- 25 [St. Louis IX](#), king of France, Patron of the Third Order, Plenary Indulgence for tertiaries and cord-bearers
- 27 [The Seven Joys of Our Lady](#)
(OFM Conv. on 8/26)
- 28 [St. Junipero Serra](#), priest, 1st Order, d. 1784

SEPTEMBER

- 1 [St. Beatrice of Silva](#), virgin, founder, 2nd Order, d. 1492
- 2 [Bls. Apollinaris of Posat, John Francis Burté, Severin Girault](#), priests, and companions, martyrs, 1st and 3rd Oder, d. 1782
- 3 [St. Pope Pius X](#), Third Order Secular, d. 1914
[Bl. Claudio Granzotto](#), religious, 1st Order, d. 1947
- 4 [St. Rose of Viterbo](#), virgin, 3rd Order Secular, d. 1252 (plenary indulgence for cordbearers)
- 5 [Bl. Gentil de Matelica](#), Priest, 1st Order, martyr 1340
- 6 [Bl. Liberatus of Lauro](#), Priest, 1st Order, d. 1258
- 7 [Bl. Eugenia Picco](#), Virgin, 3rd Order Regular, d. 1921
- 8 [Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)
- 9 [Bl. Seraphina Sforza](#), Virgin, 2nd Order, d. 1478
- 11 [Bl. Bonaventure of Barcelona](#), lay brother, 1st Order, d. 1684
- 12 [Feast of the Holy Name of Mary](#)
- 13 [Bl. Apollinaire Franco](#), Priest, 1st Order, martyr 1622

- 14 [Exaltation of the Holy Cross](#)
- 15 [Feast of Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows](#)
- 16 [Bl. Louis Alleman](#), Bishop, 3rd Order Secular, d. 1450
- 17 [Stigmata of our Holy Father Francis](#)
- 18 [St. Joseph of Cupertino](#), priest, 1st Order, d. 1664
- 19 [St. Francis Mary of Camporossa](#), religious, 1st Order, d. 1866
- 21 [Bl. Elizabeth Amodei](#), Virgin, 3rd Order Secular, d. 1498
- 22 [St. Ignatius of Santhia](#), priest, I Ord.
[Bl. Martyrs of the Spanish Civil War](#), 1936-37
- 23 [Finding of the Body of St. Clare](#)
[St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina](#), priest, I Ord.
- 24 [St. Pacifico of San Severino](#), priest, I Ord.
- 26 [Bl. Aurelio of Vinalesa, priest, and companions, martyrs of Valencia](#) [Ambrose of Benaguacil, Pedro of Benisa, Joachim of Albocácer, Modesto of Albocácer, Germaine of Cargagente, Bonaventure of Puzol, Santiago of Rafelbunol, Henry of Almazora, Fidel of Puzol, Berard Lugar Nuevo de Fenollet, Pacifico of Valencia], 1st Order, d. 1936
[St. Elzear of Sabran](#) and [Bl. Delphina of Glandenes](#), husband and wife, III Order Secular
- 28 [Bl. Innocent of Berzo](#), priest, 1st Order, d. 1890
[Bl. Bernadine of Feltre](#), Priest, 1st Order, d. 1494
- 29 Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel
- 30 [Bl. Charles Of Blois](#), 3rd Order Secular, d. 1364

OCTOBER

- 1 [Bl. Nicolas of Forca](#), Priest, Third Order Regular, d. 1449
- 2 [Bl. Antoine Chevrier](#), Priest, Third-Order Regular, d. 1879
- 4 [Solemnity of our Seraphic Father St. Francis](#), d. 1226, Plenary Indulgence for tertiaries and cord-bearers
- 5 [Blessed Felicia Meda](#), Order of Poor Clares, d. 1444
- 6 [St. Mary Frances of the Five Wounds](#), Virgin, 3rd Order Secular, d. 1791
- 9 [Bl. Marie-Angele Truszkowska](#), Virgin, Founder, Third Order Regular, d. 1899

- 10 **St. Daniel**, priest, and companions, 1st Order, martyrs [Angelus, Samuel, Donulus, Leo, Hugolinus and Nicholas], 1227
- 11 **St. John XXIII**, pope, III Ord., d. 1963
- 12 **St. Seraphin of Montegrano**, religious, 1st Order, d. 1604
- 13 **Bl. Honorat Kozminski**, priest, founder, 1st Ord., founder
Bl. Pacifique de Valence, Capuchin religious, martyr 1936
- 14 **St. John of Dukla**, priest, 1st Ord., martyr 1936
- 15 Bl. Sebastien de Jesus, religious 1st Order, d. 1734
- 16 **Bl. Anicet de Dbrzno**, Priest, and companions, Capuchin. martyr, 1941
- 17 **Bl. Balthassar of Chiavari**, Priest, 1st Order, d. 1490
- 18 **Bl. James of Strepar**, Bishop, 1st Order, d. 1409
- 19 **St. Peter of Alcantara**, Priest, 1st Order, d. 1562
- 20 **Bl. James of Strepar**, bishop, I Ord.
Bl. Contardo Ferrini, Confessor, 3rd Order Secular, d. 1902
- 22 **Bl. John Baptist Bullaker**, Priest, 1st Order, martyr 1642
- 23 **St. John of Capestrano**, priest, 1st Ord., d. 1456
- 24 **Bl. Josephine Leroux**, virgin, martyr, 2nd Ord. , 1794
- 25 **St. Antonio de Santa Ana** (Frei Galvao)
- 26 **Bl. Maria Jesus Ferragut, virgin, and companions, martyrs of Valencia** [Maria Veronica Masiá, Maria Felicity Masiá Ferragut, Isabel Claduch Rovira, Milagros Ortells Gimeno], II Ord., Martyrs 1936
Bl. Bonaventure of Potenza, priest, 1st Ord., d. 1711
- 29 **Bl. Thomas of Florence**, lay brother, 1st Order, d. 1447
- 30 Anniversary of Dedication in Consecrated Franciscan Churches
- 31 **Bl. Angelo of Aciri**, priest, 1st Ord., d. 1739
Bl. Christophe de Cahors, Priest, 1st Order, d. 1272
- 4 **Bl. Teresa Manganiello**, 3rd Order Secular, d. 1876
- 5 **Feast of the Saints' Relics**
- 6 **Bl. Marquerite de Lorraine**, Virgin, 2nd Order, d. 1521
- 7 **Bl. Raynier d'Arezzo**, lay brother, 1st Order, d. 1304
- 8 **Bl. John Duns Scotus**, Priest, 1st Order, d. 1308
- 9 **Bl. Gabriel Ferritti**, Priest, 1st Order, d. 1456
- 11 **Blessed Mary Crucifixa**, Virgin, 3rd-Order Regular, d. 1745
- 12 **Bl. Jean de la Paix**, 3rd Order Secular, d. 1433
- 13 **St. Didace d'Alcala**, religious, 1st Order, d. 1463
- 14 **St. Nicholas Tavelic**, priest, and companions, martyrs, 1st Ord., d. 1391
- 16 **St. Agnes of Assisi**, Virgin, 2nd-Order, d. 1253
- 17 **St. Elizabeth of Hungary**, Patron of the Secular Franciscan Order, Plenary Indulgence (renewal of Tertiary engagement), d. 1231
Bl. Jeanne de Signa, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1307

What Are We Doing?

Susan Burke, of St. Conrad's Fraternity in Annapolis, has been instrumental in developing an extensive Care4Creation program in her parish, Our Lady of the Fields, in Millersville, Md.

The program includes the OLF organic straw-bale vegetable garden, which brings fresh and healthy vegetables to the Friday night ministry. Other aspects of the program are Fair Trade, bee keeping, the carbon footprint of the parish and communities, and educational mini-seminars on the changing climate, waste management, water, biodiversity, solar power, fracking, and sustainability of the environment.

To see a video on the project, go to <http://www.ourladyofthefields.org/care-for-creation/>.

