

The Porter

St. Conrad Fraternity, Annapolis, MD
 Secular Franciscan Order – February 2017
<http://stconradannapolis.sfousa.org/>

Council

Minister	Patrick Tyrrell	(410) 721-7308	jpatricksfo@gmail.com
Vice Minister	Mary Henry	(443) 949-0600	mhenry933@gmail.com
Secretary	Joan Faltot	(410) 969-6354	jd6bouv@verizon.net
Treasurer	Kathleen Sievers	(410) 544-0618	esievers@verizon.net
Formation Director	Denise Miente	(410) 643-2782 (h) (410) 253-5555 (c)	rubob903@gmail.com
Counselor-at-Large	Judith Tyrrell	(410) 721-7308	judithtyrrellofs@gmail.com
Spiritual Assistant	Br. James Watson, OFM Cap		jwatson@capuchin.com

Volunteers

Historian	Marie Shelton	(410) 590-5570	marifrances@catholic.org
Infirmarian	Evelyn Jones	(410) 827-9023	edjones56@verizon.net

The Porter deadline for the March issue is March 3rd. 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.



Fraternity Meeting

Saturday, February 18, 2016
St. John the Evangelist, 607 Ritchie Hwy., Severna Park, MD 21146
8:30 Mass -- Church. Meeting 9:15 – Youth room

Refreshments



Annapolis/Eastern Shore will supply refreshments. Bowie/Crofton/Severna Park will be next, so please arrange to take the supplies home, restock if necessary, and return them at the next meeting. *Please remember to bring your own cup!*

Program

Br. James will speak on “We are the salt of the earth.”

Liturgy

Bowie/Crofton/Severna Park.
 Morning Prayer: Saturday, Sixth Week in Ordinary Time. Psalter: Week 2

Prayer Requests



Please pray: For the repose of the soul of: John Clem, OFS
For our sick and/or homebound members: (Please help us update this list.)
 Br. Walt Robb OFM Cap, Michael Benso (Laura’s husband), Emily McGeady’s son Matthew, Denise Miente, Susan Burns (hip replacement), Jude Dodge, Kathy Duffy’s daughter- Lynne, Sister Mater Mundi (missionary in Mexico), Capuchin Bishop William Fey

Birthdays

Susan Burns – 3/02	Harry Thompson – 3/05
Mary Henry – 3/04	Sarah Ranke – 3/19
Joan Faltot – 3/04	

Profession Anniversaries

Kathleen Sievers – 03/06/1994

COMMUNITY



Minister's Minute: Dear Brothers and Sisters of Penance,

Thank you for all your prayers for the council planning session at Capuchin College Saturday, February 4. I think we will have an interesting year of ongoing formation to help us respond to the signs of our times. And strange times they are! How can we be peacemakers in these times? We need to know who we are and how we are to live out our faith as Franciscans—to be Christ for others and to see Christ in others. Last night, Judith and I watched a documentary about Christian missionaries in Papua New Guinea and I was intrigued by a window sticker on one of their vehicles.

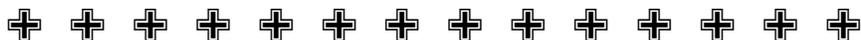
It read: If you can earn it, why did He die? It was just another reminder to me that being a Secular Franciscan is as much if not more about being the presence of God in the world as it is about doing good works. Both are necessary and neither alone is sufficient.

Our theme this year is Unity and Fraternal Harmony, from Rule 19: “Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon.” Our scripture for the year is from Matthew 5:13-16: You are the salt of the earth. And we will begin exploring what all this means at this month's fraternity meeting by hearing the inspiring reflection Br. James presented to the council on February 4, about being the salt of the earth. I hope you all can make it. In Christ & St. Francis, Pat



We were sorry to recently learn from Br. James that Br. Walt Robb, OFM, Cap (formerly a Secular Franciscan and St. Conrad's Spiritual Assistant from Jan 2003-Dec 2004) had a stroke while visiting his daughter in Butler, PA. Last report is that he is doing well, but exhibiting slurred speech and left-sided muscle weakness. Br. Walt is currently assigned to the friary in Cumberland, MD, where Br. James and Fr. John Paul Kuzma are assigned. Please keep him in your prayers. Kathleen is sending a card on behalf of the fraternity. If any of you wish to send individual cards, his address is:

Br. Walt Robb
HealthSouth Harmarville Rehab Hospital
320 GUYS RUN RD
PITTSBURGH PA 15238



During the January meeting, the fraternity watched the DVD
Vulnerable: the Euthanasia Deception.
Pat has copies of the DVD which fraternity members may
borrow to watch with friends and family.

2017 ANNUAL PLAN – ST. CONRAD’S SFO, ANNAPOLIS

Theme: Unity and Fraternal Harmony

Rule 19: Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon.

Scripture: Matt 5:13-16. You are the salt of the earth.

Month	Coordinator	Program	Prayer/Outreach	Refresh	Prayer
Jan 21		DVD <u>Vulnerable: the Euthanasia Deception</u> ; Extraction of Saints; Prayer Partners	Recommitment to Our Life as Secular Franciscans	GB/P	A/ES
Feb 18	Kathleen Br. James	Outreach to Prayer Partners Salt		A/ES	B/C/SP
Mar 18	Lenten Retreat at Cap College with Br. Patrick Monahan with St. Francis fraternity			B/C/SP	GB/P
Apr 1	Annual Day of Reflection for Inquirers, Candidates & Newly Professed, St. Anthony Shrine				
Apr 8		Quid est veritas? (What is truth?) How to discern the truth (Meeting date changed - April 15 = Holy Saturday)	Welcoming Ceremony	GB/P	A/ES
Apr 28- 30	Regional Retreat, Priestfield Retreat Center, Kearneysville, WV				
May 20		Christian Empathy & Meaningful Dialog		A/ES	B/C/SP
Jun 17		Picnic		B/C/SP	GB/P
July 15	Brother ?	Renewing the Rule in our Hearts		GB/P	A/ES
Aug	Poor Clares visit				
Aug 19		Social Issue*		A/ES	B/C/SP
Sept 16		Social Issue*		B/C/SP	GB/P
Sept 17	Regional Picnic				
Oct 6-8	Formation Directors Weekend. Loyola Retreat House, Faulkner, MD				
Oct 3	Transitus at				
Oct 21		Social Issue* Open House	Rite of Admission	GB/P	A/ES
Nov 18		Profession		A/ES	B/C/SP
Dec 16		Christmas Party 17 Elements of Franciscan Spirituality		B/C/SP	GB/P
Jan 2018		Vision Sharing & Pro Life Issues Fraternity Vision. Extraction of Saints	Recommitment to Our Life as Secular Franciscans	GB/P	A/ES

*Social Issue Talks – Schedule dependent on speaker availability

- **Ray C. Kelly (?) from Sandtown – St. Peter Claver (oldest black parish?) (Freddy Gray neighborhood): talk on race relations, ex-offenders, Challenges faced**
- **Immigration – Jeanne (?) & Toby (?) – International School, insights for discussion ++ Persecuted Christians – Jeanne’s daughter’s Order with refugees in Syria and trying to retain their Christian Faith**
- **Just Neighbors – challenges of living in poverty**

Worth a view.....

St. Josephine Bakhita

February 8th was the Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, born in the Sudan about 1869 and sold into slavery as a child. She eventually ended up in Italy, as a slave, and ultimately became a Canossian Sister in Venice for over 40 years. She died in 1947. EWTN is showing an excellent movie about her life later this month.

- Part 1 is being shown Saturday, February 18, at 8pm and reshown Monday, February 20, at 1:30am.
- Part 2 is being shown Saturday, February 25, at 8pm and reshown Monday, February 27, at 1:30am.



**St. Josephine Bakhita
1869-1947**

*The Lord has loved me so much;
we must love everyone ...
we must be compassionate!*

Film: Ignatius of Loyola

This movie will be shown at Horizon Cinemas at Marley Station Mall, 7900 Ritchie Hwy, Glen Burnie on Monday, February 20, at 5pm and 7:45pm and Tuesday, February 21 at 7pm. It is a benefit to help the youth of Our Lady of the Fields church to attend one of the Franciscan University Youth Summer Conferences.

Tickets may be purchased on line at <http://alostsheep.com/shop> for \$12 each. You can see a short trailer at <http://www.ignatiusmovie.com/>

About the Film (from: <http://www.ignatiusmovie.com/about-the-film/>)

A modern and very human take on the story of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, often called 'The Saint of Second Chances.'

As a brash, hot-headed soldier in a time of political upheaval in Spain, the young Iñigo went from living a life of brutal violence and debauchery, to becoming one of the greatest saints in the history of the Church. This film chronicles Iñigo's torturous struggle to turn from darkness to light—a struggle that nearly destroyed him, but also gave him the key to a spiritual weapon that continues to save lives to this very day.

Produced by Jesuit Communications Philippines (JesCom), Ignatius of Loyola was shot on location over two months in Spain.

It is an incisive and thrilling look at the life of the real man behind the legend.

In his lifelong quest to become the heroic Knight of his fantasies, Ignatius stares death in the face again and again, having his leg shattered by a cannonball in battle; driven to near suicide by his inner demons; finding himself imprisoned, accused of being a member of the Illuminati; and finally finding his life in the hands of the Inquisition. Through it all, he would come to see the hand of God working in his life, shaping the self-obsessed sinner into the loyal and passionate soldier-saint.

The film also shows how Ignacio wove the trials, errors, and lessons of his eventful life into the fabric of his masterpiece, the Spiritual Exercises. Combining clarity of thought with Ignacio's own love of fantasy and imagination, the Exercises form a rigorous method of making one's life decisions, and have guided and influenced countless seekers throughout history.

FRANCISCAN

St. Bonaventure University
3261 West State Road
St. Bonaventure, NY 14778

[SECULAR FRANCISCAN CONFERENCE: The Development of the Franciscan Person](http://www.sbu.edu/academics/schools/franciscan-studies/summer-2017-conferences#Francis)
<http://www.sbu.edu/academics/schools/franciscan-studies/summer-2017-conferences#Francis>

July 21- 23, 2017

PRESENTER: Fr. David B. Couturier, O.F.M., Cap.
Dean of the School of Franciscan Studies at St. Bonaventure and executive director of the Franciscan Institute at St. Bonaventure.

One of the stories about St. Francis of Assisi relates how a brother watched the saint in prayer, and heard him pray the words, "Who are you, Lord, and who am I?" These two questions are fundamental to the Christian life and the Franciscan vocation.

This course will explore how we come to our Franciscan identity and how we develop as a Franciscan person. Using Franciscan sources, the Secular-Franciscan rule, and contemporary psychology, we will discuss the stages of spiritual transformation and the fundamentals of Franciscan spirituality.

We will focus our attention on two books, Jacques Dalarun's "The Canticle of the Creatures: Francis of Assisi Reconciled" (2016), and David B. Couturier's "The Four Conversions: A Spirituality of Transformation" (2017), both from Franciscan Institute Publications.

Registration fees:

Conference Fee:	\$175.00
All Meals:	\$ 76.00
Housing for July 21st - July 22nd, 2017:	\$92.00
Additional accommodations:	\$46.00 per night

CREATION

2017 Environmental Litigation for Maryland by Susan Burns

I attended a webinar Monday evening, Jan. 30, 2017, sponsored by IPC – Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake. There were 5 Acts for the State of Maryland discussed as follows:

1. Ban the Foam
2. Clean Energy Jobs Act
3. Fracking
4. Antibiotics in Agriculture
5. Forest Conservation Act

Honorable Delegate Brooke Lierman, District #46, began the webinar with the importance of advocacy. Her background is as a Civil Rights Attorney in Baltimore. She has sponsored and/or participated in sponsoring the Ban on Foam, Plastic Bag Ban, and has fought against illegal dumping and incinerating. She encourages us to write, make phone calls, and email our State representatives. Making a physical visit to your representative is even better. As a Catholic, she would love to be visited by parishioners with their parish priest.

You can find out your State representatives by logging onto Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake at <http://www.interfaithchesapeake.org>. At the bottom of the home page are links to assist you in finding how to contact the representatives in your area. Click on the Advocacy button at the top of the page for more detail information on the 5 issues above. Included with each issue is a link to a sample letter to send to your representative or to read in a phone call to your representative. Lobbying dates are also listed when applicable for each issue. Summaries of the 5 issues follow:

1. Ban the Foam

This bill calls for a ban of all polystyrene foam (Styrofoam) to be used in packaging food at schools, universities, restaurants and non-profits such as churches. A ban on foam packaging peanuts is also called for. Foam products including packaging peanuts could not be sold. Styrofoam releases low levels of carcinogens when used to contain heated food. 80% of the trash in our water comes from food packaging, and 40% of that is polystyrene foam. Polystyrene foam does not decompose and it breaks up into small pieces as it sets in the water. These particles are ingested by fish and become part of our food and water consumption cycle. Alternatives would be paper or recyclable plastic. In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis calls us to be Responsible Stewards. Being a responsible steward is NOT looking at only the dollar cost.

2. Clean Energy Jobs Act

This bill was passed in 2016 but vetoed by Governor Hogan. The bill calls to ensure Maryland obtains 25% of their energy from renewable sources, up from the existing 20%. The Governor vetoed citing an increase to utility cost to Maryland residents, but the increase would typically be less than \$.50/month. Clean energy jobs would be created and as the supply of renewable energy increases, the cost should decrease in the long run. With the reduction in the use of fossil fuel energy, we could expect cleaner air and water. The House voted to override the veto on Jan. 31st and the Senate should be voting soon.

3. Fracking

A 2-year moratorium on fracking in Maryland is due to expire in the fall of 2017. Fracking pumps water, sand, and undefined chemicals in a web-like underground network. The pressurized compound blasts the natural gas from inside the earth and is extracted in a few pumps on the surface. The results have been adverse health effects, increased climate disruption, and water contamination. There are numerous infrastructure problems with fracking. And, although the initial set up calls for more employment, there are few residual jobs. Fracking is banned in Anne Arundel County already. This bill would ban fracking State-wide. Also, we should be looking for cleaner, renewable energy sources and not increase the fossil fuel production.

4. Antibiotics in Agriculture

This bill would ban the routine use of antibiotics in animals. Cattle, pigs, poultry, etc. raised for consumption are routinely fed antibiotics to plump them up rapidly and to prevent diseases caused by the cramped and unsanitary living conditions that the animals endure. In humans, the over use of antibiotics kills off the weaker strains of disease and leaves us with "super bugs" resistant to more and more antibiotics. Every year at least 2,000,000 people in the US become infected with antibiotic-resistant infections with at least 23,000 dying. Similarly, in agriculture, the weakest "bugs" are killed off and the strong survive in the animals' meat that humans eat and in the animals' waste that pollutes the water we drink.

5. Forest Conservation Act

In Maryland, forest once covered 95% of the land. Today forests cover only 39%, less than half. The Forest Conservation Act would apply to development projects greater than 40,000 square feet. Under the current legislation, developers are required to replace destroyed forest at the rate of only 1/4 of the acreage lost. The new bill would require 1 for 1 replacement. Trees are "Creation's Cure-all". They provide native habitats and food sources for thousands of species, sequester carbon dioxide which causes global warming, provide cooling shade, and slow down rain water getting it back in the ground instead of running into streams and storm drains.

38th Annual

SOCIAL MINISTRY CONVOCATION



**MARCH 4,
2017**

**Seton Keough
High School**

**1201 S. Caton Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21227**

Racism and Economic Justice
El racismo y la justicia económica

Keynote Address:

Rev. Andrew Foster Connors

**Senior Pastor, Brown Memorial
Presbyterian Church and
Co-Chair, Baltimore United
for Leadership Development**

WORKSHOPS

**Racism, War and Economic Justice:
The "Riverside Church" Speech of MLK**

**Living Global Discipleship:
The CRS Parish Ambassador Corps (PAC)**
Ministros de la Solidaridad de CRS:
Brindando esperanza para la parroquia y el mundo

Housing: An Opportunity for Justice

Conozca Sus Derechos!

Parish Social Ministry 101

**By Their Works: Worker Justice in
Catholic Institutions**

A Time for Healing: Bridging the Racial Divide

**Free Your Voice: Environmental
Justice in Curtis Bay**

Building Peace and Power in West Baltimore

Amplifying Our Voices: Legislative Advocacy

Women, Work, and Economic Justice

Welcome Home from Prison

For more information: <http://www.cchdbaltimore.org/>