



# The Porter

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

## Council

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<b>Spiritual Assistant</b>	Br. James Watson, OFM Cap	(301) 777-1750(w)	<a href="mailto:jwatson@capuchin.com">jwatson@capuchin.com</a>

## Volunteers

<b>Historian</b>	Marie Shelton	(410) 590-5570	<a href="mailto:marifrances14@outlook.com">marifrances14@outlook.com</a>
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The Porter deadline for the June issue is June 9th. 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, May 20, 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. 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

Fr. Anil will speak about “Empathy and Meaningful Dialogue”

### Liturgy

Bowie/Crofton/Severna Park.  
 Morning Prayer: Crown Rosary

### Prayer Requests



*For our sick and/or homebound members:* (Please help us update this list.)  
 Joan’s husband, Bill Kvetas for recovery from surgery. Mandy (Kathleen Sievers’ niece), Teri Egan, Br. Walt Robb OFM Cap, Michael Benso (Laura’s husband), Emily McGeady's son Matthew, Denise Miente, Jude Dodge, Kathy Duffy’s daughter Lynne, Sister Mater Mundi (missionary in Mexico), Capuchin Bishop William Fey, Msgr. Jeremiah Kenney

### Birthdays

Louise Ryan – 5/25	David Littleton – 6/04
Judith Tyrrell – 5/29	Kevin Dowling – 6/12

### Profession Anniversaries

Marie Shelton – 05/19/2000	Mary Henry – 05/21/2016
Audrey Donnelly – 05/21/2016	Emily McGeady – 06/12/1979
Catherine Gonzalez – 05/21/2016	John Cobis – 06/12/2005

### Treasury

Common Fund balance is \$1,337.71. This month, our fraternity will be paying \$475 to the Region which is half of our 2017 per cap contribution to the region. Our Common Fund balance after this payment will be \$862.71.

<b>Outreach</b>	<b>Lighthouse Shelter: Lunches</b> – none in May. Next sandwich-making will be on Thursday, June 8 <sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m., at home of Joan Kvetkas. Contact Denise if you plan to come. <b>Phoenix Academy:</b> Student backpacks will be filled on Wednesday, May 24, at 12:30 p.m. at the Academy. Contact Denise for additional information
<b>Council Meeting</b>	Saturday, June 3, 2017 at 9:30 am, Tyrrell's home
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	
<b>May 30</b>	Presentation on <i>Immigration and the Church</i> by Pat Jones, Executive Director of the Immigration Outreach Service Center, Baltimore, at St. Joseph's Church in Odenton on Tuesday, May 30, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
<b>June 10</b>	Ordination to Priesthood: <b>Br. James Watson, Br. Jonathan Ulrick, and Br. Al Carver – All are invited</b> Our Lady of the Angels, Pittsburgh Br. Jonathan's first Mass will be Sunday, June 11, 10:00 am at Our Lady of the Angels, Pittsburgh, PA. Br. James' first Mass is Sunday, June 11, 3:00 pm at St. Vincent's in Philadelphia; PA. his first Mass at St. Mary's in Cumberland, MD, will be Sunday, June 25, 12:30 pm.
<b>July 6-9</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Summer Seminar for Secular</b> Franciscans at St. Francis University in Loretto PA, July 6-9, entitled "Multiculturalism and Diversity: Who is My Neighbor?" For information & registration form: <a href="https://sites.google.com/francis.edu/ofsummerseminar">https://sites.google.com/francis.edu/ofsummerseminar</a>
<b>July 21-23</b>	<b>SECULAR FRANCISCAN CONFERENCE:</b> The Development of the Franciscan Person PRESENTER: Fr. David B. Couturier, O.F.M., Cap. St. Bonaventure University, 3261 West State Road, St. Bonaventure, NY 14778 <a href="http://www.sbu.edu/academics/schools/franciscan-studies/summer-2017-conferences">http://www.sbu.edu/academics/schools/franciscan-studies/summer-2017-conferences</a>
<b>July 27-30</b>	<b>Animate Peace Gathering (Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Conference).</b> Renaissance Hotel, St. Louis Missouri. Addition information at <a href="https://sites.google.com/site/jpic4ofs/home">https://sites.google.com/site/jpic4ofs/home</a>
<b>October 6-8</b>	<b>Formation Directors Weekend</b> October 6-8. Loyola Retreat House, Faulkner, MD

## COMMUNITY



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

May is the month of Mary and Mothers. We honor both and are also called to be like Mary and to be like mothers. The 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment calls us to "honor our fathers and our mothers." Mary says, "from now on all generations will call me blessed..." (Luke 1:48) The SFO Rule 9 calls us to imitate Mary's "complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently." Saint Francis says that we "are spouses, brothers, and mothers of our Lord Jesus Christ. \*\*\* We are mothers when we carry Him in our heart and body through love and a pure and sincere conscience; we give birth to Him through holy activity, which should shine before others as an example." (Admonition and Exhortation to the Brothers and Sisters of Penance, also known as the Second Version of the Letter to All the Faithful) May God give us the grace to always keep these goals in mind, so we may live our Franciscan lives more fully by being guided by this wisdom. Keep honoring, keep imitating, and keep shining the light!

The Feast Day of Saint Margaret of Cortona, Patroness of the Secular Franciscan Order, is celebrated May 16. The attachment tells about her life.

At our council meeting this month, the council voted to accept Dennis Mallon's request to transfer to our fraternity. Dennis was professed in Holy Family fraternity in Washington, DC, on April 6, 1955! Happy 62d Anniversary, Dennis. Most recently, he was a member of Immaculate Conception fraternity in Jonesboro, Georgia. Please welcome him the next time he is able to attend our fraternity meeting.

In Christ & St. Francis, Pat

## From the Sabu Family, Easter 2017

Dear loving friend,

With gratitude we send this to you, with a firm hope that you and your dear ones are alright. Let us wish you the blessings of Easter. May the Risen Lord bless you with good health and peace.

Received you timely assistance and thank you very much for the same. Special thanks for the beautiful Christmas card. Here we are all keeping well by the grace of God. I am continuing my works in the hospital. My elder daughter is learning PSC (Public Service Commission?) coaching. Many marriage proposals are coming for her, nothing is fixed yet. Younger daughter is studying in 11<sup>th</sup> grade and her annual exam is going on. Here we are having Summer Season and the climate is too hot.

Once again thanking you for your love and concern towards us. Give out loving regards to your dear ones. We are remembering you all in our daily prayers.

With love and gratitude

Jancy Sabu

## Franciscan Crown Rosary from <http://www.prayerfulrosary.com/Franciscan.html>

[Our liturgical prayer this month will be the Crown Rosary in honor of Mary and in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Our Lady's first apparition at Fatima on May 13<sup>th</sup>.]

The Franciscan Crown Rosary is a Rosary consisting of seven decades with each decade describing a particular joy from the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Seven Joys are:

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ
4. The Adoration of the Magi
5. The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple
6. The Appearance of Christ to Mary after the Resurrection
7. The Assumption and Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven

### How to Pray the Crown Rosary

The Franciscan Crown Rosary begins quite simply by stating the first Mystery and then praying one Our Father and ten Hail Marys while meditating upon it. This same procedure is then followed for the other six Mysteries. Though not required, it is common practice nowadays to add the Glory Be at the end of each decade, and even the Fatima Prayer (*O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are in most need of Thy mercy*). It is customary to finish by adding two Hail Marys in honor of the 72 years that Our Lady is said to have lived on earth, and one Our Father and Hail Mary for the intentions of the Pope.

### Story of the Franciscan Crown

The story of the Rosary of the Seven Joys of the Blessed Virgin dates back to the early 15th century. A pious young man named James had been accustomed to adorning a beautiful statue of Mary with a crown of flowers, which he had picked and woven himself. He later entered the Franciscan Order, but either because of a lack of time or permission, he was no longer able to continue this devotion. Distraught because of this, he decided to abandon the religious life and return to the world.

Our Lady then appeared to him and convinced him not to leave the order. She told him that he should not be downcast because he was no longer permitted to adorn her statue, for she would teach him a way to give her honor which was

much more pleasing and meritorious. Instead of a crown of flowers, which quickly wither, he was to weave a crown of prayers, and these prayers could be offered at any moment. She then taught him the Rosary of the Seven Joys, adding that these prayers would not only form a more acceptable crown, but they would also yield innumerable graces for himself and others.

This simple but beautiful devotion of praying the Crown of the Seven Joys of the Blessed Virgin soon spread over the entire Franciscan Order and was officially established in 1422.

## **JPIC –JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION from Judith Tyrrell**

As Secular Franciscans we are called to be “bearers of peace” in the world and in our families. 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. Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others....” Rule 17: In their family they should cultivate the Franciscan spirit of peace, fidelity, and respect for life, striving to make of it a sign of a world already renewed in Christ....”

P---Pray the Peace Prayer attributed to St. Francis and the Rosary for Peace and sow seeds of peace.

E---Examine and confess prejudices, jealousies, disrespect and gossip that cause division and rob peace.

A---Accept the gospel of nonviolence and “turn the other cheek” and act for justice

C---Cause peace to flow with gentle kind words of encouragement, affirmation and support.

E---Extend mercy and forgiveness to yourself, others and to God.

### St. Francis Peace Prayer

Lord, make me an Instrument of Your Peace,  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.  
O Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love;  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

# St. Margaret of Cortona (1247-1297)

By Brian K. O'Neel

**W**e've all heard stories of young women who left home early to escape an unhappy family life.

Some found promising careers. Some got married. Some hit bottom.

Some became saints.

St. Margaret of Cortona was born at Laviano in the Tuscany region of Italy in 1247, and her early years could have served as the model for *Cinderella*.

When she was just seven years old, Margaret's mother died. Two years later, her father married a woman who had absolutely no use for the young girl. Though Margaret craved the attention she once received from her mother, both her father and stepmother began to ignore her.

Margaret's beauty gained her many admirers. At 17, having come to detest her life at home, she fled to become the mistress of a nobleman with whom she lived for nine years. She bore him a son, and though she often asked her lover to marry her, he always made excuses.

One day, her paramour's dog returned alone to the castle in an agitated state. Margaret knew something was wrong because the dog never left his master's side. She followed the frantic animal to the forest where she found the murdered body of her beloved.

Margaret blamed herself for his dying in a state of sin, and began to despise her beauty, which had initially attracted him. Filled with self-loathing, Margaret decided to disfigure her face with a razor, only to be stopped by her con-

fessor Friar Giunta.

After returning all of her possessions to the nobleman's family, she went home, but her father turned her away. Desperate, Margaret contemplated using her beauty to support herself and her son. Instead, she turned to prayer and heard a voice in her soul directing her to the Franciscan Friars Minor at Cortona. She found refuge in that town with two ladies who later introduced her to the Franciscans.

She earned her keep by looking after children and nursing the city's ill. Although Margaret was always somewhat spiritual, she found her first three years in Cortona difficult and full of temptations on account of her gay spirit and lingering attraction to the world. These temptations, however, only drove her toward greater self-discipline and the desire to consecrate herself to the religious life. She practiced severe mortifications, sometimes intemperately, and subsisted on bread and herbs, abstaining from meat altogether.

After her probation with the Franciscans, they accepted her into the Third Order of St. Francis, a lay branch, and from that time on she lived in strict poverty. After this, she founded a hospital and a community of Franciscan women known as *le poverelle* to operate it, as well as a confraternity of tertiaries for the care of prisoners.

One day, while praying in church, she heard a voice ask, "What is your wish, *poverella*?" She answered, "I seek and wish nothing but you, my Lord Jesus." These locutions continued, and as she grew in holi-

ness, our Lord began to call her "my child."

Some of the locutions related to people living gravely sinful lives. Because Margaret was not afraid to confront these individuals, they turned on her, even accusing her of illicit relations with Friar Giunta. Despite this calumny, Margaret continued to preach a message of repentance, which prompted many to return to the sacraments. She also won many souls for Christ through the extraordinary love she demonstrated for the Eucharist, and many came to Margaret for spiritual counsel.

She commanded such a high level of respect that she could go to the bishop of nearby Arezzo and upbraid him because he lived more like a warring king than a pastor of souls.

As she grew older, she increasingly sought refuge in the solitude of the contemplative life, eventually retiring to the old, worn-down church of St. Basil in the hills above Cortona in 1288. Divinely warned by our Lord of the day and hour of her death, she died there on February 22, 1279, having spent 29 years performing acts of penance. She was interred in a silver shrine high above the church's altar.

After her death, those who sought her intercession refurbished the church in a magnificent style and rededicated it in her name. To this day, her body remains incorrupt. Although revered as a saint from the day of her passing, she was not formally canonized until May 16, 1728. †