

The Porter

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

Council

Minister	Patrick Tyrrell	(410) 721-7308	jpatricktsfo@gmail.com
Vice Minister	Mary Henry	(443) 949-0600	mhenry933@gmail.com
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Treasurer	Kathleen Sievers	(410) 544-0618	esievers@verizon.net
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Counselor-at-Large	Judith Tyrrell	(410) 721-7308	judithtyrrellofs@gmail.com
Spiritual Assistants	Br. Diogo Escudero, OFM Cap. Br. Saul Soriano, OFM Cap.		friardiogoofofmcap@gmail.com 39sorianorodriguez@cua.edu

Volunteers

Historian	Marie Shelton	(410) 590-5570	marifrances14@outlook.com
Infirmarian	Evelyn Jones	(410) 827-9023	evelyn88jones@yahoo.com

The Porter deadline for the January issue is January 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, December 16, 2017

St. John the Evangelist, 607 Ritchie Hwy., Severna Park, MD 21146

8:30 Mass -- Church. Meeting 9:15 – Youth room



Please make every effort to arrive no later than 9:15 a.m.

We will start the meeting with the Rite of Admission before eating

Refreshments



Pot Luck Christmas Brunch. Everyone should bring some food or drink to share. Bowie/Crofton/Severna Park has the supplies and will hand them off to Glen Burnie/Pasadena.

Liturgy

Rite of Admission for Chris Grubach, Toby Harkleroad, and Joe McHugh.
(17 Essential Elements of Franciscan Spirituality)

Program

Sharing about Fr. Solanus Casey's beatification from our Spiritual Assistants and Toby Harkleroad who all attended the event.
Reading: Thomas of Celano's story of the Greccio Crèche
Christmas Carol Sing

Prayer Requests



For our sick and/or homebound members: (Please help us update this list.)
Mary Musselwhite, Joan's husband Bill Kvetkas, Mandy (Kathleen Sievers' niece), Teri Egan, Denise Miante, Jude Dodge

Outreach

Phoenix Academy Backpack Program: December 21. If you can help, call Denise for time.
Lighthouse Shelter Lunches: Next sandwich-making will be December 28 at home of Joan Kvetkas.

Birthdays	Dennis Mallon – 12/17 Marie Shelton – 12/26	Jenny Moreira – 12/31 George Ryan – 01/07	Debbie Proctor – 01/10 Ed Wilbourne – 01/16
Profession Anniversaries	Harry Thompson – 01/10/1991 Lita Millan – 01/10/2002		
Treasury 	<p>Common Fund balance: \$814.71</p> <p>REMINDER - 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	Saturday, January 6, 2018, 9:30am		
Upcoming Events			
Feb 3, 2018	Annual Planning Session for fraternity council at Capuchin College.		
March 3, 2018	39 th Annual Social Ministry Convocation at Mercy High School – see p. 6		

COMMUNITY



Minister's Minute: Often at this time of year, people reflect on the past and look forward to the New Year. Some people make resolutions, then spend time worrying whether they can keep them, followed by guilt when they fail. Let me suggest a single resolution—one which will bring joy and can, and, perhaps should, be the only one you'll ever need: Live the Rule. No, wait! Is that too easy? Or is it too hard?

Living the Rule is something Jude Dodge chose to do when she was permanently professed less than a month ago at our meeting. It was something Emily McGeedy, Joan Kvetkas, Jeanne Catrow, Audrey Bushee, and Jenny Moreira chose to do over 38 years ago (in 1979). It was something Joan Robinson (one of our founding members and the fraternity's first Vice-Minister) chose to do over 46 years ago (1971). It is something Dennis Mallon, who recently transferred to our fraternity, chose to do over 62 years ago (1955). It is said that it is something that Adam Jentilet (who was involved in the effort to establish John XXIII emerging fraternity) did over 65 years ago (1952)!

We will make our annual recommitment to our lives as Secular Franciscans at our January meeting. In the meantime, in preparation for that recommitment and in preparation for providing input for next year's continuing formation at that same meeting, please read the Rule and the Rite of Profession thoughtfully. Take notes. What jumps out at you? What does it mean to live the Rule? What have you and the fraternity done well and what could use some attention? How can you, individually, and the fraternity, collegially, see to it that following the Rule is central to our lives. As in years past, a Vision questionnaire will be sent to you in early January to assist in this evaluation process. This is not important only to us as a fraternity, but to the National Fraternity as well. As you may know, the NAFRA theme for 2018 is: "Renewed and Confirmed: Live the Treasure!" Celebrating 40 years of the OFS Rule.

So let's examine our lives and the Rule and learn to live it. This will not happen by reading about it or taking a course in it, or just listening to presentations at our monthly meetings. It takes *communio*—togetherness. It takes individual and community efforts to pray, learn, work, communicate, cooperate, evaluate, inspire, Evangelize, rest and refresh, eat, sleep, love one another, and repeat. *Live the Rule!* Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Pat

JPIC -- JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION

Animator Judith Tyrrell

From the 12 Weeks of Franciscan Peace Carolyn Townes, our National JPIC Animator, writes in our JPIC ADVENT message about KINDNESS: Remember Gandhi said “the simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer.” Today we remember St. Juan Diego who caring for his sick uncle delayed his visit with the Blessed Mother at Guadalupe! Hallmark says “when you care enough you can change the world”. Do you believe that? Have you heard of Secret Kindness Agents? Google it and check out how simple acts of kindness can bring so much love to the world.

Scripture calls us to “do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God” Micah 6:8. Rule15 says “let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they make definite choices in harmony with their faith.” Just yesterday Pope Francis spoke in front of the statue of the Immaculate Conception encouraging us to promote the dignity of all human life. He was there in the square going from one person in a wheelchair to another blessing and showing kindness to each one. The Pope called for us to be constant in our living the gospel.

Here are a few suggestions from the old Peace and Justice Commission: National Secular Franciscan All Commissions Conference 2004

- Read the newspaper or listen to the news and learn about the problems where peace and justice is needed. Have you heard about the recent problems again in the Congo?
- Volunteer to work in a soup kitchen. Did you know Bl. Solanus Casey, OFM, Cap, started one in Detroit?
- Pray daily for peace. Use “The Peace Prayer” especially for families at this time of the year.
- Participate in nonviolent demonstrations for peace and justice. Join the March for Life and defend the unborn brothers and sisters.
- Mediate between two people on two sides of a conflict—be the peacemaker with charity, mercy, and justice.
- Help members of your family to get along with each other. Calm the tensions with a walk, a cup of tea, and timeout.
- Write someone you have lost touch with. Reach out especially to the lonely, forgotten, marginalized.
- Write letters to the editor, congressman, president. Let your Franciscan voice be heard.
- Learn about World Hunger--Donate food.
- Talk to your children or grandchildren about a peace-filled future.
- Travel to another country to learn about their culture. Did you see the Perry Como Christmas special in Austria? Songs of faith, Christmas customs, joy-filled celebration.
- Visit or write someone in prison. Join members of the fraternity helping inmates.
- Help someone get adequate health care-get involved in the issue.
- Volunteer to deliver food to shut-ins; reach out to snowbound neighbors.
- Advocate for someone with mental illness, so many homeless struggle with PTSD
- Participate in a run or walk for ‘a cure’ breast cancer, AIDS, etc.
- Donate time to peace and justice group like Pax Christi (they do P&J stations every year)
- Attend a workshop for peace and justice (Social Justice Convocation is March 3, 2018)
- Learn where and under what conditions your clothes are made--so much labor injustice.

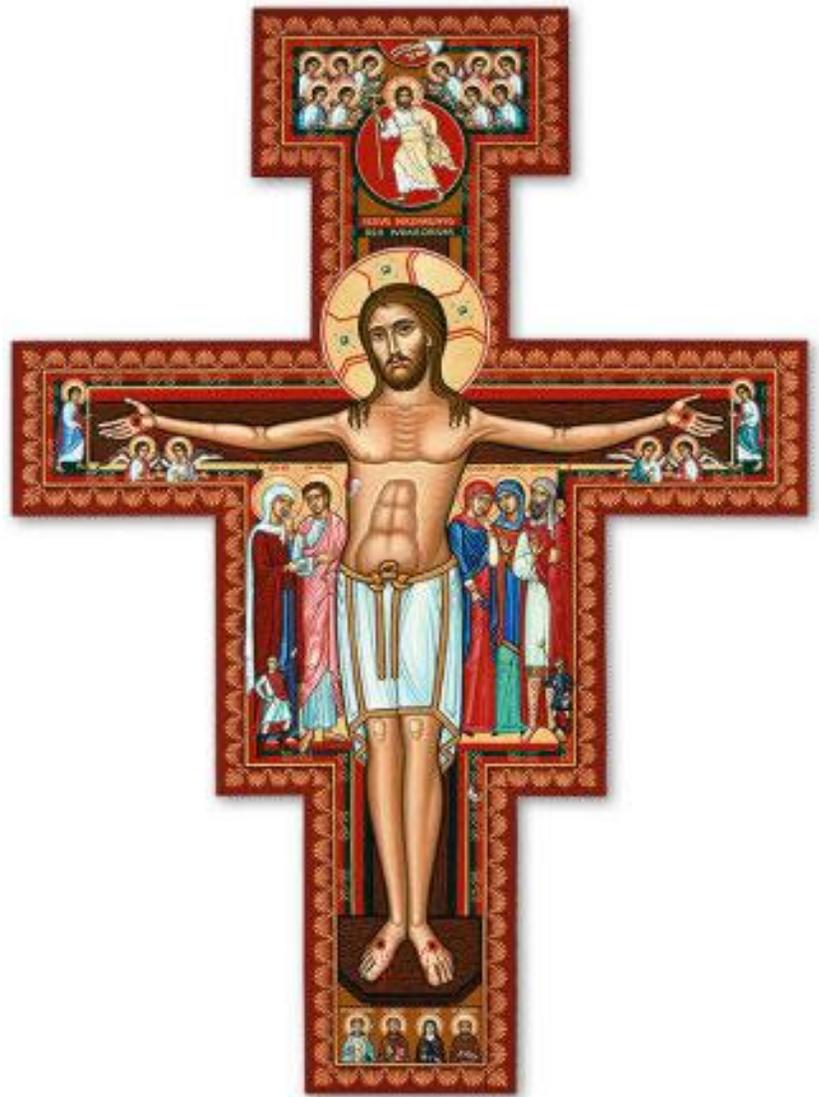
San Damiano Cross

Day of Reflection, Dec 2, 2017

By Fr. John Paul Kuzman, OFM Cap

Notes from Susan Burns, OFS

"Rebuild My Church," the words Jesus spoke to St. Francis from the San Damiano Cross. St Francis was transformed from disillusionment to a new focus on Christ, a focus on humility and poverty from the crib to the cross to the altar. The picture above is a replica, but happened to be one I could download from the internet. The cross at Cap College is a near exact replica of the San Damiano Cross in Assisi, where the bottom section has been worn to be indiscernible perhaps by the hands of the Poor Clares repeatedly touching the Cross while it was under their cloistered care. There are no seashells along the bottom of the original. Also, there is a rock below Jesus. The San Damiano Cross, thought to be made by a Syrian monk, is an icon – a reflection of the Word based on the Gospel of John.



The Icon of Jesus

1. John never mentions the Crown of Thorns, the Cross shows a Crown of Glory.
2. The figures of the Cross are not proportional, look at the neck of Jesus. He is working hard to breathe life into the world.
3. Jesus is no longer in agony. Suffering is only part of the mystery of the Cross, glory is also revealed. Here the Cross is not only suffering and grief, but repentance and glory restored.
4. Jesus is our life blood, the icon of the Eucharistic Christ, and on the Cross His blood flows freely, not contained but unrestricted giving new life to all.
5. The eyes of Jesus on the Cross are open, looking to the Father, and proportionally large. Jesus sees all things. Jesus always turns to the Father, always in communication with the Father. Jesus wants us to know the Father, whose love for us is reflected in His eyes.
6. What has been destroyed by sin, can be restored by the Cross.
7. "This is my daughter, this is my son." God sees deeper, into us.
8. He knows His sheep, calling each of us by name. Our true God is one of mercy and love. He makes excuses for us. Even His chubby hands in the crib point to the Father.

Questions for Reflection

1. What have you heard the LORD speak to your heart today? What are questions that you have or thoughts that you would like to ponder more?
2. What does it mean for you to be a branch on the Vine of Christ . . . to receive Life from His Life?

Other icons of the San Damiano Cross

1. Seashell Frame – symbol of eternity, endurance, beauty; receive message of heavenly beauty – also symbol for baptism – no shells at the bottom of the Cross as this is where we enter, area is a rock or could be the altar, we get into the mystery of the Cross by the altar through the Eucharist
2. Rock – Jesus came not just to die for us but to build up community
3. Garment- a linen loin cloth, in Exodus the priestly garment when offering sacrifice – shows that Jesus is the true high priest offering sacrifice of self
4. Angels – all over to offer worship and praise to God - Reminds us that the Altar Eucharist is to be worshipped as Christ on the Cross – we enter into the same mystery which can't be contained at a point in time but for eternity- an aside: indulgences help to repair the damage of sin, analogous to a broken window where we can confess the sin of breaking the window but still need to replace the broken pane
5. Far right of Jesus is Mary – most honored in the Kingdom, perfectly obedient, under the raised right hand of Jesus on the Cross – Conception, God save Mary ahead of time by the Love of the Lord-an aside: Didymus, the “good” thief, is on the raised right hand of Jesus – Purple garment represents the ark of the covenant – Red is love, deep love – White is purity – Mary is looking at the Beloved Disciple with JOY of Motherhood
6. Next to Mary is John – Written as the Beloved Disciple not out of humility, but wants us to identify as a beloved disciple – John looks with contentment and peace at Mary knowing he is loved and received in love – Rose color represents wisdom and joy – White is purity
7. Three figures to the right: Mary Magdalen of the 7 demons reminds us Jesus drives evil from our hearts – Mary the Mother of James represents those who have stayed with Jesus and is there hoping and enduring no matter what – Centurion, a Gentile, represents the healing power of God, behind the Centurion is the face of his son – The many circles are all of us coming to Christ
8. Small figure to right of Jesus – pierced the side of Jesus but is converted by the blood of Christ outpoured
9. Small figure to left of Jesus – the 4th Blessing Cup of the hyssop sponge at the Cross completing the Seder on the Cross, only 3 Blessings at the Last Supper
10. Rooster below Mary Magdalen – recall Peter's denial of Jesus and his redemption in John 21
11. At the top – Christ ascending into heaven – takes all humanity with Him, angels abound, hand of God the Father at the top

Save the Date!



Saturday, March 3, 2018
New Location:
Mercy High School
Baltimore, Maryland

39th Annual Social Ministry Convocation: **Justice and Mercy NOW!**

St. Francis of Assisi
3615 Harford Road
Baltimore, MD 21218

- **Keynote Address:** Deacon Dr. Curtis Turner, Ed. D, *Principal, St. Frances Academy*
- Workshops in English and in Spanish
- Nominations for Social Ministry Convocation Awards Opening Soon!

Questions?

Contact Dana Davenport,
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