



# *The Porter*

**St Conrad Fraternity**

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St Conrad Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order – Severna Park, Maryland

St Margaret of Cortona Region

<http://stconradannapolis.sfousa.org/>

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**March 2020**

## **Fraternity Meeting**

Saturday, March 21, 2020 fraternity meeting is **cancelled**.

## **Prayer Requests**

Please keep the following members, relatives and friends in your prayers.

For physical and spiritual healing of Brigid Cobb, Audrey Donnelly, Susan Grief's grand daughter, Katherine Henry (daughter-in-law of Mary Henry), Mary Henry and her niece, Mary Jo Johnson, Bill Kvetkas (husband of Joan Kvetkas), Joe McGeady, John McHugh (brother of Joe McHugh), Michelle niece of Denise Mianten, Bill Mulqueen, Michael Sievers (son of Kathleen Sievers), Pat Troup, Ruth Shea's daughter, Evelyn Jones' niece, and Genny Wilbourne. For all those who are in need of our prayers who are absent from this list.

## **March Birthdays**

Joan Faltot  
Jean Gaes  
Mary Henry  
Harry Thompson

## **Profession Anniversaries**

Kathleen Sievers, March 6, 1994

## Treasury

The checking account balance as of February 28, 2020 is \$2,317.28.

Please mail you monthly contribution to our Treasury:

Joe McHugh  
1740 Tedbury Street  
Crofton, MD 21114

## Apostolates

### Lighthouse Shelter Lunches

We will be packing lunches on Thursday, March 26 at 9:30 AM at the home of Joan Kvetkas.

### Phoenix Academy Backpacks

Backpack filling is **cancelled** for March.

\*\*\*\* If you are new for either Apostolate please contact Denise Miante at 410 253-5555\*\*\*\*

## Franciscan Calendar

**March 2** St Agnes de Prague, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd Order; a "Poor Claire" sister, d. 1282

**March 6** St. Colette de Corbie, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd Order; a "Poor Claire" sister, d. 1447

**March 22** St Benvenute of Osimo, Bishop , religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, died 1282

**March 25** Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Day of Obligation for the Church

**March 28** St John of Capistrano, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st order, d. 1456

## Council Meeting

The next council planning meeting is tentatively planned for April 10 at 9:30 AM at Catherine Gonzalez's home.

## Save the Date

### March 28, 2020, 8:30/AM – 3:00/PM

Day of Reflection: A Franciscan Lenten Journey of Hope at Archbishop Curley High School, Baltimore, MD  
Speakers: Fr. Donald Grzymski OFM Conv, Br. Emmanuel Wenke OFM Conv, Friar Christopher Dudek OFM Conv

\*\*\*\*(Watch for updates, Baltimore Archdiocese schools closed thru March 27th)\*\*\*\*

### April 4, 2020, 8:30/AM – 4:00/PM

Franciscan Day of Reflection for Inquirers, Candidates and Newly Professed  
Speaker: Fr. Paul Dressler OFM Cap.

### April 25, 2020, 9:30/AM – 4:30 PM

Franciscan Gathering Retreat "Begin Anew!"

Sisters of Virginia – Saint Benedict Monastery – Pastoral Center, Bristow, VA

Speakers: Br. Kip Ledger, OFM Cap and Br. Mike Meza OFM Cap

Cost: \$45 donation per person includes catered lunch. Please know that no one will be turned away because of inability to pay. It is important that everyone come and join in this lovely opportunity of togetherness.

## **May 29-3, 2020.**

Regional Retreat,  
Priestfield, WV  
Facilitator: Fr. Kevin Treston, OFM

## **June 13, 2020** (tentative)

Br. Diogo's ordination to the priesthood.  
Pittsburgh, PA

## **September ??, 2020** (tentative)

Br. Rigo's ordination to the priesthood.  
Pittsburgh, PA

## **August 18-22, 2021**

Quinquennial in Phoenix, AZ

## **Minister's Minute**

Our country and world are definitely going through a time of test. Social distancing is the new buzz word. I guess I take social interaction for granted. I am an introvert and find being alone with my dog pleasant. But now that social distancing is in force and most activities civil and religious are being canceled, I am starting to get edgy. First problem: I usually watch a lot of news, but they keep repeating the same thing and dwell on COVID-19 (Corona Virus Identified in 2019), so I've stopped watching the news. I switch to catching up on email and must get 30 messages a day from businesses explaining their new cleaning procedures. So now when I need a break I try to find a decent comedy. Better path: It is a time for reflection. The Desert. Jesus spent 40 days in the desert. The Desert Fathers (3rd century) and other Christian hermits. St Francis in the cave. Perhaps for us, this period of social distancing provides extra time to work on prayer, meditation and contemplation. I keep dwelling on one of St. Francis' Admonition:

### XIII. PATIENCE

1. Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God (Mt. 5:9). The servant of God cannot know how much patience and humility he has within himself as long as everything goes well with him.
2. But when the time comes in which those who should do him justice do quite the opposite to him, he has only as much patience and humility as he has on that occasion and no more.

So how much patience do I have sitting at home missing many of my normal activities. Not as much as I thought I had. Beyond social distancing, restricting travel is vital to keeping this virus from peaking too fast. If you think Maryland is over-reacting, please take time to read and understand:

<https://newsweek.com/young-unafraid-coronavirus-pandemic-good-you-now-stop-killing-people-opinion-1491797>

Beside prayer, the best thing we do in this time of test is to restrict any unnecessary travel. The lives of many people may depend on this. I need to get over my edginess and search for peace within...and an occasional comedy.

## Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced  
remember those whose lives are at stake.  
May we who have no risk factors  
remember those most vulnerable.  
May we who have the luxury of working from home,  
remember those who have no work.  
May we who have the flexibility to care for our  
children when their schools close,  
remember those who have no options.  
May we who have to cancel our trips  
remember those that have no place to go.  
May we who are losing our margin money in the  
tumult of the economic market,  
remember those who have no margin at all.  
May we who settle in for a quarantine at home  
remember those who have no home.  
During this time when we cannot physically wrap  
our arms around each other,  
let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace  
of God to our neighbors.

## Community

### The St Francis Missal

Walters Art Museum, 600 N. Charles St, Baltimore, MD

February 1, 2020 - May 31, 2020 (The Walters Art Museum will remain closed through March 31st)

The St. Francis Missal—a legendary 12th-century manuscript and relic of touch of St. Francis of Assisi—will have its first dedicated exhibition at the Walters Art Museum in more than 40 years.

In 1208, St. Francis of Assisi and two followers were debating what God's plan for them might be. Unable to agree, they sought answers at the church of San Nicolò in Assisi, where Francis often attended. They opened

the Missal, which sat on the altar, three times at random and in every case, the text on the page urged renouncing earthly goods. This pivotal moment laid the foundation for the Franciscan order.

Due to this possible contact with the saint, Franciscans worldwide consider the book now known as the St. Francis Missal a relic of touch, and many make pilgrimages to Baltimore to see it.

Please note that there may be a wait to enter the exhibition due to space limitations in the gallery.

### METANOIA

Episode 1 thru 7 are now available!

New episodes are released each week. A study guide will be available for download for each episode.

<https://thewildgooseisloose.com/metanoia>

*Metanoia* is a production of The Ministry of The Wild Goose and 4PM Media in association with Franciscan University of Steubenville and the Franciscan Friars TOR of the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. The series is beautifully filmed on location in the Holy Land, highlighting sacred places such as the Sea of Galilee, the River Jordan, the desert of Temptations, and many of the holy sites in Jerusalem.

This 10-part series featuring Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR, President of Franciscan University and founder of The Ministry of the Wild Goose, leads us on a journey with Christ into conversion. Each of the episodes explores areas of our life where conversion is so often necessary. Metanoia will examine topics such as who is Jesus, what must we do to inherit eternal life, and many other significant matters of faith.

## **The Lord give you peace!**

Saint Francis

