

THE PORTER

ST CONRAD'S FRATERNITY, ST MARGARET OF CORTONA
REGION, SEVERNA PARK, MARYLAND

JULY 2020

“As well as being a seeker of God, St. Bonaventure was the seraphic poet of creation.” – Pope Benedict XVI

PRAYER REQUESTS

For the spiritual and physical healing of...

Kellie Eye (grand daughter of Susan Grief) ▫ Katherine Henry (daughter-in-law of Mary Henry) ▫ Mary Henry and her niece ▫ Mary Jo Johnson ▫ Joe McGeady ▫ John McHugh (brother of Joe McHugh) ▫ Michelle niece of Denise Mianta ▫ Bill Mulqueen ▫ Ruth Shea's husband ▫ Evelyn Jones' niece ▫ Jimmy Wilbourne (son of Genny Wilbourne).

And for all those who are in need of prayers and are absent from this list.

CIRCLE/RIVER Bonaventure saw the circle as a symbol of the origin of all things in the creative fruitfulness of God and the return of creation to the same mystery of divine love as their final end.

JUNE BIRTHDAY'S

Pat Tyrell ▫ Jude Dodge

WATER Thinking of water in the form of the oceans, St Bonaventure suggested the overwhelming fullness of creation as it flows from the depths of God.

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

Judith Tyrrell

WATER St Bonaventure's metaphor of music suggests the need for a sense of wholeness, a sense of the dynamic inter-relatedness of all the elements that make up the melody of the cosmos, and the hope that there is, in the context of the wild diversity of creatures, some principle of unity and order.

FRATERNITY MEETING

Scheduled for July 18 at 10 AM using Zoom Video Conferencing.

Fraternity members will receive an invitation via email, i.e., Joan Faltot is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: St. Conrad Fraternity Meeting

Time: Jul 18, 2020 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Just click on the link below [Join Zoom Meeting](#). You can join a Zoom meeting by phone, PC or touch pad.

We suggest you join the meeting at 9:50 AM. If you have any questions or problems joining, please contact Joan at 301-655-3876, or Chris at 410-814-9227. We have been using Zoom for Council Meetings with great success!

BOOK When speaking of the relation of the cosmos to God, Bonaventure speaks of a book "written and without." The content of the book is first written in the consciousness of God in the form of the divine Word. When that Word is expressed externally, what comes into being is the created cosmos.

TREASURY

The ending balance for June was \$2,168.28

9 Checks Received \$538.00

Distributions

- Franciscan Center, Balt. \$500.00
- Franciscan Family Apostolate \$100.00
- Denise for Phoenix/Tokens \$150.00

Current July Balance \$1,956.28

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Pax et bonum,

Joe

WINDOW “As you notice that a ray of light coming in through a window is colored according to the shades of the different panes, so that divine ray shines differently in each creature and in the various properties of the creature.” [Collationes in Hexaemeron 12,14 (V, 386)] The Cosmos is, as it were, a window opening to the divine.

APOSTOLATES

Lighthouse Shelter Lunches Postponed ▫ We will continue to provide the Shelter with some cash donation each month so they can shop and make lunches inside the Shelter.

Fraternity still helps to support the purchase of bus passes for residents - Residents of the Shelter use them to travel to/from

work, Dr. appointments, etc. St. Conrad has presented the Shelter 100 all-day bus passes (cost: \$200) quarterly for the past several years. The Shelter is so grateful for these because the cost of these passes would have to come out of their operating budget.

Phoenix Academy Backpack Program Postponed ▫ The school is closed since March. We continue to provide the Phoenix Academy with a cash donation to assist some of the teachers and staff in need. We will start up the program once we hear from the school's social specialist and coordinator of the backpack program.

Franciscan Family Apostolate #1178 ▫ Franciscan Family Apostolate: This is the only apostolate that is funded directly from the Fraternity's General Treasury and is always \$100 per month to a particular family in need in India. The Fraternity has been supporting this apostolate for several years and we are now donating to our fourth family in the state of Kerala, India. Over this past year and a half, you should have read the stories in the PORTER of our newest family that has been referred to us. I would like to thank all of you for donating monthly in support of our Fraternity and its services near and far.

****If you have any questions, contact Denise via e-mail at: rubob903@gmail.com ****

“...the high and the low, the first and the last, and all things in between. The entire universe is an intelligible cross in which the entire structure of the universe is described and made to be seen in the light of the mind.” [Breviloquium, Prologue, #6 (V, 208)]

SAVE THE DATE

October 10, 2020 Br. Rigo's ordination to priesthood. Pittsburgh, PA

September 10 – October 4, 2020 SEASON OF CREATION

Christians across the world are walking in spirit toward care for the earth our common home. Learn more by visiting SeasonofCreation.org

August 18-22, 2021 Quinquennial in Phoenix, AZ

“If you do not know your own dignity and condition, you cannot value anything at its proper worth.” – Saint Bonaventure, Holiness of Life

A Note from Our Formation Director

Peace be with you, St. Conrad Fraternity:

I know that most of you have been like me, sheltering in place since early March, and I pray that you are all well.

Some of you may not realize that our Inquirers and Candidate who are in Initial Formation, are continuing with their studies. We have been very creative in how we've been going about this. We use conference calling with our Candidate Ruth Shea; ZOOM with our Inquirers Linda Haney and Carole Marsh; and with Inquirer Kenneth Suhr, we meet in the St. Francis Garden at St. John the Evangelist Parish.

The three people in Inquiry are conferencing with Br. Rigo who has graciously spent some of his time in helping the Fraternity, due to a lack of an assigned Spiritual Assistant.

Ruth is continuing on with her Candidacy Formation leading to her Profession in approximately a year's time; while Carole, Linda and Kenneth are also continuing their lessons and are eligible for the special Ceremony for the Rite of Admission. However, this cannot be done without the members being present and welcoming them into the Fraternity. National guidelines during this time ask us to postpone the Rite of Admission until our Fraternity can be gathered. We all pray that this will be soon

So..... I will close by saying that I miss you all terribly, pray for you tenderly, and 'til we meet again.....

Pax et bonum,

All shall be well. (St. Julian of Norwich)

Denise

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation

By Jean

Should Federal Executions resume? Last year Attorney General William Barr announced that the Federal government was reinstating the death penalty. There had been no Federal executions for the last 17 years. However, in June the Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal by the inmates involved. Four executions are scheduled for July.

US Catholic leaders have spoken out against this:

<https://catholicreview.org/catholic-leaders-denounce-courts-rejection-of-federal-death-penalty-appeal/>

As the Catholic Communication campaign has stated : “the death penalty represents the failure of our modern society to fulfill the

theological and moral demands of justice. Justice demands that society begin with the recognition that each human person is created in the image and likeness of God and must work in all its endeavors towards the benefit of the human person. The use of the death penalty denies our call to true discipleship."

The Catholic Mobilizing Network, an organization that speaks out against capital punishment, has made a petition to Attorney General Barr and President Trump available on its website at for those who want to voice their opposition.

<https://catholicmobilizing.org/take-action-stop-federal-executions-1>

In 1995 St. John Paul II wrote in *Evangelium Vitae*: "56. ... [the state] ought not go to the extreme of executing the offender except in cases of absolute necessity... as a result of steady improvements in the organization of the penal system, such cases are very rare, if not practically non-existent.." He goes on to state that bloodless means "better correspond to the concrete conditions of the common good and are more in conformity to the dignity of the human person". This is reinforced by 2018 revisions of the official Catechism of the Catholic Church which states in paragraph #2267: that capital punishment is "an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person" and deems it "inadmissible." A thought-provoking article is available here:

<http://thedialog.org/national-news/sister-helen-prejean-supreme-court-abdicated-responsibilities-in-ignoring-appeal-by-death-row-inmates/>

"Jesus, make my heart more like yours." - The 7-word prayer Pope Francis learned from his grandmother.

Secretary's Byline

By Chris

I was left horrified and angered by the video of George Floyd slowly being murdered while fundamentally begging for his life. Mr. Floyd is the latest link in a long chain of deaths and grave injuries involving police:

George Floyd, 46 ▫ Breonna Taylor, 26 ▫ Atatiana Jefferson, 28 ▫ Aura Rosser, 40 ▫ Stephon Clark, 22 ▫ Gotham Jean, 26 ▫ Philando Castille, 32 ▫ Alton Sterling, 37 ▫ Michelle Cusseaux, 50 ▫ Freddie Gray, 25 ▫ Janisha Fonville, 20 ▫ Eric Garner, 40 ▫ Akai Gurley, 20 ▫ Gabriella Nevarez, 22 ▫ Tamir Rice, 12 ▫ Michael Brown, 18 ▫ Tanisha Anderson, 37

<https://interactive.aljazeera.com/aje/2020/know-their-names/index.html>

To learn more about their circumstances click on the link above.

Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation always leaves off with questions as a gateway to action and contemplation - "What words or phrases resonate with or challenge me? What sensations do I notice in my body? What is mine to do?"