

The Porter

St. Conrad Fraternity, Annapolis, MD
Secular Franciscan Order – February 2021
<http://stconradannapolis.sfousa.org/>

The Porter deadline for the March issue is March 12. Please send news, prayer requests, poems, or interesting items that you think other members may enjoy to: Joan Faltot, 8217 Grainfield Rd, Severn, MD 21144, or send by email to jd6bouv@verizon.net.



Fraternity Meeting

Saturday, February 20, 2021 * 10:00 AM**

Fr. Paul Dressler will speak on Repent

Via Zoom – Invitation will be sent on Friday, February 19th

NOTE: Capuchin College will live-stream the friars' Mass on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:30 or 8:35 am for the sake of the Capuchin College Secular Fraternity and for our fraternity. Live-streamed link: <https://youtube.com/channel/UctFahWBDM9tTx-pb-EJG4og>
The recording of this Mass will also be available from the same link later in the morning.

Prayer Requests



(Please help us update this list. Send changes/additions to jd6bouv@verizon.net)

For the soul of: Michelle (niece of Denise Miant)

For physical and spiritual healing of: Mary Henry, Tessie Chitty, William Fey, OFM Cap, Jan Parker (National Minister), Ed Wilbourne, Susan Greif, John Gemmell (husband of Mary Cicero Gemmell), Kellie Eye (granddaughter of Susan Greif), Katherine Henry (daughter-in-law of Mary Henry), Mary Henry and her niece, Stephen (great-grandson of Mary Henry), Mary Jo Johnson, Joe McGeady, John McHugh (brother of Joe McHugh), Bill Mulqueen, Ruth Shea's husband, Evelyn Jones' niece, Jimmy Wilbourne (son of Genny Wilbourne), Gerard Malak (brother of Genny Wilbourne)

Birthdays

Mary Henry -- 03/04
Joan Faltot – 03/04

Harry Thompson – 03/05

Profession Anniversaries

Kathleen Sievers – 03/06/1994

Treasury

Current balance: \$2,730.28

Please mail your contribution to: Joe McHugh at 1740 Tedbury St, Crofton, MD 21114

Remember, when making your donation to the fraternity, you can use the memo line of your check to designate where you wish your contribution to be directed. There are 3 possible designations:

- Common Fund (this covers fraternity operations and the Sabu family in India)
- Tokens (bus tokens for the Lighthouse Shelter clients)
- SFIS (St. Francis International School)

Save the Date

February 27, 2021. 42nd Annual Social Ministry Convocation. Event will be **virtual** this year. For more details. <https://www.catholiccharities-md.org/volunteer/parish-social-ministry/>

May 21-23, 2021. Regional Retreat at The Loyola Retreat Center in Faulkner, MD. Fr. Kevin Treston, OFM from the Holy Land Monastery in Washington, DC will be the weekend facilitator.

Council Meeting

Zoom meeting, Monday, March 1, 2021



Minister's Minute

Time flies! Ash Wednesday and Lent are again at the door. At our fraternity meeting this Saturday. REPENT will be the subject of a talk by Fr. Paul Dressler, followed by small group discussion.

I hope I won't create too much chaos when using the virtual 'breakout rooms' in Zoom. Breakout rooms are the virtual answer to dividing a large group of people into a specified number of smaller groups. This segregates each group in their own 'room.' After the discussion period the host (me) will return them all back together in a single room.

Remember that Cap College will live stream their Mass Saturday morning. Page one has the link is to Cap College's YouTube channel. Their channel features many talks the friars have given. I suggest you explore them during Lent. I imagine many of us have discovered new sources of inspiration during COVID-19 isolation. Fr. Rigo has his own channel "Reflecting with Br. Rigo OFM Cap" at <https://www.youtube.com/c/ReflectingwithBrRigobelAzanwiOFMCap/>.

Our community has had bad news this past month:

Denise Miente's niece Michelle lost her battle with pancreatic cancer.

Tessie Chitty has been diagnosed with breast cancer and will have surgery in March followed by a series of treatments.

Mary Henry has been diagnosed with liver cancer and is now in hospice at her home.

Please keep all of them, and their families, in your prayers. Cards would be welcome!

Also, please send me some happy news. I would like to pray more in thanksgiving: births, marriages, graduations.

Many thanks to Kathleen Sievers, who takes care of our pastoral outreach. She sent a Valentine card to each of our excused members. Hopefully, the card brought a feeling of remembrance and joy to each of them.

I miss not singing in the choir at church. Yet many times when I sing, I am busy counting, trying to read words and notes at the same time, worrying about hitting the right note-- to the point that I miss the meaning of the words. However, this month I have been reminded of Marty Haugen's *Healer of our Ev'ry Ill* and its beautiful refrain:

Healer of our ev'ry ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.

One final note: roster update for Santa Ragot. Her correct telephone number is 410-314-2122.
Pax & Bonum. Joan

REGIONAL ELECTIONS

On April 24, the Saint Margaret of Cortona Region will be holding elections for our 2021-2024 Regional Council. Please pray for discernment and consider holding a position on the newly elected council. All positions on the council are open:

Minister Vice Minister Secretary Treasurer
Area Councilors for: MD/DE MD/PA Metro DC VA



To nominate yourself or another, fill out the nomination form at

<https://saintmargaretofcorona.org/upcoming-events/>

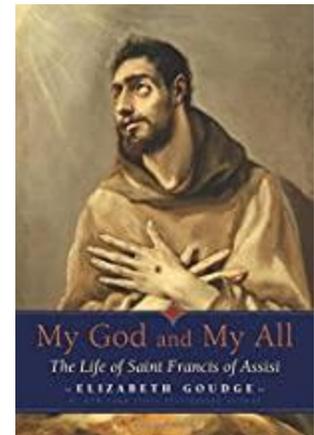
and email it to marylousfo@gmail.com



BOOK REVIEW: *from Pat Tyrrell*

I have read many biographies of St. Francis in the last 25+ years, so I was surprised to find one mentioned in a footnote somewhere in late 2019, which I obtained, read, and which became my current favorite biography of his life.

My God and My All, was written in 1959 by Elizabeth Goudge (1900-1984). She “was one of the most popular British novelists of the twentieth century. Her *Green Dolphin Street*, a #1 *New York Times* bestseller, was made into an Academy Award-winning film. She also wrote many acclaimed children’s books—in 1946 she won the Carnegie Medal for *The Little White Horse*, which J.K. Rowling has said was her favorite book as a child.” (from the back of the book)



I was taken particularly by her prose. She writes beautifully. She has such a way with words and creates dialogue that is believable and rich. And I found her factual presentation consistent with just about everything I know about Francis. The one new “fact” was the suggestion that the Sultan of Egypt Malik al-Kamil, who Francis visited in Egypt in 1219 in an attempt to avoid further battles with the Crusaders, many years later had a death-bed conversion and was baptized. The closest I came to trying to find if such a suggestion might be true, was a reference to a letter of Jacques de Vitry, a bishop and contemporary historian of Francis’ life, which said: “The Sultan, the ruler of Egypt, privately asked him [Francis] to pray to the Lord for him [the Sultan], so he might be inspired by God to adhere to that religion which most pleased God.” (Early Documents, Vol. 1, at 581) So, the Sultan appears to have had an open mind and heart, but the likelihood that he did have a conversion is unclear to me. If you run out of things to read during the Pandemic, the book is available on Amazon.

INTO YOUR HANDS, FATHER
FRANCISCAN SISTERS, TOR LENTEN RETREAT
SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2021

The sisters are excited to invite you to our annual Lenten Retreat, held virtually on Saturday, March 27th. Our theme is *Into Your Hands, Father*, focusing on trust and abandonment to our Heavenly Father, seen in the life of Jesus and our own lives! The retreat will offer talks, testimonies, music, meditations, and optional small groups led by a sister.



There is no fee to register but donations are appreciated. Registration is required by Wednesday, March 24th for the retreat itself.

If you are a part of a parish group, Bible study group, or prayer group, and would like your group to participate, contact Sr. Anna Rose at (740) 544-5542 x135. Individuals and groups of family and friends are also welcome!

Register at: <https://www.franciscansisterstor.org/lenten-retreat-registration>

Registration is required and can be completed by clicking the link above. You will be sent a link and password on Friday evening, March 26, and will be able to view the retreat at any point after that. You can also join a small group discussion with facilitated by a sister by indicating that on the registration.



VENERABLE SERVANT OF GOD AUGUSTUS TOLTON

From Genny Wilbourne

Augustus Tolton was born on April 1st, 1854 in Brush Creek, Missouri to enslaved parents. Augustus was the eldest of 3 children born to Peter Tolton and Martha Chisly. His father escaped and joined the Union Army during the Civil War in an attempt to gain his family's freedom but was one of the 180,000 Black soldiers who died during the War. By the way of the Underground Railroad, his mother and the three children managed to row across the Mississippi River to flee to Quincy, Illinois.

Augustus mother was able to enroll him in St. Boniface School in Quincy, but he was driven out within a month due to the uproar his presence caused at the all-white school. After four years of working at various menial jobs to help his

family, he was admitted to a local all-black school run by Notre Dame Sisters. With the help of a sympathetic parish priest, Augustus learned the prayers of the Latin Mass in order to become an altar server. He was able to be Confirmed on June 12, 1870 in the local parish of St. Peter's. At 16 years of age, he continued studying diligently, and working to help with his family's needs

Although he started to feel a vocation to the priesthood forming, he was aware that in the late 1800's not a single United States seminary was open to accepting a black man. An interested parish priest helped Augustus to receive piecemeal tutoring while he continued to support his family. In 1878 he was at last taken on as a student by the Franciscans at St. Francis College, now known as Quincy University. Almost miraculously a letter of recommendation describing him as a "reverent acolyte, a devoted son, a faithful worker, a diligent student and a zealous lay apostle" was sent to Rome where he completed his formal priestly formation. Augustus was ordained at the Easter Vigil, April 24th, 1886, in St. John Lateran Basilica in Rome. The next day celebrated his first Mass in the Basilica of St. Peter. He then celebrated the first Mass by a Black priest on United States soil at St. Benedict the Moor, New York City. The first blessing he administered that day was to his mother.

Initially assigned to the Springfield, Illinois Diocese at a parish in his hometown of Quincy, he was moved to Chicago in 1889 after suffering cruel racial injustice from some fellow clergy and local communities. In Chicago he lived simply, served the poor, and oversaw construction of St. Monica's Church which he envisioned as a Black National Catholic Church. This

parish quickly grew from 60 to 600 parishioners under the leadership of "Fr. Gus."

"Good Fr. Gus" died on July 9, 1897 at 43 years old from possible heat stroke during a particularly extended Chicago heat wave. "Good Father Gus," as he was lovingly called by his parishioners, was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery near Quincy. He was declared Venerable Servant of God on June 13, 2019, and if canonized, he stands to be the United States 1st African-American saint.

"As I look back on my life, I realize that every time I thought I was being rejected from something good, I was re-directed to something better." Fr. Augustus Tolton.

"Stress makes you believe that everything has to happen right now; Faith reassures you that everything will happen in God's timing." Fr. Augustus Tolton.

**Let nothing disturb you;
Let nothing frighten you,
All things pass away.
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things.
He who has God,
finds he lacks nothing.
God alone suffices.**

Saint Teresa of Avila

PROLIFE

From: Rebecca Simpson <local@40daysforlife.com>



Dear Prayer Warriors for Life,

We pray that you and your families are well and staying safe.

We are excited to announce the beginning of the Annapolis Spring 40 Days for Life Campaign. Our Opening Candlelight Vigil is scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 7:00-8:00 PM. The flyers on our website, www.40daysforlife.com/annapolis, provide the details.

Those of you who have stood vigil with us in the past know you are part of the one million people who have stood vigil and prayed in over 63 countries worldwide leading to over 18,000 babies, mothers and families being saved from abortion.

You probably also know that your participation is critical right now because it is truly a life and death mission from God; Babies are dying and mothers and families are suffering. Our social and political environment is becoming more hostile to life, and we must be God's hand and feet in defense of the voiceless pre-born babies and their mothers.

Jesus asked, "Were you not able to keep watch with me for one hour?" Please join us in keeping watch for one hour outside Planned Parenthood on West Street for the vulnerable pre-born babies.

As you have probably already heard, the statistics indicate that as many as 75% of scheduled abortion appointments are no shows when people are praying outside the abortion facility. Through your vigil and prayer, God is saving lives in our area.

Please let us know if we can assist you in encouraging other members of your church or group to join you in vigil and prayer. Our website www.40daysforlife.com/annapolis provides all the campaign and event information and enables vigil sign-up, we can speak to your church members or other organizations, and we can provide copies of campaign materials. For any questions, feel free to contact Becky Simpson, <mailto:annapolis40daysforlife@gmail.com>, 443-546-7895 or Tony Martelli, <mailto:tony@mdcoalitionforlife.com>, 443-254-5433.

We look forward to standing vigil with you in the coming weeks. May the Lord bless you and your families, and provide you with the courage and strength to Stand for Life.

Rebecca Simpson
Annapolis - Leader
<mailto:annapolis40daysforlife@gmail.com>



URGENT ACTION ALERT!
We Must Act NOW to Keep Planned Parenthood from
Infiltrating Our Schools
Watch the VIDEO Below to Learn More

Parents send their daughters to school to get an education, not to get an abortion. Our children are being targeted by the abortion industry, which is now aggressively expanding beyond their sexuality education curriculum in schools. The abortion industry now seeks to become abortion service providers in our schools. Their goals are to provide abortion referrals, tele-abortion, publicly funded transportation to and from "pregnancy related appointments" (abortions) during the school day, and even establish Planned Parenthood clinics on site.

MDRTL supports policies that create an environment that supports students who parent their children, but we cannot support any policy or programs that allows the abortion business to peddle their deadly ware to vulnerable school girls.

We must do all we can to protect our children from this radical abortion agenda. **MDRTL NEEDS YOUR HELP.**

Bills which place our Maryland school children in harms way and are OPPOSED by MDRTL include:

HB401/SB438 Public Schools - Pregnant and Parenting Students - Policies and Reports (Click bill number to read bill language)

HB34/SB278 State Department of Education and Maryland Department of Health - Maryland School-Based Health Center Standards - Telehealth

HB1056/SB930 Nonpublic Schools - Adequate Health Services - Eligibility for Reimbursement
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VIDEO - LIFE CHAT: WHY HB401/SB438 PREGNANT & PARENTING STUDENTS MUST BE OPPOSED

FEBRUARY 27, 2021

**42ND ANNUAL
SOCIAL MINISTRY
CONVOCATION**

**Persistence in
*the march towards justice***



**Due to COVID,
this year's event will be held virtually.
More details to come!**

Register Today!

Register at:

<https://www.archbaltsmc.org/register>

General Admission: \$10

After you complete your event registration, you will receive an email from "Eventbrite" with a link to the event page and more direction on how to join the virtual session.

Ticket sales end on February 26

Scholarships are available. Contact:

Ryan Sattler: 443-275-1180

Ryansattler@comcast.net

If you have technology needs for participating in this virtual event, please contact St. Francis of Assisi Church at 410-235-5136 and they will try to assist you.

42nd Annual Social Ministry Convocation -- Schedule of Events

9:00 am–9:30 am	Welcome & Opening Prayer
9:30 am–10:15 am	Keynote Address: Ashley Morris, Associate Director for the Intercultural Office of the Archdiocese of Atlanta
10:15 am–10:30 am	Break
10:30 am–11:45 am	Morning Workshops
11:45 am–12:45 pm	Lunch & Virtual Social Ministry Fair
12:45 pm – 2 pm	Afternoon Workshops
2:00 pm – 2:15 pm	Break
2:15 pm – 2:45 pm	Awards Ceremony & Closing Prayer Service

Workshops

1. The ABC's of Social Justice -- Presenter Johnny Zokovitch (Pax Christi USA)

The ABC's of Social Justice will explore the basic principles of social justice, drawn from the legacy of justice movements --particularly in the last 25 years to today--and also drawn from Catholic Social Teaching. Participants will compare justice movements and discern how these basic principles would transfer to the work being done at the parish level. PM – simultaneous translation into Spanish

2. Mobilizing to Support Workers

Dr. Clayton Sinyai (Director U.S. Catholic Labor Network)
Terry Cavanagh (Service Employees International Union MD-DC)
Chuck Hendricks (Unite Here)
Fr. Ty Hullinger (Interfaith Worker Justice MD)

Archdiocesan Catholics are mobilizing to support workers seeking just solutions to conditions magnified by the pandemic. Essential workers need paychecks to cover essentials, furloughed/laid-off workers need assurance that they will not be replaced by new hires, and workers need updated safety standards. Discussion will include action steps to promote worker justice as the economy recovers.

3. Providing Tenants a Fighting Chance: Evictions and the Right to Counsel -- Charisse Lue (Public Justice Center)

The 2020 Stout Report revealed the massive racial and economic disparity in evictions, making it a civil rights issue linked to the legacy of racial segregation in housing policies. Learn more about the findings in the Stout report, as well as the ongoing efforts to redress this disparity through affording tenants the Right to Counsel in eviction proceedings. Discussion will include active steps participants can take to support current Right to Counsel legislative actions.

4. Parishes Coming Together: Accompanying LGBTQ+ Catholics, Families, Allies

Fr. Joe Muth, Mary Rogers, and Ryan Sattler

Parishes discuss “Becoming a Bridge” for searching LGBTQ+ Catholics while offering pastoral understanding to their personal faith journeys, and share ideas on how to create a welcoming environment within your parish. Attendees in this workshop will have an opportunity to share their parish stories with ample time for Q&A.

5. Resistance to Justice: Young Adults at Work

Rudy Dehaney (Northeast Catholic Community) **Vicky Hathaway** (Diocese of Gary)
James Conway (St. Wenceslaus Parish) **Vanessa Zuleta Goldberg** (Diocese of El Paso)
Ashley Morris (Archdiocese of Atlanta)

Young Adults have been instrumental in work and advocacy of several social justice issues. What happens when young adults run into resistance in fighting for social justice? This workshop will delve into experiences of young adults with resistance, lessons learned, and practical points on how we support young adults in our work to end injustice.

6. The Laudato Si’ Challenge to Embrace Ecological Conversion

Doug Demeo (Our Lady of Mount Carmel) **Nolan McCoy** (Archdiocese of Baltimore)
Peggy Perry (Gunpowder Falls Conservancy) **Stephen Clegghorn** (St. Matthew Catholic Church)

A call to ecological conversion is at the heart of Laudato Si’, and within this call lies real potential for evangelization. Panelists will discuss responses to ecological conversion within the Archdiocese, highlighting local efforts such as the Clear Creeks Project at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and ways the Maryland Catholic Conference can offer more political leadership in this care for our common home.

7. The Journey to Racial Justice: Repentance, Healing and Action

Sherita Thomas, Archdiocese of Baltimore Office of Black Catholic Ministries

Please join us for a discussion on racial justice in the Catholic Church, with a particular focus on the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Sherita Thomas, interim director for the Office of Black Catholic Ministries and racism workgroup lead will discuss ways to shine a light on darkness and increase our knowledge and awareness of racism. We will embrace the church’s teachings, which call us to combat the sin of racism, and explore ways to develop concrete strategies we can take back to our own parishes. God calls us to be a welcoming, worshipping community of faith, hope, and love.

Through his Spirit, the Lord Jesus lives in those who believe, and reaches into our world with his saving message and healing love.

8. Mass Incarceration: What is it and how do we change it?

Mary Pat Donelan (Prison Minister)

Charles Sullivan (Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants)

Olinda Moyd (Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform)

Fr. Charles Canterna (Prison Chaplain, Archdiocese of Baltimore)

Prisons do not disappear social problems, they disappear human beings. (Angela Davis)

In early 1970, 357,292 inmates were incarcerated in the United States. Although the crime rate has been steady over the years, in 2014, 2,015,300 inmates were incarcerated. The US is 5% of the world's population but holds 25% of the world's prisoners. Many factors have brought us here —the war on crime, the war on drugs, legislators wanting to be tough on crime, and more. What can we do as responsible Catholics and citizens to change these deplorable statistics?

9. Policing -- Ray Kelly, Citizens Policing Project

"Citizens Policing Project is committed to sustaining a commUNITY-informed policing model to insure implementation and compliance of Baltimore's Consent Decree, while creating a conduit to trust and collaboration with the BPD for a safer Baltimore City." Come learn more about the Citizens Policing Project, the police reforms it is advancing, and those planned under the new Mayor Brandon Scott administration. Discuss how these reforms are the first step towards a more just police system in Baltimore City and a more just attitude of policing statewide and nationwide.

10. Actualizaciones de inmigración bajo la Administración de Biden/Harris (en Español, solo por la mañana)

Giuliana Valencia-Banks (Esperanza Center)

Lo que sabemos hasta ahora sobre la política de inmigración de la administración Biden/Harris; ¿Qué significará para nuestros hermanos y hermanas inmigrantes? Actualizaciones sobre DACA / TPS y asilo.

10. Immigration under the Biden/Harris Administration & Catholic Social Teaching (English – PM only)

Giuliana Valencia-Banks (Esperanza Center)

What we know so far about the Biden/Harris administration's immigration policy and what will it mean for our immigrant brothers and sisters. What does Catholic social teaching tell us about immigration?

11. Archdiocese of Baltimore's Catholic Campaign for Human Development: Social Justice in Action

Danise Dorsey-Jones, Gisele Ferretto, and Geraldine Sicola (CCHD)

While the gospel speaks of our responsibility to promote social justice, it can be hard to know what our role is in addressing the social sin rooted in our social and economic structures and institutions. CCHD is the church's response to Jesus's call to social justice. This workshop will highlight examples of successful projects right here in our diocese and identify ways we can all promote and participate in social justice activities.

12. Ending Global Poverty Through Advocacy -- Chris West, Catholic Relief Services

Catholic Relief Services is committed to improving the lives of our brothers and sisters around the world. In doing so, we are forming communities of people committed to serving the poor and ending global poverty as Missionary Disciples. These 'chapters' will take action that contributes to CRS' mission to create transformational change for our global human family. This workshop will provide an overview of this successful advocacy work and the methodology behind it.