

The Porter

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

The Porter deadline for the next issue is November 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.

WARNING: Please take the time to read *The Porter*. There have been several changes which impact our fraternity, especially the temporary change in our meeting place and the assignment of a new Spiritual Assistant to our fraternity. I will attempt to explain all in my Minister's Minute on p. 2.

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|  Fraternity Meeting | <p align="center">Saturday, October 16, 2021</p> <p align="center">Mass at 9:30 AM *** Sacred Heart Church 16501 Annapolis Rd, Bowie, MD 20715</p> <p align="center">Meeting at 10:00 – noon *** Whitemarsh Hall (on the hill)</p> <p>Bring your mask (required in PG county when inside).</p> |
|  Refreshments | <p>Annapolis/Eastern Shore. Bowie/Crofton/Severna Park will be next, so please arrange to take the supplies home and restock if necessary. <i>Please remember to bring your own cup!</i></p> |
| Liturgy | <p>Bowie/Crofton/Severna Park: Franciscan Crown Rosary In honor of Servant of God James of the Rosary, Confessor, First Order whose feast day is today, and who is by tradition originated the rosary of the Seven Joys of Our Lady, i.e., the Crown Rosary.</p> |
|  Prayer Requests | <p>For physical and spiritual healing of: Susan Greif, Jude Dodge, Katie Miente, Joan Kvetkas' daughter, Mary & husband Gary Faldasz (COVID), Judith Tyrrell, Gertrude Shelton (Marie's mom), Ed Sievers (Kathleen's husband, Evelyn Jones, Tessie Chitty, Jan Parker (National Minister), Ed Wilbourne, Kellie Eye (granddaughter of Susan Greif), Joe McGeady, John McHugh (brother of Joe), Bill Mulqueen, Ruth Shea's husband, Evelyn Jones' niece, Jimmy Wilbourne (son of Genny), Gerard Malka (brother of Genny Wilbourne), Carolyn Melka (sister-in-law of Genny Wilbourne) <i>(Please help update this list by sending changes/additions to jd6bouv@verizon.net)</i></p> |
| Birthdays | <p>Margaret Jackson – 10/22 Emily McGeady – 11/01 Patricia Troup – 10/24</p> |
| Profession Anniversaries | <p>Joan Faltot – 10/16/1991 (30th!) George Ryan – 11/11/1984 Mary Jo Johnson – 10/19/1988 Susan Greif – 11/16/1997 Santa Matarazza – 11/01/1992 Jude Dodge – 11/18 2017</p> |
| Save the Date | <p>20th Quinquennial Congress on August 3 – 7, 2022 in Phoenix, Arizona. For more information: https://secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/1-General-Information.pdf</p> |
| Council Meeting | <p>TBD</p> |



Minister's Minute

Lots of changes are hitting our fraternity... As reported in my minute last month, our normal meeting place, St. John the Evangelist Church, is undergoing major renovations. We will not be meeting there again until next year. Our Lady of the Fields had a small, windowless room available, but it would be difficult to manage our refreshments and proper social distancing. Joe McHugh suggested and has arranged for us to use Whitemarsh Hall at Sacred Heart parish in Bowie. It is located on "The Hill" across from the chapel in the basement of the Hogan Center building. The hall is larger and has counter space for refreshments and outlets for our coffee machines. Directions to the church and a map of the area are on page 3.

So, in an effort to get back to "normal," **Mass** will be in the church (not the chapel) at 9:30. I suggest you park at the church, and then after Mass drive up to the Hill for our meeting in the hall. There is, however, a very long set of outdoor steps connecting the church and the Hill if you feel energized. Since Mass is an hour later than we are accustomed to, our meetings will start about 10AM with refreshments, followed by prayer, ongoing formation, and finishing about noon.

Refreshments this month will be provided by the Annapolis/Eastern Shore group. Please bring simple food that does not require much handling such as yogurt cups, hard-boiled eggs, mandarin oranges, bananas, doughnuts.

For prayer, Bowie/Crofton/Severna Park group will lead us in the Crown Rosary in honor of Servant of God James of the Rosary, Confessor, First Order whose feast day is on our meeting day, and who is by tradition was the originator of the rosary of the Seven Joys of Our Lady, i.e., the Crown Rosary.

I will attempt to set up a **Zoom connection** for those who are unable to attend the meeting. If anyone has experience, with internet connectivity, please let me know. If I get it working it will probably not start until 10:20, after refreshments.

AND ON A HAPPIER NOTE: On Friday, October 8th, I was informed that Fr. Patrick Monahan, OFM Cap, will be returning to us as our newly assigned Spiritual Assistant. Prior to his ordination to the priesthood, Fr. Patrick was our Spiritual Assistant from September 2009 until September 2011. After his ordination he served as the rector in the Capuchin mission in Papua New Guinea. He is now in residence at St. Ambrose Church and he is teaching English full time at the St. Francis Academy in Baltimore. Unfortunately, he will not be able to attend our October fraternity meeting. However, he has assured me that he has our fraternity meetings on his calendar starting in November.

AND MANY, MANY THANKS to all who assisted with the Profession of Ruth Shea last month, especially Denise Miente our formation director who oversaw everything and to Chris Grubach and wife Violetta who organized and managed the luncheon.

Our Fraternity Family: Keep up the prayers for:

Susan Greif took a tumble- she went one way, and her scooter when the other. She has a hip fracture that does not involve the hip socket. Only time will heal this. Until it does, she cannot put weight on one of her legs. As of Thursday, she was still in the hospital, but she was expecting to be released. However she does not know to whether to rehab or to her apartment.

Jude Dodge has been fighting an infection and doctors are now thinking it might be peritonitis.

Fr. Paul Dressler, OFM Cap – although no longer our Spiritual Assistant is still in need of our prayers. His sabbatical is lasting longer than originally thought. Pray that it is fruitful.

John Gemmell – A memorial Mass for John Gemmell will be held Dec 3 at 10:30am at St. Pius X Catholic Church, 14710 Annapolis Road (Route 450), Bowie. A luncheon reception will be held immediately after at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 6111 Columbian Way, Bowie (on the east side of northbound Route 3, about half a mile south of Route 450).

Directions to Sacred Heart Church in Bowie

The church is located on Route 450 west (Annapolis Rd) just west of Route 3 (Crain Highway).

There is a street light at this intersection. The church is visible from the road. During the school year, the 9:30 Mass on Saturday is celebrated in the Church (not the chapel where we were last time).

The Hogan Center (where the Whitemarsh Hall is located) is located on “The Hill” above the church near the chapel.

To reach the buildings on the Hill, turn left on lane **PRIOR** to the Church entrance/exit roads. If you miss it, use the church parking lot to make a U turn. There is parking by the chapel and also available on either side of the Msgr. Hogan School for Religious Education and there is also limited parking at the Parish Office (the first building you see on the left coming up the entrance).



FRANCISCAN TRADITION

October 16: The Servant of God James of the Rosary, Confessor, First Order

It is generally believed when James entered the order in 1422 that he had been a fervent client of our Blessed Lady and had decked her statue daily with a wreath of flowers. Since he was not permitted to continue this practice in the novitiate, he thought of leaving the order. But first he knelt before the statue of our Lady to say a prayer. There the Blessed Virgin appeared to him and said: “Remain here, and do not grieve because you can no longer weave a wreath of flowers for me. I will teach you how you can daily weave a crown of roses that will not wither and will be more pleasing to me and more meritorious for yourself.” And she taught him the rosary of seven decades. From this incident we can learn not to be selfishly attached to pious practices, and that prayer is the greater value than perishable decorations

Source: *The Seraphic Order: A Traditional Franciscan Book of Saints* by Marion A. Habig, OFM. Mediatrix Press:2020. p. 719

Treasurer's Report

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|------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| September balance | | \$2,864.69* |
| October Income | | |
| Donations | \$ 545.00 | |
| September Expenses | | |
| Franciscan Family Apostolate | \$ 100.00 | |
| Current balance | | \$3,309.69 |

*September opening balance adjusted for checks written later in the month of August for disaster relief Haiti (\$500) and Louisiana (\$500) and for quarterly Lighthouse bus tokens (\$180).

Additional expenses are pending for costs of Profession.

If you have a suggestion for a charity that the fraternity might support, please let one of the council members know and provide the full name of the charity and its address.

Fraternity contributions can be mailed 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 three possible designations:

- COM - Common Fund (this covers fraternity operations and the Sabu family in India)
- BUS - bus tokens for the Light House shelter clients
- SFIS - St. Francis International School
- Phoenix – Phoenix Academy 'backpack' food program



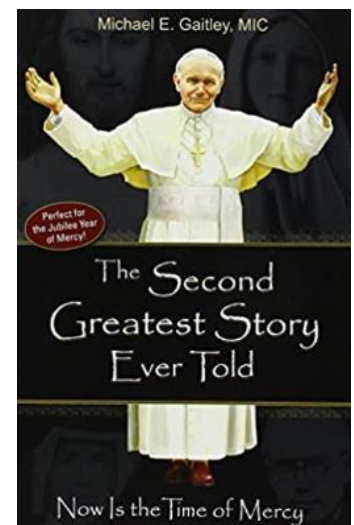
The Second Greatest Story Ever Told: Now Is the Time of Mercy by Michael Gaitley

From Linda Haney

"The Second Greatest Story Ever Told" is a great read or if you like to listen to ebooks/DVDs. It talks about the Life of Pope John Paul II, the Divine Mercy, and helps with the understanding of the role Mary plays in our lives. Reveals the secrets of Fatima and the call to love through God's mercy! What appealed most to me was the author's deep insight. The author shared that he felt Mary had been absent from him for 10 years even after his great devotion to her. He realized

during those years she was behind him pushing him to the know the love of Christ through the Divine Mercy.

Published by Marian Press and available at [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) in new, used, and Kindle versions



PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH FOR A SOUL IN PURGATORY

From Denise Mianta



St. Joseph, reigning in Heaven with Jesus and Mary, intercede for the souls in Purgatory. Hear our prayers for family, friends, parishioners and clergy who have served you and lived out their faith in our parish family.

Please turn your gaze to the soul who is most forgotten in purgatory. From the Mist of Mercy let this holy soul journey into Heaven to see the face of God. To be reunited with family and friends and to praise the Holy Trinity in the company of all the Saints. St. Joseph, when it is my time to give my soul to God, I beg for your blessing and pray to you to be prompt in delivering me from purgatory so that I can see you, Jesus and Mary face to face.

Amen.

St. Teresa of Avila

20TH QUINQUENNIAL CONGRESS IS COMING !!!

IT'S OUR JUBILEE ... THE 800TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR ORDER AND
THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR NATIONAL QUINQUENNIAL CONGRESS

**August 3 – 7, 2022 D Sheraton Phoenix Downtown
3rd Street Phoenix, AZ 85004**

So why all the hoopla now??? **Registration started August 1, 2021 & the early birds get discounts.**

a Special group room rate is \$89 plus tax, per night but is only available until January 31, 2022

a Quinquennial "early bird" registration is \$175 until December 31st ...

or wait until May 28, 2022 and pay the "late owl" rate of \$250

So check out the information at:

<https://secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/1-General-Information.pdf>

Happy Feast Day

To start off, I wish all of you a happy feast day on this wonderful annual celebration of the “little poor man from Assisi.”

The last time I celebrated the feast day of Saint Francis in India was October 4, 2019. Little did I know that two years later we would be going through a pandemic. Given my age (I will let you guess) it was a blessing as God knows when I will get the chance to again return. I am hearing rumblings that this winter may be “a dark one.”

All of us have been scathed by this virus, I am sure. I have lost two friends so far – pandemic related if not by the virus itself. Twelve of our FFA families have lost family members; our bishop, Bishop James of Alleppey came down with the virus but is OK. Sister Elsy’s convent was quarantined for ten days due to one of the Sisters testing positive. None of our staff came down with the virus although they had to work from home due to the many government lock downs. Lock downs in India are not as liberal as here in the States consequently access to families by our staff was minimal. This is why some of you have not heard from your families in quite some time. Everything came to a halt. This is why some of you will be advised of a death in your sponsored family some weeks or months after the event. I have received no reports of problems in Andhra from Sister Carmel. That being a more rural area than Alleppey was probably less affected by the virus.

Unlike here in the States, the Indian government is not giving cash grants to help families bend the financial curve in their favor. They have rationed out food but not cash. As you may know, many of our families work in the “gig economy” – they work wherever they can and usually on a temporary basis – day by day or week by week. They have no savings. Many live in sheds with no refrigeration. Affording food is a problem. Lack of refrigeration is problematic creating the need for daily shopping risking confrontation with the authorities. The police carry big sticks and do not hesitate in their use.

This hasn’t gone unnoticed by our sponsors. Many of you have sent extra funds for your family to cover the loss of income. I made an appeal last October asking to help in this area. I am happy to say that we were successful in raising circa \$100,000 which will be used to help individual families in need – starting with the elderly and widows with families. This amount will be used to help families in both Alleppey and Andhra Pradesh to cover food, medicines or bills and rents that have not been paid. This will be a great help to them. I encourage every sponsor to consider adding funds during these hard times

As if the pandemic wasn’t enough of an obstacle to administering aid to our families another issue came up that prevented our sending funds on time to India. Foreign currency is strictly controlled by the Indian government under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). The law was revised in September 2020 requiring all Indian charities to do their banking through the State Bank of India (SBI) rather than one’s local bank. Originally the law was passed to prevent foreign contributions to be used for political purposes. Last fall, then, there was a moratorium on sending any funds to India until the FFA, in both Alleppey and Andhra could change our banks. I can guarantee you it wasn’t as easy as walking across the street to your local banker. As I understand it, the government had to check out our bona fides before assigning us an account. It ended up that the funds we would normally send over in January, based on our quarterly system of distribution, went over in May – a five month delay.

The change is starting to iron itself out now but -“pewh”- whatever happened to “not looking a gift horse in the mouth?”



Yet, in our sadness over the past year there have been rays of light letting us “see through a glass darkly” as Saint Paul says. I will give you one story. Reji and her husband Manoj have three daughters, ages 3, 11 and 14. They were five people living in one room of his brothers “colony house” in a bad area of Alleppey – especially bad for their young daughters. Happily, they were sponsored in October 2020. Then, because of the pandemic lock downs, Manoj was laid off from his job as a cook at a hotel resulting, apparently, to his committing suicide in January 2021. This was a heavy load indeed for a new sponsor. What to do?

The sponsor was at a loss at this tragedy. Around the same time, I received a call from a Franciscan Friar who had a large amount of money given him by friends for his retirement and other events in his life. Recalling Reji and Manoj I asked if the funds could be used to build Reji a new home. He agreed. We were able to send \$31,700 to cover the whole project. God is good and ever present.

I have found in the many years I have been doing this that there are no coincidences. Life is very nuanced, but if we listen, there are signs. And “coincidences” are usually signs. With the help of her sponsor and this good Friar, Reji and her three daughters have a new start in life. I am sure she will, in her sadness, be happily celebrating the feast day of Saint Francis in a new way this October 4th. The Mass will be beautiful; flowers will abound the altar and wonderful hymns in Malayalam will resound in the air in a packed cathedral thanks to the hard work of our staff and Sister Elsy. She sent the letter below, and invitation to join them spiritually on that day in prayer.

Warmest Regards,
Alan J Ouimet OFS
President Franciscan Family Apostolate

From Sr. Elsy Chacko

Dear friends in Jesus,

Once again, the feast of our Patron Saint, St. Francis of Assisi is fast approaching and we take this opportunity to wish all our dear ones a blessed Feast. It has been two years that we all are locked up in our surroundings without much contact even with our neighborhood. This pandemic has created much mental depression in many people who lost their job, their beloved ones, freedom to travel and communicate and so many related issues. This year FFA Alleppey is celebrating St. Francis Feast on October 4th with our Bishop His Excellency Rt. Rev. Dr. James. The function will follow covid protocols. After Mass food packets will be given to our families.

At present the covid crisis in terms of positive cases is still high in Alleppey. The government has allowed concessions to make the life easier for the public. Our schools are going to be re-opened but as our children are not available with precautionary vaccines, there will be strict regulations. Due to the covid crisis people are struggling to find answer for many of their daily needs. Without income their bills including, electrical, water, medical, educational, bank loans etc. are pending. To add fuel to the

miseries of the parents the children are having online classes. Although they could ill afford it, the families had to take new loans and debts for the rising needs of the family.

We take this opportunity to thank all of your, our a FFA sponsors who even in the midst of covid crisis continued assistance to our poor families. We also remember with thanks all of our dear sponsors who went for eternal rest during this time.

Affectionately,

Sr. Elsy Chacko , Annamma, Darley, Karoline, Soona and Sebastian

Veneration of Relics of Padre Pio Wednesday, November 3, 2021 Our Lady of the Fields Church, Millersville

Our Lady of the Fields Church - 1070 Cecil Avenue South, Millersville, MD 21108
www.ourladyofthefields.org 410-923-7060

St. Pio, better known as Padre Pio, is a modern-day saint, who is beloved for his kindness, gentleness, and compassion. **Our Lady of the Fields** is honored to have Padre Pio's first-class relics on display in our church for veneration on **Wednesday, November 3**.

Please note: Face masks will be required in the church for this event.
 Questions? Email info@olfparish.com

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| 9:30 AM | Daily Mass - Celebrant: Fr. Matt Himes, followed by prayer of the St. Padre Pio Chaplet |
| 10:30 AM – 8:00PM Veneration of Relics | |
| 10:30 AM | Eucharistic Adoration in the church |
| 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM | Confession & Prayer |
| 6:00 PM | Daily Mass - Celebrant: by Fr. Jack Ward, Concelebrant: Fr. Matt Himes Followed by prayer of the St. Padre Pio Chaplet |
| 6:45 PM | Guest Speaker: Talk & Reflection |
| 7:15 PM | Confession & Prayer |
| 8:00PM | Conclusion of Veneration of Relics |