



Minister's Minute:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

HAPPY FEAST OF ST. BONAVENTURE, Seraphic Doctor and author of the Major Legend. Brother Connor has passed along a Letter from the General Ministers on the 750th Anniversary of the Death of St. Bonaventure, Feb 2, 2024. It is included here in the Porter. "As a mystic, he shows us the center from which everything originates and is fulfilled, namely Christ Crucified, who from the cross bestowed the 'fire of the Holy Spirit' by which we reach our ultimate goal: to be transferred and transformed into God, the One who fills all things and makes them good and beautiful." He called Creation a ladder to God. May he pray for the Franciscan Order.

Today we seek to be peacemakers as Franciscans embracing the cross of a country divided at so many levels but one that seeks unity and peace. We seek as Little Friends for Peace to "deescalate" the outer and inner conflict, to decrease the rhetoric and be the Instruments of Peace in a World needing that witness desperately. Some members of FAN are planning on doing just that at the polls in November as "poll chaplains" according to an article in the July/August issue of the St. Anthony Messenger.org. They will work with other faith leaders to be a de-escalating presence at the polls. Lets pray for that peace at the RNC and DNC as well. Michelle Dunn OFS, Director of FAN will be our speaker this month. Please try to attend.

This week July 17-21 the Eucharistic Congress begins in Indianapolis. Where can we can to find greater strength and grace to carry the cross than to Jesus in the Eucharist. I understand that the Congress will be televised on EWTN so lets all experience that Renewal in belief and trust in the true presence of Jesus in Eucharist and pray for our brothers and sisters who don't believe (only 30% of Catholics do). Dianne Beaven will be attending and will share with us her experience in August. She has been accepted as a Candidate. There are a couple of books that we have mentioned to encourage that personal revival. One is 30 Day Eucharistic Revival by Donald Calloway MIC and the other is 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory ([www. Eucharist.us](http://www.Eucharist.us)) There is also a Fatima pilgrimage with Matthew Kelly Oct 19-25, a pilgrimage retreat for Eucharistic Consecration.

The theme of this year's World Day of Grandparents and Elderly to be celebrated July 28th is "Do not cast me off in my old age" from PS 71. It was chosen "to call attention to the fact that sadly loneliness is the bitter lot in life of many elderly persons, so often the victims of the throwaway culture". In this heat and humidity I am sure many of our elderly members are not getting out as much and we aren't either so lets reach out with phone calls and notes with our love and care and compassion. See ideas for parish involvement in our Porter. (catholicgrandparentsassociation.org)

You are such a generous fraternity and once again Casa Franciscana is requesting donations for shoes for the school children without any. Please see article. Many members of our parish of Our Lady of the Fields have served at this mission over the years including our beloved Deacon All and his wife Bea who have gone to their reward.

Our oldest member 96 year old Dennis Mallon has lost his wife of 66 years, Marge Mallon. Her funeral will be at St. Christophers in Chester Md on Wednesday July 31st. He has been Pat's prayer partner and he spoke with Dennis yesterday. We plan on attending the funeral.

Finally, but certainly not the least is the Chapter of Mats, September 6-8 in Adamstown, Md. Please sign up and join in the fun, faith and fellowship that takes place when Franciscans get together.

Love and Peace, Judith

*Br. Connor passed along the following letter to us. Below is a summary of the letter.
At the bottom are links where you can download the entire letter.*

ST. BONAVENTURE – A VOICE STILL RELEVANT TODAY

A LETTER FROM THE GENERAL MINISTERS OF THE FIRST ORDER AND THE THIRD ORDER REGULAR
ON THE 750TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF ST. BONAVENTURE, FEBRUARY 2, 2024

To All the Brothers of the Franciscan First Order and Third Order Regular, and to All the Brothers and Sisters of the Franciscan Family

The **750th anniversary** of the death of the Seraphic Doctor (d. July 15, 1274), gives us an opportunity not only to remember and celebrate the service he rendered to the Order and the entire Church, but also to repropose him as a gift that is still valid for our time.

Aware of his importance, but also that he is not always as well known and appreciated as he should be, even within our own circles, we want to share some reflections on his life and message, certain that it will be a useful gift for us in the Franciscan Order to better live our commitment to the Church and the world.

The Ministers General writes: “It is not easy to reproduce in a few lines the theological and Franciscan richness contained in the nine volumes of the *Opera omnia* of Saint Bonaventure.” They chose to highlight three areas. The sections included are:

Master of theology: with his mind on its journey toward God

As a master of theology, Bonaventure teaches us the way of intelligence tempered by wisdom; a way in which we can move from the confused darkness of the forest to a deeper understanding of our faith (enlightenment), bringing “the hidden things to light”.

Minister of the Order: a passionate leader

As a minister of the Order, he reminds us of our commitment to make our lives a witness animated by a readiness for renewal (purification) so that, even in radically different temporal and cultural circumstances, our life as minors can remain a “shining mirror of holiness.”

Mystic of love: affect, the pinnacle of knowledge

As a mystic, he shows us the center from which everything originates and is fulfilled, namely Christ crucified, who from the cross bestowed “the fire of the Holy Spirit” by which we reach our ultimate goal: “to be transferred” and “transformed into God,” the One the One who fills all things and makes them good and beautiful.

Fr. Massimo Fusarelli, OFM, General Minister

Fr. Carlos Alberto Trovarelli, OFM Conv, General Minister

Fr. Roberto Genuin, OFM Cap, General Minister

Fr. Amando Trujillo Cano, TOR, General Minister

The complete letter is available as a PDF download at on the order’s website at <https://www.ofmconv.net/en/lettera-ministri-general-per-s-bonaventura/> Click on English.

Or try the following link to directly download the PDF document https://www.ofmconv.net/docs/bonaventura-750/750_Bonaventura_ENG.pdf

THE PORTIUNCOLA INDULGENCE

<https://www.franciscanpenancelibrary.com/portiuncola-indulgence>

The Portiuncola Indulgence is a special favor granted by the Pope to St. Francis at his request.

One night in 1216, Francis awoke and felt a strong impulse to enter the chapel of the Portiuncola and pray. While at prayer, Our Lord and Our Lady appeared to Francis and asked him what he desired. Thinking of others and recognizing his own sinfulness, Francis spoke. "O God, although I am a great sinner, I beseech You to grant a full pardon of all sins to all who, having repented and confessed their sins, shall visit this church."

Our Lord answered, "Francis, you ask much, but you are worthy of greater things, and greater things you shall have."

The Lord granted the Indulgence and Pope Honorius III ratified it. Originally the Indulgence was attached only to the Porticuncola. However, subsequent Popes expanded the churches in which the Indulgence can be gained.

THE PORTIUNCOLA INDULGENCE TODAY: August 2

The Indulgence, if the person gaining it is free from every sin including venial sin, remits all the temporal punishment due to sin and may be applied to the person himself or herself or to a soul in Purgatory. If there is any adherence to sin in the person gaining the Indulgence, the Indulgence becomes partial.

The Indulgence may now be gained in any basilica, cathedral, or parish church on August 2. The person wishing to gain the Indulgence must fulfill the following requirements:

- a. Intend to gain the Indulgence
- b. Be detached from all sin
- c. While in the church pray one Our Father, one Apostle's Creed, and one other prayer of the individual's choice
- d. Pray for the intentions of the Pope (prayerfully saying an Our Father and a Hail Mary will suffice although other prayers may be said)
- e. Receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist within twenty days or less, either before or after August 2nd.

TREASURER'S REPORT – JOE MCHUGH

Thank you for your continuing generosity! !!

May Balance

\$3,921.45

FFA Stipend (\$100) \$2,821.45

SA Stipend (\$100) \$2,721.45

St. John's Stipend (\$100) \$2,621.45

2nd Qtr Phoenix (\$705) \$2,916.45

2nd Qtr Bus Tokens (\$490) \$2,526.45

June Deposit/Balance \$531 \$2,957.45

Fraternity contributions can be mailed to:

Joe McHugh

1740 Tedbury St

Crofton, MD 21114

Remember, when making your donation to the fraternity, 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 (includes Sabu family)

BUS - bus tokens for the Light House shelter clients

Phoenix – Phoenix Academy 'backpack' food

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES – Denise Miente

Phoenix Backpacks: On summer break

Light House Shelter Lunches: Next scheduled sandwich-making is on Thursday, July 27th at home of Catharine and Paul.

Shelter Bus Passes: Have been purchased and will be delivered is for July 27th.

GIVING CORNER: CASA FRANCISCANA

<https://casafranciscanaoutreach.org>

The Casa Franciscana Mission in Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico dates back to 1968, when the Mexican Obregon Diocese asked the Franciscan Province of Saint Barbara, CA, USA to provide pastoral care to the English-speaking community in San Carlos, Mexico. The friars agreed to minister this care to the San Carlos community under the condition that they could also serve the poor in the neighboring city of Guaymas, Mexico.

The Mission's current programs address the many needs of the marginalized population of Guaymas through its free medical/dental clinic, Mesón de Jesus (dining room), food packages for the home-bound and migrant shelter support. In collaboration with Shriners Hospitals, children with orthopedic and burn issues are transported to clinics in Phoenix. Their services are open to all, but they primarily serve four of the poorest Guaymas neighbor-hoods, a population of approximately 10,000 in a city with approximately 110,000 people.

The Mission is current running its annual shoe drive. Each year they discover more children deprived of education because they don't have shoes to attend class. Last year, donations provided shoes for 2,150 children. As a result, they are also seeing more of the children that they serve go on to middle and secundario (a form of high school) schools.

The mission team physically goes out to the camps and neighborhoods measuring feet and accommodating sizes. Although these feet are tinier, in some ways, it reminds me of Christ washing the feet of his beloved disciples. Twenty-five dollars (\$25) provides a pair of new shoes that fit properly.

Donations can be made online at: www.casafranciscanaoutreach.org

Or by mail to: PO Box 15576, Scottsdale, AZ 85267

<p style="text-align: center;">De-escalation</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sometimes we find ourselves in situations where it is difficult to maintain our inner peace. When this happens take time to de-escalate and recenter yourself.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shark Fin</p>  <p>Place the side of your hand up above your head.</p> <p>Slowly bring your hand down, past your head and down your body.</p> <p>As your hand moves down, breathe out with a "shhh" sound.</p> <p> Little FRIENDS For PEACE Peace Tool Card Centering</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>For more, visit www.lffp.org.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Finger Breathing</p>  <p>Hold one hand out, palms open and fingers spread.</p> <p>Use the index finger of your other hand to trace up and down your open hand.</p> <p>As you trace up, breath in through your nose As you trace down, breathe out.</p> <p>Continue until you have traced each finger.</p> <p> Little FRIENDS For PEACE Peace Tool Card Centering</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>For more, visit www.lffp.org.</i></p>
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Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's Prayer for Grandparents

Written at the request of the Catholic Grandparents Association in 2008.

Mentioned in the next two pages

Lord Jesus, you were born of the Virgin Mary, the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne. Look with love on grandparents the world over. Protect them! They are a source of enrichment for families, for the Church and for all of society. Support them! As they grow older, may they continue to be for their families strong pillars of Gospel faith, guardians of noble domestic ideals, living treasuries of sound religious traditions. Make them teachers of wisdom and courage, that they may pass on to future generations the fruits of their mature human and spiritual experience.

Lord Jesus, help families and society to value the presence and role of grandparents. May they never be ignored or excluded, but always encounter respect and love. Help them to live serenely and to feel welcomed in all the years of life which you give them. Mary, Mother of all the living, keep grandparents constantly in your care, accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage, and by your prayers, grant that all families may one day be reunited in our heavenly homeland, where you await all humanity for the great embrace of life without end. Amen!

Catholic Grandparents Association



CELEBRATING THE WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY



"DO NOT CAST ME OFF IN MY OLD AGE"
(cf. Psalm 71:9)

Pope Francis established a World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly which took place for the first time on Sunday 25 July 2021. The celebration will fall on the Sunday closest to the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, the fourth Sunday of July.

The Catholic Grandparents Association has been at the forefront in campaigning for a greater recognition of Grandparents for their role and vocation in passing on their faith to the next generation. The announcement of a new Church-wide celebration for Grandparents and the elderly came in answer to our prayerful request to the Holy Father Pope Francis.

Grandparents and the elderly are often overlooked, but this new day in the Universal Church calendar is a momentous achievement for Grandparents and the elderly and will hopefully reassure them that they are loved and that they are needed. The theme of the Pope's Message changes each year.

We invite you to join us in marking this momentous day in parishes. We have a whole suite of resources and ideas for how you can make this a wonderful celebration for all.



Follow us on social media for updates on
The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.



PARISHES CELEBRATING THE WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

RESOURCES FOR PARISHES

- The CGA emblem for the World Day for Grandparents and the elderly is available to download for use to promote this day.
- Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's Prayer for Grandparents is available to download and to order as bookmarks/prayer cards.
- Introduce the Children's Prayer Appeal in your parish.
- Visuals for Grandparents are available daily on our social media pages.
- Liturgical Resources: Prayers, Intercessions, Reflections, Homily Notes for use in parishes.
- Posters and Flyers.



IDEAS FOR YOUR PARISH TO MARK THE WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

- Host a Mass of Thanksgiving on the fourth weekend of July with a focus on the celebration of Grandparents. If possible invite Grandparents to be part of the Mass.
- Grandparents' Book of Remembrance: Invite parishioners to share the names of Grandparents and elderly members of their family who are no longer with us in a Parish Book of Remembrance. The book can be brought to the altar at the start of Mass on the weekend.
- Plant a Tree in your parish in memory of all Grandparents and elders.
- Acknowledge a Grandparent or an elderly person with 'The Grandparents Medal' award from the CGA. A commemorative medal is available from the CGA for use for this purpose. As well as giving them the commemorative medal for display, you can also present them with a CGA gold or silver medal to wear.
- Host a Novena or Holy Hour for Grandparents and the Elderly on the eve of the Sunday.
- Display prayers from the Children's Prayer Appeal in your church on the fourth weekend of July. Make some of these available to local care homes.
- Talk to us about establishing a Grandparents' Ministry in your parish which could be launched to coincide with the World Day of Prayer on the weekend.
- Forget-me-not flowers are the official flowers for Grandparents. These might be included in the liturgy or seeds might be passed on to grandchildren to grow in memory of their Grandparents.
- Send a group to your National Grandparents Pilgrimage. (This year we will have a pilgrimage in Knock, Walsingham, and in Medjugorje.)

Visit our website for more information on our resources
www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

2024 OFS Chapter of Mats

Registration is **NOW OPEN** for our **September 6-8, 2024 Chapter of Mats** to be held at the beautiful **Claggett Center** in Adamstown, Maryland. Under the theme of **The Next 800 Years**, we will explore where we have been, where we are now, and where we are going.

How are we as Secular Franciscans poised to bring Christ to our world? What unique gifts do we have to offer?

Deadlines:

Non-Refundable Deposit	\$150.00	Due by June 1, 2024
Full remaining balance	Based on housing selection	Due by Aug. 1, 2024

Note: See payment options on page 2. After August 1, all reservations are final and non-refundable.

Housing Options:

Housing options will include single and double hotel-like rooms with private baths in the, **Christiane Inn** in close proximity to the dining room and meeting rooms. Accommodations are also available in cottages, downhill from the dining and meeting space. **Cottages** have two twin beds per room and shared baths down the hall. Map and more explanation of housing can be found on the regional website.

Event Costs:

All meals (Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast) and registration fees are included in the cost of the rooms. The lodging cost is based on the type of housing selected from the options below. There are no additional fees.

- Inn – single room/1 queen bed for 1 person (\$265 by April 30/\$315 after May 1)
- Inn – 2nd person in single room/1 queen bed for 2 persons (\$208 per person by April 30/\$235 per person after May 1) – must designate roommate
- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for 2 persons (\$225 per person by April 30/\$275 per person after May 1) – roommate may be designated or assigned (\$200 per person by April 30/\$230 per person after May 1) – must designate roommates
- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for four persons (\$188 per person by April 30/\$210 per person after May 1) – must designate roommates
- Cottage – two twin beds per room for 2 persons (\$185 per person by April 30/\$235 per person after May 1) – roommate may be designated or assigned (**no single rooms in cottages**)

PLEASE NOTE: Single rooms are limited and available on a 1st come, 1st served basis. If you want a single room, or to reserve any other room of your choice, we encourage you to register and pay the \$150 deposit ASAP.

Payment Options: Payment can be made via check or credit card (subject to 3.5%

fee).

- Checks should be made payable to **St. Margaret of Cortona Region**, and mailed to **Peter Noyes, 1904 Atkisson Road, Joppa, MD 21085-1811.**
- If you wish to pay by credit card (with additional 3.5% fee), mark that box on the registration form
- and you will receive an invoice and payment instructions from Peter Noyes.

To enhance the participation of all our brothers and sisters, **disability and dietary accommodations**, and **language interpretation/translation** will be available throughout the Chapter of Mats. Please indicate your requests on the registration form.

WE NEED YOU!

To make our upcoming OFS Chapter of Mats memorable, we wish to include in the planning fraternity members willing to share their talents by working with the subcommittees in the various capacities listed below. Please indicate on the registration form the subcommittee(s) for which you would like to volunteer:

- Program
- Publicity
- Registration and Welcome
- Onsite volunteer (usher, guide, etc.)
- Liturgy and Environment
- Access
- Social

If you have any questions or need help with registering, email Peter Noyes at pnoyesofs@gmail.com and to Janice Benton at jbentonsfo@gmail.com.

NOTE: Please indicate on the form whether paying by check or credit card. (Reminder: credit cards are subject to a 3.5% fee)

For up-to-date information, visit the St. Margaret of Cortona website's Events page <https://saintmargaretofcortona.org/upcoming-events/>. There are also links to a map and photographs of the campus that can be viewed from the website.

To Register, a fillable registration form link is available on the website. <https://saintmargaretofcortona.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Registration-for-Mats-2024-.pdf>