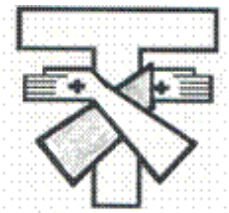

The Porter

St. Conrad Fraternity, Annapolis, MD
Secular Franciscan Order – July 2025
http://stconradannapolis.sfousa.org/

The Porter deadline for next issue is July 9. **Please send news, events, prayer requests, poems, or any interesting items** to: Joan Faltot, 715 Maiden Choice Ln, Apt CC122, or send by email to jd6bouv@verizon.net.

Fraternity Gathering	**Saturday, July 19, 2025** **Mass at 8:30 in CHURCH followed by Gathering at the Annex** THE CHURCH IS LOCATED AT 7436 BALTIMORE ANNAPOLIS BLVD, GLEN BURNIE **Christ the King Annex is at** **126 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie, MD** (Next to Monsignor Slade Catholic School)
Program	Fraternal Visitation by our Regional Counselor Tobias "Toby" Harkleroad, OFS with his personal sharing
Refreshments	Annapolis/Eastern Shore
Prayer	Bowie/Crofton/Severna Park Liturgy of the Hours: Saturday, 15th Week in Ordinary Time. Psalms: Week III Welcoming for Cynthia Fowler and Nancy Poniatowski (see Ritual)
Prayer Requests	***For the soul of Mary Jo Johnson, Denise Miante and Brian Newman OFM Cap, and comfort for their friends and families. For physical and spiritual healing of:*** Al McGee (Ruth's brother-in-law), Ed Shea (Ruth's son), Dennis Mallon (broken hip), Emily McGeady, Jerry Miante, Dr. Alex Demyan, Jude Dodge's niece, Catherine Gonzalez's mother, Ruth's daughter Kate, Monica's daughter, Jude Dodge, Margaret Jackson, , Audrey Donnelly, Tessie Chitty, Evelyn Jones' son Jimmy, Audrey Bushée, Bill Chitty, Kathleen Sievers, Carole Marsh's sister, Harry Thompson, Jackie Chaplin (sister of Kathleen Sievers), Ed Sievers (Kathleen's husband), , Kellie Eye (granddaughter of Susan Greif), Evelyn Jones' niece, Jimmy Wilbourne, Gerard Malka (brother of Genny Wilbourne), Carolyn Malka (sister-in-law of Genny Wilbourne). *Please help keep this list current. Additions and changes should be sent to Joan at jd6bouv@verizon.net*
Birthdays	Pat Tyrrell – 07/24 Monica Ruppert – 07/25 Jude Dodge – 07/29 David Weir – 08/08
Profession Anniversaries	Brigid Cobb – 08/03/1983
Council Meeting	Friday, August 1 at 7:00 via Zoom.
Upcoming Events	

Minister's Minute

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Praise God for His love and mercy. Praise God for the promise of eternal life. We stand on those promises when we cope with the deaths of our friends and family and see the tragic deaths spoken of on tv. Did you hear the testimony of the parents of the young girl who they saw floating away on her back singing hymns after she had rescued her siblings? They have confidence that she is with the Lord. May we all persevere in faith as Denise, Mary Jo and Br. Brian did through the trials of their lives, as did this young girl.

This Saturday Toby Harkleroad one of our own and one that Denise helped to form will be visiting us. Remember the "three amigos"? Joe, Chris and Toby. Toby is now our Regional Councilor and will be sharing with us some Franciscan influences in his life.

This month on July 15th we celebrate the feast of St. Bonaventure who wrote The Souls Journey Into God, The Tree of Life, and the Life of St. Francis. Sr. Ilia Delio OSF has written Simply Bonaventure, an Introduction to his life, thought and writings. She writes of Bonaventure's concept of poverty saying that " the truly poor person, that is the one who is spiritually poor and who may live materially poor, recognizes the need for God in every aspect of life." His concept of humility is that " the eternal God has humbly bent down and lifted the lowliness of our nature into unity with his own person."(p118-119)

The Texas flood victims have shown us the poverty and humility in their losses and in their need for God's help in their total dependence on Him and the love of neighbors to get through this disaster. As a fraternity we are donating to Catholic Charities in Texas to do our small part to help.

Peace, love and joy, Judith

Denise Teresa Miante, OFS

(September 3, 1952 – June 1, 2025

Denise Teresa Bernadette Anthony Miante, 72, of Stevensville, Maryland, passed away peacefully on June 1, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.

Denise was born on September 3, 1952, in Framingham, Massachusetts, the beloved daughter of Charles and Vincenza (Naticchioni) Augustini. A proud graduate of Natick High School, she pursued her passion for caregiving at the Framingham School of Nursing and worked as a nursing aide at Leonard Morse Hospital in Natick, where she cared for others with her gentle spirit and compassion.

In 1975, Denise married the love of her life, Gerald "Jerry" Miante, after being introduced by a mutual friend. They began their life together in Massachusetts before settling in the Baltimore

area, where Jerry began his career in marine engineering education. Denise embraced each chapter of their journey with grace, warmth, and unwavering strength.

She was a devoted mother to her daughters, Tara-Lynne, born April 10, 1976, and Katie Rose, born July 7, 1989. With a 13-year gap between her daughters, Denise often remarked with affection that she had raised “two only children.” For a decade, while Jerry was away at sea, she single-handedly cared for her family—a testament to her resilience, love, and fortitude.

Denise’s heart for service was a constant throughout her life. She volunteered in her daughters’ elementary schools for 14 years, served at her church as a Sunday School teacher, Parish Family Life Minister, and was President of the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary for three years. She was a Troop Leader and Area Manager for the Girl Scouts for more than 13 years.

Her deep faith informed everything she did. Denise was an active member of the Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy (EADM) Cenacle at St. John the Evangelist Church in Severna Park, and the Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) Sodality at St. Christopher’s Church in Chester. In 2010, she was joyfully professed into the Secular Franciscan Order and went on to serve the St. Conrad Fraternity as Vice-Minister for three years and Director of Formation for twelve years.

Denise will be remembered for her boundless generosity, her quiet strength, and her deep devotion to her faith, her family, and her community. She leaves behind a legacy of love and selflessness that will continue to inspire all who were blessed to know her.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Gerald Miante; her daughters, Tara-Lynne and Katie Rose; her siblings, David Augustini, Charles Augustini, Charlotte Agostini, Roberta Augustini, and Mary Ellen Austin; and a wide circle of friends, fellow parishioners, and those whose lives she touched through her service and kindness. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her brother, Joseph Augustini.

A funeral Mass was held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 12 at St. John Neumann Church, 620 Bestgate Rd., Annapolis MD.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Denise’s memory to the American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association, or the Franciscan Capuchin Friars of the Province of St. Augustine; Pittsburgh, PA.

Mary Josephine Johnson

Mary Josephine (Mary Jo) Johnson, 79, of Glen Burnie, Maryland, passed from this life on Friday, July 4, 2025, at Bethania Home Care in Westminster, MD. She was the beloved wife of Robert Johnson until his passing in 1985. Raised in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Baltimore, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Angela Mrozek. She was the youngest of ten children. After her husband's passing, Mary Jo worked for the Department of Defense for 21 years until she retired. Mary Jo was active in her parish for many years and was a professed member of the Secular Franciscan Order. She earned a BA in Religious Studies at Notre Dame of Maryland University. She is survived by her four children, Cailey Gehan and husband Robert, Robert Johnson Jr, Michael Johnson and wife Sandra, and Richard Johnson and wife Jennifer. Mary Jo was also blessed with twelve grandchildren, Krysta Johnson, Caitey Gehan and husband Arif, Timothy Johnson, Nicholas Gehan and wife Emily, Noah and Jeremy Gehan, Abigail, Hannah, Xavier, Elizabeth, Olivia, and Rebecca Johnson, along with one great-granddaughter Fatima Khan. Mary Jo went to great lengths to be present for and to take care of her family. The family would like to express our appreciation for her wonderful care at Bethania Home Care in Westminster, and for the hospice care provided by Bridging Life. Memorial donations may be made to Christ the King Catholic Church in Glen Burnie or to the Alzheimer's Association. Funeral Mass was on Friday at 10 AM in Christ the King Catholic Church. Interment in Holy Cross Cemetery.

Brian Newman, OFM Cap. (1935-2025)

See https://www.capuchin.com/homepage/deceased/newman-2025
For full obituary and history of his life and work

Newman, OFM Cap., passed on to life in the Lord's eternal peace on Monday June 30, 2025, at the motherhouse in Pittsburgh, PA. He celebrated his 90th birthday just 10 days before though he'd been in failing health since a cancer diagnosis in January. He chose to begin hospice care at that time; it was his sincere hope that all the friars accompany him in this final journey with their prayers, and he was consoled that his illness was advancing during the Church's *Jubilee Year of Hope*. He wanted news of his illness to be shared widely so that our prayers and fraternal regard would be his "companion on this pilgrimage to our Father."

Robert Newman was born June 20, 1935, and, being from his beloved Charleston, WV, was a self-described *Mountaineer*, a proud Appalachian. Son of Elmas and Betha (Lynch) Newman, he was baptized at Sacred Heart Church in the city where our Capuchin Franciscan friars had lived and served for decades. Sadly, his older sister, Patricia Ann, died at the age of 12.

With a vocation to the priesthood in his mind, he entered our Capuchin St. Fidelis Seminary in Herman, PA, in 1949. After his sixth year in 1955, as was the custom (which now would be his second year of college), Bob requested entrance into the Order along with classmates like future friars **Roman Kozacheson**, **Blaine Burkey**, **Harvey Dinkel**, **Matthew Gross**, **Dunstan Jones** (+2006), **Bernard Finerty** (+2015) and **Colman Studeny** (+2024).

He completed his philosophy studies in Herman after his profession of vows as Brian and went on for theological studies at Capuchin College in Washington, DC. He was ordained to the priesthood at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington in 1961.

At the end of his theology studies in 1962, Brian's first assignment was one which would span his life of active ministry from 1963-2013: for 50 golden years, Brian was a missionary. Uniquely, Brian's initial years assigned to Papua New Guinea were documented in an article for *Sandal Prints*, a missionary periodical published by our confreres of the St. Joseph Province (Detroit, MI). For the issue of January-February, 1965, fellow missioner Benjamin Madden, then Prefect and teacher in Madang (his own 5th year of missionary life), wrote:

> *Fr. Brian Newman, OFM Cap., recently came to Papua to begin his missionary work. He was quickly introduced to many of the facets of his future work by accompanying another missionary on a bush trip. Father had arrived with the idea that he would change the lives of many of the people here by offering them the teachings of God. He found from this brief first experience that in order to do this more successfully, he had to change a few things in his own life to better adapt himself to his work . . .*
>
> *This will be Fr. Brian's work in the future, possibly for the rest of his life [ed.: almost!]. He must supplant this fear with knowledge and love, love of a God strong enough to protect them from all evil forces. In the place of superstitious and sacrificial rituals, he must teach them the effectiveness of daily prayer . . . To do this, Fr. Brian must change his life somewhat. He must give up comforts to contact his people, dispersed over a wide area. He may even have to alter his eating and living habits. He faces many years of hard work on one or more new languages . . . God has put into his heart a missionary vocation. Just as His graces have made fruitful the work of so many of His missionaries, so His graces will also assist Fr. Brian in bringing about all these changes.*

His first mission was to Erave, but he would go on to serve on the faculty of the newly founded St. Fidelis College in Madang and to be named Rector of the seminary in 1976. He continued his work of training local vocations to our way of life with seven years as director of the novices in Pangia in the Southern Highlands. In fact, the majority of his years as the Mountaineer missionary were devoted to the formation of Capuchin friars. He was director of postulants in Ialibu for four years, followed by eight years at the post-novitiate formation program in Port Moresby. In 2006 he

returned to St. Fidelis Seminary in Madang as a teacher and spiritual director. He completed his missionary work at Padre Pio Friary in Madang to, again, work with candidates for our Capuchin life.

Brian preached many retreats and Recollection days, particularly to communities of Sisters and fostered the growth of many communities of Secular Franciscans throughout the areas he served.

In May 2013, Brian saw that it was time to return to life in the United States and was assigned to Capuchin College in Washington, DC (of course, a house of formation!). He served as confessor at the National Shrine and for many of the Religious men and women of the DC area. In 2019, he felt it necessary to move to St. Augustine Friary in Pittsburgh to receive more intensive medical attention and care. Yet, even when mobility became more challenging, our brother was always eager to help when needed, particularly for confessions.

TREASURER'S REPORT – JOE MCHUGH

Thank you for your continued generosity ! ! !

May Balance			$2,331.45
FFA Stipend	($100)		$2,231.45
Sa Stipend	($100)		$2,131.45
Adams Academy	($355)		$1,776.45
June Deposit/Balance		$1,347.00	$3,123.45

The council voted to donate $500 to Catholic Charities for flood relief.

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

Light House Shelter Lunches: Next scheduled sandwich-making is scheduled for Thursday, July 24th at 10:00am at the home of Pat and Judith Tyrrell.

ST. MICHAEL'S LENT: AUGUST 15 TO SEPTEMBER 29

The simplest explanation can be found on Wikipedia:

> ***Saint Michael's Lent*** *is a period of fasting observed in the Catholic Church, from the Feast of the Assumption on August 15 to Michaelmas (the feast of St Michael), Gabriel, and Raphael] on September 29, excluding Sundays. According to Bonaventure, St. Michael's Lent originates in Franciscan tradition. It is also mentioned in Little Flowers of St. Francis. It was the custom for Francis of Assisi to fast before Michaelmas to honor the Blessed Virgin and St. Michael.*

And just to quibble, the Church on September 29, celebrates the Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels. Also, like Lent, St. Michaels Lent does not include fasts on Sundays.

Looking at the two Franciscan sources, the following can be found

1. St. Bonaventure records in his biography (written between 1260-1266) how Francis, "*was brought after many*

and varied toils unto a high mountain apart, that is called Mount Alverna. When, according unto his wont he began to keep a Lent there, fasting, in honor of St. Michael Archangel, he was filled unto overflowing, and as never before, with the sweetness of heavenly contemplation." St. Bonaventure adds that, "*Unto the Blessed Michael Archangel—inasmuch as his is the ministry of bringing souls before God, —Francis cherished an especial love and devotion."*

2. In the 13th century book, *The Little Flowers of St. Francis*, he says to his brothers, "*My sons, we are drawing nigh to our forty days' fast of St. Michael the Archangel; and I firmly believe that it is the will of God that we keep this fast in the mountain of Alvernia, the which by Divine dispensation hath been made ready for us, to the end that we may, through penance, merit from Christ the consolation of consecrating that blessed mountain to the honor and glory of God and of His glorious mother, the Virgin Mary, and of the holy angels."*

Most significantly, in 1224, two years before Francis' death, it would have been during the St. Michael fast that Francis received the Stigmata which we now celebrate on September 17, and which is just 3 days after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14).

It appears that this fast began with St. Francis and was spread by Franciscans through the 18th century. After that it received less attention, but in recent years has seen a revival among some Catholics**.** For example, watch the popular Fr. Schmidt on YouTube give fast-talking, almost 8-minute sermon on St. Michael's Lent and the spiritual significance in fasting in general. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6GP4DoG-wE

And although St. Michael's fast is not mandated by the Church, an Opinion piece in Crisis Magazine (2023) by DL Sayles reflects on the need for a fast during this time of year. https://crisismagazine.com/opinion/what-is-st-michaels-lent

She writes about the periods of preparation in the Church year where the dimming sunlight in Advent gives way to the lights of Christmas; the coldness of Lent gives way to Easter and the coming of Spring. She thinks we could use a third period of preparation as the heat of summer gives way to fall. Perhaps St. Francis felt this need as well.

> *And finally, St. Michael's Lent begins mid-August, during the hottest, most humid part of the summer. The plants are shriveled and spent. The grass is browning and burnt. The birds' nests are emptying. The insects are at their height of population.*
>
> *St. Michael's Lent ends with Michaelmas, the time of year when the temperatures are finally starting to cool, schools are starting back in session, the harvest is coming ready, and the dried-out, sultry air is giving way to the cool days of autumn. The leaves are starting to turn colors. The sky is impossibly bright blue. It's bonfire and hayride season. We have fought and vanquished the searing heat as St. Michael fought and vanquished the one who forever lives in searing heat. Michaelmas has a feeling of new beginnings and fresh starts.*
>
> *As one can see with each of the other penitential periods, the penances we undergo during St. Michael's Lent are complementary to the natural penances taking place in the seasonal world around us. It's an innate use of both the internal and external burnout at the end of summer in preparation for the coming beautiful days of autumn.*

CATHOLIC CLIMATE COVENANT ACTION ALERT:

https://catholicclimatecovenant.salsalabs.org/liheap2026budgetsupport/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=63f73e94-490b-4feb-8342-c9709ba7eee9

Urge Congress to protect and fully fund Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Continue to provide heating, cooling and weatherization assistance to low-income households

CRITICALLY IMPORTANT BUDGET ACTION ALERT

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps roughly 6.7 million low-income households afford heating and cooling by providing heating and cooling payment assistance (preventing energy shutoffs) and weatherization and energy efficiency programs through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This critical life-saving program is in crisis as the administration has dismissed the entire federal staff responsible for administering it as part of a sweeping reduction at HHS and has proposed a total cut of LIHEAP in the 2026 federal budget.

LIHEAP upholds human dignity and cares for the poor and vulnerable — core tenets of Catholic Social Teaching.

Urge your Members of Congress to support the full funding of this program and reject proposals that undermine energy justice and creation care.

The Climate Covenant web site provides an online form that allows you to personalize the letter with your own words and experiences! And then send you message to your two senators and one representative. If you happen to receive assistance from LIHEAP, or know someone who does, feel free to let your legislators know what it has meant to you or others.

Online form:
https://catholicclimatecovenant.salsalabs.org/liheap2026budgetsupport/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=63f73e94-490b-4feb-8342-c9709ba7eee9

Evening Prayer via Zoom

Pope St John XIII Fraternity (Davidsonville, MD) invites you to join its evening Liturgy of the Hours prayed daily on Zoom. Open a Zoom.us session and JOIN the meeting.

Meeting id: **88305033327** (same id every day)
Sunday through Friday meetings are at 4:30 PM
Saturday meeting is at 3:30 PM.