

The Porter

St. Conrad Fraternity, Annapolis, MD
Secular Franciscan Order – April 2026
<http://stconradannapolis.sfousa.org/>

The Porter deadline for May is the 6th. Please send news, prayer requests, poems, or interesting items that you think other members may enjoy to: Joan Faltot, 715 Maiden Choice Ln, Apt CC122, Catonsville, MD 21224, or send by email to jd6bouv@verizon.net.



Fraternity Meeting

Saturday, April 18, 2026
Mini Retreat 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM at the Shrine of St. Anthony
12290 Folly Quarter Rd.
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Program

Our fraternity will join with the Pope John XXIII Fraternity on April 18 from 9:30-2:00 at the Shrine of St. Anthony. **Fr. Jude Winkler** will speak on Pope Leo's Apostolic Exhortation *Delexi Te* in morning and on forgiveness in the afternoon. See schedule on page 3.

Special Outreach

Amazon Relief – <https://www.amazonrelief.org>. See page 6 for information.

Refreshments

You are on your own for lunch, so remember to bring your brown bag lunch and a drink. We are also welcome to bring snacks to share. Refreshments assignment for the month are those members whose first name begins with Directions J to Z. But keep it simple, small packaged snacks.

Liturgy

Bring your LOH for Morning Prayer

Prayer Requests



For physical and spiritual healing of: Jean Gae's brother, Bob & Sarah Ranke, Teresa Booher (Ruth's daughter), Ed Sievers (Kathleen's husband), Margaret Jackson, Tessie Chitty, Al McGee (Ruth's brother-in-law), Ed Shea (Ruth's son), Emily McGeady, Jerry Mianta, Dr. Alex Demyan, Jude Dodge's niece, Catherine Gonzalez's mother, Monica's daughter, Jude Dodge, Audrey Donnelly, Audrey Bushée, Bill Chitty, Harry Thompson, Kellie Eye (granddaughter of Susan Greif), 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

Antoinette Ejikeme – April
Catherine Gonzalez – 5/04
Audrey Donnelly – 5/06

Profession Anniversaries

Audrey Bushee – 05/08/1979

Council Meeting

Saturday, May 2, 10:00 am at home of Mary Anne Novak.

Upcoming Events	June 5-7, 2026. St. Margaret of Corona Regional Retreat. Priestfield Center. Celebrate the Region's 2026 "Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation" theme with a Spiritual Retreat focused on making JPIC-driven choices in our daily lives.
Upcoming Events (cont'd)	28 July – 02 August, 2026. 21st Quinquennial Congress - <i>The Easter of Francis: Rekindle the Flame.</i> (Early Bird discounts end December 31, 2025) Location: Marriott Griffin Gate Golf Resort & Spa, 1800 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY. https://ofs-usa.regfox.com/21st-congress-secular-franciscan-order-usa



Minister's Minute

Dear Franciscan Sisters and Brothers,

I hope this letter finds you well and still celebrating our beautiful and life-giving Easter season. As members of our fraternity, we are united not only by tradition but also by our shared values and commitment to one another. In these challenging times, it is more important than ever that we come together in prayer, seeking peace throughout the world and in our own hearts. Together, we can be a positive force for change and hope.

Please read the Porter carefully for information about our April Fraternity gathering at St. Anthony's Shrine. We are welcome to bring a snack to share. We will participate with Pope St. John XXIII praying the LOH- please bring your book. Also bring a brown bag lunch and drink for lunch. The fraternity is covering the cost of your participation on the 18th. Please make sure you sign in with Joe so he has an accurate count.

Please let me know if you are interested and available to reach out to absent members after our monthly meetings.

Looking ahead to May, our formation will be on the Franciscan Rosary and celebration of the Rite of Admission for Antoinette.

I will miss you in April, but will be joyfully attending the wedding of my niece, Ellie, in Durham, NC

May peace be with you always.

Ruth



Pope Leo's Prayer for the Special Year of St. Francis

Saint Francis, our brother, you who eight hundred years ago went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace, intercede for us before the Lord.

You recognized true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano, teach us to seek in Him the source of all reconciliation that breaks down every wall.

You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war and misunderstanding, give us the courage to build bridges where the world raises up boundaries.

In this time afflicted by conflict and division, intercede for us so that we may become peacemakers: unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ. *Amen*



Pope St. John XXIII Fraternity
St. Conrad Fraternity
Secular Franciscan Order

Shrine of St, Anthony
12290 Folly Quarter Road
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

**Agenda for Saturday April 18, 2026
Retreat and Fraternity Meeting (Rule 24)**

Place: Franciscan Shrine of St. Anthony Ellicott City Maryland

Time: 0930 to 1430

Zoom ID: 883 0503 3327 (Same Access for Evening LOH's)

Opening Prayer: Ritual Book Page 57 (Rule 8) – Ann Marie Pessagno

Liturgy of the Hours: (Rule 8) Leader: Joe O’Dea

Evening Prayer: Page (474) 851

Hymn: #40: Love Divine All Loves Excelling

Please remember our homebound, sick and deceased members.

Ongoing Formation Program: (Rule 17)



Schedule for Retreat

Father Jude Winkler, OFM Conv.

- 0930 – 0945 Registration and Social Time
- 0945 – 1000 Morning Liturgy of the Hours
- 1000 – 1050 First Talk/Discussion/Questions - Delexi te, Father Jude
- 1100 – 1145 Reconciliation/Free Time
- 1200 – 1245 Holy Mass
- 1245 – 1300 Lunch (Please bring a brown bag lunch and drink in common area)
- 1315 – 1400 Second Talk/Discussion/Questions – Forgiveness, Father Jude
- 1400 – 1420 Business Meeting of Pope St. John XXIII Secular Franciscan Fraternity
- 1420 – 1430 Wrap Up and Departure



A Meditation from Br. Connor Bannon, OFM Cap

Good evening, everyone, and happy Easter! If you don't mind, I'd like to begin tonight's reflection with a reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

¹⁶The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. ¹⁸Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

As we enter now into a time of prayer, I invite you to close your eyes and take a few slow, deep breaths.

Imagine that you are one of the eleven disciples. Jesus has told you to meet him on this mountain, and after a long day of climbing, you are finally there at the top. Now it's just a matter of catching your breath and waiting for Jesus to show up... if he shows up.

After all, Jesus was killed a few days ago—and dead men tend to stay, well, dead.

As you wait, what are you doing? Chatting with the others? Enjoying the view? Drawing in the dirt?

How are you feeling? Anxious? Excited? Nervous? Tired?

What are you expecting to see? Nothing? A ghost? A zombie? Or something else—something greater than your wildest dreams?

What are you expecting to receive from Jesus? A tongue-lashing? An explanation? An encouraging word? A bear hug?

All of a sudden, the wait is over. Jesus appears. He's here. He's alive.

What does Jesus look like? What do you notice about his hands, his feet, his eyes?

How do you feel as you see him for the first time since Holy Thursday? Afraid? Dumbfounded? Overjoyed? Unsure?

What do you want to do? Keep your distance? Run to him? Embrace him? Fall at his feet?

What do you want to say?

"I'm sorry."

"I denied you."

"I abandoned you."

"But I love you."

"Please stay with me."

Now is your moment. Go to Jesus. Do what you want to do. Say what you need to say.

How does Jesus respond to you? What does he do? What does he say?

Look into his eyes and listen as he tells you:

"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, and make disciples of all nations... And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

Which of Jesus' words catches your ear? Sit with that word for a moment. Let it soak into your heart.

Listen again:

“I am with you always.”

This is Jesus’ promise.

Was there a moment today when you saw this promise fulfilled?

Sit with Jesus, and ask him to show you his presence—right here, right now, in the midst of this council meeting.

Alas, Jesus says it’s time to go.

He embraces you, and sends you back down the mountain with the others. As you make your way down, stubbing your toes on rocks along the way, you turn back for one last look at your Lord on this side of heaven.

And you hear him call out:

“I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

Library of St Conrad



The library of St Conrad meets once a month at Audrey’s house. On April 28, 2:00-3:15pm, we will be starting a new book The Capillaries of Christ, Understanding the Part You Play in His Body by Marty Mitchell. We will be reading chapter 1. Contact Linda Haney for more information and let her know if you plan to attend so she can let you know of any last minute changes.



TREASURER’S REPORT

Thank you for your continued generosity !!!

February Balance		\$4,676.97
FFA Stipend	(\$100)	\$4,576.97
SA Stipend	(\$100)	\$4,476.97
OLF Stipend	(\$100)	\$4,376.97
Bus Tokens	(\$500)	\$3,876.97
March Deposit/Balance	\$2,520.00	\$6,396.97

Fraternity contributions can be mailed to:
 Joe McHugh
 1740 Tedbury St
 Crofton, MD 21114

Reminder: Monthly Donations

The council has voted to eliminate the monthly designations on our monthly giving. All donations will go into the Common Fund. This will enable our fraternity to support one charity each month (in addition to our regular expenses) and have funds available to donate to unexpected emergencies around the region, country or world.

April Outreach – Amazon Relief <https://www.amazonrelief.org>

Amazon Relief brings aid and Christ's love to "at risk" children and the poor who live in "The Green Hell" — an area near the equator, 1,200 miles up the Amazon River. The poverty in the region can hardly be described.

Jim Flickinger, **OFS**, the Founder-President of Amazon Relief, had this assessment following one of his many trips to help in the area: "It's hard to describe holding a 4-year old in your arms as she edges closer and closer to death from malnutrition. As I held the child, I looked around. The living conditions were typical: a one-room shack on stilts over sewage. No bathroom. No electricity. No plumbing. Temperatures of 95-120 degrees with 99% humidity and no air movement. And the smells — like living above an old-fashioned outhouse."


Amazon Relief programs focus on

- Meal programs
- Education for 7-14 year old children who have never attended school to provide basic skills which allow them to progress into tradition schools and to continue further into apprentice program or college. Adults are being taught to read and write and find jobs to support their families.
- Shelter, food, medicine and clothing to some of the lepers 45,000 in the Amazon area.

Every dollar donated goes to those in need. Since its start in 2002, the programs have been effective; however, to date they are only reaching 15% of the children. They need to expand their current programs, hire more teachers, and open an additional school. This in addition meeting ongoing needs to supply food, medicine, clothing and shelter to the children and their families.

"I can't to everything, but I will do everything I can." Jim Flickinger, ofs

There is a lot more on their website including a short video. Check it out. <https://www.amazonrelief.org>.

	Franciscan Kitchen	
	Simple and healthy (and inexpensive) home made vinaigrette	
	Ingredients	Directions
3 tbsp Olive Oil 1 tbsp Lemon juice or red wine vinegar ½ tsp of salt 1tsp Dijon mustard ¼ pepper <u>Optional:</u> 1 clove of garlic minced, 1 tsp maple syrup or honey	Combine all ingredients in jar with tight lid and shake until mixed.	

EVENTS OF INTEREST AROUND TOWN [please submit interesting events at your parish]

St. Anthony's Shrine - Pilgrimage offering

A program that began during the Jubilee Year of Hope, Franciscan Pilgrimages of Hope offer an opportunity to experience our Shrine and grounds in a new way. A pilgrimage is the act of leaving one's home to travel to a holy place, and whether your travels are five miles or 500 miles, we hope you'll join us for these days of learning, prayer, reflection, and hope.

Each of these pilgrimage experiences feature a themed tour of the Shrine of St. Anthony, Mass, and an afternoon activity on our grounds tied to the morning's theme. While each event centers on hope, the Franciscan ideals and saints highlighted will vary based on the event. Pilgrimage events are led by Ray Glennon, OFS, and include contributions from Shrine Director Friar Gary Johnson, OFM Conv, and other friars in residence.

Pilgrimage tours begin at 10 a.m. in the courtyard of the Shrine, followed by time for Adoration ahead of the 12 p.m. daily Mass in the Shrine chapel. Pilgrims are encouraged to bring a bag lunch to enjoy with other visitors ahead of the afternoon activity. Pilgrims should be aware that portions of the day will include walking to various outdoor landmarks. If inclement weather affects the safety of pilgrims, events will move indoors. Registration for pilgrimage events is encouraged. Click on the event link to reserve your space. We cap attendance at 50 participants. If you're unable to attend one of the following times, but would like to schedule a similar experience with a group, please contact the Shrine Office at 410-531-2801.

Registration is highly encouraged. To ensure a quality experience for pilgrims, we cap attendance at 50 participants. All gifts support future programming at the Shrine of St. Anthony.

2026 Pilgrimages of Hope



Finding Hope That's Been Lost: A Franciscan Pilgrimage of Hope

Register at: <https://www.shrineofstanthony.org/rsvp-seeking-hope-thats-lost>

Saturday, June 6, 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM, and repeated **Tuesday, June 9**, 9:30AM-2:30PM

In honor of St. Anthony of Padua's Feast Day, we'll be offering two opportunities to join us for a special pilgrimage dedicated to his life and ministry. Reservations are encouraged.

Register for Saturday, June 6: <https://www.shrineofstanthony.org/rsvp-seeking-hope-thats-lost>

Register for Tuesday, June 9: <https://www.shrineofstanthony.org/rsvp-seeking-hope-thats-lost-tuesday>