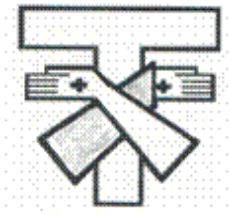

The Porter

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

The Porter deadline for the August *Porter* is September 9th. **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, September 19, 2026** **Mass at 8:30 AM at Our Lady of the Fields** **1070 Cecil Avenue South, Millersville** **Followed by Picnic at the Pavillion** **(or in classroom203/204 if weather is terrible)**
Program	Picnic at Our Lady of the Fields Pavillion following Mass. Family and friends are invited. This is a Pot Luck affair, so everyone should bring something to munch on and share.
Special Outreach	Little Sister of the Poor: Jeanne Jugan Residence home for the elderly poor located at 4200 Harewood Road, NE, Washington DC 20017-1554
Refreshments	Pot Luck – everyone is invited to bring something to share. Bring something you like, because you will probably be taking some it back home.
Liturgy	Group A (First name between A-Jo) Canticle of Creation
Prayer Requests	***For physical and spiritual healing of:*** Brigid Cobb, 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 Miante, 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	Cynthia Fowler – 10/06 Brigid Cobb – 10/08
Profession Anniversaries	Jean Gaes – 09/17/1987 Genny Wilbourne – 09/18/2010 Ruth Shea – 09/18/2021 Joe McHugh – 09/21/2019 Joan Kvetkas – 10/04/1979 Louise Ryan – 10/04/1982 Pat Tyrrell – 10/10/1996 Mary Cecero Gemmell – 10/10/1996 Tessie Chitty – 10/11/1998
Council Meeting	In person, Saturday, October 3, 10:30am at home of Mary Anne Novak

Upcoming Events	**August 26-Februry 7, 2027**: The Walters Gallery in Baltimore, MD will publicly display the St. Francis Missal. Centre Street Building, Level 3, Manuscript Gallery https://thewalters.org/exhibitions/st-francis-2026/.

Minister's Minute

My dear Franciscan Brothers and Sisters,

I can't believe the summer is over, kids are back in school, the days are getting shorter, weather is starting to cool off. It is also a busy time of year, when Bible studies, parish meetings and activities start to back up. As Franciscans, we are asked to support the Franciscan efforts of a small group of Franciscan religious and Seculars promoting October as Franciscan month. Check out their website at www.franciscanmonth.org. The goal is to celebrate the charism of St. Francis and educate others about this way and offer a prayerful perspective on living it in today's world. There are weekly videos and much more. Let's do our part by promoting our Franciscan charism in both word and deed in all parishes.

Our annual picnic is coming up on September19th after the 8:30 Mass in the pavilion on the back left side of the church. Please note there will be no coffee provided (bring your own if you need the morning boost). There will be cold drinks. It is potluck, so please bring your favorite dish to share. We will provide paper plates, cups and utensils. I have a fun trivia game prepared--we can read a fun or interesting fact about a fellow member and guess who the author is. We'll also have cornhole and feel free to bring other games if desired. It is a wonderful opportunity just to hang with our sisters and brothers. In case of inclement weather, we will meet in our regular fraternity meeting rooms 203/204.

Remember the hungry and donate, if you are able, bring a shelf stable item to the Breaking Bread with the Hungry box in the breezeway near our meeting space.

There will be a **Fall Retreat at St. Joseph's parish in Odenton**. There is no cost and lunch is provided. The topic is **The *Spirituality of Suffering/ Caregiving/Aging***. Dr. Michael Gorman an expert in Pauline writings will address the afternoon session on suffering. I have been invited to present in the morning. I will share both my professional and personal experiences as a caregiver. **Date: Friday October 9,2026**, Time 9:00am Mass until 2:30pm Location St. Joseph's Church and Corrigan Hall 1283 Odenton Road, Odenton 21113. Please pray to the Holy Spirit that I will be given the right words and tone to resonate with attendees. Please join us if you can. RSVP call Norma Coffey 410-674-3394 or text 207-449-0806

Pax et Bonum, Ruth

Please help us get to know each other better!

Some of us haven't met, especially excused members and those who have just started to come to our meetings. We're asking that you share part of your Franciscan journey as a note we can publish in the Porter. It could be a long paragraph, or just a couple of sentences. For example, what initially drew you to the order? Was there a fraternity ministry that you found particularly meaningful? Have you gone on a Franciscan pilgrimage? How has being a Franciscan changed your life? Thanks for helping us all to learn from each other. We are looking forward to hearing from you! Email it to Joan at jd6bouv@verizon.net or bring it to one of our fraternity gatherings.

Library of St Conrad

The Library of St Conrad meets once a month at Audrey's house. **On September 29 at 2:00-3:15pm**, we will be discussing Chapter 4 of The Capillaries of Christ, Understanding the Part You Play in His Body by Marty Mitchell. 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 -- JOE MCHUGH

The August report is as follows:

July Balance		$3,505.40
FFA Stipend	($100)	$3.405.40
OLF Stipend	($100)	$3,305.40
Bro. Andrew	($100)	$3,205.40
Bro. Bob	($100)	$3,105.40
Brayton ID Card	($64.64)	$3,040.76
August Deposit/Balance	$1,050.00	$4,090.76

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

September Outreach – Little Sisters of the Poor's Jeanne Jugan Residence, Washington D.C.

The mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor is to offer the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they will be welcomed as Christ, cared for as family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself.

The vision of the Little Sisters of the Poor is:

- to contribute to the Culture of Life by nurturing communities where each person is valued;
- to celebrate the wisdom of age;
- to share the compassionate love of Christ with all.

The values of the Little Sisters of the Poor include:

- REVERENCE for the sacredness of human life and for the uniqueness of each person, especially those who are poorest and/or weakest by providing care that is holistic and person-centered.
- FAMILY SPIRIT embracing all with joyful hospitality, open arms, hearts and minds.
- HUMBLE SERVICE by raising others up and appreciating simple, everyday tasks and experiences in accomplishing our work.
- COMPASSION for the weaknesses and sufferings of others and eagerness to relieve pain in all its forms and to make the elderly happy.
- STEWARDSHIP, with trust in God's Providence and the generosity of others, we recognize that all gifts from God should be used responsibly in a spirit of gratitude and sharing.

I know there are other cooks and bakers out there. Please contribute your favorite recipes.

Franciscan Kitchen

Simple homemade salad dressings *--From Ruth Shea*

just in case you did not try the one in April!

Basic Vinaigrette Recipe
3 parts extra virgin olive oil or avocado oil
1 part (something acidic) lemon juice, apple cider vinegar or balsamic
Spoon of Dijon mustard
Seasoning- salt, pepper to taste, can add minced clove of garlic.
A little honey to taste

Simple Sweet dressing
¼ c. olive oil
¼ cup maple syrup
¼ c. balsamic vinegar
I love this dressing on a kale salad with strawberries and blueberries.

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

St. Anthony's Shrine

Bible Study: The Psalms -- Wednesday, September 23, 2026, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Wednesday, September 30, 2026, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Join Friar Jude Winkler, OFM Conv., in the Shrine Glassroom for a series about the Psalms. Friar Jude is a biblical scholar and will focus on the Psalms for four morning workshops in the Shrine Glassroom.

Art and Architecture at Carrollton Hall -- Wednesday, September 30, 2026, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Carrollton Hall is an 1832 neoclassical building designed by noted American architect William Small, the first native Baltimorean to receive formal architectural training, including as a student of Benjamin Latrobe, designer of the U.S. Capital. Come learn about the design and architectural intricacies of our historic site. Tour

attendance is capped at 25. Please register for the waitlist if the tour is full and we will contact you if there is an opening. You may also register for the waitlist to find out when this tour will be offered again.

St. Therese of Lisieux -- Thursday, October 1, 2026, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

St. Thérèse offers a simple, direct path to holiness that speaks to everyone. Her spiritual wisdom shows deep insight into both the divine and the human spirit, making her a trustworthy guide for all who wish to learn from her Little Way. On her Feast Day, we will let her life and spiritual wisdom guide us and allow her simple holiness to inspire us on our own journey toward holiness. Come and join us! Click here to RSVP.

Blessing of the Animals -- Saturday, October 3, 2026, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Bring your furry and feathered friends to the Shrine grounds for a special blessing in honor of St. Francis of Assisi on Saturday, Oct. 3 at 2 p.m. All are welcome!

Transitus of St. Francis -- Saturday, October 3, 2026, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Join the friars for a special service in honor of the anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi. Transitus will be in the Shrine Chapel at 7 p.m. and feature guest Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore. Click here to RSVP so we can adequately plan refreshments following the service.

Spirituality of Caregiving -- Tuesday, October 27, 2026, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Who are caregivers? What is the sacred dimension between caregivers and care-receivers. How can make this call spiritually meaningful? How can one receive support in this call so that one does not feel isolated or abandoned? This is a morning workshop with Fr. Jude Winkler, OFM Conv. and author Ruth Shea. Please RSVP so we can adequately plan for numbers.

I am sure there are things going on at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, however, I couldn't find the calendar this this issue of the Porter.

Franciscan Pilgrimages of Hope

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 9:30 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 may 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. Attendance if limited to 50 participants. For more information 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.

A Foundation for Hope: A Franciscan Pilgrimage of Hope

Saturday, October 3, 9:30 – 2:30

Register at: https://shrineofstanthony.org/rsvp-a-foundation-of-hope

St. Francis of Assisi invited his followers to leave everything, follow Jesus and live the Gospel. On the 800th Anniversary of his death, this pilgrimage will focus on his life and legacy.

Rebuild My Church: A Franciscan Pilgrimage of Hope

Saturday, November 21, 9:30am – 2:30pm

Register at: https://shrineofstanthony.org/rsvp-rebuild-my-church

The final 2026 Franciscan Pilgrimage of Hope with a special emphasis on the San Damiano Cross. St. Francis of Assisi was praying before this cross when he received his instruction from God to rebuild His church.

Trees – from Joan Faltot

I used to live in Anne Arundel County. I was surprised when I learned that Anne Arundel County had some of the worse air pollution in the country even though I never saw any heavy industry near my home. The problem is that when air pollution from coal burning plants in the Ohio Valley drifts eastward it hits the Chesapeake Bay which acts like a "wall' and it traps the pollution in Anne Arundel County.
Fortunately, creation gives us tools to help undo the harm we are doing to our home.

Trees affect climate change by acting as natural carbon sinks that absorb and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Through photosynthesis, they take in greenhouse gases, use the carbon to grow wood and roots, and release clean oxygen. Protecting and growing forests helps reduce global warming, while cutting them down releases stored carbon back into the air.

How Trees Help Cool the Earth

- **Carbon absorption:** Trees pull large amounts of carbon dioxide out of the air and lock it away for decades or centuries.
- **Shade and cooling:** Trees shade homes and city streets to lower local temperatures and reduce the need for air conditioning.
- **Water regulation:** Trees release water vapor into the air, which helps cool the environment and support stable local rainfall patterns.

How Losing Trees Harms the Climate

- **Carbon release:** When trees are chopped down or burned, their stored carbon escapes into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide.
- **Loss of defense:** Deforestation reduces the planet's capacity to absorb future carbon emissions, making global temperatures rise faster.

Knowing the above facts, I was upset to read in *Ground News* on August 25 that:

- On Tuesday, the Trump administration advanced a formal proposal to rescind the 25-year-old Roadless Rule, continuing a plan unveiled last year to open more than 44 million acres of national forestland to road construction and timber harvesting
- Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said the repeal aims to "restore authority" to local forest managers, arguing that "outdated restrictions" have prevented essential treatments like removing fire-prone dead timber
- The administration projects the plan could generate $5.2 million to $11.4 million in federal revenues, though officials acknowledge economic benefits face tempering by a $6.9 billion deferred maintenance backlog for roads and bridges.
- U.S. Forest Service analysis warns the proposal could lead to increased ignitions, as research shows wildfire ignition density is highest within 50 meters of roads, contradicting administration claims.
- Following last year's unpopular notice [to a previous notice to rescind a Roadless Rule] that drew more than 600,000 public comments, the proposal now opens a 30-day public comment period with a final deadline of September 21.

At risk, are 44 million acres of national forests including those located on the Alleghany Front of Maryland and Virginia… and one of our best tools to help fight air pollution in Anne Arundel County.

To read more about the harm that would result from rescinding the Roadless Area Conservation Rule enacted in 2001 see: Earthjustice's extensive article plus learn how you can make your voice heard prior to the September 21st deadline.

https://earthjustice.org/press/2026/earthjustice-responds-to-trump-administration-attack-on-roadless-rule