

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

St. Charles Fraternity

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May/June 2021

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Established on or before 2/9/1936

Last Elections: 11/18/2018

Last Fraternal Visit: 11/17/2017

Last Pastoral Visit: 7/15/2018

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

We will be holding our triennial Chapter of Elections on October 17, 2021. Susan Solloway, Regional Treasurer, will be presiding. Starting immediately, please email nominations to Katie Herendeen at mcherendeen@gmail.com. You may nominate someone else or even yourself for one or more of these offices: Minister, Vice Minister, Secretary, Treasurer, or Formation Director. A quorum = 14 professed members.

Readings to go with Cantalamessa's *Beatitudes*

Chapters 3 & 4

As the Father sees in every person the features of his Son, the firstborn of many brothers and sisters, so the Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ.

A sense of community will make them joyful and ready to place themselves on an equal basis with all people... - *Rule, article 13*

Trusting the Father, Christ chose for Himself and His mother a poor and humble life, even though He valued created things attentively and lovingly. Let the Secular Franciscans seek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs. Let them be mindful that according to the gospel they are stewards of the goods received for the benefit of God's children.

Thus, in the spirit of the Beatitudes, and as pilgrims and strangers on their way to the home of the Father, they should strive to purify their hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power. - *Rule, article 11*

Congratulations to Andrea Martin and Patti Webster, who made their permanent professions on Sunday, April 18.



FROM OUR MINISTER: Peace and all goodness to all of you, my brothers and sisters!!! It is so exciting to send this newsletter as many of us have seen each other in the flesh last month at the Profession of two of our dear sisters, Patti and Andrea. I have to say thank you very much for the hospitality shown us on that day for our fraternity by St. Anthony's and those who worked so hard to make this day special. We are so lucky to be growing! They will be great gifts to our fraternity.

At the most recent regional Chapter of Mats, Sr. Agnes Marie, one of our Regional Spiritual Assistants, and Tim Short, our Regional Formation Director, spoke to us about a working document and movement to bring some "prophetic creativity" to the order. In the last issue of the *Tau*, our National Minister, Jan Parker, OFS, wrote an article about prophetic creativity after reading the working document, *Instrumentum Laboris*, of the International Fraternity, Pope Francis' encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti* (*We are Brothers, All*), and the Christmas Letter from our General Minister, Tibor Kauser, OFS.

As Franciscans, we are always growing and moving. Francis famously said, "Let us begin again, brothers, as for up to now we have done nothing," and he said this when he was near death! Not that the order is dying, but there is always time to grow and create. As Franciscans, we are called to live as Our Savior, dedicating our life to live in love. Francis' cloister was the world, not just meaning nature, but the world and all that is in it: our neighbors, the stranger, the animals, the seas and the land and the air. This is our gift from God. Francis lived in awe of it all.

In the near future our Region will be meeting in 3 different groups, one near us (date and time to be determined). Please take some time to read all or some of these documents and reflect on them. I hope the time and place will be such that you all can come and share. The hope is that we may find a way to infuse some prophetic creativity to our regional and local fraternities. If you want hard copies of the encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, it may be available at a Catholic bookstore near you. It can be downloaded from the Vatican web site (vatican.va) or you can read online. The Franciscan documents are available on the National website, which is linked to our own website, www.stcharlesfrat.com. If you have not checked it out, this is the perfect time.

We, as human beings with busy lives, can all fall into "routineness." (I know, not a word.) We do this out of a want of order and predictability. Let us step out with Francis to the Joy of the Gospel and all the surprises that God has for us. Without growth, we stagnate, and then we die. Let us again grow and experience joy and love and wonder with Francis.

The **2021 National Elective Chapter** is announced with the following details: **Positions to be filled are:** National Minister, National Vice Minister, National Secretary, National Treasurer, National Councilor 1, National Councilor 2, National Councilor 3, and International Councilor. **Nominations are now being accepted. Nominations close June 30, 2021 at 11:59 PM.** Please nominate well-qualified, permanently professed Secular Franciscans to serve in these positions. You may nominate a person for more than one position. You may also nominate yourself. Please send your nomination (NAME, ADDRESS, ZIP CODE, EMAIL ADDRESS) either via electronic e-mail or via snail-mail to both: Kate Kleinert, OFS, 408 Custer Ave, Glenolden, PA 19036; E-mail: kkleinert@msn.com **AND TO** Emma Lowzowski, OFS, 6817 White Oak Court, Edwardsville, IL 62025; E-mail: ofs.minister.praire@gmail.com. **YOU MUST SEND YOUR NOMINATION TO BOTH CO-CHAIRS TO AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY NOMINATION BEING LOST IN THE MAIL/E-MAIL.**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Andrea and I would like to thank St. Charles Fraternity for your warm welcome and lovely reception following our professions on Sunday, April 18th, at St. Anthony Church in Angola. This was a day we will forever hold close to our hearts. Thank you as well for the gifts, well wishes and hugs!

We look forward to what the Holy Spirit has in store for our future, following Christ by following the footsteps of St. Francis. We are truly blessed!

*Peace and all good,
Patti Webster*

Reflection Questions for Cantalamessa's *Beatitudes, Eight Steps to Happiness*

Chapter 3

1. Cantalamessa highlights for us two ways to interpret the Beatitudes (pages 33-36). 1) They function as a moral compass which actually exceeds the minimal moral standards set forth in the Law. Further, according to Martin Luther and St. Thomas Aquinas, they reveal our sin to us and our need for God's healing grace. 2) They are Christological; they are a portrait of Christ himself. They cannot be seen separately, but must be held together. How do you think St. Francis would have regarded the Beatitudes, more as a moral code or a revelation of Christ, or both equally? What about you?
2. At the beginning of the chapter, Cantalamessa outlines several different ways to define *meekness*. Which one speaks to you? **This next part is more difficult, so please spend some time with it. It helps if you take it a bit at a time and "gaze, consider, and contemplate" each bit before putting it all together.** Do you see Christian teaching as a "slave morality" (page 38), as Nietzsche claimed? How did Cantalamessa counter this claim? Define: *humility*. How does humility play into this discussion?
3. Article 13 of our Rule tells us that we are "with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ." Does this mean that we must also accept everything they do? Explain your answer. If you said no, what is our responsibility toward people whose behavior we find objectionable (righteous anger)? How do we approach them pastorally and in a spirit of gentleness and reconciliation (Rule, article 13)?

Chapter 4

1. What is the difference between scientific/historical truth and theological truth? If "historical" means fact and significance, what is the significance of Jesus? What was the significance of Jesus to John in the Prologue to his Gospel (John 1: 1-18)? Or Matthew (Matthew 1)? Or to Francis (see Prologue to Rule, Chapter 1) [*For page 51, exegesis = a critical interpretation or explanation of a (Scripture) text.*]
2. Is wealth a bad thing? What is the purpose of wealth/possessions? What does article 11 of the Rule tell us? Look at articles 10-16 together. Do you see a pattern/progression? How do these articles relate to what Cantalamessa says about "hungry" and "satisfied"? (pages 51-56)
3. Justice holds a central position in the ongoing "dialogue" between hunger and satisfaction (pages 56-58). Make no mistake! This is a pro-life issue that involves an equitable distribution of goods, access to adequate food, clean and safe water, and affordable medical care. Those who are excluded are today's "lepers." How can we, as Franciscans, creatively, effectively, and courageously be in the "forefront in promoting justice"? How is this related to the Two Great Commandments (love of God and love of neighbor.)?
4. Define: *righteousness*. Cantalamessa says the Jesus challenges the strong in regard to the weak (page 60). This echoes the French expression, "Noblesse oblige" (literally, *nobility is obligated*). It means that the "haves" have a responsibility to the "have nots." How does this relate to article 13, paragraph 2, of our Rule? How does article 13 relate to the Eucharist?

Aren't sure about how to make your contribution to the fraternity? Just send it to:
St. Charles Fraternity, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 12644 M.P.O., Fort Wayne, IN 46864
Thank you for your generosity!

MAY FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: May 16, 2021 **Time:** 1:30 p.m.
Place: St. Mary's School cafeteria, Avilla
(Due to the graduation breakfast in the cafeteria, we will not have access to the building until 1:30.)

Beatitudes: Chapter 3
(See questions on page 3, and the articles from the Rule on page 1)

Liturgy of the Hours: pages 565
Song on page 1560, #124

Homebound: Acts 1-2

JUNE FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: June 13, 2021 **Time:** 1:30 p.m.
Place: St. Mary's School cafeteria, Avilla, and via Zoom
Email Barb if you would like a Zoom invitation – bbraley345@gmail.com

Beatitudes: Chapter 4
(See questions on page 3, and the articles from the Rule on page 1)

Liturgy of the Hours: pages 861 & 615
Song on page 1519, #33

Homebound: John 6:22-71

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

<i>Barbara Guevera</i>	5/16/1965
<i>Rita Carboni</i>	5/17/1970
<i>Henry Schmitt, Jr.</i>	5/17/1964
<i>Mary Lou Sohn</i>	5/19/1974
<i>Barb Cain</i>	5/19/2019
<i>Deb Davis</i>	5/19/2019
<i>Su Hohman</i>	5/19/2019
<i>Doris Bermes</i>	5/25/1991
Congratulati <u>o</u> ns on 30 years!!	
<i>Charles Lothamer</i>	5/27/1965
<i>Gina Settini</i>	6/23/1996
<i>Bill Nichter</i>	6/23/1996
Congratulati <u>o</u> ns on 25 years!!	

UPCOMING ONGOING FORMATION OPPORTUNITY

This coming fall, there will be an opportunity for the St. Charles, the St. Michael, and the Holy Family fraternities to engage in an ongoing formation opportunity with Sr. Agnes Marie Regan, OSF, Regional Spiritual Assistant, and Tim Short, OFS, Regional Formation Director. The date and location have to be determined.

BIRTHDAYS

<i>Barb Kluz</i>	5/31
<i>Laura Hoffman</i>	6/9
<i>Jan Scher</i>	6/26
<i>Doris Bermes</i>	6/30

NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!

Fort Wayne cell group. The cell group will not be meeting for morning prayer until Friday, September 17, and continue every 1st and 3rd Friday of each month after that.

PILGRIMAGE OPPORTUNITY: *God's Hero of Adoration, Archbishop Sheen's Tomb, Peoria, IL.* Thursday, June 10, 6:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Cost: \$85. **Deadline to register is May 31.** Call Jan Scher at 260.450.3045 or email at jansch8@gmail.com for details and a registration form.

Unity Day will be held in person this year on August 14 from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, Kokomo.

Hold back nothing of yourselves for yourselves, that He Who gives Himself totally to you may receive you totally!
— St. Francis, Letter to the Entire Order