

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

St. Charles Fraternity

P.O. Box 12644 M.P.O., Fort Wayne, IN 46864

January/February 2021



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Readings to go with Bonaventure's Major Life

Chapter 15

Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon. - *Rule, article 19, paragraph 1*

Readings to go with Cantalamessa's Beatitudes

Chapter 1

Trusting in 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*

Established on or before 2/9/1936

Last Elections: 11/18/2018

Last Fraternal Visit: 11/17/2017

Last Pastoral Visit: 7/15/2018

Relationships

- Humility
- Respect
- Trust and be trustworthy
- Confidence – persist in our love
- Community – collaboration



NEW ONGOING FORMATION BOOK

Beginning in February, we will begin a new ongoing formation study. We will be using **Beatitudes: Eight Steps to Happiness**, by Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap. Fr. Cantalamessa is the preacher to the pontifical household and the author of several books.

Due to the persistence of the pandemic, we will not be able to get the books for everyone as before. (Maybe for the next new book!) It is available online (prices will vary), Good Shepherd (cathedral bookstore), and at All Saints Religious Goods in Fort Wayne. Please call Katie at 260.582.9773 if you need help to acquire a book.

(Helpful hint: call the bookstore before you go to make sure they have the book in stock.)

FROM THE MINISTER

For Up To Now

St. Francis at the time of his death, told his brothers to “Let us begin again, for up to now we have done nothing.” This is kind of shocking as the life Francis lived changed so much for the church, as we can see, looking back. I have been distracted by the feeling of having so much to do, but not in the way St. Francis had. I see dishes and laundry and meals and dishes and laundry and meals. I don’t think that this was what St. Francis was talking about. It was an urgency to bring the love of God to everyone, to bring the peace of God to the world and to help his brothers be humble and pure enough to do the same.

What can we do to have this urgent feeling: to bring about the Kingdom in our own time? One thing that Francis did was to make prayer, fasting, and penance primary. I struggle with this. We have such a comfortable lifestyle living in the same house as a pre-teen. We discuss nearly every day what the difference is between a want and a need, and what is important: our faith, our relationship with God and others, and not what others think. I think we have these struggles to make me think also about this very thing in my own life. There is so much to do, but I tend to think of mundane, not of the things above. I hope you struggle much less than I do.

It is the dawn of a new year. Advent and Christmas start us every year looking anew for the Christ. We find him in the smallness of a child in a small village where the shepherds were the first to be told to go to the Crib, not understanding yet in awe of the event. I hope someday to understand if messengers from Heaven show up. I hope that I am able to follow and see. I think that this kind of seeing is how Francis knew there was so much to do, and he knew it was by living how Jesus did: among the little and wanting only the one thing that was necessary. Let us begin again.

I hope that our new book study on the Beatitudes with help guide us on this Journey.

2021 FRATERNITY GATHERING CALENDAR

All gatherings are on the 3rd Sunday and will begin at 1:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

January 17 (Zoom)

February 21 (Zoom)

March 21

April 18

May 16

June 13 (2nd Sunday)

July 18 (Ice cream social?)

Saturday, August 14 – Unity Day

St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo

9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

(Sunday, August 15, if no Unity Day)

September 19

October 17

November 21

December 12

(2nd Sunday)

(Christmas party)

Reflection Questions for Bonaventure's *Life of St. Francis*

Chapters 15 & 16

1. Bonaventure reminds us that our "sacraments of redemption and regeneration" (page 122) come from the wounds of Christ, and Francis' own body bore witness to this mystery. Vatican II teaches us that we are to be sacraments, that is, Christ's presence in the world and for the world. To be more specific, we, as the Church, are called to be a "sacrament of unity." How can/do you participate in bringing about unity? (See page 1 for Rule, article 19, paragraph 1)
2. The friars, the people, and the Poor Ladies marveled at the Stigmata. In one case, a man overcame his incredulity (pages 122-123). Recall a question (doubt) that you have in your faith journey. What sign would you like from God that would answer your question? Have you had this happen in the past?

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

Chapter 1

1. Read both versions of the Beatitudes on page xi. **Before reading the chapter**, do you St. Francis more in St. Matthew's version or St. Luke's version of the first beatitude? How do you understand the Franciscan concept of poverty? How do you think Clare's "privilege of poverty" fits into this? Now read pages 1-6. Did your answers change after reading these pages? If so, how?
2. On page 9, Cantalamessa says, "Jesus never claimed a preeminence for poverty the way he claimed a preeminence for charity, in saying that no one has greater love than to lay down his life for his friends (see John 15:13)." Define *charity*. (Hint: we are going to avoid using the definition of *an organization dedicated to serving the poor*.) Given this quote, how do you see the relationship between charity and poverty? Describe how you see this relationship in Francis' encounter with the leper when his "bitterness" was turned into "sweetness."
3. Read the *Parable of the Good Samaritan* (Luke 10:25-37) and/or *James 1:22-27 & 2:14-26*. Compare it to this passage: "If I love unity and remain committed to it, whatever someone has or does is mine. I belong in fact to that body [the Church] that is poor and that takes concern for the poor. 'Take away envy, Saint Augustine said, 'and what I have is yours too.'" Compare it also to article 11 of our Rule. (See Rule article 11 on page 1)
4. Eschatology is the branch of theology that deals with the end times: death, judgment, heaven, hell, and purgatory. How do you see the relationship between earthly poverty and heavenly riches"? (See pages 14-15.) What might heavenly riches be/look like? What might you have trouble giving up for the sake of God's kingdom?

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*

JANUARY FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: Jan. 17, 2021 **Time:** 1:30 p.m.

Place: via Zoom

*Email Barb if you would like an invitation –
bbrale345@gmail.com*

*If you need have trouble accessing Zoom,
Sr. Mary has offered to allow 1-2 people to
participate in her office. Call Sister at
260.399.7783.*

Bonaventure: Chapter 15
*(See questions on page 3,
and the articles from the Rule on page 1)*

Liturgy of the Hours: pages 786 & 246
Song on page 1522, #40

Homebound: Ephesians 4:1-16

FEBRUARY FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: Feb. 21, 2021 **Time:** 1:30 p.m.

Place: via Zoom

*Email Barb if you would like an invitation –
bbrale345@gmail.com*

*If you need have trouble accessing Zoom,
Sr. Mary has offered to allow 1-2 people to
participate in her office. Call Sister at
260.399.7783.*

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

Liturgy of the Hours: pages 712 & 270
Song on page 1544, #89

Homebound: John 15:1-17

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

1/22/2012 *Karen A.
Ralph S.*

BIRTHDAYS

<i>Sandy K.</i>	1/19
<i>Carole B.</i>	1/20
<i>Henry S.</i>	2/3
<i>Ralph S.</i>	2/12
<i>Mary Lou S.</i>	2/14
<i>Miriam S.</i>	2/19
<i>Jacki D.</i>	3/4

Papal Prayer Intentions

JANUARY *Intention for evangelization -
Human fraternity.* May the Lord give us the
grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers
and sisters of other religions, praying for one
another, open to all.

FEBRUARY *Universal intention - Violence
against women.* We pray for women who are
victims of violence, that they may be protected
by society and have their sufferings considered
and heeded.

NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!

Fort Wayne cell group. Morning Prayer and
the rosary on the 2nd & 4th Fridays, about 9
AM in the St. Vincent Spiritual Center
Chapel. Call Nancy S. for more information
at 260.417.1791.

Save the Date! Morning of Recollection at
St. Felix Huntington on Saturday, March 6,
2021 from 7:30 a.m.–noon. The speakers
are Sr. Anita Holzmer, OSF, and Barb
Brale, OFS.