

# SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

## St. Charles Fraternity

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

Website: [stcharlesfrat.com](http://stcharlesfrat.com)



March/April 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

**True and Perfect Joy  
Franciscans and Suffering**

- Even in suffering, Francis experienced confidence and joy from:
  - + the experience of the fatherhood of God;
  - + the invincible faith of rising with Christ to eternal life;
  - + the experience of being able to meet and praise the Creator in the universal fraternity of all creatures.

(From the FUN Manual Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order-Theresa Baker, OFS)



### Readings to go with Cantalamessa's *Beatitudes*

#### Chapter 2

The Franciscan family, as one among many spiritual families raised up by the Holy Spirit in the Church, unites all members of the people of God – laity, religious, and priests – who recognize that they are called to follow Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi.

In various ways and forms but in life-giving union with each other, they intend to make present the charism of their common Seraphic Father in the life and mission of the Church. - *Rule, article 1*

The Secular Franciscan Order holds a special place in this family circle. It is an organic union of all Catholic fraternities scattered throughout the world an open to every group of the faithful. In these fraternities the brothers and sisters, led by the spirit, strive for perfect charity in their own secular state. - *Rule, article 2, paragraph 1*

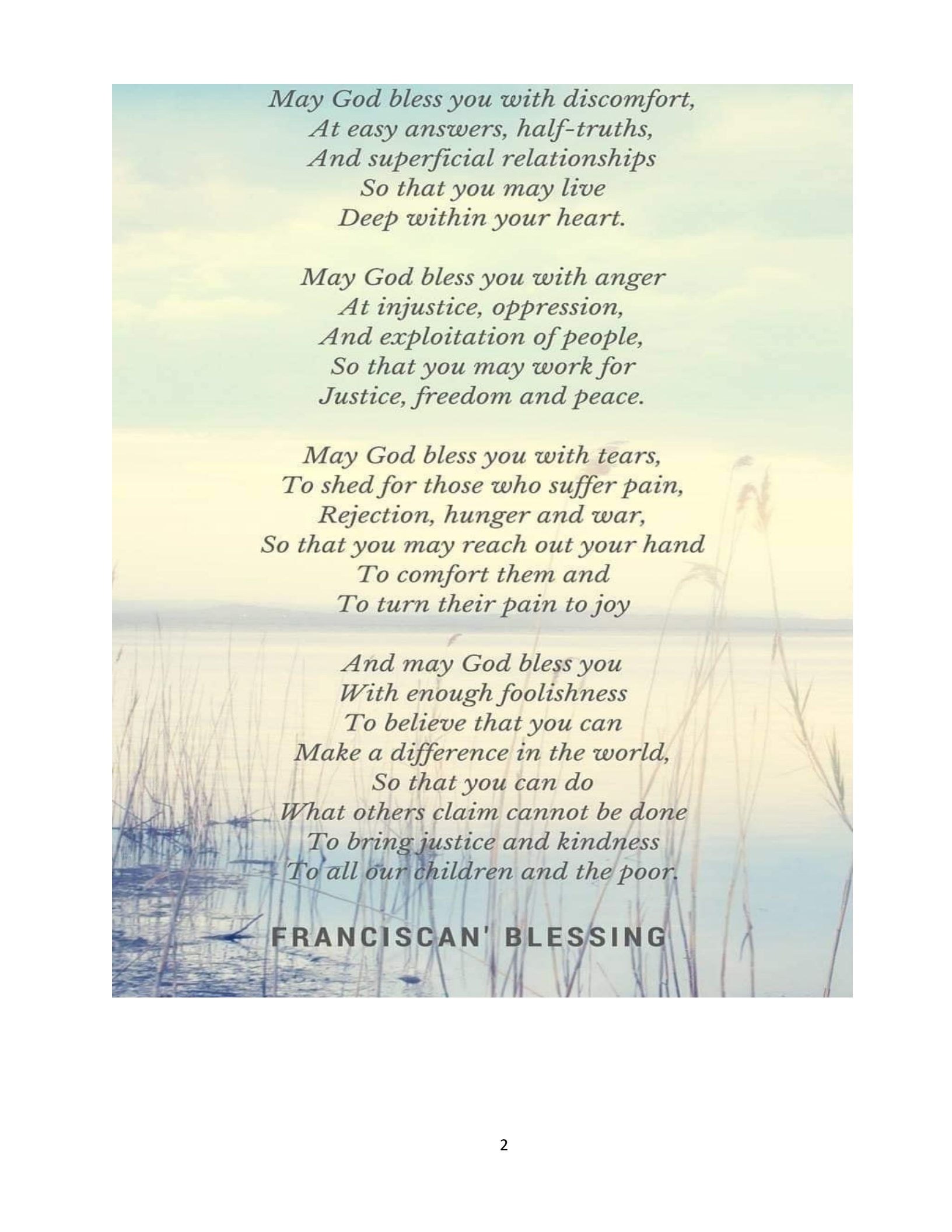
United by their vocation as “brothers and sisters of penance” and motivated by the dynamic power of the gospel, let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel calls “conversion.” Human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily. - *Rule, article 7, paragraph 1*

Witnessing to the good yet to come and obligated to acquire purity of heart because of the vocation they have embraced, they should set themselves free to love God and their brothers and sisters. - *Rule, article 12*

A sense of community will make them joyful and ready to place themselves on an equal basis with all people... - *Rule, article 13, paragraph 2*

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 presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon. - *Rule, article 19, paragraph 1*

**SEE AN IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT THE MORNING OF REFLECTION ON PAGE 4.**



*May God bless you with discomfort,  
At easy answers, half-truths,  
And superficial relationships  
So that you may live  
Deep within your heart.*

*May God bless you with anger  
At injustice, oppression,  
And exploitation of people,  
So that you may work for  
Justice, freedom and peace.*

*May God bless you with tears,  
To shed for those who suffer pain,  
Rejection, hunger and war,  
So that you may reach out your hand  
To comfort them and  
To turn their pain to joy*

*And may God bless you  
With enough foolishness  
To believe that you can  
Make a difference in the world,  
So that you can do  
What others claim cannot be done  
To bring justice and kindness  
To all our children and the poor.*

**FRANCISCAN' BLESSING**

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

### Chapter 2

1. Cantalamessa quotes the poet Charles Peguy: "Jesus...gave us living words to nourish [us] (page 19). Recall some words that particularly sustain you, eg from a hymn, Scripture, a poem, etc.
2. Cantalamessa spends time with the idea of pain-pleasure/weeping-laughter (pages 20-23). Recall a difficult experience when you went from weeping to laughter/pain to pleasure. Read Luke 24:13-35 (The Road to Emmaus). What are your thoughts? (Optional: Read the story about St. Francis and perfect joy from "The Little Flowers." What are your thoughts?) On the other hand, when have you wept for joy?
3. How might you attempt to "prove" the existence of God?
4. Article 19, paragraph 2, of the Rule says that we are to be "messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance" and "to bring joy and hope to others." Why do you think joy and hope are mentioned together? How might we bring joy and hope to those who have been deeply hurt? Who are the lonely/abandoned?
5. Tears are an important part of our faith journeys (pages 28-32). Sometimes they are tears of grief, for ourselves or for others; sometimes they are tears of repentance; sometimes they are tears of joy. Romans 12:15 tells us to "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep." What do you think this says to us about the nature of the community of faith? Of fraternity, especially in light of articles 1, 2, 7, 12, 13, and 19?

### 2021 St. Charles Fraternity Budget

Amazon Relief	<b>\$200</b>
Franciscan Center	<b>\$400</b>
Women's Care Center	<b>\$250</b>
Post Office box	<b>\$92</b>
Website	<b>\$179</b>
Zoom	<b>\$74.95</b>
Fair Share	<b>\$832</b>
(\$32 x 23 Active Professed/Active Excused + 3 Candidates)	
Day of Reflection	<b>\$350</b>
<i>(includes facility fee, speaker(s), priest for Mass, mileage)</i>	
Cost of mailings – stamps, paper, envelopes, printer ink	<b>contributed</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,377.95</b>

### **Papal Prayer Intentions**

**MARCH** *Intention for evangelization - Sacrament of reconciliation.* Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

**APRIL** *Universal intention - Fundamental rights.* We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

**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!**

## MARCH FRATERNITY GATHERING

**Date:** March 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.*

**Beatitudes:** Chapter 2

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

**Liturgy of the Hours:** pages 712 & 366

Song on page 1542, #85

**Homebound:** Luke 24:13-35

## APRIL FRATERNITY GATHERING

**Date:** April 18, 2021      **Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Place:** St. Anthony Catholic Church  
700 W. Maumee St. (US 20)  
Angola

**Rite of Profession** (masks are required)

**Reception to follow:** St. Anthony basement

Bring your own brown bag lunch

(NO carry-in)

Drinks and cupcakes will be provided

**Homebound:** John 20

## BIRTHDAYS

Mary Smith	3/17
Charles Lothamer	3/18
Sr. Mary	4/14
Marilyn Huhn	4/21
Marcyle Voigt	5/1
Dave Frank	5/10

## PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

Marilyn Huhn	3/16/1997
Miriam Symonds	5/5/1987



## NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!

**Postponed!** The **Morning of Recollection** at St. Felix Huntington on Saturday, March 6, has been postponed until further notice.

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

**PILGRIMAGE OPPORTUNITY: God's Hero of Adoration, Archbishop Sheen's Tomb, Peoria, IL.** Thursday, June 10, 6:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. There is a 6:00 a.m. pick up in Fort Wayne at the Fort Wayne Truck Plaza (I-69 & US 30 West, and another at the St. Felix Catholic Center in Huntington after the 6:00 a.m. Mass (approximately 6:30). Visit the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Museum and Gift Shop. Noon buffet included. Fast food on your own. **Cost: \$85. Deadline to register is May 31.** Call Jan Scher at 260.450.3045 or email her at jansch8@gmail.com for more details and a registration form.