



# *Pater Noster Fraternity*

Queen of Peace Region  
Newsletter – February 2020  
St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic  
Church  
Gonderinger Parish Center  
16701 S St., Omaha, NE 68135



## **Vision:**

“The Pater Noster Secular Franciscan Fraternity exists to bring Christ’s love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness to a world in need of God.”

**Come and share with us our Vision and Mission to Omaha, NE and beyond!**

[Previous newsletters may be found on the Queen of Peace Regional Fraternity](#)

## **Mission:**

“The mission of Pater Noster Fraternity is to proclaim, and witness to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Inspired by the example of St. Francis and St. Clare, we strive to humbly serve all people, especially the poor and forgotten. We celebrate joyfully the gift of life in all creation and recognize God’s living presence in the world.”

**Council Officers** as of April 2018 – Please pray for us as we pray for you.



Left to right:

**SA:** Sr. Mary Ann Schmieding, OSF  
**Councilor:** Cecilia Padilla, OFS - resigned  
Richard Beal, OFS-(not in picture)  
appointed to complete term  
**Minister:** Luis Antonio Alvarez, OFS  
**Vice Minister:** Joseph Norman, OFS  
**Treasurer:** Linda Mertz, OFS  
**Councilor:** Kent Riesberg, OFS  
**Formation Director:** Andrea Walther, OFS  
**Secretary:** William Whipple, OFS

## Saint of the Month

## St Margaret of Cortona



All images from [WikiCommons](#) can be used freely provided the source is noted.

**Desc:** This is a faithful photographic reproduction of a two-dimensional, public domain work of art.

**Date:** 16 October 2007

**Author:** (G. Traversi) Medan

**Secular Franciscan Order**

**Feast Day:** 22 February, 16 May

**Birth:** 1247 [Laviano](#), Italy

**Death:** 22 February 1297 (aged 49–50)  
[Cortona](#), Italy

**Venerated:** Third Order of Saint Francis,  
Roman Catholic Church

**Canonized:** 16 May 1728 by [Pope Benedict XIII](#)

**Patronage:** against temptations; falsely accused people; homeless people; insanity; loss of parents; mental illness; mentally ill people; midwives; penitent women; single mothers; people ridiculed for their piety; reformed prostitutes; sexual temptation; single laywomen; third children.

This Magdalen of the Franciscan Order, Saint Margaret of Cortona, came into the world in the year 1247 at Laviano near Cortona in the province of Tuscany. When Saint Margaret of Cortona was 7 years old, she lost her pious mother. She was neglected by her careless father, who married again within a short time, and her unsympathetic stepmother dealt harshly with her, so that when Margaret was 18 years old, she left home to earn her bread among strangers.

Saint Margaret of Cortona was possessed of rare beauty, and this became a snare for her. For the space of 9 years she gave herself up to a life of sin and scandal. Then one day she waited a long time in vain for her accomplice in sin to return home to the place where she lived with him. Presently his dog came to her whining and tugging at her dress.

## St Margaret of Cortona (continued)

She followed the animal into the heart of the forest, and there she suddenly stood before the blood stained corpse of the unfortunate man; his enemies had murdered him.

At the appalling sight, Margaret of Cortona was stunned like one struck by lightning. Filled with terror she asked herself, "Where is his soul now?" Then and there she firmly resolved in future to be even greater in penance than she had been in sin. Like the prodigal son she returned repentant to her native town of Laviano.

In a penitential garb, her hair cut short, a cord around her neck, she knelt at the door of the church and publicly asked all the congregation to forgive the scandal she had given. Many people were edified at this public humiliation, but her stepmother was all the more embittered at it. She, as well as Margaret's father, forbade her to enter their home again. This reception severely tempted Margaret to return to the road of vice, but God's grace sustained her.

Led by divine grace, she repaired to Cortona, made a contrite general confession to a Franciscan there, and submitted to the spiritual direction of her confessor. In a poor little hovel she now lived a secluded life in penance, tears, and prayer, earning her scanty nourishment by hard manual labor.

Again and again Saint Margaret of Cortona begged for the habit of the Third Order, that she might be recognized by all the world as a penitent.

But not until 3 years had elapsed and she had been severely tried, was her wish granted. She received the habit in 1277. Now her fervor increased, and it is almost incredible what rigorous penances she practiced from then on. Day and night she wept over her sins, and often sobs so choked her voice that she could not speak. Satan made use of every wile and snare to cause Margaret to relapse, but prayer, mortification, and humiliation successfully put him to flight.

### St Margaret of Cortona Quotes:

**"In times of desolation, God conceals Himself from us so that we can discover for ourselves what we are without Him."**

**"This morning my soul is greater than the world since it possesses You, You whom heaven and earth do not contain"**

**"Hide nothing from your confessor... a sick man can be cured only by revealing his wounds."**

**"My daughter, I see more Pharisees among Christians than there were around Pilate."**

**"Don't ask me to give in to this body of mine. I can't afford it. Between me and my body there must be a struggle until death."**

<a href="#">Roman Catholic Saints</a>	<a href="#">Franciscan Media</a>
<a href="#">Catholic Online</a>	<a href="#">Catholic Saints</a>
<a href="#">New Advent</a>	<a href="#">You Tube</a>

**St Margaret of Cortona, pray for us!**

## The Admonitions of St Francis of Assisi

**Admonition 6:** Face trials as Christ did – Call to True Imitation, not Just Talk.

*Observe, all my brothers, the good shepherd, who in order to save his sheep has undergone the passion of the cross.*

*The sheep of the Lord have followed him in tribulation, and in persecution, disgrace and hunger, in weakness and in temptation and in similar things.*

*So the great disgrace for us servants of God is that by retelling the activities of the holy ones we ourselves want to receive glory and honor.*

The first sentence sets the basis for the rest of the reflection. Francis in the last sentence reminds us how easy it is to want praise for talking glowingly about the Saints instead of trying to duplicate their accomplishments.

**Q1.** Instead of wanting praise by talking glowingly about the Saints, what are we supposed to be doing?

**Q2.** How does Francis see it that we may only talk about our faith, but not live it.

**Q3.** What trials did Christ accept to save us?

**Q4.** Is there a necessary price to pay for discipleship?

## Calendar Of Events

### Annual/Special Meetings

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

#### Newly Professed

Congratulations to Dave Garrett, OFS, Nancy Yount, OFS and Steven Carlson, OFS - your journey has just begun!

#### Transitus of St. Clare of Assisi

Aug 10th, 2020

#### Chapter of Mats

August 15, 2020

Place, Guest Speaker - TBD.

#### Transitus of St Francis of Assisi

St John Vianney Catholic Church,  
Omaha, NE

Saturday, October 3, 2020

### Monthly Meetings

#### Monthly Gathering - 3rd Sunday

**Exceptions:** (Please confirm before attending.)

- **\*Jun** - Gathering is on the **4th Sunday**, due to Father's Day is on the 3rd Sunday
- **Aug** - **No Gathering scheduled to facilitate attending the Chapter of Mats - all members are urged to be in attendance. See you there and thank you in advance.**

**Initial Formation** at 11:30 am [begins again in January 2020]

**Potluck** at 1:00 pm

**On-Going Formation** at 1:30 PM

**Council Meeting** - 2nd Wednesday of the month (*Except in April/December when the Lenten/Advent Retreat will be held*)

### **On-Going Formation -**

FRANCIS of ASSISI and the FUTURE of FAITH  
ST. FRANCIS AS SPIRITUAL ROLE MODEL FOR  
TODAY'S YOUNG ADULTS

- In January 2020 - Chapter 9
- Feb., May, Aug[Chapter of Mats]: the closing from the Ritual.
- For Mar., June, Sep., and Dec: the Liturgy of the Hours.
- For Jan, April, July, Oct: the Liturgy of the Twelve Our Fathers - please bring your *Secular Franciscan Companion*
- For Nov: The closing prayer is the Prayer of Remembrance for the deceased members of our fraternity.

### **Initial Formation -**

The Franciscan Journey:

- Chapter 2