



NEWSLETTER OF THE SAINT BONAVENTURE FRATERNITY SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

Saint Francis University, Loretto, PA 15940
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CALENDAR

May 9	<i>Happy Mother's Day!!!</i>
May 9	St. Catherine of Bologna
May 11	St. Ignatius of Laconi
May 16	St. Margaret of Cortona
May 16	1:30 p.m. Fraternity Gathering – virtual
May 17	St. Paschal Baylon
May 18	St. Felix of Cantalice
May 20	St. Bernardine of Siena
May 28	St. Mariana of Jesus de Paredes
May 29	Bl. Baptista Varano
May 30	St. Ferdinand, King
May 31	Memorial Day

FRATERNITY GATHERINGS

Fraternity gatherings are held the second Sunday of each month. However, due to Mother's Day, our May gathering will be held virtually on **Sunday, May 16, at 1:30 P.M.** (Watch for your email invitation).

Please call in if you can't join by video. **If you are not able to attend please contact Mary Jo beforehand.**

During our gathering we will be doing the candle ceremony at home. We will also have ongoing formation by reflecting on questions from the Lamb's Supper reading.

We invite all members and inquirers of St. Bonaventure Fraternity to our gatherings.

If you are an inactive member but would like to attend or become active again, please let Mary Jo know.

FORMATION NEWS

Ongoing Formation: Please read **Part 3 Chapters 1-2** of "The Lamb's Supper" book for discussion at the May gathering.

CELEBRATIONS!!

Happy 29th Profession Anniversary to Dawn Mellott and Pat Serotkin on May 2. Happy Ordination Anniversary to Fr. Dan Sinisi on May 19 and Deacon Bruce Becker on May 30. Happy Wedding Anniversary to Betty and George Soisson on May 10.



APOSTOLATE

Thank you to all who participated in our April Apostolate. A special thanks to Barb, Betty, Mary Jo, Meg, and Marie who helped to put together the Easter bags for our brother Friars, at Mount Assisi in Loretto, Pa.

The bags included items such as word search books, pens, cookies, and many other goodies.

Thank you to Barb for opening up her home to her fellow fraternity members to put together the bags. It was nice to talk and see each other, in person, for a little time of fellowship. Check out the pictures of fraternity members putting together the Easter bags and delivering them to Mount Assisi. Please contact Marie with any ideas for future apostolates.



PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please continue to pray for restored health for any of our fraternity members who have been ill, as well as any of our Franciscan brothers and sisters who are in need of God's healing graces. Also pray for those who have passed from this life into the next. Pray for those who have been impacted by COVID-19 and their families, and those who have been impacted by violence and hatred. As always, please forward your special intentions to the Fraternity Minister for inclusion in our prayers

COMMON FUND REMINDER

Just a reminder that even though our fraternity has not been meeting face-to-face, we are still obligated to contribute as our means allow to the common fund.

The current check book balance is \$690.62. Our common fund is \$2,237.6, including the certificates of deposit.

Please send your monthly contribution to Patricia Serotkin, OFS, Fraternity Treasurer at 1072 N. Center St. Ebensburg, PA 15931.

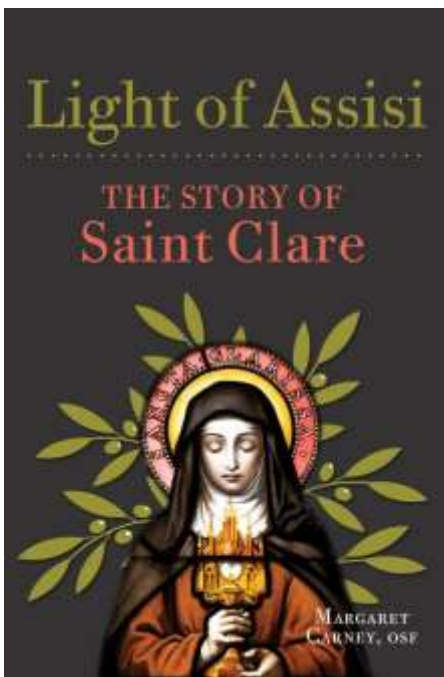
ST. BONAVENTURE FRATERNITY FACEBOOK PAGE

Our Fraternity has a Facebook page! Anyone can find this group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/652880388194184/?ref=share>

Watch for Fr. Kevin's minute meditations!

SUGGESTED READING



While weaving together Clare's story and Francis' story, Sr. Margaret Carney draws special attention to Clare's significant

contribution to the Franciscan world in the many years following Francis' death. Far from merely reflecting Francis' light, Clare had her own charism, "a gift bestowed by the Spirit of the Lord and given to her in a fullness and forcefulness that was hers alone."

Available at:

https://shop.franciscanmedia.org/products/light-in-assisi-the-story-of-saint-clare?utm_campaign=Light%20of%20Assisi&utm_medium=email&utm_content=120938857&utm_source=hs_email

UPCOMING EVENTS

OFS Summer Seminar will be held at Saint Francis University via ZOOM **July 8-10, 2021. July 8 will be a welcome with sessions held on July 9 and 10.**

The Quinquennial Congress confirmed date: **August 3-7, 2022**

ADMONITION..... Mary Jo, OFS

Hello spring! The blossoms have been picturesque and longer lasting this year than I remember in past years. One morning as I was driving about the area, I was full of joy viewing all the pastel colors of the trees and flowering bushes. The Spirit of St Francis overwhelmed me. I found myself praising and thanking God for all His beautiful art! I was also humming and smiling. Looking back on that day, I think of St. Francis and his love of nature and stories of him breaking into song while anywhere and anytime of the day.

My thoughts also turn to this month of May, which we as Catholics dedicate to the Blessed Mother. As Secular Franciscans our Rule 9 tells us of the love Francis had for the Blessed Mother. It states: The Virgin Mary, humble servant of the Lord, was open to His every word and call. She was embraced by Francis with indescribable love and declared the protectress

and advocate of his family. The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently. Thomas of Celano writes about Francis and his love of the Blessed Mother:

Toward the Mother of Jesus Francis was filled with an inexpressible love, because it was she who made the Lord of majesty our brother. He sang special Praises to her, poured out prayers to her, offered her his affections, so many and so great that the tongue of man cannot recount them. But what delights us most, he made her the advocate of the order and placed under her wings the sons he was about to leave that she might cherish them and protect them to the end.

In the words of St Francis: I greet you, Lady, Holy Queen, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Virgin... chosen by the most holy Father of heaven; consecrated to holiness thorough His most holy and beloved Son and the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. In you was and is the whole fullness of grace and everything that is good.

----St Francis

