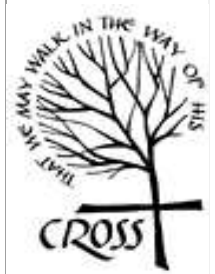




**NEWSLETTER OF THE
SAINT BONAVENTURE FRATERNITY
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER**

Saint Francis University, Loretto, PA 15940
Vol. 30, No. 7 – July 2021



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CALENDAR

July 4	Independence Day
July 8	Feast of Saint Gregory Grassi
July 8-10	OFS Seminar via Zoom at Saint Francis University.
July 9	Feast of St. Nicholas Pick and Companions
July 10	Feast of Saint Veronica Giuliani
July 11 1:30 PM	Fraternity gathering – in person
July 12	Feast of Saints John Jones and John Wall.
July 13	Feast of Blessed Angeline of Marsciano
July 14	Feast of Saint Francis Solano
July 15	Feast of Saint Bonaventure
July 17	<i>Wedding of Bill and Rebecca</i>
July 21	Feast of Saint Lawrence of Brindis
July 23	Feast of Saint Cunegunda
July 23	Feast of Saint Bridget of Sweden
July 24	Feast of Blessed Louise of Savoy
July 27	Feast of Blessed Mary Magdalene of Martinegro
Aug 5 6:30 PM	Fraternity Council meeting via Google meet
Aug 6	Feast of the Transfiguration
Aug 8	Fraternity gathering – location TBA
Aug 11	Feast of Saint Clare
Aug 15	Feast of the Assumption

FRATERNITY GATHERINGS

Our July gathering will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 11 at the Sacred Heart Retreat Center in Munster.

If you are not able to attend please contact Mary Jo beforehand.

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.

ONGOING FORMATION

Beginning with July we will be starting “Formation Fridays”. We will be announcing which one we are doing and members can view them at <https://www.dmf-ofs.org/>

COUNCIL AND GATHERING NOTES

The Saint Bonaventure Fraternity Council met on June 10 via video Teleconference. There are 75 registered for the Seminar at Saint Francis University. The treasurer’s reports for April and May were approved. Our fraternity will be scheduled for a regional visitation in November. A visitation is required every three years.

The June 11 fraternity gathering was held at Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall in Altoona. We welcomed novice Br. Anthony Seraphim Beltran, who will be joining us for our gatherings through April 2022. **Welcome Br. Anthony!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our annual fraternity picnic will be held in September – date and location TBD

The Q date- August 3-7, 2022

CELEBRATIONS !!

Happy Birthdays to **Dawn Mellott on July 5, Marie Bettwy on July 11, Pat Serotkin on July 13, and Bill Duryea and Pat Fitzgerald on July 29.**



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Fraternity members and significant others are invited to attend the wedding of **Bill Duryea, OFS and Rebecca Richmond**. This joyful event will be:

**Saturday, July 17, 2021
1:00 P.M.
St. Monica Catholic Church
Chest Springs, PA**

Reception to follow at Bill's house.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY



Prayers and sympathy are extended to family and friends of Mary Christine "Chris" Crum, OFS, fraternity member who passed away on June 4, 2021.

COMMON FUND

All professed members of the fraternity are

expected to contribute to the fraternity's common fund. Please send your July contribution to Patricia Serotkin, OFS, Fraternity Treasurer at 1072 N. Center St. Ebensburg, PA 15931.

JULY APOSTOLATE

For July we will be writing cards to the Vets in the Veterans Home in Duncansville thanking them for their service for our country. If you decide to participate, bring your cards to the July gathering.

Creating a Safe Environment for the Most Vulnerable

As we begin to reach out to others, through our apostolates, let us be mindful of the requirements for the most vulnerable among us. In completing outreach projects we need to follow guidelines on safe environments. Even though it takes time, and you might even think it is nonsense, it is very important that we do the right thing in representing our Secular Franciscan Order.

As the Animator for Lady Poverty Region, I would like to share with you what things you need to look into when working with our youth, young adults, Older adults, and people with exceptionalities (whether physical or mental).

First of all, Our Fraternity must look into, and abide by, the expectations of the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese. We can find information about this on our Diocesan website or we can call the Diocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection.

Within the Fraternity, records need to be kept on those who attend Diocesan classes, and complete various clearances. Our Diocese might even be able to help us with organizing our record keeping. These Clearances need to be updated every 5 years.

In the State of Pennsylvania, there are also guidelines that need to be followed when working with the most vulnerable. The following clearances may be needed when volunteering in the State of PA:

- A report of criminal history from the Pennsylvania State Police,
- Child Abuse History Clearance from the Department of Human Services (Child Abuse).

- Federal criminal history (FBI) submitted through the Pennsylvania State Police or its authorized agent is required if the volunteer has lived outside the Commonwealth of Pa. in the last 10 years.

If the volunteer is not required to obtain an FBI Criminal History clearance, they must swear and affirm in writing that they are not disqualified from service based upon a conviction of an offense of the Child Protective Services Law. All prospective volunteers must submit clearances prior to the commencement of service. You can find more information about Pa volunteers online at www.dhs.pa.gov/volunteers Frequently asked questions. Keep in mind, most if not all of these requirements will probably be the same as our Diocese will want.

I know this task seems overwhelming. But, we cannot risk the safety of another when volunteering or reaching out to others. As Saint Francis has said, "Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received, only what you have given." So please give of yourself to those in need, consider volunteering, and follow the guidelines of our Diocese and State.

Peace and God Bless,
Marie Bettwy, OFS
Animator Lady Poverty Region

ADMONITION...Mary Jo, OFS

Let the Fourth of July celebrations begin! This summer holiday has always been my favorite. In my hometown, which was very rural and small, American flags lined the streets of businesses and homes. The air was full of excitement and anticipation of the family picnics and awesome fireworks. I do not remember three- day weekends. All the celebration of our country's freedom occurred on the actual fourth. The essence of patriotism boiled over. The Merriam-Webster's definition of patriotism, "love for or devotion to one's country", echoed through the valley of our town.

Life seemed so simple during that time period, not so much now. Then I am reminded, as a Secular Franciscans we are called to follow a life of simplicity while on this earthly plain. All this is temporary and according to Philipians 3:20, our

citizenship is in heaven. As a Christian we are first and foremost a citizen of heaven.

Tony Magliano, an internationally syndicated Catholic social justice and peace columnist writes, unlike the secular culture, Jesus shows us that real freedom is not gained by seeking more and more pleasure, fame, money, and power for oneself and for one's country. Rather "The Way", the earliest name for the church- of Jesus is selfless love. He explains that true freedom is not about doing your thing and me doing my thing: it's about doing God's thing. We are not the center of the universe- God is. And when we as individuals, and as a nation, invite the Center of the universe to be the center of our lives and nation, we are then, and only then, free!

