

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

St. Charles Fraternity

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February/March 2022

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From the Rule

19.1 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.

7. 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.

Established on or before 2/9/1936

Last Elections: 10/17/2021

Last Fraternal Visit: 11/17/2017

Last Pastoral Visit: 7/15/2018

Love Your Commitment in 2022

- Love my fraternity
- Love the Rule
- Love Scripture
- Love conversion



ST. CHARLES LENTEN RETREAT

Date: Saturday, March 26, 2022

Where: St. Peter Catholic Church
518 E. DeWald St., Fort Wayne

*(St. Peter's is where our fraternity
was established in 1936)*

Time: Beginning with the 9:00 AM Mass
and then continuing until noon

Speaker: Fr. Patrick Hake, pastor of St.
Peter's

FROM OUR MINISTER:

Words of Profession I, N.N., by the grace of God, renew my baptismal promises and consecrate myself to the service of His kingdom. Therefore, in my secular state, I promise to live all the days of my life the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan order by observing its rule of life.

May the grace of the Holy Spirit, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and our holy father St. Francis, and the fraternal bonds of community always be my help, so that I may reach the goal of perfect Christian love.

Chapter Three of the Rule, Life in Fraternity

#23.3: Profession by its nature is a permanent commitment. To be a Secular Franciscan requires the person to be active in the life of the fraternity. Fraternity meetings are required.

Attending fraternity meetings is NOT based on if it's convenient. The meeting dates for all of our meetings for 2022 are listed on our website so you will always know in advance when they are held. Then you can plan your other activities to avoid missing fraternity meetings. This is not a club. This is a religious order. You made a promise to GOD when you professed into the Secular Franciscan Order. You promised GOD you would live a life according to the Gospels, the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, and the Charisms of Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience.

The secretary does take attendance at every meeting.

People who do not attend meetings need to be called to find out why they don't come to meetings. Did we do or say something that caused them to stop attending meetings? Do they attend only when it is convenient? Only when they aren't doing anything else? (This does not include the members who are unable to attend for physical or health reasons.)

If someone is unable to attend because he or she does not have a way to get to meetings then we should help them get to meetings. Call them and make arrangements for them to ride with one of us.

Lent begins on March 2. If you want to give up something for Lent, give up some time to pick up another Franciscan or a person interested in becoming a Franciscan and bring them with you to meetings.



From Mary Lou's religious statue collection

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!

Reflection Questions for *Beatitudes, Eight Steps to Happiness*
Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap
Published by Servant, an imprint of Franciscan Media, Cincinnati, 2009
ISBN: 978-0-86716-922-5

Chapter 7

1. How do you define *peace*? How does the Catechism define it? (See CCC2302-2306, especially 2304) What is the relationship between peace, justice, and unity? How does all this relate to article 19, paragraph 1, of our Rule? What kind of peace does Cantalamessa say that Jesus came to bring (pages 28-29)? *Read Luke 2:22-38*. How was (and is) Jesus a sign of contradiction? How did he deal with being that kind of a sign? How are we, as Christians and Franciscans, signs of contradiction in our day? How are others signs of contradiction to us? How should we respond to others who contradict us? (Hint: what articles in our Rule apply to this question?)

2. Cantalamessa speaks of peace as both a gift and a task.

As a gift. Describe the relationship between peace and the Holy Trinity. How does shalom reflect this? (See page 103) How does the Catechism's definition of peace relate to the Holy Trinity? How does article 19, paragraph 1, relate to the Holy Trinity?

As a task. Cantalamessa talks about religious peace. How does article 19, paragraph 1, relate to the Franciscan "Peace Prayer"? How does conversion relate to peace? (See page 103: Pope St. John Paul II's World Day of Peace message; also see article 7 of our Rule) What is the difference between subjective and objective ideas about God? (See page 106) What is your reaction to Cantalamessa's perspective on a world without religion? (pages 107-108) [*Definition: mimetic desire = one group of people who want to deliberately imitate the behavior of another group as a factor in social change; mimicry*] (from page 108) What do you know about the Muslim teaching about Jesus and Mary? What are the differences between what Islam teaches and what Christianity teaches regarding the Incarnation and Mary?

Articles of the Rule referred to in the questions can be found on page 1 of this newsletter.

Minutes of the St. Charles Fraternity meeting 1-16-2022 at 1:30 p.m. at St Mary's of Avilla School

There were 11 members present. Minister Joyce W. opened with prayer and distributed paper on Formation to each of us to read and use to our ongoing future. The second one was a three question to read and bring our findings back next month. The third was a poem to read at our leisure and share as we wish.

Secretary report was shared and approved.

Treasurer's report shows \$3,057.29 in checking and \$7,220.40 in savings.

Katie H. brought the bookcase to be used for storage of our accumulated library of reading on Franciscans. This can be used by members on the on the honor system. It will be kept at the school in the adjoining room to the school office.

We were reminded to mark March 26th on our calendar for a Lenten Reflection at St. Peter's Church in Ft. Wayne. Reminder to review page 23 in our *Ritual* on our profession and on page 31 is the renewal on our anniversary.

Sr. Mary gave a beautiful and inspirational talk on the Liturgy and St. Francis.

Took a break for snacks and conversation.

Barb B. gave her presentation on Chapter 6 or the *Beatitudes: 8 Steps to Happiness* and we all participated in discussion of her questions.

Joyce W. gave the closing prayer.

Meeting closed with Liturgy of the Hours Evening Prayer

Respectfully submitted
Arlene Lewis

FEBRUARY FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: Feb. 20, 2022 **Time:** 1:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's School teachers lounge
232 N. Main St., Avilla

Sr. Mary's talk: TBD

Beatitudes book: Chapter 7

See questions on page 3

Liturgy of the Hours: Evening Prayer II

7th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Pages 252 & 861

Hymn: #33, page 1519

Homebound: John 14

RETREAT INVITATION

We have been invited to a retreat hosted by the St. Michael Fraternity.

Date: Sunday, March 20, 2022

Time: 12:00-4:00 (or 5:00) p.m.

Location: St. Michael Catholic Church
100 Antwerp Dr., Hicksville, Ohio

Speaker: Tim Short, Regional Formation Director

There is **Mass at 10:30 a.m.** which we may attend.

Bring your own snacks, drinks, and lunch.

2022 UPCOMING FRATERNITY GATHERINGS

3/20	8/13 Unity Day
4/10 (2 nd Sunday)	9/18
5/15	10/16
6/12 (2 nd Sunday)	11/20
7/17	12/11 (2 nd Sunday)

All fraternity gatherings are at St. Mary's School on N. Main St. behind the church in Avilla.

BIRTHDAYS

Jackie Didier 3/4

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

None for 2/15 - 3/15

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

May the Lord give you peace! **Nominations for the Regional Executive Council are open now through March 12.** Any professed member may nominate another professed member. It would be good if nominees had Council experience on the local level, especially for the office to which they are being nominated. Nominations are for Minister, Vice Minister, Secretary, Treasurer, Formation Director and 3 Councilors. All nominations should be emailed to Barb Braley at bbraley345@gmail.com by March 12.

Thought for this month: Those people are truly peacemakers who, regardless of what they suffer in the world, preserve peace of spirit and body out of love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- St. Francis: Admonition XV (FA:ED, page 134)

We need two people to send out cards to those who are unable to come to meetings for health or physical reasons. Cards need to be sent to these people on the following occasions: Christmas, Easter, anniversary of date of Profession, birthday, and the death of a family member.

Give your receipts for cards, stamps, etc. to our Treasurer, Nancy S.

We will provide you with the addresses, dates of Profession, and dates of birthdays for each of these members.