



The Cord



The Council

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Councilor
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Spiritual Assistant
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LOOK

NEW
Hats, gloves,
scarves and
socks.
Travel-size
toiletries

For the Shelter
in Hackensack

“When I was
naked you
clothed me.”
Matt 25:36

St. Francis Fraternity
Hackensack, NJ

Fraternity Gathering in Church Hall **Wednesday, December 11 at 6:00 PM.**

Christmas Dinner: Please remember to bring:

- Any item you volunteered (beverage, dessert, etc)
- New or gently used item for our raffle
- New gift for the child whose tag you chose. Do not wrap.

Closing Prayer: Rosellina Iacono

(If you have not done so, please sign up for **2020 Closing Prayers**)

Welcome to our new Spiritual Assistant, **Fr. Prem Kumar Garapati, OFM Cap.**

Congratulations and thank you to **Trudy Gassenheimer, OFS**, who was recently appointed to serve on our Council.

Health and Welfare: Karen Ferrari and fam; Alice LeForest; Polanco fam.; Jim & Eileen Ferrara; Pat Franz; Harry Henky; Rosemary LoCascio; Toni LoSquadro; Angie Mariniello; Fr. John Salvias, OFM Cap., Anthony Vasile; Cono Spinelli & Family

Special Intentions: F. Cavallo; Tumminia family; T. Gassenheimer; K. Ferrari; Pat Moclair; Diane Menditto

Family Members: M. Ferrari, D. Ferrari, Chelsea Rose Ferrara, Fr. Damian, Vincenzo Quasarano, Fr. Pius, Stefani Pedone, Joe Savoia, Sara Tripodi, Charlie Zoccoli, Rosemarie Henky, Franz family, Kathleen McGee (Harry's daughter), Cheyenne Travers; Silvio Buda; Baby Ryan, Douglas Henky; Margherita Iacono (Rosellina's mom); Fr. Damian.

Apostolate of Prayer: Please pray for those on the **PRAYER LIST** and for their intentions.

Statue of Our Lady Dec. Frank Cavallo; Jan. Tony and Laura Buda
(Please sign up to **have Our Lady visit your home in 2020**. April, July, August and December are open.)



BIRTHDAYS: December 23: Migdania Polanco; **29:** Joann Tumminia; January **7:** Lucy Stamilla; **20:** Ron Romano; **27:** Ed Atwood

Correspondence: Thank you to **Cono Spinelli** for keeping in touch with us and for his Christmas wishes for the fraternity. Christmas blessings to Cono and family!

Mark your calendar:

- The next **council meeting will be January 27th** at 6:30 in the Church Hall
- **October 10, 2020** celebration of the 25th Anniversary of our region

It's a great idea to pick an article from the Rule and see how we can live it in our every-day lives. How about Article 9 this month?

+++++

Did you know that...

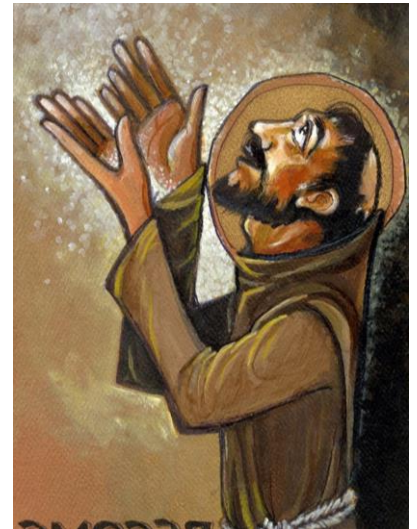
- ...the **Common Fund** (our monthly donation) and the **Fair Share** (yearly donation) are two separate things?
- ...the **Common Fund** is used for the operating expenses of our local fraternity?
- ...**Fair Share** is a contribution used to support the fraternity of the higher level? Our Fair Share supports the Regional Fraternity. In turn, the Region supports the National Fraternity and the National supports International.
- ...Fair Share is not "dues?"
- ...Candidates and professed members, **whether active or excused**, are responsible for contributing SOMETHING toward Fair Share? Although the Region asks \$45 each year per member, we ask that you contribute what you, in good conscience, can afford. We are able to make up the difference from the fraternity treasury because we are blessed to have our brunch each year.

Article 25 of our Rule:

*Regarding expenses necessary for the life of the fraternity and the needs of worship, of the apostolate, and of charity, **all the brothers and sisters** should offer a contribution according to their means. Local fraternities should contribute toward the expenses of the higher fraternity councils.*

Also see **Article 30.3** of the **General Constitutions**

We will be sending our Fair Share to the Region in January.



Please keep our Inquirers and our Candidate in your prayers

<u>Common Fund</u>	<u>Good & Welfare</u>	<u>Fair Share 2019-2020</u>
Balance forward: \$2,106.04	Balance forward: \$ 58.50	Balance forward: \$1090.00
Income: 234.00*	Expense: \$ 00.00	Com. Fund Allocation: 0
Expenses \$ 533.60**	Contributions: \$ 12.00	Fraternity contributions: \$0.00
Ending Balance \$1,806.44	Current balance: \$ 70.50	Current Balance: \$1,190.00
*Includes Common Fund and a donation.	Southwest Missions balance forward \$201.50	We will owe the region 27 X \$45 = \$1215 for candidates and professed members. We are getting closer!
**Includes refreshments for meeting and for regional formation workshop. Also, shopping money for our Christmas dinner.		

Everyone is responsible for contributing *something* toward Fair Share! (See Constitutions Art. 30.3)

Apostolate of Prayer list December 2019

Holy Father's Intention for December: The Future of the Very Young

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

Bahamas	Karen Ferrari (sp. int.)	Jive	Paul and Sean (sp. int.)	John & Mary Smythe.
Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI	FERRARI FAM. INTENTIONS	Clara K. and family	Serafina Pedone	Frank Spina
Barbara	Michael Ferrari	Richard K.	Stefani Pedone	Cono Spinelli and Family
Joan Barron	Maria Ficken	Kate (sp. int.)	Maria Pedreiro (family)	SPIRITUAL FIGURES/LEADERS
Zoila Blacio	Bob & Patty Fitzsimmons	Baby Ryan L.	Josephine Pedulla.	St. Anne's Frat. Ints.
Pete Blake.	Flora's intentions	Muriel Lechenbusch	Michael Perry, OFM	St. Francis Youth
BLESSING BOARD INTS.	Florida friends	Alice LeForest	Maty Ann Pfeiffer (family)	St. Anthony of Padua Frat Ints
Rita Bloom	Fr. Francis	Paula Leichtman	Ron Pihokker	St. Jos. Maint. Dept.
BOYCE FAMILY INTS.	Pope Francis	Mary Anne Lenzi	John Platti (Linda)	St. Thomas More Frat. ints.
Jim and Sunny Brennan	Franz Family	Licamelli Family intentions	Joe Polifrone	Jen Stepanek.
BROS. & SISTS. OF PRAYER	FRAZZA FAMILY INTS.	Rosemary LoCascio	POOR CLARE prayer list	St. John Vianney intentions.
Joe Brown	Colette G.	Bro. Lombardo (sp. Int.)	PRIESTS, FRIARS & SISTERS	Stigmata Friars
+Jim Brouk	Fr. Dan G.	Toni LoSquadro	PUBLIC FIGURES	Stigmata Provincial Council
Carmela Barbieri Buda.	Gabriel	Barbara M	Q committee	Tara Suplicki
Silvio Buda & Family.	Jean Garofalo	Carl Magnifico (Kathy and fam.)	RT (sp. int.)	Syrian Christians and churches
Elaine Buscemi	Trudy Gassenheimer (sp. int.)	Margaret (Carolyn)	Joanne Rean	Alex T.
CA fire and power victims	Genaro and Alicia	Angie Mariniello	Charlie Redstone	Tau Cross Region (all ints.)
Pat Cantelmo	Carol Gentile	Jackie Marlow.	Regina Pacis (all ints.)	Cheyenne Travers
Deacon Ed Case	GEORGE FAMILY INTS.	Mary Therese and daughter	Region sp. Int.	Silvio & Rachel Travia Family.
Sean Case	Anna and Joe Geraci	Fr. Frank McHugh (sp. int.)	Vincent Ribaudo	Sheila Tuohy
Rosalie Cauceglia	Vincent & Maria Giambona, Sr.	John McHugh	Jimmy Riehl	William Turner Family.
Rose Cincotta..	Fr. Giles	Fr. Meena (Sp. Int)	Maria Riehl	Susan Upshur
Lucille Clapps	Nance Gorni	Middle Eastern Christians	Ada Rivera's intentions	Anthony Vasile
Fr. Damian Colicchio	Linda & Tim Griffith	MILITARY: LIVING & DECEASED	Angela Rodin	Marie Vasta (All intentions)
Colleen.	Carlos & Rosa Guerrero	Misty's ints.	Leah Cuiuli Roger.	Victims of abuse
Joe Coralluzzo's ints.	Myriam Hart	Pat Moclair (Sp. Int.)	Roman Catholic Church	Victims of terrorism
Lee D'Arminio	Elaine Hedtke	MOG lapsed and excused	Ron (Sp. int)	Victims of violence & hatred
May D'Arminio	Douglas Henky	Mother Seton Grp. Ints.	Lois and Alyssa Roszko	Diane Vigilante
P. Davis.	Harry Henky	MS intentions	Madeline Rousseau (Jerry)	Lois Viola
Dave (Helen)	Rosemarie Henky	Bill Mulqueen (Anne)	Bro. John Russo	Diane Vitale
Deacon Joe's group int.	Ralph & Frances Henry.	NEC	Baby Ryan	Bill & Carmel Watson Fam.
Demas Family.	The Homeless & the Lonely	Fr. Nick (sp. Int.)	James and Erin S.	Kathleen White
Diane (Sp. int.)	Hospital Intentions	NFC	Annette Salvadeo	Anna Z.'s sp. intentions
Divine Mercy Fraternity Ints.	Hurricane, flood and storm victim	James & Lola Norton Fam.	Fr. John Salvass, OFM Cap.	José Zetnicek
Dolores's Intentions	Immigrant & refugee children	OLA Region & REC	Baby Sam.	Charlie Zoccoli
Dorcas and Woody	Rose Ingoglia	Brian & Lynn Ortale Fam..	San Damiano Frat. Ints.	
Marie Dragan	Inquirers, Aspirants & Candidates	Nancy P.	Pino Scordo.	
Edwin Fehrs.	IPRAY INTENTIONS	PAGE FAMILY INTENTIONS	Andrew Shontz.	
Ethan Fehrs.	Iraqi and Coptic Christians	Padre Pio Pr. Grps. Int.	Shooting victims	
Sue and Charlie Fehskens	Jill	Marie Palazzone	Joe Slachetka (Myke & fam.)	
FB friends	Jill	Jan Parker	Deacon Milt Smilek	
Ferraras	John (sp. int.)	Patsy and family	Monica Smith..	

Rebuild My Church

We have heard the message of our Lord and Savior just as St. Francis did while praying in front of the San Damiano Cross. And so, we Pray:



IN THE NAME OF
THE FATHER, Our Creator, THE
SON, Our Savior,
THE HOLY SPIRIT, Our Sanctifier ...

ABBA, FATHER! Thank You for the gift of our life and the wonders of Your creation.
We ask You to inflame the hearts of our brothers and sisters, especially the young, to "Seek Your Face."

LORD JESUS, You are our Shepherd. We thank You for showing us the way,
for taking up the cross and conquering death.
May we have the grace necessary to take up Your cross

in order to bring back the members of our Catholic family who have strayed from the church.

O HOLY SPIRIT, may we be strengthened by the knowledge that
You will always be with us.

We pray for Our Holy Father, the clergy, religious and lay people.
Inspire and strengthen all of us so that through our prayers, love and sacrifices,
we may be able to reach out to our brothers and sisters and bring them back to the fold.

Only with Your help can we Rebuild Your Church so that, united, we may praise You forever.

We ask all this through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, St. Francis, St. Clare and all Your Saints. Amen



St. Francis of Assisi and The First Nativity Scene

From an article by Philip Kosloski on the Aleteia website

<https://aleteia.org/2017/12/02/how-st-francis-invented-the-first-nativity-scene/>

Francis' inspiration came after traveling to the Holy Land and seeing the exact site of Christ's birth. The poverty of it all deeply impacted Francis and was a particular element that he wanted to celebrate on Christmas.

Franciscan friar Thomas of Celano narrates the rest of the story.

[A]bout 15 days before the Nativity of the Lord, [Francis] said to [a friend in Greccio], "... For I would make memorial of that Child who was born in Bethlehem, and in some sort behold with bodily eyes His infant hardships; how He lay in a manger on the hay, with the ox and the ass standing by."

There Simplicity was honored, Poverty exalted, Humility commended; and of Greccio there was made as it were a new Bethlehem. The night was lit up as the day and was delightful to men and beasts ... [Francis] stood before the manger, full of sighs, overcome with tenderness and filled with wondrous joy. The solemnities of Mass were celebrated over the manger, and the priest enjoyed a new consolation.

According to St. Bonaventure, a miracle also occurred on that night and someone noticed St. Francis holding the Christ Child.

A certain valiant and veracious soldier ... affirmed that he beheld an Infant marvelously beautiful, sleeping in the manger, Whom the blessed Father Francis embraced with both his arms, as if he would awake Him from sleep.

The scene was powerful for all present and emphasized the poverty into which Christ was born. It was truly "Franciscan" in every sense of the word.

The idea caught on quickly. and in 1291 the first Franciscan pope (Nicholas IV) commissioned statues to create the first permanent Nativity scene in the Roman Basilica of St. Mary Major. Ever since, Nativity scenes in all shapes and sizes have been created throughout the world and they are one of the most popular Christmas traditions.

After you read, here are some questions to think about and discuss:

The author of the article says that the scene was "Franciscan" in every sense of the word.

- What did the birth of Jesus mean to St. Francis?
- Why did Francis want this scene to be a meditation on the poverty and hardships the Christ child endured?
- As Franciscans, why are we devoted to the Crib and the Cross? What do these mean to us?