

"Up To Now"



NEWSLETTER FOR ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA REGION, SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
COVERING THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, MARYLAND, DELAWARE, VIRGINIA, AND PORTIONS OF WEST VIRGINIA AND PENNSYLVANIA

Volume 11, Issue 2

"Let us begin again, for up to now we have done nothing."

November 2007

From our Regional Minister!

Secular Franciscans truly are a family....



This was so very evident at the recent annual gathering of our National Fraternity, which this year was held at the beautiful Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Bellville, IL, maintained by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. We were there from October 2 to October 7. We were about 60 in number.

It was a time to greet one another, renew friendships and welcome new members. There were Regional Ministers from as far away as Hawaii, Maine, Florida and Arizona. Once everyone arrived and settled in, it was time to get to the business of working for our Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters in the United States.

Our accommodations at the Shrine were wonderful. The food was plentiful and delicious. We even had a little free time to visit the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. And all of this was free to us, with the exception of our travel costs. ALL of our expenses were paid for by the National Fraternity. It is at this meeting that major decisions are made, problems are resolved and information is exchanged for the benefit of our order, all in a loving family atmosphere. This was possible because of "Our Fair Share" contributions from the regional fraternities. The Regional Fraternities depend upon "timely contributions" from the local fraternities. Our Fair Share contributions are vital to the life of the S.F.O. That money is used for many purposes.

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Dear Lord, the stores are decorated for the holidays already, the ads on television are pushing Christmas shopping and children are already making gift lists. Each year, Lord, it seems to come earlier and it's so easy to get caught up in the rush.

Please, Lord, slow me down. Don't let me get stressed because I haven't started shopping or baking or decorating or addressing cards. These are all good things, I know, but please help me to remember that your Incarnation is the most important event of the season and the better way to prepare for that is to slow down...to pray more, to be more loving and attentive to my family, to be more patient even when I have a lot to do. Help me to make this holiday season a celebration of your birth...not a commercial holiday full of stress and tension. Slow me down, Lord...help me to make this a most blessed Christmas and a happy and holy New Year. Amen. T'

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Without the NAFRA meetings being offered without major cost, it would be a certainty that most of us could not afford to attend. Since we are truly a family, we must support one another!
T

...Carolyn Protin
Regional Minister

Looking for a Retreat Center?

Did you know that **Sue Tichy, SFO**, operates **Our Lady of Peace Retreat Center** in **Fairfield, Pennsylvania**, just 15 minutes from **Emmitsburg, Maryland**, and **Gettysburg, Pennsylvania**? The retreat center is an intimate 10-acre space that can accommodate about 30 people for day retreats and 8 to 10 people for overnight retreats. Visit her website, <http://olop.ihsweb.net>, for pricing information and photos. Sue can also be reached at 717-642-9353. T

FORMATION DIRECTORS MEETING VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA & METRO DC AREA JANUARY 26, 2008

MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH ABBEY
RICHMOND, VA

FORMATION DIRECTORS: IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, PLEASE
SEND A REPRESENTATIVE.
ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

LUNCH RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE
NO LATER THAN JANUARY 19, 2008
COST IS \$8.00

Call: 540-371-7244
Or Email: mfishcere@cs.com

For additional information:
Jeanie McLees: Scottish.wench@cox.net
Miguel Tirado: ostuncalco.micky@yahoo.com

DIRECTIONS →

IMPORTANT DATES MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



- Nov. 10 Regional Fraternity Meeting at Delone Catholic High School in McSherrystown, PA
- Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Day
- Dec. 8 Immaculate Conception
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day
- Jan. 1 New Year's Day
- Jan. 26 DC/VA/WV Formation Directors Mtg.
- Feb. 15 Next issue of UP TO NOW

SFOs in any state!



While it's true only Marylanders can get SFO license plates, there are options for those of us who life in other states!!!

Secular Franciscan **license plate holders** are available for \$5.00 each. They make a nice gift for the newly professed. Anyone interested in obtaining the license plate holders may contact Mary Simmons, SFO, at marysfo_1@msn.com or by calling 410-557-7586. T

Directions to Mary, Mother of the Church Abbey 12829 River Road Richmond, VA 23238

Approximately 25 minutes from downtown Richmond.

From I-64: Take Gaskins Road South (Exit 180A) approximately 4 miles to River Road intersection. Turn right onto River Road and travel exactly 4.0 miles. Mary, Mother of the Church Abbey will be on your left.

From I-95: From the North: Take I-95 to I-295 to Charlottesville. At the end of I-295, exit to left onto I-64 East (to Richmond). Follow instructions above to complete your trip.

From the South: Take I-95 to Route 150 North (Chippenham Parkway). Turn right on River Road access, then turn right onto River Road. Travel approximately 6 miles to the Abbey. T

1st, 2nd and 3rd Orders Celebrating Together



Members of St. Clare Fraternity in Lewes, DE, celebrated the Feast of St. Clare on August 12th with a special trip to St. Veronica Giuliani Convent of the Capuchin Poor Clares in Wilmington, DE. The day, arranged by St. Clare's spiritual assistant, Father Tom Gallagher, was full of Franciscan spirit...the Celebrant, Bishop Michael J. Saltarelli, was joined by some of the OFM Friars from St. Paul's Parish in Wilmington. Father Tom in his homily spoke of how the day provided an opportunity for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Orders to gather, something that doesn't happen often. For those who weren't able to attend, Janice McCarthy tried to "capture the essence of the day":

"Having never been to Wilmington before, we were very much aware of the run down conditions of the neighborhood...much like the surrounding areas in much of the big cities, and yet in front of many houses on the block were planters filled with beautiful flowers, mostly roses in all different stages of blooming. A young gentleman was standing at the door of the convent passing out the program for the day...on the front was the words: "Eucharistic Celebration on the Solemnity of Our Mother St Clare" with her picture and then ..."My Father has been glorified in you bearing much fruit."

"We opened the door into another world as we were warmly greeted by the prioress, and we knew that we had truly entered into Sacred Ground. As we entered thru the doorway into the chapel, our spirits leaped for joy...in front of us was a huge San Domiano Cross hanging above the altar. Greeting us at the doorway were the Friars in their brown robes smiling broadly in welcome to all who entered. On the left side of the room, all in a row were the sisters of the Poor Clare's, some very elderly with walkers but all with big smiles of welcome. Some of us were seated right across from them and behind them were big windows that looked out upon well kept gardens, all glorious in the sunlight and amidst the flowers we could see the statues of Francis and Clare. There was no way to hide the joy in our hearts.

A Friar with a guitar, and one on the organ began playing and singing the opening hymn as Bishop Saltarelli entered into the room. The hymn was called "With the saints and Lights of Heaven" written about St Clare to the tune of "Ode To Joy." The readings were done by one of the sisters and a friar, with the gospel and homily given by Fr. Thomas Gallagher. To say he had us all spellbound would be an understatement as he spoke about Clare and how all three orders had come together in one room...The First Order, the Second Order and the Third Order...to celebrate together. As you can imagine, the Sign of Peace truly was just that...such warmth...such joy!

By the time we reached the closing song...The Canticle of the Sun...we were pretty well wrung out...almost too much for one spirit to handle at one time. Photos were taken...hugs were given...promises that we would return...and we walked out the door changed from when we entered. We had been in the loving presence of God surrounded by those who had given their lives to follow in the footsteps of St Francis and St Clare...and we knew that we would never be the same again. *T*



Left: Bishop Michael J. Saltarelli, joined by Father Tom Gallagher, begins the celebration of the Mass on the Feast of St. Clare.

Right: Janice and Dick McCarthy are greeted by one of the Poor Clare Sisters, the Superior of the St. Veronica Giuliani Convent in Wilmington, DE.



**News from around
the region...**



◆ Our Secular Franciscan family is continuing to grow in the St. Margaret of Cortona Region with **15 professions** during the past few months. We extend our congratulations, our prayers and our welcome to **Viviane Lidji, SFO, Christina Lynem, SFO, and Reyna Minogue, SFO**, who were professed in August as members of **St. John the Beloved Fraternity** in Alexandria, VA.

In addition, **Chris Wells, SFO, Leo Wells, SFO, Sunui Cusack, SFO, Judy Johnson, SFO, and Susan James, SFO** were professed in September as members of **Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity** in Hampton, VA.

In October, **Ronald Holland, SFO, Patricia Holland, SFO, and Gerald Gunning, SFO**, became members of **St. Clare Fraternity** in Lewes, DE.

And on November 18, **Joseph Clemente, SFO, Salvacion Pagado, SFO and Soledad Wong, SFO**, will be professed as members of Mount St. Sepulchre Fraternity in DC. The good Lord, through the intercession of St. Francis, is truly watching over us and increasing our numbers. *T*

◆ We continue to congratulate all the Secular Franciscans who are celebrating anniversaries of their profession, but for those who have been faithfully following our Rule for more than **30** years, some special recognition is due. Please join in congratulating each of these long-time members who celebrate their profession anniversaries:

From **Mary Our Queen Fraternity** in Baltimore, **Delores Stres, SFO**, celebrated her **71st anniversary** as a Secular Franciscan in October. May God reward you, Delores, for your years of faithful service and devotion!

Gary Haigley, SFO, from **Little Flower Fraternity**, Baltimore, celebrated **30** years in October.

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Lucy Deiaco, SFO, from **St. Clare Fraternity** in Lewes, DE, will celebrate her **42nd** anniversary this month.

From **Sacred Heart of Jesus Fraternity** in Warrenton, **Pat Early, SFO**, celebrated **45** years, and **Joanna Madorma, SFO**, celebrated **29** years.

And from **St. Casimir Fraternity**, **Barbara Bogdanowicz, SFO**, celebrated her **40th** anniversary in October. You are all to be commended for your faithfulness and commitment to the Secular Franciscan Rule.

◆ Elections have been held in two fraternities in our region. Please join in congratulating these council members:

Portiuncula Fraternity, in Leesburg, VA: **Lisa Arbogast**, Minister; **Philip Klim**, Vice Minister, **Ellen Davidson**, Treasurer, **John Caroselli**, Secretary, **Susan Burke**, Formation Director.

Companions of Francis and Clare, in Hiwassee, VA: **Marty White**, Minister, **Mary Catherine Bibro**, Vice Minister; **Jane Snyder**, Secretary, **Lynne Lonquist**, Treasurer and **Vicki Hubbard**, Formation Director. *T*

**Franciscan Mission Service
Honors an SFO**

Marie Dennis, SFO, a member of St. Anthony of Nagasaki Fraternity, shared her wisdom and insights about being a leader in the missionary task of peace building and the transformation of injustice during a reception that was part of the Third Annual Anselm Moons, OFM, Award Night on October 13 at St. Francis Hall in DC. The event was sponsored by the Franciscan Mission Service. Marie was described as a “notable witness to the Franciscan mission of peace and justice.” We offer Marie our congratulations on this honor. *T*

For those who have inquired:
**ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS OF THE SECULAR
FRANCISCAN ORDER**

can be ordered from:
Franciscan Resources
15219 310th Street
Menasha, MN 56464
1-800-772-6910
www.franciscanresources.com

Ellicott City SFO Consecrated as Knight at the Foot of the Cross

September 19th, Joy Kubricky, a member of the St. Joseph of Cupertino Fraternity in Ellicott City, MD was consecrated as a member of the Knights at the Foot of the Cross. The Knights at the Foot of the Cross is an outreach within the Militia of the Immaculata (MI) movement that was begun by Saint Maximilian Kolbe. It is comprised of Catholics afflicted by the cross of suffering – physical, spiritual, or emotional. To become a Knight at the Foot of the Cross, Joy first chose a Marion Feast Day as the date that she wanted her name recorded in the official register. Joy chose September 8th, the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, as her feast day. She then filed an official application with the MI. Lastly, she prepared herself for consecration by praying the rosary, and receiving the sacrament of reconciliation.

As a Knight, Joy is offering her daily prayers and trials to Jesus and Mary, “who apply these gifts where grace is needed most, such as to convert hearts and save souls, to make amends for the sins of others, and ultimately to bring about the reign of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.”

The Knights at the Foot of the Cross was founded on May 31, 1983 by sixteen aged and sick Conventual Franciscan friars, members of the Militia of the Immaculata, living at the St. Joseph of Cupertino Friary. As one of the friars asked, “Why not harvest the immense reparational potential within the suffering MI community at large?”

The very first Knight was Fr. Simeon Kaczmarek, OFM, Conv., who was suffering from cancer. He offered his “pain and prayers for the KFC cause while it was still being organized.” *T*

More information can be found on their web site: <http://www.consecration.com/Kfc.html>

*Sheila Solomon, SFO
St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity*

SFO MARTYR BEATIFIED Austrian Farmer, Franz Jagerstatter

Franz Jagerstatter, born on May 20, 1907, was the illegitimate son of two Austrian servants. Before they could afford to marry, his father was killed during WWII, and some time later, his mother married a farmer who adopted Franz. His adolescent years were marred with rebelliousness and heavy drinking, but Franz experienced a religious conversion in 1934 while working in the iron mines. Two years later, he married a devout woman named Franziska and they had three daughters. Before long, he became a member of the Third Order of St. Francis and was active as a church sexton. His practice of the faith became so intense that many considered him a fanatic.

When the Germans began the annexation of Austria, Franz openly opposed the action. By the time the annexation was complete, he was the sole dissenting vote in his village, openly denouncing Adolph Hitler and refusing the cash allotments offered to each family by the Nazi government. He was drafted in 1940, but after six months training, he returned home, vowing to refuse to serve in the future. Despite the advise of friends, family and religious, he became a conscientious objector who said he would rather his children have a father who was martyred for Christ than one who was a Nazi soldier. In 1943, he presented himself to the military, offering to serve as a medical orderly, but refused to advance the Nazi cause in the war. He was imprisoned, later transferred to Berlin, where he stood trial and was sentenced to death for sedition. On August 9, 1943, he was taken to Nazi Brandenburg-Havel facility, and at 4:00 p.m., he was beheaded, lying on his back, facing the guillotine.

On October 26, 2007, the Church beatified Franz Jagerstatter in Linz, Austria. He stands as an example of a Secular Franciscan Catholic we can pray to for guidance in matters of conscience. His witness reminds us of our duty to refuse to cooperate with evil...and is one more indication that peacemaking is no marginal vocation for Catholics, especially Franciscan Catholics. *T*

Summarized from SFO National Peace & Justice Publication



Reflections from the Shore

Freighters and tankers approaching the entrance to Delaware Bay, after long trans-oceanic voyages, are a familiar sight along our shore. There is a sense of mystery and adventure as we ponder the distant ports these ships come from.

However, it is also a reminder of our consumer dependency on foreign products and oil. While there might be a positive aspect to this situation (i.e., participation in a global economy) the transportation of our consumer goods is a major source of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) that contribute to global warming.

Many items we purchase and use do not directly produce CO₂ emissions. But the manufacture and delivery of these items can be significant CO₂ sources.

In fact, these indirect CO₂ emissions amounted to 35 tons/year per U.S. household in 2003.

What can we do to reduce indirect CO₂ emissions? Here are some suggestions to consider:

+ Reduce our dependency on imported oil by energy conservation and use of alternative (green if possible) energy sources.

+ Buy locally grown and produced foods. The average meal in the U.S. travels 1,200 miles from the farm to your plate. However, meals derived from local sources create 5 to 17 times **less** CO₂ emissions than from the supermarket. Try the local farmers market and/or cultivate your own garden.

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+ Purchase locally supplied/manufactured products and building materials whenever possible. (Consider the transport distance of thousands of miles for most items in our discount stores.)

+ Avoid heavily packaged products if possible. An average reduction in packaging by just 10 percent would reduce CO₂ emissions by 1,200 lbs/year per person.

+ Reuse your shopping bags (i.e., use canvas bags or those made from recycled materials).

+ Reduce junk mail. The energy used to generate and deliver one days worth of junk mail in the US could heat 250,000 homes (that is equivalent to a lot of CO₂ emissions avoidance). Register with the Mail Preference Service to reduce unsolicited mail.

(www.dmaconsumers.org/consumerassistance.html).

All of these CO₂ emission avoidance measures have a common Franciscan attribute (i.e., a reduction in consumerism).

Next issue we will conclude our series focus on global warming by considering how we can be effective advocates for the reduction of greenhouse gases. *T*

Peace,

*Ron and Bev Stoner, SFO
St. Clare Fraternity, Lewes, DE*



The Editor's Thoughts....

It's amazing to me how that unusual spell of warm weather tricked me into believing the holiday season was still several months away. Then suddenly, it's November!!!

This fall issue of Up To Now is another full one. From the basic news of our regional fraternities...professions, anniversaries, and elections, to some rather unusual honors being bestowed on two of our SFO sisters. There's also a travel opportunity...a pilgrimage being planned for October 2008 so you have almost a year to save for it! And word on the recent beatification of a 20th Century Secular Franciscan martyr.

With any amount of luck, this issue will be in many hands before our annual regional fraternity meeting on November 10th at Delone Catholic High School here in PA, so for convenience sake, I have once again included driving directions and information on how you can get specific directions from where you live.

Other than newsletters, I have received very little in the way of submissions. Please think about sharing your photos, your news, your projects, your prayers, your poems and your reflections. I'd love to be able to publish more. So share your God-given talents with the rest of us...make this newsletter a real vehicle of communication and sharing for the region. Thank you.

May you each have a most blessed and holy holiday season and may God hold each of you close to His heart and give you His peace.

*Peace and all good,
Sharon*

Sharon Crews Hare, sfo
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The Daily Decalogue of Pope John XXIII

1. Only for today, I will seek to live the livelong day positively without wishing to solve the problems of my life all at once.
2. Only for today, I will take the greatest care of my appearance: I will dress modestly; I will not raise my voice; I will be courteous in my behavior; I will not criticize anyone; I will not claim to improve or to discipline anyone except myself.
3. Only for today, I will be happy in the certainty that I was created to be happy, not only in the other world but also in this one.
4. Only for today, I will adapt to circumstances without requiring all circumstances to be adapted to my own wishes.
5. Only for today, I will devote ten minutes of my time to some good reading, remembering that just as food is necessary to the life of the body, so good reading is necessary to the life of the soul.
6. Only for today, I will do one good deed and not tell anyone about it.
7. Only for today, I will do at least one thing I do not like doing; and if my feelings are hurt, I will make sure that no one notices.
8. Only for today, I will make a plan for myself: I may not follow it to the letter, but I will make it. And I will be on guard against two evils: hastiness and indecision.
9. Only for today, I will firmly believe, despite appearances, that the good Providence of God cares for me as no one else who exists in this world.
10. Only for today, I will have no fears. In particular, I will not be afraid to enjoy what is beautiful and to believe in goodness. Indeed, for twelve hours I can certainly do what might cause me consternation were I to believe I had to do it all my life.

Secular Franciscan Retreat - Tribute to Father Bart

By Betty Onorato, SFO, Little Flower Fraternity

We thank you Fr. Bart for God's message that you bring.
You've helped us journey back to see where we have been.
As we pick up the pieces of our spiritual life,
some events are joyful and some are filled with strife.

Here we escape the world – that world of many cares,
as we settle down in quiet to meditate in prayer.
If Francis can....so can we
come full circle in our spirituality.

For many of us you have been a special stepping stone,
as you've helped us break out of our comfort zone.
We look at where we've been and why we're here today,
It was all in God's plan and you've helped us find our way.

You told us about Francis and the poverty he lived,
which inspired us to follow him and enhanced our way to give.
It is our human nature to cling on to the past,
as change is very painful and we think that it can't last.

But, you have taught us to open up our hearts,
and to allow God to heal that which is tearing us apart.
He is standing by our side and cannot enter in
until we empty all the boxes and die to all our sins.

As we rid ourselves of possessions and the anger we portray,
Lady Poverty will take our hand and lead us on our way.
Sharing your faith journey as you grew into a man
was your gift to us, when you were touched by our Father's hand.

You've opened up new avenues for our faith to grow.
Sometimes we're impatient and blame God because we're slow.
Most high glorious God, artist of all living things,
we thank you for your servant, Bart and the wisdom that he brings.

Loving lepers for Francis was more than he could take,
he was blinded by the world and the poor choices that he made.
Then God set his heart on fire with his Spirit from above,
and he gently embraced the leper and expressed his deepest love.

You've helped us look inside our hearts to see God's loving face,
so we could seek and find our lepers to embrace.
You've inspired us to be a witness of our Christian love,
not always to be right but to discern God's Spirit from above.

To listen and accept what others have to say,
To live according to our Rule, not talking until we pray.
We're bursting with your goodness, so much to comprehend,
We're sad that this joy of sharing is now about to end.

As we go home with an attitude of gratitude we give our God our praise,
for His everlasting love as He nurtures us each day.
You will always have a special place within our hearts,
Know our prayers are with you, we'll never be apart. *T*

Il Poverello



Join Us On Our Franciscan Pilgrimage

October 20 - October 30, 2008

Departing Dulles Airport with visits to Padua, Assisi, San Giovanni Rotondo, and Rome, as well as several side trips to other Franciscan sights

**Pilgrimage Price is
\$2,659.00 per person, double or triple
\$3,299.00 per person, single
Staying in hotels and religious housing
Price includes breakfast and dinner.**

**For additional information, please contact Teri Egan
Telephone: 410-695-2925
Email: ortygia77@verizon.net Subject Line: TOUR**

DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO DELONE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL 140 S. OXFORD AVENUE, MCSHERRYSTOWN, PA 17344

FROM US ROUTE 30 & POINTS EAST

Follow Route 30 to the traffic signal at Cross Keys, two miles past Abbottstown, turn left onto Rt. 94. In Hanover, at the fifth traffic signal, turn right onto Elm Avenue. At the second traffic signal at the edge of McSherrystown, turn left to Delone Catholic High School on the right. Turn right onto South Street, park in the school lot and use the lobby entrance.

FROM EMMITSBURG & POINTS WEST

Follow Rt. 15 North to PA Rt. 116 East to McSherrystown. Turn right at light onto Oxford Avenue (still Rt. 116 East) and the school is on your right. Turn right onto South Street, park in the school lot and use the lobby entrance.

FROM WESTMINSTER

Follow Rt. 97 North to Old Hanover Road; turn right. At stop sign, go straight onto Pine Grove Road. Turn left at next stop sign onto Pine Grove Road and follow to Rt. 194 (Hanover Pike). Turn right onto Rt. 194 and go north to Village of Mt. Pleasant. Turn left onto Mt. Pleasant Road to McSherrystown. Turn right onto South Street (one block South of Main Street) and follow to the school parking lot on your right. Use the lobby entrance.

FROM MANCHESTER/HAMPSTEAD/REISTERSTOWN

Follow MD Rt. 30 North (becomes PA Rt. 94) to Hanover. Go through the center square in Hanover. One block past the square, turn left onto Rt. 116 West (Chestnut Street). At the next light, turn right onto Third Street (still Rt. 116 West) and follow to school on left (Third Street becomes Oxford Avenue). Turn left onto South Street, park in the lot and use the lobby entrance.

FROM TOWSON/BALTIMORE

Follow I-83 North to exit 31; turn left onto Middletown Road. At stop sign, bear left onto PA Rt. 851. Turn left at four-way stop onto Rt. 216. Follow Rt. 216 thru Glenville, Brodbecks and Codorus State Park to Rt. 116 (York Street). Turn left and follow Rt. 116 West through Hanover to school on left. Turn left onto South Street, park in the lot and use the lobby entrance. Note: Rt. 116 West makes several turns in Hanover borough. **Watch for the signs.**

For those of you with computers, you can find excellent driving directions from your address to Delone Catholic High School by going to either of these sites:

www.aaa.com Click on "Online Directions" and enter your own address as the start of your trip and 140 S. Oxford Avenue, McSherrystown, PA as your destination.

www.randmcnally.com Click on "Driving Directions" and enter your own address as the start of your trip and 140 S. Oxford Avenue, McSherrystown, PA as your destination