

Padre Pio Reactivating Fraternity

Sponsored by the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region
Secular Franciscan Order

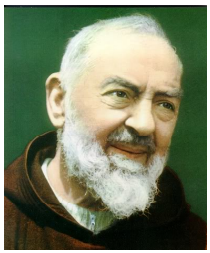
Volume 1, Issue 4

A Holy Christmas

December 2012

BSSF Region
Jerry Rousseau, OFS,
Minister
Paula Zanker, OFS,
DorothyAnn Rowland,
OFS
Area 3 Councilors

Appointed Council
Members:
Rev Douglas P. Reed,
Spiritual Asst.
Joanne Jacovec, OFS,
Minister
Eugene Nagy, OFS
Vice-Minister
Marguerite Zombek,
OFS Treasurer
Michael Evaniuck,
OFS For,ation
Director
Frank Peluso
OFS Secretary



*Do good everywhere,
so that everyone can
say: "This is a son of
Christ."*

~ St. Pio

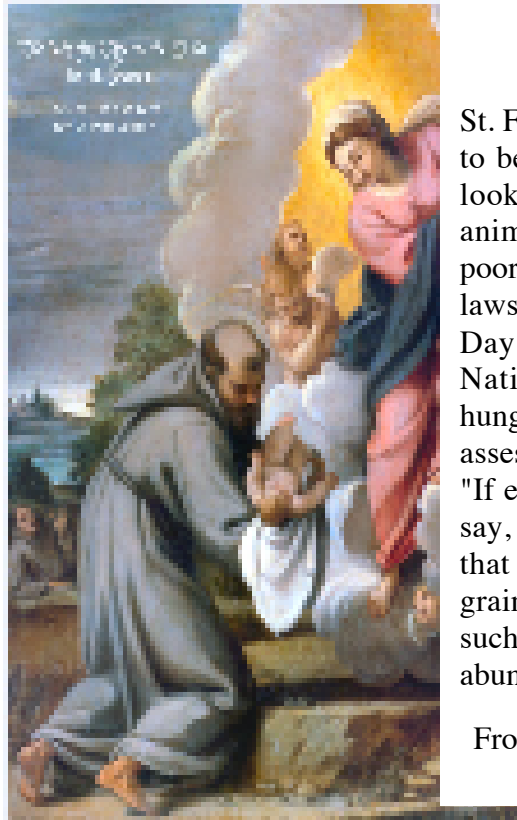
~ Come join us ~
The gatherings
Are usually held
In Trinity Center Top
floor 4th Sunday
@ 1:30 pm
(Subject to change.)
@ St Michael Catholic
Church, 804 High
House Road,
Cary, NC

Feeding Animals & Birds to Celebrate Christmas

...especially our sisters the larks

St. Francis used to encourage civil authorities to be ever mindful of Gospel truths such as looking after the welfare of all people, animals & birds especially those who are poor and vulnerable. He urged them to enact laws for the feeding of animals on Christmas Day: Speaking of the Day of the Lord's Nativity, Francis 'wanted the poor and hungry to be filled by the rich, and oxen and asses to be spoiled with extra feed and hay. "If ever I speak with the Emperor,' he would say, "I will beg him to issue a general decree that all who can should throw wheat and grain along the roads, so that on the day of such a great solemnity the birds may have an abundance, especially our sisters the larks."

From: The Remembrance of the Desire of a Soul by Thomas of Celano.



Saint Francis of Assisi is credited with creating the first nativity scene in 1223

(a "living" one) intending thereby to cultivate the worship of Christ's nativity, having been inspired by his recent visit to the Holy Land where he had been shown Jesus' traditional birthplace. The scene's popularity inspired communities throughout Christian countries to stage similar displays.

Visiting the small mountain town of Greccio, Italy during Christmas of 1223, St Francis ran into a logistical problem. The small Franciscan hermitage in the town was too small for Midnight Mass. So he set up an altar in a niche in a rock at the town square.

Francis, who was staying in the town of Greccio got the Pope's permission to proceed with his plans. Then he asked his close friend John Velita to loan him some animals and straw to set up a scene there to represent Jesus Christ's birth in Bethlehem. The nativity scene could help people in the area imagine what it may have been like to be present on the first Christmas long ago, when they came to worship at Christmas Eve Mass.

Nativity scenes have not escaped controversy. In the United States, nativity scenes on public lands and in public buildings have provoked court challenges. Thus, many Christians are displaying the scene on their own lawns.

<http://suite101.com/article/>





The Month of December

The month of December is dedicated to the **Immaculate Conception**, which is celebrated on December 8. The first 24 days of December fall during the liturgical season known as **Advent** and are represented by the liturgical color purple. The remaining days of December mark the beginning of the Christmas season. The liturgical color changes to white or gold — a symbol of joy, purity and innocence.

The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of December 2012

General Intention: That migrants throughout the world may be welcomed with generosity and authentic love, especially by Christian communities.

Missionary Intention: Christ, light for all humanity. That Christ may reveal himself to all humanity with the light that shines forth from Bethlehem and is reflected in the face of his Church.

Franciscan Saints for December

2 Bl. Maria Angela Astorch, Virgin

2 Bl. Rafal Chylinski, I Order

8 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Patron & Queen of the Franciscan Orders ~ Bl. John Duns Scotus, OFM argued for the Immaculate Conception of Mary. 1854, Bl. Pope Pius IX, OFS promulgated the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, articulating a long-held Catholic belief that Mary, the Mother of God, was conceived without original sin. Pius decisively acted on the century-old disagreement between Dominicans and Franciscans regarding the Immaculate Conception of Mary, deciding in favor of the Franciscan view.

10 Bl. Peter Tecelano (III Order)

12 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patron and Queen of the Americas (Memorial in USA)

13 Finding the Body of St. Francis on 12 December 1818, as a result of a toilsome search lasting fifty-two nights.

15 Bl. Mary Frances Schervier, virgin of SFO. - This woman who once wanted to become a Trappistine nun was instead led by God to establish a community of sisters who care for the sick and aged in the United States and throughout the world. Born into a distinguished family in Aachen (then ruled by Prussia but formerly Aix-la-Chapelle, France), Frances ran the household after her mother's death and established a reputation for generosity to the poor. In 1844 she became a Secular Franciscan. The next year she and four companions established a religious community devoted to caring for the poor. In 1851, the Sisters of the Poor of St. Francis (a variant of the original name) were approved by the local bishop; the community soon spread. The first U.S. foundation was made in 1858. Mother Frances visited the United States in 1863 and helped her sisters nurse soldiers wounded in the Civil War. She visited the United States again in 1868. When Philip Hoever was establishing the Brothers of the Poor of St. Francis, she encouraged him. When Mother Frances died, there were 2,500 members of her community worldwide. They are still engaged in operating hospitals and homes for the aged. Mother Mary Frances was beatified in 1974.

16 Bl. Honoratus Kozminski, priest, I Ord.

Source: Five Franciscan Martyrs Regional Website, @ <http://www.franciscan-sfo.org/p1/franlita.htm>



Happy December Birthdays

Maria Muratore
12/1
Ida Irwin
12/11
Vincent (Vince)
McKone
12/20
Sharon Winzeler
12/28
Bea Sanford
12/6



da, Gene and Suzie at Bea's pot luck dinner.

Fraternity Retreat:

December 8, 2012—
Fraternity Retreat
At
Avila Retreat
Center, Durham,
NC.

(9:30am – 4:00pm)
Lunch is included.

Cost is \$35 per
person. Please give
Marge your check
made out to Padre
Pio Reactivating
Fraternity.

Financial assistance
available.

Father Doug will
celebrate Mass at
10:00 a.m.



Suzie, Bea, Maureen, Joanne, Ginny. Marge, and Gene enjoy fellowship at a Pot Luck Social held at Bea Sanford's after the October meeting. We wish Bea many blessings on her new career in Pennsylvania. She will be missed. *Pictures by Joanne Jovevec*

Let us pray daily

Next gathering
Sunday
January 27, 2013
At
The usual times

Heavenly Father, may the prayers of our Seraphic Father, St. Francis help us to rise above our human weakness. We ask him to intercede for the material and spiritual welfare of all Franciscans: the Friars, Poor Clares, the secular ministers and spiritual assistants, and particularly the members of our Padre Pio Reactivating Fraternity. We also pray daily for Franciscans in need of physical healing and strength. And, may our living and deceased Franciscan brothers and sisters be guided into everlasting life. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Christmas Prayer

Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and mirth, we praise you for the great marvels you have sent us:

For sparkling star
And angel's tunes,
For infant's whimper
in lowly manger.

We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Newborn.

We take a look at his brilliance, and are bathed in its radiance. —

Be with us as we sing the ironies of Christmas, the unfathomable understood,

The poetry made lovely

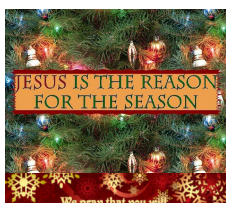
The helpless Babe who fractures the earth in two.

We kneel before you sinful and sorrowful,

As we wait, give us a foretaste of the joy that you will grant us when

The fullness of his glory has filled the earth, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever.

Amen.



REGIONAL VISITATION

Jerry Rousseau OFS, Minister of BSSF Region and Joanita Nellenbach OFS, Lay Spiritual Assistant conducted a Fraternal and Pastoral Visitation of our fraternity on November 17 and 18, 2012. The purpose of both the pastoral and fraternal visits is to revive the evangelical Franciscan spirit, to assure fidelity to the charism and to the Rule, to offer help to fraternity life, to reinforce the bond of unity in the Order, and to promote the most effective insertion into the Franciscan family and the Church as stated in Article 26. The visitation was also an opportunity for our fraternity to review our growth since our last visitation, to evaluate our fraternity's focus on the Four Pillars of Franciscan Life: Spirituality, Formation, Fraternity and Apostolate, and to promote an even more vibrant fraternal life in the future.

Jerry and Joanita met with the Council for on Saturday and also reviewed our records, scrapbooks, history and other documentation. Joanita and Father Doug got together to reflect on spiritual assistance of our fraternity. That evening, several members of our fraternity, Father Doug, Jerry and Joanita enjoyed a festive dinner at Mellow Mushroom in Cary.

On Sunday, Jerry and Joanita joined us for candidacy formation, inquiry formation, and our fraternity gathering. We are grateful for the opportunity to be with Jerry and Joanita and also for their ongoing support of our fraternity through the sponsorship of the BSSF Regional Executive Council.



Joanita and Jerry, to the left, gave us assistance and encouragement during their fraternal and pastoral visit.

Picture by Ida Irwin

One of the tables of our members during the pastoral visit. Of course, they are doing what Franciscans like to do

~ eating,

— *Picture by Ida Irwin*

