

Padre Pio Reactivating Fraternity

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

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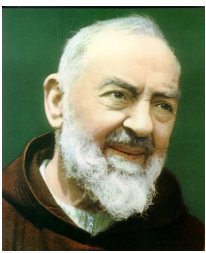
February 2013

BSSF Region

Jerry Rousseau, OFS,
Minister
Paula Zanker, OFS,
Dorothy Ann 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 Formation
Director
Frank Peluso
OFS Secretary



"The proof of love is
to suffer for the one
you love."
~ 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

Happy St. Valentine's Day

Saint Valentine (in Latin, **Valentinus**) a widely recognized third century Roman saint commemorated on February 14 and associated since the High Middle Ages with a tradition of courtly love. Nothing is known reliably of St. Valentine except his name and the fact that he died on the Via Flaminia north of Rome on February 14. It is even uncertain whether St. Valentine is to be identified with only one saint or two saints of the same name. Sources are unreliable. For these reasons this liturgical commemoration was not kept in the Catholic calendar of saints for universal liturgical veneration as revised in 1969. But the "Martyr Valentinus who died on the 14th of February on the Via Flaminia close to the Milvian Bridge in Rome" still remains in the list of officially recognized saints for local veneration. Saint Valentine's Church in Rome, built in 1960 for the needs of the Olympic Village, continues as a modern, well-visited parish church.

Many of the current legends that characterize Saint Valentine were invented in the fourteenth century in England, notably by Geoffrey Chaucer and his circle, when the feast day of February 14 first became associated with romantic love. *From Wikipedia*

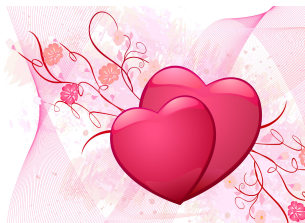
What is "love?"

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NIV)

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. 8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

"If we really want to love we must learn how to forgive" *Mother Teresa*

"We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love." *Martin Luther King, Jr.*





Overview for the Month of February 2013

The month of February is dedicated to the **Holy Family**. The first two and a half weeks of February fall within the liturgical season of Ordinary Time which is represented by the liturgical color green. Green, the symbol of hope, is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. The remaining days of February are the beginning of **Lent**. The liturgical color changes to purple — a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart. **Ash Wednesday** is Feb. 13th.

The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of February 2013

General: That migrant families, especially the mothers, may be supported and accompanied in their difficulties.

Missionary: That the peoples at war and in conflict may lead the way in building a peaceful future.
(See also www.apostleshipofprayer.net)

Franciscan Saints for February

1 St. Veridiana. In 1221, there is a claim that she was visited by Francis of Assisi, who admitted her into his Third Order. But it is not certain whether Verdiana belonged to any particular monastic order. Little is known.

1 Bl. Andrew of Segni, Franciscan mystic and hermit.

4 St. Joseph of Leonissa, priest of I Order.

6 Sts Peter Baptist, Paul Miki, and Comp. Martyrs of I and III Order. (Opt. for SFO). The Twenty-six Martyrs of Japan is a group of Christians who were executed by crucifixion on February 5, 1597 at Nagasaki. Their martyrdom is especially significant in the history of Roman Catholicism in Japan.

7 St. Colette of Corbie, virgin of II Order.

8 St. Giles Mary of St. Joseph I Order. "Love God, love God" was his characteristic phrase as he gathered food for the friars and the poor.

15 Transfer of the Body of St. Anthony of Padua. The saint's body had been reduced to dust and bones, but his tongue was intact and life-like. St. Bonaventure said, "O blessed tongue, which has always blessed God and caused others to bless Him, now it appears evident how great were your merits before God!" The tongue can be seen today on the side of the basilica's altar.

17 Bl. Luke Belludi, religious, I Ord.

19 St. Conrad of Piacenza, a penitent and hermit of the Third Order of St. Francis. He developed a reputation for holiness, and the flow of visitors left him unable to keep the solitude he sought.

27 Bl. Sebastian of Aparicio, I Order. He is known as the "Angel of Mexico" and is the patron of travelers'



**Rite of Admission is
On Sunday, February 24
During our fraternity gathering at St. Michael's**



**Suggestion**

for those in discernment
or those already
professed.

Read one rule each day
and
meditate on it as
it concerns your life.

"... the Church expects
from you, Secular
Franciscans,
a courageous and
consistent testimony of
Christian and Franciscan
life, leaning towards the
construction of a more
fraternal and Gospel
world for the realization
of the Kingdom of God."

Blessed John Paul II
2002
SFO General Chapter



I love you this much !

Bit of Humor

A Benedictine and a
Carmelite were
debating which order
was the greatest. So,
they decided to ask
for a sign from God.
The angel Gabriel
came to them with
this written message:

*"My sons,
Please stop bickering
about such trivial
matters,
Sincerely, God, O.S.F."*

Fast From-Feast On

- Fast from judging others; Feast on the Christ dwelling in them.
- Fast from emphasis on differences; Feast on the unity of life.
- Fast from apparent darkness; Feast on the reality of light.
- Fast from thoughts of illness; Feast on the healing power of God.
- Fast from words that pollute; Feast on phrases that purify.
- Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude.
- Fast from anger; Feast on patience.
- Fast from pessimism; Feast on optimism.
- Fast from worry; Feast on divine order.
- Fast from complaining; Feast on appreciation.
- Fast from negatives; Feast on affirmatives.
- Fast from unrelenting pressures; Feast on unceasing prayer.
- Fast from hostility; Feast on non-resistance.
- Fast from bitterness; Feast on forgiveness.
- Fast from self-concern; Feast on compassion for others.
- Fast from personal anxiety; Feast on eternal truth.
- Fast from discouragements; Feast on hope.
- Fast from facts that depress; Feast on verities that uplift.
- Fast from lethargy; Feast on enthusiasm.
- Fast from thoughts that weaken; Feast on promises that inspire.
- Fast from shadows of sorrow; Feast on the sunlight of serenity.
- Fast from idle gossip; Feast on purposeful silence.
- Fast from problems that overwhelm; Feast on prayer that strengthens.

—William Arthur Ward (American author, teacher and pastor, 1921-1994.)

A Lenten Prayer

O gracious Master, infuse in our hearts the spotless light of Your Divine Wisdom and open the eyes of our mind that we may understand the teachings of Your Gospel as did St. Francis. Instill in us also a reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having curbed all carnal desires, we may lead a spiritual life, both thinking and doing everything to please You.

You have given us Jesus Christ our Savior as a model of humility. He fulfilled Your Will by becoming Man And giving His life on the Cross. Help us to bear witness to You By following His example of humility. And make us worthy to share in His Resurrection. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit forever. .



Take Five

"Take five extra minutes to pray before a crucifix.

What is it that Christ wills for you this Lenten season? Write down three ways that you might become a more faithful follower of Christ through St. Francis and the Blessed Virgin.

Council Changes

With changes in the council, we will continue to serve together as a formation team by rotating co-facilitation with Mike in the lead as our formation director. Joanne will continue to facilitate formation for Stan who has completed his first year of candidacy formation. We will encourage active participation in formation by the candidates through written responses and journal reflections to the chapter questions and personal sharing during group discussion. Professed members are invited to attend the formation sessions to support our candidates. .

Frank has agreed to coordinate our *Come and See* open house and Orientation program. The open house will be planned for May and the first Orientation sessions in June. We will use the same format and schedule from 2011 that were very well received.

Lenten Calendar

- Ash Wednesday (Wednesday, February 13, 2013)
- First Sunday of Lent (Sunday, February 17, 2013)
- Second Sunday of Lent (Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013)
- **Rite of Admission for New Candidates – St. Michael's**
- Third Sunday of Lent (Sunday, March 3, 2013)
- Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday) (3/10/13)
- Feast of Saint Patrick (Sunday, March 17, 2013)
- Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday) (3/17/13)
- Feast of Saint Joseph (Tuesday, March 19, 2013)
- Palm Sunday (Sunday, March 24, 2013)
- **Fraternity Gathering - St. Michael's**
- The Annunciation of the Lord (Monday, 3/25/13)
- Holy Thursday (Thursday, March 28, 2013)
- Good Friday (Friday, March 29, 2013)
- Holy Saturday (Saturday, March 30, 2013)
- Easter (Sunday, March 31, 2013)

Rite of Admission

Once this Rite of Admission is celebrated, the Inquirers officially become Candidates and are admitted into a local Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order to prepare for permanent commitment. If the discernment of vocation is incomplete or mistaken during the Orientation and Inquiry phases, it must be rectified before the Rite of Admission takes place.

Upon admission, the Formation Director presents the Rule and the distinctive sign of the Secular Franciscan Order (Tau Cross) while the Minister says, "As you turn towards Christ, in the Spirit of St Francis, receive this sign of the Secular Franciscan Order and become one with us."

Ritual, Rite of Admission Pg 16

NATIONAL PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS to the SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

O, Good and Gracious God, God of mercy, compassion, generosity, and love, As we live our lives today in the model of St. Francis, choosing daily to live the Gospel life, Help us to help others hear Your call. Help us to help others to recognize their vocation as a Secular Franciscan that You have already planted in their heart. Help us, so that together we all may work to bring the Gospel to life. Amen!

Marian R. Crosby, OFS
Scottsdale AZ