

The Padre Pio Reactivating Fraternity

Sponsored by the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region



I love you this much!

March 2014
Volume 2, Issue 5

P a x e t h o n u m

"Christ acts like a loving mother. To induce us to follow Him, He gives us Himself as an example and promises us a reward in His kingdom."

- Saint Anthony of Padua

Seven Persons Joyfully Welcomed to the Fraternity

Robert Ochart, Joshua Champagne, Dianne Greet, Marie Roccoforte, Victoria Romero, Louis Coker, and Bernie Dawson were introduced and welcomed into our fraternity on February 23rd during our monthly gathering.

Inquiry formation lasts for one year and is a time for discernment, prayer, private retreat, and study to acquire an understanding of the life of St. Francis, the SFO Rule, Constitution and the Four Pillars.

The inquirers said that they have come to see in our Franciscan life a way which appeals to them. Perhaps in time they, by the grace of God, may be able to become part of the Secular Franciscan Order and thus serve the Lord and his people more faithfully.

Our fraternity will support and encourage the inquirers to find the spirit of belonging as is nurtured in the Rule. This will assure a kind of "assimilation" of the spirit of the Rule in the life and in the story of each person. Those who read the writings and biographies of Francis and Clare will be strengthened in their Franciscan identity.

After offering the sign of peace to each inquirer, we all shared refreshments and fellowship.

BSSF Region:

Minister, Jerry Rousseau, OFS,

Area 3 Councilors:

Frank Massey, OFS,

And

Marie Stephens, OFS



Appointed Council Members:

Spiritual Asst.:

Rev. Douglas P. Reed

Lay Minister:

Joanne Jacovec, OFS

Vice Minister:

Marguerite Zombek, OFS

Formation:

Michael Evaniuck, OFS

Treasurer:

Stanley Driscoll, OFS

Secretary:

Frank Peluso, OFS



Picture by Ida Irwin, OFS

The gatherings are usually held in the Trinity Center Top Floor on the 4th
Sunday @ 1:30 p.m. (Subject to change) @ St. Michael's in Cary, NC



Overview for the Month of March

The month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph. The first four days of March fall during the liturgical season known as 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 remainder of the month falls during the liturgical season of Lent which is represented by the liturgical color purple — a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart.

The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of March 2014

General: That all cultures may respect the rights and dignity of women.

Missionary: That many young people may accept the Lord's invitation to consecrate their lives to proclaiming the Gospel.

(See also:
www.apostleshipofprayer.net)

Francis and Claire Guides for Modern Lent

"Although they lived nearly 800 years ago, Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi serve as excellent guides for the modern Lenten journey. Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi abandoned their comfortable lifestyles and

embraced lives of poverty, humility, and penance to better follow the call to Christian discipleship. Both saints underwent powerful conversion experiences in their lives. In the course of their conversions, they ignited a movement that reformed the medieval Church and that continues to influence and inspire millions of Christians to this day."

Entering into Lent

"Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning (Joel 2:12)." These words from the book of the prophet Joel are heard in the first reading at Mass on Ash Wednesday. This gives us a glimpse as to what the holy season of Lent is about — preparing our hearts to be reconciled to the Lord and returning to Him.

The season of Lent lasts about 40 days and, as just mentioned, is a time of preparation. We can see the significance of "40 days" as a fitting time of preparation in the Bible when Moses spent 40 days on Mount Sinai before he received the Ten Commandments from God. Even more fitting, is the example of Christ spending 40 days of prayer and fasting in the wilderness before starting his public ministry.

During this holy season of Lent, we prepare in a special way for the celebration of Christ's resurrection at Easter. Returning again to the prophet Joel, this period is marked by a spirit of fasting, weeping and mourning.

The ashes we receive on Ash Wednesday are a good reminder of this.

We see the use of ashes and rending or tearing one's clothing in the Old Testament as a sign of mourning and penance. In the book of Esther, Mordecai "rent his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, wailing with a loud and bitter cry" when he heard the king's command that all the Jewish people were to be destroyed (Esther 4:1). Also, in the book of Jonah, after the prophet preaches repentance to the town of Nineveh, we are told that the people of that town "proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. Then tidings reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, and covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes" (Jonah 3:5-6).

Thankfully, it is no longer the custom to tear our garments. This is also seen in the book of the prophet Joel: "Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord" (Joel 2:13). Fasting and the use of ashes, however, still remain the custom in the Church today."

- Br. Patrick Mary, MFVA

Happy St. Patrick's Day

May the blessing of light be on you
light without and light within.

May the blessed sunlight
shine on you
and warm your heart
till it glows like a great peat fire.

~ An Old Celtic Blessing

"This heart of mine is yours, my Jesus, so take this heart of mine, fill it with your love and then order me to do whatever you wish." ~ St. Pio



Franciscan Saints for March

2 Bl. Agnes of Bohemia, II O.
 3 Bl. Liberatus Weiss, Samuele Marzorati and Michele Pio Fasoli (Martyrs, I Order)
 5 St. John Joseph of the Cross, I Order
 9 St. Frances of Rome, religious of III Ord.
 12 Bl. Angela Salawa, III Order
 18 St. Salvator of Horta, I Order
 22 St. Benvenute of Osimo, I O.
 23 St. Catherine of Genoa, III O.
 24 Bl. Ludovico of Casoria, I O.
 24 Bl. Didacus Joseph Cadiz, I O.
 30 St. Peter Regaldo, I Order

Important Bits and Pieces

4th Sunday of Each Month:

11:30 to 1:00 –

Inquiry Formation in the Trinity Center Library.

11:30 to 1:00 –

Candidacy Formation in the Pastoral Care Room

1:00 to 1:30 –

Lunch and Social Time in the Multi-Purpose Room.

1:30 to 4:00 –

Fraternity Gathering in the Multi-Purpose Room

March 8, 2014: Simple Lenten Lunch at Ida's from Noon to 3:30 p.m.

July 13, 2014: Rite of Profession during 10:30 Mass in St. Michael's Church with Father Douglas Reed, Spiritual Assistant, presiding. Luncheon afterwards in honor of our newly

professed in the Trinity Center Multi-Purpose Room. Family and friends are invited.

August 1 – 3, 2014: Annual Regional Gathering at Ridgecrest Conference Center. Our keynote presenter is Albert Haase OFM, award winning spiritual writer and author of numerous books, Franciscan scholar, retreat facilitator and former missionary to China. The theme is: "Awakening Your True Self". This is a good theme for our Region as we celebrate 20 years of establishment (1994-2014).

September 23, 2014: Feast St. Pio of Pietrelcina – Fraternity dinner at an Italian restaurant.

September 28, 2014: Padre Pio Fraternity Elections (during fraternity gathering).

October 3, 2014: Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi (St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Raleigh)

October 3 – 5, 2014: Secular Franciscan Retreat at Avila Retreat Center, Durham, NC facilitated by Joanita Nellenbach, OFS. Transitus will be celebrated on Friday night. Call: (919) 477-1285 or email: <http://avila-retreat-center.com/> to make your reservation. No deposit needed. Single or double rooms are available. This is a popular retreat each year, so please call now if you are interested.

December 6, 2014: Annual Fraternity Gathering and Retreat at Avila Retreat Center, Durham, NC.

Sunshine: Contact Suzie Nelson, OFS if someone is sick or has a death in the family.

Prayer Requests: Contact Sharon Winzeler, OFS.

Library: To obtain books, CD's, DVD's and other materials contact Maureen Copan, OFS.

Tri-Area Ministry: Everyone is encouraged to donate money for the ministry, any amount you are able to offer, at our fraternity gathering. With the reduction in food stamps for the unemployed and poor, the need for donations has significantly increased.

Happy March Birthdays



Ailen Evaniuck
03/15

Christine Murray
03/12

Suzanne Nelson
03/12

Robert Ochart
3/30

Age is strictly a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter. ~ Jack Benny

"Have courage and do not fear the assaults of the Devil. Remember this forever; it is a healthy sign if the devil shouts and roars around your conscience, since this shows that he is not inside your will." ~ St. Pio