

# Padre Pio Reactivating Fraternity

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

Volume 1, Issue 11

July 2013

## **BSSF Region**

### *Minister*

Jerry Rousseau, OFS,  
*Area 3 Councilors*  
Paula Zanker, OFS,  
DorothyAnn Rowland,  
OFS

### **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



**I love you this much**

**~ 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**

## **Important Dates**

**The Area 3 Servant Leadership Workshop** was on Saturday, June 1 at Blessed Sacrament Church in Burlington, NC. All our Council members attended the workshop. The theme was “The Nuts and Bolts’ of being a council. Frank Massey, OFS Regional vice minister welcomed us and introduced the speakers. The opening remarks were on the FUN Manual section “Fraternity and Francis” which was part of our May meeting ongoing formation. Other presenters were Paula Zanker, our Area 3 Councilor, Sara Nell Boggs, OFS, for Faye Martin, OFS, Regional Formation Director, and Greg Savold, OFS for treasurers. You may remember them from the workshop on the FUN manual that was held here last year. The daylong program was extremely informative and many questions were answered. Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Fraternity in Burlington, NC was a most gracious host.

**July Picnic:** Ida announced the picnic potluck to be held on July 14 at the Meadows; they have a pool if you want to go swimming. It will be from 1 – 4 pm. The menu is planned. She e-mailed directions. Please let her or Suzie know if you are coming if you haven’t already.

**Next fraternity gathering** is July 28th, in Trinity Center top floor @1:30 pm, Remember to bring food donations for the Tri Area Ministries. Cash or check donations are appreciated, no matter what the amount. For every dollar donated, the ministry can purchase \$4.00 worth of food, meat and dairy products.

**The Annual Regional Gathering** will take place at Ridgecrest, NC on August 2-3-4, 2013. Deadline for registrations was June 1. We look forward to a wonderful time together during this Chapter of Elections. The theme for this year is "Be the Bridge - Animate Peace" and our weekend will focus on Peace and Justice. Check the Communio for further details,

**Come and See** will be held on August 25 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, Cary, NC in the Trinity Center Also known as Early Childhood Center (top floor). Please invite anyone interested to participate, If you know someone who is able to join us, please send an email to: [SecularFranciscansNC@gmail.com](mailto:SecularFranciscansNC@gmail.com) with their name, email address, postal mailing address and telephone number. (Note the time change).

**September** The apostolate at the Avila Retreat center will be resumed in September. Sister Damian is happy that when she leaves so will continue to be a Franciscan presence.



**Congratulations to Joyce Wesner, OFS** who is celebrating her 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her profession on July 17<sup>th</sup>.



**07/23 Happy Birthday to Mary Pollich !**  
**06/08 Happy Belated Birthday Mary Ann Steinis**

### **July, 2013 - Overview for the Month**

The month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus. Devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus is one of the oldest devotions in the Church. Our Blessed Mother adored the Most Precious Blood of her infant Son on the day of His circumcision as the first drops of His Precious Blood were shed amongst many tears for the salvation of our sinful humanity. "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." (Hebrews 9:12). Without a doubt, the blood of Jesus Christ is the most precious gift our heavenly Father has given to His church!

### **The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of July 2013**

**General:** That World Youth Day in Brazil may encourage all young Christians to become disciples and missionaries of the Gospel.

Where is it? Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

When is it? July 23 - 28, 2013.

Who's invited? Ages 16-35 but ALL ages are welcome.

You can watch this on EWTN

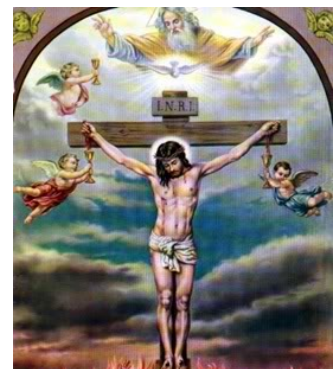


**Missionary:** That throughout Asia doors may be open to messengers of the Gospel.  
(See also [www.apostleshipofprayer.net](http://www.apostleshipofprayer.net))



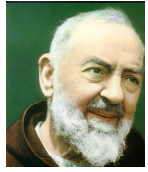
**Thou hast redeemed  
us, O Lord, in Thy  
Blood. And made us,  
a kingdom for our  
God. ~**

*From the Litany of the  
Precious Blood*



### **Purgatory Prayer of St Gertrude:**

Eternal Father I offer You the Most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son Jesus in union with the Masses said throughout the world today for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory. (Jesus promised her that every time it was said, 1,000 souls would be released from Purgatory and allowed into God's Presence).



“Joy, with peace, is  
the sister of charity.  
Serve the Lord with  
laughter.”  
— Padre Pio

“A spiritual joy is  
the greatest sign of  
the divine  
grace dwelling in a  
soul.”  
— Saint  
Bonaventure, Major  
Life, Omnibus

"Messengers of  
perfect joy in every  
circumstance should  
strive to bring joy  
and hope to others."  
(Article 19, SFO  
Rule)

“For St. Lawrence of  
Brindisi joy follows  
happiness, and  
therefore he further  
understands the  
angel’s words to be  
an announcement  
that Mary is about to  
experience the joy of  
God’s own presence  
in a special way.”  
by Dr. Joseph  
Almeida in Classic  
Mariological  
Excerpt

**JOY**



### Franciscan Saints for July

p 3

08 Blessed Gregory Grassi and companions - Five of them are Franciscan; martyrs included a secular Franciscan.

09 Saint Nicholas of Gorcum, Holland and companions – martyred by the Calvinists during the reformation.

10 Saint Veronica Giuliani - The marks of the crown of thorns appeared on her forehead in 1694 and the five wounds on her body in 1697. Veronica was humiliated by the stigmata itself and by her bishop’s rigorous testing of her experience. He removed the saint from ordinary community life and put her under constant observation. When he decided that the phenomena were authentic, he allowed her to return to normal convent life and continue her service to her sisters.

12 Blessed John Wall and John Jones: These two friars were martyred in England in the 16th and 17th centuries for refusing to deny their faith.

13 Blessed Angelina of Marciano: Two years after their marriage her husband died, and the young widow devoted herself entirely to works of piety and charity. Together with several young women of the vicinity she entered the Third Order of St. Francis, and with them she undertook to care for the sick, the poor, the widows and orphans, and endeavored to win sinners back to the path of righteousness.

14 Saint Francis Solano - “Wonder Worker of the New World” - He spent most of his life as a missionary, traveling throughout South America, but especially around Lima, working with the natives and Spanish colonists. Reputed to have converted 9,000 natives during a single sermon.

15 Saint Bonaventure - Doctor of the Church, Cardinal-Bishop of Albano, Minister General of the Friars Minor, born at Bagnorea in the vicinity of Viterbo in 1221; died at Lyons, 16 July, 1274. As an infant, he was preserved from death through the intercession of St. Francis. On 2 February, 1257, been elected Minister General of the Friars Minor — an office of peculiar difficulty, owing to the fact that the order was distracted by internal dissensions between the two factions among the Friars designated respectively the *Spirituales* and the *Relaxati*. Though his guidance the dissensions were ameliorated.

21 Saint Lawrence of Brindisi was canonized in 1881 and proclaimed a Doctor of the Church by Pope John XXIII in 1959. His feast day is July 21st. Lawrence of Brindisi is the patron **saint** of all those working for governments and private groups, with genuine dedication to peace and prosperity

23 Blessed Cunegunda II Order was niece of St. Hedwig and Blessed Agnes of Prague.

23 St. Bridget of Sweden 1302-1373 is one of the six patron saints of Europe, together with Benedict of Nursia, Saints Cyril and Methodius, Catherine of Siena and Edith Stein. She became known for her works of charity, particularly toward unwed mothers and their children, became a member of the secular Franciscans: she had many revelations of visions which she recorded and made Bridget something of a celebrity to some and a controversial figure to others.

24 Blessed Louise of Savoy At age 27 Louise lost her husband and thereafter retired to a more simple life that allowed her to devote herself to works of charity and penance. Childless, she chose to enter a convent of Poor Clares at Orbe, Switzerland.

27 Blessed Mary Magdalene Martinengo O God, who hast given us in the virgin Mary Magdalene an example of innocence and mortification, grant that we may renounce all worldly desires and come to Thee by the way of truth and justice. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. {Prayer of the Church}

*“Christian Joy finds its root in the relationship we now have in and through Jesus Christ, with the Father, in the Holy Spirit. That relationship not only survives struggle, it thrives in struggle. That is, for those who have living faith. We can learn to rejoice because the Lord is always near.”*

~ Joe Reciniello

**Come  
And  
See  
How  
Franciscans  
Live Joyfully  
In the World  
&  
Celebrate  
God's  
Creations  
@  
St Michael  
Catholic  
Church,  
804 High House  
Road,  
In Trinity  
Center top floor  
@2:00 pm  
Sunday  
Aug. 25, 2013**

*Tell your friends*



## Prayer for Lasting Joy

Father, help our Franciscans to seek the values  
That will bring us lasting joy in this changing world.  
In our desire for what you promise  
Make us one in mind and heart.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,  
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.  
AMEN

(Consider dedicating one decade of your daily Rosary  
specifically for the intentions of everyone in our Fraternity)

## Looking at life through the lens of joy

When I was in Bolivia a few months back, I was sitting in a café with a friend, talking about God knows what. At one point during the conversation I noticed that I was doing all the talking -- and was quite animated about it -- and he was just sitting there, smiling.

When I asked "What are you smiling about?" he answered: "You. You seem really happy, almost joyful."

Walking home afterwards, I wrestled with what my friend had said, and decided that he was right. Joy was what I was feeling. But the question was, why?

After prayer the next morning, I reflected on what joy had looked like the previous ten days. The following is a partial list:

Joy is getting into a water balloon fight during Carnival and rediscovering why Jesus urged us to be childlike. Joy is being in line on Ash Wednesday and having the ritual and the music move me to tears. Joy is sitting down and sharing three meals in a day with the same people and to laugh at table. Joy is going to the movies, leaving its selection to others, and then laughing hysterically through a film I never would have chosen. Joy is realizing that someone dropped everything to help me and I never even had to ask. Joy is watching Animal Planet with the brothers and rediscovering a sense of wonder and awe about creation and the Creator. Joy is seeing the punk teenager with the spiky hair, with too many piercings to count, walking arm-in-arm with his mother, shattering my stereotypes.

Joy is visiting an old friend, now in her 80's, and seeing the joy in her eyes that she was remembered. Joy is prayer surrounded by 20 other brothers at 6:30 a.m., praying in a language that speaks to the heart. Joy is having three little children follow me down a dirt road and summon up the courage to ask for my blessing. Joy is having a brother invite me on a hike, and, while listening to him speak eloquently about his understanding of Franciscan humility, minority and ministry, being reminded of why I came to this life. Joy is having a passing bus splash muddy water on my newly hand-washed pants and laughing about it. Joy is sharing a glass of wine with an old friend and have him pour out his hopes and dreams for his children. Joy is discovering that, in spite of my brokenness, God somehow used to me to make a difference in the lives of others.

As I look over this list two months later, three things occurred to me. First, that each one still brings a smile to my face as I recall each moment and see how, in their own way, each was a blessing from God. Second, that there is nothing extraordinary on this list. Or maybe everything is. In either event, if I only took the time to reflect, similar opportunities are offered to me daily. Third, that by unreflectively skating across the surface of life, by rushing from one thing to another, I can so easily miss out on that sense of blessedness, on that sense of joy, that each day has to offer.

If I have eyes that see, if I take the time to reflect, it is there. Or more accurately it is here.

Today I decided to begin a new "joy" list.

From : *Reflections of a Franciscan Gardener*

<http://reflectionsofafranciscangardener.blogspot.com/>