



# Padre Pio Fraternity



The Brothers and Sisters of Saint Francis Region

## The Easter Journey

Your council wishes you a Happy and Holy Easter! The Church all over the world resounds the angel's message to the women: "Do not be afraid! I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised... (Mt 28:5-6). Also, the Paschal Greeting, also known as the Easter Acclamation, is an ancient custom. Instead of "hello" or its equivalent, one is to greet another person with "Christ is Risen!" and the response is "Truly, He is Risen," "Indeed, He is Risen," or "He is Risen Indeed"

For St. Francis, the spiritual Easter was not a one-time event, but a journey, a process. Like St. Paul, Francis could declare: "All I want to know is Christ and the power flowing from His Resurrection!" This knowledge and power enabled Francis to take the Cross-road which leads to glory: sharing in Christ's sufferings by being formed into the pattern of His death, Francis hoped that he too might attain to the resurrection from the dead. (Phil 3:10-11) Francis demonstrates what can happen when the grace of Easter becomes effective in a Christian's life. He teaches us that every earthly suffering holds the seed of resurrection.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI asserts "For Francis, Easter was a vibrant reality that gave light and hope and even energy for his daily journey with Christ to the Father. He teaches us that the real saints (the Easter saints) are the

quite human, quite natural people in whom, through the Easter purification and transformation, what is human appears afresh in its total originality and beauty."

The spiritual journey is one that leads us ultimately to Christ. Francis is the perfect imitation of Christ. He experienced the burning love of God in the passion and resurrection of Christ and contemplated on it.



**Michelangelo's Statue  
Christ the Victor**

*Picture by F. Peluso, OFS*

The above statue is found in the Church of St. Louis of the French, a church in [Rome](#). The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, to [St. Denis the](#) and [St. Louis IX](#), king of [France](#), patron of the [Secular Franciscan Order](#) The church was built between 1518 and 1589, and completed through the personal intervention of [Catherine de' Medic](#), who donated to it some property in the area. It is the [national church](#) of [France in Rome](#).

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Rev. Douglas P. Reed

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*"Easter is a time when the old  
shall pass and a new birth  
shall become imminent."*

*~ St. Pio*



## THE MONTH OF April 2015

### Devotion to the the Holy Eucharist

Since the 16th century Catholic piety has assigned entire months to special devotions. The Church traditionally encouraged the month of April for increased devotion to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

In the year 1240, St Clare saved her sisters and her convent from plundering hordes of Saracen mercenaries through the miracle of the Eucharist. As the Muslims were placing ladders against the walls of the convent she placed a monstrance containing the Eucharist in the sight of the men while she lay prostrate before Jesus and prayed.

Secular Franciscan Rule 8: Let them participate in the sacramental life of the Church, above all the Eucharist.

Let them join in liturgical prayer (liturgy of the hours) in one of the forms proposed by the Church, reliving the mysteries of the life of Christ.

### The Holy Father's Intentions

**The General Intention:** That people may learn to respect creation and care for it as a gift of God.

**Missionary Intention:** That persecuted Christians may feel the consoling presence of the Risen Lord and the solidarity of all the Church.

♥ "God dwells in our midst, in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar." - St. Maximilian Kolbe, OFM

## FRANCISCAN SAINTS FOR APRIL

2 **Bl. Elisabetta Navona**, religious, III Ord., founder: Blessed Elisabetta Vendramini, (1790-1860), Born in Bassano del Grappa near Treviso, at age 27. Elisabetta broke off an engagement to marry and decided to alleviate the moral and material sufferings of the poor. She began working at a girls' orphanage in her hometown in 1820 and joined the Secular Franciscan Order the following year. After moving to Padua in 1828, she continued working with children. In 1830 she founded the Franciscan Tertiary Sisters of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary. Until her death Elisabetta guided this community, which dedicated itself to teaching as well as caring for the elderly, orphans and the sick. She united her physical sufferings with those of Christ and the Sorrowful Mother Mary. Elisabetta was beatified in 1990. (Source: St. Anthony Messenger website)

3 **St. Benedict the Moor**, religious, I Ord. (Sometimes celebrated on April 4)

6 **St. Crescentia Höss**, virgin, III Order - from Bavaria: was also a prudent and wise counsellor to all who turned to her for strength and comfort, as can be seen from her numerous letters.

### -----The Cord Bearer-----

After his conversion St. Francis girded himself with a rough cord in the manner of the poor of his day, and a white cord with three knots came subsequently to form part of the Franciscan habit. According to the Franciscan historian Luke Wadding, OFM, St. Dominic received the cord from St. Francis when they exchanged their girdles in a sign of friendship. From that day on, Dominic always wore it under his habit out of devotion to his fellow founder, his example being followed by many of the faithful, such as St. Bernadette Soubirous and St. Benedict Joseph Labre.

16 **St. Bernadette Soubirous**, cord-bearer of St. Francis **St. Benedict Joseph Labre**, cord-bearer of St. Francis \*

21 **St. Conrad of Parzham**, religious, I Ord.

23 **Bl. Giles of Assisi**, religious, I Ord.

24 **St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen**, priest, martyr, I Ord.

25 **St. Pedro de San Jose Betancur**, religious, III Ord., founder - the first canonized Guatemalan native and Secular Franciscan.

27 **St. Zita of Lucca**, virgin, III Ord. - St. Zita was always moved to tears when she received the Eucharist and experienced ecstasies at Mass or during her prayers.

28 **Bl. Luchesius, III Ord.** - Francis explained to them his plans for the establishment of an order for lay people; and Luchesio and Buonadonna asked to be received into it at once.

30 **Bl. Benedict of Urbino**, priest, I Ord. **St. Benedict Joseph Cottolengo, III Ord.** - In 1827 he opened a small shelter for the area sick and homeless, renting a room, filling it with beds, and seeking male and female volunteers.





## “What is Fraternity?”

**Fraternity is Family** — we come together to share our Franciscan hopes and dreams in our spiritual journey to reorient our life around God with the help of our spiritual family. "The goal and target of our life is He, the Christ who awaits us -- each one singly and together -- to lead us across the boundaries of time to the eternal embrace of the God who loves us." John Paul II

**Fraternity is Relationship** — God has chosen our relationship. Each person who is in fraternity is brother or sister to us. Practice this by calling each other sister or brother.

**Fraternity is Allegiance** — Our allegiance belongs to the fraternity, first and foremost, before any other commitment we have, outside of our own families. Our International Fraternity reminded us that if there is a conflict between a parish ministry and our gathering, we are to choose the gathering.

**Fraternity is Trust** — It is necessary for the fraternity to survive. We trust

that we can share our spiritual life with others in confidence and security.

**Fraternity is Earnestness** — that we be sincere with one another and with the world. We are not to be Franciscan for the short time we spend together each month. We are to be Franciscan in the world. Francis based his life on the Gospel, sharing it with his fraternity brothers and then sharing it by the way he lived his life. We come together to have our Franciscanism nourished so that we go out and share our values in the world — we live the Gospel life.

**Fraternity is Reliance** — asks us to be dependent on one another. Francis reminded his brothers that they were to make their needs known to one another. The fraternity cannot help us if we do not make our needs known. This is particularly evident in praying for each member's needs and realizing we are being remembered in the prayers of Franciscans all over the world.

**Fraternity is Necessary** — for our way of life; fraternity is our way of life. Who

better to challenge us to live the gospel than our brothers and sisters who have promised the same?

Franciscan formation includes the application to the Gospel life to our own lives and we can test this out with each other.

**Fraternity is Intimacy** — we are not to be strangers to one another. Do others recognize us as brothers and sisters? **John 13:35** - "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

**Fraternity is Truthfulness** — a necessary component, if any relationship is to grow. We must always speak the truth, with kindness, to each other. "One loving spirit sets one another on fire." ~ St. Augustine

**Fraternity is You** — without you, we have no Franciscan family, no Franciscan connection. You are God's gift to the Fraternity. With you we continue to work for the glory of Jesus Christ and the triumph of the Church with the same zeal that Francis had.

*From The FFMR news*

## March 21 Lenten Luncheons and Prayer Service

Soup, salad, fresh fruit, and cookies were the spread for our Lenten luncheon. The fellowship and prayer service added a real Franciscan dimension to the event. We thank Ida Irwin, OFS for the hospitality. Pictures below in order from left to right are: Ginny Conway, OFS, Lynn Oeser, Suzie Nelson, OFS, Maureen Copan OFS, Marie Roccoforte, OFS, Bernie Dawson, OFS, Stan Driscoll, OFS, Susan Stamey, Louis Coker, OFS, Frank Peluso, OFS, and Michael Hancock. Our minister Stan Driscoll, OFS led us in praying the Office of the Passion as composed by St. Francis of Assisi. It was quite an enjoyable occasion. *Pictures by Ida Irwin, OFS*







## **Happy April Birthdays**

**Marge Zombek OFS**  
**April 13**

**Louis Coker, OFS**  
**April 29**



## **Pope Francis on the Environment**

Feb. 15, 2015

As has become his custom, Pope Francis expressed his opinion and suggested that if Christians don't preserve the environment, it would account for not caring about God's work. The remarks were made during his homily at a Sunday morning mass, when the Pontiff referred to environmentalists by another name.

"When we hear that people have meetings about how to preserve creation, we can say: 'No, they are the greens! 'No, they are not the greens! This is the Christian!'

"A Christian who does not protect creation, who does not let it grow, is a Christian who does not care about the work of God; that work that was born from the love of God for us and

this is the first response to the first creation: protect creation, make it grow." Vatican News

## **Lover of God's Creation – a poem**

" He is the saint who sings, the saint who laughs, the saint who kisses, who plays the violin by bowing a stick on his arm, a dancing angel. He is the saint who joyfully sings to nature, who joyfully loves the nature God has created. He does so not as a pantheist, but clearly in all things, as a gardener loves each flower in his garden for itself. Joy! Joy! It is nothing other than music. He hangs from God on a golden thread, swaying back and forth with life's joy - the troubadour of God. He is inebriated with music and joyful love. Of all the saints, he is the poet; all his deeds are spontaneous rhymes, his words music! And even more than a poetic saint, one would prefer to call him a holy poet." *by: Bro. Didacus Wilson, T.O.R and Bro. David Kaczmarek, T.O.R.*

## **Our Servant Helpers**

- For Hospitality suggestions see Marie Roccoforte, OFS
- For Sunshine call Marge Zombek, OFS to have a card sent to someone.
- For info on JPIC & Website see Sharon Winzeler, OFS
- Prayer Requests: go to Ida Irwin, OFS -also does our history and scrapbook.

- Our superb library is maintained by Maureen Copan, OFS ~~~~~ **Use it!**
- To add items to the Newsletter contact Frank Peluso, OFS

## **We're on the Web!**

Go to:

<http://ofscentralnc.org/>

## **Father Bill's Daily Devotional on the Scripture for the day:**

At The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi ~

To subscribe. go to:  
[welcome@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:welcome@stfrancisraleigh.org)  
via [stfrancisraleigh.ccsend.com](mailto:stfrancisraleigh.ccsend.com)

***Next Gathering April 26,  
2015***

***Same place, same time***

"Jesus has not invited us  
to failure."

~Tom Bello. OFS. National Minister

