

THE PADRE PIO FRATERNITY

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

THE BROTHER AND SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS REGION



**** Next Gathering
August 23, 2017*

Ceremony of Welcoming and Introduction

- July 23, 2017



Jeanne Casciere, was unable to be with us last month for the welcoming of the 8 new inquirers. Jeanne, having completed the Orientation Phase of the Secular Franciscan Order in the Padre Pio Fraternity, has expressed an interest in our Franciscan way of life and will begin the Inquiry Phase of Formation.

Suzie Nelson, OFS gave her the little red Rule Book and read, "The Rule and life of the Secular Franciscans is this: to observe the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi who makes Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people. "

A Visit by Our Area 3 Counselor

Also at the July meeting, we had a visitation by Bob Pearson OFS who is our Area 3 Councilor. He has been traveling around trying to visit the fraternities in our area. Bob already knew many of our brothers and sisters because of his work at St. Francis Springs Prayer Center and some have met him at previous ARG's. We thank him for his most generous visit and participation at the gathering.

How do you answer Jesus when he asks, "Do you Love me?"



John 21: 16-17 Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said unto him, "Feed my sheep."

Tom Bello. OFS Late National Minister: "Everybody in the fraternity is called to Servant Leadership. We don't have a fraternity without your leadership. Do you love the Lord? Then, tend to his sheep?"

See you At Ridgecrest for the ARG - August 11-13

1. Directions to Ridgecrest Lifeway Conference Center located 17 miles east of Asheville, NC
1. Take **I-40 West** to **Exit 66 (Ridgecrest).**
2. Turn **right** onto **Dunsmore Avenue.** Go **0.2 mile.**
3. Turn **right onto Old US 70.** Go **1 mile.**
4. Ridgecrest Lifeway Conference Center is on the **Left.** There is a **sign and entrance gate.**

Month Of August

The month of August is dedicated to **The Immaculate Heart of Mary**. The entire month falls within the liturgical season of **Ordinary Time**, which is represented by the liturgical color green. This 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. It is used in the Offices and Masses of Ordinary Time. The last portion of the liturgical year represents the time of our pilgrimage to heaven during which we hope for reward.

The Holy Father's Intention for the Month of August 2017

Artists: That artists of our time, through their ingenuity, may help everyone discover the beauty of creation.

(See also Apostleship of Prayer International Website)

PADRE PIO'S COUNCILS

“Let us ask our good Lord Jesus for the humility, trust, and faith of our Dear Saint Clare; let us pray fervently like her. Let us abandon ourselves to Him; detach ourselves from this lying world where everything is folly and vanity; everything passes, only God remains to the soul, if it knows how to love Him well.” (Letters III, p. 1104-1105)

PADRE PIO MOMENTS

Father Antonio Durante from Monterosso, a Capuchin friar also had the chance to observe how Padre Pio read his thoughts on one occasion. One day while walking with the Padre in front of the friary, he noticed that Padre was the object of much affection and devotion from the people. Seeing this, Fr. Durante said to himself: "How can this man resist the temptation of vanity and of feeling pleased with himself"? He had just finished saying this to himself when the Saint turned towards him, smiled and softly said to him: "*See how much glory is being given to God!*" (Testimony of Fr. Antonio Durante, born August 7, 1912 and died June 11, 1970.)

Happy Feast Day of St. Clare of Assisi

“He, Christ, is the splendor of eternal glory, “The brightness of eternal light, and the mirror without cloud.” Behold, I say, the birth of this mirror. Behold Christ’s poverty even as he was laid in the manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes. What wondrous humility, what marvelous poverty! The King of angels, the Lord of heaven and earth resting in a manger! Look more deeply into the mirror and meditate on his humility, or simply on his poverty. Behold the many labors and sufferings he endured to redeem the human race. Then, in the depths of this very mirror, ponder his unspeakable love which caused him to suffer on the wood of the cross and to endure the most shameful kind of death. The mirror himself, from his position on the cross, warned passers-by to weigh carefully this act, as he said: “All of you who pass by this way, behold and see if there is any sorrow like mine.” Let us answer his cries and lamentations with one voice and one spirit: “I will be mindful and remember, and my soul will be consumed within me.” – *from a letter to Blessed Agnes of Prague by Saint Clare of Assisi*

Go forth in peace, for you have followed the good road. Go forth without fear, for he who created you has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Blessed be you, my God, for having created me.” – *Saint Clare of Assisi*

Council Members

Spiritual Assistant:

Gregory Spuhler, OFM Conv

Minister:

Frank Peluso, OFS

Vice Minister:

Suzanne Nelson, OFS

Formation Director:

Sharon Winzeler, OFS

Appointed Treasurer

Louis Coker, OFS

Secretary:

Maureen Copan, OFS

Appointed Councilors:

Victoria Romero, OFS

Marge Zombek, OFS

BSSF Region Minister:

Dorothy Ann Rowland, OFS

Area 3 Councilors :

Bob Pearson, OFS

Carolyn Peruzzi, OFS

August Birthdays- May Your Special Day be Blessed



03 Rucia Rauton, OSC

08 Marie Beha, OSC

25 Nancy Shively, OSC

30 Lynn Oeser, OFS

Birthday Quotes

Age is of no importance unless
you are a cheese.

A birthday is just the first day of
another 365 day journey
around the sun. Enjoy the
trip.

Prayer for ELECTION of a NEW COUNCIL

Oh my dear GOD, we pray for
the guidance of your Most Holy
Spirit as we review in our minds
the personal attributes required
by the various Council positions.

Illumine for us our own
strengths, and those of our
fellow members, that YOU may
inspire us to recognize who it is

YOU desire to serve YOUR
fraternity.

Dear Francis, we also ask for
your guidance as we seek a new
Council. Lead us to those who will
help who will help us to grow in
your virtues — humble, polite,
peacemakers and ardent lovers of
our Crucified Lord. Help each of us
to discover "What is ours to do."
Not our will Lord, but Thy will be
done. Amen. "Oh breath of God,
unite us in action!"

For those who have asked for our prayers:

Dear Jesus, Divine Physician
and Healer of the sick, we place
our worries in your hands. We
place those who have asked for
our prayers under your care and
humbly ask that you restore your
servants to health again. Touch
them with your healing hand,
Above all, grant us the grace to
acknowledge your will and

know that whatever you do, you
do for the love of us. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS is
one of the best known and best loved
prayers in the world today. Attributed
traditionally to St. Francis of Assisi.
Its actual origins are much more recent.
Nonetheless, it beautifully reflects the
way he lived!

Lord, make me an instrument of Your
peace;

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,

Grant that I may not so much seek

To be consoled as to console;

To be understood, as to understand;

To be loved, as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive,

It is in pardoning that we are

pardoned, And it is in dying that we are
born to Eternal Life. Amen.

APOSTOLATES

For **JPIC & Oak City Outreach,**

Email Ellen Ferrone, OFS

(Oak City is 8/26/17)

For **CPO or Library:**

Email Maureen Copan, OFS

For **Hospitality:**

Email Marie Roccoforte, OFS

For **Prayer Requests:**

Email Laurie Wilburn, OFS

For the **Scrapbook:** Email

Lee Cunningham, OFS

For **Sunshine:**

Call Marge Zombek, OFS

For the **Newsletter:** Email

Frank Peluso, OFS

For the **Website:** Email

Michael Hancock, OFS.

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ARG
August 11-13, 2017

Refugees: An opportunity to grow together Joint ecumenical statement for World Refugee Day 2017

The Christian Bible tells the story of two men, Peter and Cornelius, utterly divided by religious belief and culture, who in encountering each other discovered a truth about God's common will for them that neither had previously grasped. They learnt that the Holy Spirit brings down walls and unites those who might think that they have nothing in common.

All around the world, women, men, and children are forced by violence, persecution, natural and human-caused disasters, famine, and other factors, to leave their homelands. Their desire to escape suffering is stronger than the barriers erected to block their way. The opposition by some countries to the migration of forcibly displaced people will not keep those who undergo unbearable suffering from leaving their homes. Wealthy countries cannot evade their responsibility for the wounds inflicted on our planet — environmental disasters, the arms trade, developmental inequality — that drive forced migration and human trafficking.

While it is true that the arrival of migrants in more developed countries can present real and significant challenges, it can also be an opportunity for openness and change. Pope Francis poses this question to us: "How can we experience these changes not as obstacles to genuine development, but rather as opportunities for genuine human, social and spiritual growth?" Societies that find the courage and the vision to go beyond the fear of foreigners and migrants soon discover the riches that migrants bring with them, and always have. For the complete article, go to : http://franciscansinternational.org/fileadmin/media/2017/Global/Refugees_Migrants/ENG_WRD_Joint_Statement_2017.pdf

Franciscan Calendar for August

2. Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula, Plenary Indulgence possible by visiting a church or chapel of the Franciscan

4. St. Dominic, Priest, Cordbearer, d. 1221
5. B. Marie-Francoise de Jesus, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1904
6. Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ
7. Bl. Agathange et Cassien, Priest, Capuchin, martyr 1638
8. St. Jean-Marie Vianney, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1859
9. Bl. Marie-Marguerite of the Sacred Heart, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1924
10. St. Beatrice de Silva, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1492
11. Bl. Innocent XI, Pope, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1689
- 12. St. Clare of Assisi, Virgin, Foundress of the Poor Clares, Plenary Indulgence for Tertiaries (Renewal of Engagements)**
13. Bl. Novellon de Faenza, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1280
14. St. Maximilien-Marie Kolbe, Priest, Conventual religious, martyr 1941
15. Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady
16. Bl. Francois de Pesaro, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1350
17. St. Roch de Montpellier, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1327
18. Blessed Martyrs of Pontons de Rochefort, d. 1794
19. St. Jean Eudes, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1680
20. St. Louis d' Anjou, Bishop of Toulouse, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1297
21. St. Jeanne-Francoise de Chantal, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1610
22. Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
23. Bl. Bernard d'Offide, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1694
24. St. Emilie de Vialar, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1856

25. St. Louis, Patron of Franciscan Third Order Seculars, Plenary Indulgence for tertiaries and cordbearers

26. Bl. Pierre de Benisa, Priest, Capuchin religious, martyr 1936
27. St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest, Cordbearer, d. 1648
28. Bl. Junipero Serra, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1784
29. Bl. Jean de Perouse, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1231
30. Bl. Juvenal Ancina, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1604
31. Bl. Aurele de Vinalesa, Priest, Capuchin religious, martyr 1936

ST. LOUIS IX OF FRANCE, OFS



Reigning from 1226 to 1270, Louis IX showed how a saint would act on the throne of France. He was a lovable personality, a kind husband, a father of eleven children, and at the same time a strict ascetic.

To an energetic and prudent rule Louis added love and zeal for the practice of piety and the reception of the holy sacraments. He was brave in battle, polished at feasts, and addicted to fasting and mortification. His politics were grounded upon strict justice, unshatterable fidelity, and untiring effort toward peace. Nevertheless, his was not a weakly rule but one that left its impress upon following generations. He was a great friend of religious Orders, a generous benefactor of the Church.

The Breviary says of him: "He had already been king for twenty years when he fell victim to a severe illness. That afforded the occasion for making a vow to undertake a crusade for the liberation of the Holy Land. Immediately upon recovery he received the crusader's cross from the hand of the bishop of Paris, and, followed by an immense army, he crossed the sea in 1248. On the field of battle Louis routed the Saracens; yet when the plague had taken large numbers of his soldiery, he was attacked and taken captive (1250). The king was forced to make peace with the Saracens; upon the payment of a huge ransom, he and his army were again set at liberty." While on a second crusade he died of the plague, with these words from the psalm upon his lips: "I will enter Thy house; I will worship in Thy holy temple and sing praises to Thy Name!" (Ps. 5).

Excerpted from The Church's Year of Grace, Pius Parsch

It was his mother's supreme desire that her son should become a kind, pious and just ruler. She was wont to say to him: "Never forget that sin is the only great evil in the world. No mother could love her son more than I love you. But I would rather see you lying dead at my feet than know that you had offended God by one mortal sin." These words remained indelibly impressed upon his mind.

St. Louis was a member of the Third Order of St. Francis and so is included in the family of Franciscan saints.

Patron: *tertiaries*; barbers; builders; button makers; construction workers; Crusaders; death of children; difficult marriages; distillers; embroiderers; French monarchs; grooms; haberdashers; hairdressers; hair stylists; kings; masons; needle workers; parenthood; parents of large families; prisoners; sculptors; sick people; soldiers; stone masons; stonecutters; Archdiocese of Saint Louis, Missouri.

Symbols: Crown and scepter tipped with a *Manus Dei*; crown of thorns; fleurs-de-lys; three nails; banner with fleurs-de-lys; three crowns at his feet; king holding a cross or crown of thorns.

~ A blog posted by Anne May 24, 2011

Note: Around 1257, Robert de Sorbon, a priest and man of great learning, told his friend, King Louis, about his plans to build a college for poor students in Paris. Louis liked the idea, obtained the approval of Pope Clement IV, and gave Robert the money to endow the project. Before long, the institute, known as the Sorbonne, served as the theological division of the University of Paris. Men such as St. Bonaventure, St. Albert the Great, and St. Thomas Aquinas taught there and their work continues to influence Church teachings today. He often had the three to dinner. Can you imagine the Theological discussions? They didn't always agree.

On a Sad Note

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to our sister, Ginny Conway, OFS who lost her sister Maureen Mc Mahon on July 10, 2017. Maureen passed to our Lord after a long battle with MS. On July 18, 2017, ten of our brothers and sisters attended Maureen's funeral at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Cary, NC. May Maureen rest in peace. Ginny is very appreciative of the fraternity members who drove her to Cary over the past few month to visit Maureen and her husband, Kevin.

O BREATH OF LIFE, SAIL MY SOUL – RESPIRITO DIVINA

Life is bookended by a first and last breath. From a baby's first cry to a last dying sigh, each life is marked with a certain number of life giving breaths. Each breath is a gift from Creator Abba..

How would life be if every breath were revered as the breath of the Creator?

It's one of those things that you don't think about until you have to. I remember first contemplating breath as a young nurse. Respirations are one of the vital signs that clinicians routinely note and assess. When a nurse go into a patient's room to take vital signs, everyone quiets. As I counted respiratory rates in the silence I would feel a reverence for every respiration as the will of God, and as God's will, His very breath.

My spirituality began to bloom and I started to practice reverencing the breaths that I took as God's spirit blowing life into my mortal body. Though this incorporation of breathing with meditation and prayer is not an original idea, it has become a soul-filling sustenance to my being in my work, my play, my rest, my meditation and my prayer. I call it Respirito Divina.

I find that as I practice Respirito after Lectio Divina and throughout my day, the graces lead me to deeper contemplation and fruitful resolution and action. In my Gospel reading I ask the Spirit to strike me with the words or verses that I am to hear, and I practice breathing them in and out as cadence while I go about my daily activities. Sometimes other meditations find their way in. I was recently hiking a steep trail and my Respirito was a combination of Gospel verse and a St Francis quote:

Breathe in: "Lord, I am not worthy,

Breathe out: that you should enter under my roof."

Breathe in: "I am what I am in the site of God.

Breathe out: Nothing more, nothing less."

Lynn Oeser, OFS who is our musical director, shared that "this past winter, weather and holiday conflicts caused our Fraternity celebration of the Rite of Extraction to be postponed from the Christmas season to a later date. Our assistant minister at the time asked me to select a hymn to replace the Christmas Carol. I prayed for guidance and pondered anew that the Rite itself is an invocation calling upon the Holy Spirit to "send" the perfect verse, saint and virtue to each fraternity member. Through my search a hymn popped up that I had not heard before. The song I heard was "O Breathe on Me , O Breath of God" by Edwin Hatch.

The words go along to a familiar tune, and they really speak to the Spirit of the Rite from a Triune dwelling place and of life giving breath. I called the assistant minister with the selection and he could not recall hearing it before either, but he was agreeable to using it. The very next day, I received in the mail my first copy of Tau USA and was stunned by the cover.

My hands shook as I read the words:

"O Breath of God, Unite us in action!"

It was the 2017 NAFRA theme. When I got to page one, I fell to my knees. The first article by National Minister, Jan Parker OFS, in reflecting on the theme recanted lyrics from the hymn that found me through the Holy Spirit:

"O Breathe on me, O Breath of God

Fill me with life anew,

That I would love the things you love,

And do what you would do."

Still on my knees, with my heart beating at warp speed, I called Frank, our vice minister, to share my excitement and awe. With humble gratitude for unbounded love, call, and direction, my cup runneth over!

"O Breathe on Me O breath of God", by Edwin Hatch 1878

Submitted by Lynn, Oeser, OFS



FORMATION TEAM

The formation team met on July 29, 2017 to discuss plans and their implementation and in coordination with each other, Seated from left to right are: Louis, Victoria, Suzie, Frank and Sharon. We thank them for their dedication and loving work. The secretary Maureen, Copan, OFS took the picture.