

DECEMBER
2015

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Padre Pio Fraternity

The Brothers and Sisters of Saint Francis Region - Secular Franciscan Order

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

Council Members

SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT:
DAVID MCBRIAR, OFM

LAY MINISTER:
W. STANLEY DRISCOLL OFS

VICE MINISTER:
MICHAEL EVANIUCK, OFS

FORMATION:
JOANNE JACOVEC, OFS

TREASURER:
SHARON WINZELER, OFS

SECRETARY:
MAUREEN COPAN, OFS

COUNCILORS:
IDA IRWIN, OFS
SUZANNE NELSON, OFS
FRANK PELUSO, OFS

**BSSF REGION
MINISTER:**
DOROTHY ANN ROWLAND, OFS

AREA 3 COUNCILORS:
CARMEN MADERO, OFS
FRANK MASSEY, OFS

St. Francis changed the way we celebrate Christmas

Your council wishes you
a very Holy and Happy Christmas

Incarnation is the first intention of God" ~ Scotus

Christ was predestined to be King. In fact, "if the fall were the reason for Christ's predestination," Scotus writes, "it would follow that the greatest work of God [the Incarnation] was essentially motivated by something other than love. To say that the *summum opus Dei*, the greatest work of God, was motivated by a lesser good, or worse, by an evil act committed

by a lesser creature, seems outrageous! No! Jesus Christ is the first one predestined and this for His own sake, namely to be that creature most perfectly glorified by God and for all creatures to adore Him most perfectly. To say that God's Masterpiece in all creation is lesser to some secondary end or that He is occasioned by the fall of Adam is nonsense." See p 3.



"Oh how our hearts should be on fire with love for the one who with such tenderness was made flesh for our sakes!" ~ St. Pio

The Feasts of Nativity and the Immaculate Conception p2

December is dedicated to Advent and the coming of Christ. This refers to the preparation for the celebration of remembering Christ's loving incarnation 2000 years ago, but also the prayerful, spiritual preparation for the second and final coming of the Lord. Scripture says Christ is coming when you're least expecting him. - coming as a thief in the night! Be prepared. Get Ready. Prepare to meet your God. Are you prepared?



Franciscan Saints for December



2 Bl. Maria Angela Astorch, Virgin founded a new monastery at Murcia, Spain under the title "The Exaltation of the Blessed Sacrament.

2 Bl. Rafael Chylinski devoted his life to prayer, and he cared for the poor and the sick, often serving water to the dying. He worked on saving souls, and was an exorcist.

8 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Patron & Queen of the Franciscan Orders

12 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patron and Queen of the Americas

13 Finding the Body of St. Francis

15 Bl. Mary Frances Schervier, virgin of III Ord. (Opt. SFO) established a community of sisters who care for the sick and aged in the United States and throughout the world.

16 Bl. Honoratus Kozminski, priest, I Ord. The writings of Father Honoratus are extensive: forty-two volumes of sermons, 21 volumes of letters as well as 52 printed works on ascetical theology, Marian devotion, historical writings, pastoral writings not counting his many writings for the religious congregations he founded.

25 THE NATIVITY -"The WORD was made flesh and dwelt among us."

Reminder: December 5, 2015: Annual Fraternity Retreat

In the Founders Room from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
at the Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi, Raleigh, N/C.

Fr. Bill McConville, O.F.M.

Associate Pastor, Immaculate Conception, Durham

Father Bill will formulate three talks, each lasting 30- 40 minutes with reflection time afterwards. Father Bill is calling it an "Advent Triptych -- Convergence Between Advent and Franciscan Spirituality." Guests welcome.

Learn from me.....

"We are all made in God's image
and thus we are all Godly alike" ~
St. John XXIII

"Christmas is built upon a
beautiful and intentional paradox;
that the birth of the homeless
should be celebrated
in every home."
— G.K. Chesterton

Maybe Christmas, the Grinch
thought, doesn't come from a store.
Dr. Seuss

Learn from me, that is, be meek and humble after my example. A person is meek by loving his brother, humble by loving lowliness or "minority." To be meek is to be a brother to everybody; to be humble is to be less than everybody. Therefore, to be meek and humble is to be a true lesser brother. Saint Francis can say to us: learn from me to be meek and humble that is to be lesser brothers. "Although it is not for everyone to take the habit and profess the Rule of the Lesser Brothers, it is necessary for **everyone** who wants to be saved to be a lesser brother in the sense of being meek and humble. As the Lord himself teaches: *Unless you become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.* ~ From the Evening Sermon on Saint Francis by St. Bonaventure of Bagnoreggio, October 4, 1255



The most powerful position of Duns Scotus' theology was his **justification of the Immaculate Conception of Mary** (that Mary herself was conceived without sin). At the time, there was a great deal of discussion about the issue. The general opinion was that it was aptly reverent to the Mother of God, but it could not be seen how to resolve the problem that only with Christ's death would the stain of original sin be eradicated. The great philosophers and theologians of the West were divided on the subject (indeed, it appears that even Thomas Aquinas sided with those who repudiated the doctrine).

The feast day had been accepted in the East (since the seventh century the feast is called simply of the "Conception of Mary") and had been introduced in several dioceses in the West also, even though a philosophical source was lacking. Quoting Anselm of Canterbury's principle, "**potuit, decuit, ergo fecit**" (*God could do it, it was appropriate, therefore He did it*), Duns Scotus devised the following line of reasoning: Mary was in need of redemption like all other person, but through the assets of Jesus' suffering, given in advance, she was conceived without the stain of original sin. God could have brought it about (1) that she was never in original sin, (2) she was in sin only for a moment, (3) she was in sin for a period of time, being absolved at the last instant. Both of these options were most and should undoubtedly be

attributed to Mary. This apparently careful announcement provoked a storm of opposition at Paris, and suggested the line 'fired France for Mary without spot' in the famous poem:

**"Duns Scotus's Oxford,"
by Gerard Manley Hopkins.**

Towery city branchy between
towers;
Cuckoo-echoing, bell-swarmed,
lark charmed, rook racked, river-
rounded;

The dapple-eared lily below
thee; that country town did
Once encounter in, here coped
poised powers; Thou hast a base
brickish skirt there, sours That
neighbor-nature thy grey beauty
is grounded Best in; graceless
growth, thou hast confounded
Rural, rural keeping -- folk,
flocks, flowers.

Yet ah! this air I gather I release
He lived on: these weeds waters,
these walls are what He haunted
who of all men most sways my
spirits to peace;

Of realty the rarest-veined
unraveller; a not Rivaled insight,
be rival Italy or Greece;
*Who fired France for Mary
without spot.*

Scotus' line of reasoning appears in Pope Pius IX's 1854 declaration of the **dogma of the Immaculate Conception**, "at the first moment of Her conception, Mary was preserved free from the stain of original sin, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ." Scotus' position was hailed as "a correct

expression of the faith of the Apostles".

Additionally another of Scotus' positions also gained official approval of the Roman Catholic Church: his doctrine on the universal "primacy of Christ" became the underlying rationale for the **feast of Christ the King** instituted in 1925.

The twentieth century saw a resurgence of interest in Scotus, with a range of assessments of his thought. During his pontificate, Pope John XXIII recommended the reading of Duns Scotus' theology to present day theology students. The principles for which he is best known are the "univocity of being," that existence is the most intangible concept we have, applicable to all that exists; the formal distinction, a way of distinguishing between different aspects of the same thing; and the idea of "haecceity," the property supposed to be in each individual thing that makes it an individual. Scotus also developed a complex reason for the "existence of God."



Lourdes photo by F.E.P.

A Gift of Love

Fr. Steve Patti, OFM asked Fr. David McBriar, OFM to serve as our Spiritual Assistant, and he is delighted to accept. Father David previously served as the Spiritual Assistant of our fraternity and was very dedicated to completing all of his responsibilities. Father David's support of our fraternity has never wavered, even during the most difficult times we experienced. That's why he graciously officiated at our professions, facilitated ongoing formation, participated in our retreats at Avila, and assisted in communicating with the St. Francis of Assisi friars and staff to obtain the chapel and gathering room that we needed (for our 2014 Mass, profession and social gathering). He was instrumental in having our fraternity move back to the community of St. Francis. ~ Joanne Jacovec, OFS. Approval is still needed from Holy Name Province and Father Linus DeSanctis, OFM Conv., Spiritual Assistant of the BSSF Region.

A Christmas Prayer

Loving God, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, the love of Mary and Joseph and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good

desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing, which Christ brings, And teach us to be merry with clear hearts. Amen

-- Robert Louis Stevenson p4

The Gift ~~~

Thanks for the electric guitar you gave me for Christmas," little Bobby said to his uncle the first time he saw him after the holidays. "It's the best present I ever got." "That's great," said his uncle. "Do you know how to play it?" Oh, I don't play it," the little fellow said. "My mom gives me a dollar a day not to play it during the day and my dad gives me five dollars a week not to play it at night. (Ho, Ho, Ho)

Human beings are called to love, to forgive, and to work for peace just as the purpose of fire is to provide heat and light and the wind is to be serene and provide the weather. To worldly wisdom, this might seem absurd. Isn't the purpose of being a human to earn lots of money or be successful in the business realm? Shouldn't people strive to care for their families? What do love, forgiveness, and peace have to do with being human? Francis answers in the way of Christ: it has everything to do with being human.

~Francis of Assisi and the Future of Faith by Daniel Horan OFM



Happy December Birthdays

Bea Sanford

Dec. 6

Ida Irwin OFS

Dec. 11

Sharon Winzeler OFS

Dec. 28

Good works are links that form a chain of love. ~ Mother Teresa

Help corner



- For CPO contact Joanne Jacovec, OFS
- For Oak City Outreach contact Ellen Ferrone
- 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 (All past newsletters are on the website!)
- 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 E. Peluso, OFS.

We are on the web:

Go to:

<http://ofscentralnc.org/>

