

Secular Franciscan Order

the Padre Pio Fraternity

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 19, 2016: ANNUAL FRATERNITY RETREAT AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI RALEIGH, NC FR. STEVE KLUGE, OFM WAS THE FACILITATOR. TOPIC: UNWRAPPING THE GIFT: HOW STS. FRANCIS, CLARE AND BONAVENTURE HELP US TO SEE CHRIST ALIVE IN US

Thirty-eight people attended the retreat including prospective new members. Steve started with the questions: Who are you O Lord? And Who am I? He used the Giotto Frescos to explain certain points. He showed how St. Francis' Prayer Before the Crucifix tells about Francis approach to prayer; for example, "Most high Glorious God" indicates that everything good starts with God. Francis comes to God with a darkened heart not begging but commanding to be enlightened. We are Christ and Christ is the standard for prayer. The answer to Francis' prayer was that the Lord sent him to a leper.

St. Clare's approach to prayer was to contemplate on the crucified Christ. She centered on God's love for us. Steve said, "Contemplation is giving God a space to work in us." There must be a desire to imitate Christ and give God permission to work in us so that we can be the body of Christ in the world. Quiet periods were spent on questions we need to ask ourselves throughout our lives. Some examples are: How would you describe God? How would you describe yourself in light of how you described God? What are four spiritual gifts you need God to give to you so that you can grow spiritually? How would you use these gifts? Is the person we see before us a gift or a threat? What are we before God? What has Christ used in your life to bring you close to being Christ? What is He using now? The question to ask in prayer is, "Lord, what would you have me do?"

He used the fresco of Francis' Christmas crèche in Greccio to describe how Francis wanted us to realize that Christ really came as a human.

Steve gave us ten things to remember on what we learned: 1. Know who you are and whose you are. 2. Make peace with your parents. One of Francis' regrets is that he never made peace with his father. 3. Live Gently. "No one was afraid of St. Francis." 4. Live simply. Ask yourself, "Do I want something or do I really need it." 5. Help the poor by sharing what you have. "Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that have received--only what you have given." 6. Desire to imitate Christ. "Lord what are you asking me to do today?" 7. Give birth to Christ with your actions. 8. Care for the gift of creation. Let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish. 9. Lets make peace with our mortality. Remember death is your "sister." 10. Always remember to preach the gospel, and if necessary, use words. "The deeds you do may be the only sermon some persons will hear today."

The goal of a Christian life is to take on the face of Christ. God's nature abides in us, and therefore we take our true self from Him.



"WE ARE NOT HUMAN BEINGS HAVING A SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE. WE ARE SPIRITUAL BEINGS HAVING A HUMAN EXPERIENCE." (QUOTING DE CHARDIN)

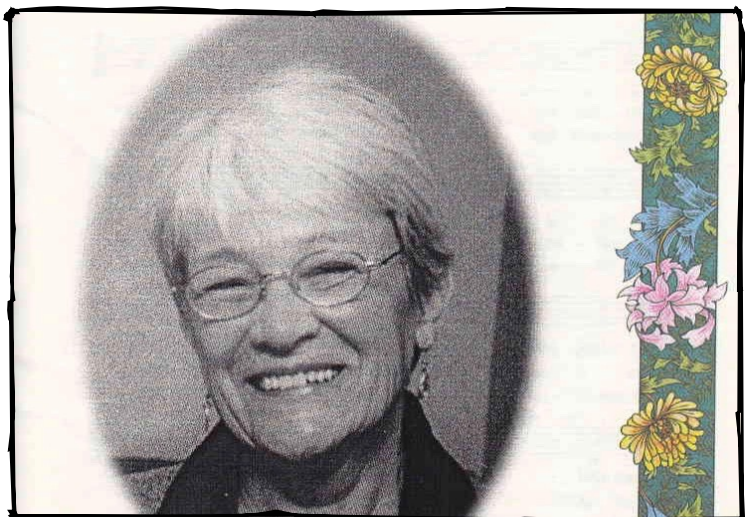


WE THANK JENN FIDUCIA AND THE ST. FRANCIS' STAFF FOR THE DECORATIVE SET UP AND SCRUMPTIOUS LUNCH.



STEVE ANSWERS QUESTIONS FOR JEANNE CARCIERE.

**Dedication of Peace Garden
At St. Francis Springs
In Loving Memory of
Jane Sullivan Farris, of
By
Husband Tommy**



Page 2

November 13, 2-16: The Peace Garden was Anna Claire Wiley's 2016 Girls Scout Gold Award Project. Jane's husband, Tommy generously made the Peace Garden possible along with Gregory Young's Designs, Rick Morris of Greensboro Gardens, Spivey's Nursery, Rosalie Rivera, Set in Stone & Company, Dan Camia, and many volunteers. The memory of Jane will live on at St. Francis Springs, a place where she volunteered and loved very much. The Franciscan Family of Greensboro, N.C. Fraternity was present including Father David Hyman, OFM, Spiritual Assistant, Marilyn Duraj-Showers, OFS, Minister and all members. Frank Massey, OFS, our former Regional Councilor and our present Regional Councilor, Bob Pearson, OFS who belong to this fraternity. The St. Francis of Assisi Church of Raleigh's Men's Retreat on God's Mercy under Friar Henry Fulmer, OFM (from St. Francis of Assisi in Triangle, VA) were also there for the dedication. It was a cool and beautiful autumn's day. This beautiful prayer of Our Resolution to be Peacemakers was recited by all: ~ *"Peace I leave you, my peace I give you."* Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, ~ *"Do not be conquered by evil but concur evil with good."* Where there is hatred, let me sow love, ~ *"Father, forgive them; they know not what they do."* Where there is injury, let me sow pardon. ~ *"Do not be unbelieving but believe,"* Where there is doubt, let me sow hope. ~ *"You are the light of the world. Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly father."* Where there is darkness let me sow light. ~ *"You will cry and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy."* Where there is sadness, let me sow everlasting joy. Amen. (For more information on Jane go to <https://ofscentralnc.org/jane-farris-memorial-fund/>)



**TOMMY FARRIS AT THE DEDICATION
OF JANE'S PEACE GARDEN**

JANE'S CHILDREN WERE THERE
ALSO.



**FR. LOUIS CANINO, OFM
DEDICATING THE NEW PRAYER
GARDEN.**



**ROBERT PEARSON, ofS OUR REGIONAL
COUNSELOR AND PRAYER CO-
ORDINATOR FOR THE REGION.**

**YOU SEE, IN THE FINAL
ANALYSIS IT IS BETWEEN
YOU AND GOD; IT WAS
NEVER BETWEEN YOU AND
THEM ANYWAY.**

Rule 19 "Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon.

Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others. Since they are immersed in the resurrection of Christ, which gives true meaning to Sister Death, let them serenely tend toward the ultimate encounter with the Father."

"If you forgive others the wrong they have done to you, your Father in heaven will also forgive you." (Mathew 6:14) - If I forgive others, my sins will be forgiven.

"And when you stand and pray, forgive anything you may have against anyone, so that your Father in heaven will forgive the wrongs you have done." (Mark 11:25) Our

**Forgiveness is the path to
peace and happiness!**



*"Forgive others and
find peace"
~ Pope Francis*

* Love is forgiving
Love is *for* giving
Love is forgetting
Love is *for* getting



"Don't spend your precious time asking "Why isn't the world a better place?" It will only be time wasted. The question to ask is "How can I make it better?" To that there is an answer." — Leo Buscaglia

"People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.....Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough. Give the best you've got anyway. You see, in the final analysis it is between you and God; it was never between you and them anyway. - St. Teresa of Calcutta

To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.

"The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong." Mahatma Gandhi

"Forgive others not because they deserve forgiveness but because you deserve peace." ~ Anon

"Being forgiven and forgiving others are two sides of the same coin - purchasing peace, harmony and unity in the family of God." - St. Francis of Assisi

"If a you find it very hard to forgive injuries, let yourself look at a Crucifix, and think that Christ shed all His Blood for you, and not only forgave His enemies, but even prayed His Heavenly Father to forgive them also. Let us remember that when we say the Pater Noster, every day, instead of asking pardon for ourself, we may be calling down vengeance on ourselves." ~ St. Phillip Neri

**FORGIVENESS
IS NOT SOMETHING
WE DO FOR
OTHER PEOPLE.
WE DO IT FOR
OURSELVES
TO GET WELL AND
MOVE ON.**

Council Members

Spiritual Assistant:
Vacant

Lay Minister:
W. Stanley Driscoll, ofs

Vice Minister:
Frank Peluso, ofs

Formation Director:
Sharon Winzeler, ofs

Appointed Treasurer:
Louis Coker, ofs

Secretary:
Maureen Copan, ofs

Councilor:
Suzanne Nelson, ofs

BSSF Region

Minister:
DorothyAnn Rowland,
ofs

Area 3 Councilors :
Bob Pearson, ofs
Carolyn Peruzzi, ofs

Epiphany Brunch
The Epiphany Party
will be held at the home
of Mike and Lynn Oeser
at 11:00 am on
Saturday,
January 7, 2017.
This gathering will be a
potluck meal.
More information will
follow.

NEXT GATHERING
JANUARY 22, 2017

Getting To Know Us better

Ida Irwin, ofs was born December 11 in 1934 in Peoria, IL. She transferred to the Padre Pio Fraternity from Sacred Heart Fraternity in 2010. She was professed at age 19 on Oct. 9, 1955. She was a student nurse at St. Francis Hospital where she was awed by the beautiful oil paintings of St. Francis and St. Clare's lives in the hallway to the Chapel. It led to reading about their lives and deciding to become a lay Franciscan. She wanted to become a Poor Clare nun, but they interviewed her and believed that was not her vocation. Later she married, but was divorced 14 years later and received an annulment from her first husband, Richard. They had four children together. She married John Irwin in 1972 with his two children, and they combined their families. She worked part time as an RN supervisor in a nursing home. John died from cancer in 1992 as she cared for him at home. They were married 20 years. Her parents then lived with her for six years before she had to place them into a Catholic nursing home due to her own failing heart problems. Past hobbies included backpacking in the mountains, canoeing Michigan's Au Sable River, teaching CCD, leading a Catholic Charismatic prayer group for several years, leading a stress support group, serving in the soup kitchen with Mother Teresa's Missionary of Charity Sisters, sewing habits for the Brothers of St. John monks for quite a while, traveling to Italy and Israel, and camping. Life has taught her to be content with wherever God places her and thankful for His constant love and mercy.

Sharon Winzeler, ofs was born on Dec. 28th. She moved to Raleigh from Michigan in 1981. Sharon is a high school English teacher and was married to her late husband, Steven for 32 years. They have three children: a son Chris, and daughters, Bethanne and Alison. Family is the joy of her life. She loves to spend time with her children and grandchildren. The grandchildren are grandson, Beckett and granddaughter, Clara --(after St. Clare?). Her main hobby is nature photography. She enjoys it and likes to walk in nature. Sharon is also a fan of Henry David Thoreau. She also likes to combine her love of travel with love of photography. Padre Pio is her saint of extraction this year. Sharon admires his holiness and dedication to the Way. The Franciscan way of life attracts her because of Francis's dedication to the marginalized as well as his love of nature. She appreciates fraternity life because of the love and goodness shared by all of our brothers and sisters. She says, "I can feel God's goodness in all of my interactions with our brothers and sisters."

FAREWELL FATHER DAVID

Many of you have heard by now that Fr. David McBriar, OFM, our Spiritual Assistant, left St. Francis Community the week of November 13 to Siena College where he will be helping out at a small chapel near there. We appreciate everything he has done for us over the years and wish him God's blessings at Siena College. We will miss him.

Meanwhile, Stan Driscoll, OFS is joining with our Region to seek another Spiritual Assistant of which we are in a critical need. Please pray for God's help.

Don't forget our apostolates over the Holidays

Overview for the Month

The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception, which is celebrated on December 8. The first 24 days of December fall during the liturgical season known as **Advent** and are represented by the liturgical color purple. The remaining days of December mark the beginning of the Christmas season. The liturgical color changes to white or gold—a symbol of joy, purity and innocence.

The Holy Father's Intentions for December 2016

Universal: That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over.

Evangelization: That the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life.

(See also www.apostleshipofprayer.net)

Franciscan Saints for December

2 Bl. Maria Angela Astorch, Virgin
2 Bl. Rafael Chylinski
8 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED
10 Bl. Peter Tecelano (III Order)
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 Order.

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, and pastoral writings..

25 Jesus Christ, Our King

Happy December Birthdays

Ida Irwin, ofs
Dec 11th
(OSC Prayer Partner)
Sharon Winzeler, ofs
Dec. 28th



Our deepest sympathy for DorothyAnn Roland, ofs whose husband Alan passed away this past month,
May he rest in peace.
May the good Lord console his family

Sister Mary Clare Sekine, osc (OSC Prayer Partner) passed away on June 21, please pray for the repose of her soul.

Apostolates

For CPO or Library
E-mail Maureen Copan, ofs

For Hospitality E-mail
Marie Roccoforte, ofs

For JPIC & Oak City Outreach, E-mail
Ellen Ferrone, ofs
(Oak City 11/26/16)

For Prayer Requests
E-mail Laurie Wilburn, ofs

For the Scrapbook
E-mail Laurie Wilburn, ofs

For Sunshine
Call Marge Zombek, ofs

For the Newsletter
E-mail Frank Peluso, ofs

For the Website E-mail
Michael Hancock, ofs

We are on the web at:
<http://ofscentralinc.org>

Merry Christmas

FROM

YOUR COUNCIL



"PRACTICE WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OTHERS. THIS IS A GOOD WAY TO PREPARE FOR CHRIST'S COMING."
~ SAVE KLUGE, OFM

I love you this much

