

THE PADRE PIO FRATERNITY

The Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region



November 2014

Volume 3. Issue 2

Council

Members:

Lay Minister:
W. Stanley Driscoll OFS
Vice Minister:
Michael Evaniuck, OFS
Formation:
Joanne Jacovec, OFS
Treasurer:
Sharon Winzeler, OFS
Secretary:
Maureen Copan, OFS
Councilors:
Suzanne Nelson, OFS
Ida Irwin, OFS
Frank Peluso, OFS
Spiritual Asst.:
Rev. Douglas P. Reed
BSSF Region:
Minister,
Jerry Rousseau, OFS,
Area 3 Councilors:
Frank Massey, OFS,
And
Marie Stephan, OFS

No gatherings
In December. Retreat @
The Avila Retreat Center
Dec. 6th, 2014
Next Gathering
Jan. 25, 2015
In the Trinity Center
Top floor 4th
Sunday @ 1:45 pm
(Subject to change.)
@ St Michael Catholic
Church,
804 High House Road,
Cary, NC



I love you this much!

**The Padre Pio Council Wishes you a
Holy, Happy, Humble
Christmas**

It's the most fantastic time of the year because we reminisce on the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. St. Bonaventure wrote, "In the Incarnation, God bends down to embrace us in love. God is humble love." Jesus lived a humble and compassionate life from the very beginning. St. Francis knew all this and wanted to live in the most humble way possible to be like Jesus.

The Bible says that humility leads to wisdom, with a focus on submitting to God rather than building up one's own ego; and Francis lived that way.

As **Thomas Merton** said, "Pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real." Be real!

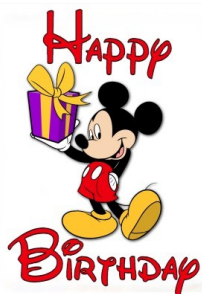
AWE OF ST. FRANCIS' FIRST CHRISTMAS CRÈCHE



Photo taken by Joanne Jacovec, OFS in Greccio

December Birthdays

Bea Sanford OFS
December 6
Ida Irwin OFS
December 11
Vincent McKone
OFS
December 20
Sharon Winzeler
OFS December 28



OOPS!!!
Last month was
W. Stanley
Driscoll's
First
Anniversary
for his
Profession On
11/16/2013
Congratulations
Stan!
and
Eugene Nagy for
his
14th Anniversary
11/26/95



Padre Pio Fraternity Apostolate Pillar

Our fraternity's **Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC)** group apostolate is dedicated to serving the poor, needy and disenfranchised in the Raleigh area. We have chosen two group apostolates for our fraternity:

The **Oak City Outreach Center** is a collaboration of the City of Raleigh and the Raleigh Wake Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness. The mission of the Oak City Outreach Center is to provide a place of hospitality on **weekends** where people can gather to receive and give nourishment that comes from the sharing of food and fellowship. We have chosen to volunteer as hosts offering hospitality and friendship to those we meet at the center.

Catholic Parish Outreach (CPO) Food Pantry is another opportunity to serve the poor by volunteering on **weekdays**. Volunteers serve thousands of clients each month in three ways: distributing clothing to clients; sorting, stocking and distributing food; greeting and assisting clients. Please contact Sharon Winzeler OFS, JPIC Coordinator, about how to volunteer.

Santo Bambino

A peaceful Christmas be yours
today

As the Babe in His holy manger
lay.

Happy as one St. Francis knew
With joy and peace and blessing,
too.

Where there, at Midnight Mass, he
sung

"They laid Him in a manger." None
But he could know the mystery
And beauty of Nativity.

For lo! There came a brilliant light
And in his arms all nestled tight
Appeared the Babe of all the world
With tidings of good will unfurled.
Peace this day, let all be well.
Noel! Noel! Noel!

— Greta McOmber Sciutto



Old Fashion Spiritual Christmas?

John R. Brokhoff,

"What has happened to the old-fashioned, spiritual Christmas? The cause is our disregard of Advent. The church set aside this four-week pre-Christmas season as a time of spiritual preparation for Christ's coming. It is a time of quiet anticipation. If Christ is going to come again into our hearts, there must be repentance. Without repentance, our hearts will be so full of worldly things that there will be "room in the inn" for Christ to be born again. We have the joy not of celebration. Which is the joy of Christmas, but the joy of anticipation."

SR. BERNADETTE MARIE CAPPOLA, OSC
GUEST SPEAKER FOR OUR DECEMBER RETREAT.

TOPIC: *THE LIFE AND SPIRITUALITY OF ST. CLAIRE OF ASSISI*
DATE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
PLACE: AVILA RETREAT CENTER, DURHAM
TIME: 9:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. (MASS AT 11:00 A.M.)
FEE: \$35.00 (INCLUDES LUNCH AND BREAKS)
PAY: CHECK MADE OUT TO PADRE PIO FRATERNITY AND GIVEN TO SHARON NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1ST. PARTICIPANT COUNT NEEDED

Holy Father's Intentions for December

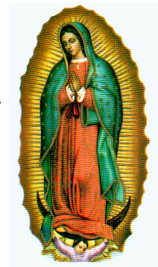
- * **Christmas, hope for humanity.** That the birth of the Redeemer may bring peace and hope to all people of good will.
- * **Parents.** That parents may be true evangelizers, passing on to their children the precious gift of faith.

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 (**John Duns**, **O.F.M.**, commonly called **Scotus** or **Duns Scotus** Perhaps the most influential point of Duns Scotus' theology was his defense of the **Immaculate Conception** of **Mary**. argument 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.")



10 Bl. Peter Tecelano (III Order) served as nurse to the sick in a Franciscan hospital. He also toiled making combs. In his lifetime, he was reputed to be a deeply mystical and holy individual and was credited with miracles.

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. (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.

The Christmas Crèche

Francis of Assisi began the Christmas tradition of nativity scenes because he wanted to help people gain a fresh sense of wonder about the miracles that the Bible records from the first Christmas.

The manger was prepared, the hay had been brought, the ox and ass were led in. There simplicity was honored, poverty was exalted, humility was commended, and Greccio was made, as it were, a new Bethlehem.



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

SEE US AT:

www.ofscentralnc.org

**It is Christmas every
time you let God
love others through
you... yes, it is
Christmas every
time you smile at
your brother and
offer him your hand.
Mother Teresa**

Jesus Weeps – Resisting Violence. Building Peace

Despite the many examples of violence in our world, as **people of hope** we are consoled by the promise that “justice and peace shall embrace” (*Psalm 85:10*). This embrace is demonstration that without peace justice is illusory and without justice peace is deceptive. This image is the embodiment of God’s vision for our world- God’s shalom. Shalom is often translated as “peace,” but its Hebrew roots imply a deeper meaning of peace that goes beyond cessation of violence toward a holistic vision of true security, healing, and restoration involving all areas of social and economic life. It is this vision of “peace with justice,” or “Just Peace” which many of our religious traditions have embraced and continue to strive toward.

The image of an “embrace” in the Psalm also reminds us that our **hope is not passive**, but active. As people of faith we are called to join with God in this active work and are reminded that justice requires peace making and that peace requires justice making. Many of our congregations already work for justice by serving those in need, embracing the stranger, advocating for equality and just economic systems. Others are active in peacemaking efforts and conflict transformation, challenging the violence of domestic abuse and gun violence, reforming the unjust prison system, or working for U.S. foreign policy that will aid peace in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, or Latin America. All of these efforts are needed and together we must explore the relationship between working for justice and building peace.

❖ ***Peace in the Community –***

So that all may live free from fear (Micah 4:4)

❖ ***Peace with the Earth –***

So that life is sustained

❖ ***Peace in the Marketplace –***

So that all may live with dignity

❖ ***d. Peace among the Peoples –***

So that human lives are protected

From: 2014 EAD National Peace Gathering theme

Luke 2:14 (NRSVCE) “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth **peace** among those whom he favors!”

“While you are proclaiming **peace** with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart.” ~ *Francis 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.” - *St. Clare of Assisi*