



## The Padre Pio Fraternity

Secular Franciscan Order

The Brother and Sisters of St. Francis Region



### YOUR COUNCIL WISHES YOU A HAPPY, HOLY AND PRODUCTIVE 2016

Fr. Bill McConville, O.F.M. Associate Pastor, Immaculate Conception, Durham led us on an Advent retreat by presenting an Advent Triptych - Paul's letter to the Philippians and Franciscan Spirituality. His three reflections were about humility, joy and service in love which are Franciscan charisms. On humility, he reflected on Philippians 2: 5-8 "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross." Father Bill explained, "You imitate Christ by shrinking your ego. You need to enlarge your heart by looking into the humility of God."

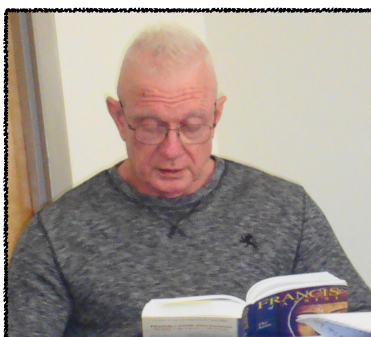
Father Bill's second talk was a reflection on Philippians 4:10 "I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it." Father Bill explained that joy is really not a personal style. You are happy when you do the right thing. The remembering of something is the remembering of its presence. St. Francis perception of himself was a beggar before God. He had no illusions about himself. He had to let go control of the order when it became too large. He didn't judge but like St. Paul, he recognized that a community is a mixed bag. Joy is the expression of God's life in the soul – joy with the shared life of Christ and the Christian community. The challenge is in a flawed community.

On service, Father Bill read St. Francis' *Testament* – "While I was in sin, it seemed very bitter to me to see lepers. And the Lord Himself led me among them and I had mercy upon them. And when I left them that which seemed bitter to me was changed into sweetness of soul and body; and afterward I lingered a little and left the world." Lepers represent marginal people like those we encounter today who need our service. In Francis' account of "perfect joy," we find a reversal of roles with him and the lepers. He is the unwanted one. As he walked with Brother Leo, Francis kept adding to a litany, describing places where perfect joy would be found. What he was describing was a depiction of the Passion of Christ. He became detached from the things that flourish in this world. Instead, he identified himself with the suffering Christ.

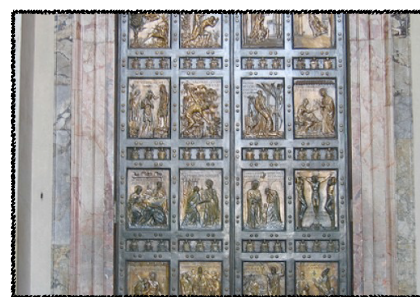
From Philippians 17 .... "I did not run in vain neither labor in vain. Yea, and if I am offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice with you all: and in the same manner do you also joy, and rejoice with me." Do not labor in vain be of service to the marginal as Francis and Christ are our examples.



He who refuses to pass through the door of My mercy must pass through the door of My justice (St. Faustina's Diary 1146).



Father Bill reflects on the Epistle of St. Paul to the Philippians at our annual retreat on December 5<sup>th</sup>.



The faithful are called to make a brief pilgrimage to the Holy Door, open in the [Sacred Heart Cathedral](#) for the Year of Mercy. Above: Holy Door at St. Peter's

## Apostolates

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://ofscentralinc.org/>

"Truly I tell you,  
whatever you did  
for one of the least  
of these  
you did for me."



## January Devotion

January is the month of the **Holy Name of Jesus**. The feast of the Holy Name originated in the 1500s and was formerly celebrated on the second Sunday of Epiphany. It was removed from the calendar in 1969, "since the imposition of the name of Jesus is already commemorated in the office of the Octave of Christmas." (motu propri: *Mysterii Paschalis*, 1969) It was restored in 2002 as an optional memorial on the first free day after January first.

The official litany of the Holy Name of Jesus is included in the book *A Prayerbook of Favorite Litanies*. There are indulgences attached to the devotion to the Holy Name; one hundred days each day if the devotion is made privately, three hundred days each day, if the devotion is made in a public church or chapel. Because of the feasts in January, which pertain to Christ's infancy and childhood, January has also become a month dedicated to the Holy Childhood of Jesus.

## Bl. Angela of Foligno

Franciscan tertiary and mystic. Born in Foligno, Italy, in 1248, Angela married and had several children. Wealthy, she took part in the social events of the city until 1285, when she had a vision. Following that mystical experience, Angela became a member of the Franciscan Third Order. When her husband died, she gave away her possessions and started a community of tertiaries devoted to the care of the needy. Her visions, which were recorded by her confessor, demonstrated a mature mystical union with Christ and the gift of revelation. She is sometimes called "the Mistress of Theologians." Her tomb is in the church of St. Francis in Foligno. Many miracles have been recorded there.

## Holy Father's Intentions for January 2016

Universal: That sincere dialogue among men and women of different faiths may produce the fruits of peace and justice.

Evangelization: That by means of dialogue and fraternal charity and with the grace of the Holy Spirit, Christians may overcome divisions.

Happy January  
Birthday

Dianne Greet



"A New Year gives us  
the perfect opportunity  
to start afresh,

Let's grab the chance  
and make the world a better  
place."

## Franciscan Saints for January

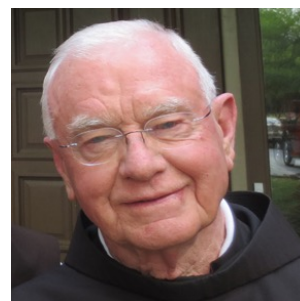
- 3 Holy Name of Jesus.
- 5 Bl. Diego José of Cádiz (priest)
- 6. The Epiphany of the Lord
- 7 Bl. Angela of Foligno, religious, III Ord.
- 8 Bl. Eurosia Fabris, III Order
- 12 St. Bernard of Corleone, religious, I Ord.
- 14 Bl. Odoric of Pordenone, priest, I Order.
- 16 Sts Berard, priest, and companions,  
protomartyrs of The Order.
- 18 St. Charles of Sezze, I Order
- 19 Bl. Thomas of Cori
- 20 St. Eustochia Calafato II Order
- 27 St. Angela Merici, virgin, III Ord., founder.
- 30 St. Hyacinth of Mariscotti, virgin, III Order.
- 31 St. John Bosco, priest, III Order, founder.

**IT IS WITH GREAT JOY THAT WE WELCOME FATHER  
DAVID MCBRIAR, OFM AS THE NEW SPIRITUAL  
ASSISTANT FOR OUR PADRE PIO FRATERNITY**

Father David McBriar OFM grew up in northern New Jersey, the oldest of four children. After college, he joined the Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province, and in 2008 he celebrated 50 years as a friar. Father David was the first Franciscan pastor of St. Francis, and when his term as pastor was complete there, he became pastor of Immaculate Conception in Durham. He has returned to St. Francis as a senior friar.

Father David has been a Franciscan Friar for 57 years. He spent the first half in the classroom, including teaching theology at the Franciscan School of Theology in California.

Father is active in issues related to Justice and Peace; he visits death row inmates and offers Mass at the prison in Butner. In addition, he has organized and led pilgrims on trips to the Holy Land to promote peace. We are very grateful to have Father David with us on our Franciscan journey.



**FR. DAVID MCBRIAR OFM**



CHESAPEAKE, Va. (Catholic Online) - **The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."** (Revelation 21:5). Those words hold out the promise of the Gospel to all men and women. They were spoken to the beloved disciple John on the Island of Patmos in a vision of the new heaven and new earth where the completion of the Redemption of Jesus Christ will be fully manifested. They are recorded for all to read at the end of the New Testament in the Book of Revelation, or the "Apocalypse". This promise addresses the heart cry of the entire human race. It answers our deepest longing. At this time of the year, when we end one year and begin a new one, we are drawn to deep reflection. We seem compelled to make resolutions to change our lives. How deeply we want to begin again, to be made new. There is Good News! We can!

**Pope Francis has told worshippers in a mosque in the Central African Republic that  
"Christians and Muslims are brothers and sisters". ~ World News**

Pope Francis was speaking to Muslims who had sought shelter in the capital Bangui after nearly three years of violence between Christians and Muslims. The Pope called on fighting factions in the region to lay down their weapons. About half of the population there is Christian and 15% Muslim. The mosque visit was seen as perhaps the most dangerous part of his Africa tour, a BBC correspondent says Pope Francis then held the final Mass of his Africa trip in Bangui. He was speaking in Latin, which was then translated into the local Sango language. His message of reconciliation appeared to have an immediate impact, as a reporter from the AFP news agency spotted a group of Muslim rebels turn up at the Mass wearing t-shirts with the Pope's image on them.

**For the New Year**, let us keep our Candidates and Inquirers in our prayers. Louis Coker, OFS; Dianne Greet, OFS; Marie Roccoforte, OFS; and Victoria Romero, OFS. They are scheduled to make their Perpetual Professions during 11:00 a.m. Mass on June 25, 2016. Pray also for Lee Cunningham, Ellen Ferrone, Michael Hancock, Cheryl Kornegay, Lynn Oeser, Susan Stamey, and Laurie Wilburn who will celebrate their Rite of Admission into the Secular Franciscan Order during our gathering on May 22, 2016.



# Our Servant Leaders -Pray for them



## The Kingfishers

"I consider what writers say about the Kingfishers, the little birds who build their nests on the beach near the sea. They build it in a circular form and so tightly compressed that the sea water cannot penetrate it. . .Here these graceful little birds place their young ones, so that when the sea comes upon them by surprise, they can swim with confidence and float on the waves..

I want your heart to be like this: well compact and closed on all sides, so that if the worries and storms of the world, the evil spirit, and the flesh come upon it, it will not be penetrated. Leave but one opening to your heart, that is toward heaven. . .How I love and am enraptured by those little birds." - St. Padre Pio



## In Memorium

Let us pray for our beloved Father Linus DeSanctis, OFM Conventual, Spiritual Assistant for the BSSF Region who passed from this life into Eternity on December 3, 2015.

"Incline Your ear, O Lord, unto our prayers, wherein we humbly pray that You show Your mercy upon the soul of Your servant Linus, whom You have commanded to pass out of this world, that You would place him in the region of peace and light, and bid him be a partaker with Your Saints. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eternal rest grant unto Linus, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed Franciscans through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

## Council Members

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David McBriar, OFM

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Michael Evaniuck, OFS

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Maureen Copan. OFS

### Councilors:

Ida Irwin, OFS

Suzanne Nelson, OFS

Frank Peluso. OFS

## BSSF Region

### Appointed Minister:

Dorothy Ann Rowland, OFS

### Area 3 Councilors:

Carmen Madero, OFS

Frank Massey, OFS



2015 WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR!

