



# The Padre Pio Fraternity

Secular Franciscan Order

The Brother and Sisters of St. Francis Region



**YOUR COUNCIL WISHES YOU A HAPPY, HOLY AND PRODUCTIVE 2017**

## Formation for 2017

Becoming a Secular Franciscan involves a journey of personal discernment and commitment. It is a life-long choice in favor of ordering one's lifestyles and decisions to the Gospel of Jesus, flowing from Gospel to Life and returning back to the Gospel for nourishment. The place this happens for a Secular Franciscan is within the fraternity. The process begins with a period of orientation which is a time of discernment and discovery. Initial formation begins with the Ceremony of Welcoming and Introduction of the Inquirers. The second phase of Initial Formation is candidacy. These steps are set forth in the Formators Guidelines. One must follow the guidelines to use when a person seeks admission to become a Secular Franciscan. Ongoing formation continues for life and involves a continual rededication to living the Gospel within community for all members from Orientees to the professed

The formators are Joanne Jacovec, ofs, and Victoria Romero, ofs for Candidacy formation, and Frank Peluso, ofs, Suzie Nelson, ofs, and Louis Coker, ofs for Orientation and Inquiry. The role of the formators is to witness and to accompany the person on his/her journey of discovery of God, of St. Francis, of St. Clare and of the individual's own call. The Holy Spirit is in charge of the individual's personal discernment and calling.

The present candidates are: Theresa Flynn, ofs, Lee Cunningham, ofs, Ellen Ferrone, ofs, Michael Hancock, ofs, Cheryl Kornegay, ofs, Susan Lynn Oeser, ofs, Chris Peffley, ofs, and Laurie Wilburn, ofs. The new Orientees will be starting on January 22nd at 11:00 am in the Siena Building rooms 102 at The Community of St. Francis. Candidates will also gather at that time in Room 101.

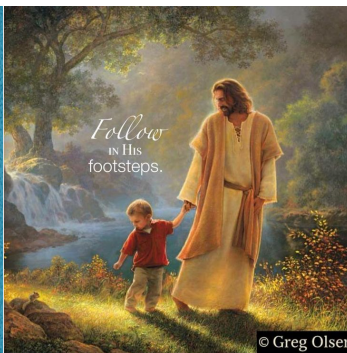
Ongoing formation occurs during the fraternity gathering which is from 1 to 3:30 pm in the Founder's Room. Orientees, Inquirers and Candidates are encouraged to bring their own lunch and eat together between the two meetings. Professed members and candidates help lead on-going formation.

Carolyn Townes, ofs national JPIC Coordinator will conduct our annual retreat on Nov. 18, 2017 at the Avila Retreat Center in Durham.

If you are interested in starting the Orientation, please send your completed forms to Sharon Winzeler, ofs at 8921 Lindenshire Rd. Raleigh, 27615. Reach her at [swinzeler@gmail.com](mailto:swinzeler@gmail.com).

### WHAT IS SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT?

**Spiritual discernment is the quest to discover God's will for us so that we can follow his will.**



### COMMITMENT

**Either you do or you don't. There is no in between!**

## 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." 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.

### HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY 2017

**Christian Unity.** That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.

### FRANCISCAN SAINTS FOR JANUARY

- 3 Holy Name of Jesus.
- 4. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- 5 Bl. Diego José of Cádiz (priest)
- 5. St. John Newman
- 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
- 18 St. Charles of Sezze, I Order
- 19 Bl. Thomas of Cori was surely - as is said of St. Francis - not so much a man who prayed as a man who became prayer.
- 20 St. Eustochia Calafato II Order
- 21. St. Agnes
- 24. St. Francis de Sales
- 27 St. Angela Merici, virgin, III Ord., founder.



Happy January  
Birthday

Dianne Greet  
January 11

**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.



## PADRE PIO'S COUNCILS

"Through divine grace we are at the beginning of a new year. God alone knows if we shall reach the end of it, so we should spend it in reparation for the past and in preparing for the future with good resolutions. Good works go hand in hand with good intentions" (Letters IV p 966)

## PADRE PIO MOMENTS

During the night of September 19, 1919, Father Rafaele saw Padre Pio in the hallway around midnight. Padre Pio was returning from the prayer loft where he was praying. Father Rafaele said, "He was radiant with light, holding the baby Jesus in his arms, walking slowly still in prayer."

## BLESSED ANGELA OF FOLIGNO QUOTES

- Without humility of heart all the other virtues by which one runs toward God seem - and are - absolutely worthless.
- Humility exists only in those who are poor enough to see that they possess nothing of their own.
- Our perfection certainly consists in knowing God and ourselves.

Have a Holy, Happy, Healthy 2017



*We make decisions every day that require good judgment and prudence, but some decisions are simply too large to be left to our judgment alone. Important life decisions – choices that set our direction in life – require spiritual discernment as well as prudence. The choice in question may involve a career path or a vocation; the person you marry or the role models you emulate; your daily habits or prayer life; or the principles and virtues you follow and practice. All of these choices affect our journey with God, and discernment is essential to ensure we are living the prayer, “Thy will be done.”*

*This raises the question, how do we know we are listening to God and doing His will? How do we know we’re allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us, and not just pursuing our own headstrong desires, or worse, being tempted and led astray by the enemy?*

*In **Five Pillars of the Spiritual Life**, Fr. Robert Spitzer offers some practical guidance on the discernment of spirits. Here are some excerpts.*

When decisions, resolutions, or patterns of action increase love and trust in God in the long term, that’s a sign that they are consistent with the workings of the Holy Spirit and can therefore be called *spiritual consolations*. Conversely, decisions or actions that gradually decrease love, trust, and hope are not consistent with the workings of the Holy Spirit, and they result in *spiritual desolations*. St. Ignatius of Loyola attributes the latter propensities to the “evil one.”.....

**Rule 1: Be attentive to false consolations.**

Affective consolation is usually the work of the Holy Spirit, unless it eventually leads to less trust in God, hope in salvation, or love. So the basic rule is, follow affective consolation (feelings of peace, love, joy, and unity with God) unless it begins to result in long-term spiritual desolation. When that occurs, you should stop following the seeming consolation, because it’s very likely to be a false consolation sent by “the enemy of our human nature.” .....

**Rule 2: Never make a life decision in a time of affective or spiritual desolation.**

St. Ignatius counseled that you should never make a life decision when you’re experiencing desolation, either affective or spiritual. He hastened to add that the desolation will soon give rise to consolation, at which point you can make much better decisions. It is always worth the wait. Some followers of the saint considered this his most fundamental and important rule for making progress in the spiritual life.....

**Rule 3: The evil one can come as “an angel of light.”**

The devil usually dissuades us from our good intentions by trying to discourage us, but sometimes the deceiver offers thoughts that *appear* to be aimed at building our spiritual life. However, the real intention of these temptations is to discourage us in the long term. ....

*Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D., is the founder and president of the Spitzer Center. A scholar, teacher, author, and seasoned leader, Fr. Spitzer is a pre-eminently a theologian and philosopher. His other fields of expertise, however, include management science, finance, ethics, and physics. You can find his work at [www.magiscenter.com/](http://www.magiscenter.com/)*



**Holiday Visitor:** Sister May Ann Baichan of the Franciscan Handmaids of Mary in Yonkers, NY was able to visit with her family and Secular Franciscan friends over the Christmas Holiday. Pictured to the left are Suzie Nelson, ofs, Sr. Mary Ann, FHM and Marge Zombek, ofs. It is so nice that we are still able to keep in touch with our former Secular Franciscan sister. She was also able to visit with her mother in Canada.

# Pray for Our Servant Leaders



## 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 1/22/17)

**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://ofscentralnc.org>

## GATHERINGS FOR 2017

January 22, 2017  
Founders Room  
February 26, 2017  
Founders Room  
March 26, 2017  
Founders Room  
April 23, 2017  
Founders Room  
May 21, 2017  
Founders Room  
June 25, 2017  
Founders Room  
July 23, 2017  
Founders Room  
August 27, 2017  
Founders Room  
September 24, 2017  
Founders Room  
October 22, 2017  
Founders Room  
November 19, 2017  
Founders Room

## TIMES

Initial Formation  
11:00 – 12:15  
Fraternity Gathering  
1:00 – 3:00



## COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Spiritual Assistant:**  
Vacant

**Lay Minister:**  
W. Stanley Driscoll, ofs

**Appointed 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

**Next Gathering**  
January 22, 2017



2016 WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR!



## A Meditation on St. Francis' Prayer before the San Damiano Cross



St. Francis' prayer before the San Damian Crucifix has much meaning for all Franciscans. It was there that our seraphic father heard, "Francis. Go and rebuild my church." Our fraternity says it at the end of all our meetings and some of us try to say and meditate on it most every day.

Francis starts by praising God. All good prayers need to start praising God. Jesus did in the Our Father by telling us to say, "hallowed be Thy name." Francis starts out with **"Most High, glorious God."** A synonym for glorious is brilliant. So, he asks for that shining brilliance to enlighten him so that he may know God's will. He asks, **"enlighten the darkness of my heart,"** - darkness that often prevents us from seeing the right way to live. The same darkness that causes us to stumble and fall.

With what does he want to be enlightened? The three theological virtues: a **"true faith"** - belief in God, and in the truth of His revelation: **"certain hope"** the expectation of receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit; **"and perfect charity"** or love the greatest of all virtues, that which if we do not have it, then we are nothing: "And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing." Corinthians 13:2. It is a supernatural virtue that helps us love God and our neighbors, more than ourselves. It causes the self-giving which so emphasized Jesus' entire life from the Incarnation until the Crucifixion. "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13

**Faith** - When Jesus cured the two blind men he said, "Let it be done for you according to your faith." - Mathew 9. **Hope** - As St. Pio often said, "Pray, hope, and don't worry." **Perfect charity** - a love which which is faultless with picture-perfect self-giving.

Next he prays for **"sense,"** an awareness that you can feel in your bones. The intuition to do the right things, to have a solid footing on this journey through life. **"And knowledge,"** - the wisdom, insight, and intellect necessary **"that I may carry out Your holy and true command,"** that is God's unadulterated, pure will.

As Pope Emeritus Benedict at one time told the Franciscans ,at a Chapter of Mats "We are the first house that needs to be rebuilt." The entire prayer asks for virtues that will help us rebuild our own house of the soul; then we can go out and help others rebuild their houses by our example of living the Gospel life. - - **FEP**



Religious life is not all about work and prayer: laughter and joy are just as key to a healthy religious life, if not more! One of the things I love about the Franciscans is that they are very down-to-earth, enjoy having a sense of humor, and rarely put on a face of false piety. Because of this, we've often been depicted as foolish or simple minded in many jokes, looking less serious and organized than our Jesuit or Dominican counterparts. Obviously there's some historic truth to this, but I think what it says most is that we embrace our sense of humor as much as anyone. I hope that the three jokes I've picked will bring a little laughter and joy to your busy day!

**Stranded on a deserted island:** A Dominican, a Jesuit, and a Franciscan were stranded on a deserted island for many years. One day, they found a lamp buried in the sand, and out popped a Genie. The genie said to them, "Thank you so much for setting me free from my lamp! I will grant each of you one wish to show my gratitude!"

The Jesuit spoke first: "I long to be back at the university where I study and teach once more. Please, send me back, away from here!" Poof, he was gone. The Dominican spoke next: "I long to be back with the people, preaching the word of God in the streets and in the church. Please, send me back, away from here!" Poof, he was gone. After thinking long and hard, the Franciscan spoke last: "I kind of miss those guys. Can you bring them back?" (Go to his website for the other two jokes.)

*Casey Cole is a offshoot of the Raleigh Community of St. Francis*

