



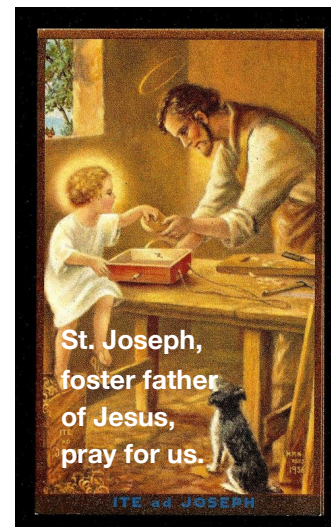
**The Padre Pio Fraternity
Secular Franciscan Order
The Brother and Sisters of St. Francis Region**



St. Agnes of Prague



Joe Travers, ofs & Ralph Benedetto, ofs
presenting Ongoing Formation 2/26/17



The Rite of Extraction February 26, 2017

Let us pray. Oh God, you have raised up men and women outstanding in holiness as examples to your people in following in your footsteps. Grant that we may ever look to the example and teaching of your saints, imitating their virtue, and thus merit to arrive at your heavenly banquet. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Ellen Ferrone, ofs, Theresa Flynn, ofs, and Chris Peffley, ofs, guided by the Holy Spirit drew cards for members of the Fraternity - the name of a Franciscan saint, a Franciscan virtue and a spiritual passage. The Fraternity members present prayed for the Holy Spirit to guide them. Two songs were sung; Lynn Oeser, ofs led the singing and Ralph Benedetto, ofs played the guitar.

As each slip was drawn, it was read aloud to the fraternity and then presented to the person whose name was called by the minister. Thus we chose these saints as our patron for this year, with a virtue to imitate, and a spiritual passage to meditate upon. I believe nothing is an accident, all things come to us for a purpose even the names of Saints, sayings and virtues. The saints have most unusual patronages.

“A virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do the good. It allows the person not only to perform good acts, but to give the best of oneself. The virtuous person tends toward the good with all sensory and spiritual powers; one pursues the good and chooses it in concrete actions.” (CCC) St. Jose Maria Escriva said, “To meditate for a while each day and be united in friendship with God is something that makes sense to people who know how to make good use of their lives. It befits conscientious Christians who live up to their convictions.” Both St. Francis and St. Clare meditated daily and are our models to emulate. Finally, it is appropriate for us to imitate the saints who made it into the Kingdom. We thank God for such blessings.

The Dedication for the Month of March 2017

March is the month of devotion to **St. Joseph**, whose feast falls on March 19th. The date of the solemnity of St. Joseph dates to the end of the 15th century; within the next few centuries, the entire month as a time for devotion to St. Joseph became part of tradition.

In a society which seems to discourage the importance of marriage and fatherhood, St. Joseph, the spouse of the Virgin and the man given the responsibility of raising Jesus, is an incredible model of an obedient, faithful, Christian father.

There are indulgences attached to devotion to St. Joseph during this month: three hundred days daily for those who privately or publicly perform some pious practice in honor of St. Joseph, during the month, a plenary indulgence on any day of the month under the usual conditions.

The Holy Father's Intentions for March 2017

Support for Persecuted Christians. That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church. (See also www.apostleshipofprayer.net)

Padre Pio's Councils

“Therefore, don’t fear at all, but consider yourself extremely fortunate to be worthy of participating in the sufferings of the God-Man. Other is no abandonment, but love, and the great love which God is showing you. Your state is not one of punishment but one of exquisite love. Therefore, bless the Lord for this, and resign yourself to drinking the chalice of Gethsemane.” (Letters III p 445)



Padre Pio Moments

Father Carmello of Sessano, Guardian of Our Lady of Grace in San Giovanni Rorundo, was so firmly convinced of the sainthood of his fellow friar (Padre Pio) that he built a crypt beneath the church for the burial of the future saint. He also gathered many documents about the person and virtues of Padre Pio that were included in the testimony for his beatification and canonization. *From The VoiceofPadrepio.com*

Padre Pio Quote

“Never go to bed before having first examined your conscience to consider how you spent your day. Turn all your thoughts towards the Lord and consecrate your person to him as well as all the Christians. Then offer to his glory the sleep you will get, without ever forgetting your guardian angel, who is always at your side.” ~ *St. Pio of Pietralcina*

March Franciscan Calendar

1. Wednesday, March 1, 2017 Ash Wednesday
1. Bl. Jean Kearney, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1653
2. St. Agnes de Prague, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1282
3. Bl. Innocent of Berzo, Priest, Capuchin, d. 1890
4. Bl. Martyrs of the Franciscan 1st Order of Gondar (Ethiopia), d. 1716
5. St. John-Joseph of the Cross, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1734
6. St. Colette de Corbie, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1447
7. Bl. Christopher of Milan, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1485
8. St. Jean de Dieu, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1550
9. St. Frances of Rome, Virgin, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1440
10. St. Catherine of Bologna, Virgin of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1463
11. Bl. John Baptist Righi of Fabriano, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1539
12. Bl. Louis Orione, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1940
13. Bl. Agnellus of Pisa, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1236
14. St. Catherine of Genoa, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1510 Purgatory, she points out, is not a joyless place, but rather one full of joy in God, which however does not abate one particle of its suffering.
15. Bl. Louis of Casoria, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1885
16. Bl. Torello of Poppi, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1282
17. Bl. Mark of Montegallo, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1496
18. St. Salvator of Horta, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1567
19. Saint Joseph, Foster Father of Jesus
20. Bl. Hippolyte Galentini, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1620
21. Bl. Amedee IX de Savoie, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1472
22. St. Benvenute of Osimo, Bishop, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1282
23. Bl. Jeremy Lambertenghi, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1513
24. Bl. Catherine de Suede, Virgin, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1381
25. Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, pardon of the three Orders.
26. Blessed Didacus Joseph of Cadiz, Priest, Capuchin, d. 1801
27. Bl. Joseph-Sebastien Pelczar, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1924.
28. St. John of Capistrano, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1456
29. Bl. Jane Mary of Maille, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1414
30. St. Peter Regalado, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1486
31. St. Leonard Murialdo, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1900

Holy Thursday – Plenary Indulgence: Chant in Public Tantum Ergo

Good Friday – Plenary Indulgence: Solemn adoration of the Holy Cross

Easter – Plenary Indulgence: Renewal in public of Baptismal Promises

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS



10 Joe Travers, ofs
12 Christine Murray, ofs
12 Suzie Nelson, ofs
15 David Shick
24 Gladys Whitehouse
24 Annemarie Dudek, osc

Getting to know us better:

Suzanne Marie Nelson, ofs, AKA Suzie, was born on March 12th in Des Moines, Iowa. She came to Cary from Charlotte in 1997. She attends St. Michael of the Archangel parish and is a member of the funeral choir and an EM. Her hobbies include pets, houseplants such as African Violets, and dumpster diving, some items are donated to CPO. She was attracted to the fraternity because of her love of peacemaking and nature. Suzie likes time in the forested mountains. She was professed on July 12, 1014. Suzie's Saint from the 2016 February extraction is St. Maximilian Kolbe, OFM. She feels attracted to him because of his self-giving sacrifice for others.

Joe Travers, ofs was born on March 10th in Jamaica, NY. He came here from Carmel, NY in November of 2005. He has been married to his wife Mary Kate for 21 years. They have two young girls and two young boys. He works at Quintiles in HR Analytics. The family attends St. Catherine of Siena Church in Wake Forest. He transferred to our Fraternity when he relocated to North Carolina. He can often be seen at the Oak City Outreach. His Saint from the February 2016 extraction was St. Margaret of Cortona; Joe admires her commitment to conversion and penance.

Kathleen Ann Horvat, OSC - Traverler's Rest Prayer Partner

My roots are in the Great Lakes bioregion—beautiful Michigan and Ohio. My life “up north” included many happy years in an active religious community doing parish work, teaching, and peace and justice ministry. In midlife I got up enough courage to respond to a call that I had been hearing for a long time, a call that seemed clear as I was on pilgrimage in Assisi.

We visited the places where Francis and Clare lived. I heard about Clare's focus on poverty, community, and prayer. I was happy in my apostolic community and ministry so...could God really be asking me to leave my beloved Sisters of St. Francis and my family to be a Sister of St. Clare? Could I ignore God's invitation? After much discernment and prayer I transferred to this Poor Clare community. Each day I come to more fully understand and treasure my Poor Clare vocation. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Several years ago, we celebrated the 750th anniversary of Clare's form of life. She received approval for it on her deathbed. Clare wrote this rule having lived it with her sisters in San Damiano for 40 years. She was able to inspire others over some 800 years to continue to live this Gospel form of life. She is a model for us today. (<http://poorclaresc.com/zzz/who-we-are/staff/>)

Constitution Article 13, 3: Traditional among Franciscan penitents, penitential practices such as fasting and abstinence should be known, appreciated, and lived out according to the general guidelines of the Church.

Our New Theme for 2017: “O. Breath of God Unite us in Action!”

- Jan Parker, ofs National minister

Apostolates

For CPO or Library
Email Maureen Copan, ofs
For Hospitality Email
Marie Roccoforte, ofs
For JPIC & Oak City
Outreach, E-mail Ellen
Ferrone, ofs
For Prayer Requests
Coordinator need for the
Scrapbook
Email Laurie Wilburn, ofs
For Sunshine
Call Marge Zombek, ofs
For the Newsletter
Email Frank Peluso, ofs
For the Website
Email
Michael Hancock, ofs.

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

Next Gathering

March 26, 2017

Ash Wednesday - March 1, 2017 - The first day of Lent

Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer. Ashes on forehead Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and is chiefly observed by Catholics, although many other Christians observe it too.

Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Alternatively, the priest may speak the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

At least once in your life you'll be asked about the meaning of the cross, usually made of wood, which is shaped like a "T" and is often worn by Franciscans. With the help of the portal, St. Francis Patron of Italy, we sought to understand the meaning of the Tau.

If St. Francis has chosen and adopted the symbol of Tau, the cause must be sought in his love for the cross. And if it has spread, it is because he wanted to preach salvation through the cross. "Come over to the middle of town, surrounded Jerusalem, marking a Tau on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry for all the abominations that are fulfilled" (*Ezekiel 9:4*).

Francis felt that this invitation, an invitation to a general mobilization on a crusade of conversion and penance. Francis wanted to score so himself and his brothers with the Tau, who will become the sign of the calling order, but also a symbol of penance and was the favorite theme of his preaching to urge everyone to conversion. Francis is well aware that the Tau is also the sign for the winners so after having preached the lead even in his flesh through the stigmata. The Tau was the sign placed upon the foreheads of the poor of Israel, it saves them from extermination. *From - <http://digilander.libero.it/raxdi/inglese/tauf.htm>* (From various sources)

Beginnings of the Secular Franciscans

St. Francis welcomed a married couple, Luchesio and Buonadonna, into the Franciscan movement and wrote a rule from which they could draw inspiration and order for the Franciscan life. They were called Brothers and Sisters of Penance and lay Catholics for nearly 800 years have made a life commitment and become members of what is called the Secular Franciscan Order (secular' meaning that we are embedded in world). There are some 15,000 Catholic Secular Franciscans in the US, and about 400,000 around the world. Episcopalians formed the Third Order Society of St. Francis in 1950, and other. However to become a Secular Franciscan in the Padre Pio Fraternity, you must be an actively practicing Catholic (of any of the rites in union with Rome). Orientation is a time to discern if the Spirit is calling you to a Secular Franciscan vocation.

Lent With St. Francis: Daily Reflections Paperback – \$4.00 Amazon.com

Lent calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel. Few saints have done this more intentionally than St. Francis of Assisi. He lived the teachings of Jesus, often quite literally, from the time of his conversion until his death. In doing so, he inspired people of his own time as well as millions from his day to our own, to do likewise.

Another Suggested Reading

All Christians know his name. Few truly know the man. Francis of Assisi was not even five feet tall. He was not well educated. And yet he is the one saint commonly recognized as Alter Christus, the “other Christ.” Francis is not just any saint—he’s a saint for everyone, whatever your place or position in life. But do we really know him? Who was this man at his core? What was it that thrust this little man from a little town to the heights of sanctity, into a place of high honor among the celestial court? If you want to see the hidden life of the greatest saint, if you want to hear his thoughts, if you want to feel the fervor that blazed within his soul, you must read *St. Francis of Assisi: Passion, Poverty, and the Man who Transformed the Catholic Church*, author Bret Thoman, ofs. (Hardcover is \$27.95 at amazon.com)

Valentine Brunch

The Valentine Brunch was held at the charming home of Mike and Lynn Oeser, ofs from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday, January 7, 2017. This gathering was a fulfilling and scrumptious potluck brunch. It was a time to share stories, humor, and our journeys with each other. The joy of Francis and Clare permeated the milieu. A treasured time enjoyed by everyone there.

