



# Padre Pio Fraternity

*The Brother and Sisters of St. Francis Region*



♥ “The Lord led me among them, and I showed them a merciful heart.” ♥

Father David McBriar, Community of St. Francis of our fraternity gathering on Ongoing Formation this year Father David talked about is rooted in vision and power. Francis and Clare had followers and others they seriously divided during their



from the countryside to the cities. In Assisi, the great urban growth had a negative outcome as the chasm between the wealthy and poor widened significantly. This resulted in scarce housing leading to homelessness, escalating pricing for goods and necessities, along with rampant disease among the poor. The wealthy merchants enjoyed excessive profits on the backs of the poor. The Church was on the side of the wealthy and was riddled with corruption and struggles to acquire land and wealth. Francis witnessed the devastating changes taking place in Assisi and elsewhere. He passionately sought to be a “Bridge Builder” in four ways: First, to bridge the divide between Italy’s four classes: clerics, merchants, artists and the poor. His emphasis was on the dignity of every human person of every level of life. Francis helped to bring the marginal and the forgotten in to the mainstream. The forgotten received recognition. Second, to bridge the divide between the hierarchy and the laity. Francis, while praying in front of the Crucifix at San Damiano Church, heard Christ tell him to “Go and rebuild my church that has fallen into ruin.” Francis was a reformer and called on the Church to reform itself to be more inclusive by its witness, conversion and meeting the needs of the poor. Third, to bridge the divide between men and women. Wealthy women were damsels, similar to porcelain dolls. They had no place in the patriarchy of the Church or society. Lower class women were not recognized at all. Francis and Clare recognized this disparity, and they brought about significant changes. . Clare counseled Francis by encouraging him and offering spiritual companionship. Clare was recognized as an “Icon” of women in Assisi and elsewhere. She was a strong women and her leadership, like the Mayor of Assisi, was sought after and respected. Clare was the voice for women and obedient to the way of life that Francis envisioned for her and her sisters. Fourth, to bridge the divide between the artisans and merchants. Giotto and other artists began to have a status throughout Italy and the world by bringing the beauty of God and Jesus to visual appreciation. Francis was a poet who Dante credited with creating the finest poem written in Italian. What occurred in Assisi during the lives of Francis and Clare is happening in our society today. Father David asked each of us, “How can we as Franciscans participate in building bridges?” He stressed that all humans are images of Jesus and therefore, there is a sacredness and religious essence in humans. We are icons of Jesus’ humanity, and the Gospel tells us what it means to be human like Jesus by walking and living with the least in society. Our call is to renew and repair God’s house in fraternity. Each of us needs to encourage and promote honest conversation about the worth and dignity of all human persons.

Continued p2

senior friar at The Catholic Assisi, was the guest speaker at April 26, 2015. The focus of is JPIC and the Apostolate Pillar. “Courageous Leadership” which passion, rather than position or passion which inspired their encountered. The world was lifetimes as the population shifted

## **Spiritual Assistant:**

Rev. Douglas P. Reed

## **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

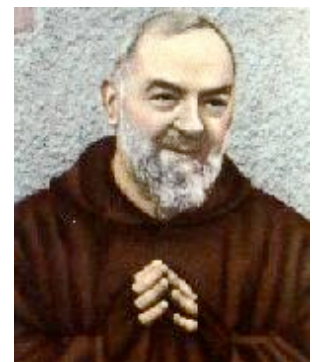
## **BSSF Region:**

Minister,

Jerry Rousseau, OFS,

Area 3 Councilors:

Frank Massey, OFS,



“Love the Blessed Mother  
and make her loved. Always  
say the Rosary.

~ St. Pio



## MAY, 2015 - OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH

### The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of May 2015

The month of May is dedicated to [The Blessed Virgin Mary](#). The first 24 days fall within the liturgical season of [Easter](#), which is represented by the liturgical color white — the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence (absolute or restored). The remainder of the month (beginning the Monday after Pentecost) is in [Ordinary Time](#) which is represented by the liturgical color green. This symbol of hope is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection.

[Universal](#): That, rejecting the culture of indifference, we may care for our neighbors who suffer, especially the sick and the poor.

[Evangelization](#): That Mary's intercession may help Christians in secularized cultures be ready to proclaim Jesus.



(See also [Apostleship of Prayer](#))

### FRANCISCAN SAINTS FOR MAY

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 3 Bl. Arthur Bell, Henry Heath, John Woodcock, et al., priests, martyrs of England, I Ord.  | 17 St. Paschal Baylon, religious, I Ord.                                     |
| 7 Bl. Agnellus of Pisa, religious, I Ord.   | 18 St. Felix of Cantalice, religious, I Ord.                                 |
| 8 Bl. Jeremiah of Valacchia, religious, I Ord..   | 19 St. Crispin of Viterbo, religious, I Ord. St. Theophilus of Corte, I Ord. |
| 9 St. Catherine of Bologna, virgin, II Ord.   | 20 St. Bernardine of Siena, priest, I Ord.                                   |
| 10 St. Ivo of Brittany, III Ord.  | 21 Bl. Franz Jägerstätter, Martyr, III Ord.                                  |
| 11 St. Ignatius of Laconi, religious, I Ord. Bl. Antonio of St. Anne Galvoa, I Ord., founder  | 24 Dedication of the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi                       |
| 12 St. Leopold Mandic, priest, I Ord.   | 28 St. Mariana of Jesus de Paredes, virgin, III Ord.                         |
| 16 <b>St. Margaret of Cortona, OFS.</b> joined the Secular Franciscans, and her son out of wedlock also joined the Franciscans a few years later. Margaret advanced rapidly in prayer and was said to be in direct contact with Jesus, as exemplified by frequent ecstasies. God saves repentant sinners. | 30 St. Ferdinand, king, III Ord. and St. Camilla Battista of Varano, OSC     |

**Note: The May Formation classes will hold a joint study on Franciscan devotion to Mary, in the Library of the Trinity Center on the fourth Sunday of May.**

Father David - Continued from p2

How can we build bridges? This is "Gospel Activism" not "Social Activism". Jesus, Francis and Clare had vision and passion. What is our vision and passion? How can we embrace the Ten Principles of Catholic Social Teachings and be a witness to them in our Franciscan apostolic life as courageous leaders? ~ *from Formation Director's notes*



OUR FRATERNITY MEMBERS AND ST. MARY'S FEED THE HOMELESS 4<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY

### Put These Dates on Your Calendar

**May 23** Tentative date for return to Oak City Center Outreach

**June 21** - Ceremony of Introduction and Welcoming of new Inquirers during our gathering

**August 7-9** Annual Regional Gathering at Ridgecrest Conference Center. Stan Driscoll, OFS minister urges us all to attend.

**Oct 2-4** OFS Retreat at Avila Retreat Center, Joanita Nellenbach, OFS, facilitator

**CPO in Raleigh still in need of helpers.**



### **The Third Order, Secular and Regular, is observing the 800 year anniversary of the birth of St. Louis IX, King of France, Our Patron.**

The Jubilee Year of Saint Louis must help us in going deeper into the reality of our baptism and of our profession inside the Secular Franciscan Order.

Louis was born on April 25, 1214 and was baptized on the same day. Louis was not born a saint ... he was a person like us... he struggled all his life against his flaws, with the help of God's grace; he controlled and overcome himself in various circumstances until his death. But in his heart he nourished the will to be conformed to the Gospel. He lived his entire life being aware of his dignity as child of God called to holiness, a contagious holiness expressed throughout his life and his teachings. By commemorating the birth of St. Louis King of France and co-patron of the OFS, eight hundred years later, we want to learn from him how to develop the grace of baptism in our lives, till reaching its fullness, which is perfection of charity.

The baptism is not an act occurred in our past. It has to irrigate our whole life, enlighten our choices, and guide our sacrifices. The reality of our baptism must be embodied in the reality of our life. (Rule 6, GG.CC. 14,3a; GG.CC. 17-27)

Saint Louis has accomplished all that. His baptism was an act with repercussions: he tried to live as a Christian, to seek justice as a Christian, to assume his duty as a king, as a Christian ... He did all this in his time, and according to the culture of his time, even if in contrast with the culture of that period. Following his example, today we are asked to be

faithful to our baptism, to live as Christians, to think as Christians, to act as Christians in our time and in our culture, even though in opposition to what surrounds us.

The human and Christian education was received from his mother, the Spanish Blanca from Castile. He was educated by her on devotion (living a devoted life). Because of this Louis IX combined his work at governing, knowing how to care for the spiritual and temporal well-being of his subjects, with an asceticism that has been highlighted as much by Catholic hagiography (biographies of the saints) as by lay commentators. (Voltaire said: "It's possible that no other man has carried virtue farther," surrendering to strong practices of penitence on Fridays, or acts of mercy, that in those times were considered acts of humiliation, like washing the feet of beggars. On Fridays, he also used to share his meal with lepers.

His faithfulness to the Catholic religion: Few rulers in history have been such friends and so faithful to their being Christian as Saint Louis. He used to enjoy going to monasteries (convents) a lot to pray with religious and to attend liturgical ceremonies. When someone told him that there were people who were criticizing him for being so pious and attending so many prayer meetings, he answered: *"I am not embarrassed by that nor will I ever be embarrassed. And I am certain that if, instead of going to those meetings to pray, I were to go to other meetings to drink, dance and having fun, then, yes, those people would say nothing. I prefer to praise my God although the*

*people may criticize me because it is for Him that I live and for Him that I work, in Him I hope for all things."*

Shortly after that he dictated his will that says: *"It is necessary to always avoid grave sin, and to be willing to suffer any ill, rather than commit a mortal sin. The most important thing in life is to love God with all your heart. When sorrows and sufferings come, one must offer all for love of God and as payment for our sins. And at times of success and prosperity to give thanks to the Lord and not to become worse due to pride. In the temple one must behave with supreme respect. With the poor and the afflicted we must be extremely generous. We should give thanks to God for his gifts, and thus he will grant us more favors. Let us always be faithful and respectful children toward the Holy Catholic Church, our mother, and the Supreme Pontiff as a spiritual father."*

On August 24 in the year 1270 he felt that he was going to die and he asked for the holy sacraments. Sometimes he would repeat: "Lord, I am happy, because I will go to your house in heaven to adore you and to love you always." On the 25 of August at three in the afternoon, he exclaimed: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit," and he died a holy death. Brothers and sisters on venerating the figure of our co-patron St. Louis, King of France, let us keep the values that he lived present in our minds and in our hearts:

*Continued on page 4*



### St. Louis IX - Continued from page 3

- as ruler, committed to justice and peace, when today we live in a world devastated by violence, corruption, selfishness and growing ego. He knew how to care for the spiritual and temporal well-being of his subjects.
- as loving son and obedient to the path indicated by his mother for his own well-being and the well-being of the kingdom of France, and, although respectful, when the time came, he acted decidedly in government, personal and family matters;
- as loving, passionate and faithful husband. Margarita and Louis had 11 children.
- as loving father, educator of his child in the faith, righteousness and austerity, respecting them as persons. Assuming suffering with faith and hope through the death of some of his 11 children. In short,
- As a Christian who desired to communicate his own "being" and "existence" to his fellow citizens and especially to the political class, he instilled in it some values that it absolutely lacked.

St. Louis understood that everything in this world belongs to the King of heaven and from that conviction he assumed his mission. "He rebuilt" the Church of his time, putting the love of God, his family, neighbor and his people, ahead of any other earthly good. *From the CIOFS website.*

### Our Servant Helpers

- 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.
- **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 Peluso, OFS.

### Happy May Birthdays

**Rev. Douglas P. Reed**

**May 22**

**Maureen Copan OFS**

**May 28**

**Cheryl Kornegay**

**May 29**



A birthday is just the first day of another 365-day journey around the sun. Enjoy the trip!

You were born an original.  
Don't die a copy.

### Happy Anniversary

Received the cord

and scapula of St Francis at

Holy Name College in  
Washington, DC

Frank Peluso, OFS

05/8/54



### We're on the Web!

Go to:

<http://ofscentralnc.org>



Maureen, Joanne, Stan, and Lee at the Oak City Outreach Center on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for all who served the food, cooked the 150 eggs, and donated the rest. Hopefully, more of us will get the chance to serve in some capacity.

♥ "Go to the Madonna. Love her!  
Always say the Rosary. Say it well. Say it  
as often as you can! Be souls of prayer.  
Never tire of praying, it is what is  
essential. Prayer shakes the Heart of  
God, it obtains necessary graces!"  
~ St. Padre Pio