



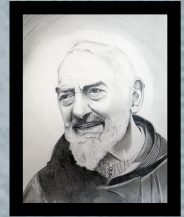
PADRE PIO FRATERNITY

BROTHER AND SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS REGION

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

MAY NEWSLETTER 2016

WE ARE ON THE WEB AT: [HTTP://OFSCENTRALNC.ORG](http://ofscentralnc.org)



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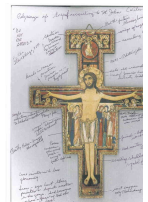
"Men do not fear a powerful hostile army as the powers of hell fear the name and protection of Mary."
--St. Bonaventure

CEREMONY OF INTRODUCTION AND WELCOMING APRIL 24TH FOR THERESA FLYNN

After completing the OFS Orientation Phase, Theresa Flynn is welcomed and introduced to the fraternity and stated that she has come to see our Franciscan way of life appealing to her. Thus, she would like to explore it further and is now welcomed as an inquirer.



April 24th meeting
Father Steve Kluge, OFM
Gave us Reflections on the
San Damiano Icon



We thank Father Steve for his thorough explanation of the images on the San Damiano Cross Icon. It appears that the scallops around the edge are a symbol of pilgrimage. Therefore, starting at the bottom which is apparently the last supper, we find a pilgrimage from Holy Thursday to the resurrection at the top. The unknown painter used the Gospel of St. John from John 13 to the end. Father Steve noted that "The cross invites us to love gloriously."



Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers



MARK THESE ON YOUR CALENDAR

- **May 22, 2016: Rite of Admission** for 6 inquirers at Fraternity Gathering at St. Francis of Assisi, Raleigh, NC, on the 4th Sunday of May, 2016
- **June 25, 2016, 11:00 AM Rite of Profession** at Our Lady of the Angels Chapel, Mass Celebrated by Fr. Steve Kluge, OFM, followed by a reception at 12:30 PM in the Assisi Community Center, Padua Room
- **June 30 - July 4, 2016: Secular Franciscan Quinquennial Gathering**, St Louis, Missouri. As St. Francis gathered the friars for a Chapter of Mats, the Secular Franciscan Order gathers every five years in a National Congress.
- **July 24, 2016 (NOTE CHANGE of LOCATION):**
- **Fraternity Gathering** at the Siena Center, Rooms 751 & 752
- **August 12-14, 2016: ARG** Ridgecrest Conference Center, NC



OUR LORD CALLED MOTHER ANGELICA HOME ON EASTER SUNDAY

As a young girl, Rita Rizzo of Cleveland was cured of a severe stomach ailment after making a novena to St. Therese. From that time on she had an impeccable love for Jesus. She joined the Poor Clare Order and then-on, there was no stopping her in seeking to do God's will. She established a monastery near Birmingham, AL; founded the Order of Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration and the Franciscan Friars of the Eternal Word. Most of all, she was the first woman to found a cable network dedicated to spreading the Gospel. She is particularly noted for her own program with quaint motherly anecdotes on the Scriptures. May she rest in peace.

A STRONG PAPAL MESSAGE

A Pope Francis spoke of empathy and mercy as he met with migrants on the Greek island of Lesbos. The Pope has desired to make a gesture of welcome regarding refugees, by accompanying on his plane to Rome three families of refugees from Syria, 12 people in all, including six children. The Pope has sent a strong message in relocating 12 people. The initial hospitality will be cared for by the Community of Sant'Egidio.

Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers



NEXT GATHERING

May 22, 2016
The Catholic Community
of
St. Francis of Assisi
Leesville Rd,
Raleigh, NC 27613

FORMATION

In the
Lifelong Education
Siena Center
Rooms 751 and 752
Meets from 11:00 am
to 12:15 pm

FRATERNITY GATHERING

at 1:00 to 3:00 pm
Anthony Hall,
in the
Founders Room

Oak City Outreach

May 21, 2016

Each one of you
have received a
Special Grace,
so like the good
Stewards responsible
for all these different graces
of God,
Put yourselves
At the service of others



I love you this much!

What is a vocation?

By Sr. Bernadette Marie Cappola, OSC

What is a vocation? A vocation is a call from God, and anyone who had felt God's call knows that the process is anything but simple.

St. Clare as well as St. Francis experienced this call as a process in the making. The call for them had three characteristics- prayer, listening and acting. No matter what our particular call are these, three characteristics must be part of our call.

St. Clare knew that her call was genuine as was not only for her but for others. She says in her Testament- "I commend all my sisters, both present and those to come..." Again at the end of her Testament she says, "I admonish and exhort all my sisters, both present and those to come, to strive always to imitate the way of holy simplicity, humility and poverty....".

We as community followers of St. Francis and St. Clare believe in our vocation and desire others to follow in the footsteps of St. Francis and St. Clare. Daily at Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Eucharist, we continue to pray for those called to the Franciscan (Gospel) way.

Sister Helen Goffrey, OSC before she died, wrote a beautiful prayer for vocations. We pray this prayer every Friday evening at the end of our sharing on the Sunday Gospel.

Sister Helen's Vocation Prayer For the Poor Clares

Our triune and loving God, you have called us to follow your path of love in our Gospel way of life, through the inspiration of Saints Clare and Francis, With grateful hearts we rejoice in this call and the grace to respond with our whole hearts.

Please hear our prayer as we earnestly ask you to inspire more women to follow in this path of the Beatitudes through a committed life in our Poor Clare community.

We trust in your love for us, and we entrust you with our petition, knowing that you are among us and that your reign will come in the fullness of time.

In the Triune mystery of You Who are Source of all, in union with the holy Name of Jesus and by the power of your spirit we bring our prayer to you in great confidence. Amen

The Poor Clare Nuns

The Monastery of St. Clare, 37 McCauley Rd,
Travelers Rest, SC 29690

Phone:(864) 834-8015. Website: @
www.poorclaresc.com/.

Email Prayer Requests to:
prayer@poorclaresc.com.

Send them your prayer intentions anytime.

Donations may be made to:
development@poorclaresc.com

Working Definitions for Secular Franciscans

Humility: "The honest recognition of the fact that we and all other beings in the universe are created by God from nothing. We are first receivers; and without God's creative love, we would simply be nothing. But, through the power of love, we are truly something: we are images of God and are called to become a greater likeness to Christ. This is the truth of our reality." (Z. Hayes, "Bonaventure," in The History of Franciscan Theology edited by K. Osborne. St. Bonaventure, NY: The Franciscan Institute, 1994. 199.)

Poverty: Franciscan poverty is "first of all a question of the most appropriate way for any human being to take up his or her existence as a gift of God in a universe which is itself a gift of God. Our first question, then, ought not to be about rights, possessions, and control. They ought to be about how one appropriately receives and lives the immense richness, goodness, and beauty of the gifts with which God blesses the whole of creation." (Z. Hayes, "Christ, Word of God and Exemplar of Humanity," The Cord 46.1 (1996): 11.)

Asceticism for the 21st Century: "In spiritual traditions, human attempts to receive and respond to grace are called asceticism. The word comes from the Greek askeo, 'to exercise'; it refers to all the authentic intentions and efforts we make toward fulfilling our deepest desire for God. Asceticism is our willingness to enter into the deserts of our lives, to commit ourselves to struggle with attachment, to participate in a courtship with grace." (May, Addiction and Grace, 141)



**DEACON THOMAS M. BELLO, OFS
DIED MARCH 29, 2016
AT HIS HOME IN MCLEAN, VA
FOLLOWING A BATTLE WITH CANCER.**

Deacon Bello was born in Durham, N.C., Sept. 17, 1949, and raised in Raleigh. He attended the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. After attending Oxford University in England, he was drawn to the spirituality and nonviolence of St. Francis and joined the Secular Franciscans in 1983. He was elected National Minister of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States in 2009.

Last summer, he wrote the following article for the *"Acting Franciscan"* on St. Therese of Lisieux. The Little Flower: "When I was diagnosed with an incurable cancer, metastatic melanoma, in June, 2015, one of the saints I turned almost instinctively to was St. Therese because she also had an incurable disease, tuberculosis, that took her when she was so much younger (24 to my 66).

I pray that you have also seen perhaps in a prayer card that you carry with you this intense, beautiful young daughter of the Lord staring at you as she stares at me every day near where I work and sleep: How did she do it? How did she surrender her life so gracefully to the Lord. Answer. Total love of an all-loving, all-merciful God.

What does she teach me? The same. Total trust in God, cancer or no cancer. We can control almost nothing, but we should never, never worry because our loving and merciful God is always there. I have spent many a day and sleepless night talking with her since my diagnosis. I have gone back to re-read her powerful autobiography, *THE STORY OF A SOUL*, which I first read in the late 80's. Her words have given me indescribable comfort, and I finally feel I have some slight grasp of her Little Way

Of course, the best way to understand her Little Way is to read her book yourself, and when you read, always bring the book to prayer and ask God to help you understand what God taught this great Saint of Mercy. I say "Saint of Mercy" because St. Therese deeply believes in the unfailing, unconditional mercy of God. She also wants us to be merciful with everyone, and when we can't be merciful with everyone as even she occasionally wasn't and writes about it, then we must be merciful with ourselves.

Whenever we fail at love or mercy, we give that failure to God. We can say as she said to the effect, "See, Lord, what a mess I am. I give you all my mess! You will have to fix it in your mercy. I cannot. I know you understand and forgive me because you are always my loving and merciful Father."

Her Little Way was to try not be any more than God had created her to be. She had nothing to prove

except to love God to the best of her ability and her neighbor. Nothing more. She wrote, "Frequently, only silence can express my prayer. However, this Divine Guest of the tabernacle understands all, even the silence of a child's soul filled with gratitude.

When I am before the tabernacle, I can say only one thing to Our Lord: "My God, you know that I love you" and I feel my prayer does not tire Jesus."

And thus she could write of her lifelong vocation: I knew that the Church had a heart and that such a heart appeared to be aflame with love. I knew that one love drove the members of the Church to action, that if this love were extinguished, the apostles would have proclaimed the Gospel no longer, the martyrs would have shed their blood no more. I saw and realized that love sets off the bounds of all vocations, that love is everything, that this same love embraces every time and every place. In one word, that love is everlasting.

"Then, nearly ecstatic with the supreme joy in my soul, I proclaimed: 'O Jesus, my love, at last I have found my calling: my call is love. Certainly I have found my place in the Church, and you gave me that very place, my God. In the heart of the Church, my mother, I will be love.'"

Total, unconditional love is her Little Way, which is not to say it is an easy way. It is, however, God's Way, and the Way that St. Therese followed all her life.

More than fighting cancer, for me, this Little Way, with the daily grace and merciful forgiveness of God when I fail, this Little Way is my life now in Jesus Christ."

As National Minister of the Fraternity, Tom often quoted his favorite Scripture passage.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" Philippians 4:4-7.



Deacon Tom Bello



St. Therese of Lisieux

Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers



HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS



Rev. Douglas Reed, 05/22
Maureen Copan, OFS 05/28
Ralph Benedetto OFS 05/29
Cheryl Kornegay 05/29

POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR MAY

1. Universal: Respect for Women
 That in every country of the world, women may be honored and respected and that their essential contribution to society may be highly esteemed.

2. Evangelization: Holy Rosary
 That families, communities, and groups may pray the Holy Rosary for evangelization and peace.

MAY DEDICATION

During this month Christians, both in church and in the privacy of the home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, too, the benefits of God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance" (Paul VI: Encyclical on the *Month of May*)

FRANCISCAN SAINTS FOR MAY

3 Bl. Arthur Bell, Henry Heath, John Woodcock, et al., I Order martyrs.

7 Bl. Agnellus of Pisa, religious of I O was founder of the Franciscan Order in England.

8 Bl. Jeremiah of Valacchia, I Order Cap.

9 St. Catherine of Bologna, virgin, II Order. Patroness of Artists. She became a Franciscan Tertiary at the age of fourteen. Catherine experienced visions of Christ and Satan, and wrote of her experiences.

10 St. Ivo of Brittany, III Order

11 St. Ignatius of Laconi, religious of I Order.

12 St. Leopold Mandic of Herzegovina, priest developed tremendous spiritual strength in spite of his disabilities.

16 St. Margaret of Cortona, III Order.

17 St. Paschal Baylon, religious of I Order. Patron of Eucharistic congresses

18 St. Felix of Cantalice, religious of I Order. noted for his austerities and piety.

19 St. Crispin of Viterbo, religious of I Order noted for miracles, prophecies, and holiness 19 St. Theophilus of Corte, I Order

20 St. Bernardine of Siena, priest of I Order. Pope Pius II called him a second Paul.

21 Bl. Franz Jägerstätter, Martyr, III Ord. martyred for refusing to serve in the Nazi military in 1943.

24 Dedication of the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi.

28 St. Mariana of Jesus de Paredes, virgin III O. called the "Lily of Quito."

30 Bl. Baptista Varano, virgin of II Order.

30 St. Ferdinand, King, member of III Order. drove the Moors out of Spain.

28 St. Mariana of Jesus de Paredes, virgin III O. called the "Lily of Quito"

30 Bl. Baptista Varano, virgin of II Order.

30 St. Ferdinand, King, member of III Order. drove the Moors out of Spain.

APOSTLATES

For CPO or library items
 contact Maureen
 Copan, 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

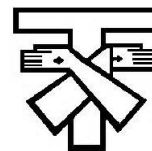
Prayer Requests:
 go to Ida Irwin OFS

Ida Irwin, OFS does our
 scrapbook.

Newsletter see Frank
 Peluso, OFS
 Articles welcome

Thank you Servant leaders

CONGRATULATIONS ON ANNIVERSARY OF PROFESSION



VIRGINIA CONWAY OFS

MAY 9 2003

FRANK PELUSO OFS

MAY 8 1954

Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers





GETTING TO KNOW US BETTER



CHERYL KORNEGAY - Cheryl was born in Louisburg, N.C. on May 29th, and moved to Durham, N.C. in 2011. She is married to Cutler Kornegay who is battling terminal cancer. They were married in 2000 and have two children, Cai and Grace. Their parish is the Immaculate Conception in Durham. She is currently working as a Paramedic. Cheryl likes writing and dance as her hobbies. She enjoys comedy humor, and the arts. Her family likes to take unusual vacations to fascinating places such as those with historical significance or interesting buildings, offbeat collections, and fun settings. The love of community service and a Franciscan heart brought her to our fraternity. This is a recent picture of Cheryl and Cutler. Please keep Cutler and the family in your prayers,

RALPH BENEDETTO, OFS - Ralph came to us recently, he was professed in the Padre Pio Fraternity back in 1990 and is delighted to be back. He was born in San Diego, CA on May 29th and came here from Monroe, N.C. in 1979. His career is as a microbiology teacher and has many hobbies such as road cycling, music, currently surfing, studying Japanese. Spanish, the Irish bouzouki, and forensics. Ralph has been married to Michelle for 17 years and has 3 stepchildren, 2 boys and a girl. They attend St. Mary's in Goldsboro. Michele has recently converted and received her first holy Eucharist in April. Reading *The Little Flowers of St. Francis* started his interest in the Franciscan's and the Holy Spirit kept pushing him to join. His Saint for this year's Ceremony of Extraction is St. John XIII whose joy and sense of humor appeal to Ralph.

MONSIGNOR DOUGLAS P. REED - Monsignor Douglas P. Reed was born on May 22, 1944, in Worcester, Massachusetts. He was ordained a priest on May 22, 1971 in Albany, New York, for the Immaculate Conception Province of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual. During his appointment in priestly ministry as a Friar in the Diocese of Raleigh, he applied to serve as a Diocesan Priest and was incardinated into the Diocese of Raleigh on September 15, 2000. Father Doug also had professed in Third Order of St. Francis of Assisi in 1961. As Pastor of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish in Cary, N.C. and Spiritual Assistant of our Padre Pio Fraternity, Father Doug provided assistance during reactivation.. For this we will be ever grateful to him.



"Today you are you! That is truer than true! There is no one alive who is you-er than you!" - Dr. Seuss

Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers



MAUREEN COPAN OFS: Maureen who is sometimes called Moe or Mac was born in Providence, RI on May 28th. She and her husband, Jay came here in 2007 from Fairfax, VA. They will have been married for 42 years next month. Maureen and Jay have two daughters and five grandchildren with another one on the way. She is a retired teacher.

Her hobbies are biking, kayaking, reading, and traveling. In fact, she and her husband are world travelers. Ask her about where she has been! Fr. Julian Jagudilla OFM, Associate Pastor at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in 2009, made an announcement about a meeting of Secular Franciscans at daily Mass one morning. Maureen went to the meeting and although there were a number of roadblocks along the way, she continued to pursue her vocation.

Her saint from the February extraction is Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini. With seven followers Mother Cabrini moved into an abandoned Franciscan friary and founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. She was devoted to the education of girls initially. Maureen states, "Since I was a teacher I'm attracted to her because she was an educator. She was a woman of amazing energy and in 1889 went to New York to work with Italian immigrants. By the time of her death there were more than fifty hospitals, schools, orphanages, convents and other foundations in existence. She totally trusted in the Lord and her life shows what one person is capable of doing when the Lord is in charge."



SAINT MARY OF THE PORTIUNCULA



How the Saint Loved This Place,
How the Brothers Lived There,
and How the Blessed Virgin loved it.

Francis, *the servant of God*,
was *small* in stature,
humble in attitude,
And *lesser* by profession.

While living in the world
he *chose* a little portion of *the world*
for himself and his followers,
since he could not serve Christ
unless he had something of this world.

Since ancient times, prophetically,
this place was called "the Little Portion,"
since it was the *lot ceded*
to those who wished to hold nothing of this world.
In this place

there was a church built for the Virgin Mother,
who by her unique *humility*,
deserved, after her Son,
to be the head of all the saints.

It is here the Order of the Lesser Ones
had its beginning.

As their numbers increased,
there "a noble structure arose,
upon their solid foundation."

The saint loved this place more than any other.

He commanded his brothers
to venerate it with special reverence.
He wanted it, like a mirror of the Order,
always preserved in humility and *highest poverty*.
and therefore kept its ownership
in the hands of others,
keeping for himself and his brothers
only the use of it.

As the blessed Francis used to say, God revealed to
him that among all other churches built in her honor
throughout the world, the blessed Virgin cherished
that church with *special affection*. — St.
Bonaventure

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