



The Padre Pio Fraternity

Secular Franciscan Order
The Brother and Sisters of St. Francis Region

Your Council wishes you a Holy End to Lent
and a most Joyful Easter



Alleluia

He is Risen



Important Days

Sunday, April 9, 2017 Palm
Sunday

Thursday, April 13, 2017
Holy Thursday

Friday, April 14, 2017
Good Friday

Sunday, April 16, 2017
Easter

April 23, 2017 Formation
and Gathering

May 6, 2017: Spring Social
Gathering, 11:30 AM to
1:30 PM, Saturday, Bond
Park, Cary, NC



David Shick, Anna Rzewnicki, Jeanne Casciere and Deacon Phil Rzewnicki participating in ongoing formation discussion.

NEW ORIENTATION GROUP

Jeanne Casciere, Joan Monti, Michael Oeser, Alexandra Rommel, David Shick, Ben Whitehouse, Gladys Whitehouse, Deacon Phil Rzewnicki, and Anna Rzewnicki started Orientation on January 22, 2017.

They are discerning a Franciscan vocation as an Invitation from God to share in His life for all people and the responsibilities and characteristics of Secular Franciscan lifestyle. Also, the orientees have been participating well in our gathering discussions.

These discerning Catholics are in our prayers that the Holy Spirit will guide them to proper discernment.

"Let nothing trouble you, let nothing make you afraid. All things pass away. God never changes. Patience obtains everything. God alone is enough." – Saint Teresa of Avila

Council Members	Formation Director: Sharon Winzeler, ofs	BSSF Region Minister: DorothyAnn Rowland, ofs
Spiritual Assistant: Vacant	Appointed Treasurer Louis Coker, ofs	Area 3 Councilors : Bob Pearson, ofs Carolyn Peruzzi, ofs
Lay Minister: W. Stanley Driscoll , ofs	Secretary: Maureen Copan. ofs	Next Gathering April 24, 2017
Vice Minister: Frank Peluso. ofs	Councilor: Suzanne Nelson, ofs	

THE HOLY'S FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR APRIL

April - For Young People. - That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.

April Devotion

The month of April is dedicated both to devotion to the Eucharist and devotion to the Holy Spirit. This tradition has developed because Easter Sunday often falls in April, and when it does fall in March, the Easter season continues on through all of April. In essence, April is a month of Easter, and during the Easter celebration we remember the Eucharistic sacrifice Christ gave us and the baptism in the Holy Spirit, which would come after Jesus's resurrection.

St. Pio Quote

"Have courage and do not fear the assaults of the Devil. Remember this forever; it is a healthy sign if the devil shouts and roars around your conscience, since this shows that he is not inside your will."

Padre Pio Councils

"Don't make an effort to overcome your temptations, because these efforts would strengthen them and do not dwell on them. Call to your imagination, Jesus Christ crucified in your arms and on your breast. And kissing His side a number of times; say this is my hope, the living source of my happiness. I will hold You tightly Jesus and will not let You go until You have placed me in a safe place." (Letters III p. 573-574.)

Padre Pio Moments

During the Second World War, in Italy, bread was being rationed. Padre Pio's monastery always had a lot of guests and the poor who begged there for food. One day the Friars went to the refectory and realized that the basket only had about two pounds of bread. They prayed and sat down before starting to eat. Padre Pio went into the church, and a while later when he came back he was holding a pile of bread in his hands. The Superior asked Padre Pio: "Where did you get all these loaves of bread?"

Padre Pio answered: "A pilgrim at the door gave them to me". Nobody commented, but everybody thought that only Padre Pio could meet such a pilgrim.

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair.

We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song." St. John Paul

II

APRIL FRANCISCAN CALENDAR

1. Bl. Elisabeth Vendramini, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1860
2. St. Francois de Paule, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1507
3. St. Benedict the Moor, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1589
- 4. Bl. Guillaume de Sicli, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1404**
- 5. St. Crescentia Hoess, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1744**
- 6. Bl. Angele Salawa, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1922** At her 1991 beatification in Kraków, Pope John Paul II said: **"It is in this city that she worked, that she suffered and that her holiness came to maturity. While connected to the spirituality of St. Francis, she showed an extraordinary responsiveness to the action of the Holy Spirit"** (L'Osservatore Romano, volume 34, number 4, 1991).
- 7. Bl. Mary Assunta, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1925**
8. Bl. Julian of St. Augustine, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1606
9. Bl. Thomas of Tolentino and Companions, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1321
11. Bl. Angelo of Chiavasso, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1495
12. Bl. Boniface Zukowski, Priest, Conventual Religious, martyr 1942
13. Bl. Isabelle Rovira, Virgin, Capuchin religious, martyr, 1937
- 14. Bl. Lidwina de Schiedam, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1433** For thirty years Lidwina endured this unrelenting suffering, offering it up in reparation for the sins of others. This participation in Christ's passion transformed the bitterness of her condition into sweetness and delight
15. Bl. Gandolph of Binasco, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1260
17. Bl. Paul de St. Madeleine, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1643
18. Bl. Andre Hibernon, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1734
19. Bl. Conrad of Ascoli, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1289
20. Bl. Anastase Pankewicz, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1942
21. Bl. Francis of Fabriano, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1322
22. St. Conrad de Parzham, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1894
23. Bl. Gilles of Assisi, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1262
24. St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest, Capuchin, martyr 1622
25. St. Marc, Grandes Rogations
- 26. Bl. Pierre De Pethancourt, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1667**
- 27. St. Zita of Lucca, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1278** Zita is a good saint for those of us who sometimes lose a chance to do some good by waiting to do something better.
28. St. Paul of the Cross, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1775
- 28. Bl. Luchesius, 1st Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1260 Plenary Indulgence for Franciscan Third Order Seculars (renewal of Tertiary Commitment)**
29. Bl. Benedict of Urbino, Priest, Capuchin, d. 1625
- 30. St. Joseph Benedict Cottolengo, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1842** To carry on his work, Joseph organized two religious communities, the Brothers of St. Vincent de Paul and the Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul. Joseph, who had joined the Secular Franciscans as a young man, was canonized in 1934.



GETTING TO KNOW US BETTER

Marguerite Zombek, OFS, aka Marge was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania on April 13th. She came here from East Point, GA. in August of 2000. Her husband is deceased; she was married for over 20 years. They have 3 children: two sons and a daughter. Sadly, one of her sons is deceased. She belongs to St. Andrew, the Apostle Church in Apex, where she belongs to several ministries. Her hobbies include tending to her houseplants and reading when time permits. She was professed in Italy on of September 23, 1975. She was attracted to the Secular Franciscans because of her devotion to Padre Pio. Her favorite vacation spots are visiting her loved ones as well as Rome and San Giovanni Rotondo in Italy. Her Saint of Extraction in February 2016 was the interesting Blessed Angela of Foligno, who was married. When her husband died, Angela gave away her possessions and started a community of tertiaries devoted to the care of the needy.

Louis Coker, OFS was born in Charleston, S.C. the oldest and second-largest city in the U.S. State of South Carolina. This is evident in his Southern charm and gentlemanly manners. He and his twin brother were born on April twenty ninth. He and his wife Alice came here from Charleston in 1972 and built a lovely home in Creedmore where they raised a son and a daughter. The children have blessed them with 9 grandchildren. Mary Alice passed away a couple of years ago. Since then, Louis began RCIA and converted to Roman Catholicism from the Episcopal Church. He enjoys reading and cooking as well as traveling alone. He was attracted to our fraternity when seeking a more spiritual life. We are blessed to have him as he now administers the NAFRA Database information and is the appointed treasurer. His Saint from the February 2016 Extraction was the great theologian, St. Bonaventure of Bagnoregio. Louis admires him from his historical writings and beautiful sayings about St. Francis.

Sr. Annemarie, OSC - Birthday March 24th - Poor Clare Prayer Partner - I was born on Long Island, the sixth of eight children, four boys and four girls. From an early age I felt drawn to a relationship with God and to religious life. Franciscan values spoke to my heart: following the poor Christ, a simple Gospel life, a joyful loving community, love of all God's beautiful creation. As a Poor Clare my contemplative life in the Church lifts up to the Father the joys and sorrows and needs of all people. I join my life to the prayer of Jesus: "Thy Kingdom come!" (<http://poorclaresc.com/zzz/who-we-are/staff/>)

Apostolates

For CPO or Library E-mail

Maureen Copan, ofs

For Hospitality Email

Marie Roccoforte, ofs

For JPIC & Oak City

Outreach, Email

Ellen Ferrone, ofs (Oak
City is 4/22/17)

For Prayer Requests Email

Laurie Wilburn, ofs

For the Scrapbook Email

Lee Cunningham, ofs, ofs

For Sunshine

Call Marge Zombek, ofs

For the Newsletter Email

Frank Peluso, ofs

For the Website Email

Michael Hancock, ofs.

We are on the web at:
<http://ofscentralinc.org>

I love you this much



What is Meant by Poverty, Humility, and Penance for Our Times?

Although they lived nearly 800 years ago, Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi serve as excellent escorts for the contemporary Lenten journey. Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi discarded their affluent lifestyles and adopted lives of poverty, humility, and asceticism to better follow the call to the Gospel life. Both saints underwent intense conversion experiences in their lifetime. In the path of their conversions, they awakened a movement that reformed the Church and that continues to influence and inspire millions of people today. But, what can we define as poverty, humility, and asceticism in the lives of Franciscans in our times?

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.)

Humility is “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.)

“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.” (Gerald May, *Addiction and Grace*, 141)

St. Joseph Benedict Cottolongo by Ralph Benedetto, ofs

At the extraction in February, the saint I received was St. Joseph Benedict Cottolongo. I had never heard of him, so I did a little research. The first thing that I discovered was that he was born in a city in the Piedmont region of Italy and that his name was actually Giuseppe Benedetto Cottolongo, a fact which made me think of him as “Cousin Giuseppe”. (In passing, we are surely not related. His middle name is merely the male version of his mother’s first name, and his family and my ancestors are from totally different regions of Italy.)

The Daily Examen is a form of prayerful reflection on the events of the day in order to detect God's presence and discern his direction for us. The Examen is an ancient practice in the Church that can help us see God's hand at work in our whole experience.

The method presented here is adapted from a technique described by Ignatius Loyola in his *Spiritual Exercises*. St. Ignatius thought that the Examen was a gift that came directly from God, and that God wanted it to be shared as widely as possible. One of the few rules of prayer that Ignatius made for the Jesuit order was the requirement that Jesuits practice the Examen twice daily—at noon and at the end of the day. It's a habit that Jesuits, and many other Christians, practice to this day.

This is a version of the five-step Daily Examen that St. Ignatius practiced.

1. Become aware of God's presence. Look back on the events of the day in the company of the Holy Spirit. The day may seem confusing to you—a blur, a jumble, a muddle. Ask God to bring clarity and understanding.
2. Review the day with gratitude. Gratitude is the foundation of our relationship with God. Walk through your day in the presence of God and note its joys and delights. Focus on the day's gifts. Look at the work you did, the people you interacted with. What did you receive from these people? What did you give them? Pay attention to small things—the food you ate, the sights you saw, and other seemingly small pleasures. God is in the details from it.
3. Pay attention to your emotions. One of St. Ignatius's great insights was that we detect the presence of the Spirit of God in the movements of our emotions. Reflect on the feelings you experienced during the day. Boredom? Elation? Resentment? Compassion? Anger? Confidence? What is God saying through these feelings? God will most likely show you some ways that you fell short. Make note of these sins and faults. But look deeply for other implications. Does a feeling of frustration perhaps mean that God wants you consider a new direction in some area of your work? Are you concerned about a friend? Perhaps you should reach out to her in some way.
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it. Ask the Holy Spirit to direct you to something during the day that God thinks is particularly important. It may involve a feeling—positive or negative. It may be a significant encounter with another person or a vivid moment of pleasure or peace. Or it may be something that seems rather insignificant. Look at it. Pray about it. Allow the prayer to arise spontaneously from your heart—whether intercession, praise, repentance, or gratitude.
5. Look toward tomorrow. Ask God to give you light for tomorrow's challenges. Pay attention to the feelings that surface as you survey what's coming up. Are you doubtful? Cheerful? Apprehensive? Full of delighted anticipation? Allow these feelings to turn into prayer. Seek God's guidance. Ask him for help and understanding. Pray for hope.
6. St. Ignatius encouraged people to talk to Jesus like a friend. End the Daily Examen with a conversation with Jesus.
From: <http://www.ignatianspirituality.com/>

“Lord that I may see”

When I see Franciscans go to jail in search of justice for human dignity, I remember St. Francis and his father.
 When I see the Pope at Assisi praying for peace with leaders of other religions, I think of St. Francis' desire for peace.
 When I see enemies settle their differences through dialogue, I think of St. Francis and Sultan al Malik.
 When I hear a priest's sermon, I consider St. Francis' love for the Gospel.
 When someone smiles at me when passing by, I reflect on St. Francis' preaching without words.
 When fraternity members show kindness because of my old age and infirmities, I see St. Francis washing the lepers.
 When I hear a formator talking of love for Christ through Francis, I remember St. Francis' teaching his brothers.
 When someone gives to the poor or helps the homeless, I visualize St. Francis' compassion for others.
 When I see the calming effect of a nature walk among the greenery with the birds, squirrels, and geese, I meditate on St. Francis' love of God's creation.
 When alone at home and contemplating God's love for us, I remember St. Francis at the Emero di Carceri.
 When I see anyone in pain and suffering, I imagine the sufferings of St. Francis and his likeness to Jesus.

By the Editor