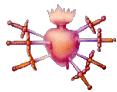


Padre Pio Fraternity – Newsletter



Gatherings at: The Community of St. Francis of Assisi

11401 Leesville Rd, Raleigh, NC 27613

Volume 4, Issue 11

ARG 2016 “BE MERCIFUL AS YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS MERCIFUL” CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS

MOUNTAIN TOP MOMENTS AT ARG

(Poem by S. Lynn Oeser, OFS)

San Damiano Cross center stage,
Image below Fr Linus De Santis
OFM Conventual
of happy memory.

Greetings and hugs tempered by
the reverent fragrance of lonely
Emmaus.

Spark of Minister ignites song of
servant leader:

“I am FOR you local fraternity!
You are where formation, life, heart
and soul of fraternity begins.”
Servant Leaders task elections.
Brothers and sisters pray.

Wisdom and memories of Fr Linus
solace hearts.

Brother joyfully feeds and shelters
children in Africa.

Animator challenges brothers and
sisters to “Mindful Mercy” for
all because we are Franciscans!

Sister and Brother quench village
with clean water.

New verse sings: “Fr Linus you’ve
done what’s yours to do. Now
you’re with Francis on the Most
High way.



Please intercede on our behalf so we may pray
and serve and laugh everyday! Ridgecrest Roads...”

With Agape we close. We confess, we remember, we
rejoice, we give thanks, we depart, and with burning
hearts ,
We begin.
Pax et Bonum

For a recap of ARG see page 6 - a help toward understanding the poem.

☆ *The next gathering is September 25th in the Founders Room at 1:00 pm*



THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER IS DEDICATED TO THE SEVEN SORROWS OF MARY.

Devotion to the sorrows of the Virgin Mary dates from the twelfth century, when it made its appearance in monastic circles under the influence of St. Anselm and St. Bernard. The Cistercians and then the Servites undertook to propagate it. It became widespread in the fourteenth and especially the fifteenth centuries, particularly in the Rhineland and Flanders.

THE SEVEN SORROWS OF OUR LADY

1. The Flight into Egypt
2. The Prophecy of Simeon
3. Loss of the Child Jesus
4. Meeting Jesus on the Way of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion
6. Taking Jesus Down from the Cross
7. The burial of Jesus



Statue in San Miguel Church in Valladolid, Spain

FRANCISCAN SAINTS FOR SEPTEMBER

- 1 Bl. Beatrice of Silva, virgin, II Order, founder.
- 2 Bl. John Francis Burté, Bl. Severin Girault, Companions, martyrs, I, III Orders.
- 2 Bl. Apollinaris of Posat, priest & martyr of I Order
- 3 Bl. Claudio Granzotto, I Order
- 14 Pedro de Corpa and Companions, "the five Franciscan Martyrs"
- 17 Stigmata of our holy Father Francis
- 18 St. Joseph of Cupertino**, priest, I Order. It is said that the life of this saint was marked by ecstasies and levitations. The mere mention of God or a spiritual matter was enough to take him out of his senses; at Mass he frequently floated in the air in rapture. Thus, he is known as "The Flying Saint" He is also the patron of those taking an exam.
- 22 St. Francis Mary of Camporosso, rel. I Order.
- 22 St. Ignatius of Santhia, priest I Order
- ☆ **23 Padre Pio**, also known as St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Italian: Pio da Pietrelcina), O.F.M. Cap. (May 25, 1887 – September 23, 1968), was a friar, priest, stigmatist, and mystic, now venerated as a saint of the Catholic Church. Born Francesco Forgione, he was given the name of Pio when he joined the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin. Padre Pio became famous for exhibiting stigmata for most of his life, thereby generating much interest and controversy. He was both beatified (1999) and canonized (2002) by St. John Paul II.
- "Pray, Hope, and Don't Worry" ~ St. Pio
- 24 Finding of the Body of St. Clare
- 24 St. Pacifico of San Severino (I Order)
- 26 St. Elzear of Sabran & Bl. Delphina of Glandenes, husband & wife of III Order.
- 26 Bl. Aurelio of Vinalesa, priest, & 16 Companions
- 28 Bl. Innocent of Berzo, priest

"And Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary thine own soul a sword shall pierce, that out of many hearts thoughts may be revealed" (Luke II: 34-35).

"Turn your eyes incessantly to the Blessed Virgin; she, who is the Mother of Sorrows and also the Mother of Consolation, can understand you completely and help you." ~ St. John Paul II



CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE SPECIAL KIND OF AN AMERICAN WITH ST. PADRE PIO

I first learned of our patron, St. Padre Pio from my cousin Joe in 1944. He spent much time after World War II making the illustrious saint known through out the United States. His son, Thomas continues to work for the Padre Pio Foundation in America. ~ The Editor

Joe Peluso was an American soldier who was stationed in Italy during World War II. One day he received a letter from his mother, Rose and she told him that there was a holy priest named Padre Pio living in Italy. She did not know what part of Italy he lived in but she wanted Joe to find out and to visit him. Joe asked the military chaplain on the base if he knew anything about Padre Pio. The military chaplain started laughing and pointed to the mountain that was directly in front of them. "Padre Pio lives right on that mountain," he said to Joe. Curiosity got the better of him and Joe decided to make the short trip to see him. It was October 6, 1944.

Padre Pio loved the visits of the American soldiers and always greeted them cordially. His counsel to the soldiers was unique. He used simple and childlike words when talking to them and giving them advice. Sometimes he would pat them on the head in a paternal way and simply say, "Be a good boy."

Over the next ten months, Joe was able to visit Padre Pio many times and they became very close. Often he was invited to eat with the Capuchins at the monastery. While everyone else enjoyed their food, Joe noticed that Padre Pio simply pushed his food around on the plate. His

daily intake of food would only fill the cup of his hand. He once said, "I need very little of this world's goods. I need just a little bit of food, a little sleep and few possessions."

Once Padre Pio asked Joe to select a name for his guardian angel. "Pick a name for your guardian angel and call him by that name always," Padre Pio said to Joe. "When you send him to me, he will come instantly."

One day Joe asked Padre Pio if he would accept him as his spiritual child. Padre Pio readily agreed. Then he asked him if he would accept his wife as his spiritual child and he agreed as well. Realizing the wonderful opportunity, he then asked Padre Pio if he would accept his daughter. Joe's aunts and uncles then came into his mind. Somehow, the way the conversation was going struck both of them as funny. Joe and Padre Pio began to laugh. They laughed so hard that tears were rolling down their faces. Suddenly Padre Pio became very serious and said to Joe, "Joe, when the war is over and you return to the United States, tell the American people, that for those who would like me to be their spiritual father, my answer is yes. I accept all Americans as my spiritual children. I only have two requirements — that they lead very good Catholic lives and that they regularly

receive the sacraments. And please, tell them never to embarrass me in front of Jesus and Mary. You must tell them, Joe."

Joe felt that it was an impossible request. He lived in a very small town in Pennsylvania. He was not an important person. He did not know many people. How could he tell all of America what Padre Pio had asked him to? Nevertheless, when he returned to the U.S. he tried to do what was asked of him. He made a slide show presentation of Padre Pio's life and over the years he showed it to thousands of people. Joe died in 1996, after having spent 50 years sharing the message of Padre Pio with more people than he could have ever imagined.





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 09/23/2016

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're on the Web!
Go to: <http://ofscentralnc.org/>

HAPPY ANNIVERSARIES OF PROFESSION

Marguerite Zombek OFS
September 23, 1975
41 years
Joanne Jacovec OFS
September 23, 2000
16 years

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

Marie Roccoforte 2-Sep
Stan Driscoll 14-Sep
Michael Oeser 17-Sep
Ellen Ferrone 19-Sep



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Spiritual Assistant:
David McBriar, OFM

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

GETTING TO KNOW US BETTER

Marie Roccaforte AKA Mim was born in New York on September 2nd. She has been married to John Roccoforte for 46 years. They have one son and two daughters as well as two grandchildren. They came here from New Jersey in 1990. She didn't want to move, so John promised to buy her a horse if she agreed. Trail riding is now one of her hobbies. She loves being in nature and enjoys photography and animals. Their parish is St. Andrews in Apex. Marie is a retired nurse who now works part time in a sales boutique. Her desire for spiritual growth brought her to our fraternity. St. Charles Borromeo is her Saint from the Extraction. She admires his work with the poor.

Ellen Ferrone. OFS was born in New York City, N.Y. on September 9th. She was married to her husband John, for 10 years. He passed away in December of 1986. She is devoted to family, especially her two grand nieces. Ellen came to Raleigh on November 11, 2011 from San Diego, CA. She is a retired HR Director and Program Manager and brings these assets to our Fraternity and to her parish, which is The Community of St. Francis of Assisi. She graciously took over as JPIC coordinator and procures services and donations to our apostolate at the Oak City Outreach Center in Raleigh. At church, she an Extraordinary Minister, belongs to the Support Circles, and is on the Justice and Peace Council. Her hobbies include cooking and traveling. She felt the need to bring more of a prayerful sense to her ministry and outreach work which brought her to our fraternity. Her Saint for the February Extraction is our patron St. Elizabeth of Hungary. Ellen appreciates the fact that they are both widows and enjoys cooking since St. Elizabeth is also the Patron Saint of bakers.



TREVOR THOMPSON TALKS ON LAUDATO SI



At our August 28th Gathering, **Trevor Thompson**, Director of Justice and Peace at The Catholic Community of St. Francis presented his perceptive and impressions of the Ecological Education and Spirituality of Pope Francis' *Laudato Si*. He encouraged us to dialogue on the "care of our common home."

THE TRANSITUS

The Transitus is a Franciscan devotion to ritually remember the passing of Saint Francis from this life into God. This ritual takes place each year, the evening of October 3rd. The Feast day of Saint Francis is celebrated October 4th when many churches have the blessing of animals. The Transitus has become a significant annual event for Franciscans. To ritually revisit the story of Francis' passing is vital; without it something significant is missing. It specifies the living memory of Francis; it intensifies our commitment to follow Christ in the way of the poor man of Assisi."

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**The Transitus of St. Francis will be  
celebrated in the Church of The Catholic  
Community of St. Francis  
11401 Leesville Rd, Raleigh, NC 27613  
October 3, 2016 at 7:00 PM.  
All are invited to come and participate;  
bring your family and friends.  
Reception follows in the Founders Room.**

## Getting to Know Us Better (Continued)

**Susan Lynn Oeser, OFS** who is known as Lynn was born on August 8th in Buffalo, NY. She is married to **Mike Oeser** who is an Affiliate of our Fraternity and was born on September 17th. They have been married for 37 years and came here from Charlottesville, VA in 1983. They have one daughter and three sons who have gifted them with five grandchildren. They are parishioners of St. Mathew Catholic Church in Durham. Both enjoy the outdoors particularly hiking. Lynn felt she has been called to the Secular Franciscan family for years. Both she and Mike went on a pilgrimage to Italy, including Assisi and places of interest in St. Francis' life. They also visited Bagnoregio, the birthplace of St. Bonaventure. Lynn's Saint from Extraction is St. Bridget of Sweden who like Lynn, was a wife and a mother. Both she and Mike can be seen at the Oak City Outreach every month. Currently, she is building a grotto.

**Michael Oeser, Affiliate**, Known as "Mike" was born in Cherry Valley, N.Y. and has been married to Lynn for 37 years. They have a daughter and three sons who have blessed them with 5 grandchildren. He and his sons are building a cabin on land they own in the Blue Ridge Mountains. He works as an IC Circuit Design Engineer. His hobbies include hiking, fishing, hunting and spending time with family. His desire to grow spiritually brought him to our fraternity.



**ARG 2016 “  
CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS  
RECAP:**

*Liturgy of the Hours:* Welcome and Opening prayer by DorothyAnn Rowland, OFS, BSSF Regional Minister and Jan Parker, OF, National Minister: *Quinquennial Recap*; and First, Second and Third Call for *Nominations*

Cricket Aull, OFS Presentation: *Remembering Father Linus. Parade of the Banners* - Lynn Oeser, OFS carried our fraternity's banner.

*Celebration of the Eucharist* (Offering collected for Father Linus Province Education Burse (over \$1000 collected); Procession to the **Adoration Chapel. Chapter of Elections** (held in a separate room); Presentation by Stephen Smith, OFS “*A Ugandan Summer to Remember*” a mission trip feeding the children, building two new school kitchens and homes for widows and orphans, providing medical treatment, lessons on hygiene and purity, celebrating Mass: **Memorial** for deceased members: please pray for the repose of the souls of Father Linus DeSantis, OFM Conventual, Deacon Thomas Bello, OFS. Harley Sullivan, OFS, Jeanne Umbarger, OFS, Bertha Blandon, OFS, Rose Vega, OFS and Ann Marie Keller, OFS; Presentation on *How to JPIC* by Carolyn

Townes, OFS National and Regional JPIC Animator; Father Louie, OFM of St. Francis Springs, had his usual sales of Franciscan Books and Articles.

**The Chapter of Elections** for the Region was lengthy for those who had to attend. - Jan Parker, OFS National Minister and Father Pistascio, OFM Spiritual Assistant presided over the elections, Besides the election, the council approved the 2017 Budget, announced that **Br. William Short, OFM** will be the main speaker for the 2017 ARG on August 11- 13, 2017 and gave an update on a formation program for Inactive Secular Franciscans desiring to return to active OFS life.

**The BSSF Regional Council Members elected are:**

Minister: DorothyAnn Rowland, OFS  
Vice-Minister: Carmen Madero, OFS  
Secretary: Barbara Garrison, OFS  
Treasurer: Ken Brooke, OFS  
Formation Director: Dianne Ambrose, OFS  
Area 3 Councilors: Bob Pearson, OFS and Carolyn Peruzzi, OFS

**Extra-added attract-ions** included Jan Parker singing some Franciscan songs accompanied by Willie Guadalupe, Carolyn Townes and Jerry Rousseau. What a talented National Council we hav

Jerry Aull composed an amusing song concerning “Ridge-crest Roads.” This year he changed it as Lynn mentioned in her poem as “the new verse.”.

We also had the **Renewal of the OFS Profession Commitment** which is as follows:

*We thank you Lord, for calling us to the Secular Franciscan Order. We ask your pardon for all our shortcomings, weaknesses and transgressions against our commitment to the Gospel life and against the Rule.*

*We renew once again our commitment to the Gospel life, according to the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, until the end of our days,*

*Grant also that we may live in harmony with our brothers and sisters, and that we may give witness to younger people of the great gift we have received from You: our Franciscan calling to “go forth as witnesses and instruments of the Church’s mission among all the people, proclaiming Christ by our life and our words.”*

*Most High Glorious God, grant that we may live justice and peace.*

*All praise be Yours, O Lord, through all that You have made. Amen*