



THE PADRE PIO SECULAR FRANCISCAN FRATERNITY

Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region



Gatherings at St. Francis Church, 11401 Leesville Rd, Raleigh, NC 27613
Usually the Fourth Sunday at 1:00 pm in the Founders Room
Laudetur Iesus Christus!

April 22, 2018 Gathering



Suzie Nelson, OFS, led us in Ongoing Formation. The topic was on "Seeing Christ in All," in Theresa Baker, OFS's book, **To Set Themselves Free**. Article 13: As the Father sees in every person the features of his Son, the firstborn of many brothers and sisters, so the Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ. A sense of community will make them joyful and ready to place themselves on an equal basis with all people, especially with the lowly for whom they shall strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ. This article was read by members, before the gathering, Suzie put a focus for us in her presentation and questions were shared in small groups. Each group's findings were shared with the entire gathering.

During social time, we celebrated the April birthdays. Pictured right, is Louis Coker, OFS with Gladys Whitehouse, our Hospitality Hostess (Picture by Sharon Winzeler, OFS). It was also the birthday of Marge Zombec, OFS, and we miss her. Marge is recuperating from surgery for a broken hip. We wish her well and hope that she is back with us soon.



May 19, 2018 Regional Formation Workshop

A couple of people have asked me if they could attend the Formation Workshop. Because of the large numbers of Secular Franciscans coming from other fraternities in the region, the workshop is limited to professed formators, spiritual assistants and ministers.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Spiritual Assistant
Greg Spuhler, OFM
 Conv.

Minister:
Joe Travers, OFS

Vice Minister: Victoria
Romero, OFS

Secretary:
Michael Hancock, OFS

Treasurer:
Louis Coker, OFS

Formation Director:
S. Lynn Oeser, OFS

Councilors:
Lee Cunningham, OFS
Ellen Ferrone, OFS
Suzie Nelson, OFS

BSSF

Regional Minister
DorothyAnn Rowland,
OFS

Area 3 Councilors:
Bob Pearson, OFS
Carolyn Peduzzi, OFS

May Devotion

May is the month of Mary; devotion to the Blessed Mother throughout May originated in Rome in the 18th century to counter immorality and infidelity among students at a college there. It has spread through most of the Latin Church now. Because the North American holiday of Mother's Day falls in May, Catholics take this time to recall and try to emulate Mary's role as mother. Therefore devotion to Mary in the month of May focuses both on Mary as a role model for Christian mothers, and Mary's ever lasting chastity and purity, and her fidelity to God's will.

Holy Father's Intention For May

Evangelization – The Mission of Laity

That the lay faithful may fulfill their specific mission, by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today. - *USCCB*

Padre Pio And Mary

In a letter of 6 May 1913, he gives vent to a delicate filial gentleness, writing: "Here we are at last in the month of our beautiful Mother once again.... This dear Mother continues to lavish her maternal care upon me, especially during the present month. She takes care of me to an exceeding degree.... I am all aflame although there is no fire. I feel myself held fast and bound to the Son by means of this Mother.... I'd like to fly off to invite all creatures to love Jesus and Mary."

"May the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, always smile on your spirit, obtaining for it, from her Most Holy Son, every heavenly blessing." - *St. Pio*

Happy May Birthdays

22 Theresa Flynn, OFS
24 Anna Rzewnicki
28 Maureen Copan, OFS
29 Ralph Benedetto



We are a better fraternity by knowing you all.
Thank you for sharing your wisdom
and spirituality with us
and we just want to say happy birthday to
beautiful souls like you.

A New Obligatory Memorial

Notification on the Memorial of the *Blessed of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church* This "Notification" from the Church's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has clarified that the new Obligatory Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, must be celebrated in the Ordinary form of the Roman Rite beginning this year, 2018. The new feast is to be observed on the Monday following Pentecost. - *Vatican, March 24, 2018*

APOSTOLATES

For CPO or Library
Email Maureen Copan, OFS

For JPIC & Oak City
Outreach, Email Ellen
Ferrone, OFS
(Oak City 05/26/18)

For Prayer Requests
Email Joe Travers, OFS

For the Scrapbook
Email Lee Cunningham,
OFS

For Hospitality Email
Gladys Whitehouse

For Sunshine
Call Marge Zombek, OFS

For the Newsletter
Email Frank Peluso, OFS

For the Website
Email Michael Hancock,
OFS.

For the music Ministry
And Formation
Email S. Lynn Oeser, OFS

We are on the web at:

<http://ofscentralnc.org>

Accredited Apparitions of Mary

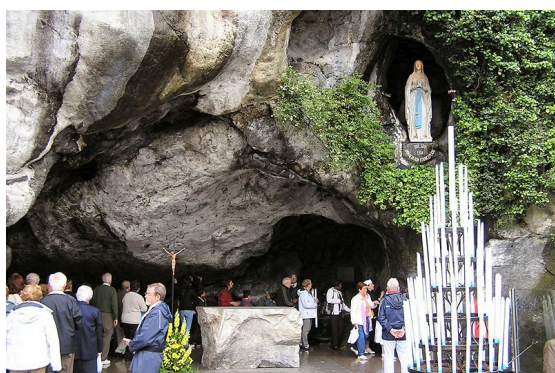
Our Lady of Guadalupe



Saint Juan Diego experienced his first vision of the Virgin Mary on December 9, 1531. While on his way to mass, he was visited by Mary, who was surrounded in heavenly light, on Tepeyac Hill on the outskirts of what is now Mexico City. On December 12, while searching for a priest to administer last rites to his uncle, Juan Diego was visited by Mary a second time. Mary informed Juan Diego that his uncle would recover from his illness. Later, Saint Juan Diego found many roses on a hill in the winter. When he opened his cloak while appearing before the bishop, dozens of roses fell out, and an image of Mary was imprinted on the inside of his cloak. The bishop ordered that a church be built on Tepeyac Hill in honor of the Virgin Mary. Juan Diego returned home and found his uncle's health restored.

Our Lady of Lourdes

At the Grotto of Lourdes, between February 11, 1858 and July 16, Saint Bernadette had a series of visions of the Virgin Mary. The Virgin Mary revealed her identity with the words "I am the Immaculate Conception." Saint Bernadette steadfastly defended the genuineness of these visions despite strong opposition. Saint Bernadette prevailed and Lourdes became a privileged sanctuary where Mary dispenses many favors, and many obtain a cure of their illnesses,



both spiritual and corporal. Saint Bernadette was canonized by Pope Pius XI. (Secular Franciscan)

Our Lady of Fátima

Fátima is without question the greatest 20th century apparition. On May 13, 1917, and in each subsequent month until October, three young peasant children, Lucia dos Santos and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto, saw a woman who identified herself as the Lady of the Rosary. On October 13, Our Lady of the Rosary appeared to the children, and afterwards a crowd at Fátima witnessed a miraculous solar phenomenon. On October 13, 1930 the Bishop of Leiria accepted the children's visions as the appearance of the Virgin Mary. Devotion to the Our Lady of the Rosary includes frequent recitation of the rosary and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

From <http://mariandevotion.org/apparitions-of-mary/>



The following is St. Francis' prayer praising the Blessed mother:

Hail Lady, Holy Queen, Holy Mary Theotokos, who art the Virgin made church and the One elect by the Most Holy Father of Heaven, whom He consecrated with His Most Holy beloved Son and with the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete; Thou in whom was and is all fulness of grace and every good.

Hail His Palace; Hail His Tabernacle;
Hail His Home; Hail His Vestment;
Hail His Handmaid; Hail His Mother

And hail all you holy virtues, which through the grace and illumination of the Holy Spirit are infused into the hearts of the faithful, so that from those unfaithful you make them faithful to God.

The “St. Francis of Our Times”

Following the canonization Mass, the Holy Father emerged from St. Peter’s Basilica with his concelebrants, all garbed in red vestments, publicly proclaiming the Servant of God a martyr: *a martyr of faith animated by love*: **“Greater love has no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends” (Jn 15:12).** That love, which is so very dear to the Franciscan life, was the summary of the life of St. Francis, the Poverello of Assisi. For this very reason, Pope Paul VI had called Blessed Maximilian the **“St. Francis of our times”** during his beatification ceremony some years earlier, on October 19, 1971.



At age thirteen, Raymond Kolbe became fascinated by the Franciscan ideals preached by two Conventual Franciscans who conducted a parish mission at his church in Pabianice in 1907. Soon thereafter, he and his elder brother, Francis, entered the Franciscan minor seminary in Lwów. During his formation and study there, the makings of a saint continued to deepen. He fervently sought to draw profit from all the means accessible for his personal sanctification.

Having been sent to Rome to further his theological studies, his magnanimous soul found its expression in the intensity of his love for the Immaculate! His Franciscan formation augmented his thirst for the Christ-centeredness of the Order’s spirituality and its theological bent, with emphasis on the Primacy of Christ. On the devotional level, this Primacy is equated to the triumph of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Such emphasis on Christ’s power and redemptive love finds its most perfect fulfillment in the Immaculate; and Friar Maximilian gradually discovered that in order to be a saint, one must be conformed to the likeness of Christ, a likeness which is authenticated in the perfection of the Immaculate. But to be a saint demands a total response to love, made possible only through the help of grace. Mary, being the Immaculate, i.e., full of grace, mediates these graces from God through her spousal bond with the Holy Spirit. This Franciscan intellectual tradition influenced St. Maximilian in founding a movement which had its underlying dogmatic truth on Mary’s role in the economy * of man’s sanctification and salvation – a role that

ultimately leads one to the fastest, easiest and surest way of becoming like Jesus.

Having obtained permission from his superiors at the Conventual Franciscan Collegio-Serafico in Rome, this movement, named the “Knights of the Immaculate” (“MILITIA IMMACULATAE” or “M.I.”), was founded on the eve of October 16, 1917, a year before Friar Maximilian’s ordination. Along with six other friars, he consecrated himself totally to the Immaculate and drafted the simple M.I. Statutes of this Marian-Franciscan movement. Even to this very day, its goal continues to be the sanctification of as many souls as possible under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

From: Excerpts from <https://saintmaximiliankolbe.com/biography/>

St. Maximilian M. Kolbe wrote:

“When you start to read something on the Immaculate, do not forget that at that moment you are coming into contact with a living being, who loves you, who is pure, without any stain.

Also, remember that the words you see are unable to express who she is, because they are human words, drawn from earthly concepts, words that present all things in a human manner, while the Immaculate is a being totally of God.

Thus, she is in some way infinitely more sublime than all that surrounds you. She will reveal herself to you through the phrases that you read and will convey to you thoughts, convictions, feelings that the author himself could not possibly even imagine.

Consider carefully, also, that the purer your conscience is and the more you wash it with penance, the closer to the truth your knowledge about her will be.

Recognize also with sincerity that without her help, you are utterly unable to do anything in the work of knowledge and, consequently, of love of her. Acknowledge that she alone must enlighten you more and more. She alone must draw your heart toward herself with love. Remember, therefore, that all the fruit of your reading depends on prayer to her.

Do not start reading, then, before appealing with some prayer for her help. Do not worry about reading much, but rather interweave your reading with elevation of your heart to her, especially when feelings of another nature awaken in your heart. Then, when you finish your reading, entrust to her the yield of an ever more beautiful fruit.

The Economy of Salvation

*Religious economy is a confusing term that always puzzled me. I finally looked up information on the internet that helps to explain what it is. It isn't the same meaning for the economy of wealth. It is related to stewardship made manifest through the people of the church.

The Economy of Salvation, also called the Divine Economy, is that part of divine revelation in the Christian tradition that deals with God's creation and management of the world, particularly his plan for salvation accomplished through the Church. From the Greek *oikonomia* (economy), literally, "management of a household" or "stewardship".

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 1076
The Church was made manifest to the world on the day of Pentecost by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The gift of the Spirit ushers in a new era in the "dispensation of the mystery" the age of the Church, during which Christ manifests, makes present, and communicates his work of salvation through the liturgy of his Church, "until he comes."² In this age of the Church Christ now lives and acts in and with his Church, in a new way appropriate to this new age. He acts through the sacraments in what the common Tradition of the East and the West calls "the sacramental economy"; this is the communication (or "dispensation") of the fruits of Christ's Paschal mystery in the celebration of the Church's "sacramental" liturgy.

[* Refer back to Kolbe's "truth of Mary as the Immaculata"].

Franciscan Saints for May

1. Feast of Saint Joseph the Artisan
2. St. Richard Pampuri, Confessor, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1930
3. **Bl. Edouard-Joseph Rosas**, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1903
6. Bl. Marie-Catherine Troijani, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1897
7. Bl. Anne-Rose Gattorno, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1900

8. Feast of Mary Mediatrix of all Graces
9. Bl. Antoine Bajewski, Priest, Conventual religious, martyr 1941
10. Bl. Marie-Bernard Butler, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1924
11. **St. Gemme de Sulmona**, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1439
12. St. Ignatius of Laconi, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1781
14. St. Marie-Dominique Mazzarello, Virgin, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1881
16. St. Theophile de Corte, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1740
17. St. Paschal of Baylon, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1592
18. St. Felix of Cantalice, lay brother, Capuchin religious, 1587
19. **St. Yves**, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1303
20. St. Bernardin de Sienne, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1444
21. St. Crispin de Viterbe, lay brother, Capuchin
22. St. Joaquina Vedruna, Virgin, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1854
23. **Bl. Gerard de Villamagna**, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1242
24. Bl. Jean de Prado, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1631
26. St. Philippe Neri, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1595; memorial of **St. Marie-Anne Parades**, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1645
27. Bl. Gerard de Lunel, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1270
28. **St. Jean-Baptiste Rossi**, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1764
30. **St. Joan of Arc**, Virgin, **Franciscan Third Order Secular**, d. 1431, **King Saint Fernando III**, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1252
31. Feast of the **Queenship of Mary**, Public Consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Novena in preparation of the feast of Pentecost.

Yeah! It's Here Again

The picnic is Saturday, May 5 at Bond Park in Cary. The entrance is directly across from St. Michael the Archangel Catholic church's main entrance on High House Rd. The Beuhler Shelter is at the end of the road, across from the boat house. We have reserved the covered shelter from 11:30-1:30.

Call or email Suzie Nelson, OFS as to whether or not you are planning to attend and let her know what food you plan to bring. BYOB non alcohol.

Discernment Prayer of Thomas Merton

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that
I think I am following your will does not
mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am
doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart
from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me
by the right road, though I may know nothing
about it.
Therefore will I trust you always though
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of
death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and
you will never leave me to face my perils
alone.

"For I know well the plans I have in mind for
you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare,
not your woe!" - **Jeremiah 29:11**

St. Justin Martyr, 2nd Century

"This food we call the Eucharist, of
which no one is allowed to partake except
one who believes that the things we teach are
true, and has received the washing for
forgiveness of sins and for rebirth, and who
lives as Christ handed down to us. For we do
not receive these things as common bread or
common drink; but as Jesus Christ our Savior
being incarnate by God's Word took flesh and
blood for our salvation, so also we have been
taught that the food consecrated by the Word
of prayer which comes from him, from which
our flesh and blood are nourished by
transformation, is the flesh and blood of that
incarnate Jesus."

"...In this world I cannot see the Most High
Son of God with my own eyes, except for
His Most Holy Body and Blood."

- *St. Francis of Assisi*

You Are Invited

Suggestions and written articles from
our members are welcome for the
Newsletters. Email Frank Peluso, OFS.

Let us pray:

Oh, Lord, through the intercession of Mary, watch over our Franciscan brothers and sisters. Guard them with every care and make their way easy and their labors fruitful. Dry their tears if they weep; sanctify their joys; raise their courage if they weaken; touch up their hope if they lose heart, bring back their health if they be ill, restore truth if they err, give them repentance when they fail. Give Your angels and saints charge over those who have asked for our prayers. Tend to those in poor health, give support to those who care for them, in Jesus' name, Amen.