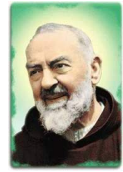


THE PADRE PIO SECULAR FRANCISCAN FRATERNITY

Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region

September 23 - Feast of St. Padre Pio

*"Do not leave the altar without first shedding a tear of sorrow and love for Jesus.
Our Lady of Sorrows will keep you company and inspire you." - St. Pio*



September 15 _Our Lady of Sorrows



'By the cross of our salvation/Mary stood in desolation/While the Savior hung above/All her human powers failing,/Sorrow's sword, at last prevailing,/Stabs and breaks her heart of love... - *Stabat Mater* by Franciscan friar Jacopone da Todi



Serving the Community



On Wed June 27, Six Padre Pio Fraternity members cooked and served 15 High school youth attending Mission: Mercy at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. Mission: Mercy is a week-long overnight camp that provides a daytime immersion experience with those who face daily challenges.

The youth spent the day serving as counselors to Hispanic Children in a day camp program. Our fraternity members served dinner and listened to the youth share their, triumphs, joys, frustrations and disappointments. The youth were energetic, joyful and gracious. It was our joy to serve.

By S. Lynn Oeser

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

Happy Anniversaries of Profession

Marguerite Zombek OFS
September 23, 1975 43 years

Joanne Jacovec OFS
September 23, 2000 18 years



September Devotion 2018

September is dedicated to **Our Lady of Sorrows:**

“Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'” Luke 2:34-35

Holy Father's Intention For September

Universal – Young People in Africa

That young people in Africa may have access to education and work in their own countries.

(See also Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network)

“Only love fills the empty spaces caused by evil.” - Pope Francis

Happy September Birthdays

2 Marie Roccoforte, OFS
14 Stan Driscoll, OFS
17 Mike Oeser, OFS
19 Ellen Ferrone, OFS
19 Friar Greg Spuhler, OFM Conv.
19 Ben Whitehouse, OFS
20 Jeanne Casciere, OFS
25 Gail Halada, OFS



May your birthdays and every day be filled with the warmth of sunshine, the happiness of smiles, the sounds of laughter, the feeling of love, the sharing of good cheer, and the grace of God to be a witness to the gospel.

His Last Word Was “Maria”

LOS ANGELES, CA (Catholic Online) - St. Padre Pio passed away in 1968 at 81-years-old. His final words were, "I see two mothers," then, "Maria!" He was buried on September 26 in a crypt of the Church of Our Lady of Grace. His relics were collected forty years after his death and kept in Italy. The relics toured in the United States last year. There were two tours, one from May 6 and end May 21, while the second was from September 17 through October 1.

"The root of all evil is 'I', 'Me', 'Mine'." - St. Pio

APOSTOLATES

For **CPO** or **Library**
Email Maureen Copan, OFS

For **JPIC & Oak City Outreach**, Email Ellen Ferrone, OFS
(Oak City 09/2522/18)

For **Prayer Requests**
Email Joanne Jacovec, OFS

For the **Scrapbook**
Email Lee Cunningham, OFS

For **Hospitality** Email Gladys Whitehouse, OFS

For **Sunshine**
Call Marge Zombek, OFS

For the **Newsletter**
Email Frank Peluso, OFS

For the **Website**
Email Sharon Winzler, OFS.

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

We are on the web at:

<http://ofscentralnc.org>

My Reflections on the “Yes” We Promised at Profession?

Our Secular Franciscan Rule 7 states: “United by their vocation as ‘brothers and sisters of penance’ and motivated by the dynamic power of the gospel, let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel calls ‘conversion.’ Human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily.” With the grace of God, are you and I daily responding to the will of God according to the “yes” we promised at our Profession?

We have many questions to ask ourselves. Are we really following the example of St. Francis of Assisi who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people? Are we reading the gospel and putting it to action in our secular lives? Let us examine our Secular Franciscan lives.

Do we encounter the living and active person of Christ in our brothers and sisters, whether they are black or white, Christian or Jew, Catholic or Muslim, male or female, citizen or immigrant, etc.? Do we generously sacrifice our own happiness, well-being and peace for the good of our neighbors? Or are we full of pride and self-centeredness?

Are we hampered by sloth, and ready to occupy ourselves eagerly with any unimportant trifle? Francis began withdrawing to caves and isolated places outside of Assisi for prayer and reflection. Do we have our own holy place for prayer and contemplation?

Do we say a liturgical prayer in one of the forms proposed by the Church, reliving the mysteries of the life of Christ and praying with Him? Do we protect the name of the Virgin Mary, who is being insulted and blasphemed in our present-day society? She was embraced by Francis with indescribable love and declared the protectress and advocate of our family.

Are we wearing the TAU daily to show who we are? Jesus said ³“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32)

Do we practice the spirit of poverty by making ourselves get along with what we can afford or less? Thus, practicing a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying our own material needs? Do we buy things not because we needed them but because we wanted them?

Do we brag about our gifts which come from God who deserves to get the credit? Francis said, “We have no right to glory in ourselves because of any extraordinary gifts, since these do not belong to us but God. But, we may glory in the crosses, infirmities, and tribulations because these are our own.”

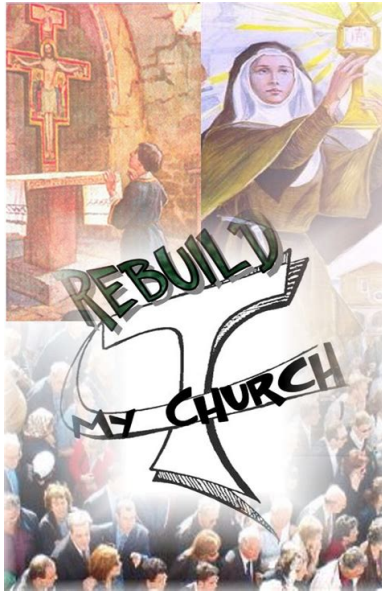
Do we gripe, and find pleasure in the unhappiness of our enemies? Do we participate in talk about frivolous matters and things which corrupt the spirit; but gives us pleasure? Are we wearily curious about new fads, about civic affairs and political events which shows how selfish or unkind we can be to others? Who is the leper in our lives? Can we find the courage to “embrace” that person as a child of God?

A sense of community needs to make us joyful. However, do we attend monthly gatherings regularly or do we easily find an excuse not to be there? Do we participate in the apostolates of the fraternity as much as possible? Do we volunteer to give rides or visit the sick of our fraternity? Do we pray for our sick and deceased members when at Mass? How creditable is our contribution to the common fund?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church gives us guidance for daily conversion. In paragraph 1435, it states: “Conversion is accomplished in daily life by gestures of reconciliation, concern for the poor, the exercise and defense of justice and right, by the admission of faults to one’s brethren, fraternal correction, revision of life, examination of conscience, spiritual direction, acceptance of suffering, endurance of persecution for the sake of righteousness. Taking up one’s cross each day and following Jesus is the surest way of penance.” (cf. Luke 9:23). In this list, there are numerous ways of practicing acts of penance leading to daily conversion.

Do we do these things in all humility, for without humility, there is no holiness- and without holiness, there is no heaven. These are all things to consider as we reexamine our lives and remember the “yes” we promised God at our profession. *By an Old Secular Franciscan.*

“He that well and rightly considers his own works will find little cause to judge harshly of another.” ~
Thomas A Kempis



Prayer for healing Victims of Abuse

From the USCCB

God of endless love,
Ever caring ever strong,
always present, always just;
You gave your only Son
To save us by the blood of his cross.

Gentle Jesus, Shepherd of peace,
Join to your own suffering
The pain of all who have been hurt
In body, mind, and spirit
By those who have betrayed
The trust placed in them

Here our cries as we agonize
over the harm done to our brothers & sisters.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers, soothe restless
hearts with hope,
steady shaken spirits with faith;
Show us the way to justice and wholeness,
Enlightened by truth
And enfolded in your mercy.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,
heal your people's wounds
And transform our brokenness.
Grant us courage and wisdom,
Humility and grace,
So that we may act with justice
And find peace in you.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen

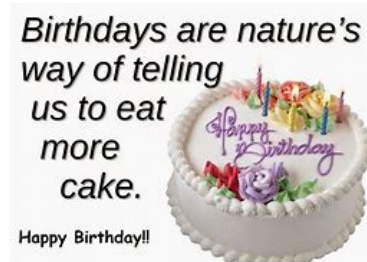
August Ongoing Formation



The gathering worked on “what comes to mind when you hear the word Poverty”? Above Chris Peffley, OFS explains what his group had to say. Victoria Romero, OSF led the presentation.



Gladys Whitehouse, OFS presented a birthday cake to S. Lynn Oeser, OFS, our only August birthday.



September – Month of Our lady of the Seven Sorrows

1. Bl Joachim de Albocacer, Priest, Capuchin religious, martyr 1936
2. Bl. Martyrs de Carmes, d. 1792
- 3. St. Pius X, Pope, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1914** For 9 years he was pastor in Salzano, Italy. It was during this period that he joined the Third Order of St Francis and established 2 fraternities of Tertiaries. Henceforth he strove in his words and in his writings, especially by Franciscan simplicity and frugal standards of life, to emulate the ideals of the seraphic saint.
4. St. Rose of Viterbo, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1252 Plenary Indulgence for cordbearers
5. Bl. Gentil de Matelica, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1340
6. Bl Liberat de Laure, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1258
7. Bl. Eugenie Picco, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1921
- 8. Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
9. Bl. Seraphique Sforza, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1478
10. Bl. Martyrs of Japan, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order and Franciscan Third Order Seculars, d. 1622-1632
11. Bl. Bonaventure de Barcelone, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1684
- 12. Feast of the Name of Holy Mary** - Francis loved the Mother of Jesus with a love that cannot be described, because she made Him our brother.
13. Bl. Apollinaire Franco, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1622
14. Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- 15. Feast of Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows** - The swords in Mary's heart represent her grievous sorrows. Known as the Seven Dolors of Mary, these sorrows are:
 1. **The prophecy of Simeon** (*Luke 2:25-35*)
 2. **The flight into Egypt** (*Matthew 2:13-15*)
 3. **Loss of the Child Jesus for three days** (*Luke 2:41-50*)
 4. **Mary meets Jesus on his way to Calvary** (*Luke 23:27-31; John 19:17*)
 5. **Crucifixion and Death of Jesus** (*John 19:25-30*)
 6. **The body of Jesus being taken from the Cross** (*Psalms 130; Luke 23:50-54; John 19:31-37*)
 7. **The burial of Jesus** (*Isaiah 53:8; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42; Mark 15:40-47*)
16. Bl. Roland de Medicis, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1386
- 17. Feast of the Stigmatization of St. Francis of Assisi**
18. St. Joseph de Cupertino, Priest, Conventual, d. 1664
19. Bl. Louis Alleman, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1450
20. St. Francois-Marie de Camporosso, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1866
21. Bl. Elizabeth Amerina, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1498
22. Bl. Ignace de Santhia, Priest, Capuchin religious, d. 1773
- 23. St. Pio of Peitrelcina, Priest, Capuchin religious, There are saints who have been known for healing; there are saints who could "read" souls; there are saints who were known for levitation; there were saints who bore the stigmata, or were seen in apparition, or who had the "odor of sanctity." There are saints who could understand languages they didn't know. But Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, who died on September 23, 1968, had all these charisms, and more. In fact, not since St. Francis of Assisi has there been such a miracle-worker. Posted in Saints & Blessed**
24. St. Pacifique de San Severino, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1721
25. St. Nicholas de Flue, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1487
26. Bl. Lucie de Catalagirone, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1400
27. St. Elzear de Sabran, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1323
28. Bl Bernadin de Feltre, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1494
- 29. Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel**
30. Bl. Charles de Blois, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1364

**“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”–
Matthew 5:43-48**

Is this possible? Jesus tells us that God acts out of love and goodness towards both those who are evil and those who are good – “He causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the upright and the iniquitous “ Matthew 5:45 – we too must love and be good to friend and enemy in all circumstances, if we want to follow God. God made us in His image to be good and loving to friend and enemy in all situations, This, we can be. So be perfect! ~ *FEP*

Our entire good consists not only in accepting the truth of God’s word, but in persevering in it. ~ St Angela Merici

If we really want to love we must learn how to forgive. ~ *Blessed Mother Teresa*

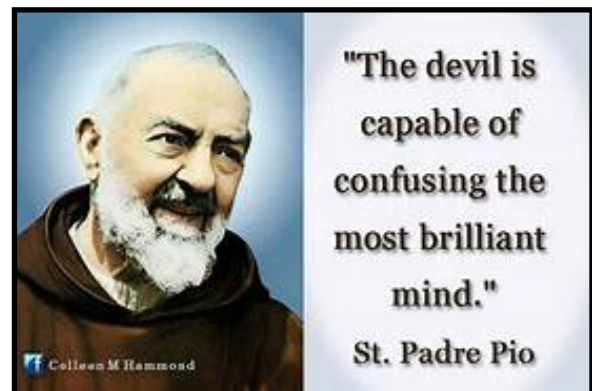
Ideas for Celebrating the Feast of St. Padre Pio September 17 - By *Lacy*,

St. Padre Pio has a feast day coming up on September 23. If I were to rank St. Padre Pio on a popularity scale from 1-10, I would give him a 10! He sure seems to be a ‘crowd pleaser,’ and there’s no question as to why if you read about St. Padre Pio. The most famous thing about him is his stigmata. Well, that and his fist fights with demons and levitating and all kinds of crazy cool stuff

Anyway, celebrate with your kids: Anyway, here is one feast day idea for celebrating with your kids: Ok, call me crazy, but I love these Stigmata Rice Krispie Treats from Family at the Foot of the Cross Church.



I really want to find time to celebrate St. Padre Pio’s feast day with my kids this year! I love these little spoon saints and I would like to make a whole slew of them... I mean ... I want my *kids* to make a whole slew of them. [For more ways to celebrate go to: <http://www.catholicicing.com/ideas-for-celebrating-feast-of-st-padre/>]



“The storms that are raging around you will turn out to be for God’s glory, your own merit, and the good of many souls.” St. Padre Pio

Remember: October 3, 2018 Transitus of St Francis in the Chapel at 7:00 pm.