

THE PADRE PIO FRATERNITY NEWSLETTER

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS REGION

Next Gathering 01/27/2019 Clare Hall Rooms 201-2 instead of Founder's Rm.



YOUR COUNCIL WISHES YOU A HOLY NEW YEAR

Annual Retreat - THE CANTICLE OF THE CREATURES



Following St Francis' example, On December 1st the Padre Pio Fraternity came together for a retreat to meditate, contemplate and discuss The Canticle of the Creatures. The retreat was facilitated by Joanita Nellenbach OFS, member of St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity in Hendersonville, NC, editor of the regional newsletter the Communio, and spiritual assistant to Franciscan Martyrs of Sirok Brijeg Fraternity in Blairsville, Ga.

Joanita reiterated through many sources:

"St. Francis saw himself as a member of the family of creation. He referred to all created things, animate and inanimate as his brothers and sisters. He saw the whole of creation as bearing the touch of God. All created things are in a relationship with one another."

After prayer, overview and recitation of the Canticle, participants were sent to two tables scattered with pictures of creation including animate and inanimate "brothers and sisters". They were commissioned to select an object or creature that they were called to, or seemed to call them. All were then dispatched to find their personal "mountainside" to reflect on their choice. They were asked to imagine themselves existing as their creature and to contemplate and explore their existence and relationship in creation. They were asked to consider a first person story to take back for small group discussion and contemplation.

The stories and conversation were as lively and diverse as the souls and journeys that bore them. One person chose a piece of wood, another chose a bird, one chose a dog, etc Each had a unique viewpoint. Some were inspired to deeper heights of thought, some waded in silence, some were invigorated, some were frustrated. The shared stories inspired new and unique insights and topics.

A meal was shared and the retreat closed with Sunday Evening Prayer I- First Sunday of Advent. The retreat was a sacred space of prayer, conversation, contemplation, laughter and fraternity- agape

On a personal note, I found meditating on the Canticle of the Creatures to be a lively herald into advent- to contemplation of Christ's coming. With the canticle's spirit in mind, the scriptures of the season have sprung new life in my lectio divina. Verse 2:14 in Song of Songs falls on ears that hear with deeper desire. I hear Christ calling me to shed all that I allow to separate my soul from Him:

"O my dove in the clefts of the rock,
in the secret recesses of the cliff,
Let me see you,
let me hear your voice,
For your voice is sweet,
and you are lovely." Sg 2:14

By S. Lynn Oeser, OFS

January 2019 - Overview for the Month

The month of January is dedicated to the **Holy Name of Jesus**, which is celebrated on January 3. The first eight days of January fall during the liturgical season known as Christmas which is represented by the liturgical color white. The remaining days of January are the beginning of Ordinary Time. The liturgical color changes to green. Green symbolizes the renewal of vegetation and generally of living things and the promise of new life.

Holy Father's Intentions for January 2019

Evangelization – Young People: That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.

Franciscan Saints for January

- 3 Holy Name of Jesus.
- 4. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- 5 Bl. Diego José of Cádiz (priest)
- 5. St. John Newman
- 6. The Epiphany of the Lord
- 7 Bl. Angela of Foligno, religious, III Ord.
- 8 Bl. Eurosia Fabris, III Order**
- 12 St. Bernard of Corleone, religious, I Ord.
- 14 Bl. Odoric of Pordenone, priest, I Order.
- 16 Sts. Berard, priest, and companions, protomartyrs
- 18 St. Charles of Sezze, I Order
- 19 Bl. Thomas of Cori was surely - as is said of St. Francis - not so much a man who prayed as a man who became prayer.
- 20 St. Eustochia Calafato II Order
- 21. St. Agnes
- 24. St. Francis de Sales
- 27 St. Angela Merici, virgin, III Ord., founder.**
- 28. St. Thomas Aquinas



Happy January Birthday

John Halada, OFS -3
Dianne Greet, OFS - 11



Padre Pio's Councils

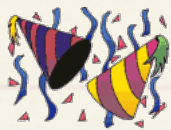
To the very end of his life, he never felt that his salvation was entirely secure. He once asked his friend Pietro Cugino: *"Tell me seriously. Do you think I will be saved?"* Below are Padre Pio's words about life, virtues, and himself.

Life

"Keep going forward. If you stop, the wind will blow you back."
"Wait, your turn will come."
"Love doesn't tolerate delay."
"Life is a continual struggle against oneself."
"Life is a struggle, which we cannot avoid. We must triumph."
"Planting is less important than sowing, to have a good harvest."
"Every year should be more fruitful than the previous one."
"The years pass by, and eternity becomes closer."
"Make hay while the sun shines."
"Do not put off until tomorrow what you can do today."
"Detach yourself from the world."
"Repair the past and prepare for the future making good decisions."
"Ahead! Courage! In the spiritual life he who does not advance goes backward."



St. Pio and Guardian Angel
Painting By
Guido Reni



Pray for Our Servant Leaders!

The Padre Pio Fraternity, Raleigh, NC



Apostolates

For JPIC & Oak City Outreach,
Email Ellen Ferrone, OFS
(OCOC is 01/26/2019)

For CPO or Library:
Email Maureen Copan, OFS

For Hospitality:
Email Gladys Whitehouse, OFS

For Prayer Requests:
Email Joanne Jacovec, OFS

For the Scrapbook: Email
Lee Cunningham, OFS

For **Sunshine**:
Call Marge Zombek, OFS

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

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

Next Gathering

01/27/2019
Clare Hall Rms 201-2

Gatherings for 2019

January 27, 2019
(In Clare Hall)

In Founder's Room

February 24, 2019
March 24, 2019
April 28, 2019
May 26, 2019
June 23, 2019
July 28, 2019
August 25, 2019
September 22, 2019
October 27, 2019
Fraternity Visitation
November 24, 2019
Annual Retreat - TBA

Times for Candidate Formation

11:00 – 12:15
Fraternity Gathering
1:00 – 3:00



I love you this much!

Council Members

Spiritual Assistant:
In progress.

Minister:
Victoria Romera, OFS

Vice Minister:
Lee Cunningham, OFS

Formation Director:
S. Lynn Oeser, OFS

Treasurer
Louis Coker, OFS

Secretary:
Michael Hancock OFS

Councilors:
Maureen Copan, OFS
(Appointed)
Ellen Ferrone, OFS
Suzie Nelson, OFS

BSSF Region Minister:
DorothyAnn Rowland, OFS

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

We are on the web at:

<http://ofscentralnc.org>



2018 was a very good year!





Our Most Joyous Occasion of 2018

Six candidates were admitted in June and three more in July. Praise God!



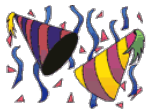
2018 PHOTOS



Happy New Year!



"We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." - Walt Disney



2018 In a Capsule



Twenty professed members of the Padre Pio Fraternity elected new council members at their January 28, 2018 gathering. For the February 25, 2018 ongoing formation, Father Jim Sabac, OFM gave a talk on Blessed Jon Duns Scotus. At the same gathering, we held the Rite of Extraction. Our Annual Picnic was held on May 5, 2018 at Bond Park in Cary, NC.

In June, we were happy to receive Jeanne Casciere, Joan Monti, Michael Oeser, Anna Rzewnicki, Alexandra Rommel, and David Schick as candidates our fraternity. Deacon Phil Rzewnicki, Ben and Gladys Whitehouse were admitted in July. Members continued with our main apostolates at the Oak City Outreach in serving the poor and homeless, and the Catholic Parish Outreach for food and clothing distribution.

And in June two candidates, Deacon Phil and his wife, Anna attended the Franciscan seminar at St. Francis University in Loretto, PA. We also had a host table at the Fair Trade Market in November in which friar cookies our members made were passed out as well as our Come and See folders. On Wed June 27, Six Padre Pio Fraternity members cooked and served 15 high school youth attending Mission Mercy at St Francis. In August our previous minister, Joe Travers, OFS led a group of six members to the ARG at the Ridgecrest Conference Center.

The Transitus of St Francis Oct.3, 2018 was celebrated at the Community of St. Francis and opened with a procession into the church led by Fr. Steve Patti, OFM, Fr. Steve Kluge, OFM and Fr. Jim Sabak, OFM followed by members of our Padre Pio fraternity. In October, fraternity members also attended a well-organized all-day conference at the Community of St. Francis of Assisi in Raleigh. The theme was “Dare to. Be Franciscan.”

We were saddened to lose Friar Greg Spuhler, OFM Conventual, the Spiritual Assistant of our fraternity who was asked by his provincial to move and work in Syracuse, NY. Friar Greg left on November 28.

Did You Know?

1. A catholic priest discovered the Big Bang Theory.

Monsignor Georges Lemaître, a Catholic priest, noted cosmologist, and colleague of Einstein's, discovered the Big Bang theory in 1927.¹⁰ Lemaître ingeniously solved the problem of how the recessional velocities of distant galaxies could be greater than those of nearer ones. The idea was really quite radical – so much so that Einstein, though impressed with Lemaître's mathematics, rejected it at first.

2. Science points to the existence of a creator.

Lemaître's discovery of the expansion of space-time in the universe (as a whole) enabled physicists to formulate theorems (proofs) about the necessity of a beginning. All such proofs are based on various physical (observable) data, which must all be true in order for the conclusion (about a beginning of the universe) to be true. They take the following general form: “If condition A, condition B, and condition C are true, then there must be a beginning of the universe (or the beginning of a multiverse or the beginning of physical reality itself).”

Therefore it is highly likely that the universe came from something which is not physical reality (i.e. beyond physical reality). This is commonly referred to as a “transcendent cause of the universe” (or “a transcendent cause of physical reality”) – in short, “a Creator.

3. Most scientists are declared believers.

51% of bench scientists are declared believers, and the remainder are agnostics (uncertain) or atheists. Furthermore, five of the greatest minds in physics and mathematics were declared theists –Einstein, Planck, Heisenberg, Eddington, and Gödel. Nevertheless, the question remains, if it is impossible to disprove God scientifically, philosophically, or any other way – and there is considerable scientific evidence for a beginning of physical reality and fine-tuning for life at the Big Bang, why are there atheistic scientists and intellectuals?

From: crediblecatholic.com

Key Principles for Reading Scripture

Since God inspired & confirmed the Bible, we had better know how to read it correctly! Francis of Assisi astounded and inspired the Church by taking the gospel literally—not in a narrow fundamentalist sense, but by actually following all that Jesus said and did, joyfully, without limit, and without a sense of self-importance.

Do I understand what the Bible is saying? For example:

“Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.” Revelation 5:6 The horn is a biblical symbol denoting power or government (1S. 1S. 2:10; 2S. 2S. 22:3; Ps. Ps. 132:13-17). The seven horns indicate the complete power of Christ and the finality (completeness) of His kingdom. “As a horn is the emblem of power, and seven the number of perfection, the seven horns may denote the almighty power of Jesus Christ.”¹³ His is the only “everlasting dominion” and kingdom “which shall not be destroyed” (Dan. 7:14).

Not easy? Not true: follow these three points which are essential to a basic understanding of the bible:

1 God is indeed the principal author of Sacred Scripture. (The *Compendium of the Catechism* has a wonderful section on understanding the Bible within the part about Divine Revelation. You should read all of #6-24 to get a full understanding, but #18-24 are specifically about Scripture.) God chose to reveal to us certain truths for the sake of our salvation. This message of salvation is the set of revealed truths which we call the “deposit of faith,” or Divine Revelation. The Bible is primarily concerned with telling us these truths, which are without error. God himself made sure of that.

2 God made use of specific people that wrote in a human language, and did so **at a particular time and place in history**. In composing the sacred books, God chose men and while employed by Him they made use of their powers and abilities, so that with Him acting in them and through them, they, as true authors, consigned to writing everything and only those things which He wanted. (Vatican II, *Dei Verbum* (Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation), 11)

3 At times we have to work carefully to determine exactly what a sacred author is asserting to be true, distinguishing that from something he’s using as an image to help us understand the truth more clearly. John Paul II made this point when he addressed the Pontifical Biblical Commission in 1979: The language of the Bible is to some degree linked to language which changed over the course of time.... But this only reaffirms the paradox of the [Christian] proclamation of revelation: ...people and events at particular points in history become the bearers of an absolute and transcendent message. (Pope John Paul II, *Address*, April 26, 1979) This is really quite astonishing—God was willing to work through people to tell us his saving truth. He revealed his divine truths via historical acts, using events and people of his choosing. And he did so using... Human language and knowledge God also used human language and knowledge— with all of its limitations—to tell us his eternal truths.

Learn to understand exactly what the inspired authors meant when they wrote their words. A good Catholic commentary will help explain any relevant language, concepts and cultural references. (The [Navarre Bible commentary](#) is recommended, which is outstanding in its explanations and its desire to help you see how the Church understands even the smallest details of the Bible.) That’s an essential first step—if you don’t understand what the sacred author was saying to people in his own cultural context, in terms as they were used at the time, you won’t be able to clearly see what God is saying through him. Also, I suggest on line Bible Study such as <http://catholicbiblestudyonline.com>

But don’t worry! It’s really not hard to get this right for many passages. And once again, a good commentary will do the heavy lifting for you. See <http://www.beginningcatholic.com/understanding-the-bible>

Important Dates - Mark Your Calendars

- **January 5, 2019 1:00 – 3:00 pm, Fraternity Epiphany Party At Sharon Winzler’s**
- **January 6, 2019 - Coffee / Donuts Fellowship Ministry @ St. Francis Church**
- **January 27, 2019 - Gathering - Clare Hall: 201 & 202**
- **August 9 - 11, 2019 - Ridgecrest Conference Center**
- **October 25 - 27, 2019 - Regional Visitation**

