



## THE PADRE PIO FRATERNITY

### Secular Franciscan Order

#### The Brother and Sisters of St. Francis Region



Happy Mother's Day to All (See page 4 #3).

### Council Members

Spiritual Assistant:  
Fr. Steve Kluge, OFM

Minister:  
Victoria Romero OFS

Vice Minister:  
Lee Cunningham, OFS

Formation Director:  
S. Lynn Oeser, OFS

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Louis Coker, OFS

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Suzie Nelson, OFS  
Maureen Copan, OFS  
(Appointed)

BSSF Region Minister:  
DorothyAnn Rowland,  
OFS

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

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

### New Oak City Multiple Resource Center

Over 150 persons were served on April 27th at the new building. Ellen Ferrone, OFS our organizer said "What an out pouring of generosity, smiles, food and service. OK, I admit it was a little hectic out of the gate. New surroundings, so much room, so much help. Yet, it was the act we love to do, serve both food, smiles, and care to those who come for comfort. What a joy it was!"

### April Ongoing Formation



A presentation on a Lifeline of Faith was given by Lee Cunningham, OFS and Ellen Ferrone, OFS. We discussed the lifeline each of us made and the important moments of our lives on our spiritual journey, particularly our hunger or desire for God.

Fr. Steve Kluge, OFM presented his talk on the Social Justice series that he is presenting this year. He emphasized the dignity of every person as a creation and image of God. He left us with this request, "Think of a person you hate. Then in the day of judgement picture that Jesus comes to you with the face of that person."

### April Birth Day Celebration

Pictured to the right is Jeanette Cottone, OFS and Louis Coker, OFS with the birthday cake provided by Gladys Whitehouse, OFS. Missing is Marge Zombek, OFS. We were sorry that she couldn't attend but Victoria Romero, read a letter she sent to us. Happy Birthday Marge!





## 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.

### Prayers by St. Francis of Assisi

- Holy Virgin Mary, there is none like you among women born in the world. Daughter and handmaid of the heavenly Father, the almighty King, Mother of our most high Lord Jesus Christ, and Spouse of the Holy Spirit, pray for us to your most holy Son, our Lord and Master. *(Francis said this with each hour of the Divine Office).*
- Hail holy Lady, most noble Queen, Mother of God, and Mary ever Virgin. You were chosen by the heavenly Father, who has been pleased to honor you with the presence of his most holy Son and the Divine Paraclete. Hail, holy Lady, most holy Queen,

Mary, Mother of God, ever Virgin.

You were chosen by the Most High Father in heaven, consecrated by Him, with His most Holy Beloved Son and the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

On you descended and still remains all the fullness of grace and every good.

Hail, His Palace.

Hail His Tabernacle.

Hail His Robe.

Hail His Handmaid.

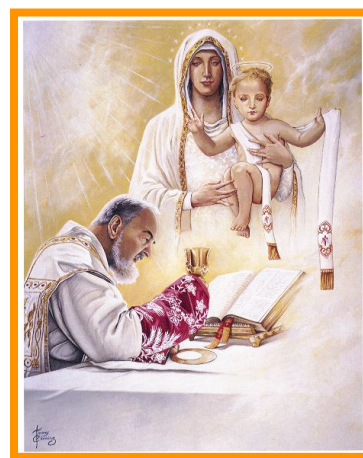
Hail, His Mother.

And Hail, all holy Virtues, who, by grace and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, are poured into the hearts of the faithful so that from their faithless state, they may be made faithful servants of God through you.

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**St Padre Pio said,** "...The Rosary is the prayer of those who triumph over everything and everyone. It was Our Lady who taught us this prayer, just as it was Jesus who taught us the Our Father."

[When asked if the Blessed Virgin is present during the Holy Mass], "Yes, she places herself at a side, but I can see her, what a joy. She is always present. How can it be that the Mother of Jesus, present in Calvary at the foot of the Cross, who offered her Son as victim for the salvation of our souls, not be present in the mystical Calvary of the altar?"





## Mirror Of The Blessed Virgin Mary by Saint Bonaventure Chapter XIV

### MARY IS BLESSED ON ACCOUNT OF THE MAJESTY OF HER OFFSPRING



Blessed art thou among women. It has been shown how Mary, because of the innocence of her life, is saluted by the Ave: it has also been shown how she is rightly called "full of grace," because of the most copious affluence of her grace; it has moreover been shown how, because of the special presence of Our Lord with her, she is saluted with the words "The Lord is with thee." Now we have to show how, because of the most pleasing reverence of her person, she is hailed as "Blessed among women." Behold, therefore, that the Archangel Gabriel by saluting the glorious Virgin Mary with a glorious salutation, most fittingly consummated her blessedness by saying, "Blessed art thou among women," that is, more blessed than all women. And by this, whatever of malediction was infused into our nature by Eve, was taken away by the blessing of Mary. Let Gabriel therefore say: "Blessed art thou among women"; blessed, I say, because of the fullness of grace to be venerated in thee; blessed, because of the greatness of the mercy to be bestowed by thee; blessed, because of the majesty of the Person who is to take flesh of

thee; blessed, because of the weight of glory which is to be accumulated in thee.

First, consider how Mary is truly blessed because of the fullness of grace to be venerated in her, as Gabriel shows most aptly when he says: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women." Blessed art thou, because thou art full of grace. Thou hast found grace with God, and therefore thou art blessed with the Lord. St. Bernard well says of this blessedness of Mary: "By thee we have access to thy Son, O blessed among women, finder of grace, Mother of life, Mother of salvation."

Blessed art thou, O Mary, because of grace. Blessed, I say, because of the grace of the heart, of the lips, of the work. Blessed in heart, because of the grace of gifts; blessed in mouth, because of the grace of the lips; blessed in work, because of the grace of manners. Truly is Mary blessed because of the grace of the heart, for the grace of her gifts in her heart; for her heart was as the most delightful paradise of God, so that of this blessedness could be understood that word of Ecclesiasticus: "Grace is like a paradise in blessing." Here the commentary says: "Bearing fruit in the different species of virtues." Of these happy degrees and blessings of virtues the Apostle says: "Who hath blessed us in all spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ."

If, therefore, grace makes the mind of man delightful as the paradise of God in the blessings of virtues, how much more delightful must the soul of Mary be, that Paradise of God, in the blessings of the gifts of the Holy Spirit? Yea, verily, not only was the mind of Mary a Paradise of God, but also her bosom, containing within itself the tree of life, Jesus Christ. St. Bernard says: "Truly thou art the Paradise of God, who hast brought forth to the world the Tree of Life, of which he who shall eat shall live forever." Alas, how far from this blessedness of Mary is he whose mind is not a paradise of God in the blessings of grace, but a sink of the devils in the curse of malice! Of such is it said in the Psalm: "He loved cursing, and it shall come unto him: and he would not have blessing, and it was removed far from him" (Ps. CVIII, 18.) *For the entire reading go to:* <https://www.ecatholic2000.com/bonaventure/mirror15.sht>

"If anyone does not wish to have Mary Immaculate for his Mother, he will not have Christ for his Brother." -- *St. Maximilian Kolbe. OFMC*

"Let us live as the Blessed Virgin lived: loving God only, desiring God only, trying to please God only in all that we do." - *St John Vianney, OFS*



## Stella Maris - Star of the Sea



Chapter 2, Secular Franciscan Rule 9: “The Virgin Mary, humble servant of the Lord, was open to His every word and call. She was embraced by Francis with indescribable love and declared the protectress and advocate of his family. The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently.”

“Mary teaches the men and women of today that the family is part of the Mystery of reality and everyday life. Without the sense, presence and knowledge of this Mystery, the family loses its meaning.” *From The Voice of Padre Pio June 2015*

### What does Mary teach us?

1. **Obedience:** The Annunciation - In Christian theology, kenosis, is the self-emptying of one's own will and becoming entirely receptive to God's divine will. "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to thy word."
2. **Social Justice:** “Mary is the one whose soul magnifies the Lord because He feeds the hungry, and lifts up the lowly and sends the rich empty away.” Luke's Gospel (1:46-55)
3. “Like Mary, we are **His mothers** when we bear Him in our heart and in our body through pure love and a clean conscience.”
4. “Like Mary, we are **His Brothers and Sisters** when we do the will of the Father.”
5. **Humility:** (Suffering servants) - Mary said, “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.” Jesus came not to be served but to serve. (Mark 10:45) “His humility was on display from Bethlehem to Golgotha. He emptied himself out to become one of us through Mary. And Mary was with Him from beginning to end. “
6. **Service:** And she said to the servants: “Do whatever He tells you.” (John 2:3-5) and St. Francis took this seriously.
6. **Gratefulness:** Mary said, “For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name.” Luke's Gospel (1:46-55)
7. **Judgment:** Mary said, “He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.” Luke's Gospel (1:46-55)
8. **Mercy:** Mary said, “He has come to the help of his servant Israel-for he remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever.” Luke's Gospel (1:46-55)

**Conclusion:** Is your soul guided by Mary? Is Mary's song your song? *From: A NAFRA Power Point on Imitating Mary*

“As mariners are guided into port by the shining of a star, so Christians are guided to heaven by Mary” --*Saint Thomas Aquinas, Doctor of the Church*





### Suzie's Prayer Corner

Our sister, Suzie Nelson, OFS is interested in sharing our prayer lives. She is picking a name at random each month. This month she contacted brother Michael Hancock, OFS and he generously answered; this is his response. Thank you Michael.

"Long before I had joined of the Secular Franciscans, our family had several prayer traditions. These traditions played an important part of daily life by helping us with family dinners. We would say the standard Meal blessing prayer at every dinner and then we would say 'pits and peaks'. Pits and Peaks is a way to share our daily experiences with a focus on reminding us what we are thankful for.

Okay, I know this sounds weird but I pray on the bus. Not just because the drivers are 'motivated' and the passengers can be a little different. The bus to work takes a good 45 minutes and it is wonderful way to say the Liturgy of the Hours. It is a way to stay focused and yet open at the same time to the word of God.

Saying the Rosary is a practice that I picked up long before joining the Padre Pio fraternity but I find that it fits nicely with our prayer life. We even had a chance to devote a formation session to the version of the Franciscan prayer at one of our gatherings last year."

### Bl. John Dun Scotus's Defense of the Immaculate Conception

It was also in Paris that Bl. John came to be called as the "Marian Doctor" after he championed the privilege of Mary's Immaculate Conception. In England, Bl. John taught the truth of this Marian privilege without any opposition. But at Paris the situation was reversed. The academic body of the University admitted only the purification of Mary in the womb of Her mother St. Anne, like St. John the Baptist. Alexander of Hales, St. Bonaventure, St. Thomas Aquinas, the great Parisian Masters, were not able to solve the problem of the universality of original sin and of the efficacy of Christ's Redemption. They thought that even the Blessed Virgin Mary was included in this universality, and therefore subject to contract the original stain even if only for an instant, so that she may also be redeemed. Scotus in his attempt to introduce and teach a theological position different from that upheld by the university, had to appear in a public dispute before the whole academic body, at the risk of expulsion from the university if he failed to defend his doctrine. Bl. John Scotus prepared himself for the event in prayer and recollection and in total confidence to the Immaculate Virgin, the Seat of Wisdom.

When the fixed day of the dispute arrived, on leaving the convent, he passed before a statue of Our Lady and with suppliant voice entreated her: "Allow me to praise You, O Most Holy Virgin; give me strength against your enemies." Our Lady responded with a prodigious visible sign: the head of the statue moved and bowed slightly before him. It was as if to say: "Yes I will give you all the strength you need."

Two Papal legates presided over the dispute. Then with powerful dialectic and with deep and subtle reasoning, Bl. Scotus refuted all the objections of the learned men in attendance, undermining the foundation of every argument contrary to Mary's Immaculate Conception. Bl. John Scotus pointed out: <"The Perfect Redeemer, must in some case, have done the work of redemption most perfectly, which would not be, unless there is some person, at least, in whose regard, the wrath of God was anticipated and not merely appeased."> Bl. John triumphed. From that day the University of Paris took up the same cause to defend this privilege of the Blessed Virgin Mary. From <http://www.ewtn.com/library/MARY/SCOTUS.htm>



## Father Joseph Madden, OFM Conventual Met Sister Death



Our Lady of Guadalupe Friary (Pittsboro, NC.  
with Friar Raymond Sobocinski, Friar Joseph Madden,  
Friar Tadeusz and Friar Gregory Spuhler.



Nov. 2017 Retreat at Avila  
Father Joe said Mass for us

Friar Greg Spuhler, OFMC notified us that Father Joseph Madden, OFM Conventual, a Friar for 62 years passed away on April 22, 2019 at Our Lady of the Angels, Enfield, CT. Joanne Jacovec, OFS wrote, "Father Joe will be remembered by our fraternity for his generous spirit, gentle and humble presence, authentic example of the Gospel way of life, faithful dedication to our OFS formation and steadfast support of the Secular Franciscan Order. He offered us spiritual assistance, participated in our gatherings and retreats, officiated at Masses and permanent professions, joined us at the ARG and supported our justice and peace apostolates.

I was fortunate to have Father Joe as a friend and spiritual companion for over two decades in Winston-Salem and Raleigh. He encouraged me to authentically embrace, deepen and be grateful for my Franciscan vocation. I visited him regularly while he lived at the Friary in Pittsboro for contemplation in the chapel, reflection on the numerous books we read together, lunch at the local cafe and long walks in the gardens around Pittsboro, Chapel Hill and Durham. Father Joe often said that his vocation was Franciscan but his avocation was Shakespeare, and we enjoyed seeing many plays together. He loved nature, especially in the Spring when birds serenaded us and flowers bloomed. A friend sent me the poem below which captures Father Joe perfectly. As Father Joe would close each note, "Shalom and Love!"

*Remember me in the spring  
When the flowers bloom  
And robins sing  
Call to me  
And I'll be there  
Like a breeze  
Whistling through your hair  
For I've never really left  
I will never part  
As long as there's a piece of me*

*Left in your heart  
Let not your heart be troubled  
For I am in a better place  
Until we meet again  
Through God's grace  
Remember me in the spring  
When flowers bloom  
And robins sing*

~ Eugene H. Schlegel

## Apostolates

For **JPIC & Oak City Outreach**, Email Ellen Ferrone, OFS

**(OCOC is 05/25/2019)**

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**  
**05/19/2019**  
**St. Francis Church**  
**In The Founders Room**



**I love you this much!**