



The Padre Pio Fraternity
***Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis (OFS)**
The Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud."



Annual Epiphany Party - January 4, 2020

Our sister, Sharon Winzeler, OFS graciously hosted the annual Epiphany party at her home again this year. About twenty members and friends attended and enjoyed the finger food and drinks as we shared our hopes and dreams for the new year. Using the proverb "a picture is worth a thousand words," just let these pictures do the talking!



In pictures above we find: Michael Hancock, OFS and his mother (Shirley), Louis Peluso, Michael again, Frank Peluso, OFS, Ellen Ferrone, OFS, Jeanne Casciere, OFS, Joann Monti, OFS, Victoria Romero, OFS, Zubair Simonson, OFS. Deacon Phil Rzewnicki, OFS, Jeanette Cottone, OFS, Michael again, a visitor, Lee Cunningham, OFS, and Ellen again.

We would like to thank Zubair Simonson, OFS for accepting the ministry of the newsletter starting in March.

A short vision of the Secular Franciscans: The greatest heritage Francis and Clare left for us is a deeply embedded passion for God, a fervent commitment to prayer and contemplation, social justice, and a fraternity life that generates action.

February is the month dedicated to the Holy Family.

Though the start of the Lenten season changes within the calendar year, a fair-sized portion of February gives us a space of time between the Christmas celebrations and the increased focus on Jesus' public life and ministry, which occurs in Lent. It is a transition from the feast of Christmas to the fasting of Lent. **Lent** for the year **2020** starts on Wednesday, February 26th and ends on Thursday, April 9 with evening mass on Holy Thursday. This year **Easter** is on April 12th.

Apostleship of Prayer

Pope Francis has recently entrusted his 2020 prayer intentions to the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network. <https://popesprayerusa.net-2020-prayer-intentions-popes-worldwide-prayer-network/>

Listen to the Migrants' Cries - Intention for February 2020

We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered. I Cor. 13

St. Padre Pio Quotes On Love

"Where there is no love, there is no God."
- Padre Pio

"Our Lord loves you and loves you tenderly; and if He does not let you feel the sweetness of His love, it is to make you more humble and abject in your own eyes." – Padre Pio

"Let us always strive more and more to love the Lord. This great truth of loving God must not seem hard to us; on the contrary, we must consider ourselves honored, because the Lord God didn't limit himself to creating us and telling us to love him, but he made a commandment of it . . . He commands us to do so, and the commandment is full of love. It is he who instills it into our hearts. It is he who gives us the means to be able to love him. But that which is more surprising, he has also promised us the prize. It isn't something that is temporary, passing, or limited. It is as eternal as he is eternal; it is as immense as he is immense; it is as lasting as he is lasting. And God lasts forever, for all eternity." - Padre Pio

Council Members

Spiritual Assistant:

Fr. Steve Kluge,
OFM

Minister:

Victoria Romero,
OFS

Vice Minister:

Lee Cunningham,

OFS

Formation Director:
S. Lynn Oeser, OFS

Treasurer

Louis Coker, OFS

Secretary:

Michael Hancock, OFS

Councilors:

Ellen Ferrone, OFS
(JPIC Animator)

Suzie Nelson, OFS
Maureen Copan, OFS

BSSF Region

Minister: Dorothy Ann
Rowland, OFS



ENCYCLICAL LETTER “DEUS CARITAS EST” By BENEDICT XVI
THE PRACTICE OF LOVE BY THE CHURCH AS A “COMMUNITY OF LOVE”

19. “If you see charity, you see the Trinity”, wrote Saint Augustine.[11] In the foregoing reflections, we have been able to focus our attention on the Pierced one (cf. Jn 19:37, Zech 12:10), recognizing the plan of the Father who, moved by love (cf. Jn 3:16), sent his only-begotten Son into the world to redeem man. By dying on the Cross—as Saint John tells us—Jesus “gave up his Spirit” (Jn 19:30), anticipating the gift of the Holy Spirit that he would make after his Resurrection (cf. Jn 20:22). This was to fulfill the promise of “rivers of living water” that would flow out of the hearts of believers, through the outpouring of the Spirit (cf. Jn 7:38-39). The Spirit, in fact, is that interior power which harmonizes their hearts with Christ's heart and moves them to love their brethren as Christ loved them, when he bent down to wash the feet of the disciples (cf. Jn 13:1-13) and above all when he gave his life for us (cf. Jn 13:1, 15:13).

The Spirit is also the energy which transforms the heart of the ecclesial community, so that it becomes a witness before the world to the love of the Father, who wishes to make humanity a single family in his Son. The entire activity of the Church is an expression of a love that seeks the integral good of man: it seeks his evangelization through Word and Sacrament, an undertaking that is often heroic in the way it is acted out in history; and it seeks to promote man in the various arenas of life and human activity. Love is therefore the service that the Church carries out in order to attend constantly to man's sufferings and his needs, including material needs. And this is the aspect, this service of charity, on which I want to focus in the second part of the Encyclical.

Charity as a responsibility of the Church

20. Love of neighbor, grounded in the love of God, is first and foremost a responsibility for each individual member of the faithful, but it is also a responsibility for the entire ecclesial community at every level: from the local community to the particular Church and to the Church universal in its entirety. As a community, the Church must practice love. Love thus needs to be organized if it is to be an ordered service to the community. The awareness of this responsibility has had a constitutive relevance in the Church from the beginning: “All who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need” (Acts 2:44-5). In these words, Saint Luke provides a kind of definition of the Church, whose constitutive elements include fidelity to the “teaching of the Apostles”, “communion” (koinonia), “the breaking of the bread” and “prayer” (cf. Acts 2:42). The element of “communion” (koinonia) is not initially defined, but appears concretely in the verses quoted above: it consists in the fact that believers hold all things in common and that among them, there is no longer any distinction between rich and poor (cf. also Acts 4:32-37). As the Church grew, this radical form of material communion could not in fact be preserved. But its essential core remained: within the community of believers there can never be room for a poverty that denies anyone what is needed for a dignified life.

For JPIC & Oak City Cares,
 Email Ellen Ferrone, OFS
 (OCC is 2/22/20)



For the Scrapbook:
 Email Lee Cunningham, OFS

For CPO or Library: Email Maureen Copan, OFS

For Sunshine:
 Call Marge Zombek, OFS

For Hospitality: Email Gladys Whitehouse, OFS

For the Newsletter: Email
 Zubair Simonson, OFS

For Prayer Requests: Email Joanne Jacovec, OFS

For the Website:
 Email Sharon Winzeler, OFS

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



1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us
that we may be called the children of God.

And so we are.

The reason the world does not know us
is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we shall be has not yet been revealed.
We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us
we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask,
because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

And his commandment is this:

we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ,
and love one another just as he commanded us.
Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them,
and the way we know that he remains in us
is from the Spirit he gave us.

Commentary:

This reading from the first letter of the Apostle John focuses our attention on the love of God. God's love for us is perfect and unconditional. He loves us even when we do not love Him in return. In fact, God created us out of love but then we rejected Him through sin and, thus, broke off our family relationship with Him. But, although we may have rejected God, He has never turned away His loving gaze from us. God's love is so great that He has chosen to adopt us back into His family. He made this possible through becoming one of us in Jesus Christ. As today's reading expresses, "we should believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us." We learn from this passage and other parts of Scripture that we become sons and daughters of God through faith in Jesus and being baptized (by which we receive "the Spirit he gave us"). We also learn how to act in the family of God, which is the Church. We are to "love one another" and "keep God's commandments." The beautiful thing about the family of God is that we have a perfect Father. Therefore, His commands are not burdensome or arbitrary. They are, rather, what is best for us. And, God gives us the grace we need to love Him and love one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. Let us, therefore, seek to be faithful "children of God." - USCCB



Happy February Birthdays

02 Joan Monti, OFS
11 Michael Hancock, OFS
20 Kathy Ann Horvat, OSC



"Love God, serve God; everything is in that." — St. Clare of Assisi

February Franciscan Calendar

1. Bl. Patrick O'Loughran, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr d. 1612
2. Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary
3. Martyrs of Japan, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, lay brothers and Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1597
4. St. Joseph de Leonisse, Priest, Capuchin religious, d. 1612
5. St. Jane of Valois, Virgin, the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1505
6. Bl. Pius IX, Pope, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1878
7. St. Egide-Marie de St. Joseph, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order d. 1812
8. Bl. Anthony of Stroncone, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1461
9. Bl. Clare of Rimini, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1346
10. Bl. Alojzije Stepinac, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1960
11. Apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes, 1858
12. Bl. Andre Ferrari, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1921
13. St. Eustochium of Messine, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1485
14. Bl. Philippa Mareri, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1263
16. Bl. Veridiana, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1242
17. Bl. Luke Belludi, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1286
18. St. Bernadette Soubirous, Virgin, cordbearer, d. 1879 Plenary Indulgence possible for the Cordbearers only
19. St. Conrad de Plaisance, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1351
20. Bl. Peter of Treja, Priest religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1304
21. St. Margaret of Cortona, penitent, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1297, Plenary Indulgence possible (renewal of engagements of the Franciscan Third Order Secular)
22. Feast of the Chair of St. Peter
23. Bl. Isabelle of France, Virgin of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1270
24. Bl. Innocent XI, Pope, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1689
25. Bl. Sebastian of Aparicio, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1600
26. Bl. Antonia of Florence, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1533
27. Bl. Louise Albertoni, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1533
28. Bl. Jeremie de Valachie, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1625

Ellen Ferrone, OFS, JPIC Animator continues to send us messages:

From Patricia Serotkin, OFS, Minister, Lady Poverty Region: "It is my pleasure to announce our speakers and dates for the 2020 SFO Summer Seminar at Saint Francis University. The dates are July 9-12, 2020 - and our speakers are Fr. Christopher Panagoplos, TOR and David Seitz, OFS. If interested contact Deacon Phil Rzewnicki, OFS and his wife Anna Rzewnicki, OFS who attended last year.

From Tibor Kauser, CIOFS Minister General: "One and a half year passed from the 3rd European OFS and YouFra Congress, which took place in Lithuania 6 of August, 2018. As a special fruit of the Congress a particular social initiative was born called "Well4Africa". Since the lack of potable water in Africa is one of major challenges for this continent, the participants of the Congress have decided to launch this project to help our sisters and brothers in Africa have wells in their neighborhood..... There is a video report from the inauguration ceremony available in YouTube: *Inauguration ceremony*."

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 picked, Frank Peluso, OFS and this is what he wrote:

In retirement, one can meditate on his or her life and understand what humility really is. It seems that every time my pride got the better of me someone or something humiliated me. A lesson which has been difficult to learn. Like St. Francis I can say I have been all things unholy in my life. God has been so good to me and deserves better of me. I can only repeat with the publican "Lord have mercy on me a sinner." Then add, I am sorry with all of my heart for my frailties and weakness, especially forgetting who I am - an adopted child of the Father.

I also set my phone to chime every hour. Then, each morning while reciting the Divine Office morning prayer, or reading or listening to a reflection, one can find a thought to carry with themselves throughout the day when one hears the chime.

Some of the sayings one may use are:

- I am protected by a loving father.
- Jesus, Mary and Joseph I love you and I know you love me, too.
- I trust that Jesus will take care of me.
- May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.
- Your will be done O Lord.
- God goes with me wherever I go.
- God's image is in everyone I see.
- Let me bring peace and joy to everyone I meet.
- Lord have mercy on me a sinner.

What's more, our beloved patron, St Pio said that these short prayers have a special power in bringing down God's grace upon us.

January Gathering

Our secretary, Michael Hancock, OFS stated, "There was an excellent turnout and it was sort of like another *Come and See* with over 48 people attending." Twenty-four guests were at the gathering. Sixteen had come for the *Come and See Extension*. Lynn Oeser, OFS noted that our minister, Victoria designed an excellent "Icebreaker" where everyone was to talk to as many different peoples as possible. Joan Monti, OFS won for the most persons contacted.



Fr. Steve continued the talks on Catholic Social Teaching - Solidarity. "We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that "if you want peace, work for justice." The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict." -USCCB

As usual, we snacked, sang happy birthdays to the monthly celebrants and had fellowship, sang, prayed the Divine Office before leaving.

"Our love to God is measured by our everyday fellowship with others and the love it displays." ~ Andrew Murray

"Angels can fly because they can take themselves lightly."
— G.K. Chesterton, *Orthodoxy*