



THE PADRE PIO FRATERNITY

Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis (OFS)

The Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region



THE RITE OF EXTRACTION

Those gathered at the monthly meeting in February participated in the Rite of Extraction. We each individually received (i.e. picked out of a hat) a saint, a virtue, and a scriptural passage to reflect upon for the year. May our saints inspire and pray for us. May the virtues ever grow in our hearts, and may the scripture enlighten us, that we may continue to grow in Christ through our Franciscan calling so that our own hands would be those of the Son, eager to bless and heal our world with the love of God. *By Zubair Simonson, OFS*



Ongoing formation

Father Steve Kluge spoke of the scope and meaning of the Incarnation, and how it forms ourselves and our relationships with one another and all of creation; stewardship is what we are called for. This was followed by group discussion on stewardship, with a reflection on scripture (James 2:14-26).

G.K. Chesterton quotes

“And the more I considered Christianity, the more I found that while it had established a rule and order, the chief aim of that order was to give room for good things to run wild.” - *Orthodoxy*

“Oh with what prayers and fasting Shall mortal man deserve to see That glimpse of Heaven.” - *The Coloured Lands*

Holy Father's Intention for March - Catholics in China

We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

March Devotion

March is the month of devotion to St. Joseph, whose feast falls on March 19th. The date of the solemnity of St. Joseph dates to the end of the 15th century; within the next few centuries, the entire month as a time for devotion to St. Joseph became part of tradition. In a society which seems to discourage the importance of marriage and fatherhood, St. Joseph, the spouse of the Virgin and the man given the responsibility of raising Jesus, is an incredible model of an obedient, faithful, Christian father. -USCCB

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 Ben Whitehouse, OFS and he generously answered; this is his response. Thank you Ben.

I have tried many different approaches in my life including journaling, but now that I am retired, have settled on the following as most life-giving for me:

Daily Prayer

My day begins in contemplation. It is a time in the early morning when I can quiet myself and listen for God's voice. Maybe I should be wearing my hearing aids as God's voice is usually hard to hear. During these times it is sufficient for me to just be with God, but every now and then I can sense God's presence being comforted and challenged. I wish I was more consistent and disciplined in seeking this relationship with God but nonetheless I feel a closeness to God.

Next is reflection. Gladys and I walk our dog before breakfast. Our neighborhood has nice wooded walking trails where I can appreciate the

natural wonders of God. In this relative solitude, I reflect on what if anything that came to me during the time of contemplation. It helps me to put my day in perspective as I ponder God's plan for me on that day. It is also a time to reflect on previous days successes and failures.

After breakfast, Gladys and I pray together using Give Us This Day as our guide. It is very special to be able to share this time with Gladys and to know we are joining others around the world in this prayer. I can't always fit this in but Gladys keeps me focused and disciplined.

Throughout the day I try to pause now and then to thank God for how blessed I am and all that God has given me. It is moments like this that fill me with joy.

We offer prayer and intentions at our evening meal along with our daughter Ilene.

At bedtime, Gladys and I read and reflect on the holy scriptures. We just completed reading the bible cover to cover and are now doing it again in a different format. I am always taken back by the power of God's word each time I hear it.

Other Prayer - The Peace Pole. About four years ago, I was looking for some way as to how I could help end war and violence in our world. It just seemed like such an overwhelmingly impossible task. Our parish has a peace pole (Let peace prevail on earth in 8 different languages). So for the last four years I have led a prayer for peace at 10:30 am each Sunday at the peace pole. You are always welcome to pray with us.

And lastly, I try to participate in seminars, days of reflection, and retreats for prayer and reflection.

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 "The word "good" has many meanings. For example, if a man were to shoot his grandmother at a range of five hundred yards, I should call him a good shot, but not necessarily a good man." -G.K. Chesterton

### St.Pio and St.Joseph

Several months before his death, Padre Pio asked that a picture of St. Joseph be hung near his cell. His confreres noticed that he would stop every day before the picture and gaze at it in silence. It was only later that they learned that Padre Pio had been praying each day to St. Joseph for a happy death. -<https://padrepiodevotions.org/pray-hope-dont-worry-issue-77-autumn-2018/>

### Apostolates

For JPIC & Oak City Cares,  
Email Ellen Ferrone, OFS  
(OCC is 3/28/2020)

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:  
Zubair Simonson, OFS

For the Website: Email  
Sharon Winzeler, OFS

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

### Quote

Oh, how precious time is! Blessed are those who know how to make good use of it. Oh, if only all could understand how precious time is, undoubtedly everyone would do his best to spend it in a praiseworthy manner! - St. Pio

### Happy March Birthdays

Char Witowski, OFS  
5-Mar

Christine Murray, OFS  
12-Mar

Suzie Nelson, OFS  
12-Mar

Dave Shick, OFS  
15-Mar

Annemarie Dudek, OSC  
24-Mar

Gladys Whitehouse, OFS  
24-Mar



### 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 (Appointed)

BSSF Region Minister:  
DorothyAnn Rowland, OFS  
Area 3 Councilors :  
Ellen Ferrone, OFS  
Martha Roman, OFS

Happy St. Patrick's Day  
March 17  
Happy St. Joseph's Day  
March 19

## “Called to Encourage One Another and To Build One Another Up”

Padre Pio Retreat, St Francis Springs Prayer Center

February 14 -16, 2020

We gathered at St. Francis Springs Prayer Center in Stoneville, NC, for a wonderful weekend retreat entitled “*Called to Encourage One Another and To Build One Another Up*”. (1 Thes. 5:11). We were blessed to have Friar Henry Fulmer, OFM of Triangle, VA to lead us. Friar Henry has been professed for 35 years. He brought spiritual insights, personal stories, humor and compassion in leading our retreat.

We started Friday night with ice breakers. There were lots of laughs. In following the theme, these ice breakers led us to listen, encourage and support each other in the stories of our journey. All were steps in building trust and good relationships.

On Saturday we watched a video hosted by Bishop Robert Barron on *St. Francis of Assisi – The Reformer*. You can watch it on Youtube. It was a beautiful biography of Francis and showed us the beauty of Assisi. We had personal time to reflect on the questions given to us after watching the video. After our personal reflection we sat in groups of six in which we shared our answers, and then each group shared with all participants. The discussions were lively and insightful.

We were given time to go outside and enjoy the cold but lovely campus of the Springs. Every morning and evening we prayed the Liturgy of the Hours. Friar Steve Kluge, OFM, was with us and celebrated Mass for us on Saturday evening. St Francis Springs is a warm and hospitable place for a retreat. On both nights after dinner, we gathered for fellowship. We shared snacks and wine which we had brought. There was a large birthday cookie for our February birthdays (Joan Monti, OFS, and Michael Hancock, OFS).

The comments on “What has made the most impact on you this weekend” included the following: “Being together and getting to know about each other”. “The togetherness of playing cards and talking to each other. We had time to really get to know others”. “We were lucky to have our Brothers and Sisters bring their spouses”. “They were able to see who we are, and who we want to be”. It was a weekend full of joy and self-awareness.

Twenty-seven men and women - professed, those professing in May, 4 inquirers and 2 guests. We were blessed to have Friars Henry and Steve, who shared their knowledge, personal stories, and guidance on how to follow St. Francis in our Secular calling. Friar Henry said, “Be who you say you are”.

We are scheduled to have a retreat again at St. Francis Springs in 2021. I highly encourage you to make plans to attend.



By Lee Cunningham, OFS

*St. Francis Springs Chapel*





*A wonderful turnout for our*



*A very happy birthday to Michael Hancock, OFS, and Joan Monti, OFS.*

*Fr. Steve Kluge, OFM, wraps his discussions on social teaching.*

### Franciscan Saints for March

1. Bl. Jean Kearney, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1653
2. St. Agnes de Prague, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1282
3. Bl. Innocent de Berzo, Priest, Capuchin, d. 1890
4. Bl. Martyrs of the Franciscan 1st Order of Gondar (Ethiopia), d. 1716
5. St. Jean-Joseph de la Croix, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1734
6. St. Colette of Corbie, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1447
7. Bl. Christophe de Milan, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1485
8. St. Jean de Dieu, Priest, had been a **tertiary** before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1550
9. St. Frances of Rome, Virgin, had been a **tertiary** before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1440
10. St. Catherine of Bologna, Virgin of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1463
11. Bl. Jean-Baptise de Fabriano, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1539
12. Bl. Louis Orione, Priest, Franciscan **Third Order Secular**, d. 1940
13. Bl. Agnello de Pise, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1236
14. St. Catherine de Genes, Virgin, Franciscan **Third Order Secular**, d. 1510
15. Bl. Louis de Casoria, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1885
16. Bl. Torello de Poppi, Confessor, Franciscan **Third Order Secular**, d. 1282
17. Bl. Marc de Montegallo, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1496
18. St. Salvator de'Horta, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1567
19. Saint Joseph, Holy Day of Obligation for the Church
20. Bl. Hippolyte Galentini, Confessor, Franciscan **Third Order Secular**, d. 1620
21. Bl Amedee IX de Savoie, Confessor, Franciscan **Third Order Secular**, d. 1472
22. St. Beinvenu d'Osimo, Bishop, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1282
23. Bl. Jeremie Lambertenghi, Priest, Franciscan **Third Order Secular**, d. 1513
24. Bl. Catherine de Suede, Virgin, had been a **tertiary** before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1381
25. Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Day of Obligation for the Church
26. Blessed Didacus Joseph of Cadiz, Priest, Capuchin, d. 1801
27. Bl. Joseph-Sebastien Pelczar, Bishop, Franciscan **Third Order Secular**, d. 1924
28. St. Jean de Capistran, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1456
29. Bl. Jeanne-Marie de Maille, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1414
30. St. Pierre Regalat, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1486
31. St. Leonard Murialdo, Priest, Franciscan **Third Order Secular**, d. 1900



*St. Joseph and Jesus*