

# Padre Pio Fraternity

Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region  
Secular Franciscan Order of  
Central  
North Carolina

## *the little flowers of Padre Pio Fraternity*

Volume 12 Issue 6

June 2023



### Minister's Memo

What happens when you bring together Franciscans from all parts of the Brothers and Sisters of the St. Francis Region to commemorate a centenary, observe Eucharistic adoration, hear an inspiring speaker on justice and peace, pray the Liturgy of the Hours in a variety of formats, and celebrate the joy of being a Franciscan?

The Annual Regional Gathering (ARG), of course. This year's ARG's theme is "Celebrating the Rule: 800 Years of Peacemakers in Christ Through Nonviolence." Mark your calendars now for the event scheduled for Aug. 11-13 at the Ridgecrest Conference Center in Black Mountain, NC. This year's speaker is Marie Dennis, OFS, the 2022 recipient of the Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace Award. She was recognized for her witness and leadership within the Catholic peace and justice movement and her effort to deepen the Catholic Church's commitment to nonviolence as a core value of the gospel. As we celebrate the founding of the Rule 800 years ago in 1223, we will listen and discern ways to nurture its significance in our fraternities and our own lives.

Costs for the weekend depend on how many attendees are sharing a room: Single, \$320; Double, \$191; Triple, \$156.67; and Quad, \$136.50. All prices include meals. Payment will be due at check-in which begins at 4 p.m. on Aug. 11. Let councilor Jeanne Casciere, OFS, know if you would like to come. Registration deadline is July 7. You can cancel or change your reservation until July 7.

-Sharon Winzeler, OFS *Minister*



# Padre Pio Fraternity

## May 21, 2023

Rite of Admission of Candidates: Debbie Wickwar, Judy Newell and Marianne Norris.  
(Bob and Maria Marge are out of town and will be welcomed at the June meeting.)



Photo Credits: Rachel Bongiorno, OPS

# A Prayer

Dear God,

Speak gently in my silence.

When the loud outer noises of my surroundings

and the loud inner noises of my fears

keep pulling me away from you,

help me to trust that you are still there

even when I am unable to hear you.

Give me ears to listen to your small, soft voice saying:

"Come to me, you who are overburdened, and I will give you rest . . .

for I am gentle and humble of heart." Let that loving voice be my guide.

Amen.



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## Women's Ministry Event at St. Francis Catholic Church

**Mary Magdalene in the Gospel of John: A Case of Textual Suppression?**

**When: June 22, 2023, 7:00PM-8:30PM**

**Registration is required**

**Cost: \$10.00 per person and includes refreshments: Wine and charcuterie will be served.**

**All are welcome!**

Dr. Elizabeth Schrader Polczer recently earned her PhD in Early Christianity and New Testament studies from Duke University and is an incoming Assistant Professor of New Testament at Villanova University. Dr. Polczer will share her research on the earliest manuscripts of the Gospel of John, illuminating possible efforts to diminish Mary Magdalene's significance as a disciple of Jesus.

For more information on how to register, visit [New Events - The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi \(stfrancisraleigh.org\)](https://stfrancisraleigh.org), and look for "Mary Magdalene in the Gospel of John: A Case of Textual Suppression?"





## **Fraternity Council**

Spiritual Assistant: Fr. Hugh Macsherry, OFM

Minister: Sharon Winzeler, OFS

Vice Minister: Dave Shick, OFS

Formation Director: Charlotte Witosky, OFS

Treasurer: Zubair Simonson, OFS

Secretary: Michael Hancock, OFS

Councilors:

Joan Monti, OFS

Jeanne Casciere, OFS

Chris Peffley, OFS

BSSF Region Minister: Ellen Ferrone, OFS

Area 3 Councilors:

Lee Cunningham, OFS &

Betti Pettinati-Longinotti, OFS

Our website: [ofscentralnc.org](http://ofscentralnc.org)

Facebook: Padre Pio Fraternity Secular Franciscan  
Order of Central North Carolina

## **Apostolates**

JPIC: Gladys Whitehouse, OFS

Website:

Sharon Winzeler, OFS

Oak City Cares:

Lee Cunningham, OFS & MaryLou Holloway, OFS

CPO & Fraternity Library: Maureen Copan, OFS

Hospitality:

Maureen McFadden, OFS & Alma Hammer, OFS

Prayer Requests:

Deacon Phil Rzewnicki, OFS

Sunshine: Frank Peluso, OFS

Newsletter:

Rachel Bongiorno, OFS

## **Meditations by Padre Pio**

Source: EWTN.com

To fail in charity ...

To fail in charity is like wounding God in the pupil of his eye. What is more delicate than the pupil of the eye? To fail in charity is like failing against nature.

"For he did not despise the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him."

PSALM 22:24 (NRSV)



Source: Canva Images

We welcome those who would like to learn more about the Secular Franciscans. Join us for our monthly gatherings on the fourth Sunday of each month, beginning at 2:30 p.m. Location: Founders Room at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 11401 Leesville Rd., Raleigh, North Carolina.

## **Did you know?**

[cont. from May issue] The Regional Executive Council placed the Padre Pio Fraternity under the sponsorship of the Blessed Sacrament Fraternity in Burlington, NC. Elections were to be held in September since Judy was able to get 6 members to step up. Judy and the late beloved Regional Spiritual Assistant, Father Linus Di Santis, OFM Conv. were scheduled to come for a visit that September. In September of 2007, Eileen Schneider was elected as minister and was doing a terrific job. Nicky Hill followed her and was doing a good job as minister, too. However, Nicky had to resign and leave because her granddaughter was seriously ill. Ralph Benedetto, who was the vice-minister, had to move into the minister position. He was well liked but also had to leave soon after because of personal problems. Do you remember what was written last month about the health of fraternities? The fraternity was now in a weak position from 2007 to 2010 as membership dwindled. The members were quitting one by one until it dwindled down to 5 members and for various reasons the fraternity was temporarily deactivated. However, it wasn't long before the new regional minister, Jerry Rousseau, stepped in and appointed a new council with Joanne Jacovec and Jane Sullivan Farris as leaders who helped reestablish this flourishing fraternity into what it is today. This history is in all the newsletters posted on our website.

Did you know that our apostolates are extremely important for our salvation and the salvation of the world? God the Father sent our brother Jesus out for the salvation of the world. That was His apostolate and we, as Secular Franciscans, say that we strive to follow Christ (in the example of St. Francis). The Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 863, states, "The whole Church is apostolic." An apostle is one sent on a mission. Therefore, as a lay apostle, you and I are sent out as Christ was; therefore, we are on a mission for the salvation of the world. If that applies to every Catholic, then how much more does it apply to us? How did Jesus spread the Good News? How did St. Francis do it? Jesus, being God, could miraculously feed the 5,000. St. Francis begged for food to give to the poor and hungry. We can't multiply loaves and don't have a need to beg for food. How then can you and I do it? We have the opportunity to supply food for Oak City Cares. Each month Mary Lou Holloway, OFS, sends out a list of needs. And Lee Cunningham, OFS, reminds us to do this at every gathering. Are you and I willing to go out of our way to fill up that list? We certainly can make a casserole or a salad, boil eggs, and buy bananas, oranges, or other items. We can help serve the food. As large as our fraternity is, there should not be a shortage of food for those less fortunate. Following Christ and St. Francis should inspire us to take an active part in joining other fraternity members to carry out this apostolate chosen by the Padre Pio fraternity. In this way, we help share in our own salvation and the salvation of the world.

***Be a true apostle and participate in this important apostolate.***

# Happy Birthday

Source: Canva images

**12 Frank Peluso, OFS**  
**19 Joanne Jacovec, OFS**

## ***Profession Anniversaries***

***June 25, 2016-***  
**Victoria Romero, OFS**  
**Diane Greet, OFS**  
**Marie Roccoforte, OFS**

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**Let us pray**



Source: pixabay.com

Most High, glorious God  
enlighten the darkness of my heart.  
Give me true faith, certain hope and perfect charity,  
sense and knowledge that I may carry out Your Holy  
and true command.

Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi to discern God's will

## **June Franciscan Calendar** ***Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus***

1. Bl. Felix of Nicosia
2. Bl. John Pelingotto
3. Bl. Andrew of Spello
4. St. Francois Caracciolo
5. Bl. Pacific of Cerano
6. Bl. Lawrence of Villamagna
7. Bl. Himiliana Cerchi
8. Bl. Nicolas de Gesturi
9. Bl. Innocent Guz
10. Bl. Edouard Poppe
11. Bl. Yolanda of Hungary
12. Bl. Floride Cevoli
13. St. Anthony of Padua
14. Bl. Zephirin Jimenez
15. St. Vincenta Gerosa
16. Bl. Marie-Therese Scherer
17. Bl. Peter Gambacorti
18. Bl. Guy of Cortona
19. Bl. Achille Puchata
20. Bl. Micheline de Pesaro
21. Bl. Herman Stapien
22. St. Thomas More
23. St. Joseph Cafasso
24. Nativity of St. John the Baptist
25. Bl. Bienvenu de Gubbio
26. Bl. Frederick Jassoone
27. Bl. Marguerite Baey
28. St. Barthelemie Capitanio
29. Sts. Peter and Paul, Holy Day of Obligation
30. Bl. Raymond Lulle

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### **The Pope's Prayer Intentions for June** ***For the abolition of torture***

**We pray that the international  
community may commit in a concrete  
way to ensuring the abolition of torture  
and guarantee support to victims and  
their families.**

# May Gathering

Padre Pio Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan  
Order Gathering Sunday May 23 , 2023



Rite of Admission of Candidates: Debbie Wickwar, Judy Newell and Marianne Norris.  
(Bob and Maria Marge are out of town and will be welcomed at the June meeting.)

The Lord has called us to live the gospel way of life in fraternity, as he showed it to St. Francis of Assisi.

He brings us together today  
to receive those who, moved by the Holy Spirit,  
have asked to be admitted into the Secular Franciscan Order and want to begin their  
time of formation  
which will culminate in their profession or commitment to the gospel life. We will now  
renew our faith in the Holy Spirit and call on him:  
May he give us the grace to encourage and sustain their proper formation and to walk  
with them to attain their goal.

Judy, Debbie, and Marianne the Secular Franciscan Fraternity of Padre Pio. very gladly  
promises to help you in your journey with friendship, prayer, and the witness of its life.  
You, on the other hand, strengthen our fraternity in numbers, by virtue of your presence  
and participation, and through the sharing of your special gifts.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you.

May he look upon you with kindness, and give you his peace.

May the Lord bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

the Blessing of St. Francis



**On-going Formation:**

**THE FOUR PILLARS**  
**SPIRITUALITY, FORMATION, FRATERNITY, APOSTOLATE**

Reflection on ways we can follow the national theme of “Listen, Discern, Go Forth” in relation to the Four Pillars.

In our groups, we considered each of the pillars and offered suggestions for ways our fraternity can grow in each of them. After discussion we submitted ways in which our fraternity can engage members in each of the four pillars.

Announcement of a new committee on fraternity life and the Four Pillars: Richard Hammer, OFS, John Halada, OFS, Frank Peluso, OFS, Theresa Flynn, OFS, Rachel Bongiorno, OFS and Dave Schick, OFS, Vice Minister. Please reach out to them or Sharon Winzeler, OFS, Minister with any questions or concerns.



**Fraternity Announcements:**

Oak City Cares Apostolate is Sat. **June 24**

Our Gathering will be on Sunday **June 25**

Our ARG is **Aug. 11-13, 2023**, at the Ridgecrest Conference Center in Black Mountain, NC. This is a meeting of all of the Secular Franciscans in our region, and we are fortunate to have it within driving distance. The registration deadline is July 7. The cost is \$320 for a single; \$191 for a double; \$154.57 for a triple; and \$136.50 for a quad. This covers your room and meals for the weekend. Payment is made at Ridgecrest when you check-in.

Fr. Steve Kluge, OFM, will lead our next retreat at St. Francis Springs on **May 10-12, 2024**.

Ongoing Formation **June:** Fr. Hugh Macsherry, OFM, will present on “Listening” as part of our study of the “Listen, Discern, Go Forth” theme.

Permanent Profession Ceremony will be 11a.m., Saturday, **July 15** at St. Francis of Assisi. Mass followed by reception.

Fraternity Contributions can be placed in an envelope with your name on it at the meeting or mailed to:  
Padre Pio Fraternity,  
% Zubair Simonson, OFS  
6300 Creedmoor Rd, Ste. 170  
Raleigh, NC 27612

***Please look at the important dates on our calendar at the end of the agenda.***



# Padre Pio Fraternity Apostolate

## Oak City Cares

[oakcitycares.org](http://oakcitycares.org)



Get Help



Volunteer



Donate

## Dishes of the Month

### Green Bean Casserole (15 servings)

One 102 oz can of Hanover green beans (or smaller cans that add up to this amount),  
Two 26 oz cans of condensed cream of mushroom soup,  
One 6 oz package of French-Fried onions,  
Two packets of soy sauce from your favorite takeout place,  
One 13x9 Deep disposable aluminum pan.

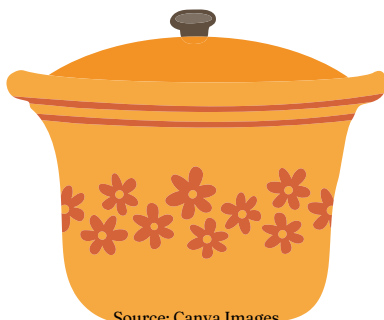
Warm up oven to 350F first.

Support the aluminum pan with a cookie sheet, it will be heavy. Drain green beans and add to pan. Add soup and stir thoroughly, if too thick add a bit of milk. Add half the pkg of FF onions and soy sauce.

Cook for approx. 45 to 50 minutes to a temp of 165F without covering. If you need to keep it warm cover with aluminum foil and lower oven temp to 200 F.

Bring it to Oak City and support our Apostolate!

Submitted by Henry Sims, OFS



Source: Canva Images

Send your recipes submissions to:  
[rchlrbsn@gmail.com](mailto:rchlrbsn@gmail.com)

### Ham and Broccoli Bake

2 10 oz pkgs frozen, chopped broccoli  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  c chopped onion  
2 T water  
2 10.5 oz cans condensed cream of chicken soup  
1 c. shredded sharp cheddar cheese (4 oz.)  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  c. milk  
3 cups chopped cooked ham  
2 cups minute rice  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. Worcestershire

In a 2 1/2 quart casserole dish, cook in microwave: Broccoli, onion and water covered for 11 minutes. Stir two times. Blend in soup, cheese, milk, cooked ham, cooked rice and Worcestershire. Cook covered 10-11 minutes. Stir two times. Let stand covered for 5 minutes. Stir. This recipe serves 8.

Submitted by Suzie Nelson, OFS

We are requesting from the homebound and others in the fraternity who cannot participate in our apostolate to pray for the guests we serve at Oak City Cares on the Saturday before Gathering from 3pm-4pm

A few ideas to consider from our Vice Minister Dave Shick:

- Rosary, or Crown Rosary
- "Office of Readings" (offered with personal intentions....) from Liturgy of the Hours
- Divine Mercy Chaplet
- 20 minutes of Scripture readings (offered with personal intentions....)
- 30 minutes of Eucharistic Adoration seated in front of the Tabernacle or Adoration Chapel



## FRANCISCAN ZOOM LECTURE SERIES

Once a month | 7 PM PDT or 10 PM EST

Join us to learn more about the Franciscan Tradition from Scholars across the Globe. All Lectures are done via Zoom.



June 15, 2023

**Franciscan Theology of the Eucharist: Does it inform our lives?**

By: Jim Sabak, OFM

In an age that progressively removed the faithful's access to the Eucharist, Saint Francis of Assisi conceived an approach to the Eucharist built upon his embrace of the humanity of Christ. Eucharist provided a means for living in this world as Christ lived and so it influenced the evolution of the community and the Order. Today, how does or how might a Franciscan conception of the Eucharist inspire believers to receive Eucharist as a transformational encounter with Christ and the world?

James "Jim" Sabak, O.F.M., is a Franciscan Friar of the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus (New York, New York). He received his Doctorate in Sacramental Theology/Liturgy from The Catholic University of America in 2012. Jim currently holds the position of Director of Worship for the Diocese of Raleigh, North Carolina, and episcopal emcee for the bishop of Raleigh. He has taught at Siena College, Albany, New York; Catholic University, Washington, D.C.; and at the Franciscan School of Theology. In addition to pastoral presentations on liturgical theology and pastoral application of the sacraments, he has written for the journals: *Worship*, *Studia Liturgica*, *Horizons*, and has been a contributor to the "PrayTell Blog." Jim also co-hosts the *Potential to be Amazing* podcast.



Saint Francis in the Woods by Albert Bloch  
Source: wikipedia.org

### Community is Heart Calling to Heart

"Friendship, marriage, family, religious life (fraternity), and every other form of community is solitude greeting solitude, spirit speaking to spirit, and heart calling to heart. It is the grateful recognition of God's call to share life together and the joyful offering of a hospitable space where the re-creating power of God's Spirit can become manifest. Thus, all forms of life together can become ways to reveal to each other the real presence of God in our midst.

Community has little to do with mutual compatibility. Similarities in educational background, psychological makeup, or social status can bring us together, but they can never be the basis for community. Community is grounded in God, who calls us together, and not in the attractiveness of people to each other. . . . The mystery of community is precisely that it embraces all people, whatever their individual differences may be, and allows them to live together as brothers and sisters of Christ and sons and daughters of his heavenly Father."

By Henry Nouwen