

# Padre Pio Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order

## Gathering Agenda

2:30 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 27, 2023

[Zoom Link](#)

***We will recite the Angelus right before the opening prayer. If it is your heart's desire, please join us in prayer.***

### The Angelus

**L:** The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:

**All Respond:** And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

**All Pray:** Hail Mary, full of grace . . .

**L:** Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

**All Respond:** Be it done unto me according to Thy word.

**All Pray:** Hail Mary...

**L:** And the Word was made Flesh.

**All Respond:** And dwelt among us.

**All Pray:** Hail Mary...

**L:** Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

**L:** Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord.

**Amen.**



1. <b>Opening Prayer:</b> <b>Dave Shick, OFS, Vice Minister</b>	<b>2:30 p.m.</b>
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*Ritual, pages 35 – 36*

**Minister:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

**Minister:** Most high, all-powerful, good God, praise, glory, and honor and all blessings are yours.

**All:** Praise and bless my Lord, and give Him thanks, and serve him with great humility.

**Minister:** Let us pray. (Pause)

Most high, glorious God,  
enlighten the darkness of our hearts  
and give us right faith, firm hope, and perfect charity,  
with wisdom and insight, O Lord,  
that we may accomplish your holy and true will.

**All:** Amen

2. <b>Welcome Guests</b> (Russell Owen)
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### 3. **Ceremony of Welcoming for New Inquirers:**

Courtney Cantrell, Rosemary Czejkowski, Chris Damico, Eyram Klu, Stacy Lewis, Debra Marusak, Barbara Redzich, Dorothy Pribish, John Price, Monica Kleimeyer, and Israel Pattison.

#### **4. Henry Simms, OFS, will present on “Practicing the Presence of God.”**

##### **Discussion Questions**

1. The Secular Franciscan Rule 5 asks us to “seek to encounter the living and active person of Christ in their brothers and sisters, in Sacred Scripture, in the Church, and in liturgical activity.”

**Share ways you are personally aware of God’s kindness and presence in your life.**

2. The Secular Franciscan Rule 19 states, “ Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon. Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others.”

3. The Secular Franciscan Rule 10 states, "United themselves to the redemptive obedience of Jesus, who placed his will in the Father’s hands, let them faithfully fulfill the duties proper to their various life circumstances. Let them follow the poor and crucified Christ, witness to him even in difficulties and persecutions.”

Brother Lawrence did not complain. He faithfully fulfilled the duties he was given. He was a “bearer of peace” and was a “witness” to the “crucified Christ.”

**What things in your daily life cause you to complain? How do you try to handle those feelings so you can be a messenger of joy, a bearer of peace, and a witness to Christ Crucified?**

3. The Secular Franciscan Rule 8 states, “As Jesus was the true worshipper of the Father, so let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all they are and do. Let them participate in the sacramental life of the Church, above all the Eucharist. Let them join in liturgical prayer in one of the forms proposed by the Church, reliving the mysteries of the life of Christ.”

**As Franciscans, we must let “prayer and contemplation be the soul of all we are and do.” Brother Lawrence presents a method to “practice the presence.” What ways or methods do you use to be in the presence of our Lord?**

<p><b>5. Fellowship time and celebration of June birthdays and our new inquirers.</b> Birthdays: 10 Henry Sims, OFS; 31 Valorie Davis, OFS The cookies in the silver tin are from Mayra Rangel, who moved to Germany. Enjoy!</p>	<p><b>3:30 p.m.</b></p>
<p><b>6. Fraternity business:</b></p> <p><b><u>Formation announcements.</u></b> Char Witosky, OFS (Formation director)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report from Annual Regional Gathering at Ridgecrest.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Treasurer's Report:</u></b> Zubair Simonson, OFS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Oak City Cares</u></b> - MaryLou Holloway, OFS, and Lee Cunningham, OFS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our next hot meal service at Oak City Cares is on Saturday, Sept. 23.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>JPIC Update:</u></b> Rachael Bongiorno, OFS</p> <p><b><u>Outreach to Young Adults:</u></b> Anne Evangelista, OFS</p> <p><b><u>The fraternity picnic</u></b> is from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Bond Park Cary. (Suzie Nelson, OFS)</p>	<p><b>3:50 p.m.</b></p>

### Save the Dates:

- Our next retreat will be **on Sunday, Dec. 3**, at St. Francis. Fr. Jacek Orzechowski, O.F.M., will lead us on an Advent retreat.
- Our fraternity picnic will be from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. **Saturday, Sept. 16**, at Bond Park, Cary.
- Sister Ilia Delio, OSF, will speak on **Saturday, Oct. 28**, at a Franciscan Convocation at St. Francis of Assisi parish. Sign-ups will be available soon.
- If anyone is interested in presenting a talk on women Franciscan saints on **Sunday, Oct. 22**, at St. Francis of Assisi, please contact Sharon Winzeler.
- Our fraternity will facilitate a book study of Ilia Delio's *The Hours of the Universe* beginning **Wednesday, Sept. 13**. It will be held on Zoom on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. Tell MaryLou Holloway or Sharon Winzeler if you are interested in facilitating or attending.
- We will serve at a special centenary celebration of the 800th anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi's creche at Greccio, Italy, at St. Francis of Assisi Church on **Friday, Dec. 15**.
- Fr. Steve Kluge, OFM, will lead our next retreat at St. Francis Springs on **May 10-12, 2024**.

7. <a href="#"><u>Liturgy of the Hours: Led by Char Witosky</u></a>	4:10 p.m.
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According to the OFS Rule (art. 8), the members of the Secular Franciscan Order are to join in liturgical prayer in one of the forms proposed by the Church, reliving the mysteries of Christ.

These prayers may be:

- a) Morning and evening prayer from The Liturgy of the Hours, either in common or in private. These celebrations are to be preferred at the fraternity meeting.
- b) A shortened form of The Liturgy of the Hours adapted to the local Churches.
- c) The Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- d) The Office of the Passion written by St. Francis of Assisi.
- e) The office of the twelve Our Fathers in one of its many versions that have been enriched with short biblical readings and also adapted to the structure of The Liturgy of the Hours, especially since this form of prayer still thrives in many parts of the world and is a useful way of praying in everyday circumstances.