

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 15 Issue 10

October 2023



Source: Canva Images

Minister's Memo

by Sharon Winzeler, OFS, *Minister*

Joanne Jacovec, OFS, is a treasure to our fraternity. Some of you will recall her presentation on Padre Pio in the recent past. In the early days of our fraternity's re-emergence starting in 2011, she served as formation director and minister.

Joanne, along with the late Jane Farris, led our fraternity to become the vital, active, prayerful group of Secular Franciscans that we are today. The fraternity was so important to Jane that her husband Tommy Farris sends us a monthly contribution that we use to support our apostolates and scholarships for Seculars who want to attend retreats. You don't see Joanne at gatherings lately because she has dealt with cancer and, more recently, an injury from a freak auto accident that has left her in constant pain and with limited mobility.

Like most Franciscans, Joanne doesn't let that stop her from serving others and speaking up on behalf of those in need. She called the other day with two requests for Catholic Parish Outreach.

-Keep sending plastic bags for CPO. They are providing food for 130 families per day.

-Consider donating money to CPO, which often runs out of food by the end of the day.

That means parents who work during the day and stop by CPO in late afternoon often find that the shelves are empty. Joanne says the organization is desperate for donations so that families can be fed. She is so touched by the need that she says she will match whatever the fraternity can donate. "The children are hungry. We need to do what we can to help," Joanne said.

Each month we spend about \$130 purchasing diapers for CPO. This month the council will consider whether we want to offer another donation to help CPO put more food on its shelves. Joanne said the parents often go without meals so that the children can eat. CPO has started offering snacks to parents while they shop so that they can have some light refreshment. How does she know all this? Her husband Al volunteers at CPO a couple of days a week. Meanwhile, Joanne is busy at home knitting hats for the children of CPO visitors so they will stay warm this winter.

The need is great in our community. Please consider whether we should increase our contribution to CPO on a one-time or regular basis and let me or another member of your council know your thoughts.

If you would like to send a card to Joanne and let her know that you are thinking of her, the address is 1219 Greystone Park Dr., Raleigh 27615.

Padre Pio Fraternity Gathering

Sunday September 24, 2023

Ceremony of Sponsorship for New Inquirers:

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



“Understanding Unconscious Bias.”
Presented by Carolyn Townes, OFS

Big or small, our actions shape the world around us.

"I love stories... because stories have the power to break down resistance. Stories can override the ego so the spirit message can penetrate... That is why Jesus spoke in parables. Stories or parables can outwit the part of you that resists change." She shared with us a parable of Jesus found in Matthew and offered some explanation. [He came to his native place and taught the people in their synagogue. They were astonished and said, "Where did this man get such wisdom and mighty deeds? Is he not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother named Mary and his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas? Are not his sisters all with us? Where did this man get all this?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and in his own house." And he did not work many mighty deeds there because of their lack of faith. Matthew 53-58]. She added, "The image in their minds did not match the person standing before them. We tend to get angry and indignant when our image of the world is challenged or compromised in any way." She added, "Bias can be positive or negative. Conscious or unconscious. Unconscious bias are the assumptions, stereotypes or unintentional actions we make on others based on identity labels... big or small, our actions shape the world around us."

View the full presentation on our regional website here:

<https://www.bssfso.org/multicultural-resources-2/>

Save the Dates:

- Our next retreat will be on Saturday, Dec. 2, at St. Francis. Fr. Jacek Orzechowski, O.F.M., will lead us on an Advent retreat.
- Sister Ilia Delio, OSF, will speak on Saturday, Oct. 28, at a Franciscan Convocation at St. Francis of Assisi parish. Sign-ups on
- 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.
- We will serve at a special centenary celebration of the 800th anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi's crèche 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.

Discussion Questions

- When did you refuse to see the divine seed in someone who was different from you?
- Moving forward, how will you consciously and mindfully disrupt your biases – witnessing to God's grace in people who are different from you?

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

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

Apostolates

JPIC & Newsletter: Rachel Bongiorno, OFS

Oak City Cares:

MaryLou Holloway, OFS & Mary Cockrill, OFS

On-going Formation Team:

Gladys Whitehouse, OFS

Prayer Requests:

Deacon Phil Rzewnicki, OFS

CPO & Fraternity Library: Maureen Copan, OFS

Website:

Sharon Winzeler, OFS

Hospitality:

Maureen McFadden, OFS & Alma Hammer, OFS

Sunshine: Frank Peluso, OFS & Laurie Wilburn

Meditations by Padre Pio

Source: EWTN.com

“One thing is necessary: to be near Jesus. You know well that at the birth of our Lord the shepherds heard the angelic and divine chants of the heavenly spirits. The Scriptures say so. But they do not say that his Virgin Mother and St. Joseph, who were nearer to the Child, heard the voices of the angels or saw those miracles of splendor. On the contrary, they heard the Child weeping and saw by the light of a poor lantern the eyes of the Divine Child all bathed in tears, in sighs and shivering with cold. Now I ask you: Would you not have preferred to have been with the shepherds, beside yourself with joy over those sweet melodies from heaven and the beauties of this wonderful splendor?”



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.



16 Dorothy Ann Pribish

18 Deacon Phil Rzewnicki, OFS

19 Monica Kleimeyer

26 Courtney Cantrell

Profession Anniversaries

October 9, 1955

Ida Irwin

&

October 20, 2004

Jeanette Cottone

The Pope's Prayer Intentions for October

For the Synod

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.



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

October Franciscan Calendar ***Month of of the Holy Rosary and*** ***the Holy Angels***

1. Bl. Nicolas of Forca
2. Bl. Antoine Chevrier
3. St. Therese of the Infant Jesus
4. Solemnity of our Seraphic Father St. Francis
5. Commemoration of the establishment of
the 3 Orders/ Blessed Felicia Meda
6. St. Mary Frances of the Five Wounds
7. Feast of the Holy Rosary
8. St. Bridget of Sweden
9. Bl. Marie-Angele Truszkowska
10. St. Francois Borgia
11. Feast of the Divine Maternity of Our Lady
12. St. Seraphin of Montegranaro
13. Bl. Pacifique de Valence
14. St John of Dukla
15. Bl. Sebastien de Jesus
16. Bl. Anicet de Dbrzno
17. Bl. Balthassar of Chiavari
18. Bl. James of Strepar
19. St. Peter of Alcantara
20. Bl. Contardo Ferrini
21. Bl. Martyrs of Polonais
22. Bl. John Baptist Bullaker
23. St. Anthony Mary Claret
24. Bl. Josephine Leroux
25. Bl. Maria Veronica Masia Ferragut
26. Bl. Martyrs of the War of Spain
27. Bl. Bonaventure of Potenza
28. Bl. Anne-Eugenie Picco
29. Bl. Thomas of Florence
30. Bl. Angelo of Acre
31. Bl. Christophe de Cahors

Padre Pio Fraternity Picnic

September 16th 2023

A wonderful time at Bond Park with over a dozen of our fraternity members and family.

Many thanks to Suzie Nelson for organizing this event and particularly for arranging for such a gorgeous day at the park.



Source: Padre Pio Fraternity Website
Photo Credit: Michael Hancock, OFS



Feast of Saint Francis
OCTOBER 4TH

Source: Canva Images



Did you know?

By Frank Peluso, OFS

Did you know there are many resources available to the council offices and committees?

Here is a few that you can also use to make you well informed. They are particularly valuable in discerning if you want to run for an office. Check them out.

National Fraternity:

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/>

Formation and spirituality, Justice and Peace and the Integrity of Creation. (JPIC), Guidelines, Forms & Other Resources, Meeting Documents and Proceedings, Franciscan Websites. The Holy name province, and Publications like The Tau-USA, (a publication of the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order of the United States), and there is also the latest Franciscan news. Here you can find the rule and constitution. The 4 constitution contains the duties of the council and the duties of each office (Minister, Secretary, Treasurer, etc.)

The Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region:

<https://www.bssfsfo.org/>

This contains fraternities of the region and their ministers, a Minister's letter and other articles, videos, The Stations of the Cross: Overcoming Racism, popular films that deal with racism, reflection questions on racism from Fr. Cidouane Joseph, OFM the Communio (our regional newsletter), etc. and visitation forms for pastoral and pre-visitation, guidance for visitation stipends, reimbursement form, and most important the Fraternity Transfer Form.

The Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order

This book contains: rites for entering the Secular Franciscan Order, prayers for fraternity meetings, scriptura readings, Franciscan readings. Prayers of St. Francis including the Canticle of the Sun, Divine Offices that he composed and his special Our Father. If you have this book, I'll bet you never looked at the last section which gives you St. Francis' prayer life.

Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi "passing over" from this life - to the glory of heaven is found at:

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Transitus-of-St-Francis.pdf>

The Padre Pio Fraternity of Raleigh, NC 's

<https://ofscentralnc.org>

It has a calendar of events, news, photos, newsletter, regional gatherings, community outreach, resources, a memorial for Jane Farris, (her husband, Ellis "Tim" Farris, gives us a donation each month in honor of his wife Jane). This website also lists our apostolates.

Catechism of the Catholic Church online

<https://www.usccb.org/sites/default/files/flipbooks/catechism/> or you can buy it online.

Lumen Gentium The Dogmatic Constitution of the Catholic Church

https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19641121_lumen-gentium_en.html

These websites and books all help us to be better secular Franciscans and Catholics...They can answer any of your questions. St Francis said, "Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible." These suggestions would be a good place to start.

Let Him Love You

The question of receiving the love of Christ is really very important. I personally feel more and more that sometimes it is harder for us to fully receive love than to give it. I am more and more convinced that we will find the peace and joy of Christ when we let him truly enter into the deepest places of our heart, especially those places where we are afraid, insecure, and self-rejecting.



Source: Canva Image

Newcomer's Reflections on ARG Experience

By Rachel Bongiorno, OFS
Padre Pio Fraternity

While we may age or go through different seasons in our lives, our memories become a part of us. One very special memory that I will always hold close to my heart is my first experience at the Annual Regional Gathering (ARG) held Aug. 11-13 at the Ridgecrest Conference Center in Black Mountain, NC.

The joy of being together in communion with such a large number of fellow Franciscans was not only wonderful but also, at times, overwhelming. Overwhelming in the sense that one feels at a family reunion, perhaps. There was a flurry of activity all around, many exuberant conversations and the warmth of the Holy Spirit radiating throughout.

It made me think about the story from the *Little Flowers*, in which Clare and Francis met and the holiness they created made the townspeople fear the little church was on fire because it appeared to burn and glow. The Eucharistic Procession we shared in moved me deeply. We started together from the conference room and began following, the halls echoing with our voices as we sang O Salutaris.

People who were not there with us but were having their own retreats, kindly held the doors open as we slowly and reverently made our way across the campus to the chapel where individuals would hold Eucharistic adoration. I knew in that moment, even those who do not understand our practices could see that it was truly holy.

Never in my life have I ever felt so spiritually joined with my brothers and sisters while revering the Lord in such a way. I tend to get emotional when I feel the Spirit in my heart, and this was no exception. My cup overflowed.

I love the Lord dearly, and I will forever be grateful to have shared in this experience with you all, my brothers and sisters in Christ.

We pray for those whose memory has failed them. May they always know how much they are loved by our Lord and their families.



Rachel Bongiorno, OFS, right, and her husband Travis Bongiorno, OFS, left, participated in the procession of the fraternity banners before Sunday Mass at the ARG. Both made their permanent profession on July 15, and this was their first ARG visit.

Source: Communio Summer 2023 Edition

Spirituality



The Four Pillars of Secular Franciscan Life

Formation



Fraternity



Apostolate



Padre Pio Fraternity Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation



*Not pictured: Chris Damico & family, Roy Norris, Theresa Flynn & family and Courtney Cantrell & family

Saturday September 2, 2023

Thank you to all those who attended our walk at the park for this year's Season of Creation. It was a beautiful day spent in fraternity with God's Creation.

Oak City Cares



Our next hot meal service at Oak City Cares is on Saturday, Oct. 28.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew (Matthew 25:34-45)

“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’ Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’”

“Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.’ Then they themselves also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?’ Then He will answer them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’”



SERAPHIC MASS ASSOCIATION
myMassRequest.org
SUPPORTING CAPUCHIN MISSIONS

There is no greater gift.

The Seraphic Mass Association is dedicated to supporting Capuchin missionaries around the world. We invite ordinary Catholics to participate in the mission work of the Church by their prayers, interest and concern, and financial support for Capuchin missionaries and the people they serve. Through Mass offerings and general donations, there is a special focus on Capuchin missionaries who labor in the most challenging circumstances.

Offerings for Masses are sent to missionaries. In poor regions, the Mass offering may be the only source of financial support for Capuchin missionaries and the expenses related to their pastoral work among the poor and forgotten.

The Seraphic Mass Association also makes appeals to the faithful to contribute to projects and purchases that are beyond the means of the people served by the missionaries. In turn, Capuchin missionaries are invited to request support for specific projects and expenditures.

The Seraphic Mass Association is committed to operating as a not-for-profit organization. We honor the financial donations for our missionaries and their work and are pledged to distribute those contributions according to the intentions of the donors.

Source: mymassrequest.org



Source: HNOJ Cathedral Justice & Outreach



Join Women's Ministry for a nature immersion experience, also known as an "awe walk," where we will connect with God through nature and one another. Participants are welcome to stay after for a hike and fellowship.

Saturday, October 14th | 9am
Registration is available in Realm

Source: Saint Francis, Raleigh



Rosary Ministry

In praying the Rosary, we include the petitions and intentions of our parishioners, the ministries of our parish, and the prayers of our community and world. By praying the Rosary, we reach out and offer spiritual support to our brothers and sisters who are in need. We meet every Monday from 7:30 to 8:30 pm in St. Mary of the Angels Chapel. We meet every morning immediately after the 9am Mass in St. Mary of the Angels Chapel

Contact:

Marian Monti | (919) 841-0807 | ianmar94@aol.com

Richard Hammer | (716) 903-1690 | steinmeisterhammer@gmail.com



Source: Canva Images
Source: stfrancisraleigh.org



OCT 21
EUCCHARISTIC
CONGRESS
CONGRESO EUCARÍSTICO
RALEIGH CONVENTION CENTER
2023

Raleigh Convention Center
500 S Salisbury St
Raleigh, NC, 27601, United States

See website [here](http://stfrancisraleigh.org) for more details



Unbound is an international nonprofit based in Kansas City, Kansas, and founded by lay Catholics grounded in the Gospel call to put the needs of the marginalized and vulnerable first.

Our mission is to walk with the poor and marginalized of the world.

By providing personal attention and direct benefits, we help children, youth, elders and their families in Africa, Asia and Latin America build their unique paths out of poverty. We invite all people of goodwill to join our community and walk in solidarity with the world's poor through one-to-one sponsorship. The connections we create foster relationships and transform lives across geographic, economic and social divides.



Theological Base

We are grounded in the Gospel call to serve the poor.



Integrity and Accountability

Honesty and transparency are necessary to operate an efficient and effective organization.



Dignity of the Person

Recognizing the God-given dignity of each person is essential to sincere, lasting, loving relationships.



Respectful Relationships

A relationship of mutual respect between sponsor and sponsored person is central to Unbound's mission.

Source: unbound.org



HOLY CROSS
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sharing Garden

The Sharing Garden is a ministry within the parish's Outreach and Social Action ministry. Gardeners rent a garden bed to grow produce for their own use, and also help with the 'sharing beds' where we grow produce to share with the Durham Coimunity Food Pantry, for distribution to their clients throughout the growing season. For details, contact Anna Rzewnicki, garden@holycrossdurham.org

Garden projects | One hour at a time

- **Harvesting veggies** | Tuesday mornings 9 AM - 10 AM
- **Rinsing/Packing veggies** | Tuesday mornings, 10 AM-11 AM
- **Weeding, Trimming and Staking up veggies**
 - > Wednesday mornings 8 AM - 10 AM
 - > Friday mornings: 8 AM - 10 AM
 - > (Rain Day) Alternate: Saturday Mornings: 9 AM - 11 AM

Send an email message to amrzewnicki@gmail.com, with the day/time that you would like to help in the Sharing Garden.

Source: holycrossdurham.org



Catholics for Abolition in North Carolina (also known as CANC) was formed in 2022 by St. Francis of Assisi parishioner, Nancy J Jones. CANC wants to invite you to join them for prayer and peaceful protest on Tuesday, October 10th, "World Day Against the Death Penalty," from 4:30 to 6PM outside Central Prison. Please read more, and bring as many guests as you can! *Join CANC on October 10th and become part of the movement to end the death penalty in North Carolina!*

Source: catholicsforabolitionnc.org