

Padre Pio Fraternity
Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region
Secular Franciscan Order
of Central
North Carolina
the little flowers of Padre Pio Fraternity

Minister's Memo

by Sharon Winzeler, OFS, Minister

I've missed or been late to a few family gatherings because of fraternity-related commitments. Instead of being hurt or angry, one of my daughters responded, "That's okay, mom. I can see the joy your fraternity gives you."

I experience joy each time we meet. Although I don't always get to speak to each of you, I leave our gatherings inspired by your presence. Your light enlivens my faith and shines on the world with God's love.

Have you ever wondered why our fraternity keeps growing? As Franciscans, we attract people by living out the love and joy that is rooted in the Gospel message. We share a calling that connects us to a greater purpose that is outside of ourselves.

Being a Secular Franciscan is a daily reminder of how much God loves us and how much He wants us to share that love with others.

At our recent retreat Fr. Steve Kluge, OFM, reminded us that we are called to love the person in front of us. "If you look for the love of God in other people, you will find it," Fr. Kluge said. We go out each day, finding the love of God in others.

What could be better than a local Franciscan gathering? Think about a gathering of upwards of 200 Franciscans in the mountains. That's how many are expected at this year's Annual Regional Gathering Aug. 9-11 in Black Mountain, NC. Our brothers and sisters from North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia will be with us to celebrate our 30th anniversary of our Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region.

There will be inspiring talks by Franciscans—friars and seculars—as well as time to make new friends. We will have a visit from provincial spiritual Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM, and Joshua Molitor, OFS, national councilor, as well as our own spiritual assistants.

Save the dates and look for registration details soon. Register early. Rooms are limited.

Peace and love,
Sharon

Fraternity Council

Spiritual Assistant: Fr. Hugh Macsherry, OFM

Minister: Sharon Winzeler, OFS

Vice Minister: Rachel Bongiorno, OFS

Formation Director: Gladys Whitehouse, OFS

Treasurer: Janette Perez, OFS

Secretary: Mary Cockrill, OFS

Councilors:

Richard Hammer, OFS

Travis Bongiorno, OFS

Anne Evangelista, 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: Theresa Flynn, OFS

Newsletter & Facebook: 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

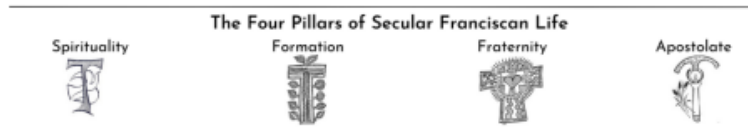
CPO & Fraternity Library: Maureen Copan, OFS

Website: Sharon Winzeler, OFS

Hospitality:
Maureen McFadden, OFS & Alma Hammer, OFS

Sunshine: Frank Peluso, OFS &
Laurie Wilburn, OFS

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.



*²The new man, Francis,
became famous for a new and stupendous miracle.
By a singular privilege, not granted in previous ages,
he appeared marked,
adorned with the sacred stigmata,
and conformed in this body of death
to the body of the Crucified.*

Excerpt from:

The Treatise on the Miracles of Saint Francis
by Thomas of Celano



Traditional Franciscan Calendar June Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

1. Bl. Felix de Nicosie
2. Bl. Jean Pelingotto
3. Bl. Andre de Spello
4. St. Francois Caracciolo
5. Bl. Pacifique de Cerano
6. Bl. Laurent de Villamagna
7. Bl. Himiliane 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. Vincente Gerosa
16. Bl. Marie-Therese Scherer
17. Bl. Pierre Gambacorta
18. Bl. Guy de Cortone
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. Frederic Janssone
27. Bl. Marguerite Baeyss
28. St. Barthelemie Capitanio
29. Sts. Peter and Paul
30. Bl. Raymond Lulle

The Pope's Prayer Intentions for June

For migrants fleeing their homes

We pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys full of danger and violence, find welcome and new opportunities in the countries that receive them.



12 Frank Peluso, OFS

15 Rosemary Czejkowski

19 Joanne Jacovec, OFS

26 Carolyn Townes, OFS

Profession Anniversaires

June 25, 2016

Diane Greet, OFS

Marie Roccoforte, OFS

Victoria Romero, OFS

June 27, 2020

Jeanne Casciere, OFS

Joan Monti, OFS

Dcn. Phil Rzewnicki, OFS

Anna Rzewnicki, OFS

Dave Shick, OFS

Ben Whitehouse, OFS

Gladys Whitehouse, OFS

Mike Oeser, OFS

Sharing Our Blessings

by Deacon Phil Rz., OFS

Labyrinths

Some of us who participated in the recent retreat at St. Francis Springs Prayer Center took advantage of using the beautiful labyrinth there to pray on. Here's a little explanation of this ancient practice I learned about while involved with an ecumenical spiritual transformation program in our area.

Unlike mazes, which have more than one path and tend to trap the journeyer in their confusing midst, labyrinths only have a single path, and it appears the same going in and coming out. It isn't though because we are transformed by the journey itself.

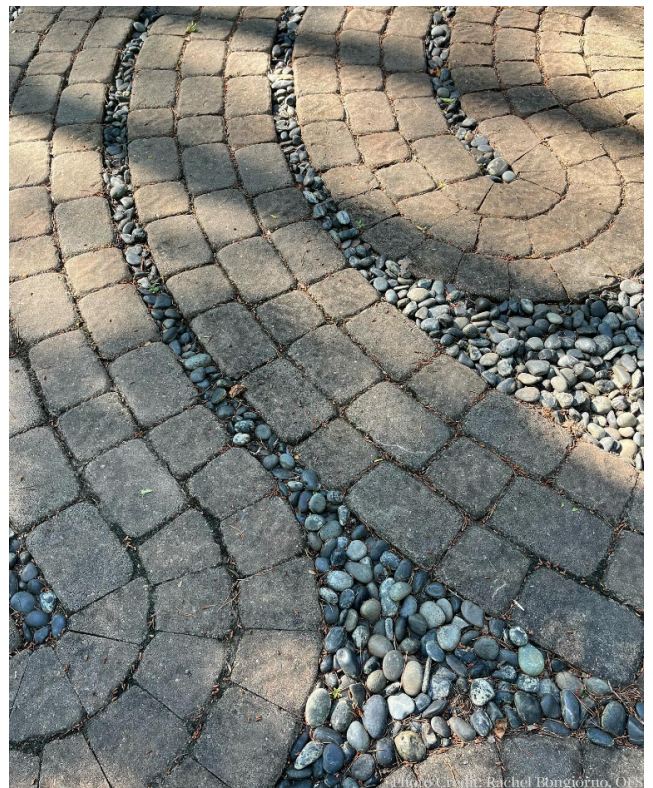
In medieval Christian times, three stages – walking to the center of the labyrinth, pausing there, and returning – represented the stages of the spiritual journey: purification, illumination, and union with God. Meeting God on the inward path, we discover our destination is finding our own deepest self within the heart of God. Reaching the center, we rest in God. We rest peacefully at the still point, surrendering to Divine Love, before turning again, now forgiven, healed, and transformed through our heart-to-heart union with God. The outbound journey becomes symbolic of the new integrated life we carry back into our lives and the life of the world. Returning to the place where we started, we see with new eyes and experience changed hearts.

When we walk a labyrinth, we must learn to leave Chronos, or chronological time, and enter Kairos time, the more liminal, timeless dimension where our deepest encounters with God await us. The mother of all labyrinths, the eleven-circuit labyrinth is still intact on the floor of one of the most sacred sites on earth, Chartres Cathedral in France. Labyrinths can be found at many area Christian churches.

10 labyrinths in the Triangle:

<https://triangleonthecheap.com/labyrinths/>

World-wide locator: <https://labyrinthlocator.com/>



Meet the Inquirer

Rosemary Czejkowski

I am Rosemary Czejkowski, a nice Irish girl who married a cute Polish boy-hence the name. I have had the privilege of growing up most of my life right here in the Raleigh dioceses. My family is originally from the Pittsburgh area and that is where I started. We made our way to Raleigh via Cincinnati and in Raleigh I went to Cardinal Gibbons HS when it was tiny. At Gibbons I helped start the women's soccer team because I wanted a HS letter.

I was also involved in the Diocesan high school retreat program known as Search. It was through the Search program that I began to grow in my faith and come to know and love Jesus. This was a profound conversion moment for me, and I am eternally grateful to the women and men who provided this encounter with Christ for me. It is still instrumental in how I serve God now-choosing to serve in youth ministry and other ministries that support, and foster marriage and family life focused around conversion and opportunities to encounter Christ in a personal and intimate way.

I obtained my BS in Physical Therapy at UNC-CH. I have worked in the field of PT for over 36 yrs. in a rehab setting with elderly clients working to return to meaningful mobility after injury or illness. In College I met Joe at church. Shortly after graduating we were married and started our family. We have 4 adult children, a daughter-in-law and a granddaughter with another on the way! My nickname as a child was RoseBud and my new best name ever is BUD because that is what my granddaughter Evelyn calls me.

A significant moment in our faith journey came with the birth of our 4th child. She has Down syndrome and had to have open heart surgery as an infant. This was formative time in my faith journey causing struggle and growth and helped develop a deeper trust in God's provision for me and our family. It was also a time of growth in understanding of how we are church and light to each other. We were very held and ministered to by so many people at St Francis at this time.

Investigating life as a Secular Franciscan has been a natural flow out of our life lived here the community of St Francis. I had contemplated it over the years but only decided to learn more when I was personally invited. Having a deep love of Jesus I was concerned that a commitment to Franciscan life would conflict by focusing more on Francis than Jesus. Having journeyed thus far, I can see that Francis and Clare desired only to follow Jesus as closely as they could, and I have found in them models of seeking after and listening to the heart of God and then giving a whole-hearted "yes" to God's will-something I too want to do.



Padre Pio Fraternity Retreat at St. Francis Springs May 10-12



Padre Pio Fraternity Retreat at St. Francis Springs

May 10-12



Photo Credit: Anne Evangelista, OES

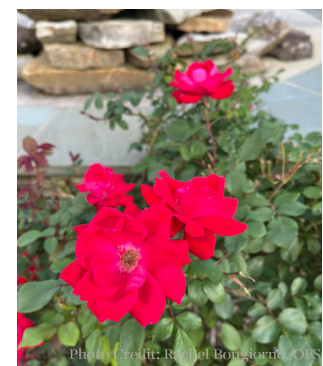


Photo Credit: Rachel Bongiorno, OES



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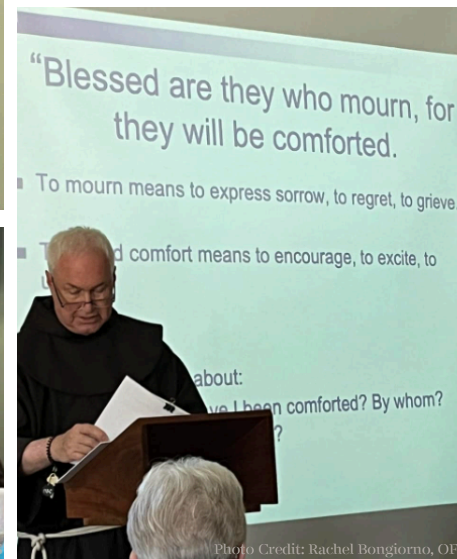


Photo Credit: Rachel Bongiorno, OES



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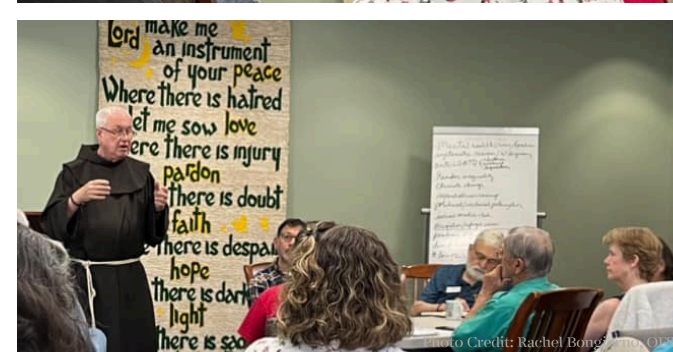


Photo Credit: Rachel Bongiorno, OES



Photo Credit: Ellen Ferrone, OES



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Meditation Brings us to the Source of Love

Human withdrawal [for meditation] is a very painful and lonely process, because it forces us to directly face our own condition in all its misery as well as its beauty. But when we are not afraid to enter into our own center and to concentrate on the stirrings of our own souls, we come to know that being alive means being loved. This experience tells us that we can only love because we are born out of love, that we can only give because our life is a gift, and that we can only make others free because we are set free by the One whose heart is greater than ours.

And when we have found the anchor places for our lives in our own center we can be free to let others enter into the space created for them, and allow them to dance their own dance, sing their own song, and speak their own language without fear. Then our presence is no longer threatening and demanding, but inviting and liberating.

Padre Pio Fraternity Gathering

Sunday May 19, 2024



Fraternity members Gladys Whitehouse OFS, MaryLou Holloway OFS, Ellen Ferrone OFS and Sharon Winzeler OFS presented The Inspiring Lives of Four Franciscan Women: Saint Clare, Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Blessed Lady Jacoba and Servant of God, Thea Bowman.

Save the dates:

Saturday, May 25- Oak City Cares

Sunday, June 9- Celebration of Fr. Jim Sabek's 25th anniversary of his profession into the priesthood after 9a Mass, Saint Francis Parish

Saturday, June 22- Oak City Cares

Sunday, June 23-Gathering

Saturday, July 27-Oak City Cares

Sunday, July 28-Gathering

Friday, Aug. 9-Sunday, Aug. 11-Annual Regional Gathering, Black Mountain, NC

Saturday, Aug. 24- Oak City Cares

Sunday, Aug. 25-Gathering

Saturday, Sept. 7-Fraternity picnic at Bond Park, Cary

Sunday, Sept. 22-Gathering

Saturday, Sept. 28-Oak City Cares



Happy 90th birthday to Dave Able, OFS and a joyous Profession Anniversary of 70 years to our dear brother Frank Peluso, OFS. ❤️

