

July 2024

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

***the little flowers of Padre Pio Fraternity***

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**Minister's Memo**

by Sharon Winzeler, OFS, Minister

As Franciscans, especially Secular Franciscans, we are called to be out in the world doing God's work as we do our own. That is why a spiritual practice that combines Lectio Divina with interacting with the world has an appeal.

The practice is called 'dislocated exegesis' and was developed by Dr. Chuck Campbell, professor of Homiletics at Duke Divinity School. I learned of it recently through a set of spiritual exercises we practiced in a JustFaith program on Poverty and Justice in our parish.

It involved reading [Luke 8: 40-56](#) silently in a public place. This could be a coffee shop, library, park, shopping mall or any place where you are out in the world. Like Lectio Divina, the practice asks you to read the passage twice and then think about what word or phrase stands out to you each time you read the passage.

Once you've chosen the words, look around. Who or what do you notice around you? Do you see any connection between the text and who or what you've noticed? (This passage from Luke was about the curative miracles of Jesus.)

Francis of Assisi would encourage this approach. What could be more meaningful than reading the Bible in a public place and linking the message to the world around you?

We are told that as Francis walked in the community, he would say, "Bonjournu, bonagente," which means "Good morning, good people." He sets the example for us to go from Gospel to life and life to Gospel as we intimately engage with the world around us.

The process involves ongoing interaction with others and revelation about God. As we encounter people and places, God's Word invites us into their presence and calls us to 'read' them as closely as we read the Bible.

If you are looking for another way to take the Word out into the world and let the Holy Spirit work within you as you uncover the relationship between God and your everyday life.

# 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.



*Believing, hoping and loving,  
with my whole heart, with my whole mind,  
and with my whole strength,  
May I be carried to you, beloved Jesus,  
As to the goal of all things,  
Because you alone are sufficient,  
You alone are good and pleasing  
To those who seek you and love your name.  
For you my, good Jesus,  
Are the redeemer of the lost,  
The savior of the redeemed,  
The hope of exiles,  
The strength of laborers,  
The sweet solace of anguished spirits,  
The crown and dignity of the triumphant,  
The unique reward and joy of all the citizens of  
heaven,  
The renowned offspring of the supreme God  
And the sublime fruit of the virginal womb,  
The abundant fountain of all graces,  
Of whose fullness we have all received.*

St. Bonaventure, The Tree of Life

Traditional Franciscan Calendar  
July Month of the Precious Blood of Our  
Lord Jesus Christ

1. Feast of the Precious Blood
2. Feast of the Visitation of Our Lady
3. Bl. Marie Anne Fontcuberta
4. 40 Martyrs of China
5. Bl. Ignace Falzon
6. St. Maria Goretti
7. Bl. Oddin Barotto
8. St. Elisabeth of Portugal
9. St. Veronica Giuliani
10. 8 Martyrs
11. 11 Martyrs
12. Sts. Geoffroy and Joachim
13. St. Francis Solano
14. St. Bonaventure
15. Bl. Bernard de Bade, Confessor
16. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
17. Bl. Pierre De Foligno
18. St. Camillus de Lellis
19. St. Vincent de Paul
20. St. Jerome Emilien
21. St. Laurent de Brindes
22. Bl. Angeline of Marciano
23. Bl. Louise de Savoie
24. Bl. Modestin de Jesus-Marie
25. Bl. Antoine Lucci
26. St. Anne
27. Bl. Marie-Madeleine Martinengo
28. Bl. Marie-Therese of the Infant Jesus
29. Bl. Alphonse de l'Immaculee
30. St. Leopold de Castelnovo
31. St. Ignace de Loyola

## The Pope's Prayer Intentions for July

For the pastoral care of the sick

We pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer to those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all.

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*Happy Birthday*

2 Chris Peffley, OFS

5 Victoria Romero, OFS

21 Eyram Klu

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## Profession Anniversaires

July 12, 2014

Maureen Copen, OFS

Suzie Nelson, OFS

Sharon Winzeler, OFS

July 15 2023

Dave Abell, OFS

Rachel Bongiorno, OFS

Travis Bongiorno, OFS

Mary Cockrill, OFS

Mercedes Cooley, OFS

Valorie Davis, OFS

Brian Denison, OFS

Anne Evangelista, OFS

Alma Hammer, OFS

Richard Hammer, OFS

MaryLou Holloway, OFS

Maureen McFadden, OFS

Nkem Okereke, OFS

Janette Perez, OFS

Henry Sims, OFS

# Sharing Our Blessings

## by Deacon Phil Rz., OFS

### Sharing Our Blessings – Memorial of St. Bonaventure, July 15

St. Bonaventure, known as “The Seraphic Doctor,” was born in Bagnoregio (in central Italy) in 1221. Originally named John, he received the name of Bonaventure as a result of an exclamation of our Seraphic Father, St. Francis of Assisi. In response to the pleading of the child’s mother, Francis prayed for John’s recovery from a dangerous illness. Foreseeing the child’s future greatness, he cried out “O buona ventura” - O good fortune!

At the age of twenty-two St. Bonaventure entered the Franciscan Order. Having made his vows, he was sent to the University of Paris. In Paris he became the intimate friend of the great St. Thomas Aquinas. In 1257, along with his Dominican counterpart Aquinas, he received his doctorate in theology.

Bonaventure was immediately elected to serve as minister-general of the Friars Minor, a role in which he left a lasting mark. Among other things, he tried to steer a middle course between contending factions within the order – those who insisted on strict adherence to Francis’s spirit of poverty and those who took a more relaxed attitude. So successful was Bonaventure in establishing the direction of the Franciscans that he was later known as the Second Founder.

He was God’s instrument in bringing a deeper love of the way of St. Francis, both through the biography of Francis, which he wrote at the behest of the brothers, and through the works that defended the order or explained its ideals and way of life.

Although St. Bonaventure was a man of the highest intellectual attainments, he would emphasize that a fool’s love and knowledge of God may be greater than that of a humanly wise man. To reach God, he said, “little attention must be given to reason and great attention to grace, little to books and everything to the gift of God, which is the Holy Spirit.” Above all he emphasized charity: “For in truth, a poor and unlearned old woman can love God better than a Doctor of Theology.”

He died while he was assisting at the Second Council of Lyons, on **July 15**, 1274. He was canonized in 1482 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1588.



# Meet the Inquirer

## Dorothy Pribish

I was born Dorothy Ann Caggiano on October 16th in Queens LI, NY. My nickname is Dottie. I lived in Levittown, LI for many years until 1969 after graduating from St. John's University, and teaching 6th grade for five years at a Middle School in Plainview, LI. Then I decided to accept an unusual job from a fellow teacher, whose wife had died. He decided to help another woman who needed a man who could speak fluent French to help her organize natives of Cameroon, Africa to export bananas to France. He could get a sabbatical leave. After checking it out, he wanted to bring his two daughters with him and wanted a tutor for them. They would be going into 6th and 8th grade. After getting acquainted with him and his two girls, I decided to accept this unusual opportunity. I hadn't been teaching there long enough, so I had to quit my job. Well, we became a family and after that extraordinary year, I married him, Vincent R. Pribish in 1973. We moved to Maine and lived there for forty years. After having five babies, three boys & two girls, I started teaching again in Saco Middle School when the youngest child started kindergarten. I retired in 2008 but subbed until we moved.

In September of 2015, we moved to Raleigh, NC. My hubby was beginning to show dementia & two of our daughters lived down here. We joined St. Francis of Assisi parish. My beloved and brilliant hubby died August 28th, 2020, just 22 days from turning 100 years old!!! We were married 47 years. I now have ten grandchildren, five here, three in Maine, and two in San Diego, CA. We all were very active in our Maine parish, I was a lector, besides being the head of the Art & Environment ministry. My husband was the head of the RCIA & an EM. I also like gardening, artwork, sewing, knitting and music. I played violin and piano while in high school.

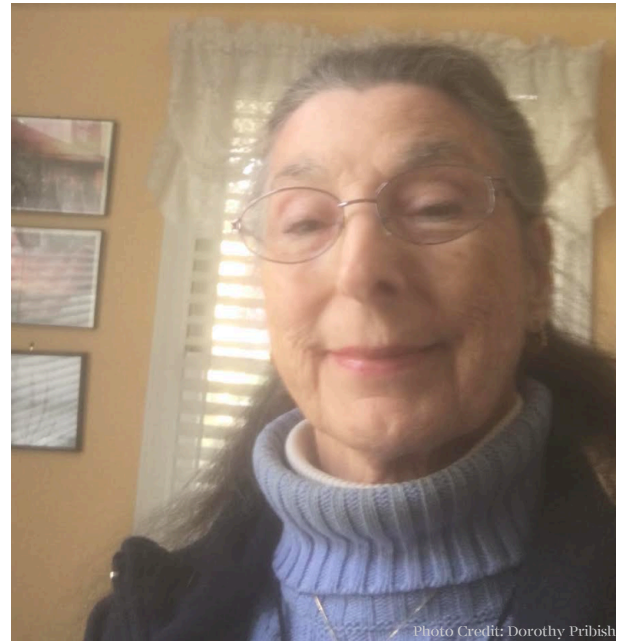


Photo Credit: Dorothy Pribish

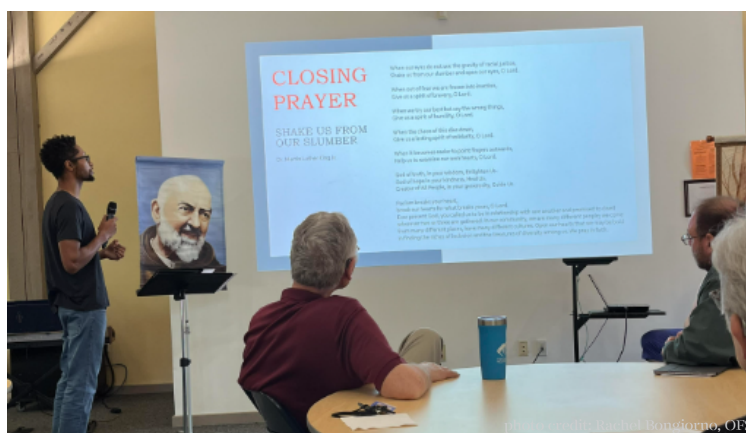
What brought me to the Fraternity? My religious hubby, who was a Marist brother in NYC for about 15 years, always had all seven kids active in church activities. Being active in church was center of our lives. After joining this parish, the people and friars here were so friendly and helpful when my husband was really starting to fail. They would help me with his walker and wheelchair, and of course we still attended daily mass. After his death, I had more time now to get involved with the amazing number of ministries this parish has. When we first came, my husband was transferred to the Knights of Columbus, I was a lector, and joined the Death Row pen pal ministry. Now since his death, I am also involved in the Prayer Shawl ministry, Oak City Cares and Ronald MacDonald House. I so loved being among all the wonderful parishioners here and became close to a few who were members of the Padre Pio Fraternity and in the Secular Franciscan Order. I decided I would like to join them. So here I am.

# Padre Pio Fraternity Gathering

June 23, 2024

JaVon Hansknecht, director of Justice and Peace at St. Francis of Assisi Church, gave a talk on “Racism, A Continuing Dialogue”, in conjunction with our Regional wide stance against racism as a whole. His talk utilized the Open Wide Our Hearts document from the USCCB, our own Catholic Social Teachings and the Parable of the Sower. He left us with three reflections and the reminder, change begins with one person.

1. In your life, how have you been challenged before to be courageous? Did you take the risk? How did this make you feel?
2. Like Peter, Jesus knows we will falter at times to speak out & speak up for others, but his forgiveness knows no end. What does this tell us? What can we learn from our past failures?
3. How can we inspire others to be courageous in our fight against racial injustice?



## Save the dates:

**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**

**Saturday, Oct. 26-Oak City Cares**

**Sunday, Oct. 27-Gathering-Possible Come & See**

**Sunday, Nov. 17-Gathering**

**Saturday, Nov. 23- Oak City Cares**

**Saturday, Dec. 7- Retreat**

**Sunday, Dec. 22- Oak City Cares**

REMEMBER TO SIGN UP FOR THE ANNUAL REGIONAL GATHERING

(ARG) IN Black Mountain, NC, by June 30. Payment will be due on check-in Friday, Aug. 9, at the Ridgecrest Conference Center.

Cancellation deadline is July 7.

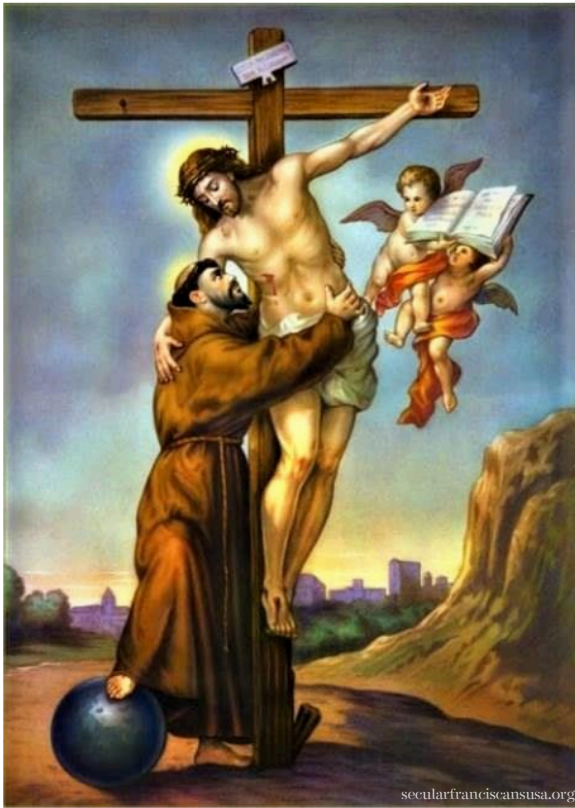
The T-shirt commemorating the 800th anniversary of the Stigmata of St. Francis of Assisi and the 30th anniversary of the BSSF Region is now available for order!

The cost for each T-shirt is \$20.

Order online by July 14 at:

<https://betti-pettinati-longinotti.square.site/>





## Christ on the cross

bows His head waiting for you,  
that He may kiss you;  
He stretched out His arms,  
that He may embrace you;  
His hands are open  
that He may enrich you;  
His body is spread out,  
that He may give Himself  
totally;  
His feet are nailed,  
that He may stay there;  
His side is open for you  
that He may let you enter  
there.

St. Bonaventure

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## Joy

Joy is essential to the spiritual life. Whatever we may think of or say about God, when we are not joyful, our thoughts and words cannot bear fruit. Jesus reveals to us God's love so that his joy may become ours and that our joy may become complete. Joy is the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing—sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death—can take that love away.

Joy is not the same as happiness. We can be unhappy about many things, but joy can still be there because it comes from the knowledge of God's love for us. . . . Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day. It is a choice based on the knowledge that we belong to God and have found in God our refuge and our safety and that nothing, not even death, can take God away from us.

*Henri J. Nouwen*