

Padre Pio Fraternity

Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region

Secular Franciscan Order of Central North Carolina

the little flowers of Padre Pio Fraternity

September 2024

Minister's Memo

by Sharon Winzeler, OFS, Minister

“Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks and serve Him with great humility.”

From Canticum of the Creatures by St. Francis of Assisi

Our dear seraphic father Francis of Assisi loved the natural world so much that he left us a beautiful poem that connects its beauty with the generosity of God and our mission to serve Him.

Today the Season of Creation opens with the World Day of Prayer for the Season of Creation. This beautiful opportunity to honor God and our earthly home pays tribute to St. Francis of Assisi and continues until his feast day on Oct. 4.

This season is so important that Pope Francis has issued a message called “Hope and Act with Creation” that echoes what St. Francis of Assisi said so long ago. The Pope says, “Salvation embraces creation as an “earthly paradise,” mother earth, which is meant to be a place of joy and a promise of happiness for all. Our Christian optimism is founded on a living hope: it realizes that everything is ordered to the glory of God, to final consummation in his peace and to bodily resurrection in righteousness, as we pass “from glory to glory.”

How do we celebrate the Season of Creation? One way is to follow a beautiful month-long set of prayers for the Season of Creation, developed by fraternity member Carolyn Townes, OFS.

The Archdiocese of Atlanta offers a booklet with 75 pages of ideas for observing the Season of Creation, including ways to conserve water and energy, buy and share food thoughtfully, use land sustainably and advocate for the earth and the vulnerable. I encourage you to consider these ideas at Action Plan for Care of the Environment. (By the way, this was developed under the leadership of an OFM Conventual archbishop, the Most Rev. Gregory Hartmayer.)

This also would be a good time to review Pope Francis’s Encyclical *Laudato Si’* which we read in the past for ongoing formation.

Eight-hundred years ago St. Francis of Assisi thanked our dear Lord who entrusted us with the natural wonders of his creation. We can continue to acknowledge this blessing with gratitude and actions daily.

Final note: Plan to enjoy fellowship with your brothers and sisters outside in the natural world as we gather from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, in Bond Park for our annual picnic.

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:
Mercedes Cooley, OFS

Prayer Requests:
Deacon Phil Rzewnicki, OFS

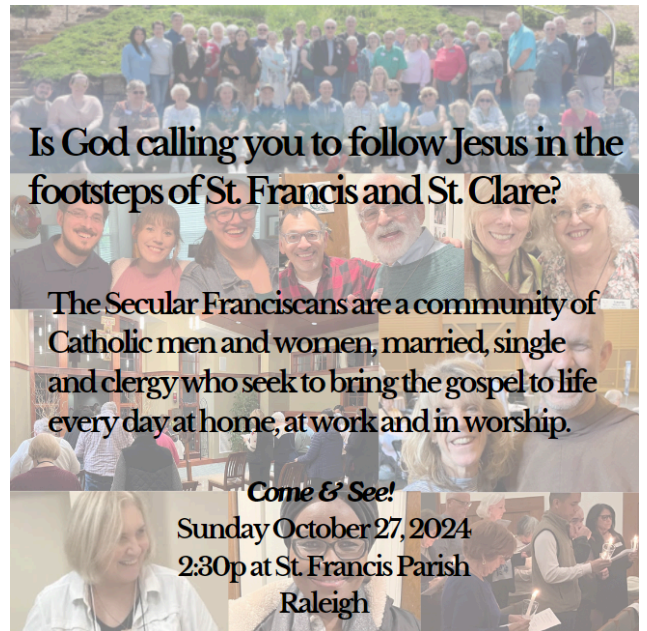
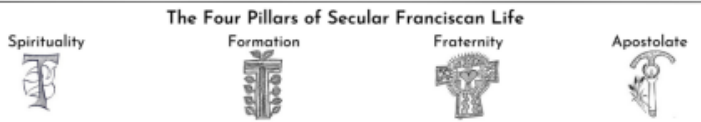
CPO & Fraternity Library: Maureen Copan, OFS

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.



Happy Birthday

2 Marie Roccoforte, OFS

7 Mercedes Cooley, OFS

17 Mike Oeser, OFS

18 Zubair Simonson, OFS

19 Ben Whitehouse, OFS

19 Ellen Ferrone, OFS

20 Jeanne Casciere, OFS

25 Gail Halada, OFS

According to one estimate, over 325 people since the time of Francis of Assisi have received the stigmata, that is, all or some of the wounds of Christ's passion. Few of these stigmatics have had a more difficult life than Padre Pio.

Francesco Forgione joined the Capuchin Franciscans at age fifteen, taking the name Pio. Ordained in 1910, he served for a short time in the Italian army during World War I. In 1917 he was assigned to the friary in San Giovanni Rotondo, seventy-five miles from Bari on Italy's Adriatic coast. After undergoing various medical and Church investigations, for a short time he was not permitted to celebrate Mass publicly or hear confessions. Although he wrote nothing after 1924, unscrupulous people sometimes presented him as the author of prophecies they wrote.

In time, busloads of men and women came to his 5:00 am Mass and to his confessional, which he occupied up to ten hours a day. During his mid-morning break, he blessed the sick. Faith must lead to action, to works of compassion. In 1946, ground was broken on nearby Mount Gargano for the "House for the Alleviation of Suffering," a 350-bed facility financed by Padre Pio's benefactors.

COMMENT: At Padre Pio's canonization Mass on June 16, 2002, Pope John Paul II referred to that day's Gospel (Mt. 11:25-30) and said: "The Gospel image of 'yoke' evokes the many trials that the humble Capuchin of San Giovanni Rotondo endured. Today we contemplate in him how sweet is the 'yoke' of Christ and indeed how light the burden whenever someone carries these with faithful love. The life and mission of Padre Pio testify that difficulties and sorrows, if accepted with love, transform themselves into a privileged journey of holiness, which opens the person toward a greater good, known only to the Lord."

"The life of a Christian is nothing but a perpetual struggle against self; there is no flowering of the soul to the beauty of its perfection except at the price of pain" (saying of Padre Pio).

Receiving the Gifts of Others

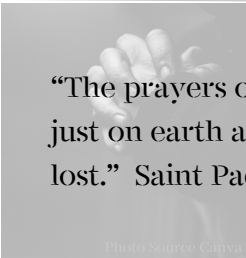
A gift only becomes a gift when it is received; and nothing we have to give—wealth, talents, competence, or just beauty— will ever be recognized as true gifts until someone is open to accept them. This all suggests that if we want others to grow— that is, to discover their potential and capacities, to experience that they have something to live and work for—we should first of all be able to recognize their gifts and be willing to receive them. For we only become fully human when we are received and accepted.



Traditional Franciscan Calendar

September – Month of the Holy Cross

1. Bl Joachim de Albocacer
2. Bl. Martyrs de Carmes
3. St. Pius X, Pope
4. St. Rose of Viterbo
5. Bl. Gentil de Matelica
6. Bl Liberat de Laure
7. Bl. Eugenie Picco
8. Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9. Bl. Seraphique Sforza
10. Bl. Martyrs of Japan
11. Bl. Bonaventure de Barcelone
12. Feast of the Name of Holy Mary
13. Bl. Apollinaire Franco
14. Exaltation of the Holy Cross
15. Feast of Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows
16. Bl. Roland de Medicis
17. Feast of the Stigmatization of St. Francis of Assisi
18. St. Joseph de Cupertino
19. Bl. Louis Alleman
20. St. Francois-Marie de Camporosso
21. Bl. Elizabeth Amerina
22. Bl. Ignace de Santhia
23. St. Pio of Peitrelcina
24. St. Pacifique de San Severino
25. St. Nicholas de Flue
26. Bl. Lucie de Catalagirone
27. St. Elzear de Sabran
28. Bl Bernadin de Feltre
29. Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel
30. Bl. Charles de Blois



“The prayers of the Saints in heaven and of the just on earth are a perfume which never will be lost.” Saint Padre Pio

The Pope's Prayer Intentions

For the cry of the Earth

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

Season of Creation, 2024

The Season of Creation begins on September 1st with the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and ends on October 4th with the feast of St. Francis. It is an ecumenical, world-wide event, with many opportunities to participate. Pope Francis has issued his message, and a prayer:

O Lord, you sent the Seraph to mark St Francis With Jesus' wounds, a visible sign of your love for us in the mystery of the cross.

May your Church today, through our lives and actions be a visible sign of healing and renewal For all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Who showed to us the meaning of mercy.

Amen

Prayer Requests Oak City Cares

Ivory- Grow closer to God and healing of his body

Theo- Pray for his health

Tommy- Pray for his wife in [the] nursing home and for his health

Rielle- Pray she finds a way to leave NC within a month

Landon- Pray for[a] job [for him] Anthony- Pray for a relationship

Cynthia- That an opening at Cornerstone open up soon for her

Pam- Pray for her arthritis, health, money and [a] home for Marie and Donald her brother

Terrance- Health and finance

Maurice- Pray for strength in the Lord. Since getting back to Raleigh, he needs to find an apartment. He is living on the street.

Padre Pio Fraternity Gathering

Sunday August 25, 2024



We celebrated the Rite of Admission for Candidates:

Courtney Cantrell, Rosemary Czejkowski, Eyram Klu, Stacy Lewis, Debra Marusak, Dorothy Ann Pribish, John Price and Barbara Redzich. We welcome you all whole-heartily and are thankful for your vocation into our order!❤

Save the dates:

Sunday, Aug. 25-Gathering

Saturday, Sept. 7-Fraternity picnic at Bond Park, Cary from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 13-Observance of St. Francis receiving the Stigmata followed by Jazz and Gelato at St. Francis of Assisi.

Sunday, Sept. 22-Gathering

Saturday, Sept. 28-Oak City Cares

Thursday, Oct. 3-Transitus. St. Francis of Assisi

Saturday, Oct. 26-Oak City Cares

Sunday, Oct. 27-Gathering-Come & See

Sunday, Nov. 17-Gathering

Saturday, Nov. 23- Oak City Cares

Saturday, Dec. 7- Retreat

Friday, Dec. 13- Second annual celebration of the Nativity, St. Francis of Assisi Church.

Sunday, Dec. 22- Oak City Cares

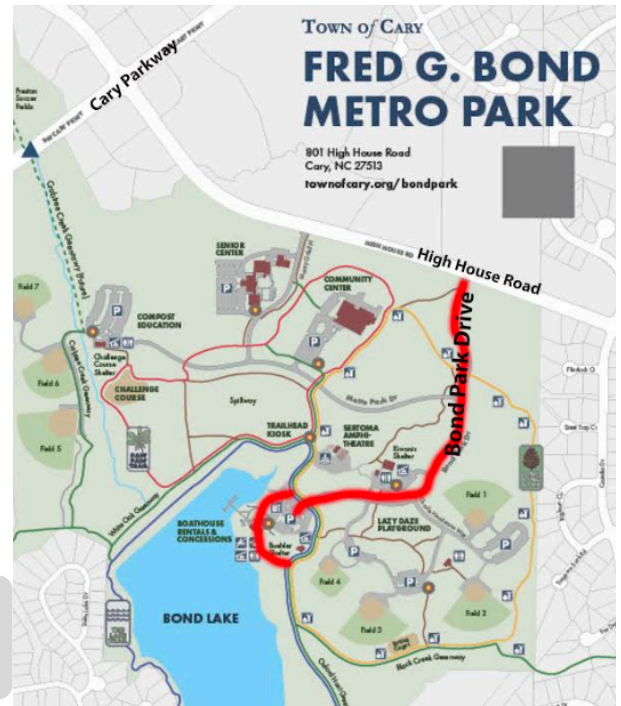
Annual Fraternity Potluck Picnic.

Saturday September 7th, 11:00-2:00
Bond Park in Cary at the Beuhler Shelter

You may bring one guest.

Please bring a dish to share and your own non-
alcoholic beverage/cup. Plates and utensils will
be provided.

Take Bond Park Dr all the way ending in a parking lot. When
facing the boathouse, Beuhler Shelter is on the left.



The Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi

Transitus, means 'passage' or 'crossing' in Latin, and is a solemn observance of the passing of Saint Francis from this earthly life into eternal life with God.

The Transitus is not a time of mourning, but a celebration of hope and joy.

It is a time to reflect on our commitment to the Gospel, our desire to follow in the footsteps of St. Francis and to renew our commitment to live out the Franciscan values of fraternity, service, and reverence for all creation. We are reminded of Saint Francis's final words to his brothers: "I have done what is mine to do; may Christ teach you what is yours!"



Join us Thursday October 3, 2024 at 7pm
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
11401 Leesville Rd., Raleigh NC

Light refreshments will be shared afterwards.
Pax et Bonum.