

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

the little flowers of Padre Pio Fraternity

October 2024

Minister's Memo

by Sharon Winzeler, OFS, Minister

Do you ask yourself, “What draws me to Francis of Assisi? What is so important about this man who lived 800 years ago?”

We celebrate his feast day on Friday, Oct. 4. He is one of the most well-known saints in the Catholic Church and beyond.

We study the way he lived, the words he spoke and wrote. We venerate the San Damiano cross. We make pilgrimages to Assisi.

Why?

His ability to understand God our Father and Jesus was so profound that he received the stigmata shortly before his death.

Our attraction to Francis is a longing to find for ourselves the unique relationship he shared with God. God revealed Himself so clearly to Francis that the saint was able to communicate this experience with the people who lived around him—and after him.

We follow the example of Francis so that we may more closely follow Jesus. What a great gift we have from God in the life of Francis, a man so madly in love with our Lord that he devoted every minute of his life to Him. Francis found perfect joy in suffering because it brought him closer to God.

In our prayers, we don't reflect on our admiration of Francis but rather a need to imitate his way of life. We are created to be filled with God as Francis was. Our spiritual nature gives our lives meaning and a need for belonging. Francis helps us remember that we belong to God.

If you would like to learn more about the Francis's relationship with God as it relates to the stigmata, plan to join other Secular Franciscans around the country on Sunday, Oct. 6, for a panel discussion on the Celebration of the Centenary of St. Francis' Stigmata.

When: Oct 6, 2024 3:00 PM Register in advance for this webinar:

https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WqF-JapJQhC7SOd7zxDmcg

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

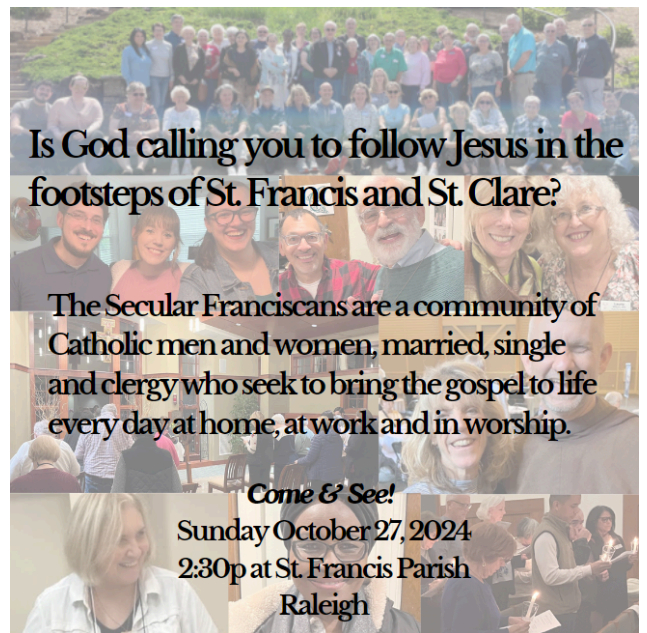
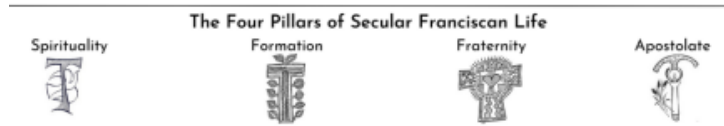
CPO & Fraternity Library: Maureen Copan, OFS

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

16 Dorothy Pribish, OFS
18 Deacon Phil Rzewnicki, OFS
26 Courtney Cantrell, OFS

Profession Anniversaries

Ida Irwin, OFS-October 9, 1955
Jeanette Cottone, OFS-October 20, 2024

Sharing Our Blessings – St. John of Capistrano, Oct. 23, Franciscan Preacher (1385–1456) by Deacon Phil Rz., OFS

He was one of the greatest Franciscan preachers of the 15th century. He and St. James of the March were fellow students under St. Bernadine of Siena, who inspired him to institute the devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus and His Mother. After his ordination in 1426, after which his fame as a preacher spread because of his efforts to restore doctrinal harmony and promote education. He became the principle force in the founding of the Franciscan Observants, a severely ascetic group of friars who separated from the more liberal Conventuals. He traveled throughout Italy, Germany, Bohemia, Austria, Hungary, Poland, and Russia preaching penance and establishing numerous communities of Franciscan renewal. He and other Franciscan brethren were instrumental in reviving a dying faith and devotion. In 1451 he was sent to Austria by Pope Nicholas V to convert the Hussites (followers of the Bohemian religious reformer Jan Hus). Aware of the Turkish threat to eastern Europe, he helped raise and lead the army that lifted the Turkish siege of Belgrade in 1456. Worn out by his superhuman efforts, Capistrano was an easy prey to infection from the plague. He died on October 23, 1456. He was canonized in 1690; in 1984 Pope John Paul II named him the patron of military chaplains.

COMMENT: It is said of him that he was not one to sit around, ever. His deep Christian optimism drove him to battle problems at all levels with the confidence engendered by a deep faith in Christ.

The In-Dwelling of God Here and Now

Eternal life. Where is it? When is it? For a long time I have thought about eternal life as a life after all my birthdays have run out. For most of my years I have spoken about the eternal life as the “afterlife,” as “life after death.” But the older I become, the less interest my “afterlife” holds for me. Worrying not only about tomorrow, next year, and the next decade, but even about the next life, seems a false preoccupation. Wondering how things will be for me after I die seems, for the most part, a distraction. When my clear goal is the eternal life, that life must be reachable right now, where I am, because eternal life is life in and with God, and God is where I am here and now.

The great mystery of the spiritual life—the life in God—is that we don’t have to wait for it as something that will happen later. Jesus says: “Dwell in me as I dwell in you.” It is this divine in-dwelling that is eternal life. It is the active presence of God at the center of my living—the movement of God’s Spirit within us—that gives us the eternal life.



Traditional Franciscan Calendar

October- Month of the Holy Rosary and the Holy Angels

1. Bl. Nicolas de 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
6. St. Marie-Francoise des Cinq Plaies
7. Feast of the Holy Rosary
8. St. Brigitte de Suede
9. Bl. Marie-Angele Truszkowska
10. St. Francois Borgia
11. Feast of the Divine Maternity of Our Lady
12. St. Seraphine de Montegranaro
14. St. Jean de Dukla
15. Bl. Sebastien de Jesus
16. Bl. Anicet de Dbrzno
18. Bl. Jacques de Strepa
19. St. Pierre de Alcantara
20. Bl. Contardo Ferrini
21. Bl. Martyrs of Polonais
23. St. Anthony Mary Claret
24. Bl. Josephine Leroux
25. Bl. Maria Veronica Masia Ferragut, Bl. Maria Felicidad Masia Ferragut, and Bl. Jesus Masia Ferragut
26. Bl. Martyrs of the War of Spain, 1936-37
27. Bl. Bonaventure de Potenza
28. Bl. Anne-Eugenie Picco
29. Bl. Thomas de Florence
30. Bl. Ange d'Acre
31. Bl. Christophe de Cahors

The Pope's Prayer Intentions

For a shared mission

We pray that the Church continue to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.

God of hope and mercy, we lift up to you all victims of natural disasters and those responding with assistance and aid. Protect all who are in any form of danger; provide practical help to those in need; strengthen the weary, console the grieving, heal the suffering; and bless those engaged in disaster relief efforts with safety and courage. Help all people of good will respond with compassion and generous hearts. 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 September 22, 2024

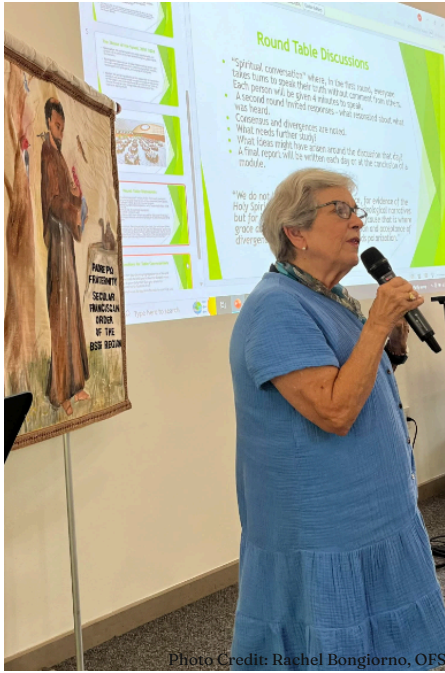


Photo Credit: Rachel Bongiorno, OFS

Gladys Whitehouse, OFS presented “The Synodal Church: How Do We Live This in Our Lives and as a Faith Community.”

“The Synod is a process of spiritual discernment, of ecclesial discernment, that unfolds in adoration, in prayer and in dialogue with the word of God... That word summons us to discernment, and it brings light to that process. It guides the Synod, preventing it from becoming a Church convention, a study group or a political gathering, a parliament, but rather a grace-filled event, a process of healing guided by the Spirit. (Pope Francis, 10 October 2021)”

“Spiritual conversation” where, in the first round, everyone takes turns to speak their truth without comment from others. Each person will be given 4 minutes to speak. A second round invited responses – what resonated about what was heard. Consensus and divergences are noted. What needs further study? What ideas might have arisen around the discussion that day? A final report will be written each day or at the conclusion of a module.

“We do not look for grievance but for grace, for evidence of the Holy Spirit at work. And we do not look for ideological narratives but for instances of acute human suffering because that is where grace abounds all the more.... The recognition and acceptance of divergences opens a way forward that avoids polarization.”



Photo credit: Anne Wangel, OFS

Table Conversation Questions:

1. How has journeying together as a Secular Franciscan helped you live the Gospel more fully in your daily life? Can you share an experience to illustrate this?
2. In what ways do you think Synodality can help you in your relationship with others, in particular to those whom Christ calls us to serve
3. How is the Holy Spirit calling you to use your gifts now?

Padre Pio Fraternity Annual Potluck Picnic

Saturday September 7, 2024



Jazz and Gelato Event at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

Friday September 13, 2024



Blessing of the Animals at Immaculate Conception Saturday September 28, 2024



The Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi



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.