

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

January 2025

Happy New Year!

by Sharon Winzeler, OFS, Minister

January is always off to a good start for Secular Franciscans.

First, we have our traditional Padre Pio Epiphany Party (say that fast three times) on Sunday, Jan. 12. Join your brothers and sister for fellowship anytime between 2-4 p.m. Ben and Gladys Whitehouse are graciously hosting this year's event at their home at 5600 N. Hawthorne Way, Raleigh.

Bring a dessert or appetizer to share.

Merc Cooley is already organizing saints, Bible verses, virtues and prayer pals for the annual Rite of Extraction at our gathering on Sunday, Jan. 26.

The Rite of Extraction is a custom among Franciscans where we each draw the name of a Franciscan saint or blessed as well as a virtue and Bible verse. While some are thrilled to draw familiar names like St. Francis or St. Clare, a sacred value is provided when you randomly choose the name of a Franciscan unfamiliar to you. You can spend some time learning about the life of the holy person and consider him or her your special saint for the year.

The Bible verse and virtue can bring you comfort or a challenge. In addition, you will draw the name of a member of the fraternity for whom you will pray during the coming year.

These events bring us closer to our Lord, each other, and our beloved Sts. Francis and Clare. I look forward to seeing you as we begin the sacred year of hope and jubilee declared by Pope Francis.

Although not many of us will make the jubilee pilgrimage to Rome, we can take our own quiet journeys of Franciscan hope and joy accompanied by our saints, scripture, virtues and prayer companions.

"Pilgrimage," said Pope Francis, is "fundamental" during jubilees: "Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human quest for meaning in life. A pilgrimage on foot is a great aid for rediscovering the value of silence, effort and simplicity of life."

May your journey in 2025 bring you closer to the Lord and help you rediscover the value of sacredness in daily life.

Saint of the Day January 2025

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		1	2	3	4	5
		Mary, Mother of God	Saint Basil the Great	Most Holy Name of Jesus	Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton	Saint John Neumann
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Saint André Bessette	Saint Raymond of Peñafort	Saint Angela of Foligno	Saint Adrian of Canterbury	Saint Gregory of Nyssa	Blessed William Carter	Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Saint Hilary of Poitiers	Saint Gregory Nazianzen	Saint Devasahayam Pillai	Saint Berard and Companions	Saint Anthony of Egypt	Saint Charles of Sezze	Saint Fabian
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Saint Sebastian	Saint Agnes	Saint Vincent of Zaragossa	Saint Marianne Cope	Saint Francis de Sales	Conversion of Saint Paul	Saints Timothy and Titus
27	28	29	30	31		
Saint Angela Merici	Saint Thomas Aquinas	Servant of God Brother Juniper	Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska	Saint John Bosco		

Source: franciscanmedia.org

The Pope's Prayer Intentions January

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month.

For the right to an education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.



3 John Halada, OFS

11 Diane Greet, OFS

14 Debra Marusak, OFS

18 Maureen McFadden, OFS

Sharing Our Blessings by Deacon Phil Rz.

Jubilee Prayer 2025

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.
May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel,
May those seeds transform from within both humanity
and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.
May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen
Source: Give Us This Day



Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica before Mass on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 2024, officially launching the Jubilee Year 2025. | Credit: Vatican Media

Hope does not disappoint,” hope is the unifying theme of the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025. The Jubilee Year began with the traditional opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica on December 24, 2024 by Pope Francis and continues until the closing of the Holy Door on January 6, 2026, the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. During that time, the Pope calls on us to embark on a pilgrimage of hope together, so that, “Through our witness, may hope spread to all those who anxiously seek it.”

The Canticle of Brother Sun (1225)

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, the honor, and all blessing,
To You alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no human is worthy to mention Your name.
Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who is the day and through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor;
and bears a likeness of You, Most High One.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind
of weather,
through which You give sustenance to Your creatures.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.
Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains and governs us,
and who produces varied fruits with colored flowers
and herbs.
Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give pardon
for Your love,
and bear infirmity and tribulation.
Blessed are those who endure in peace
for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned.
Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whom no one living can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin.
Blessed are those whom death will find in Your most
holy will,
for the second death shall do them no harm.
Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks
and serve Him with great humility.

Celebrating the Cantic of the Creatures 1225-2025



Source: secularfranciscansusa.org

	Event	Symbol	Theological Dimension <i>Our life in Christ (formation)</i>	Anthropological Dimension <i>Our life as brothers and sisters (formation)</i>	Ecclesiological Dimension <i>Our life in communion (mission)</i>	Sociological Dimension <i>Our life in the World (JPIC)</i>
2025 You are beauty	The Cantic	The Earth	The presence of God in the Book of Creation	Amazement, humility and gratitude as vital attitudes	The heart of our mission: the construction of universal fraternity	Another way of life is possible: integral ecology



OFS-USA
20Q26
 29 July - 02 August
 Lexington, KY



Revealing Gifts

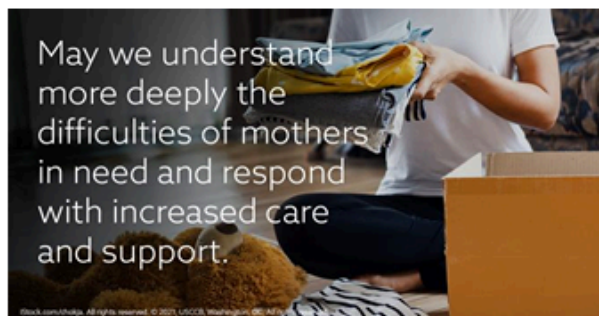
Everyone whom I allow to touch me in my weakness and help me to be faithful to my journey to God's home will come to realize that he or she has a gift to offer that may have remained hidden for a very long time. To receive help, support, guidance, affection, and care may well be a greater call than that of giving all these things because in receiving I reveal the gift to the givers and a new life together can begin.

Henri J. Nouwen



Walking with Moms in Need Prayer Guide 1: May we understand more deeply the difficulties of mothers in need and respond with increased care and support.

INTERCEDE



PRAY

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

REFLECT

Each year on January 1 the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God. When we approach the manger to adore the infant Son of God, we cannot help but recognize that Mary is indeed *Mother of God*. The holy Nativity calls us to meditate more deeply on the mystery that God used the womb of a woman to bring salvation to the world.

This feast of Mary reminds us of the great miracle of motherhood, and it reveals how God has elevated and sanctified the vocation of mothers. We therefore invite the Blessed Mother to guide us as we seek a deeper understanding of the difficulties of motherhood. We pray that through her intercession each of our hearts may be renewed with empathy and increased awareness of the challenges that so many mothers face in welcoming and caring for the gift of life. May Our Blessed Mother inspire in us a desire and resolve to increase our compassionate care and support of mothers in need.

ACT *(choose one)*

- Pray the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Life (bit.ly/mother-of-life) for the featured intention.
- Create a list of ways that you can personally increase your support of mothers in need. Take your list to prayer, asking the Lord for guidance on what he is asking of you and the grace to faithfully respond.
- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for the featured intention.

ONE STEP FURTHER

Learn more about the challenges that mothers face and the inspiration for *Walking with Moms in Need* in this brief article: bit.ly/wwwmin-inspiration

DID YOU KNOW?

Each year on January 22, the Church in the United States observes a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children (respectlife.org/january-22). As individuals, we are each called to observe this day through the penitential practices of prayer, fasting and/or giving alms. *Source: USCCB.org*

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:

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: Laurie Wilburn, OFS

We welcome those who would like to learn more about the Secular Franciscans.

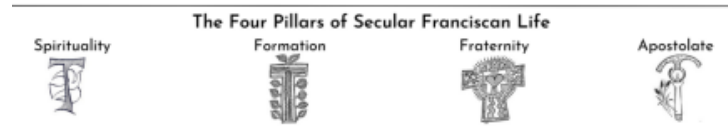
Join us for our monthly gatherings on the fourth Sunday of each month,

beginning at 2:30 p.m. Location:

Fellowship Hall at St. Francis of Assisi

Catholic Church, 11401 Leesville Rd.,

Raleigh, North Carolina.



Fraternity Upcoming Events:



Padre Pio Fraternity Epiphany Party!

When:

Sunday, January 12th 2-4p

Where:

5600 N. Hawthorne Way, Raleigh.

Hosted by Ben & Gladys Whitehouse, OFS

*Christmas gifts for the Friars and Priests
from our Faternity*

