

# 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

May 2025

by Sharon Winzeler, OFS, Minister

On Saturday, May 31, we will celebrate one of the most beautiful rituals in the life of a Secular Franciscan at the permanent profession of Robert and Maria Marge, Judy Newell, and Marianne Norris at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

Those who have professed should take time to recall their special day when they, as described by Br. Felice Cangelosi, OFM, Cap., made “a commitment of life and for life.”

Those in formation will experience the grace of discernment as they witness the profession of our newest brother and sisters.

Profession is a time of prayer and unity among Secular Franciscans, their friends and family as these good people declare their commitment to a life of daily conversion and their willingness to turn over their lives to God's will.

Br. Cangelosi offers a beautiful explanation on profession and the important role of Secular Franciscans play in spreading the joy, love, and holiness of God's kingdom in their daily lives.

One of his most beautiful explanations, “The being and action of the laity and of Secular Franciscans take place in this context of ‘the world.’ Living in the world, they are geared towards the perfection of charity and commit themselves to the sanctification of the world, working within the world.”

Br. Cangelosi's article continues “Secular Franciscans, together with all the lay faithful, are called to live their lives in the ordinary situations of the world, and within the specifically worldly sphere they share in the Church's mission of evangelization. The Christian's love for the world therefore arises from a desire to enter more deeply into God's love for the world, and thus to share personally in the realization of the love which the Father has revealed by sending his Son into the world. Consequently, the world becomes the ‘place’ where discipleship is lived and where one becomes holy, not in spite of, but precisely because of and by means of, being in the world.”

I invite all of you to read Br. Cangelosi's article on profession at <https://www.bssfsfo.org>



# Saint of the Day May

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			1	2	3	4
		Saint Joseph the Worker	Saint Athanasius	Saints Philip and James	Blessed Michael Giedroyc	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Saint Hilary of Arles	Saints Marian and James	Saint Rose Venerini	Saint Peter of Tarentaise	Saint John of Avila	Saint Damien de Veuster of Moloka'i	Saint Ignatius of Laconi
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Saint Leopold Mandic	Our Lady of Fatima	Saint Matthias	Saint Isidore the Farmer	Saint Margaret of Cortona	Saint Paschal Baylon	Saint John I
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Saint Theophilus of Corte	Saint Bernardine of Siena	Saint Cristóbal Magallanes and Companions	Saint Rita of Cascia	Saint Gregory VII	Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi	Saint Bede the Venerable
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Saint Philip Neri	Saint Augustine of Canterbury	Venerable Pierre Toussaint	Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat	Saint Joan of Arc	Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	

Source: [franciscanmedia.org](http://franciscanmedia.org)

## The Pope's Prayer Intentions May

### For working conditions

Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfillment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.

Source: [uscgb.org](http://uscgb.org)

## Happy Birthday

7 Anne Evangelista, OFS  
 17 Travis Bongiorno, OFS  
 22 Theresa Flynn, OFS  
 23 Michael Evangelista, OFS  
 24 Anna Rzewnicki, OFS  
 28 Maureen Copan, OFS  
 29 Brian Denison, OFS  
 31 Alma Hammer, OFS  
 31 Dave Abell, OFS

## Profession Anniversaries

5. 8. 1954  
 Frank Peluso, OFS  
 5. 13. 2015  
 Michael & Susan Evangelista, OFS

## Baptized In Powerlessness

The movement from power through strength to power through powerlessness is our call. As fearful, anxious, insecure, and wounded people we are tempted constantly to grab the little bit of power that the world around us offers, left and right, here and there, now and then. These bits of power make us little puppets jerked up and down on strings until we are dead. But insofar as we dare to be baptized in powerlessness, always moving toward the poor who do not have such power, we are plunged right into the heart of God's endless mercy. We are free to reenter our world with the same divine power with which Jesus came, and we are able to walk in the valley of darkness and tears, unceasingly in communion with God, with our heads erect, confidently standing under the cross of our life.

*Henri J. Nouwen*

*"The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the Lord will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them."*

- Isaiah 41: 17



Source: wikiart.org



## Pope Francis In Memoriam



Pope Francis signs the Encyclical "Fratelli Tutti" before the tomb of St Francis of Assisi in Assisi, Italy.  
(Image: Vatican Media/Vatican News.)

*"Pace e bene" - Secular Franciscan Order - USA*



### A Reflection on Meeting our Dear Bishop Luis by Rachel Bongiorno, OFS

I was honored to be invited to attend a meeting with our Bishop yesterday and I must say it has had a profound impact on me. There are very few people that emanate kindness and goodness like him. He shared delightful personal stories such as the time he met Pope Francis and also Mother Theresa. He told us that what he finds most striking about Padre Pio is that although he was silenced for thirteen years, he obeyed. Padre Pio's obedience is what makes him such a powerful and holy Saint. A few other important highlights I want to share:

Everything we do, our focus, should be leading people to Jesus by our example.

To make our presence known. There are not a lot of religious among our Diocese.

We must be cautious in our language and not speak with familiarity about the order to those who may not understand. Meaning, to bring others closer to Jesus we cannot think of ourselves separately.

It is of the upmost importance to always go out and be among people.

Less talking, more listening. People so desperately want to be heard. Pope Francis taught us this.

Always pray and trust in the Holy Spirit. Pray for patience and trust Him.

He asks that we talk with our pastors and ask them, how can we help you? Every parish has something unique they bring and therefore their own unique needs.

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### Sharing Our Blessings by Deacon Phil Rz.

Memorial Day in 2025 falls on Monday, May 26th. It's the last Monday in May, as it is every year. This holiday is a federal holiday in the U.S. It is observed to honor the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. It's somewhat personal to me. I had two friends in high school who gave up their lives during the Vietnam war. Tim was a neighborhood friend who joined the military service about a year before he was supposed to graduate. Mike was with me as we went through the Senior Boys Council together. He volunteered to go into the service just after graduation. In both cases they were killed within a month of fighting overseas.

"Memorial Day is not just a chance to remember what is here today and gone tomorrow. It calls us to remember the enduring values of selfless service, personal sacrifice, and our commitment to the common good." Quote from Fr. Daniel Groody, CSC, University of Notre Dame.

## Prayer for Memorial Day

God of power and mercy, you destroy war and put down earthly pride.

Banish violence from our midst and wipe away our tears,  
that we may all deserve to be called your sons and daughters.

Keep in your mercy those men and women  
who have died in the cause of freedom  
and bring them safely into your kingdom of justice and peace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

--- Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers

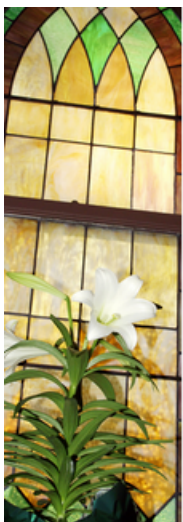
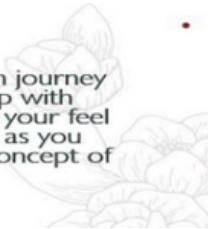


Theresa Flynn, OFS, giving a talk on the Canticum of the Creatures as part of our on-going formation at our April Gathering.

### Questions for Discussion:

- How has your Franciscan journey changed your relationship with Sister Earth? Where do you feel called to take next steps as you grow in the Franciscan concept of universal kinship?

- Francis composed 4 lines of his song to help resolve a dispute between the mayor of Assisi and the bishop. How has God called you to promote justice and peace in the public square?



Dear Family  
Wishing that the fruit of your  
Lenten practices produces much joy  
during this Easter Season  
and throughout the year.  
Let us proclaim  
the joy of the Resurrection  
to each person we encounter.

Your sister,  
Jane DeRose-Bamman, OFS  
National Minister

Source: secularfranciscansusa.org



Fraternity members serving at the St. Francis Parish staff luncheon

# 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 & Marianne Norris, OFS

On-going Formation Team:  
Mercedes Cooley, OFS

Prayer Requests:  
Deacon Phil Rzewnicki, OFS

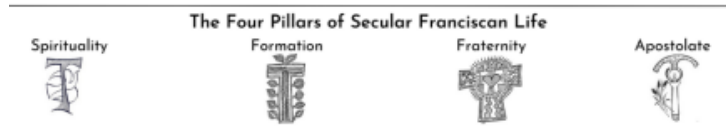
CPO & Fraternity Library: Maureen Copan, OFS

Website: Sharon Winzeler, OFS

Hospitality:  
Valorie Davis, 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: Clare Hall at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 11401 Leesville Rd., Raleigh, North Carolina.



Source: secularfranciscansusa.org

## Dates to Remember:

May 3: North Carolina Museum of Art visit at 10 a.m.

May 24: Oak City Cares

May 31: Candidates will be permanently professed at 11 a.m. Mass, followed by a reception.

We will not have a gathering in May.

Aug. 8-10: Annual Regional Gathering, Black Mountain, NC

Sept. 13: Padre Pio Picnic from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Bond Park, Cary

Gatherings: June 22, July 27, Aug. 24, Sept. 28 (visitation); Oct. 26; Nov. 16.

Oak City Cares: June 28, July 26, Aug. 23, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 22, Dec. 27



**With great joy  
Padre Pio Fraternity  
of the  
Secular Franciscan Order  
Invites you to join us  
for the Permanent Profession of**

**Maria Marge, OFS**

**Robert Marge, OFS**

**Judy Newell, OFS**

**Marianne Norris, OFS**

**Saturday, May 31, 2025**

**11 a.m. Mass**

**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**

**11401 Leesville Road**

**Raleigh, North Carolina 27613**

**Celebrant Fr. Hugh Macsherry,  
OFM**

**Reception immediately  
following Mass  
in Fellowship Hall**