

**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**

July 2025

by Sharon Winzeler, OFS, Minister

Over the next few months, a variety of engaging activities are offered, inviting participation, reflection, and celebration rooted in our Franciscan spiritual heritage.

As part of the ongoing Jubilee Year observances, you are invited to join a pilgrimage to Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral on Wednesday, July 23, a special opportunity to renew your spiritual journey and earn an indulgence. The tour is at 11 a.m. Please be in the back of the cathedral at 10:45 a.m. Sign up [here](#)

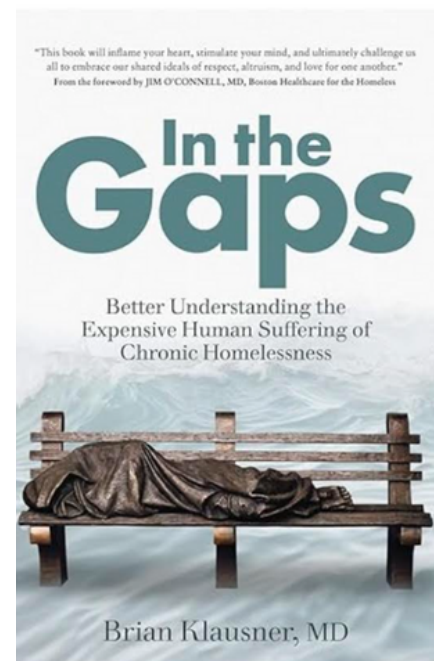
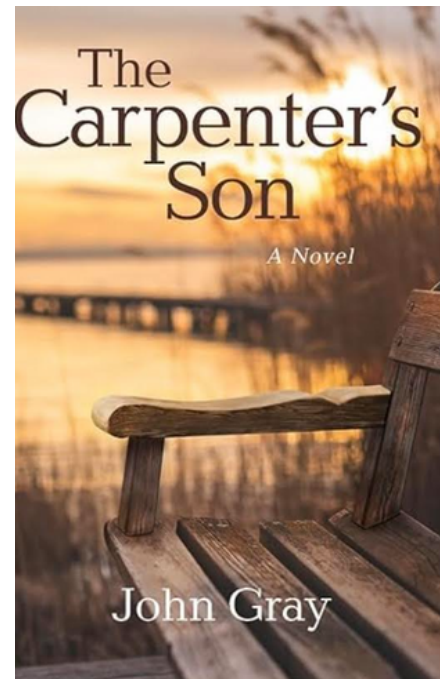
Readers and seekers alike can look forward to two engaging book clubs, which will provide enriching discussions, fellowship, and spiritual growth through thoughtfully selected Franciscan-themed readings.

- Padre Pio Fraternity will read and discuss *In the Gaps* by Dr. Brian Klausner on Sept. 16, Oct. 14, and Nov. 18. The Zoom sessions will begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday nights and once again will be led by Mike Evangelista, OFS. Contact Theresa Flynn, OFS, for more information at [theresa.flynn41@yahoo.com](mailto:theresa.flynn41@yahoo.com)

-St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity in Charlotte invites us to join their monthly book club. Discussion of John Gray's book *The Carpenter's Son* begins on Wednesday, Sept. 24 from 7-8:30 p.m. To join, contact Frances Acosta, OFS, [smfranciscanministry@gmail.com](mailto:smfranciscanministry@gmail.com)

In the spirit of community, there will be a fall fraternity picnic on Saturday, Sept. 13, at Bond Park in Cary, offering a joyful setting to celebrate in fellowship and gratitude.

Finally, in honor of a landmark moment in our tradition, we will mark the 800th anniversary of the Canticum of the Creatures with a Zoom webinar from 3-4:15 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 5. This celebration will bring together Franciscans across the country to reflect on the enduring beauty and message of St. Francis's beloved hymn to creation. Stay tuned for more information.



## SAINT OF THE DAY

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	1 Saint Junipero Serra	2 Saint Oliver Plunkett	3 Saint Thomas	4 Saint Elizabeth of Portugal	5 Saint Anthony Zaccaria	6 Saint Maria Goretti
7 Blessed Emmanuel Ruiz and Companions	8 Saint Gregory Grassi and Companions	9 Saint Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions	10 Saint Veronica Giuliani	11 Saint Benedict	12 Saints John Jones and John Wall	13 Saint Henry
14 Saint Kateri Tekakwitha	15 Saint Bonaventure	16 Our Lady of Mount Carmel	17 Saint Francis Solano	18 Saint Camillus de Lellis	19 Saint Mary MacKillop	20 Saint Apollinaris
21 Saint Lawrence of Brindisi	22 Saint Mary Magdalene	23 Saint Bridget of Sweden	24 Saint Sharbel Makhlof	25 Saint James	26 Saints Joachim and Anne	27 Saint Titus Brandsma
28 Blessed Stanley Rother	29 Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus	30 Blessed Solanus Casey	31 Saint Ignatius of Loyola			

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

## THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

For formation in discernment

Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life, and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

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



## PROFESSION anniversaries

7/12/2014

*Maureen Copan, OFS*

*Suzie Nelson, OFS*

*Sharon Winzeler, OFS*

7/15/2023

*Dave Abel, OFS*

*Rachel & Travis Bongiorno, OFS*

*Valorie Davis, OFS*

*Brian Denison, OFS*

*Anne Evangelista, OFS*

*Alma & Richard Hammer, OFS*

*Maureen McFadden, OFS*

*Nkem Okereke, OFS*

*Janette Perez, OFS*

*Henry Simms, OFS*

## HAPPY birthday

02 Chris Peffley, OFS

05 Victoria Romero, OFS

09 Ann Wester, OFS &  
Debbie Wickwar

21 Eyram Klu, OFS





# SHARING OUR BLESSINGS

**by Deacon Phil Rz.**

BONAVENTURE (July 15)

Bishop and Doctor (1221-12740)

Bonaventure, Franciscan, theologian, Doctor of the Church, was both learned and holy. Because of the spirit that filled him and his writings, he was at first called the Devout Doctor, but in more recent centuries he has been known as the Seraphic Doctor after the “Seraphic Father,” Francis, because of the truly Franciscan spirit he possessed.

Born in Bagnoregio, a town in central Italy, he was cured of a serious illness as a boy through the prayers of Francis of Assisi. Later, he studied liberal arts in Paris. Inspired by Francis and the example of the friars, especially of his master in theology, Alexander of Hales, he entered the Franciscan Order and became in turn a teacher of theology in the university. Chosen as minister general of the order in 1257, he was God’s instrument in bringing it back to 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 other works that defended the order or explained its ideals and way of life.

COMMENT: Bonaventure so united holiness and theological knowledge that he rose to the height of mysticism while yet remaining an active preacher and teacher, one loved by all who met him. To know him was to love him; to read him is still for us today to meet a true Franciscan and a gentleman. (From Saint of the Day, Franciscan media)



**HELP**

**Do you want to be more involved in Fraternity life?**

Your Fraternity Council is organizing mini committees based on the Four Pillars! Sign up today and have your ideas be heard!

*Contact Sharon or Rachel for more information*

swinzeler@gmail.com or rchlrsbn@gmail.com

**We are looking for our next Newsletter Editor!!**

Experience not needed

*Contact Sharon or Rachel if interested*

swinzeler@gmail.com or rchlrsbn@gmail.com


**Is there something you would like to have shared with our Fraternity?**

Send your articles, photographs and non-copyrighted content to have it featured in our monthly newsletter

*Email it to me! rchlrsbn@gmail.com*

## Heart Speaks To Heart

The spiritual life means that the Spirit of Love is given to us so that we can live with that Spirit within us. With that Spirit in us, we are able to recognize the same Spirit in the world. The Spirit blows where it wants, so the Spirit is everywhere. It's in the people who are dying, people with AIDS, people who are broken, and people with disabilities. To watch for Christ in the world is to see that the spirit within us recognizes the Spirit among us so that the spirit speaks to Spirit, heart speaks to Heart, love speaks to Love. To watch for Christ is to be attentive to the presence of Christ in the world and in our heart. It's not a kind of emotional or intellectual gymnastics. If we carry God in our hearts, we see God in the world.



## The Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.  
 Body of Christ, save me.  
 Blood of Christ, inebriate me.  
 Water from the side of Christ, wash me.  
 Passion of Christ, strengthen me.  
 O Good Jesus, hear me.  
 Within Your wounds hide me.  
 Suffer me not to be separated from you.  
 From the evil one defend me.  
 In the hour of my death, call me.  
 And bid me come to You,  
 That with all Your saints,  
 I may praise You forever and ever.  
 Amen.

Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy	Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy
God our Father in heaven	have mercy on us
God the Son, Redeemer of the world	have mercy on us
God the Holy Spirit	have mercy on us
Holy Trinity, one God	have mercy on us
Blood of Christ, only Son of the Father	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, incarnate Word	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, of the new and eternal covenant	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, that spilled to the ground	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, that flowed at the scourging	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, dripping from the thorns	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, shed on the cross	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, the price of our redemption	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, our only claim to pardon	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, our blessing cup	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, in which we are washed	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, torrent of mercy	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, that overcomes evil	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, strength of the martyrs	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, endurance of the saints	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, that makes the barren fruitful	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, protection of the threatened	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, comfort of the weary	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, solace of the mourner	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, hope of the repentant	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, consolation of the dying	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, our peace and refreshment	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, our pledge of life	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, by which we pass to glory	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, most worthy of honor	be our salvation
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world	have mercy on us
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world	have mercy on us
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world	have mercy on us
Lord, you redeemed us by your blood.	You have made us a kingdom to serve our God.

*Let us pray.*

O God, who by the Precious Blood of your Only Begotten Son have redeemed the whole world, preserve in us the work of your mercy, so that, ever honoring the mystery of our salvation, we may merit to obtain its fruits. Through Christ our Lord.  
 R/ Amen.

## 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](http://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

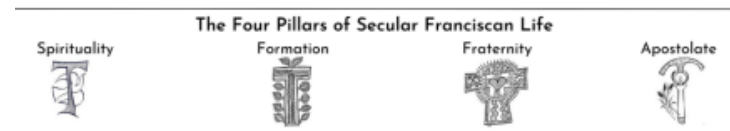
Website: Sharon Winzeler, OFS

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.



## Dates to Remember:

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. 23, Dec. 27