



VOL. 15 NO. 12

Monthly NEWSLETTER

Secular Franciscan Order of Central North Carolina



PADRE PIO FRATERNITY ofscentralnc.org DECEMBER 1, 2025

— A Snapshot from the Life of St. Francis —

DISCOVERING PERFECT JOY

St. Francis discovers a deep, internal joy that is independent of external circumstances

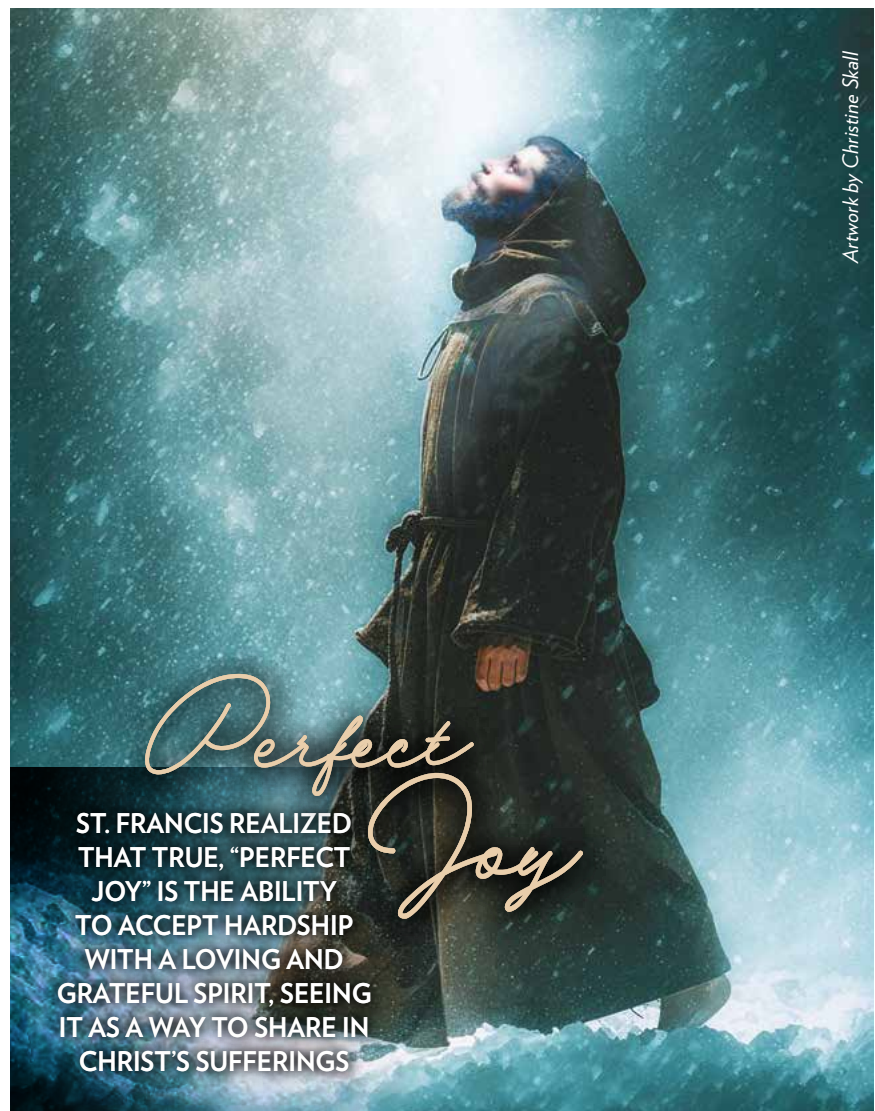
St. Francis discovered perfect joy not through worldly accomplishments, but by learning to endure suffering, rejection, and contempt with patience, joy, and charity.

He realized that true, “perfect joy” is the ability to accept hardship with a loving and grateful spirit, seeing it as a way to share in Christ’s sufferings, and it is a deep, internal joy independent of external circumstances.

THROUGH SUFFERING

Francis taught that perfect joy is not found in miraculous powers, but in the ability to endure suffering with patience. He used the example of being insulted, beaten, and turned away from a town, and having to remain patient, loving, and joyful.

See FRANCIS, PAGE 4 ➡



— OUR HEAVENLY FAMILY: THE SAINTS —

Saint of the Day // DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 SAINT CHARLES DE FOUCAULD	2 BLESSED RAFAL CHYLINSKI	3 SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER	4 SAINT JOHN DAMASCENE	5 SAINT SABAS	6 SAINT NICHOLAS
7 SAINT AMBROSE	8 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	9 SAINT JUAN DIEGO	10 BLESSED ADOLPH KOLPING	11 SAINT DAMASUS I	12 OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE	13 SAINT LUCY
14 SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS	15 BLESSED MARY FRANCES SCHERVIER	16 BLESSED HONORATUS KOZMINSKI	17 SAINT HILDEGARD OF BINGEN	18 BLESSED ANTHONY GRASSI	19 BLESSED URBAN V	20 SAINT DOMINIC OF SILOS
21 SAINT PETER CANISIUS	22 BLESSED JACOPONE DA TODI	23 SAINT JOHN OF KANTY	24 CHRISTMAS AT GRECCIO	25 NATIVITY OF THE LORD	26 SAINT STEPHEN	27 SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST
28 HOLY INNOCENTS	29 SAINT THOMAS BECKET	30 SAINT EGWIN	31 SAINT SYLVESTER I			

— SOURCE: FRANCISCANMEDIA.ORG

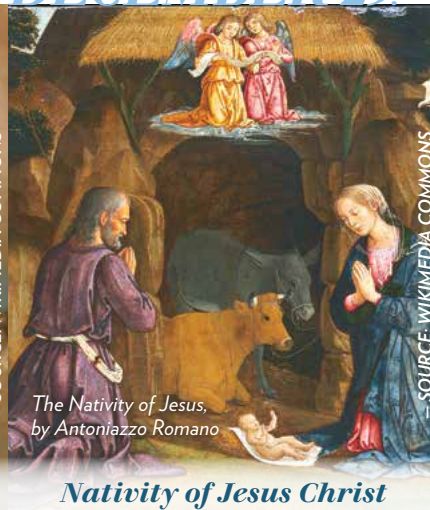
DECEMBER 8:

DECEMBER 25:

MARIAN
FEAST
DAY



The Immaculate Conception



Nativity of Jesus Christ

REFLECTION

In Luke 1:28 the angel Gabriel, speaking on God's behalf, addresses Mary as "full of grace" or "highly favored". In that context, this phrase means that Mary is receiving all the special divine help necessary for the task ahead. However, the Church grows in understanding with the help of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit led the Church, especially non-theologians, to the insight that Mary had to be the most perfect work of God next to the Incarnation. Or rather, Mary's intimate association with the Incarnation called for the special involvement of God in Mary's whole life. The logic of piety helped God's people to believe that Mary was full of grace and free of sin from the first moment of her existence. Moreover, this great privilege of Mary is the highlight of all that God has done in Jesus. Rightly understood, the incomparable holiness of Mary shows forth the incomparable goodness of God.

— SOURCE: FRANCISCANMEDIA.ORG

— COLUMN —

BLESSING PRAYERS FOR YOUR ADVENT WREATH & CHRISTMAS TREE



DEACON PHIL
RZEWNICKI, OFS
PhilRzewnicki@gmail.com

SHARING OUR BLESSINGS



Advent Wreath Blessing



God of hope and love,
we praise You for sending Jesus, Your Son,
to save us from our sins
and to be the light in our darkness.
Bless us as we gather in His name,
and bless this wreath as a sign of Your unending love
and of Jesus' presence among us.
Keep us watchful in prayer
as we await His return in glory.
We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord,
who lives with You and The Holy Spirit,
in eternal glory, God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

— SOURCE: Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family,
from GIVE US THIS DAY, DECEMBER 2025

Blessing of a Christmas Tree

God of light and love, we praise You for the joy of Your creation,
Your universe and the stars of night that give light to our way.
Through the generations, Your wisdom has provided guidance to fill us
with the power of Your love and Your forests have provided strength, care,
and coverage to care for our air, shelter, and warmth for our homes.
Lord God, bless our Christmas tree to illumine our home with Your justice, love, and peace.
May this light cheer us, and be a sign of joy to the world.
May our family be blessed this Christmas to be the Christ-light to others, rescuing
others from their darkness and despair to anoint them with the splendor of your hope.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

— Very Rev. John Thomas Lane, SSS

— SOURCE: GIVE US THIS DAY, DECEMBER 2025

Artwork by Christine Skall

FRANCIS ++++++

➔ Continued from PAGE 1

THE CORE OF
PERFECT JOY,
FOR FRANCIS,
WAS THE
ABILITY TO
GET BEYOND
HIS OWN SELF-
IMPORTANCE
AND ACCEPT
HIS "CROSS"
OUT OF LOVE
FOR GOD.

BY PRIORITIZING GOD

He understood that this joy comes from placing love for God above all else, including possessions and personal comfort. This allowed him to see suffering not as a source of despair, but as a potential for spiritual growth.

BY OVERCOMING THE SELF

The core of perfect joy, for Francis, was the ability to get beyond his own self-importance and accept his "cross" out of love for God. He learned that this inner disposition, which is independent of external success or failure, is what truly matters.

THE STORY OF PERFECT JOY

Francis's understanding of perfect joy is best illustrated in a famous story he told to his companion, Brother Leo, on a cold, winter journey. He

explained to Brother Leo that even performing great miracles would not be perfect joy. He contrasts external success with the internal joy of patiently enduring hardship, like being kicked out of a town, with love and a joyful spirit.

As they walked, shivering in the snow, Francis asked

Leo to write down what would not be perfect joy. He systematically listed all the things the world might value:

- **HOLINESS AND SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE:**

Even if a friar gave a great example of holiness to all people, this would not be perfect joy.

- **MIRACLES AND POWER:**

Even if they could heal the sick, cast out demons, and raise the dead, this would not be perfect joy.

- **KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM:**

Even if they knew all languages, all sciences, and could predict the future, this would not be perfect joy.

See FRANCIS, NEXT PAGE ➔



FOR FRANCIS, SURRENDER
TO GOD'S WILL WAS NOT
A PATH OF FEAR BUT
ONE OF RADICAL LOVE
AND JOYFUL OBEDIENCE
TO THE CONCRETE
CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE
GOD SENT HIS WAY.

Artwork by Christine Skall



Artwork by Christine Skall

FRANCIS ††††††

➔ Continued from
PREVIOUS PAGE

After listing these and other great achievements, Brother Leo, confused and cold, finally asked, *“Father, I pray you in God’s name tell me, where is perfect joy?”*

Francis then explained that perfect joy would be found in the following scenario:

If they arrived at a friary cold, hungry, and muddy, and the doorkeeper not only refused them entry but called them rascals, beat them, and left them to freeze outside all night, they were to endure all of this with patience, joy, and charity, thinking humbly that the doorkeeper was acting by God’s command.

“Write that perfect joy is to be found there!” Francis declared.

THE CORE OF HIS DISCOVERY

For Francis, this scenario represented the ultimate expression of Christian humility and love. By accepting mistreatment and suffering without complaint, and seeing it as an opportunity to share in the sufferings of Christ, one could experience a profound inner peace and security that the world could never provide or take away. It meant letting go of self-importance and relying completely on God’s loving care.


Saint Francis thus taught that perfect joy is discovered not in wealth, status, miracles, or any worldly comfort, but in embracing suffering, insults, and humility with patience and a heart full of love for Christ. **It is found in a complete surrender to God’s will and an imitation of Christ’s own suffering.**

BY ACCEPTING
MISTREATMENT
AND SUFFERING
WITHOUT
COMPLAINT, AND
SEEING IT AS AN
OPPORTUNITY
TO SHARE IN
THE SUFFERINGS
OF CHRIST,
ONE COULD
EXPERIENCE
A PROFOUND
INNER PEACE
AND SECURITY
THAT THE WORLD
COULD NEVER
PROVIDE OR
TAKE AWAY.

*Perfect
Joy...*

Artwork by Christine Skall

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO PONDER, AND SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

1. How might we, or ‘I, myself’ apply this description of St. Francis to my own personal life?
2. Do I see anything lacking in myself as I read this description of St. Francis?
3. What did St. Francis do that I should be doing, or making more a part of my everyday life?
4. Do I see in myself the depth of faith that I need so that I can follow and trust in God’s guidance as St. Francis did? In other words, is there anything in my past, and my memory, that creates a stumbling or hindrance to following whatever The Lord might say to me?
5. Do I believe — and go through my day — knowing, and appreciating, that The Lord is right here with me? When do I seem to lose, or forget, that ‘knowing’ and awareness of Our Lord’s presence?
6. Am I aware of, and thankful for, the blessings that I have throughout the day? 

Important DATES

SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AND AROUND THE PADRE PIO FRATERNITY. Take note of upcoming important events and remember upcoming Birthdays & Profession Anniversaries.

Upcoming EVENTS

JUL. 29- AUG. 10:
**2026 NATIONAL
QUINQUENNIAL**



Secular Franciscans gather to celebrate our shared calling with prayer, formation, and fellowship Jul. 29-Aug. 10 next year at the Lexington Griffin Gate Marriott Golf Resort in Lexington, KY.

SOURCE: www.inkedn.com/company/griffin-gate-marriott-resort-&-spa
Used with permission.

DEC.
6

ADVENT DAY- LONG PADRE PIO RETREAT

Fr. Tim Kulbicki, OFM Conv., pastor of the UNC-Chapel

Hill Newman Center, will be leading the retreat Dec. 6 and presenting on the Incarnation. Don't miss this special time together with fellow Franciscans. Beginning with Mass in the Chapel at St. Francis of Assisi at 9:30 p.m. and ending at 3 p.m. The day will include morning coffee, snacks, and lunch. Cost is \$20. Pay at the retreat. Sign up so we know how many for whom to prepare. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054BA4AC23A0F85-59939906-advent> ➔ Newman Catholic Student Center, 218 Pittsboro St, Chapel Hill, NC 27516, 919-929-3730

ONGOING
DEC.
27➔

OAK CITY CARES

The Padre Pio Fraternity contributes to, and helps to serve, the Saturday mid-day meal

for hundreds of clients of Oak City Outreach in the downtown Raleigh area. Fraternity members may sign up to bring food items, help to serve and converse with the outreach center's participants. This ministry is coordinated by Fraternity member Ellen Ferrone. UPCOMING DATES: Dec. 27 ➔ Oak City Outreach Center, 215 S Person St., Raleigh, NC 27601. 919-847-8205.

JAN.
4

EPIPHANY PARTY

The Epiphany Party has been a long-time yearly tradition in our fraternity and will be held Jan. 4 at

Ben & Gladys Whitehouse's home. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share. It's an open house that lasts about 2 hours, though no one needs to stay the entire time. Thanks, Ben and Gladys! ➔ 5600 N. Hawthorne Way, Raleigh, NC 27613.

ONGOING
JAN.
25➔

FRATERNITY GATHERINGS

These are the upcoming regular monthly Padre Pio Fraternity gatherings on the 4th Sunday of each month. Note that there will not be a meeting in December because it would be on the week leading up to Christmas. UPCOMING GATHERING DATES: Jan. 25,

See EVENTS,
NEXT PAGE ➔

Anniversaries of PROFESSION

PROFESSED
DEC. 2
2017



EILEEN
CUNNINGHAM, OFS



ELLEN FERRONE,
OFS



THERESA
FLYNN, OFS



MICHAEL
HANCOCK, OFS



CHRIS
PEFFLEY, OFS

Happy BIRTHDAY

DEC.
6



FATHER HUGH
MACSHERRY, O.F.M.

DEC.
6



BETH LYON

DEC.
11



IDA IRWIN, OFS

DEC.
13



SUSAN
EVANGELISTA, OFS

DEC.
28



DOUG THOREN

DEC.
28



SHARON
WINZELER, OFS

DEC.
28



MARY COCKRILL,
OFS

EVENTS ††††††††

➔ *Continued from
PREVIOUS PAGE*

Feb. 22, March 22, April 26, May 17, June 28,
July 26, Aug. 23, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 22.

➔ St. Francis of Assisi Church, 11401 Leesville
Rd., Raleigh, NC 27613. www.stfrancisraleigh.org. 919-847-8205.

MAY
8-10

RETREAT AT ST. FRANCIS SPRINGS

Join us at this beautiful
quiet center where you can spend some
quality time with The Lord and fellow

Franciscans from **May 8-10**. This will be a

great time for spiritual renewal and the retreat will be
led by Fr. Steve Kluge, OFM. Registration begins in
January. ➔ 477 Grogan Rd, Stoneville, NC 27048.
336-573-3751.

JUN.
20

PADRE PIO PERMANENT

PROFESSION Our candidates will
profess at a Mass celebrated by Fr. Hugh
Macsherry, OFM, at **11 am on Sat., June**

20, at St. Francis of Assisi. Please mark your

calendars now. This will serve as our monthly
meeting, so there will be no gathering in June.

➔ St. Francis of Assisi Church, 11401 Leesville
Rd., Raleigh, NC 27613.

www.stfrancisraleigh.org. 919-847-8205.

JUL.
29➔

2026 NATIONAL

QUINQUENNIAL This is a National

Congress when Secular Franciscans
gather to celebrate our shared calling
with prayer, formation, and fellowship

and will be held July 29-Aug. 2 in Lexington,
KY. There is an Early Bird discount available until
Dec. 31. Find information on the three keynote
speakers, how to register, and more at [https://www.
secularfranciscansusa.org/21st-quinquennial-
congress-q2026/](https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/21st-quinquennial-congress-q2026/). ➔ Marriott Griffin Gate Golf
Resort & Spa, 1800 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY,
40511 US.

SEP.
11-13

ANNUAL REGIONAL

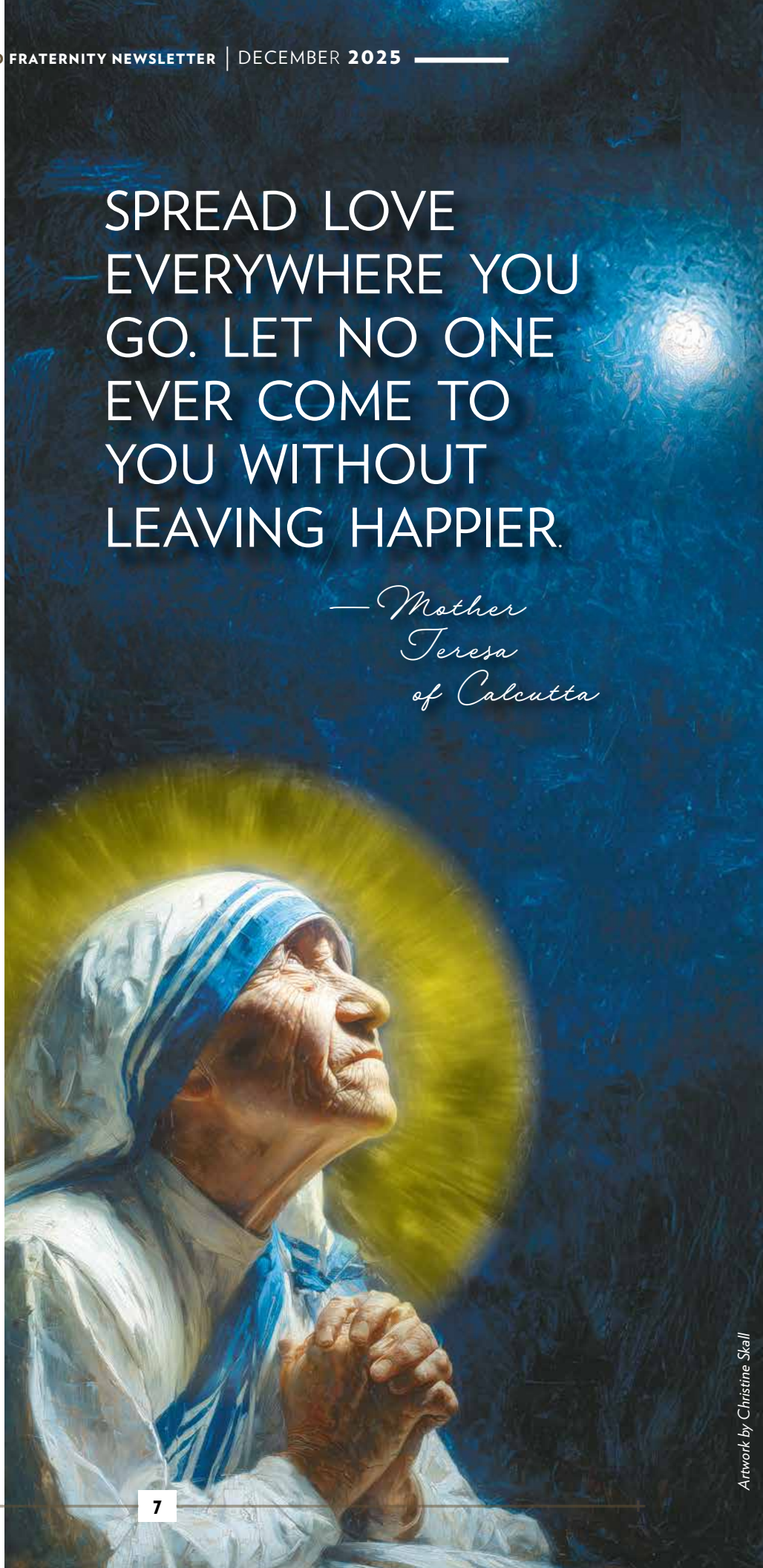
GATHERING A time to gather
together all the Secular Franciscans of the
Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region
for our Annual Regional Gathering (ARG).

This is also a time for prayer, a time for fellowship,
a time to learn, a time to share, and a time for joy.
Because of the date of the national Quinquennial,
our Annual Regional Gathering (ARG) will be
Sept. 11-13. Darleen Pryds, PhD will be a speaker
at both the National Quinquennial and the ARG.
She has a lovely article on living the Cantic of the
Creatures that we encourage you to read at [https://
www.franciscanmedia.org/st-anthony-messenger/
living-the-cantic-of-the-creatures](https://www.franciscanmedia.org/st-anthony-messenger/living-the-cantic-of-the-creatures) ➔ Ridgecrest
Conference Center, Black Mountain, NC,
1 Ridgecrest Dr, Black Mountain, NC 28711.
828-669-8022.



SPREAD LOVE
EVERYWHERE YOU
GO. LET NO ONE
EVER COME TO
YOU WITHOUT
LEAVING HAPPIER.

— Mother
Teresa
of Calcutta



Padre Pio Fraternity GATHERING

NOTES

A RECAP OF THE MOST RECENT FRATERNITY GATHERING. Highlights and discussion points from the July Fraternity Gathering are noted below.

Gathering HIGHLIGHTS

At our Padre Pio gathering on Sunday, Nov. 23, we were blessed to welcome Consuelo Kwee as our speaker, a woman whose life and ministry embody compassion, accompaniment, and a deep trust in God's call. She is director of Immigration Services for Catholic Charities in Raleigh.

She addressed how her work with the immigrant community has strengthened her faith and how others can provide support in these uncertain times.

Consuelo was born in Mexico City and later moved with her parents and five siblings to Canada. After her marriage, she and her husband settled in

MAIN TOPIC:
"WORKING WITH THE
IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY"



Photo by Christine Skall

Raleigh in the 1980s. In 1997, she joined Catholic Charities. From the beginning, she felt a strong desire to serve all who came, regardless

of background or faith.

Over the years, Consuelo found herself increasingly inspired to walk alongside immigrant and refugee

TABLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 What are your thoughts and concerns about the immigration issue in the United States?
- 2 What resonated with you from what others have shared?
- 3 Are you called to any action based on what has been shared?

families during some of the most difficult chapters of their lives. She shared that as they searched for safety, stability, and a better future, she recognized her work as part of God's invitation to accompany His people.

"Helping vulnerable people has made me strong," Consuelo said.

Today, her office serves 54 counties across Eastern and Central North Carolina, processing more than 800 cases each year.

See **GATHERING**,
NEXT PAGE ➡

GATHERING ++++++

➤ Continued from PREVIOUS PAGE



Photo by Christine Skall

Aspirant Doug Thoren, who scheduled the presentation and is a strong advocate for immigrants, holds up the book "Welcoming The Stranger" by Matthew Soerens.

“CATHOLIC CHARITIES IMMIGRATION SERVICES ASSISTS WITH VISAS AND OTHER IMMIGRATION NEEDS AND OFFERS COMMUNITY EDUCATION WORKSHOPS TO HELP CLIENTS PREPARE FOR CITIZENSHIP INTERVIEWS.”

Clients arrive from 42 countries, each carrying a unique story of hardship, hope, and perseverance. Catholic Charities Immigration Services assists with visas and other immigration needs and offers community education workshops to help clients prepare for citizenship interviews.

“It’s a joy to see someone receive their green card,” she said.

Consuelo shared the moving story of a client, a permanent resident since the 1960s and a father of four. Although he had spent decades planting and harvesting strawberries and cucumbers in North Carolina fields, he could not read either English or Spanish. When he came to a workshop seeking help with a naturalization form, Consuelo paired him with a student volunteer to prepare for

the naturalization interview which was scheduled in three months.

Consuelo worried about how he would manage the questions, but he passed every one of them. She later learned that he had been listening to audio recordings of the citizenship questions and answers every day while driving to and from the fields.

“Imagine the joy of hearing that he passed,” she said. He took the oath and attended the naturalization ceremony the same day.

Consuelo closed by sharing ways we, as people of faith, can support our immigrant and refugee neighbors:

- **Volunteer your time.**
 - **Donate money to support essential services.**
 - **Listen to their stories.**
- Ask them, *“Why are you*

here?” Understanding is the beginning of compassion.

“This work has given me a connection to my faith, and at the same time it has given others hope,” Consuelo said.

Aspirant Doug Thoren, who scheduled the presentation and is a strong advocate for immigrants, also read the Special Message from the United States Conference of Bishops addressing their concerns about the lack of consideration for human dignity in the recent efforts by ICE to detain immigrants.

Afterward, fraternity members used the Conversations in the Spirit method to discuss their thoughts and concerns about today’s immigration issues.

For more information about ways to help, visit Catholic Charities Immigration Services.



[MEET A FELLOW FRANCISCAN]

EACH MONTH WE GET TO KNOW ONE OF OUR FRATERNITY MEMBERS A LITTLE BETTER :)

Carla Forestieri

“Does life” with Jesus always at her side

1 In two minutes or less, tell us a little about your background (family, occupation, heritage, etc.).

I was born in northern Minnesota and then moved to Berea, Ohio (a suburb of Cleveland) when I was about 5 years old. I met my husband of 40 years, Mark, while we were both attending Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. We are both from Berea and went to the same high school and I sometimes wonder how many times we passed each other in the hall! I moved to NC in 1983 to attend graduate school at UNC Chapel Hill. Mark and I were married in 1985 and we have two children, Nina (38) and Justin (33). I worked as an audiologist for 40 years before retiring in 2022. I currently work one day a week as a newborn hearing screener in the NICU at Wakemed.

2 Tell us a little about your faith and your relationship with God.

I was fortunate to be able to attend a Catholic school from 1st to 8th grade and then went to CCD classes during high school where many seeds were planted in my heart that will take a lifetime to grow! My father has been a role model of faith for me so I think he passed that down to me. My relationship with God has been ever evolving and

I find that as I have gotten older, it has become more and more important. I don't know how people can “do life” without Jesus by their side.

3 Why did you feel called to become a Secular Franciscan?

I have felt a tug in that direction even before I knew anything about Secular Franciscans. It probably started when Mark and I began attending St. Francis of Assisi parish in the late 80s. We felt so welcome here, unlike any other church we had gone to. When I attended a women's retreat at St. Francis Springs a number of years ago I met several very kind and gentle women who said they were secular Franciscans, which was the first time I had heard about them. I tucked that information into the back of my heart and decided I would look into it but it wasn't until last year that I attended a Come and See gathering. I have felt more and more called as I go through formation. My formation sponsor, Ellen, has also been so encouraging when I have had questions or doubts.

4 What stage are you at in your Franciscan journey? (Are you a visitor, orientee, inquirer, candidate or are you already professed and when?)

I recently became an inquirer. It's hard to believe that more than a year has already gone by in my Franciscan journey!

5 What do you feel you gain from being a part of the Secular Franciscan community?

I am learning so much about what it means to be a part of a community that cares for each fraternity member, locally, regionally and world-wide. Following in the footsteps of St. Francis means I am also learning more about the care of all creation. I am less afraid to step beyond my comfort zone when I have the support of so many brothers and sisters.

See LORI, NEXT PAGE ➡



Carla Forestieri and her glowing smile :)

LORI ++++++

➔ Continued from PREVIOUS PAGE

6 What do you feel that you can offer to the Secular Franciscan community?

As I discover more about my charisms, I hope to be able to use them to care for both my fraternity brothers and sisters and to the people we serve.

7 What do you feel, as a Franciscan, that you can offer to others out there?

A prayer that I like to say answers this question for me...

Prayer for a Quiet & Serene Heart

O loving God, please give me a quiet and serene heart. If there is anxiety and stress today, bless me with a bit of your tranquility, so that even when I'm troubled or in pain, I may radiate peace of mind and heart, and complete trust

in your provident care. As I try to emulate your serenity today, perhaps someone who ministers to me or comes to visit me, by some little act or words of mine, may glimpse your goodness and sustaining peace. Amen

8 We already know you love Saint Francis. Do you have another favourite Saint? Why does that Saint appeal to you?

Mother Teresa has always been a favorite saint of mine since I first learned about her. I admire her ability to love and care for others while in the midst of her own personal suffering through dark days.

9 If you would like to, please name some other favourite Saints.

Since the name of our fraternity is Padre Pio, and I had never heard of him, I have started to read and learn more about him. It's been interesting to learn about a contemporary saint who was alive after I was born.

10 Share a favourite quote from one of the Saints that has meant a lot to you.

"There are no great things, only small things with great love."

— MOTHER TERESA

"Pray, hope, and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayers."

— ST. PADRE PIO

“ I DON'T KNOW HOW PEOPLE CAN “DO LIFE” WITHOUT JESUS BY THEIR SIDE.”

CARLA FORESTIERI
WIFE, MOM, AUDIOLOGIST,
LOVING CHILD OF GOD



Carla Forestieri, right, and her husband Mark enjoy some quality time together.

PRAY, HOPE,
AND DON'T
WORRY. WORRY
IS USELESS. GOD
IS MERCIFUL
AND WILL HEAR
YOUR PRAYERS....

— St. Padre Pio



Artwork by Christine Skall

[PRAYERS & DEVOTIONS]



POPE
LEO XIV

The Pope's PRAYER INTENTIONS

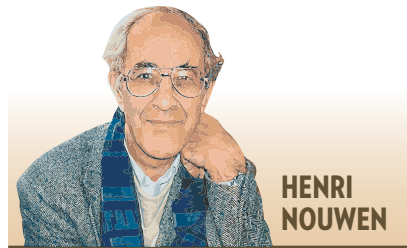
FOR CHRISTIANS IN AREAS OF CONFLICT

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

— SOURCE: USCCB.ORG

“GOD ENRICHES THE
SOUL which empties itself
of everything.”

A Quote from
**St. Padre
Pio**



HENRI
NOUWEN

DAILY MEDITATION

Maybe someone will say to you, “You have to forgive yourself.” But that isn’t possible. What is possible is to open your hands without fear, so that the One who loves you can blow your sins away. Then the coins you considered indispensable for your life prove to be little more than light dust that a soft breeze will whirl away, leaving only a grin or a chuckle behind. Then you feel a bit of new freedom and praying becomes a joy, a spontaneous reaction to the world and the people around you. Praying then becomes

effortless, inspired and lively, or peaceful and quiet. When you recognize the festive and the still moments as moments of prayer, then you gradually realize that to pray is to live.

— SOURCE: WITH OPEN HANDS, by Henri Nouwen

“DEVOTE YOURSELVES TO
PRAYER, KEEPING ALERT IN
IT WITH THANKSGIVING.
AT THE SAME TIME PRAY
FOR US AS WELL THAT
GOD WILL OPEN TO US A
DOOR FOR THE WORD...”

— COLOSSIANS 4:2-3

“Dare to love and to be a real friend. The love you give and receive is a reality that will lead you closer and closer to God as well as those whom God has given you to love.”

— HENRI NOUWEN

Litany of The Most Precious Blood

The Anima Christi*

Artwork by Christine Skall

SPECIAL
MONTHLY
SERIES!

[PRAYERS & DEVOTIONS cont.]

REFLECTIONS & PRAYERS from *Divine Intimacy*

[EDITOR'S NOTE. Baronius Press, the publisher of *Divine Intimacy: Meditations on the Interior Life for Every Day of the Liturgical Year*, has kindly given us permission to share some meditations from this beautiful book. I read this book daily and cannot express enough how it has impacted my spiritual journey in the most beautiful and deeply enriching way, and so I would love to share some of these meditations with you also. If you would like to purchase the book so that you can read it in its entirety it is available from www.baronius.com/divine-intimacy.html.]

Union with God

PRESENCE OF GOD - *My God, Thou hast created me for Thyself; grant that I may return to Thee and unite myself to Thee by love.*

MEDITATION

1. The whole life of man is a return journey to God: he came from God and must go back to Him. The more complete this return, the more intimate his union with God will become and the better will he have attained the end for which he was created: he will be perfect and eternally happy. St. Thomas teaches that a being is perfect when it attains its end; thus the perfection of

See DIVINE INTIMACY, NEXT PAGE ➡

*My God...
Thou hast created
me for Thyself; grant
that I may return to
Thee and unite myself
to Thee by love...*

Artwork by Christine Skall

DIVINE INTIMACY ++++++

➔ Continued from PREVIOUS PAGE



*Only in God can
man find his peace.....*

*"Thou hast made
us for Thyself,
O Lord, and our
heart is restless until
it rests in Thee."*

- St. Augustine

Artwork by Christine Skell

man consists in rejoining God and uniting himself to Him, his last end. Man finds in union with God all that he can desire: he finds his peace, the assuaging of his hunger for the infinite, of his thirst for love and imperishable felicity. *"Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in Thee"* (St. Augustine). Man finds his eternal happiness in union with God; and the life of heaven is nothing else than this union carried to its ultimate perfection, wherein man gives God the greatest glory and the greatest love which, in turn, redounds to man's own eternal beatitude.

The soul that truly loves God does not resign itself to waiting for heaven in order to be united

**THE SOUL THAT
TRULY LOVES
GOD DOES NOT
RESIGN ITSELF
TO WAITING FOR
HEAVEN IN ORDER
TO BE UNITED TO
HIM, BUT DESIRES
ARDENTLY TO
ANTICIPATE THIS
UNION HERE
BELOW. IS THIS
POSSIBLE? YES,
JESUS HAS SAID SO.**

to Him, but desires ardently to anticipate this union here below. Is this possible? Yes, Jesus has said so: *"If anyone love Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him; and We will come to him and will make Our abode with him"* (Jn 14,23). Our Lord Himself tells us in these words the condition for living united to Him: love. *"He that abideth in charity, abideth in God, and God in him"* (1 Jn 4,16). Love is the great power which unites us to God even in this life, where, imprisoned in matter, we cannot yet enjoy the direct contact, the face to face vision of Him.

"The end of the spiritual life,"

See DIVINE INTIMACY,
NEXT PAGE ➔

DIVINE INTIMACY ++++++

➔ Continued from PREVIOUS PAGE

says St. Thomas, “*is that man unite himself to God by love*” (II@ IIe, q.44, a.1, co.). By steps of love, *gressibus amoris*, we advance toward our last end: union with God. Such is the great ideal which should illumine and direct our whole life, the great goal which, with the divine assistance, we can attain even here below, as far as is possible in our state as pilgrims.

2. St. John of the Cross explains wherein union of love with God consists. It is not a question of the substantial union which always exists between God and everything created and by means of which He is preserving their being. That kind of union is natural and can never be jacking in any creature, not even in the greatest sinner. The union of love, however, is supernatural and only takes place in souls “*when there is produced that likeness that comes from love*,” that is, in souls that are in the state of grace. The Saint says: “*Although... God is ever in the soul, giving it, and through His presence conserving within it, its natural being, yet He does not always communicate supernatural being to it. For this is communicated only by love and grace, which not all souls possess; and all those that possess it have it not in the same degree; for some have attained more degrees of love and others fewer.*” He concludes: “*God communicates Himself most to that soul that has progressed farthest in love*” (AS II, 5,3.4).

The state of grace is the point of departure for the union of love with God. The goal is the full development: of grace, so that the soul remains totally supernaturalized, and all its powers, its entire will, all its affections are concentrated in God, neither desiring nor loving anything henceforth but what

“AH! DEAR FRIEND OF MY HEART, UNITE THIS POOR SOUL OF MINE TO YOUR SINGULAR GOODNESS! YOU ARE ENTIRELY MINE, WHEN SHALL I BE ALL YOURS?”

— ST. FRANCES DE SALES

God wills and loves. Grace is the life of God in us, a life which develops through progress in love. The more the soul loves, the more grace increases in it, with the result that its participation in the divine life becomes more profound, leading it to an ever more intense and perfect union with God. Grace and love are the precious seeds of union with God; they put the soul in intimate communion with Him: communion of life, of thought and of will.

God always remains God, distinct from His creature; the creature always keeps its own personality, and yet the soul becomes so permeated with divine life, God so “*communicates to it His own supernatural Being that it seems to be God... rather than a soul*” (*ibid.*, 7).

Such is the ultimate end of union with God upon earth, a sublime end, but one which it is not rash to desire, since each of us has already received in baptismal grace the seed of union with God.

COLLOQUY

“O Jesus, who will give me the grace to form one only spirit with You? Rejecting the multiplicity of creatures, I desire indeed, O Lord, Your unity alone! O God, You are the only One, the sole unity necessary for my soul!

Ah! dear friend of my heart,

unite this poor soul of mine to Your singular goodness! You are entirely mine, when shall I be all Yours? The magnet draws iron and holds it fast to itself; Lord Jesus, my Beloved, be the magnet of my heart: draw, hold fast, unite forever my spirit to Your paternal heart! Oh, since I was made for You, how is it that I am not in You? Submerge this drop, which is the spirit You have given me, in the sea of Your goodness, from which it proceeds. Lord, seeing that Your heart loves me, why do You not lift me up to You, as I so much desire? Draw me, and I will run in the odor of Your ointments until I cast myself into Your arms and never move from thence forever. Amen” (St. Francis de Sales).

“O Lord, who could describe how great a gain it is to cast ourselves into Yours arms and make an agreement with You : You will take care of my affairs and I of Yours. “For what am I, Lord, without You? What am I worth if I am not near You? If once I stray from Your Majesty, be it ever so little, where shall I find myself?”

“O my Lord, my Mercy and my Good! What more do I want in this life than to be so near You that there is no division between You and me?”

“O Lord of my life, draw me to Yourself, but do it in such a way that my will may ever remain so united to You that it shall be unable to leave You” (T.J. Con, 4 – 3).



— SOURCE: FROM DIVINE INTIMACY: MEDITATIONS ON THE INTERIOR LIFE FOR EVERY DAY OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR, pp. 1008-1011. Translated by the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of Boston from the original Italian edition INTIMITÀ DIVINA DEL P. GABRIELLE DI S. MARIA MADDALENA. © Monastero S. Giuseppe – Carmelitane Scalze. Published by Baronius Press, www.baroniuspress.com. Used with permission.

[PRAYERS & DEVOTIONS cont.]

The Great Importance of Consecration to Mary

Consecrating yourself to Mary is an act of entrusting yourself to her as a spiritual mother to help you grow in holiness and draw closer to Jesus. You are entrusting yourself entirely to the special maternal care and intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary to be led closer to Her Son Jesus Christ. It is seen as a way to have her guide your life, make your prayers and good works more perfect by presenting them to Jesus, and receiving her spiritual protection and guidance. It is considered to be the highest form of Marian devotion, an act of “total gift of ourselves”. *Ultimately, the consecration is made to God, with Mary as the intercessor who leads you to Him.*

*To Jesus,
through Mary*

CONSECRATION TO JESUS THROUGH MARY

Consecration to Jesus through Mary is a formal act of trust in Mary as intercessor, entrusting yourself to her, placing yourself under her protection, surrendering yourself and your spiritual life to her, accepting her as your mother and allowing her to guide you. This true devotion to Mary consists in giving yourself entirely to Mary in order to belong entirely to Jesus through her. The consecration/entrustment to Mary begins with a period

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*Mary will always take
you straight to Jesus...*



✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦



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CONSECRATION+++++

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- **MARY'S INTERCESSION:**

As a spiritual mother, Mary is believed to have a unique and powerful intercessory role with her Son in heaven. She can present your prayers and sacrifices to Christ in a much more perfect, pure, and precious way than an individual ever could on their own, because she is full of grace and has no sin.

- **SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE AND PROTECTION:** By entrusting

your entire self and your actions to Mary, you ask for her guidance and protection from evil, confident that she, who is completely aligned with God's will, knows the best use for your offerings and can help you navigate the spiritual battle for good over evil. You are asking Mary to act as your spiritual mother and guide you toward holiness and a deeper relationship with Jesus.

- CONFORMITY TO CHRIST:

Consecration is a way of entrusting yourself to Mary so she can help you become more perfectly conformed to Jesus' will.

- **A MODEL OF CHRIST:** Mary is seen as the ultimate role model of faith, hope, and love for her role in the life of Jesus, as His mother.

A DEEPENED RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS: The goal is never to place Mary above God, but rather to allow her to guide and form you into “another Christ”. The closer you gets to Mary, the closer you get to her Son, as their hearts are inseparable. Mary will •always• take you straight to Jesus.

HOW TO CONSECRATE YOURSELF TO MARY

The most common approach involves a 33-day period of spiritual preparation, culminating in a formal Act of Consecration, often on a specific, significant Marian feast day, and striving to live out the commitment to Mary's guidance in one's daily life.

PREPARATION

A period of prayerful preparation, commonly 33 days, using guided materials such as *33 Days to Morning Glory* by Fr. Michael Gaitley or the traditional methods of St. Louis de Montfort. This is required to prepare yourself for the act of consecration. This can be done individually or with a group.

PREPARATION METHODS

- **ST. LOUIS DE MONTFORT'S**

WAY: Saint Louis dedicated his life to following and praying to the Virgin Mary and the traditional, original method for consecration is outlined in his book **“True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary,”** one of the greatest books of Marian spirituality ever written. It involves specific daily prayers and readings over 33 days focused on renunciation of the world, knowledge of self, knowledge of Mary, and knowledge of Jesus. In **“True Devotion to Mary,”** St. Louis de Montfort teaches the easiest, most secure, and

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Consecration to Mary, as described by St. Louis de Montfort, is considered the shortcut to heaven.



CONSECRATION ++++++

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most perfect way to sainthood. According to St. Louis, there is no better way to become holy quickly, to please God, and to guarantee your eternal salvation than being truly devoted to Mary, the Mother of God. The original source of the beautiful phrase “*to Jesus through Mary*” comes from this book, in which St. Louis sums up all of Christian life. Through his wisdom and love of the Blessed Virgin, he describes the path to holiness and helps us to learn the lessons that have saved countless souls. In a simple but profound way, St. Louis reveals all the spiritual benefits of true devotion to Mary. The book “**Preparation for Total Consecration according to Saint Louis Marie de Montfort**” was inspired by Louis de Montfort and published in 2001 and provides a very easy, outlined method for the preparation for consecration, precisely specifying which chapters are to be read from “**True Devotion to Mary**” and which prayers are to be prayed each day. His method, and accompanying daily preparation prayers and readings, is also easily outlined at <https://www.fisheaters.com/totalconsecrationmontfort.html>

- **FATHER MICHAEL GAITLEY'S APPROACH:** A more modern, popular synthesis in his book “**33 Days to Morning Glory**,” which streamlines the process and draws on the teachings of St. Louis de Montfort, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Teresa of Calcutta, and St. Pope John Paul II. This is also a very beautiful and easy-to-follow approach.



(SAMPLE ACT OF)
CONSECRATION
to
**JESUS,
THROUGH
MARY**

+++

Dearest Mama Mary,
I, (Your name here), a repentant sinner, renew and ratify today in your hands, O Immaculate Mother, the vows of my Baptism. I renounce satan and resolve to follow Jesus Christ even more closely than before.
Mary, I give you my heart. Please set it on fire with love for Jesus. Make it always attentive to His burning thirst for love and for souls. Keep my heart in your most pure heart, that I may love Jesus and the members of His Body with your own perfect love.
Mary, I entrust myself totally to you, my body and soul, my goods both interior and exterior, and even the value of all my good actions, past, present and future. Please make of me, all that I am and have, whatever most pleases you. Let me be a fit instrument in your Immaculate and merciful hands for bringing the greatest possible glory to God. If I fall, please lead me quickly, without pause, back to Jesus. Wash me in The Blood & Water that flows from His Pure Side, and please help me to never lose my trust in This Fountain of Love and Mercy.
With you, O Immaculate Mother, you who always do the Will of God, I unite myself to the perfect consecration of Jesus, as He offers Himself in The Spirit to The Father for the life of the world. *Amen*

Artwork by Christine Skall

- **ST. MAXIMILLIAN KOLBE'S METHOD:** Focuses on the Immaculate Conception and aligning one's will with the will of God through total entrustment

to Mary, often involving enrollment in the Militia Immaculata movement and wearing the Miraculous Medal.

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CONSECRATION ††††††††††††††††

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STEPS ON THE DAY OF CONSECRATION

- **RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) on the day of Consecration, if possible. If it is not possible to go to Confession on the day of Consecration than it is highly recommended to go within the week leading up to it.
- **ATTEND MASS AND RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION:** By going to Confession prior to receiving Holy Communion you will also ensure that you receive Holy Communion worthily, in a state of grace. This is important.
- **MAKE THE FORMAL ACT OF CONSECRATION:** Recite the formal Act of Consecration prayer, most often after Holy Communion, and sign a written copy as a formal commitment, thus formally offering yourself to Mary.

AFTER CONSECRATION, LIVING THE CONSECRATION

Consecration is a lifelong commitment, not a one-time event, and requires annual renewal.

Once you have consecrated yourself to Jesus through Mary, live that consecration. St. Louis-Marie de Montfort recommended the following^[1]:

- **KEEP PRAYING AND MAKE PRAYER A PRIORITY:** Keep praying to develop a “great contempt” for the spirit of this world
- **MEDITATE OFTEN ON THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION:** Maintain a special devotion to the Mystery of the Incarnation (e.g., through meditation;

spiritual reading; focusing on Feasts centering around the Incarnation, such as the Annunciation and the Nativity, etc.)

- **DAILY ROSARY!:** Pray the Rosary daily. Frequently recite the Ave, and the Magnificat.
- **THE LITTLE CROWN OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN:** Recite, every day if it is not inconvenient, the *“Little Crown of the Blessed Virgin.”* This is a series of Paters, Aves, and Glorias, one Ave for each star in the Virgin’s Crown. St. Louis has a special way of praying the Little Crown, which is recommended.
- **BROWN SCAPULAR:** Wearing a Brown Scapular or Miraculous Medal as a sign of dedication.
- **THROUGH, WITH, IN AND FOR MARY, FOR THE SAKE OF JESUS:** Perform actions *“through, with, in and for Mary.”* Do everything through, with, in and for Mary for the sake of Jesus, with the prayer, *“I am all thine Immaculate One, with all that I have: in time and in eternity”* in your heart and on your lips.
- **ASK FOR MARY’S ASSISTANCE TO FOLLOW GOD’S WILL:** Strive to follow God’s will with Mary’s help.
- **TRUST IN MARY’S CARE & INTERCESSION:** Maintain a persistent spirit of trust and devotion to Mary’s care and intercession.
- **BROWN SCAPULAR:** Associate yourself with Mary in a special way before, during, and after Communion. See supplement of the book, *“True Devotion to Mary,”* also available to read online at <https://www.fisheaters.com/totalconsecrationbook9.html>

The Rosary and Brown Scapular are important and highly recommended forms of devotion to Our Blessed Mother.



— SOURCE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

- **CONSECRATION CHAIN:** Wear a little iron chain (around the neck, arm, waist, or ankle) as an outward sign and reminder of holy slavery. This practice is optional, but very recommended by St. Louis. The appearance of this chain is not further specified, but they can be purchased (search for “consecration chain”) or homemade.



- **RENEW YOUR CONSECRATION TO MARY:** Renew the consecration once a year on the same date chosen above, and by following the same 33-day period of exercises. If desired, also renew the consecration daily (preferably) or at the very least weekly or monthly with the prayer, *“I am all thine and all I have is thine, O dear Jesus, through Mary, Thy holy Mother”* or a personal prayer of your own.

See CONSECRATION, NEXT PAGE ➔

CONSECRATION ++++++

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RENEWING THE CONSECRATION

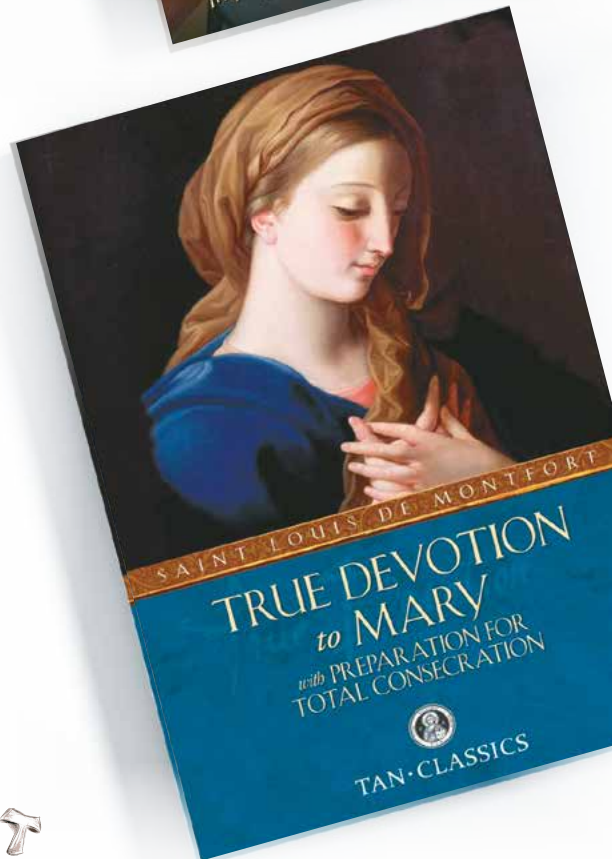
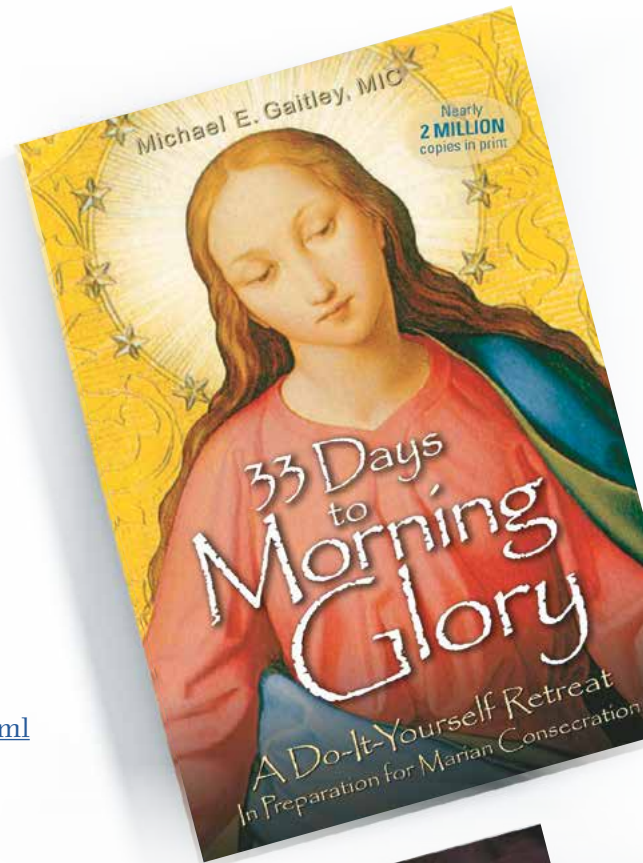
It is highly recommended and best practice to annually renew this preparation and consecration to Mary. My personal opinion is to alternate between the different methods because they are each so beautiful. By this, I mean to follow the De Montfort method one year using St. Louis's *"Preparation for Total Consecration according to Saint Louis Marie de Montfort"* book and then Father Michael Gaitley's method the next, using this *"33 Days to Morning Glory,"* book/approach the next year. I first started with the traditional method by St. Louis de Montfort, and because of this I read the very beautiful book *"True Devotion to Mary"* which helped me to immediately draw closer to her, and understand the need for our great devotion to her, especially how she will always, and immediately, take us straight to Jesus and help us to become closer to Him. I thus understood how the closer we draw to Mary, the closer we *automatically* draw closer to Jesus. I would not have read this book otherwise. *"True Devotion to Mary"* is a tremendous jewel in our spiritual life that we should try to make a priority to read, and not only once

but several times over. As mentioned above, St. Louis's method, and accompanying daily preparation prayers and readings, including the full content of his book *"True Devotion to Mary,"* are available to read (and downloadable) at <https://www.fisheaters.com/totalconsecrationmontfort.html>

Also available is the book *"True Devotion to Mary with Preparation for Total Consecration"* from Tan Books that includes the book *"True Devotion to Mary,"* the preparation for total consecration, all required prayers, the Holy Rosary according to St. Louis' method and Information about the Confraternity of Mary, Queen of Hearts. The book is available at <https://tanbooks.com/products/books/true-devotion-to-mary-with-preparation-for-total-consecration/?srsltid=AfmBOorbCvSJHGFEOLs2NB2YVKM2LJp7XQEG-nxvTDznOh89-QDx8iF>

For detailed guides and prayers, more resources are available from Catholic organizations such as EWTN and the Militia of the Immaculata <https://militiaoftheimmaculata.com/how-to-make-your-consecration-to-mary/>.

1. www.fisheaters.com/totalconsecrationmontfort.html



CONSECRATION IS A LIFELONG COMMITMENT, NOT A ONE-TIME EVENT, AND REQUIRES ANNUAL RENEWAL. YOU ARE FORMALLY DECLARING YOURSELF AS A CHILD OF MARY AND SHE WILL ALWAYS TAKE YOU STRAIGHT TO JESUS.

[BOOK STUDY]

FRANCISCAN
VIRTUES
THROUGH
THE YEAR52 Steps to Conversion
from St. Francis of AssisiPART 5:
DETACHMENT

[EDITOR'S NOTE. "Confraternity of Penitents", the publisher of "Franciscan Virtues Through The Year", has kindly given us permission to "republish" this book in our newsletter. We are publishing "one virtue" (one chapter) a month in each newsletter until we have completed the book. If you missed Part One please feel free to go back to the Fraternity's August Newsletter so that you can catch up. If you would like to purchase the book so that you can read it in its entirety it is available from Amazon.com and franciscanthirdorderpenitents.com.]

REGARDING
DETACHMENT...

SCRIPTURE: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?" (*Matthew 6:25*)

WRITINGS OF ST. FRANCIS

I did "*not come to be ministered unto, but to minister,*" says the Lord. Let those who are set above others glory in this superiority only as much as if they had been deputed to wash the feet of the brothers; and if they are more perturbed by the loss of their superiority than they would be by losing the office of washing feet, so much the more do they lay up treasures to the peril of their own soul. (*Admonition 4*)

INCIDENT FROM THE
LIFE OF SAINT FRANCIS

One of the brothers, a spiritual man, to whom blessed Francis was very close, was staying in a hermitage. Considering that if blessed Francis came there at some time he would not have a suitable place to stay, he had

Artwork by Christine Skall

a little cell built in a remote place near the place of the brothers, where blessed Francis could pray when he came. After a few days, it happened that blessed Francis came. When the brother led him to see it, blessed Francis said to him: "*This little cell seems too beautiful to me. But if you want me to stay in it for a few days, have it covered inside and out with ferns and tree branches.*"

That little cell was not made

See DETACHMENT, NEXT PAGE ➔

5

VIRTUE

[BOOK STUDY cont.]

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VIRTUE **5**
DETACHMENT Cont.

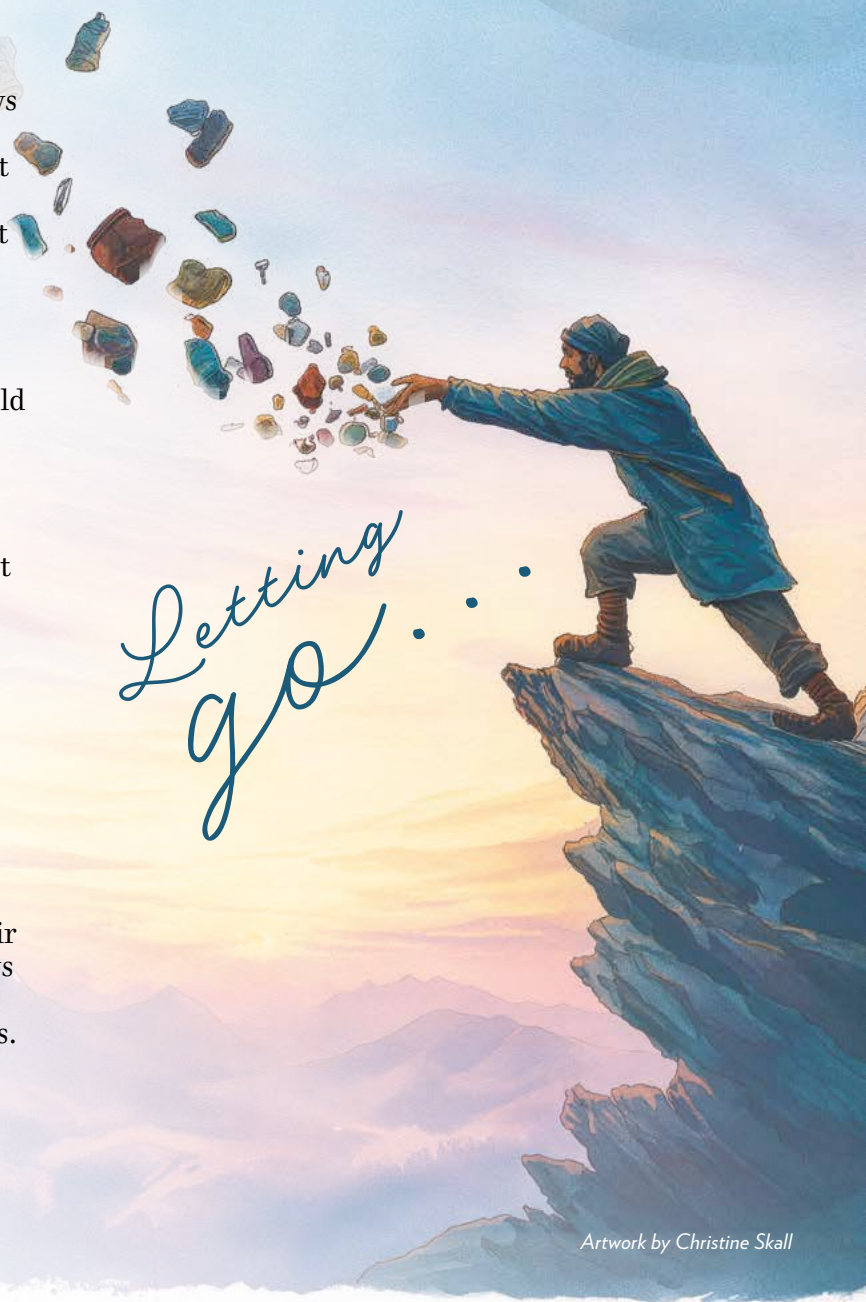
of stonework but of wood, but because the wood was planed, made with hatchet and ax, it seemed too beautiful to blessed Francis. The brother immediately had it changed as blessed Francis had requested.

For the more the houses and cells of the brothers were poor and religious, the more willingly he would see them and sometimes be received as a guest there. As he stayed and prayed in it for a few days, one day, outside the little cell near the place of the brothers, a brother who was at that place came to where blessed Francis was staying. Blessed Francis said to him: *"Where are you coming from, brother?"* He told him: *"I am coming from your little cell."* *"Because you said it is mine,"* blessed Francis said, *"someone else will stay in it from now on: I will not."* (*The Assisi Compilation, Section 57*)

**DETACHMENT
MAY BE CALLED
THE VIRTUE OF AN
"OPEN HAND"**

DETACHMENT is A virtue which allows us to enjoy the good things of life without being upset if we lose them. We might call detachment the "virtue of the open hand." We need to hold everything loosely so that, should we lose something or someone, we are willing to let it go. Detachment goes beyond getting upset when someone breaks our favorite vase. People who possess the virtue of detachment can love other people dearly. They pray for them intensely. The hurts of others become their own pain, because of their compassion. The joys of others exhilarate them with happiness. Detachment does not mean caring less about others. It means caring

See **DETACHMENT,**
NEXT PAGE ➔



Artwork by Christine Skall

[JESUS LOVES YOU MORE THAN YOU KNOW...]

GOD'S LOVE, MERCY
AND FORGIVENESS IS
UNCONDITIONAL AND
HE IS ALWAYS READY TO
WELCOME BACK THOSE
WHO HAVE STRAYED,
NO MATTER WHAT.

*"Rejoice with
me, for I have
found my
sheep which
was lost!..."*

— LUKE 15:6

[COMPLETE TRUST IN GOD...]



I've GOT you!

*Now trust in Me.
I love you more than you will ever know.*

PROVERBS 3:5-6 | ISAIAH 46:4

[WHO'S WHO]

GET TO KNOW WHO'S WHO
IN OUR FRATERNITY.
EACH AND EVERY MEMBER IS
AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR
"FRATERNITY UNIT" AS A WHOLE :)

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Secular Franciscan Order of
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St. Francis Prayer

“Lord, help me to live this
day quietly, easily; to lean on Your
great strength, trustfully, restfully;
to wait for the unfolding of Your
will, patiently, serenely; to meet
others, peacefully, joyfully; to
face tomorrow, confidently,
courageously.”

[JOIN US]

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.

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 rchlrbnsn@gmail.com



THE FOUR PILLARS OF
SECULAR FRANCISCAN LIFE

ATTENTION!

Is there something you
would like to have shared
with our Fraternity? Send your
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featured in our monthly newsletter.
Email it to me! talyiana@gmail.com
Any and all content must be submitted
by the 15th of each month at the
latest, to be included in the
next newsletter.