

## FAREWELL TO STAN DRISCOLL OFS

During our April 21 fraternity gathering, Stan announced that he would be moving in June, saying that it was time to sell his home, give away all his belongings, and “retreat to the mountain” as Francis did in order to live a life of poverty, simplicity and prayer.

Stan then shared his remarkable journey that led to his permanent profession and servant leadership in our fraternity. Stan felt called in 2006 to dedicate his life to Mary, when a voice inside asked him, “Why not Francis?” A short while later, during a men’s Cursillo weekend, Stan met a Secular Franciscan who spent hours with him reflecting on the OFS Rule and Way of Life.

After this encounter, Stan began Initial Formation in his home town, but subsequently transferred into our Padre Pio Fraternity, where he completed Inquiry and Candidacy Formation. Stan joyfully made his permanent profession in November 2013. Shortly afterwards, he was appointed our Treasurer and began to serve on our Council. In September 2014, our fraternity held our first elections in over a decade, ending several years of reactivation. Stan accepted the call to serve as our Minister. His final gathering with our fraternity was on May 21.

We said, “Goodbye” to Stan with a farewell cake, the singing of “He’s a Jolly Good Fellow.” Stan will temporarily withdraw from the OFS to focus on his health and personal journey, but will stay true to his Franciscan vocation. He will continue to support and be on our fraternity list. We look forward to being with Stan on December 2 for Mass and Permanent Professions.

## TODAY’S CHALLENGES FOR THE CHRISTIAN AMERICAN - A Book Review

***Strangers in a Strange Land: Living the Catholic Faith in a Post-Christian World*** Hardcover – February 21, 2017 by **Archbishop Charles J. Chaput**

**A vivid critique of American life today and a guide to how Christians—and particularly Catholics--can live their faith vigorously, and even with hope, in a post-Christian public square.**

From Charles J. Chaput, author of *Living the Catholic Faith* and *Render unto Caesar* comes *Strangers in a Strange Land*, a fresh, urgent, and ultimately hopeful treatise on the state of Catholicism and Christianity in the United States. America today is different *in kind*, not just in degree, from the past. And this new reality is unlikely to be reversed. The reasons include, but aren’t limited to, economic changes that widen the gulf between rich and poor; problems in the content and execution of the education system; the decline of traditional religious belief among young people; the shift from organized religion among adults to unbelief or individualized spiritualities; changes in legal theory and erosion in respect for civil and natural law; significant demographic shifts; profound new patterns in sexual behavior and identity; the growth of federal power and its disregard for religious rights; the growing isolation and elitism of the leadership classes; and the decline of a sustaining sense of family and community. ~ Amazon.com

**JULY - MONTH OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**



1. Feast of the Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ
2. Feast of the Visitation of Our Lady
3. Bl. Marie Anne Fontcuberta, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1886
4. 40 Martyrs of China, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order and Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1900
5. Bl. Ignace Falzon, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1865
6. St. Maria Goretti, Virgin Martyr, Corderbearer, d. 1902
7. Bl. Oddino Barrotti, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1400
8. St. Elizabeth of Portugal, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1336
9. St. Veronica Giuliani, Virgin, Capuchin religious, d. 1727
10. 8 Martyrs religious of the Franciscan 1st Order of Damas, d. 1860
11. 11 Martyrs religious of the Franciscan 1st Order of Holland, d. 1572
12. Sts. Geoffrey and Joachim, Priests, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyrs 1679
13. St. Francis Solano, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1610
- 14. St. Bonaventure, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1274**
15. Bl. Bernard of Baden, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1458
16. Our Lady of Mount Carmel; St. Marie-Madeleine Postel, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1846
17. Bl. Pierre De Foligno, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1614
18. St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1614
19. St. Vincent de Paul, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1660
20. St. Jerome Emilien, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1537
- 21. St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest, Capuchin religious, Doctor of the Church, d. 1619**
22. Bl. Angelina of Marciano, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1435
23. Bl. Louise of Savoy, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1503
24. Bl. Modestin de Jesus-Marie, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1864
25. Bl. Antoine Lucci, Bishop, Conventual religious, d. 1752
26. St. Anne, mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary
27. Bl. Mary Magdalene Martinengo, Virgin, Capuchin, d. 1737
28. Bl. Marie-Therese of the Infant Jesus, Virgin, Capuchin, martyr 1941
29. Bl. Alphonse de l'Immaculee, virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1946
30. St. Leopold de Castelnovo, Priest, Capuchin religious, d. 1942

## JULY 2017 - OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH

### The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not the sharing of the Blood of Christ?

The month of July is dedicated to The Precious Blood of Jesus. The entire month falls within the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical color green. This symbol of hope is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. It is used in the offices and Masses of Ordinary Time. The last portion of the liturgical year represents the time of our pilgrimage to heaven during which we hope for reward.

### THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2017

Lapsed Christians: That our brothers and sisters who have strayed from the faith, through our prayer and witness to the Gospel, may rediscover the merciful closeness of the Lord and the beauty of the Christian life. (See also Apostleship of Prayer International Website)

### DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Doctor of the church is a very special title accorded by the Church to certain saints. This title indicates that the writings and preachings of such a person are useful to Christians "in any age of the Church." There are three Franciscan Doctors: They are St. Anthony, St. Bonaventure, and St. Lawrence. The latter two are celebrated this month.

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**Padre Pio Counsels:** "God does not want you to experience the feeling of love for him and your neighbor in a perceptible manner ... How fortunately we are to be held so tightly to our heavenly tutor! We need do no more than we are doing at the present; that is to love divine Providence and to abandon ourselves in his arms and Heart." (Letters III. P. 425)

**Padre Pio Moments:** "So it was all just a dream, eh?" A married couple who couldn't have children began to turn to Padre Pio so he could intercede for them before the Lord. Not long afterwards, the young woman became pregnant and was extremely worried she would lose the child. One night not long before she was due to give birth, she had a comforting dream. She was in the maternity operating room and before the gynecologist came in she saw a man with a beard standing in a corner of the room, looking at her and smiling. Then she woke up. Judging by photos that she had seen, she thought the man resembled Padre Pio. She spoke about her dream to everyone; for her it had become almost an obsession. A few days later, a baby boy was born and all went perfectly well with no problems. After a few months, the happy mother started to plan a trip to San Giovanni Rotondo; for she wanted to see for herself if Padre Pio, whom they had prayed to, really did resemble the person she had seen in her dream, and if so to thank him. Her husband, seeing how fervent she was about the matter, tried to calm her down, and had repeatedly kept saying: "Don't worry, it was all just a dream, just a dream--just a dream nothing else". At last, they made the trip. When they arrived at San Giovanni Rotondo the couple took their place in the cloister where Padre Pio would pass. When after a moment the Saint arrived, he stopped near the husband, looked at him kindly, and then gently patting his shoulder, and with a wide smile said in an ironic and somewhat amused tone: "So, it was all just a dream, eh?". (Testimony of Anna Baroni from Chiavari, Italy, 8/12/1994) repeatedly kept saying: "Don't worry, it was all just a dream, just a dream--just a dream nothing else". (Padre Pio Foundation)