



THE PADRE PIO FRATERNITY
Secular Franciscan Order
The Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region

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February 2018



Chapter of Elections January, 28, 2018 by Anna Rzewnicki

Twenty professed members of the Padre Pio Fraternity elected new council members at their January 28, 2018 gathering, held at St. Francis Catholic Church in Raleigh, NC. Also attending were nine Inquirers in the fraternity. Bob Pearson OFS, Minister of the Franciscan Family Fraternity of Greensboro, NC, served as fraternal presider for the elections. "It is a gift for me, a privilege, to preside," Bob said following the election.

Bob also represents Area Three of our BSSF Region, which includes Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Officiating with him was Carolyn Peduzzi OFS, Minister of the Father Solanus Casey Fraternity in Morehead City. Carolyn also serves as a BSSF Region Area Three Councilor. Friar Greg Spuhler, OFM Conventual was the Ecclesiastic Witness.

Following are those who were elected to three-year terms for the Padre Pio fraternity:

- **Minister: Joe Travers, OFS**
- **Vice Minister: Victoria Romero, OFS**
- **Secretary: Michael Hancock, OFS**
- **Treasurer: Louis Coker, OFS**
- **Formation Director: Susan (Lynn) Oeser, OFS**
- **Councilors: Lee Cunningham, OFS; Ellen Ferrone, OFS; and Suzie Nelson, OFS**

Dave Shick, Mike Oeser, and Gladys Whitehouse, three members of our inquiry group, assisted by counting ballots and recording votes.



Friar Greg, Ellen, Suzie, Louis, Lee, Victoria, Lynn, Joe, Michael
 Photos by Joanne Jacovec, OFS



WITH SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks to Bob Pearson, OFS and Carolyn Peduzzi, OFS Area 3 Councilors who served as Presider and Observer respectively. Thanks also, to our Spiritual Assistant Friar Greg who was our Ecclesiastical Witness. The election went smoothly and quickly. We ended with Evening Prayer.

**FEBRUARY 10, 2018:
RETREAT FOR NEWLY ELECTED
COUNCIL**

The retreat for newly elected officers will be held in room 402 at St. Francis Church from 9-3. Joanne Jacovec, OFS will be the facilitator. The retreat will be on Scripture-based reflection of the 4 Cs (Call, Community, Communication and Commitment) of serving on the Council with a link to the Four Franciscan Pillars. This will be an opportunity for personal reflection as well as "team building" group discussions. After lunch, Joanne plans to explain and discuss the critical documents that are resources for the Council as it makes decisions, recommendations, plans fraternity gatherings/ongoing formation and approves programs, apostolates, budget, etc. The meeting will end with their first Council meeting.

Remember to keep the new council in your daily prayers.

Sister Joan Kimball, OSC

Sister Joan Kimball, OSC one of our Poor Clare prayer partners passed into the arms of Jesus and St. Clare on January 20, 2018. Please pray for the repose of her soul and keep your prayer partners in your prayers particularly for an increase in vocations to the Poor Clares.



“Go forth in peace, for you have followed the good road. Go forth without fear, for he who created you has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother....” - *St. Clare of Assisi*

APOSTOLATES

For **CPO** or **Library**
Email Maureen Copan, OFS

For **Hospitality** Email
Marie Roccoforte, OFS

For **JPIC & Oak City
Outreach**, Email Ellen
Ferrone, OFS
(Oak City 02/25/18)

For **Prayer Requests**
Email Joe Travers, OFS

For the **Scrapbook**
Email Lee Cunningham, OFS

Next Gathering 02/25/18
For **Sunshine**
Call Marge Zombek, OFS

For the **Newsletter**
Email Frank Peluso, OFS

For the **Website**
Email Michael Hancock,
OFS.

We are on the web at:
<http://ofscentralnc.org>



HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Joan Monti
11 Michael Hancock, OFS
20 Sister Kathleen Ann Horvat, OSC



HAPPY ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

OVERVIEW OF THE MONTH

The month of February is dedicated to the **Holy Family**. This year the first thirteen days of February fall during the liturgical season known as **Ordinary Time** which is represented by the liturgical color green. Green, the 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. The remaining days of February are the beginning of **Lent**. The liturgical color changes to purple — a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart.

**THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS
 FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY
 2018**

That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

(See also Apostleship of Prayer)

PADRE PIO GUIDANCE:

Guardian angels are constantly present with people throughout their entire lifetimes, Padre Pio declared. He wrote in a letter to someone who had asked for prayer, Raffaolina Cerase: "How close to us stands one of the celestial spirits, who from the cradle to the grave never leaves us for an instant. our angel guides us, protects us like a friend, like a brother or sister. This should be a source of constant consolation for us, especially during the saddest times of our lives." by Whitney Hopler

PADRE PIO MOMENTS

According to Father Gabriele Amorth, the famous exorcist of Rome, "The great and constant struggle in the life of the saint was against the enemies of God and souls, those demons who sought to capture his soul."

From his youth, Padre Pio enjoyed heavenly visions, but also suffered from the attacks of the devil. Father Amorth said: "The devil appeared to him under many different forms: as a big black cat, wild and threatening, or as a repulsive animal, in the clear intention to frighten him; under the appearance of naked and provocative young girls who danced obscene dances, obviously to test the chastity of the young priest. However, the worst was when the Devil took on the appearance of his spiritual director, or posed as Jesus, the Virgin Mary or St. Francis."

PADRE PIO QUOTE: "My guardian angel has been my friend since my infancy."





FRANCISCAN SAINTS FOR FEBRUARY

1. Bl. Patrick O'Loughran, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr d. 1612
2. Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary
3. Martyrs of Japan, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, lay brothers and Franciscan **Third Order Secular**,
4. St. Joseph of Leonisse, Priest, Capuchin religious, d. 1612
5. St. Jeanne de Valois, Virgin, the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1505
6. Bl. Pius IX, Pope, Franciscan **Third Order Secular**, d.1878
7. St. Egide-Marie of St. Joseph, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order d. 1812
8. Bl. Antonie of Stroncone, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1461
9. Bl. Claire de Rimini, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1346
10. Bl. Alojzije Stepinac, Bishop, Franciscan **Third Order Secular**, d. 1960
11. Apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes, 1858
12. Bl. Andre Ferrari, Bishop, Franciscan **Third Order Secular**, d. 1921
13. St. Eustochie de Messine, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1485
14. Bl. Philipa Mauri, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1263
15. Translation of the relics of St. Anthony
16. Bl. Veridiane, Virgin, Franciscan **Third Order Secular**, d. 1242
17. Bl. Luc Belludi, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1286
18. St. Bernadette Soubirous, Virgin, cordbearer, d. 1879 Plenary Indulgence possible for the Cordbearers only (Ida and Frank are Cordbeareres)
19. St. Conrad de Plaisance, Confessor, Franciscan **Third Order Secular**, d. 1351
20. Bl. Pierre of Treja, Priest religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1304
21. St. Margaret of Cortona, penitent, Franciscan **Third Order Secular**, d. 1297, Plenary Indulgence possible (with **renewal of promises of the Franciscan Third Order Secular**)
22. Feast of the Chair of St. Peter
23. Bl. Isabelle of France, Virgin of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1270
24. Bl. Innocent XI, Pope, Franciscan **Third Order Secular**, d. 1689
25. Bl. Sebastien d'Apparicio, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1600
26. Bl. Antoinette of Florence, Virgin, Franciscan **Third Order Secular**, d. 1533
27. Bl. Louise Albertoni, Virgin, Franciscan **Third Order Secular**, d. 1533
28. Bl. Jeremie de Valachie, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1625

"I shall spend every moment loving. One who loves does not notice her trials; or perhaps more accurately, she is able to love them. I shall do everything for Heaven, my true home. There I shall find my Mother in all the splendor of her glory. I shall delight with her in the joy of Jesus himself in perfect safety." - *St. Bernadette Soubirous*

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35



FOR SERVANT LEADERS - FROM THE ADMONITIONS OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

2. The Evil of Self-Will.

The Lord God said to Adam: "Of every tree of paradise thou shalt eat. But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil thou shalt not eat." Adam therefore might eat of every tree of paradise and so long as he did not offend against obedience he did not sin. For one eats of the tree of knowledge of good who appropriates to himself his own will and prides himself upon the goods which the Lord publishes and works in him and thus, through the suggestion of the devil and transgression of the commandment, he finds the apple of the knowledge of evil; wherefore, it behooves that he suffer punishment.

4. That no one should take Superior-Ship upon himself or herself.

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 superior-ship 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.

5. That no one should glory save in the Cross of the Lord.

Consider, O man, how great the excellence in which the Lord has placed you because He has created and formed you to the image of His Beloved Son according to the body and to His own likeness according to the spirit. And all the creatures that are under heaven serve and know and obey their Creator in their own way better than you. And even the demons did not crucify Him, but you together with them crucified Him and still crucify Him by taking delight in vices and sins. Wherefore then can you glory for if you were so clever and wise that you possessed all science, and if you knew how to interpret every form of language and to investigate heavenly things minutely, you could not glory in all this, because one demon has known more of heavenly things and still knows more of earthly things than all men, although there may be some man who has received from the Lord a special knowledge of sovereign wisdom. In like manner, if you were handsomer and richer than all others, and even if you could work wonders and put the demons to flight, all these things are hurtful to you and in nowise belong to you, and in them you cannot glory; that, however, in which we may glory is in our infirmities, and in bearing daily the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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## A THANK YOU TO THE OUTGOING COUNCIL AND SERVANT LEADERS

I would thank you from the bottom of my heart, but for you my heart has no bottom. You were such faithful and supportive souls that I could not ask for more. Just one more thing, if I have offended any of you in any way, know that there will always be people like me in your life who treat you wrong. Be grateful to us for making you strong and forgive us. It was a humble and satisfying pleasure to be your minister. Peace and all good to you. *Frank*



## COMMON HOME CORNER – LIVING LAUDATO SI

1.\* Arcadia Power uses wind to provide electricity. Individuals can connect their usual power company account to Arcadia at [arcadiapower.com](http://arcadiapower.com). It is easy.

\*Green America is an organization whose mission is "to harness economic power—the strength of consumers, investors, businesses, and the marketplace—to create a socially just and environmentally sustainable society". The average consumer can make a difference in small ways by participating in activities such as Skip the Slip. Through Green America you can ask companies to stop wasting resources for unnecessary receipts. Visit [greenamerica.org](http://greenamerica.org) for information on this and many other ways to participate in the care for our common home. \*More Laudate... war is the ultimate act of environmental (and human) destruction. World Beyond War.org is an organization that strives to replace a culture of war with one of peace in which nonviolent means of conflict resolution take the place of bloodshed. They offer online courses, discussions projects and news.- Submitted by Theresa Flynn OFS

2. A fraternity member who prefers to remain anonymous contributed this story about living Laudato Si many years before the inception of encyclical:

While sponsoring a group of High School Students in an Environmental Club, we decided to attend city council meetings on matters of environmental concern. From those meetings, we were able to get them to start recycling for that city. We also would hold picnics at Valley Forge, and end up by policing (cleaning the grounds) of as much territory as we could find. Another suggestion to the school, was to put the bicycle rack in front of the secretary's window where it could be watched for vandalism; this caused more students to ride their bikes rather than use their cars (an affluent community). The students on their own made a list for each teacher's discipline on how they could teach something about the environment; the teacher's complied at the student's requests. When the First Earth Day (1970) came along, the group promoted and led a program for the school. The President of the United States gave each one of the students a commendation from the EPA. - Submitted by anonymous OFS



“A human being is a part of the whole called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feeling as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.” — *Albert Einstein*



Apostolate update: Ellen Ferrone, OFS states, “Great support for Oak City Outreach Center! A request is made to the fraternity for hand warmers and gloves. The persons helping out at OCOC went to dinner at Bad Daddy’s after January’s Oak City Outreach. In February, Deacon Phil will be holding a retreat for prisoners. Donations to this ministry are appropriate.”

~~~~~**NEXT GATHERING FEBRUARY 25, 2018**~~~~~

(Thanks to S. Lynn Oeser, OFS for soliciting ideas for the Common Home Corner)