

Padre Pio Fraternity – Newsletter

Secular Franciscan Order
Brother and Sisters of St. Francis Region.

CELEBRATE THE TRANSITUS

Blessed Jacoba of Settesoli 1190–1273 was a follower of St. Francis of Assisi and was born in Rome. She married into a noble family. Her husband died when she was still young, leaving her as a widow. Shortly after, she sought to meet Francis.

Her opportunity came when he arrived in Rome, seeking permission to form his order. She listened to him preach and asked his advice on how to be charitable. Francis suggested she remain with her family, so she became a member of the Third Order of St. Francis. She allowed her two sons to manage family affairs while she, working out of her house, devoted herself to performing acts of charity for others.

When Francis would visit Rome he would often stay with her and the two became friends. Francis often referred to her kindly as "Brother Jacoba." Jacoba donated land to Francis and his followers from her family holdings in Trastevere. The land was dedicated for the use of the sick and lame.

When Francis died, Jacoba was present, by his request. She had prepared almond pastries for Francis, which were his favorite. Today, almond pastries are traditionally served on

St. Francis' feast day, in recollection of Bl. Jacoba's gift to the dying saint. From: <https://www.catholic.org/saints/>

Bl. Jacqueline de Settesoli was present for Francis' death as were many of his other closest companions. He called her "Brother Jacoba" so that their visit wouldn't cause scandal.

He asked for the noblewoman to come and bring him her almond cookies of which he was very fond. He wanted one more taste of them as he believed death was a time to celebrate. It signified that his long search for the Creator Who loved him into existence would finally be over. "Brother" Jacoba, arrived in Assisi with her two sons and a

surprisingly large retinue to visit Francis. She stayed with him until the very end. From: *catholic.org*

For those in the mood to celebrate Francis' Transitus in as traditional a manner as possible, I offer a recipe from my grandmother's kitchen. She herself had a great devotion to him and so, I can assure you this recipe contains within it, a great deal of love. **Italian Almond Cookies** Yields: 3 dozen cookies. **Ingredients**

- ¼ cup Amaretto (optional ... or you can substitute ½ teaspoon rum extract)
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pure almond extract
- ½ teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- 2 large egg whites
- 2½ cups blanched almonds (additional 36 almonds set aside for garnishing)

Preparation

- Set eggs out for about an hour to get them to room temperature.
- Preheat oven to 350°F.
- Lightly grease 2 large baking sheets.
- Pulverize 2½ cups almonds in a food processor.
- Add ⅓ cup sugar to the almonds. Mix until well-blended. Scrape down sides as necessary. Set aside.
- Whisk egg whites. Add salt while whisking until soft peaks form.
- Gently add ⅓ cup sugar to the egg whites.
- Keep whisking egg whites and sugar mix until stiff, shiny peaks form.
- Gradually fold in ground almond to the sugar/egg mixture.
- Add almond and vanilla extracts.
- Add either the Amaretto or rum extract to the mixture now.
- Using your hands, roll mixture into little 1-inch balls.
- Place each ball about 2 inches apart on baking sheets and flatten each slightly.
- Top each cookie with one of the almonds set aside for garnishing.
- Bake until cookies are golden brown (about 25 minutes).
- Allow cookies to cool on racks.

From: <http://www.ncregister.com/blog/astagnaro/how-to-celebrate->

THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY AND THE HOLY ANGELS

October is the month of the Rosary because the anniversary of victory at the Battle at Lepanto and the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary occur in October. The Battle of Lepanto and the institution of the feast day took place in the seventeenth century; in the late 1800s, Pope Leo XIII officially dedicated the entire month to devotion to the Holy Rosary. In war, whether it has lasted for a few years or recurs over centuries, one battle can be the turning point. October 7, 1571, the Battle of Lepanto, was a major turning point in the ongoing conflicts between Europe and the Ottoman Empire. The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary now falls on October 7, but was originally celebrated under the name Our Lady of Victory. The feast was declared soon after this battle, due to the Virgin’s intercession, as implored by Pope Pius V.



THE HOLY FATHER’S INTENTIONS FOR OCTOBER

Evangelization – The Mission of Religious That consecrated religious men and women may bestir themselves, and be present among the poor, the marginalized, and those who have no voice. - uscgb.org

HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Mary Connor, OSC
10/02

Deacon Phil Rzewnicki, OFS
10/18



Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle *spirit* be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

THE ROSARY: ST. PADRE PIO’S WEAPON AGAINST EVIL By Johnette S. Benkovic

Today we face unprecedented challenges on every front. The evils of “this present darkness” weigh heavy against us. Perhaps this is what makes the advice of Saint Padre Pio, a holy man from our own age, so valuable and insightful. He said, “Some people are so foolish that they think they can go through life without the help of the Blessed Mother. Love the Madonna and pray the Rosary, for her Rosary is the weapon against the evils of the world today. All graces given by God pass through the Blessed Mother.”

He reminds us of the Rosary’s power against the devil and his minions, and he reminds us of the efficacy of the Blessed Virgin’s mediation for us through it. Pope Pius XII’s words, too, seem right and fitting: “We put great confidence in the Holy Rosary for the healing of evils which afflict our times.”

Apostolates

For **JPIC & Oak City Outreach**, Email Ellen Ferrone, OFS
(OCOC is 10/27/2018)

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

For **Hospitality**:
Email Gladys Whitehouse
OFS

For **Prayer Requests**:
Email Joanne Jacovec, OFS

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

For **Sunshine**:
Call Marge Zombek, OFS

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

For the **Website**: Email
Sharon Winzeler, OFS.



I love you this much!

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

NEXT GATHERING:
10/28/2018

St. Francis Counsels

If St. Francis were here to give us counsel and advice on living. Here is what he would say; for he said it over 800 years ago.

How should I live?

“Above all the grace and the gifts that Christ gives to his beloved is that of overcoming self.”

What is my purpose in life?

“Keep a clear eye toward life’s end. Do not forget your purpose and destiny as God’s creature. *What you are in his sight is what you are and nothing more.* Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take nothing that you have received...but only what you have given; a full heart enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice, and courage.”

What wisdom need I acquire?

Pure holy simplicity confounds all the wisdom of this world and the wisdom of the flesh.

How can I attain inner peace?

Where there is peace and meditation, there is neither anxiety nor doubt.

In what way can I get rid of fear?

Where there is charity and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance.

What should I do if I am upset?

“If you, O servant of God, are upset, for any reason whatever, you should immediately rise up to prayer, and you should remain in the presence of the Most High Father for as long as it takes for Him to restore to you the joy of your salvation.”

How can I achieve the tasks needed to do God’s will?

“Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”

How do I fight my enemies?

“No one is to be called an enemy, all are your benefactors, and no one does you harm. You have no enemy except yourselves.”

Where can I find Jesus?

“When you look at a poor person, you are looking at a mirror of the Lord and His poor mother. So, too, in the sick, you are contemplating the kind of infirmities He took upon Himself for us.”

Why do you live in poverty?

“If we had possessions, we would need weapons to defend them. They are frequently a source of quarrels and lawsuits. Possessions usually prove to be an obstacle in one’s search for God. That is why we do not desire temporal goods.” *We can live in such a way that we are not obsessed with material things. (See page 5 #3)*

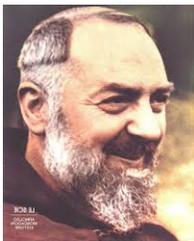
How can I obtain spiritual Joy?

“Since spiritual joy springs from the heart’s innocence and the purity of incessant prayer, these are the two virtues we need to acquire and to keep. Then, that joy which I long to see and feel in myself and in others, that inward and outward joy, will be an edification to neighbor and a reproach to the enemy. For sadness is his and those who follow him. Rejoicing and always being happy in the Lord, is ours.”

OCTOBER - FRANCISCAN SAINTS

1. Bl. Nicolas of Forca, Priest, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1449
2. Bl. Antoine Chevrier, Priest, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1879
3. St. Marie-Joseph Tossello, Virgin, Franciscan **Third Order Secular**, d. 1880
4. **Solemnity of our Seraphic Father St. Francis, d. 1226, Plenary Indulgence for tertiaries and cordbearers**
6. **St. Mary Francis of the Five Wounds, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular. She received the marks of the wounds of Christ and was granted the gift of prophesy and of miracles. When Pius VI was crowned pope in 1775, she beheld him in a vision wearing a crown of thorns. Pope Pius closed his life 24 years later as a prisoner of the French Revolution at Valence.**
7. Feast of the Holy Rosary
8. St. Bridget of Sweden - **Third Order Secular** - The most celebrated saint of the Northern kingdoms, born about 1303; died 23 July, 1373.
9. Bl. Marie-Angele Truszkowska, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular d. 1899
10. St. Francois Borgia, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1572; and St. Daniel and Companions, Religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, Martyrs, d. 1227
12. St. Seraphin of Montegrano, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1604
13. Bl. Pacifique de Valence, lay brother, Capuchin religious, martyr 1936
14. St John of Dukla, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1936
15. Bl. Sebastien de Jesus, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1734
16. Bl. Anicet de Dbrzno, Priest, Capuchin religious, martyr, 1941
17. Bl. Balthassar of Chiavari, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1490
18. Bl. James of Strepur, Bishop, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1409
19. St. Peter of Alcantara, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1512
20. Bl. Contardo Ferrini, Confessor, Franciscan **Third Order Secular**, d. 1902
21. Bl. Martyrs of Polonais, d. 1941-42
22. Bl. John Baptist Bullaker, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1642
24. Bl. Josephine Leroux, Virgin, the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, martyr 1794
25. Bl. Maria Veronica Maria Ferragut, Bl. Maria Felicidad Maria Ferragut, and Bl. Jesus Maria Ferragut, Virgins, Capuchin religious, Martyrs 1936
27. Bl. Bonaventure of Potenza, Priest, Conventual religious, d. 1711
29. Bl. Thomas of Florence, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1447
30. Bl. Angelo of Acre, Priest, Capuchin religious, d. 1739
31. Bl. Christophe de Cahors, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1272

QUOTES



“When you **gossip** about a person it means that you have removed the person from your heart. But be aware, when you remove a person from your heart, Jesus also goes away from your heart with that person.” - *St. Pio*

“The world would have peace if only **men of politics** would follow the Gospels” - *St. Bridget of Sweden*

CONGRATULATIONS

Sixty-Third Anniversary of her Profession

Ida Irwin, OFS

October 9, 1955

Twentieth Anniversary

Friar Greg Spuhler, OFM Conv.

Solemn Profession October 11, 1998

Fourteenth Anniversary

Jeanette Cottone, OFS

Profession October 20, 2004



WHAT MEN CAN LEARN FROM ST. FRANCIS

While there's a lot I could say about St. Francis, here are few lessons about manhood that he can teach us 21st century men.

1. St. Francis was tough – The modern conception of St. Francis is sentimental and sappy. Yes, St. Francis loved the animals and wrote poetry, but these elements of his personality in no way made him a sissy. He was far tougher than the majority of us will ever be. Here are some of the things he endured in his lifetime:

He experienced frequent and debilitating sickness, but he would never fail to chant the Liturgy of the Hours no matter how sick he was; He suffered from poor eyesight, and the doctors of his day decided that burning his eyes with red hot irons would solve the problem, so they cauterized his eyes; He was often verbally and physically abused by those who thought he was a madman; He would often fast for 40 days at a time in imitation of Christ; He would throw himself in the snow to fight temptation to impurity; He endured freezing conditions in the winter without adequate clothing. The list goes on.

In other words, St. Francis knew how to suffer, and he embraced it in imitation of Christ Our Lord. And in contradiction to modern sensibilities, he was both a preacher and a

practitioner of penance. His feats of endurance put most of us to shame.

St. Francis reminds us that there is no sanctity without suffering. When we are faced with trials and painful experiences, we should embrace them joyfully as St. Francis did, uniting them to the sufferings of Christ.

2. St. Francis was compassionate – It is unfortunate that most men don't think compassion is manly. It most certainly is. True men know how to be tough, but they also know how to be gentle and sympathetic to the suffering of others.

St. Francis felt compassion for everyone, from lepers to birds. He simply recognized that our Father in heaven loves everything he has made, and it only makes sense that we should too. If we have no compassion, it is a sign that we do not truly possess the love of Christ.

Like St. Francis, let's show compassion to those we encounter, treating them as if they were Christ himself. Let's look beyond ourselves and seek to comfort those who are suffering, whether it be physically or emotionally.

3. St. Francis found freedom in poverty – In America, the prevailing philosophy among men is, "Whoever dies with the most toys wins." Men buy boats, RVs, motorcycles, sports cars, electronic gadgets, and power tools in a quest to have the biggest and best of everything. The problem is, having a garage full of expensive toys doesn't bring happiness. True happiness is found in God alone. St. Francis knew that, and he embraced radical poverty to prove it.

While most of us can't renounce all possessions as St. Francis did (it would be foolish for us to do so in most cases), we can still live in such a way that we are not obsessed with material things. St. Francis shows that the key to freedom from materialism is gratitude and praise. We should give thanks for the good things God has given us, using them and enjoying them for what they are, all the while keeping our heart free to love and serve God before anything else.

From: <https://www.catholicgentleman.net/2013/10/what-we-can-learn-from-st-francis/>



Our September Birthday group: Jeanne Casciere, OFS, Friar Greg Spuhler, OFM Conv., Marie Roccoforte, OFS, and Mike Oeser, OFS.

Gathering September 23, 2018

Formation: Joanne Jacovec, OFS gave a presentation on article 10 in *To Set Themselves Free*, by Lester Bach, OFM. The presentation included beautiful photographs she had taken in Assisi. She gave a handout booklet entitled "Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me." It included the cross and spirituality of St. Francis and St. Clare as well as the cross and spirituality of St. Padre Pio whose feast day it was. There were several reflections on "What It Means To Take Up One's Cross" and "Our Franciscan Way of Life." She also went over the Nicene Creed and its origin and meanings for us. After, there was group discussion on questions provided. We thank Joanne for her usual excellent presentation, in spite of the fact that she was still recovering from pneumonia.

We also need to thank S. Lynn Oeser, OFS, Ralph Benedetto, OFS, and Michael Hancock, OFS for the music provided. They led us in song at the beginning of formation and at the end for the Divine Liturgy.

A beautiful cake was provided for our September birthday group during fellowship

time. We also had cookies in the shape of a hand with a stigmata (maraschino cherry) in the middle. Of course, it was in honor of Padre Pio's feast day.

Dare to Be Franciscan

About a dozen of our fraternity members attended a well-organized all-day conference at the Community of St. Francis of Assisi in Raleigh. The theme was "Dare to Be Franciscan."



The keynote address was given by Dan Horan OFM, noted speaker and author who is an assistant professor of systematic theology at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

In his one-hour address, Father Horan tried to break down the myth that St. Francis was part of the "bird bath industrial complex."

He noted that the difference of Franciscans from other orders is the emphasis on "relationships."

Jesus asked his disciples not to push away from relationships with the societal outcasts, lame, impaired, disadvantaged or children. Instead, He said "let them come to me."

Fr. Dan emphasized three themes of this: poverty, power, and creation. Franciscan poverty is evangelical poverty not material or abject poverty. He asked, 'do we embrace the gospel as Francis did?'

How do we relate to the powers in society? Do we dare to prioritize our relationships?

He noted that we are not the landlords of creation but part of creation. Do we have joy in being a part of creation as St. Francis did? Fr. Dan put seven hours of formation into one.

He was followed with 24 breakout sessions by various speakers in their fields of expertise. The conference was a wonderful educational experience for all who attended.

Important Dates

October 3, 2018 Transitus of St. - St. Francis Community @ 7:00 pm

December 1, 2018 Annual Retreat, St. Francis Community @