
Padre Pio Fraternity

Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region

To Our Brother:



Louis Coker, OFS

1946-2020

“In the end, the Faith is kept warm, not so much by the saints we read about, as by the saints we touch.”

Our treasurer, and even more than that, our beloved brother, suddenly passed away on July 13, 2020. Louis was received into the Church in his later years. In the time he had remaining for his earthly pilgrimage, he embodied servant leadership. On top of being a Secular Franciscan, he was a member of the Knights of Columbus, a Eucharistic Minister, and a sponsor at RCIA. He grew up in Charleston, SC, during the era of segregation, and from it had learned lifelong lessons about dignity. He was a widower, and a living example of acceptance for all of us. Louis is survived by his son and daughter, and eight grandchildren. He is reunited in Heaven with his wife, Mary Alice. In the Lord’s time, all of us shall meet him again, and we will laugh together. Until that time, he will be missed.

Ongoing Formation: Testament of Clare

St. Clare serves as an example to all Franciscans, and all of the world, of what it means to live one's vocation. Our vocations are not one-time acts, but a commitment that we choose every day.

By living poverty (both physical and spiritual), as penance, she imitated Our Lord. She understood that Christ was her example and mirror, that she herself must serve as an example and mirror for her Poor Clare sisters, and that her sisters must serve as an example and mirror for the world. Her fidelity to the Church mirrored Christ's fidelity to the disciples, and her obedience was an expression for both love for leadership as well as those being led. It took tremendous insistence and patience, on her part, to finally get the Order of Saint Clare to be recognized by the Holy Father, but she did, and never wavered from her fidelity to the Church while doing so.

She serves as a remarkable example for all of us.



The Feast Day of St. Clare is on August 11

Council Members

Spiritual Assistant:

Fr. Steve Kluge, OFM

Minister:

Lee Cunningham, OFS

Vice Minister:

Ellen Ferrone, OFS

Formation Director:

S. Lynn Oeser, OFS

Treasurer:

Zubair Simonson, OFS

Secretary:

Michael Hancock, OFS

Councilors:

Suzie Nelson, OFS

Maureen Copan, OFS

Chris Peffley, OFS

BSSF Region Minister:

DorothyAnn Rowland, OFS

Area 3 Councilors:

Ellen Ferrone, OFS

Martha Roman, OFS

Apostolates

For JPIC Email Ellen Ferrone, OFS

For Oak City Cares: Email Sharon Winzeler, OFS

For CPO or Library:

Email Maureen Copan, OFS

For Hospitality:

Email Gladys Whitehouse, OFS

For Prayer Requests:

Email Deacon Phil Rzewnicki, OFS

For Scrapbook:

Email Jeanette Cottone, OFS

For Sunshine:

Call Marge Zombek, OFS

For the Newsletter:

Zubair Simonson, OFS

For the Website:

Email Sharon Winzeler, OFS

Holy Father's Intentions for August –

The Maritime World

We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

Suzie's Prayer Corner

At the minimum, I always do the Liturgy of the Hours Morning and Evening prayers. To these daily prayers, I add a Hail Mary, and in the morning, I add the the Prayer for Light (by Cardinal Manning). I also add reading/reflecting the scripture readings of daily Mass. For this I use the daily devotionals: *Give Us This Day* and *Living with Christ*.

When I am feeling extra contemplative (about 6 out of 7 days now being retired), I add daily meditations from Sarah Young books (*Jesus Calling*, *Jesus Always*) and *Praying With St. Paul* (Magnificat). I then add 15-20 minutes of Centering Prayer or go to daily Mass (if available). At the end of the day, I do an Examen review and a rosary. Through the course of the day, there is Grace before each meal and a lot of "I love you, Lord" or "Thank you, Jesus" quietly exclaimed during spontaneous moments.

My prayer life keeps me focused on He who is my strength. He is my Lord who leads and inspires me in making the right choices and to whom I can share my love for others. In his Light I can approach each day and move forward. I bring to Him my concerns for friends and family members and leave what needs to be done in His hands (always a challenge). I am thankful for his constant companionship. I very much am enjoying the prayer apostolate whereby I can help my fraternal sisters and brothers stay in prayer.

-Deacon Phil Rzewnicki, OFS

Life on the Council:

With fraternity elections coming up in early 2021, some of our previous councilmembers have been generous enough to share their own experiences with us.

Following my profession in the Secular Franciscan Order in July of 2014, our Padre Pio Fraternity held its election two months later, in September. I was nominated for secretary on the Council. I accepted the nomination, feeling overwhelmed and completely unprepared to take this on. I thought of the saying, “God doesn’t call the qualified but qualifies the called,” and kept that in mind as I was elected and took on this new role.

The new Council participated in a daylong session called the “Nuts and Bolts” of being a Council, which provided much needed background. In addition, I’m grateful for the guidance I received from one fraternity member in particular who had held the secretary’s position in the past. She shared much of what she had learned and I felt a bit less overwhelmed.

Some of the duties of the secretary involve compiling the official minutes of each gathering and council meeting and sharing them with members. In addition, the secretary is responsible for the taking of attendance, maintaining and updating a fraternity roster, updating and preserving the records and the register noting admissions, professions, deaths, withdrawals, and transfers in and out of the fraternity. Putting out communications for events such as a Come and See, for Transitus and any other event that needs to be publicized is another duty. Keeping all correspondence related to any issues that may arise, especially when an individual fraternity member is involved, is important. It was also my job to secure meeting space for gatherings, council meetings, initial formation meetings...etc. Any correspondence from the Regional, National or International fraternities is kept by the secretary.

In the three years that I served, I learned something new almost daily. I also had the opportunity to work with dedicated, selfless brothers and sisters who gave examples by their lives of what it means to live the Franciscan call.

Following the resignation of our minister Joe Travers in December of 2018, I was appointed to fill a vacant Councilor position on the Council. I shall serve in this position until the next election. Since I wasn’t elected to the Council, I’m unable to vote.

A Councilor supports other members of the Council and follows through on jobs which are assigned. As a Councilor, I am a participant on the on-going formation team that plans our monthly gatherings. I was asked to take charge of room reservations for gatherings, council meetings...etc. I was also asked to provide one-on-one formation with another Council member for a Secular returning from a five-years absence. These are a few of the opportunities I have had the privilege of taking on since my appointment.

Once again, I feel blessed to be part of another Council of dedicated and selfless members who continue to demonstrate the beautiful spirits of Francis and Clare. – *Maureen Copan, OFS*

August – Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

1. St. Alphonse de Liguori, Bishop, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1787
2. [Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula, Plenary Indulgence possible by visiting a church or chapel of the Franciscan 1st Order](#) FOR MORE INFO: <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12286a.htm>
3. St. Pierre-Julien Eymard, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1868
4. [St. Dominic, Priest, Cordbearer, d. 1221](#)
5. B. Marie-Francoise de Jesus, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1904
6. Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ
7. Bl. Agathange et Cassien, Priest, Capuchin, martyr 1638
8. [St. Jean-Marie Vianney, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1859](#)
9. Bl. Marie-Marguerite of the Sacred Heart, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1924
10. [St. Beatrice de Silva, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1492](#)
11. Bl. Innocent XI, Pope, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1689
12. [St. Clare of Assisi, Virgin, Foundress of the Poor Clares, Plenary Indulgence for Tertiaries \(Renewal of Engagements\)](#)
13. [Bl. Novellon de Faenza, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1280](#)
14. St. Maximilien-Marie Kolbe, Priest, Conventual religious, martyr 1941
15. Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady
16. [Bl. Francis Chici of Pesaro, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1350](#)
17. [St. Roch of Montpellier, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1327](#)
18. Blessed Martyrs of Pontons de Rochefort, d. 1794
19. St. Jean Eudes, Priest, was a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1680
20. [St. Louis of Anjou, Bishop of Toulouse, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1297](#)
21. St. Jeanne-Francoise de Chantal, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1610
22. Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
23. [Bl. Bernard of Offida, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1694](#)
24. St. Emilie de Vialar, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1856
25. [St. Louis IX, King of France, Patron of Franciscan Third Order Seculars, Plenary Indulgence for tertiaries and cordbearers](#)
26. Bl. Pierre de Benisa, Priest, Capuchin religious, martyr 1936
27. St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest, Cordbearer, d. 1648
28. [St. Junipero Serra, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1784](#)
29. Bl. Jean de Prouse, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1231
30. Bl. Juvenal Ancina, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1604
31. Bl. Aurele de Vinalesa, Priest, Capuchin religious, martyr 1936

