
PADRE PIO FRATERNITY

BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS REGION

Ongoing Formation

We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become. If we love things, we become a thing. If we love nothing, we become nothing. Imitation is not a literal mimicking of Christ, rather it means becoming the image of the beloved, an image disclosed through transformation. This means we are to become vessels of God's compassionate love for others. – St. Clare of Assisi



Between silence and memory.

Although St. Clare of Assisi is among the most famous, and most beloved, saints in our Catholic tradition, much of our understanding of her has largely been shaped by legend. Her holy life, during which she did much to avoid the limelight, has rendered it that today we have relatively few historic references of her made during the years of her pilgrimage on earth. Thomas of Celano's *Second Life of St. Francis* even makes no mention of her at all! Marco Bartoli's *St. Clare: Beyond the Legend* acknowledges, in the first chapter, the elusiveness of historic references to St. Clare, that hopefully, we shall ultimately have a greater understanding of her life and times.



The Holy Father's Intentions for October – The Laity's Mission in the Church

We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.

Suzie's Prayer Corner -

I try to begin my day by looking out my window and thanking God for a brand new day. I ask Him to give me the grace to allow Him to show me what is mine to do for the day. I usually read Richard Rohr's and Henri Nouwen's daily reflection. There is always something in the meditations that resonates with me, that I try to pause and remember it throughout my day. Then, while exercising, I listen to a podcast of a spiritual writer. Their insights always challenge me to go deeper. I spend 15 minutes a day in contemplative prayer and I am trying to increase it to twice a day. It is an area in my prayer life that I feel myself thirsting for.

Going through Franciscan formation has helped me to deepen my prayer life. It has helped me to become more aware of how I am reacting to things that present themselves to me, and I try not to judge or overreact to them, but rather to see them as an opportunity to be transformed. I am not always good at it, but the awareness is so much greater as a result of my prayer life. I often pray to the Holy Spirit to guide me in my words as I talk to people I am caring for. I sense it is God's love flowing through me. It always humbles me and leads to a prayer of gratitude.

At night I read the daily readings for the next day. I am trying to do more Lectio Divina. I end my day with an examination of conscience. As I continue to grow in my prayer life, my desire is to hear God more clearly, and to be the person He created me to be. I want to mirror God's love back to him and to others, knowing all is a gift. – *Jeanne Casciere, OFS*

Council Members

Spiritual Assistant:

Working on it!

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, OF

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

Life on the Council -

While humility may cause one to pause and reflect on the worthiness of serving on the fraternity council, faith and obedience will bring one closer to truly discerning whether to accept the nomination.

The late Deacon Tom Bello calls on us to trust God more when a fraternity member suggests you allow your name on the ballot. He said: "It always surprises me when I attend a fraternity election, and someone whom everybody else says will be the right person for the job, the right fit for the position, and that person tells me, 'I'm not ready.' Or 'I'm not worthy.' Or, my favorite, 'But I'm a sinner.'" Or, my favorite, 'But I'm a sinner.'"

Deacon Bello said God does not call us to failure when he advises, "Be not afraid of doing what the Lord wants us to do."

While it may be natural to default to humility when asked to serve, one needs to consider the served. When our cohort of candidates professed in 2014, it was hard to say no. The previous council had worked tirelessly to help Padre Pio re-emerge as a fraternity, and much of their time was spent preparing us for profession. It was our turn to give back.

I served as treasurer and formation director. The duties of both were new to me. As treasurer, I was responsible for collecting, recording and depositing donations to the general fund as well as paying bills. Although our needs are simple, the job needs someone good with numbers and budgets.

I eagerly accepted the offer to move to formation director when the position opened. Although I found the demands of running candidacy and ongoing profession more demanding than balancing the budget, I felt like I was more in my element.

While I didn't set any records at either position, God didn't let me fail. We professed five wonderful Franciscans before my term ended, and I am thankful for each of them.

Our dearly departed brother Louis Coker became our treasurer and streamlined the accounting system.

Deacon Bello's point is to trust in God and honor the call to serve the fraternity. You can read more of his encouragement about accepting a place on the ballot [here](#). – *Sharon Winzeler, OFS*

October – Month of the Holy Rosary and Holy Angels

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. Therese of the Infant Jesus, Patron of France; 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
5. Commemoration of the establishment of the 3 Orders/ Blessed Felicia Meda, Order of Poor Clares, d. 1444
6. St. Mary Frances of the Five Wounds, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular
7. Feast of the Holy Rosary
8. St. Bridget of Sweden, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1373
9. Bl. Marie-Angele Truskowska, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], 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
11. Feast of the Divine Maternity of Our Lady
12. St. Seraphin of Montegranaro, 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 Strepar, 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
23. St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1870
24. Bl. Josephine Leroux, Virgin, the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, martyr 1794
25. Bl. Maria Veronica Masia Ferragut, Bl. Maria Felicidad Masia Ferragut, and Bl. Jesus Masia Ferragut, Virgins, Capuchin religious, Martyrs 1936
26. Bl. Martyrs of the War of Spain, 1936-37
27. Bl. Bonaventure of Potenza, Priest, Conventual religious, d. 1711
28. Bl. Anne-Eugenie Picco, Virgin, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1921
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



Words of Faith by Padre Pio:

Have pity on me! May one compassionate look of yours revive me, purify me and lift me up to God; raising me from the filth of this world that I may go to Him Who created me, Who regenerated me in Holy Baptism, giving me back my white stole of innocence that original sin had so defiled. Dear Mother, make me love Him!

<https://aleteia.org/2019/10/25/5-thoughts-from-padre-pio-on-the-rosary/>

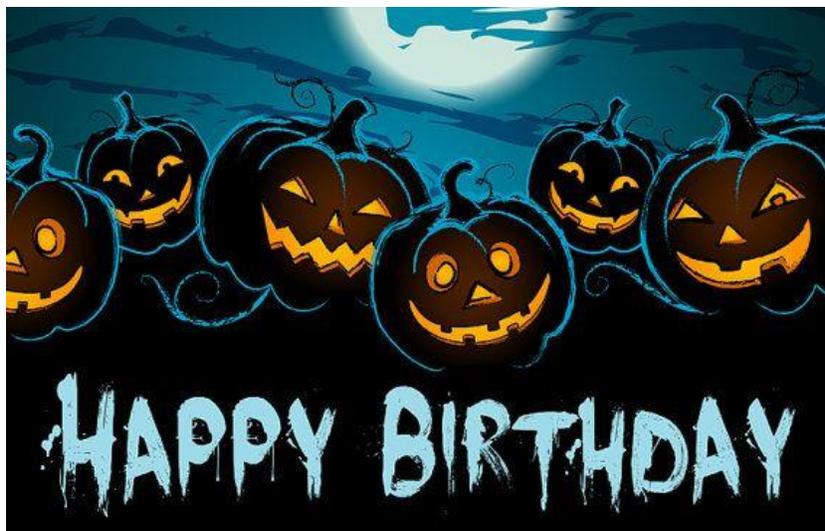
G.K. Chesterton on the Transitus of St. Francis:

But St. Francis had better things to say and better things to think about, and his thoughts were caught upwards where we cannot follow them, in divine and dizzy heights to which death alone can lift us up...

A man might fancy that the birds must have known when it happened; and made some motion in the evening sky. As they had once, according to the tale, scattered to the four winds of heaven in the pattern of a cross at his signal of dispersion, they might now have written in such dotted lines a more awful augury across the sky. Hidden in the woods perhaps were little cowering creatures never again to be so much noticed and understood; and it has been said that animals are sometimes conscious of things to which man, their spiritual superior, is for the moment blind. We do not know whether any shiver passed through all the thieves and the outcasts and the outlaws, to tell them what had happened to him who never knew the nature of scorn.

But at least in the passages and porches of the Portiuncula there was a sudden stillness, where all the brown figures stood like bronze statues; for the stopping of the great heart that had not broken till it held the world.

-from *Saint Francis of Assisi*



Sr. Mary Connor, OSC – October 2

Deacon Phil Rzewnicki, OFS – October 18



Items of Interest:

-JPIC is distributing a survey (about 20 questions) that will help guide the committee in planning actions and events in the upcoming year. Be sure to fill it out!

-Every month is a new opportunity to make food donations to Oak City Cares.

-Although only the professed shall be voting in the upcoming fraternity elections in January, all are welcome to bring to the election committee's attention those professed members who have special gifts that are well-suited for a position on the Council, if the Spirit so guides you to.

Charlotte Witoski's *correct* phone number is 252-619-5433



-The Transitus of St. Francis will be celebrated 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 3 at St. Francis of Assisi Church. Be sure to sign up if you intend to attend!

-A memorial Mass for our brother Louis Coker, OFS, will be held 11:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Raleigh. One need not sign up or be a member to attend.

Ida Irwin, OFS, professed sixty-five years ago, on October 9, 1955. Keep it up!

Our next gathering (via Zoom) will be on October 25, 2020

