

---

# *Paдре Pio Fraternity*

## *Brothers and Sisters of St Francis Region*

---



### **Fraternity**

On Christmas Day we are reminded that God, through the Incarnation, chose to live in fraternity with all of us, as unworthy as we may be. As Secular Franciscans we are called to imitate Our Lord, in what ways we can, through our fraternity with one another. The COVID-19 epidemic has, through most of 2020, been a disruption to our meeting one another face-to-face, and shall continue to be so on December 25. But Christ's fraternity with us had also been met by many challenges, without His desire for such bonds having ever been dulled, and we remain called, as always, to imitate Him. Although we will continue resorting to phone calls and Zoom meetings, rather than hugging and sitting at tables with one another, for some months more, the bonds of that fraternity which began on Christmas Day, an event which can never be undone, very much remain. We will always have one another to call our brothers and sisters, no matter what challenges shape our world. We still have one another to wish a very Merry Christmas!

## Holy Father's Intentions for December – For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

### Suzie's Prayer Corner –

On a typical day, I wake up and thank God for life. I then go through a list of "Thank you God...". I then pray several "standard"/ traditional prayers. Next, I will do the morning offering, and I pray for Seculars and their loved ones. This is a time where I also pray any special petitions for others' needs. I finish with Morning Office.

Throughout the day, I find "aspirations" helpful—"mini" prayers of praise, thanksgiving, etc. I also get much "mileage" out of "Prayer before Meals"--before anything goes in my mouth—even that third cup of coffee gets a prayer!

I close the day with Scriptural or spiritual reading, Evening Office, and other prayers inspired by the day. I admit I have much to learn, and have a long, long way to go in my prayer life. But I trust in your prayers and hope you can COUNT ON MINE!

*-David Shick, OFS*



**Ida Irwin, OFS – December 11**

**Sharon Winzeler, OFS – December 28**

## Council Members

Spiritual Assistant:

Almost there!

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 and website:

Email Sharon Winzeler, OFS  
<https://ofscentralinc.org/>

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

## Ongoing Formation -

We continued our study of Marco Bartoli's *Saint Clare: Beyond the Legend*, studying "Chapter 3: Courtesy."

Ionni de Ventura, a house servant in St. Clare's childhood household, emerged as a character witness during the canonization process of our beloved saint. He had testified that during this era, in which the Medieval ideals of courtly love was emerging, that Clare, even as a young maid, was known among those in the household both for her modesty and her courtesy toward those who would be considered among "lower" classes. Even before she had made any vows to be a sister, those surrounding her witnessed glimpses of a great saint's character.

Lady Clare grew up as the daughter of nobles, from both sides of her family. Her mother was known for her piety, who had gone on numerous pilgrimages, to the Holy Land and throughout Italy. The emergence of knightly ideals, coupled with the piety she grew up witnessing as a child, did much to form Clare's character. Of course, with all of this earning her many potential suitors for marriage, Lady Clare often had to resist the pressure to get married, which was the expectation of a noble woman who embodied the ideals of courtly love so well.

Saint Clare serves all of us as a beautiful example of living out the very best of worldly ideals while at the same time resisting the temptation to keep eyes locked only on this world. That's one of the many reasons why we love her so much!



## December – Month of the Incarnation

1. Bl Marie-Angele Astorch, Virgin, Capuchin religious, d. 1665
2. Bl. Raphael Chylinski, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1741
3. St. Francis Xavier, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, Martyr, 1623
4. Bl. Francois Galves, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, Martyr 1623
5. Bl. Pierre de Sienne, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1289
6. Bl. Elisabeth la Bonne, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1420
7. Bl. Louis Beltrame Quattrocchi, Confessor, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1951
8. Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the Seraphic Order, Holy Day of Obligation, Plenary Indulgence for tertiaries and cordbearers
9. Bl. Delphine de Glandeves, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1360
10. Bl. Conrad d'Offide, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1306
11. Bl. Hugolin Magalotti, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1373
12. Discovery of the tomb of St. Francis 1820
13. Bl. Pius Bartosik, Priest, Conventual religious, Martyr 1941
14. Bl. Barthole Buonpedini, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1300
15. Mary Queen of the Seraphic Order
16. Bl. Honorat de Biala, Priest, Capuchin religious, d. 1916
17. Bl. Francois Bell, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, Martyr 1643
18. Bl. Marie-Francoise Schervier, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1876
19. Bl. Jean Discalceat, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1349
20. Bl. Antoine Galvao, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1822
21. St. Raphael Kalinowski, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1907
22. St. Francis Xavier Cabrini, Virgin, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1917
23. Bl. Nicolas Factor, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1583
24. Bl. Bentivoglio de Bonio, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1231
25. Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Holy Day of Obligation
26. St. Albert Chmielowski, Confessor, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1916
27. Bl. Mathie de Nazareis, Virgin, the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1320
28. Feast of the Holy Innocents
29. Bl Gerard de Valence, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1342
30. Bl. Marguerite Colonna, Virgin, the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1280
31. St. Gaspard Buffalo, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1836; Plenary Indulgence (Chant the Te Deum in public)

## Words of Faith by Padre Pio:

This celestial child, all meekness and sweetness, wishes to impress in our hearts by his example these sublime virtues, so that from a world that is torn and devastated an era of peace and love may spring forth.

<http://www.sanpadrepio.com/PadrePioChristmas.htm>

## Items of Interest:

-Fr. Hugh McSherry, OFM, has agreed to become our new spiritual assistant, and we are all excitedly awaiting approval!

-Our brother Louis Coker, OFS, has left \$10,000 as a bequest to our fraternity. We will see to it that his generous gift is put to good uses that will honor his memory!

-If you are professed, and feel like you are being called by the Spirit to serve on the Council, do not hesitate to reach out to anyone on the election committee: Lee Cunningham, OFS, Jeanette Cottone, OFS, Char Witosky, OFS, or John Halada, OFS.

-CPO is once again in need of diapers for the ministry, and beginning in December, our fraternity will be donating \$250 per month for that cause.

-We anticipate that the retreat at St. Francis Springs for the weekend of March 5-7, 2021, will be going on, and sign up will be soon. More details to follow!

-Some of our fraternity members remain homebound because of the COVID-19 epidemic, and any efforts to reach out and remind them that they are loved, especially during the holiday season, are greatly appreciated!

-Two of our inquirers, Travis Bongiorno and Rachel Robeson, will be getting married on December 12. We are very excited for you both!



*Our fraternity retreat will be on December 5, 2020, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The theme will be “fraternity,” and the talks will be led by Trevor Thompson. Do keep an eye out for the Zoom invitation, via email.*

*Our next fraternity meeting shall be January 21, 2021. Merry Christmas!*