
Padre Pio Fraternity

Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region

Padre Pio Annual Retreat – Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020

Our annual retreat was, of course, attended via Zoom this year. The distance we've been having to keep from one another was also an opportunity to reflect with greater depth upon the theme: Fraternity.

What do we mean when we talk about fraternity?

Trevor Thompson, the Retreat Director, prepared an outstanding presentation for us, evenly divided in three different sessions (followed by discussion), to help us understand just that. The first session dealt with living as a community of brothers and sisters, what the Rule of St Francis has to say about it and what makes a “healthy” community. The second session dealt with the barriers to fraternity, with much reflection on what the “Fratelli Tutti,” the Holy Father’s most recent encyclical, can teach us about this. The third session concerned our fraternity with Creation, again with much reflection on an encyclical by Pope Francis, “Laudato Si,” and what the Rule has to say about our kinship with all creatures.

Hopefully, circumstances will allow us to have an in-person retreat next year. But we learned this year that even under such circumstances, much can be gained, so long as have love for one another and a facilitator as professional as Mr. Thompson was!



Believe it or not, he looks even better in person!

Holy Father's Intentions for January – Human Fraternity

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

Suzie's Prayer Corner –

Decades ago, during a discussion on personal prayer at an interfaith prayer group, I mentioned that I just could not find a way to make time for personal prayer. One young woman in the group dismissed that, saying: "But you can walk and chew gum at the same time, right?"

I no longer chew gum, but I have found myself "walking and praying" often, wherever I am, whatever I'm doing. I'm drawn to thank and praise God for the gifts of nature, and I thank Jesus for the example he shows through those who continually 'prune' and 'shape' my perspective on life, faith, and prayer.

My prayer is mostly spontaneous, something that began way back, when my mother told me to turn to Mary when I was afraid. I've had frequent conversations with Mary ever since, on many topics. Through other faith-nurturing experiences, I have learned to also call upon the Holy Spirit for comfort, guidance, and inspiration. I can see God's awesome presence wherever I am.

On my Franciscan journey, I've added more structure to my prayer life, particularly with our morning and evening prayers. Today, as I sat to write this reflection on personal prayer, I was drawn to the reading from Acts 6: 2b-5a (below), in the morning prayer for Dec. 26, 2020.

"It is not right for us to neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Look around your own number, brothers, for seven men acknowledged to be deeply spiritual and prudent and we shall appoint them to this task." That reading had puzzled me until today, when I saw a connection between personal spirituality and prudence. My takeaway: we can and should bring our prayer life into all we do. -Anne Rzewnicki, OFS

Council Members

Spiritual Assistant:

Pending final approval

Minister:

Lee Cunningham, OFS

Vice Minister:

Ellen Ferrone, OFS

Formation Director:

S. Lynn Oeser, OFS

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Zubair Simonson, OFS

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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 and website:

Email Sharon Winzeler, OFS
<https://ofscentralnc.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

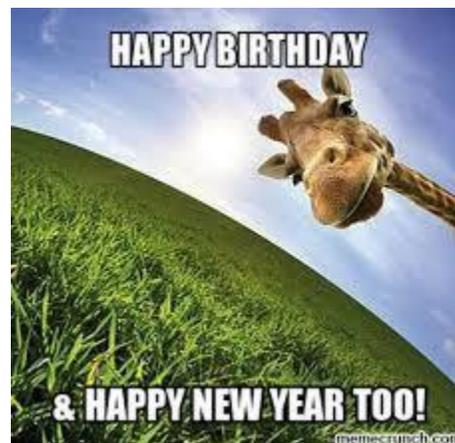
Fraternity Election Update -

As all of you are well aware, the cycle for our fraternity elections is coming up in this month of January. The rules of our order state, very wisely, that an election must be held in person, that even with COVID holding an election via Zoom is not an option.

The Council has been diligently searching to reserve a meeting space where we (considerably more than ten people) may gather in a manner that is compatible with social-distancing, for everyone's safety. As of the end of December, we're still waiting for final approval of a meeting space. We may, or we may not, be having our elections in January. There will, of course, be updates via email in the weeks immediately leading up to the scheduled election.

If the election must be postponed, we will still be having a monthly fraternity meeting, via Zoom. The election will be held, in person, at the soonest possible date.

Thank you for your understanding, and please be sure to keep the election, and our fraternity, always in prayer!



John Halada, OFS – January 3

Dianne Greet, OFS – January 11

January – Month of the Holy Name of Jesus and His Holy Childhood

1. Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord—Holy Day of Obligation; Plenary Indulgence possible (Chant in public Veni Creator)
2. Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus
3. Bl. Chriatiane Menaburi, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1310
4. Bl. Angela of Foligno, widow, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1310
5. Bl. Pierre Bonilli, priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1935
6. Feast of the Epiphany—Holy Day of Obligation
7. St. Charles of Sezze, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1670
8. Bl. Roger de Toddi, priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1237
9. Bl. Gilles de Lorenzana, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1518
10. Bl. Gregory X, Pope, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1276
11. St. Thomas of Cori, priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1729
12. St. Bernard of Corleone, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1667
13. Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ
14. Bl. Oderic de Pordenone, priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1331
15. Bl. James of Pieve, priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, martyr d. 1304
16. Sts. Berard and Companions, Protomartyrs of the Order, d. 1220
17. Sl. Matthew of Girgenti, Bishop, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1451
18. Bl. Jeanne of Saint Mary, virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1360
19. Bl. Marcel Spinola y Maestre, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1906
20. Bl. Jean-Baptiste Triquerie, priest, conventual religious, martyr d. 1794
21. Bl. Joseph Nascimbeni, priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1922
22. St. Vincent Pallotti, priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1850
23. Feast of the Marriage of the Blessed Virgin Mary
24. Bl. Paula Gambarara-Costa, widow, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1515
25. Bl. Emmanuel Domingo y Sol, priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1909
26. Bl. Georges Matulwicz, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1927
27. St. Angela Merici, virgin, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1540
28. Bl. Bienvenu de Recanati, priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1289
29. St. Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, Codbearer, d. 1622
30. St. Hyacintha de Mariscotti, virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1640
31. St. John Bosco, priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1888

Words of Faith by Padre Pio

The palm of glory is reserved only for those who fight valiantly to the end. Therefore, let us begin our holy battle this year. God will help us and crown us with eternal triumph.

<http://divinefiat.blogspot.com/2014/01/eight-years-resolutions-from-padre-pio.html>

Items of Interest:

-Because of the generous bequest of our departed brother Louis Coker, OFS, the Padre Pio Fraternity was able to end the year by gifting donations to St. Francis of Assisi Church, El Futuro, the Monastery of St. Clare, Oak City Cares, St. Bonaventure Indian Mission & School, and the Holy Cross Retreat Center (which was in need of medications).

-At 1 pm on Sunday, January 10, the Padre Pio Fraternity shall be celebrating Epiphany, via Zoom. Be sure to join and enjoy your tea, coffee, or libation as we celebrate!



“The more we are proud that the Bethlehem story is plain enough to be understood by the shepherds, and almost by the sheep, the more do we let ourselves go, in dark and gorgeous imaginative frescoes or pageants about the mystery and majesty of the Three Magian Kings.” – G.K. Chesterton

Our next fraternity meeting will be held on January 24, 2021