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# Padre Pio Fraternity

## Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region

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### **Election Results**

Our election was held, finally, on March 28, 2021, at St. Francis Church. Despite restrictions related to COVID, nineteen members of the Padre Pio Fraternity participated. Deacon Tom Shaver, OFS, and Betti Longnotti, OFS, monitored the election to make sure that those of us in the Franciscan Community here in Raleigh aren't *too* crooked.



*Deacon Tom Shaver, OFS, with Mary Lou Holloway and Mercedes Cooley*

A very special thanks is owed to those who are stepping down from the Council for the services they have provided for our fraternity. They may rest assured that their duties are being passed on to very able hands. The results are in...

Minister: Sharon Winzeler, OFS

Vice Minister: Ellen Ferrone, OFS

Secretary: Anna Rzewnicki, OFS

Treasurer: Zubair Simonson, OFS

Formation Director: Char Witosky, OFS

Councilors: Dave Shick, OFS, Joan Monti, OFS, and Jeanne Casciere, OFS

## **Holy Father's Intentions for April – Fundamental Rights**

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

### **Suzie's Prayer Corner -**

My own prayer life has evolved over the course of fourteen years. As a new Christian I had prayed often, in the Protestant manner of talking to God a whole lot, and explaining lots of things to Him in case He didn't understand them. Over the years, especially since my reception into the Church, my prayer-life has become less (audibly) conversational. I know now that God and I speak, even when the conversation happens to be tacit.

For instance, when I sprained my ankle in July 2019, thus jeopardizing my chances of running the Chicago Marathon in October of that year, I prayed. Rather than explaining the situation to God in circles for twenty-minutes straight, I simply said: "God I still want to run this marathon with my friends. Thy Will be done." Rather than anxiousness, which was typically the result of my explaining a lot of things to God, I felt a sense of peace after saying that little bit. It was God's will, by the way, for me to finish the Chicago Marathon.

My prayer routine itself is pretty simple. I pray the rosary daily, usually in the late morning. I go to daily Mass at least once a week, sometimes more. Also, during the times in which I find myself with a fair amount of downtime, I often breathe the Jesus Prayer (which has a stronger tradition in Orthodox churches, but truly is a great method to pray always).

I've also found that writing articles concerning faith also compels me to think much about faith as I'm doing so, which in turn becomes a prayer of its own.

*-Zubair Simonson, OFS*

## Council Members

Spiritual Assistant:

Fr. Hugh Macsherry, OFM

Minister:

Sharon Winzeler, OFS

Vice Minister:

Ellen Ferrone, OFS

Formation Director:

Charlotte Witosky, OFS

Treasurer:

Zubair Simonson, OFS

Secretary:

Anna Rzewnicki, OFS

Councilors:

Dave Shick, OFS

Joan Monti, OFS

Jeanne Casciere, 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

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

### **From Darkness to Light: the Padre Pio Retreat (March 5-7)**

What a blessing to be together in person at the prayer center. 16 members of our Fraternity were able to come together to share in prayer and community.

The theme of the retreat was Darkness to Light. Considering so many had felt like they had been in darkness during the pandemic, this was the perfect place to be to come into the light.

There was sharing as people talked about how they experienced light during this past year. There was a talk on "Being in the Darkness" and how this can lead us closer to trusting God. Another sharing centered on "Being Called". Have you ever felt God calling you? For some this is an almost instantaneous yes, for others it's years of reflection and looking at the patterns in our lives.

On Saturday evening Gladys Whitehouse lead us through a beautiful Examen of conscience. A practice that is centered around Jesuit spirituality.

It truly was a time of coming together, renewing old friendships and beginning new ones.

Mark your calendar May 13-15, 2022 for our next weekend retreat at St Francis Springs Prayer Center.

*-Ellen Ferrone, OFS*



## April – Month of the Holy Face and the Redemption

1. Bl. Elisabeth Vendramini, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1860
2. St. Francois de Paule, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d/ 1507
3. St. Benedict the Moor, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1589
4. Bl. Guillaume de Sicli, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1404
5. St. Crescentia Hoess, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1744
6. Bl. Angele Salawa, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1922
7. Bl. Mary Assunta, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1925
8. Bl. Julian of St. Augustine, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1606
9. Bl. Thomas of Tolentino and Companions, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1321
11. Bl. Angelo of Chivasso, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1495
12. Bl. Boniface Zukowski, Priest, Conventual Religious, martyr 1942
13. Bl. Isabelle Rovira, Virgin, Capuchin religious, martyr, 1937
14. Bl. Lidwyne de Schiedam, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1433
15. Bl. Gandolph of Binasco, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1260
16. St. Benedict-Joseph Labre, Confessor, Cordbearer, d. 1783 Plenary Indulgence for Cordbearers. Anniversary of the profession of St. Francis (1209)
17. Bl. Paul de St. Madeleine, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1643
18. Bl. Andre Hibernon, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1734
19. Bl. Conrad of Ascoli, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1289
20. Bl. Anastase Pankewicz, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1942
21. Bl. Francis of Fabriano, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1322
22. St. Conrad de Parzham, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1894
23. Bl. Gilles of Assisi, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1262
24. St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest, Capuchin, martyr 1622
25. St. Marc, Grandes Rogations
26. Bl. Pierre De Pethancourt, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1667
27. St. Zita of Lucca, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1278
28. St. Paul of the Cross, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1775; Bl. Luchesius, 1st Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1260 Plenary Indulgence for Franciscan Third Order Seculars (renewal of Tertiary Engagements)
29. Bl. Benedict of Urbino, Priest, Capuchin, d. 1625
30. St. Joseph Benedict Cottolengo, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1842

**Our website is at: <https://ofscentralnc.org/>**



**Marge Zombek, OFS – April 13**

**Jeanette Cottone, OFS – April 20**

**Congratulations to Christine Murray, OFS for her 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of profession 4/16/1996**

### **Words of Faith by Padre Pio:**

Why did Jesus Christ sacrifice himself to the point of death? Faith answers – to expiate for our sins. Why did he rise in such splendor? To show us the meaning of our redemption. In his death, we recall that we were dead because of sin. In his resurrection instead we have a perfect example of our resurrection in grace. <https://padrepiodevotions.org/padre-pios-words/>



*Your New Council!*

**Our next gathering will be via Zoom on April 25, 2021**