
Padre Pio Fraternity

Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region

Ongoing Formation

For our monthly gathering, we continued in our study of Marco Bartoli's *Saint Clare Beyond the Legend*, delving into the life and legend of St. Clare of Assisi. Our study for this month covered St. Clare's relationships with St. Francis and the Holy Father, and was facilitated by Deacon Phil Rzewnicki, OFS. We shall finish our study of this book during the June gathering, and from there we will go on to study Martin Luther King's *Letters from Birmingham Jail*.



Words of Faith by Padre Pio:

We desire that all that is in us and around us may belong to you (Mary), and may share in the benefits of your motherly benediction. <https://aleteia.org/2018/06/09/padre-pio-prayed-this-prayer-to-the-virgin-mary-every-first-saturday/>

Profession Anniversaries

Frank Peluso, OFS – May 8, 1954

Ginny Conway, OFS – May 9, 2003

Holy Father's Intentions for May – the World of Finance

Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

An Interview with Bill Burkey –

While members of the Padre Pio fraternity have helped provide food at Oak City Cares almost since it opened seven years ago, Bill Burkey has been feeding the homeless in Raleigh since 1992.

Bill is our partner who annually provides hundreds of grilled chicken hot dogs and/or soup and sandwiches by serving our friends at Oak City Cares on the fourth Saturday of every month.

He was a member of St. Mary, Mother of the Church in Garner nearly 30 years ago when a group that met weekly for Bible study focused on social justice issues decided to feed the homeless.

The group was organized by Patrick O'Neill, co-founder of the Fr. Charlie Mulholland Catholic Worker House in Garner. Four Bible study groups covered different weeks of the month. Bill's group chose Moore Square in downtown Raleigh.

"Our group served soup, hot dogs, sandwiches and coffee. In warmer weather we had sodas, and water and tea," Bill explained.

He and his family treated the homeless as friends and would loan them a phone if needed to make calls to family members they had not seen. They always gave it back.

"Until about five years in. Someone didn't. Those friends with whom we shared our meal said they knew who took the phone, and they promised they would bring it back, which they did. No one got hurt."

What started as an outreach from Bible study became a lifetime of service for Bill, his wife, Carol, their partners, Clif and Colette Jones, Mike and Rosemary Montague and more recently Mark and Colette Dufur. Many others participated...but did not continue. Their children helped distribute the food as well as dish out ketchup, mustard, chili and onions on the popular hot dogs.

Council Members

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Minister:

Sharon Winzeler, OFS

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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:

Email Mayra Rangel

rem7065@outlook.com

For the Newsletter:

Zubair Simonson, OFS

Why hot dogs?

“We tried different things and wound up with something everyone could agree on. We started with beef hot dogs, but some people worried that they would contain a mixture of pork,” Bill said. The pork would not work in the diets of Jewish and Muslim guests.

“Pretty soon the chicken hot dogs became a favorite, and so we have stayed with them,” he said.

Bill’s outreach is based on his faith.

“The Gospel is as solid as a rock,” he said.

“We would always pray before we served the food and would ask people to stand in silence. We are not trying to proselytize. We represent Christ,” he said.

“This is one of the most important things that God would have us do. This one act shows love for my neighbor. Every time I serve a meal, I serve God,” he said.

Before Oak City opened, the city of Raleigh tried to eliminate food distribution at Moore Square.

“The police told us that we would be arrested if we set up. ‘Pull one of your boxes out of the van, and you’re in trouble,’” Bill said they were told.

Bill countered, “This is a park. We’re just here to provide food to our family and friends!”

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Happy Birthday



Theresa Flynn, OFS – May 22

Anna Rzewnicki, OFS – May 24

Maureen Copan, OFS – May 28

May – Month of the Holy Virgin Mary

1. Feast of Saint Joseph the Artisan
2. St. Richard Pampuri, Confessor, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1930
3. Bl. Edouard-Joseph Rosas, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1903
4. Bl. Ladislav de Gielniow, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1505
5. Bl. Beinvenu Mareni, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1289
6. Bl. Marie-Catherine Troijani, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1897
7. Bl. Anne-Rose Gattorno, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1900
8. Feast of Mary Mediatrix of all Graces
9. Bl. Antoine Bajewski, Priest, Conventual religious, martyr 1941
10. Bl. Marie-Bernard Butler, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1924
11. St. Gemme de Sulmona, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1439
12. St. Ignatius of Laconi, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1781
13. St. Michael Garicoits, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1863
14. St. Marie-Dominique Mazzarello, Virgin, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1881
15. St. Jean-Baptiste de la Salle, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1719
16. St. Theophilus of Corte, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1740
17. St. Paschal of Baylon, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1592
18. St. Felix de Cantalice, lay brother, Capuchin religious, 1587
19. St. Yves, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1303
20. St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1444
21. St. Crispin of Viterbo, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1750
22. St. Joaquina Vedruna, Virgin, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1854
23. Bl. Gerard of Villamagna, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1242
24. Bl. John of Prado, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1631
25. Dedication of the Basilica in Assisi, 1253
26. St. Philippe Neri, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1595; memorial of St. Mariane of Jesus Parades, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1645
27. Bl. Gerard of Lunel, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1270
28. St. Jean-Baptiste Rossi, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1764
29. Bl. Etienne et Raymond, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1242
30. St. Joan of Arc, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1431 King Saint Fernando III, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1252
31. Feast of the Queenship of Mary, Public Consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Novena in preparation of the feast of Pentecost Pentecost - Plenary Indulgence – Chant in public the Veni Creator Sacred Heart – Plenary Indulgence - Public recitation of the Act of Reparation

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

Bill Burkey *(continued from page 3)*

They tried to move to another area nearby, but the police followed and told them the same thing. Finally, the owner of a downtown apartment building gave them permission to distribute the food in the driveway.

“It was frightening. It happened in November, and we had extra family visiting,” Bill said.

A retired social worker, Bill is a Red Cross volunteer and serves on the Triangle Area Disaster Action Team that provides services when there are local and national disasters such as house fires, tornadoes and floods. Most calls are losing a home due to fire. His group provides emergency services and is first on the scene to help with food, clothing and mental health support. He also provides disaster mental health to many across half of the state who suffer from disasters locally.



Whether helping the homeless in downtown Raleigh or reaching out to those in need through the Red Cross, Bill finds comfort in his mission.

“It always brought us joy to see and to talk to the people. These are our friends and our family who are down on their luck and this gives us a chance to love them as they are,” Bill said. -Sharon Winzeler, OFS

Items of Interest:

-the Annual Regional Gathering (ARG) will be held on August 12-14 this year. This is a great opportunity to learn more about what it means to live in fraternity, and to meet fellow Secular Franciscans from the 33 different fraternities scattered throughout the BSSF Region.

-Jeannie Casciere, OFS, gave us a review of the recent virtual birthday celebration of Oak City Cares. If you happened to miss the celebration, it can still be viewed online at <https://oakcitycares.org/birthdayparty/>

-Joan Monti, OFS, recently visited our old friend Fr. Steve Kluge, OFM, and he had a message to pass “continue growing into the saints God intended you to be.”

-Don’t forget that May is the Month of Mary!

Our next gathering will be held via Zoom on May 23, 2021