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# *Padre Pio Fraternity*

## *Brothers and Sisters of St Francis Region*

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### **Our Spiritual Assistant**

Our spiritual assistant Fr. Hugh Macsherry, OFM,

- A. had an uncle who was a priest
- B. was the 7<sup>th</sup> of 8 children
- C. earned the rank of Eagle Scout
- D. learned how to serve Mass in a nursing home
- E. all of the above



If you answered E, all the above, then you are on your way to getting to know Fr. Hugh, who has been our spiritual assistant since January.

He serves a parochial vicar at Immaculate Conception Church in Durham, where he works in a variety of capacities.

One of the jobs he has worked on throughout his career includes coordinating the Franciscan Volunteer Ministry, a group of young adults who collaborate with the friars on serving the community. These young adults come from parishes from around the country to volunteer and live in community. *Continued in Page 5*

## Ongoing Formation

We reflected on Chapter 2 of Ilia Delio’s *The Humility of God: A Franciscan Perspective*, during our in-person gathering at the Church of St. Francis.

Richard Hammer, OFS, led the presentation, which included taking a reflective look at *The Trinity*, a famous Orthodox icon that was painted by Andrei Rublev during the 15<sup>th</sup> Century.



Hammer’s very thoughtful presentation included questions and thought exercises which compelled us to reflect on the Eternal self-emptying love of God, as understood through the Holy Trinity.

## Council Members

Spiritual Assistant:

Fr. Hugh Macsherry, OFM

Minister:

Sharon Winzeler, OFS

Vice Minister:

Ellen Ferrone, OFS

Formation Director:

Charlotte Witosky, OFS

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Zubair Simonson, OFS

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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 the website:

Email Sharon Winzeler, OFS

For Oak City Cares:

Email Lee Cunningham, OFS, or  
Marylou Holoway, 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

For the Newsletter:

Zubair Simonson, OFS

**Holy Father’s Intentions for December –  
Catechists**

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Words of Faith by Padre Pio:**

“Let us open our hearts to the Baby Jesus whose soul was without the stain of sin and we will taste how sweet and suave it is to love Him.”

<https://capuchins.org/2015/12/22/padre-pio-and-christmas>

**Profession Anniversaries:**

Lee Cunningham, OFS, Ellen Ferrone, OFS, Theresa Flynn, OFS, Michael Hancock, OFS, Lynn Oeser, OFS, and Chris Peffley, OFS, will all be four years professed on December 2!



**Fr. Hugh Macsherry, OFM – December 6**

**Ida Irwin, OFS – December 11**

**Mary Cockrill, OFS – December 28**

**Sharon Winzeler, OFS – December 28**

## 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. Angele de 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 de Sezza, 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 de 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. Jacques del Piebe, priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, martyr d. 1304
16. Sts. Berard and Companions, Protomartyrs of the Order, d. 1220
17. Sl. Matthieu d’Argrigente, 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. Paule Gamgara Costa, widow, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1515
25. Bl. Emmanuel Dominguo 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, Cordbearer, d. 1622
30. St. Hyacintha of 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

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

## **Our Spiritual Assistant** *(continued from page 1)*

Fr. Hugh grew up in Baltimore, as a cradle Catholic, attending the Cathedral of Mary our Queen. Later he graduated from the University of Maryland, with a teaching degree in Secondary Education, Spanish.

Following college, he taught Spanish in middle school before beginning his vocation as a Franciscan friar.

He began investigating the religious life in 1998, and became interested in the Franciscan Order. He felt called to the Franciscan friars of Holy Name Province while discerning a vocation to the priesthood.

“I felt affirmed and challenged during the application and formation process,” Fr. Hugh said.

He joined the friars in 2002 and was ordained in 2009.

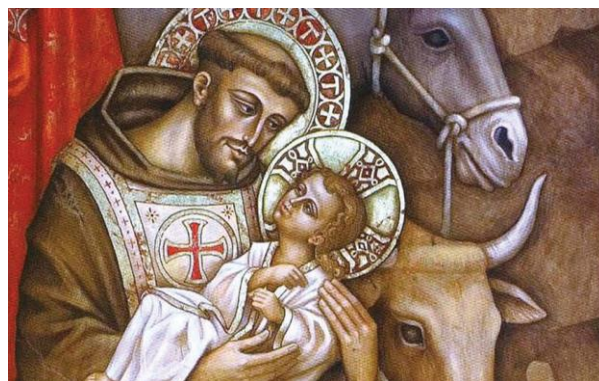
While growing up, Fr. Hugh learned how to be an altar boy in a nursing home, from his father who helped his grandmother coordinate liturgy there several times a month. Fr. Hugh received his first Holy Communion in that nursing home.

He spent six years in Camden, NJ, which had been considered the most violent community in the United States a few years prior. He was pastor of St. Anthony of Padua parish in Camden before transferring to Immaculate Conception.

The Padre Pio Fraternity is not his first experience working with Secular Franciscans. He worked as a spiritual assistant for the Deaf Catholic Fraternity in Washington, DC, and helped guide the formation of candidates.

Fr. Hugh had been familiarized with many of the Franciscan connections throughout his life. Having seven brothers and sisters, Fr. Hugh felt like he grew up living in fraternity. He enjoyed camping, scouting, and his high school ecology club. He had an early connection to social justice, although he did not always realize it: at his Uncle Ed’s funeral, Hugh learned that his uncle, an Episcopal priest, had marched at Selma.

Then, of course, there is Francis of Assisi.



“He had a strong personality that draws people to him,” Fr. Hugh said.



## Items of Interest:

-Our one-day retreat is going to be on December 4, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. There will be Mass at 4:15, immediately after the retreat for those who are able to go. If you intend to go but haven't signed up quite yet, please contact Ellen Ferrone, OFS, and let her know of any dietary restrictions you have.

-If you weren't able to attend the November's gathering, please do give your name and date of birth to Sharon Winzeler, OFS, by the end of December, so that it may be updated in the national database of Secular Franciscans.

-It's the end of the year, which means that our Padre Pio Fraternity will be giving the check to regional for Fair Share very soon. If you are able, please do give a check for \$50 (the amount being given to Regional per professed member/candidate in our fraternity) at our next gathering, or mail it to:

Zubair Simonson  
6300 Creedmoor Rd, Ste 170  
Raleigh, NC, 27612

-For those who are interested in transferring money via Zelle, rather than letting those checks run out, the email address attached to the fraternity's bank account is: [secularppt995@gmail.com](mailto:secularppt995@gmail.com)

-Lunch will be served at Oak City Cares at 1:30 p.m. on Christmas Day. If you are interested in serving, please contact Maureen Copan, OFS, or Lee Cunningham, OFS.

-Please contact MaryLou Holloway, OFS, for the December gift collection for Oak City Christmas.



***Because the retreat will be held on December 4, our next fraternity gathering will be held on January 23, 2022. Merry Christmas!***