
Padre Pio Fraternity

Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region

Padre Pio Annual Retreat – December 4, 2021

Our annual one-day retreat was held, in-person that is, at St. Francis Church. Father Peter Tremblay, OFM, a campus minister and associate chaplain at Elon University, and also a very dynamic speaker, served as our retreat leader. Fr. Tremblay spoke to us in two parts, with each talk followed up with a good amount of time for Q&A.

The first of the two talks focused on the times and conversion of St. Paul, doing much to clarify many of the popular tales surrounding him (he didn't really fall off a horse), the beliefs and actions of the Zealots (which do remain very relevant today), and also explained the sheer brutality that was involved in crucifixion (*no one* would have suspected that a righteous man could be subject to it prior to Crucifixion of Our Lord).

The focus of the second talk was the conversion of St. Francis. Fr. Tremblay spoke about the riotous youth of the beloved saint, as well as the alienating conditions which those afflicted with leprosy had been subject to at the time. St. Francis himself had, for a good number of years, been repulsed by those afflicted with leprosy. Ultimately, he learned that in order to embrace all, including those considered outcasts by the world, he had to move past this fear. And he sure did!



The second talk wrapped with a consideration of who could be considered “lepers” in our very day, followed by much Q&A.

We had much time, between the discussion of these two great conversions, for lunch, fellowship, prayer and reflection. We learned much, and got to know one another a little better, making this year's retreat a resounding success!

Partners in Prayer –

The year was 1955 when the bishop of Charleston, SC, Bishop John Russell, decided that having a monastery of Poor Clare nuns, with their life of prayer, would help the work of the Charleston diocese. He invited a group of sisters from Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts to relocate to Greenville, SC to become the first contemplative community in the state. Twelve sisters left their monastery and arrived in Greenville, SC in March. One of those first twelve sisters, Sister Joan, and the only one left from the original group, passed away in January of 2017. I'm sure she had much to share regarding those early days. After over sixty years, the Poor Clares remain a quiet, powerful, prayerful presence in the state.

In April of 2008, the sisters relocated to a newly built monastery in Travelers Rest, SC. Each monastery is totally autonomous, with its own abbess, chapter of professed sisters and novitiate. Each community expresses subtle differences. There are six or seven sisters in this monastery, who are following a vocation within a vocation. They were members of apostolic orders, and after years in those orders, followed the call to a contemplative life. Not all Poor Clare communities will allow for this situation. With 17,000 sisters, 900 monasteries in 70 countries, with 33 of those monasteries in the US, they all follow the same Rule and share the same basic Constitutions. Following Vatican II, the ideals of Poor Clare living were renewed and the Constitutions were updated. The Poor Clare spirit of evangelical poverty, prayer and contemplation remain essentially the same.

A typical day for the sisters in Travelers Rest includes long periods of personal prayer, celebration of the Eucharist, recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours in community, and simple manual work that contributes toward the material support of the sisters. The work of the sisters involves the making of altar breads provided to parishes, hospitals, retreat houses etc., spiritual direction, the making of customized cards for various occasions, receiving prayer requests, and the operating of La Foresta retreat house, which is located on the grounds of the monastery. La Foresta is a three bedroom home available for individuals seeking quiet time in a sacred space.

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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 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

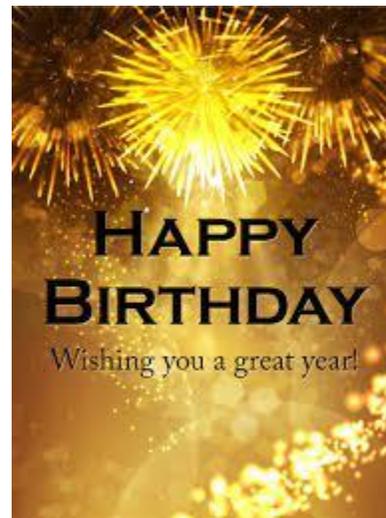
**Holy Father's Intentions for January –
For True Human Fraternity**

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

Words of Faith by Padre Pio –

“Don't allow the sad sight of human injustice to sadden your soul; someday you will see the unfailing justice of God triumph over it!”

<https://www.padrepiodapietrelcina.com/en/spiritual-maxims-of-padre-pio-sayings-and-words-of-faith/>



John Halada, OFS – January 3

Dianne Greet, OFS – January 11

Maureen McFadden, OFS – January 18

Marylou Holloway, OFS – January 19

Mayra Rangel – January 29

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 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 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

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

The Rite of Extraction

We will observe the Rite of Extraction, one of the oldest traditions of the Franciscan community, when we gather on Jan. 23, 2022.

The extraction begins with a song and prayer. In the front of the room there will be a table with three baskets, each containing names of saints, short verses from Scripture, and virtues.

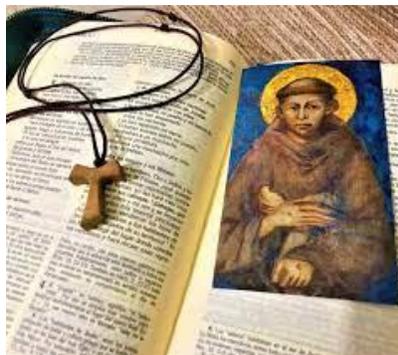
Everyone present will be called forward, one at a time, to draw or “extract” a slip of paper from each basket. As each slip is drawn, it is read aloud to the fraternity and presented to the person whose name was called.

God speaks to us in many of ways, including through the example of his saints, the inspired words of Holy Scripture, and the virtues exemplified by St. Francis, St. Clare, St. Padre Pio and other Franciscan saints.

You may find these holy words and people to be a special source of inspiration for challenges you might face during the coming year. You will certainly learn about some Franciscan saints.

The Rite of Extraction is observed by the First, Second and Third Orders, both religious and secular, usually during the season of the Epiphany.

Jeanne Casciere, OFS, is organizing the ceremony and may call on you to help. -*Sharon Winzeler, OFS*



Partners in Prayer (cont'd)

The sisters in Travelers Rest, much like Francis and Clare, seek to protect the earth. The monastery, which was built in 2008, has a LEEDS designation. Solar panels are used to help generate their electricity. They grow some of their own food and only plant trees and bushes that are native to the area.

Our own Padre Pio fraternity became prayer partners with the sisters in Travelers Rest in 2015. We have both experienced growth in welcoming new members. We now have seventeen Candidates in formation, one in Inquiry, and six in Orientation. The sisters welcomed Sr. Susanna who began her Postulancy in 2018. Two sisters from Tennessee, Claudia and Marguerite joined the group in 2019 following the closing of their former monastery. A sister from British Columbia, Sister Wylie, joined the group on Nov. 1, 2021. Last but not least a woman will enter Postulancy in either Jan. or Feb. of 2022. Our powerful prayers for each other are bearing much fruit through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are most grateful for the gift of these Franciscan women in our lives. – *Maureen Copan, OFS*

Items of Interest

-A big Padre Pio welcome to DJ Walker, OFS, who just transferred to our fraternity from Colorado!

-Our fraternity will be serving at Oak City Cares on January 22. Keep an eye out for sign-up in your email!

-Also keep an eye out for registration for the retreat at St. Francis Springs, which will be on the weekend of May 13-15, and led by our old pal, Fr. Steve Kluge, OFM.



Our fraternity had the privilege of serving at Oak City Cares on Christmas Day

Our next fraternity gathering will be held on January 23, 2022