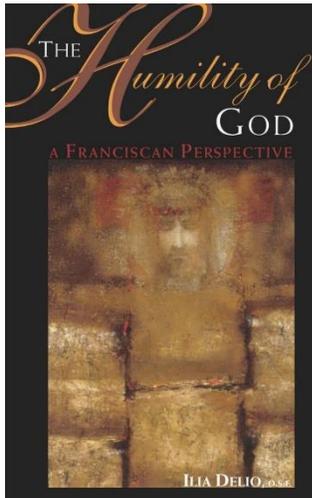


# Padre Pio Fraternity

## Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region

### On-Going Formation



Our fraternity continued the reading of Ilia Delio's, *The Humility of God*, with a beautiful and thorough presentation of Chapter 3, by Gladys Whitehouse, OFS. Gladys began her presentation as Delio began the chapter with a scripture for reflection: Jesus and his disciples left for the villages around Caesarea Philippi (Mark 8:27-29). Gladys explained this chapter is about God humbly bending down, challenging us to answer the question Jesus posed to his disciples, "Who do you say I am?"

We are all taught the story of Adam and Eve eating the forbidden fruit. But we mustn't forget that God didn't abandon us, and sent his Son to save us from sin and death. We're led to believe this was for a repayment of our sins, due to the 11<sup>th</sup> Century writings of Anselm, but prior to this, we believed this was an act of completion rather than a debt due to sin.

Delio asks us to consider instead, the idea of "cosmic Christology," an idea further developed in by the Franciscan philosopher, Duns Scotus. "Incarnation was too great a mystery to simply remedy a defect. Rather, from all eternity Christ was willed by God to come in the highest glory, even if there had been no sin."

For the Franciscan, the Incarnation occurs because of *love*. St. Bonaventure, as well as Duns Scotus, believed the primary reason for Christ's coming was a "completion of the created order-it was about God's involved goodness in creation." If love is the reason for the incarnation, then it is also the reason for God's humility." *We are made whole by the outpouring of God's love and mercy*. Delio described the Trinity as dancing in a circle of love, whereas the Incarnation is a profound bow stretching forth the divine arms in a wide embrace of love. *God bends low to meet us exactly where we are, in our sinfulness, our ugliness and all of our brokenness*.

Bonaventure used the metaphor of a book, and taught that we come to know Jesus as the "Book of Life"-God's revelation. This "Book of Life" is the Word of God, Jesus, and all of creation is a book of God's revelation. St. Francis, who discovered God through creation, certainly realized this. Delio wrote that "It wasn't until I learned to listen, to be quiet, to hear and actually read the Book of Life and the Book of Creation, that I learned what it means to be in God's presence and to really pray." (continued on page 5)

## Holy Father's Intentions for March – A Christian Response to Bioethical Challenges

We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

### Candidates Corner – Mary Santamaria Cockrill



I was born on December 28, 1959, in El Paso, Texas, the eighth of nine children. I've lived in 17 cities over the years, including Madrid for my initial schooling, and an assignment in Lyon with my husband Mike of 39 years. I have three children and four grandchildren.

I've worked in many diverse positions over the years, including Stockbroker at Merrill Lynch, Development Director at St. Thomas More School in Baton Rouge, LA, and Assistant Development Director at Cardinal Gibbons. I was also a high school Tennis Coach at both Cardinal Gibbons and St. Mary's School.

I'm actively involved in the St. Francis of Assisi Church community as a Master of Ceremonies, Eucharistic Minister, Hospitality Minister, Eucharistic Minister to the Homebound, and volunteer at Catholic Parish Outreach. My hobbies include tennis, golf, fitness, and traveling.

I'm on the journey and have been blessed beyond belief by how much more spiritual I've become; I've learned how to talk to God, as opposed to just reciting memorized prayers. I've learned much about the life of St. Francis and St. Clare and their devotion to Christ by living the Gospel life.

## 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

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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

**Candidates Corner –**

**Kiki McAllister**



My name is Eleanor Marie Santamaria McAllister. I was born on August 14, in El Paso, Texas. I have four sisters and four brothers so we were a large, very happy, and loving family.

When I was 18 years old I left the United States to study at the University of Dijon. It was while living in Europe, for five years, that I met Stuart, my husband. We were married 47 years before he went to spend eternity with our Lord. We have three children Stewart, Patrick, and Teresa, and one grandchild, Sophie, who is now 12.

I moved here for four years ago, after my sister Mary invited me to share their empty nest. My brother-in-law Mike is extremely kind and loving. My sister is a blessed wife. I cannot express my love and gratitude for them.

I was invited to experience inquiry, while my sister Mary was still in inquiry at the time. I'm happy to say it's been a wonderful experience and has brought me closer to the church. Fraternity is like family; loving, kind, helpful, and filled with the joy of Our Lord.



**Profession Anniversary:**

A belated congrats to Carolyn Townes, OFS, who celebrated twenty-two years as a Secular Franciscan on February 13!

## March – Month of St. Joseph

1. Bl. Jean Kearney, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1653
2. St. Agnes de Prague, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1282
3. Bl. Innocent of Berzo, Priest, Capuchin, d. 1890
4. Bl. Martyrs of the Franciscan 1st Order of Gondar (Ethiopia), d. 1716
5. St. John-Joseph of the Cross, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1734
6. St. Colette de Corbie, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1447
7. Bl. Christopher of Milan, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1485
8. St. Jean de Dieu, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1550
9. St. Frances of Rome, Virgin, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1440
10. St. Catherine of Bologna, Virgin of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1463
11. Bl. John Baptist Righi of Fabriano, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1539
12. Bl. Louis Orione, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1940
13. Bl. Agnellus of Pisa, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1236
14. St. Catherine of Genoa, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1510
15. Bl. Louis of Casoria, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1885
16. Bl. Torello of Poppi, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1282
17. Bl. Mark of Montegallo, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1496
18. St. Salvator of Horta, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1567
19. Saint Joseph, Holy Day of Obligation for the Church
20. Bl. Hippolyte Galentini, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1620
21. Bl. Amedee IX de Savoie, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1472
22. St. Benvenute of Osimo, Bishop, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1282
23. Bl. Jeremy Lambertenghi, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1513
24. Bl. Catherine de Suede, Virgin, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1381
25. Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Day of Obligation for the Church
26. Blessed Didacus Joseph of Cadiz, Priest, Capuchin, d. 1801
27. Bl. Joseph-Sebastien Pelczar, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1924..
28. St. John of Capistrano, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1456
29. Bl. Jane Mary of Maille, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1414
30. St. Peter Regalado, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1486
31. St. Leonard Murialdo, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1900

*\*If you would like to donate to the Padre Pio Fraternity via Zelle, the email address linked to the bank account is: [secularppt995@gmail.com](mailto:secularppt995@gmail.com)*

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

## Ongoing Formation (cont'd)

The Book of Life brings us to a new awareness of who we are in God's eyes.

Gladys reminded us that walking outside can be an amazing spiritual practice where we encounter God in the physical world.

"We are called to be co-creators of the universe," Bonaventure wrote, "to 'christify' the universe by our actions of love." However, he recognized that we frequently fail. "Only by turning away from self, and towards God, will we live in relation to a humble God and stand upright in order to know truth, love rightly and act justly." We have a free choice to do so, and respond with a "yes". God will never force us to love Him or to stand upright.

"God does not control or manipulate," Delio wrote. "No, God is like a beggar waiting at the soul's door. If we choose to open the door and allow God into our lives, then we will find the freedom of love to be all that we were created to be."

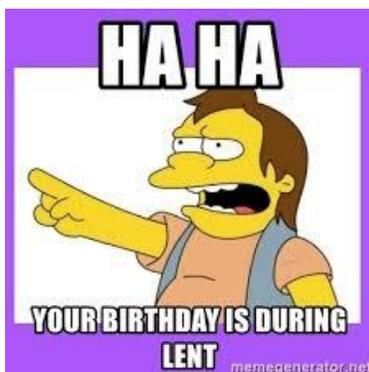
Gladys concluded by sharing a personal observation from a recent retreat at Mepkin Abbey in Moncks Corner, SC. of huge oak trees at the entrance, bent over and covered in Spanish moss, a reminder to her of God's bending low for us.

"But you," Our Lord asked, "who do you say I am?" – *Rachel Bongiorno, OFS*

## Words of Faith by Padre Pio:

"I don't think the interior stomach is upset and ill-disposed to enjoying good things; it only has appetite for the Supreme Good in itself and not only in his gifts."

<https://www.capuchinosnormex.com/en/from-the-letters-of-padre-pio-lent-and-the-dark-night-of-the-soul/>



**Char Witosky, OFS – March 5**

**Suzie Nelson, OFS – March 12**

**Dave Shick, OFS – March 15**

**Sr. Susanna Boylston, OSC – March 21**

**Gladys Whitehouse, OFS – March 24**

**Sr. Annemarie Dudek, OSC – March 24**

## ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO ON A SATURDAY AFTERNOON?

Are you available one afternoon a month? Do you like to meet people? Doesn't matter if you're on top of the world or being crushed under its weight, visiting the Saints of Magnolia Glen will leave you better off than you started.

We need Eucharistic Ministers to visit Magnolia Glen an assisted living facility at [5301 Creedmoor Road, Raleigh, NC 27612](https://www.google.com/maps/place/5301+Creedmoor+Road,+Raleigh,+NC+27612).

We pick up communion at St Francis of Assisi Church around 3:00 pm.

We say the rosary at 3:30 and then we have a short Communion Service from 4:00 - 4:30. Usually there are about 14 people who are so grateful to receive the host each week.

Lee Cunningham, Sharon Winzeler and Ellen Ferrone currently go to Magnolia Glen. We are blessed to have Nkem Okereke come and say the rosary for us some Saturdays. Please feel free to talk to any of us if you are interested. Training and shadowing is provided.

### Items of Interest:

-On March 12-13, and 19-20, our fraternity will be volunteering for gardening work at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Durham, from noon until 3 p.m. Sign-up via email.

-If anyone would be interested in planting flowers at Abbotswood, in Stonehenge (North Raleigh), this spring, keep an eye out for sign-up as well.

-If anyone is interested in participating in the Franciscan Care of Creation/Environment Committee, there will be a sign-up.

-Do you enjoy the Formation Friday information sent out every week? If so, there will be a discussion on every Sunday, during Lent, at 7:30 p.m. Keep an eye for the Zoom link.

-Beginning March 5, Carolyn Townes, OFS, will be leading a six-week Lenten reflection every Saturday at noon. More details to come.

-Our fraternity will be leading the Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 4. Join us before 7:00 p.m. at St. Francis Church if you would like to participate.

-We will once again be volunteering at Oak City Cares on Saturday, March 26.

-The Padre Pio Fraternity was recently mentioned in an article published by the National Catholic Register. We're famous now! <https://www.ncregister.com/blog/blessed-sebastian-de-aparicio-pray-for-us>



*Our next fraternity gathering will be on March 27, 2022*