

Padre Pio Fraternity

Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region

Ongoing Formation

Travis Bongiorno, OFS, led ongoing formation in our latest fraternity gathering with a talk about chapter 5 of Ilia Delio's *The Humility of God*, a reflection of suffering and its meaning.

We are all fragile people who struggle with sin. It is very routine to turn to a world of comfort, rather than to know our God, who so freely loves us. Suffering is unpleasant, and it is far easier to insulate ourselves from it, rather than to accept God's challenge to live a life of true meaning amidst all of the suffering.

St. Bonaventure understood that divine suffering is two-fold. There is suffering "ex-carentia," that is suffering out of deprivation, which entails a lack of personal security or well-being. Examples of this may include the loss of a loved one, or job, home, etc. There is also suffering "ex-abundantia," that is suffering out of fullness, for others in solidarity for others in solidarity because we have more of ourselves to give. The love of God is *never* "ex-carentia" because He lacks nothing in Himself.

By choosing the path of seraphic love, or love that willingly partakes, we draw nearer to God on the path to personal salvation. Franciscan theology teaches that God became

man out of His love, to be fully with us, and not just to redeem sin.

By allowing seraphic love to transform us, we have the opportunity to be made anew in our relationship with Christ, to become more like "Second Christs" by helping to heal broken hearts and being courageous witnesses of compassion and light in the world. We have ongoing formations, such as this one, because we need the occasional reminder of it.



"Above all the grace and the gifts that Christ gives to His beloved is that of overcoming self." – St. Francis of Assisi

**Holy Father's Intentions For May –
Faith-Filled Young People**

We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

**Candidates' Corner -
Richard Hammer**



I was born April 19th. My first 17 years of education were in Catholic schools and the Diocese of Buffalo seminaries. Summer camp counselor with the equestrian and canoeing programs for the Diocese Camp Turner was great fun. I then left the seminary and studied social sciences and counseling at the University of Buffalo, where I worked for the Newman Center Campus Ministry.

My wife Alma and I lived in Buffalo, NY, where both our daughters were born. I was a

rehabilitation counselor with mentally disabled and substance abuse people. We came to Raleigh in 2005, since our 4th grandchild was being born here. Our other daughter and grandsons' family live in New Jersey. I am finding involvement with the Franciscan life, and theology, very joyful and life giving.

**Candidates' Corner –
Alma Hammer**



I was born in Buffalo, NY, on May 31, 1941. I lived there for most of my life, with parents and older brother and younger sister. In 1968 I met and married Richard. We raised our two daughters, and moved to Raleigh in 2005. We have 4 grandsons. Since moving here, we have belonged to St. Francis of Assisi parish. In free time I enjoy crocheting, a bit of knitting, puzzles and plants, my own version is of bonsai

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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Councilors:

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BSSF Region Minister:

DorothyAnn Rowland, OFS

Area 3 Councilors:

Ellen Ferrone, OFS

Martha Roman, OFS

**If you would like to donate to the Padre Pio Fraternity via Zelle, the email address linked to the bank account is:*

secularp995@gmail.com



Profession Anniversaries –

Frank Peluso, OFS, will be celebrating 68(!) years as a Secular Franciscan on May 8. Ginny Conway, OFS, will be 19 years professed on May 9.



Anne Evangelista, OFS – May 7

Travis Bongiorno, OFS – May 17

Therese Flynn, OFS – May 22

Anna Rzewnicki, OFS – May 24

Maureen Copan, OFS – May 28.

Brian Dennison, OFS – May 29

Dave Abell, OFS – May 31

Alma Hammer, OFS – May 31

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:

Email Zubair Simonson, OFS



Hilarion Kistner, OFM

A Review: The Gospels According to Saint Francis by Hilarion Kistner, OFM

Dear friends, do not be deceived by the size of this book. Containing virtually only four chapters, there is a wealth within that cannot be measured. In the introduction of his book, *The Gospels According to Saint Francis*, Fr. Hilarion Kistner, OFM, says: “What I hope we grasp from Francis is a way of looking at Scripture that will carry through the rest of our lives, always looking anew for who God is, what God is all about, and what God wants in our life.”

“The Word of God in Scripture is charged with the grandeur of God. If we have a real spiritual approach to scripture, we will begin to appreciate the grandeur that is there.”

“Francis sums up this well in his simple, little prayer: ‘My God and my all.’”

The Letter to All the Faithful, “helps us see the very roots of Francis’ Gospel living and his relationship to Christ, as well as to the Father and the Holy Spirit.”

The book ends with a beautiful message: “Francis helps us see that the way we save the world is to embrace it as God himself does. And we can do that not because we have the strength or even that we always have the exact know-how. We can do something...by being genuine in our relationship to Him, and allowing His goodness to find its way through us...This is the call we have. ‘My God, and my all.’”

It is written in a way that all readers are able to understand for all of those following Francis, following Christ. I must say there is so much more to be said about this profound book. I highly recommend it and I hope it speaks to you as it did to me.

– Rachel Bongiorno, OFS

Words of Faith by Padre Pio:

“Love the Blessed Virgin and help others love her.”

<https://www.padrepiodapietrelcina.com/en/padre-pios-love-for-the-blessed-virgin-mary/>

Items of Interest:

-ARG will be August 19-21 at Ridgecrest in Black Mountain, NC. Be on the lookout for signup!

-We will continue exploring Ilia Delio’s *The Humility of God* in Ongoing Formation for May. Come prepared by reading chapter 6, “The Tears of God”.

-Our next hot meal service at Oak City Cares will be on May 28.

-Please continue to pray for peace in Ukraine.

-“Living the Beatitudes,” a 10-month online session sponsored by the Secular Franciscan Order has been ongoing since February. You may join these sessions any time.

-Our very own Sharon Winzeler, OFS, had multiple articles published in the latest issue of *Tau-USA*, including one which featured Carolyn Townes, OFS. Be sure to keep an eye out for it!



“Realizing all that, then why is it that so many Catholics have stopped praying the Rosary? Now especially, with the state this world is in...we should and must ask Our Mother, the Virgin Mary for her intercession to her Son, Jesus, and to the Father, to bring back the Peace that once reigned before people began to fool around with instruments of war that can annihilate entire Nations.” – *Fr. Fred Schaeffer, OFS*

***Our next fraternity gathering will be on
May 22, at the Church of St Francis of
Assisi***



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/>