
Padre Pio Fraternity

Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region

ARG



Our Annual Regional Gathering (ARG) was held on August 19-21 at the Ridgemont Conference Center in Black Mountain, NC. Brothers and sisters from throughout the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region gathered for fellowship, prayer, and learning.

This year happened to be an election year. We have a newly elected Regional Council, and our very own fraternity is very well represented! Ellen Ferrone, OFS, has been elected the Regional Minister, meaning that she is now the leader of the Secular Franciscans in a region which spans five states. Unfortunately, this also means that she must depart from her position as Vice Minister of our own local council.

Zubair Simonson, OFS, is the newly elected treasurer of the region, and Lee Cunningham, OFS, is one of our two Area 3 Councilors. And, of course, we still have Sharon Winzeler, OFS, as the appointed editor of *The Communio*, our regional newsletter.

Holy Father's Intentions for September – Abolition of the Death Penalty

We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country.

On-Going Formation

For On-Going Formation, our beloved Gladys Whitehouse, OFS, was asked to speak to us about contemplation and reflection, which is a topic near and dear to her. She emphasized that we are all called to be contemplatives, that it's not just for the Saints and Mystics. Simply put, for her, contemplation is "an experience of being in the presence of God." It is the spiritual practice of sitting in silence and inviting Christ to come into our hearts.

We have all heard of centering prayer and sacred silence. "It is in silence that I am drawn into God's presence," she told us. This helps her remember to see God in all things, in all places throughout the day.

Many spiritual people find it difficult to sit in silence. She recommended starting with 2-3 minutes a day and to gradually increase the time. She also told us that there are many different types of contemplative prayer: centering prayer, praying with scripture, *Lectio Divina*, walking, spiritual journaling - even dancing can be contemplative. "What is essential is finding that sacred space within you, where you can be present to God, basking in His love."

There is no sure formula of how to get there. It is a process, a journey, that we grow into when we open ourselves to this desire to want to experience the presence of God in such an intimate way. The benefits that come from this quest are life-changing. She has a list of book recommendations, if anyone is interested. – *Rachel Bongiorno, OFS*

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

Council Members

Spiritual Assistant:

Fr. Hugh Macsherry, OFM

Minister:

Sharon Winzeler, OFS

Vice Minister:

Dave Shick, OFS

Formation Director:

Charlotte Witosky, OFS

Treasurer:

Zubair Simonson, OFS

Secretary:

Anna Rzewnicki, OFS

Councilors:

Joan Monti, OFS

Jeanne Casciere, OFS

BSSF Region Minister:

Ellen Ferrone, OFS

Area 3 Councilors:

Lee Cunningham, OFS

Betti Pettinati-Longinotti, 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:

Email Zubair Simonson, OFS

Candidate's Corner –

Janette Perez



I was born on November 9 in a rural town in Zacatecas, Mexico. I'm the second youngest in a traditional catholic family of nine. My family immigrated to California in the early '70s. I moved to Winston-Salem North Carolina in the early '90s. I'm a single mother with one daughter. I moved to

Raleigh, NC to assist with childcare and to have a closer relationship with my daughter and her family.

I was a CPA for 25 years. The Lord has been gently guiding me in a different direction since my conversion in May 2017, when I began my journey to live and practice my faith.

My friend Marguerite (Marge) Zombeck, OFS, invited me to a Come and See Gathering of the Padre Pio Fraternity in Raleigh, NC. One day, I offered an hour of Adoration before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament to know my vocation. After the hour, a lady who was also in the Adoration Chapel invited me to a Come and See Gathering that was going to start the following month at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Raleigh. I knew right away the Lord had answered my prayer.

I'm a member of the Sacred Heart Church/Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral in Raleigh NC. I'm an active member of the Legion of Mary at Our Lady of Lourdes in Raleigh. We visit and pray the Rosary with mostly Catholics in nursing homes and assisted living facilities; we participate in community outreach to families. I enjoy walking, hiking, and reading.

Profession Anniversaries –

On September 23, both Marge Zombek, OFS, and Joanne Jacovec, OFS, will be celebrating their profession anniversaries, which happened in the years 1975 and 2000 respectively.

September – Month of the Holy Cross

1. Bl Joachim de Albocacer, Priest, Capuchin religious, martyr 1936
2. Bl. Martyrs de Carmes, d. 1792
3. St. Pius X, Pope, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1914
4. St. Rose of Viterbo, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1252 Plenary Indulgence for cordbearers
5. Bl. Gentil de Matelica, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1340
6. Bl. Liberatus of Lauro, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1258
7. Bl. Eugenie Picco, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1921
8. Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9. Bl. Seraphina Sforza, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1478
10. Bl. Martyrs of Japan, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order and Franciscan Third Order Seculars, d. 1622-1632
11. Bl. Bonaventure of Barcelona, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1684
12. Feast of the Name of Holy Mary
13. Bl. Apollinaire Franco, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1622
14. Exaltation of the Holy Cross
15. Feast of Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows
16. Bl. Roland de Medicis, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1386
17. Feast of the Stigmatization of St. Francis of Assisi
18. St. Joseph de Cupertino, Priest, Conventual, d. 1664
19. Bl. Louis Alleman, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1450
20. St. Francis Mary of Camporosso, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1866
21. Bl. Elizabeth Amodei, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1498
22. St. Ignatius of Santhia, Priest, Capuchin religious, d. 1773
23. St. Pio of Peitrelcina, Priest, Capuchin religious, d. 1968
24. St. Pacific of San Severino, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1721
25. St. Nicholas de Flue, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1487
26. Bl. Lucy of Caltagirone, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1400
27. St. Elzear of Sabran, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1323
28. Bl Bernadin of Feltre, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1494
29. Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel
30. Bl. Charles of Blois, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1364

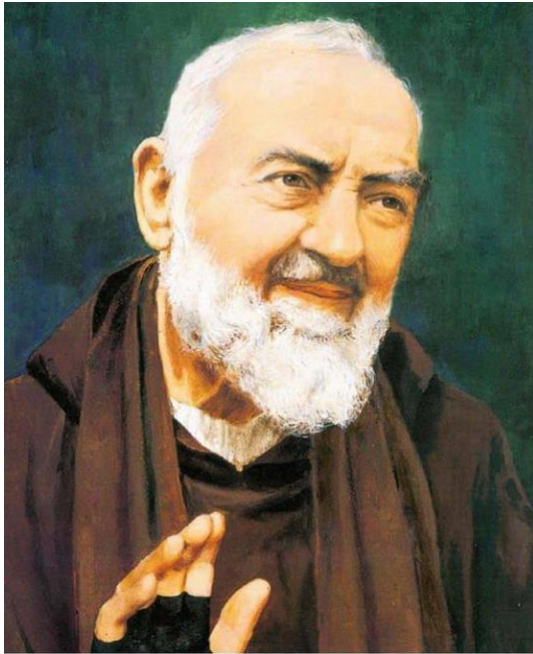
Update:

Fraternity members responded to a plea for diapers for Catholic Parish Outreach by donating more than 2,000 large-size diapers at the August meeting. Joanne and Al Jacovic delivered them. Joanne also made an appeal for reusable grocery bags for CPO. She said that some of the guests at CPO walk to the center and the bags break on their way home. Recyclable bags can be purchased at any grocery store and brought to the next meeting.

Words of Faith by Padre Pio:

“If the Lord calls me today, ask the Brothers to forgive me for all the trouble I have been to them and ask them and all my spiritual children to pray for my soul.”

<https://www.padrepiodapietrelcina.com/en/last-days-padre-pio-before-passed/>



September 23 is the Feast Day of St. Padre Pio, OFM. The son of peasant farmers, Francesco Forgione was born on May 25, 1887, in the town of Pietrelcina, in the Kingdom of Italy. At the age of 17, he travelled to the Friary of St. Francis of Assisi, in Umbria, to begin his study for the priesthood. Despite several health issues, he was ordained in 1910, and was permitted to live in his hometown, while still retaining the Capuchin habit, until 1916. He returned to community life at Our Lady of Grace Friary, in San Giovanni Rotondo, where he remained until his death (with an exception of very brief military service during World War I).

He became known throughout the region for his holiness, and inexplicable phenomenon including stigmata. His devotion to Our Lady, and the Rosary, likewise became well known. Largely thanks to the works of Padre Pio, Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza (Home for the Relief of Suffering), a scientific research hospital, opened in 1956. Pope Pius XII personally granted Padre Pio a dispensation from his vow of poverty in 1957, so that Pio could directly supervise the project.

Padre Pio’s health deteriorated throughout the 1960’s. In the very early hours of September 23, 1968, he made his last confession, while holding a rosary in hand as always. With his last breath he whispered the word: “Maria!”

100,000 people attended Padre Pio’s Requiem Mass on September 26, 1968. He was beatified in 1999, and canonized in 2002, by Pope John Paul II.

Prison Pen Pal Ministry

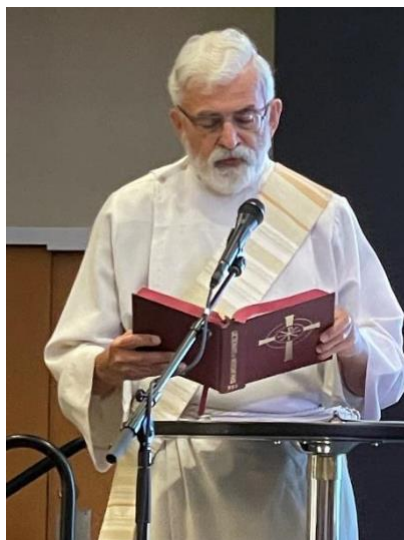
The Prison Pen Pal Ministry of St. Francis of Assisi Church is seeking volunteers to write to prisoners on death row at Central Prison. The number of inmates requesting letters exceeds the current pen pals. These prisoners are isolated and often estranged from their families. The most beautiful part of belonging to this ministry is it allows you to deepen your spirituality and respect for ALL human life. We offer occasional gatherings for prayer, training and support in this rewarding and challenging ministry. Please reach out at sfapenpal@gmail.com and one of the ministry leaders will contact you. The commitment is to write at least one letter a month, for six months. You don’t have to be a member of St. Francis Parish to participate.

Items of Interest:

- Come & See will be during our **next gathering on September 25**. Bring a friend!
- Rachel Bongiorno, OFS, will continue leading our weekly prayers during St. Michael’s Lent every Sunday, at 6 PM. Keep an eye out for the Zoom link!
- Our very own Joanne Jacovec, OFS, will be leading our annual day retreat on December 3. Save the date!
- Dave Shick, OFS, has agreed to be our new Vice Minister in Ellen’s place!
- The Third Order Dominicans will be sponsoring a day retreat at Immaculate Conception on September 10. The retreat, titled “God Has a Story to Tell Us,” will be led by Fr. Jude Siciliano, OP. You can register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/come-god-has-a-story-to-tell-us-tickets-382910013157>



- Marie Roccoforte, OFS – September 2**
- Mercedes Cooley, OFS – September 7**
- Zubair Simonson, OFS – September 18**
- Ellen Ferrone, OFS – September 19**
- Ben Whitehouse, OFS – September 19**
- Jeanne Casciere, OFS – September 20**
- Gail Halada, OFS – September 25**



Deacon Phil Rzewnicki, OFS, served at Mass at the ARG.



Dave Shick, OFS, and Zubair Simonson, OFS, in the banner procession at the ARG.



Gladys Whitehouse, OFS, on her hike of the Camino de Santiago in July.