

# OFS



SEPTEMBER  
2017

PUBLISHED BY OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGIONAL FRATERNITY  
OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER IN THE U.S.A.

CONNECTING THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN  
COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

800<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF ST. BONAVENTURE'S BIRTH 2017 – 2018



FEAST OF THE STIGMATA OF ST. FRANCIS  
SEPTEMBER 17

Come and gather with other Franciscans to observe, participate and celebrate together.

If your fraternity or church has planned a gathering or special event, please send me your information for e-publication by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

**DEADLINE FOR THE  
OCTOBER 2017 ISSUE  
IS SEPTEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>**

Send event listings to:

Anna Geraci, OFS  
Publications Editor

[acpg@aol.com](mailto:acpg@aol.com)

MARK SUBJECT LINE: OFS E-VENTS



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**WHEN THERE ARE NO FRATERNITY EVENT LISTINGS RECEIVED FOR A PARTICULAR MONTH, OFS E-VENTS WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED FOR THAT MONTH.**

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# 2017 REGION CALENDAR

## GENERAL MEETINGS



### CHAPTER OF MINISTERS

#### *ELECTIVE CHAPTER*

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2017**

**8:30 a.m. — 3:30 p.m.**

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH  
50 LODI STREET, HACKENSACK, NJ**



### PRAYER FOR OFS LEADERSHIP

Give us, O God,  
leaders whose hearts  
are large enough to  
match the breadth of  
our own souls and give  
us souls strong enough  
to follow leaders of  
vision and wisdom.

In seeking a leader, let  
us seek more than our  
own enhancement; though  
enhancement we hope for  
more than security for  
our own plans and vision;  
though security we need;  
more than satisfaction for our  
own selfish wants; though  
many things we desire.

Give us the hearts to  
choose and follow the  
leader who will work with  
other leaders to bring  
Your will to the agenda  
and help us to fulfill it.

Give us leaders who  
lead us to virtue without  
seeking to impose  
their own version of  
virtue on others.

Give us leaders who  
will provide for the  
advancement of our Order  
without dictating to others  
to achieve it.

Give us insight enough  
ourselves to choose as  
leaders those who can  
tell strength from power,  
growth from greed,  
leadership from  
dominance and real  
greatness from the  
trappings of grandiosity.

We trust You, Great God,  
to open our hearts to  
learn from those to whom  
You speak in different

tongues and to respect  
the life and words of  
those to whom You  
entrusted the good of  
other parts of this globe.

We beg You, Great God,  
give us the vision as  
Secular Franciscans  
to know where holy  
leadership truly lies,  
to pursue it diligently,  
to ask it to respect the  
integrity of every person  
in the entire Order.

We ask these things,  
Great God, with minds  
open to Your word  
and hearts that trust in  
Your eternal care.

Amen.

**Written by**  
**FR. KEVIN QUEALLY, TOR**

## 2017 REGION CALENDAR

## FRATERNITY SPECIAL EVENTS

# St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity

**LOCATION:** St. Francis Church, 308 Jefferson Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030

**CONTACT:** MARY CAROL CAIEZZA, OFS • E-MAIL: [mcaiezza8@gmail.com](mailto:mcaiezza8@gmail.com)



We invite all the fraternities in the Region to join us.  
We'd be very happy if any of our brothers and sisters would join us.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS WILL BE PRAYED ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY prays the Stations of the Cross every First Friday, at 6:00 p.m. followed by Holy Mass.

# St. Francis Fraternity

**LOCATION:**

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI  
CHURCH HALL  
50 LODI STREET  
HACKENSACK, NJ 07601

**CONTACT:**

DIANE MENDITTO, OFS  
160 OVERLOOK AVENUE  
APT 16-F  
HACKENSACK, NJ 07601  
C: 201-446-0667

**Email:**

[dianefmdfm@aol.com](mailto:dianefmdfm@aol.com)



## 22ND ANNUAL FRATERNITY BRUNCH SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Sponsored and prepared by the Secular Franciscans.  
Join us for delicious food and good company.

**SPEAKER:** Fr. Francesco, OFM

**TOPIC:** Fr. Solanus Casey, OFM, Cap.

**☛ R.S.V.P. required if planning to attend.**

Tickets are \$18.00 per person. Checks can be made to:  
St. Francis Fraternity and mailed to Diane Menditto's address.  
The fraternity will hold the tickets for you at the door.

**2017 REGION CALENDAR**  
**FRATERNITY SPECIAL EVENTS**

# Cortesia Fraternity

## THE TRANSITUS OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

**TUESDAY**

**October 3, 2017**

**6:30 p.m.**



**Mary Mother of God Church**

**19 Cherry Tree Farm Road  
Middletown, NJ**



For additional information  
contact Dawn Rusinko, ofs  
at: [dawnrusinko@yahoo.com](mailto:dawnrusinko@yahoo.com)



# St. Peter Fraternity

## THE TRANSITUS OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Each year on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at sunset, Franciscan men and women all over the world gather to commemorate a touching event in the life of St. Francis.

It is called the **TRANSITUS**, his passage from earthly life to everlasting life.

Francis died on the evening of October 3, just as the brothers were singing the verse from his Canticle of the Sun: "Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death, from whom no living person can escape."

**COME JOIN US IN PRAYER.**

**The Secular Franciscan Order | St. Peter Fraternity**  
For further information call Mary-Frances Reavey, ofs  
732-545-6425 • [mfreavey@gmail.com](mailto:mfreavey@gmail.com)



**Tuesday, October 3, 2017**

**7:00 p.m.**

**St Matthias Church**

**170 JFK Blvd.**

**Somerset, New Jersey**

**Deacon Sal Bonfiglio, ofs  
Presider**

**2017 REGION CALENDAR**  
**FRATERNITY SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Franciscan Day of Reflection**

# Amazing Grace

**Reflecting on the Franciscan Charism**



During this afternoon gathering, you will be invited to reflect on the four essential values of Franciscan spirituality as a viable and authentic response to the Gospel invitation to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ:

- CONVERSION • CONTEMPLATION
- POVERTY • HUMILITY

You will discover how these gifts of “Amazing Grace” evidenced themselves in the life of St. Francis of Assisi and explore their practical implications in striving to live authentically the call and challenge of discipleship today.

SPONSORED BY THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER | CORTESIA FRATERNITY  
 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT DAWN RUSINKO, OFS AT: [DAWNRUSINKO@YAHOO.COM](mailto:DAWNRUSINKO@YAHOO.COM)

**DATE:** SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017

**TIME:** 3:00 p.m. —  
 Ending with 5:00 p.m. Mass

**PLACE:** THE BULLMAN CENTER  
 MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH  
 19 Cherry Tree Farm Road  
 Middletown, NJ 07748

**Light refreshments will be offered.**



**PRESENTED BY: SR. CLARE A. D'AURIA, OSF**, a Sister of St. Francis of Philadelphia, Aston, PA. where she currently ministers as a staff member at the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Aston, Pennsylvania. For half of her fifty years in ministry, Sr. Clare has traveled throughout the United States and abroad, offering spiritual direction, directed and conference retreats, especially focused on topics in Franciscan spirituality. She also serve on the staff of Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs for eight years, leading pilgrims through the holy sites in both Assisi and Rome. Her other ministerial experience has included congregational and provincial leadership, secondary and collegiate education and a variety of additional administrative roles both within and outside of her congregation.

## 2017 REGION CALENDAR


### SPECIAL EVENTS

# Canticle Campus | Fall 2017

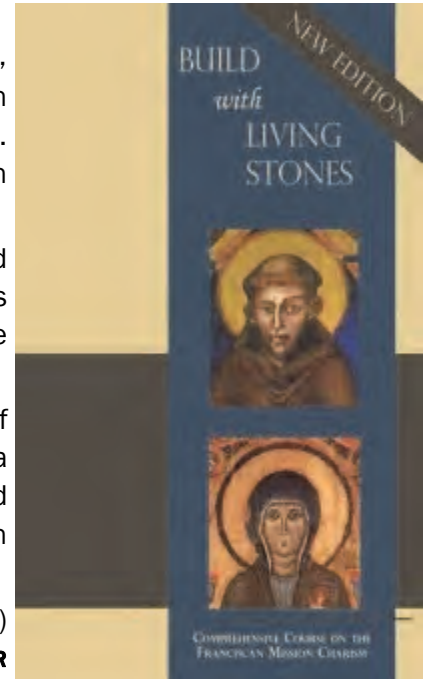
**CANTICLE CAMPUS** is a joint effort within the Franciscan family, both Catholic and Protestant, to establish a central location of education and dialog around the role of prophetic voice in Franciscan Faith Life. The collaboration was initiated around the ecumenical efforts of the Franciscan Action Network, (FAN), the current administrator of the program.

Written resources are pre-selected and participants are encouraged to read and provide ongoing discussion of resources through this online tool. The classes are offered in the spirit of Francis and Clare so there is no cost except to purchase the book for the class.


The intention of Canticle Campus is to build a non-profit collaboration of Franciscan Family members and Franciscan-hearted people. Our goal is to establish a free online college where knowledge, understanding and dialog in civility, tolerance and religious freedom (in the spirit of Francis and Clare of Assisi) are primary. This season we will be reading *Build With Living Stones* by Daria Mitchell.

Classes began **Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup>** (will have a week off for Thanksgiving) and end on December 9<sup>th</sup>. **FRANCESCA WIGLE, TSSF, and FAN ACTION COMMISSIONER** will be the facilitator. If you would like to learn more or sign up for the class, e-mail her at: [fwigle@gmail.com](mailto:fwigle@gmail.com) • <https://franciscanaction.org/canticle-campus-fall-2017> 

How to obtain the book? The new edition of Build With Living Stones, edited by Sr. Daria Mitchell, is available online at [www.franciscanpublications.com](http://www.franciscanpublications.com) Be sure to order the new edition. The Kindle version is available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) 





**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 2, OCTOBER 7, 2017 (1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY OF THE MONTH)  
**PLACE:** OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL CHURCH  
 230 East 90<sup>th</sup> Street (between 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues), New York, NY 10128  
**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
**CONTACT:** [catholicunderground@gmail.com](mailto:catholicunderground@gmail.com)   
**COST:** Free admission all are welcome.  
**PARKING:** Discounted Parking at GGMC Parking garage located at **245 East 90<sup>th</sup> Street**, (directly across the street from the church, for \$10 with Catholic Underground parking validation sticker. (Valid from 5:00 p.m. — 1:00 a.m.) Additional charge for SUVs.



**C**atholic Underground is an apostolate of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. It is a direct response to a call that began with Pope John Paul II. He said that because the Gospel lives in conversation with culture, we must be fearless in crossing the cultural threshold of the communication and information revolution now taking place. **THE FIRST PART OF THE EVENING** is Eucharistic Adoration and begins with Vespers (Evening Prayer). This is the universal prayer of the Church — prayed by the Catholics throughout the world in every time zone and in every language.

**AFTER VESPERS**, there is a time of simple praise. This provides a window for each person to personally encounter Jesus Christ. The beauty of the darkened Church illumined by candles helps us enter the mystery of our Lord's presence in the Eucharist. Holy Hour ends with solemn Benediction.

**THE SECOND PART OF THE EVENING** showcases Catholic artists. Here we experience the “new evangelization”. This includes music, poetry, visual art, dancers, film, drama, etc. **WE END OUR EVENING** as we began, with the prayer of the Church. **COMPLINE** (Night Prayer) is simple and beautiful. It concludes with a hymn to Our Lady.

“ One of the most successful gatherings we have in the Archdiocese happens on Saturday evenings in a midtown parish and attracts a thousand or more young adults who come for prayer before the Eucharist. Confession, song and especially good company with those who share deep Catholic values in a culture and city that can indeed be at times antagonistic. The name of their gathering is revealing — Catholic Underground! That’s the new minority who give their bishop so much hope! May their tribe increase! ”

TIMOTHY CARDINAL DOLAN  
 (Catholic New York)



# SAINT PADRE PIO COMES TO THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

## SAINT PATRICK CATHEDRAL

5th Ave, New York, NY 10022

For information about the public veneration, please call (646) 537-7830 ext. 828, or send an email to [SylviaRivas@saintpatrickscathedral.org](mailto:SylviaRivas@saintpatrickscathedral.org).

For additional information about the tour, please call (203) 416-1471, or send an email to [info@saintpiofoundation.org](mailto:info@saintpiofoundation.org).



Come and venerate the official relics of Saint Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, in this first US tour to celebrate the 130th anniversary of Saint Padre Pio's birth, and the 15th anniversary of his canonization.

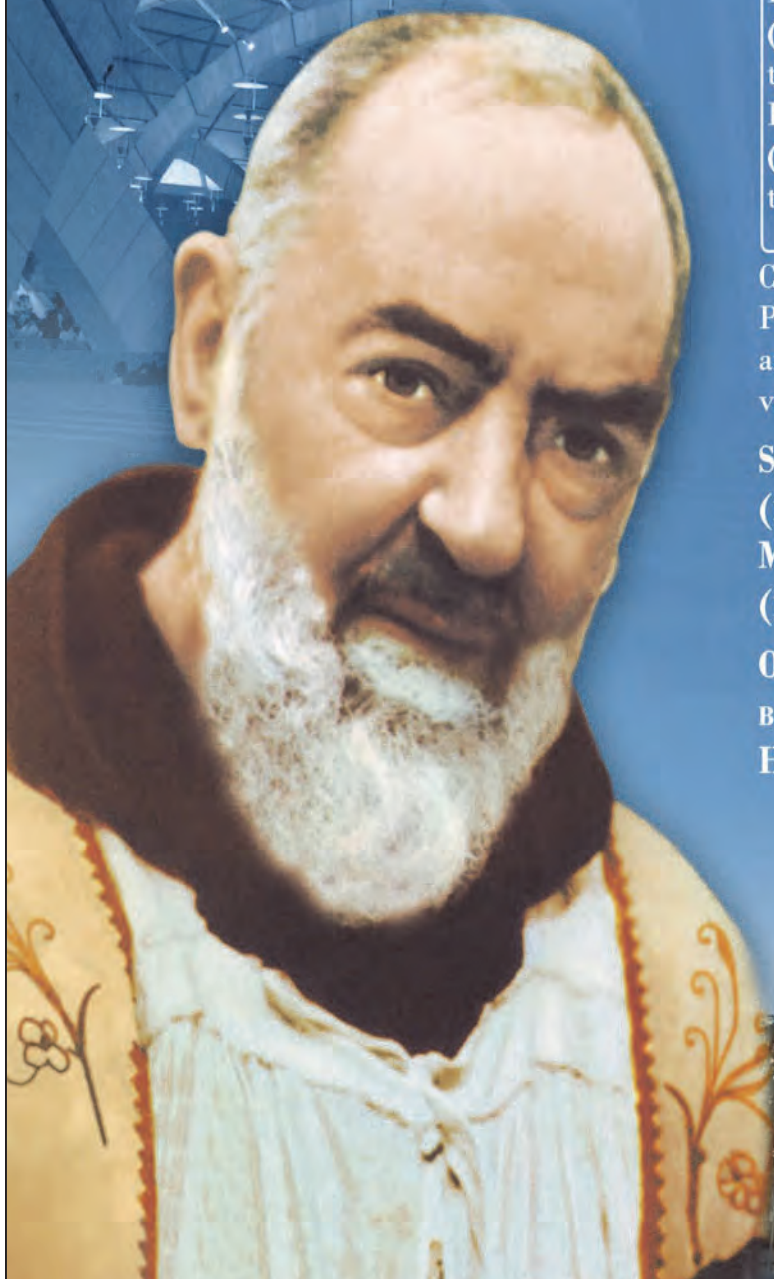
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2017**

**(FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M.)**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2017**

**(FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M.)**

**ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2017, AT 10:15 A.M., WILL BE CELEBRATED A MASS IN HONOR OF SAINT PADRE PIO BY H.E. TIMOTHY DOLAN, ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK.**





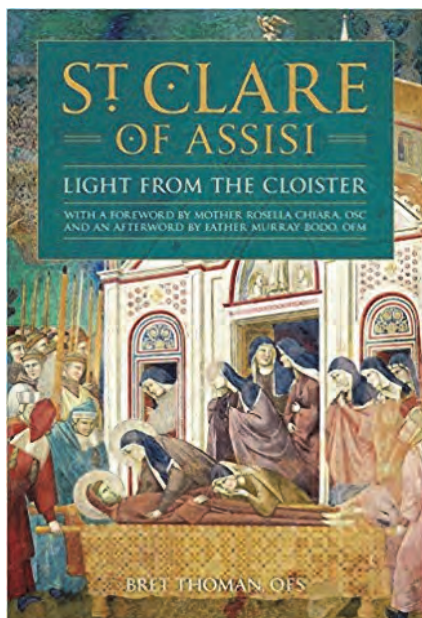


# CIOFS MONTHLY OFS—YOUFRA PRAYER INTENTIONS

TO EMPHASIZE COMMUNION WITH THE POPE, WE OFFER THE HOLY FATHER'S MONTHLY INTENTION AND AN OFS INTENTION, BASED ON THE LIFE AND MAJOR EVENTS OF THE ORDER.  
THE LOCAL FRATERNITIES WILL PRAY FOR BOTH.

<b>2017</b>	
<b>April</b>	<p><b>Universal:</b> For young people, that they may know how to respond generously to their vocation, seriously considering the possibility of consecrating themselves to God in the priesthood or in consecrated life.</p> <p><b>OFS:</b> For the National Fraternity of Venezuela, the Philippines and for the fifth Asia-Oceania Congress.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>
<b>May</b>	<p><b>For evangelization:</b> For Christians in Africa that they may give a prophetic witness of reconciliation, justice and peace in imitation of the merciful Jesus.</p> <p><b>OFS:</b> For the National Fraternities of Romania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>
<b>June</b>	<p><b>Universal:</b> For the leaders of nations to commit themselves to put an end to the arms trade, which leads to so many innocent victims.</p> <p><b>OFS:</b> For the National Fraternities of Italy, Malaysia-Singapore and the Netherlands, and for the Project Africa Formation Workshop in Abidjan-Ivory Coast.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>
<b>July</b>	<p><b>For evangelization:</b> For our brothers and sisters who have strayed from the faith, that through our prayers and witness of the Gospel, they can rediscover the closeness of the merciful Lord, and the beauty of Christian life.</p> <p><b>OFS:</b> For the National Fraternities of Capo Verde, Hong Kong, China, Indonesia, Bolivia and Pakistan.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>
<b>August</b>	<p><b>Universal:</b> For the artists of our time, may they, through the works of their genius, help everyone discover the beauty of creation.</p> <p><b>OFS:</b> For the Project Africa Formation Workshop in Yaoundé-Cameroon, the National Fraternities of Egypt, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, Denmark, Chile and Ireland.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>
<b>September</b>	<p><b>For evangelization:</b> For our parishes, let them be animated by a missionary spirit, and become places where faith is shared and where they are witnesses of charity.</p> <p><b>OFS:</b> For the National Fraternities of Peru, Lithuania and Spain.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>
<b>October</b>	<p><b>Universal:</b> For those in the labor market, may they all be assured of respect and protection of their rights and may the unemployed be given the opportunity to contribute to the building of the common good.</p> <p><b>OFS:</b> For the National Fraternities of Belarus and Thailand.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>
<b>November</b>	<p><b>For evangelization:</b> For Christians in Asia, as they bear witness to the Gospel in word and deed, let it be conducive to dialogue, peace and mutual understanding, especially with those who belong to other religions.</p> <p><b>OFS:</b> For the CIOFS Presidency, the General Intermediate Chapter, our departed brothers and sisters, and the Malawi National Fraternity.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>
<b>December</b>	<p><b>Universal:</b> For the elderly, may they be sustained by families and Christian communities, and may they work together in wisdom and experience to transmit the faith and to educate the new generations.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>

## NEW PUBLICATION



Author Bret Thoman, OFS, draws upon his profound knowledge of original sources, his familiarity with the places where she lived and breathed and changed the world, and his own Franciscan spirituality, to bring to life, like never before, the story of St. Clare of Assisi, who continually—in imitation of Our Lord and Francis—sought to make herself lesser or minor. In the process, in another of God’s “divine paradoxes,” she became a giant, not only of her Age, but of all time.

Tenaciously attached to poverty, she became rich as only the saints are; docile and obedient, she stood up to her aristocratic family and later, princes of the Church in following the path upon which God had set her; frail and vulnerable, she caused Saracen invaders to turn tail and run . . . merely by prostrating herself before the Blessed Sacrament; and though not learned in either theology or canon law, she became the first woman to write a Rule for a new religious community.

St. Clare truly was a “light from the cloister” not only for her era but for all time. Meet her as never before in these pages and, in what is sure to be a profoundly spiritual reading experience, let her light shine upon you.

Available at:

[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



TAN BOOKS <https://www.tanbooks.com/index.php/st-clare-of-assisi-light-from-the-cloister.html>



**Hardcover:** 264 page, \$24.95 plus shipping

**Publisher:** TAN Books (July 25, 2017)

**ISBN-10:** 150510971X • **ISBN-13:** 978-1505109719

**Product Dimensions:** 5.8 x 0.8 x 8.8 inches

## NEW PUBLICATION

## For All The Saints: St. Francis's Five Point Plan for Salvation

by Deacon Tom Bello, OFS

320 page perfect bound first edition written by Deacon Tom Bello, OFS.

Spiritual, Fraternal, and Personal Reflections for Information, Formation, and Transformation in the Secular Franciscan Order.

SKU/UPC: 978-1-61956-561-6

\$10.00 plus Shipping: \$4.99 (Fixed Shipping Cost)

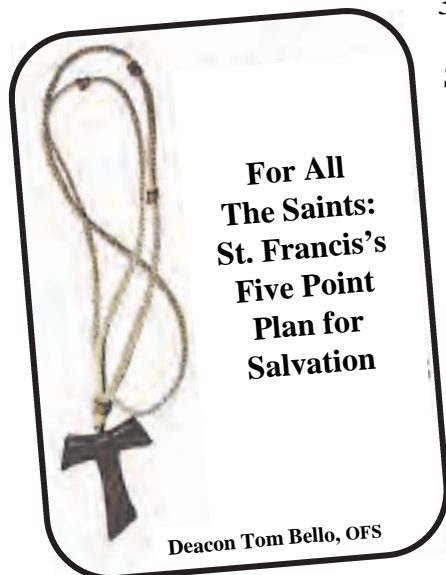
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**TAU PUBLISHING**

315 East Watkins Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Phone: 602-300-1074

Website: <http://vesuviuspressincorporated.com/tau-publishing>



## NAFRA — JPIC

NATIONAL JPIC ANIMATOR - CAROLYN TOWNES

### Greetings of peace, my dear Franciscan Family!

**I**n our world today, the most basic, powerful, and counter-cultural thing we can do for God's creation is to pray.

We live in cultures that value busyness and accomplishments. Following our Creator's call to 'Be still and know that I am God' (*Psalm 46:10*) humbles us. Prayer is the foundation of all behavior and policy change. Only by the grace and inspiration of God can hearts and minds transform.

In this violent and uncertain climate, we need prayer more than ever. Prayer must always be our first action and not our last resort. Today, we remember Saint Augustine, whose mother Saint Monica was diligent in her prayers for her family. May we follow Monica's example to pray unceasingly and fervently. And to do it with great joy!

**This Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>** we celebrate the **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**, a day proclaimed by the Orthodox Church in 1989 and established in the Catholic Church by Pope Francis in 2015. It also begins the **Season of Care for Creation** which runs into the solemnity of our Seraphic Father, Francis of Assisi.

Our Holy Father encourages us to join him and millions of other Christians around the world to pray and "reaffirm our personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which He has entrusted to our care, and to implore His help for the protection of Creation as well as His pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live." We also keep in our thoughts and prayers those affected by devastating climates.

On the following pages, you will see the **Season of Caring for Creation Prayers** which I wrote based on Saint Francis' *Canticle of Creation* and Pope Francis' prayer from *Laudato Si*. I invite you to share with your families, fraternities and communities.

I pray that it blesses you and strengthens you.

And please share with me your experiences of the Season and praying the prayers.

Wishing you blessings of peace and all good,

**Carolyn D. Townes, OFS**  
National Animator  
Justice, Peace and  
Integrity of Creation

## **SEASON OF CARING FOR CREATION**

### ***1 September – 4 October***

**STARTS: SEPTEMBER 1 –  
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION**

Pope Francis recently proclaimed it as a day of prayer for creation, as the Orthodox Church has done since 1989, to “draw from our rich spiritual heritage the reasons which feed our passion for the care of creation.”

**ENDS: OCTOBER 4 –  
SOLEMNITY OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

As our Seraphic Founder, Saint Francis gives us a model to imitate, celebrate and reflect on as the Patron of Ecology and author of the Canticle of the Creatures.



Pope Francis uses the phrase ‘integral ecology’ and warns against a narrow scientific focus on the modern environmental crisis. It might best be seen as a type of package to guide our daily living.

Focused first on Christian worship of the Creator of all, Integral Ecology has implications for choices in the human journey, our life style and values - to confront the impact of ‘dictatorial economics’ on the world’s poor and the earth itself.

The Pope invites us to revisit the integral connection between Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation.

# SEASON OF CARING FOR CREATION

## WEEK ONE:

September 1 – 6



***Most High, all powerful, good Lord,  
Yours are the praises, the glory, the honor and  
all blessing. To You alone, Most High, do they belong,  
and no man is worthy to mention Your name.  
Be praised, my Lord, through all Your creatures,  
especially through my lord Brother Sun,  
who brings the day; and You give light through him.  
And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendor!  
Of You, Most High, he bears the likeness.***

**CALL TO PRAYER:** All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Encourage us in our struggle for justice, love and peace. We thank you for being with us each day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**READING:** The human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together; we cannot adequately combat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to human and social degradation. In fact, the deterioration of the environment and of society affects the most vulnerable people on the planet: "Both everyday experience and scientific research show that the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest". (*Laudato Si #48*)

**MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATION** (*Take some time in silence*)

"Our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us." (*Pope Francis*)

**REFLECTION QUESTION:** What is the violence I do towards the environment – in what I do and in what I fail to do? "Cultivating and caring for creation means nurturing the world with responsibility and transforming it into a garden, a habitable place for everyone." (*Pope Francis, World Environmental Day Homily, 2013*)

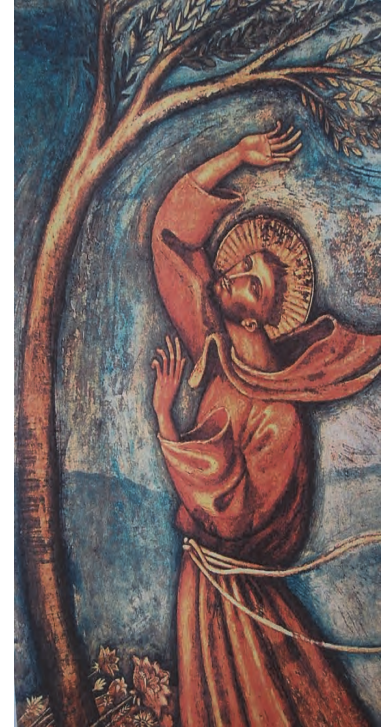
**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:** All-powerful God, fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# SEASON OF CARING FOR CREATION

## WEEK TWO:

September 7 – 13

*Praised be You, my Lord, through  
Sister Moon and the stars,  
in heaven you formed them clear  
and precious and beautiful.  
Praised be You, my Lord, through  
Brother Wind and through the air,  
cloudy and serene, and every kind  
of weather through which You give  
sustenance to Your creatures.*



**CALL TO PRAYER:** All-powerful God, you are present

in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Encourage us in our struggle for justice, love and peace. We thank you for being with us each day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**READING:** My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever. *(Luke 1: 46-55)*

**MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATION** *(Take some time in silence)*

"The earth is the Lord's and all it holds, the world and those who dwell in it. For he founded it on the seas, established it over the rivers." *(Psalm 24:1-2)*

**REFLECTION QUESTION:** How can I show mercy to my brothers and sisters and all of creation?

**ACTION FOR THE WEEK:** Consider Meatless Mondays – think about the benefits of abstaining another day from meat for yourself and for the environment.

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:** All-powerful God, bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# SEASON OF CARING FOR CREATION

## WEEK THREE:

September 14 – 20

*Praised be You, my Lord, through  
Sister Water, which is very useful  
and humble and precious and chaste.  
Praised be You, my Lord, through  
Brother Fire, through whom you  
light the night and he is beautiful  
and playful and robust and strong.*

**CALL TO PRAYER:** All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Encourage us in our struggle for justice, love and peace. We thank you for being with us each day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**READING:** Prior to the cauterizing of the veins between Francis' eyes and ears, He spoke thus to the fire: 'My brother fire, that surpasses all other things in beauty, the Most High created you strong, beautiful, and useful. Be kind to me in this hour, be courteous. For I have loved you in the past in the Lord. I beseech the great Lord who made you that he temper your heat now so that I may bear it when you burn me gently.' When his prayer was ended, he made the sign of the cross over the fire and then remained fearless. *(Adapted from Celano, Second Life of St. Francis)*

**MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATION** *(Take some time in silence)*

"As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O God." *(Psalm 42:2)*

**REFLECTION QUESTION:** What would I be willing to bless that I have previously feared or scorned? Think about the precious wonder of water – from your Baptism to the shower you took this morning. Thank God for this gift and ask the Holy Spirit to help you to be a good steward of the gifts that reveal God's love for us.

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:** All-powerful God, Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## SEASON OF CARING FOR CREATION

### WEEK FOUR:

**September 21 – 27**



***Praised be You, my Lord, through  
Sister Mother Earth,  
who sustains us and governs us and who produces  
Varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.  
Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give  
Pardon for Your love, and bear infirmity and tribulation.  
Blessed are those who endure in peace  
for by You, Most High, they shall be crowned.***

**CALL TO PRAYER:** All-powerful God, you are present

in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Encourage us in our struggle for justice, love and peace. We thank you for being with us each day.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**READING:** One day Francis was filled with joy because he was beginning to enjoy God in all creatures. He went through the streets singing and inviting everyone to sing along with him. Then he came upon an almond tree, and he said, 'Brother Almond, speak to me of God,' And the almond tree blossomed.  
(From a legend of St. Francis)

**MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATION** (Take some time in silence)

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth & Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God." (Matthew 5: 5, 9)

**REFLECTION QUESTION:** How can I demonstrate being meek towards God's created Earth?

**ACTION FOR THE WEEK:** Embrace the silence this week. Turn off everything unnecessary. Reflect on God's glory in Creation: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork."

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:** All-powerful God, Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## SEASON OF CARING FOR CREATION

### WEEK FIVE:

September 28 – October 4



*Praised be You, my Lord, through  
our Sister Bodily Death,  
from whom no living man can escape.  
Woe to those who die in mortal sin.  
Blessed are those whom death will find  
in Your most holy will, for the second  
death shall do them no harm. Praise  
and bless my Lord, and give Him thanks  
and serve Him with great humility.*

**CALL TO PRAYER:** All powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Encourage us in our struggle for justice, love and peace. We thank you for being with us each day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**READING:** Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon. Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others. Since they are immersed in the resurrection of Christ, which gives true meaning to Sister Death, let them serenely tend toward the ultimate encounter with the Father. (*OFS Rule, Art. 19*)

#### **MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATION** (*Take some time in silence*)

"This is what I want from you: to do justice, to love compassionately, and to walk humbly with your God."  
(*Micah 6:8*)

**REFLECTION QUESTION:** How do I trust in the presence of the "divine seed" in all of God's creation?

**ACTION FOR THE WEEK:** Participate in a Transitus Service. If you cannot get to one, then pray Evening Prayer I and/or the Office of Readings from the red Proper Offices of Franciscan Saints and Blessed in the Liturgy of the Hours.

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:** All-powerful, most holy, most high, supreme God: all good, supreme good, totally good, You Who alone are good, may we give You all praise, all glory, all thanks, all honor, all blessing, and all good. So be it! So be it! Amen.