

# St. Padre Pio Press

August, 2024

## August Activities Replace Meeting



### District Picnic

Our district picnic is scheduled for 4:00 PM on August 11<sup>th</sup> at Blaisell Park in Claremont. The address is 4405 College Avenue, Claremont, CA. Please bring desserts to share. You are also requested to bring a serving utensil for each dish that you bring. You are encouraged to bring your family. This event is hosted by Holy Spirit Fraternity in Claremont. It will be a fun day to spend with your brothers and sisters. For those who wish to carpool, plan to meet at Jane's home.



### Regional Gathering

Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, our region will gather at St. Hedwig's Parish located at 11482 Los Alamitos Blvd., in Los Alamitos, CA 90720 from 10 AM until 2 PM to celebrate the Eighth Centenary of the Stigmata of St. Francis. Fr. Joseph Chinnici will be the presenter for English speakers. Fr. Yongho Francis Lee, OFM will be the presenter for those who speak Korean. Each fraternity is asked to bring a light breakfast item such as fruit, yogurt, pastries, etc. for 10-12 people as well as food for a potluck lunch. We are also requested to bring our own plates, utensils, and cups or mugs. Plan to come and meet our brothers and sisters from all over the St. Francis region. We will carpool from Jane's home. Those from the Hemet area or from the Palm Desert area may wish to create their own carpools.

## Letter to My Brothers and Sisters



Hello my brothers and Sisters,

I hope everyone is enjoying this summertime. School starts again soon. A time of learning for all of us. Remember how we wanted summer to last much longer than it did? Going back to schools was also exciting—new clothes and shoes. (In Catholic schools it was mostly about the shoes and not the uniforms.) Let's see what we can learn from the words of St. Anthony of Padua.

**God is the source and goal of all good things!**

Reflection: It is futile to claim credit for anything that we have or have done. What we have is a gift from God, and what we have done could not have been done without His grace.

This is why St. Paul writes in First Corinthians that if we are to boast, we should boast in the Lord. Without Him, we could be nothing and could do nothing.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord for what I am and for what You have given me.

So, let us ponder the profound words of St. Anthony. He was a brilliant and loving man. Remember, Jesus trusted St. Anthony to carry Him in his arms. St. Anthony had the gift of being a great preacher and educator. When he decided to leave the Augustinians to become a Franciscan, Francis allowed him to keep all his books. Why? Because St. Francis realized his brilliance and love of God would benefit those he taught and those to whom he preached. St. Francis, St. Paul, and St. Anthony, pray for our Fraternity!

God Bless!

*Denise*



### Ongoing Formation

Jim Harr began ongoing formation by speaking on Franciscan Prayer, Chapter 3. We may all have a different image of God. Francis began his journey with a crucifix. Jesus spoke to him from the crucifix. God comes to us and opens himself with love and mercy. God came for everyone. He is everyone's personal savior. How do we internalize this information? Francis and Clare were not trying to escape the world. We are trying to bring this image into the world; to bring God into the world. When we look at ourselves, what do we see? We see the sins we have committed. Sins are how we crucify Christ. However, we also see love and mercy which is how we bring Christ into the world.

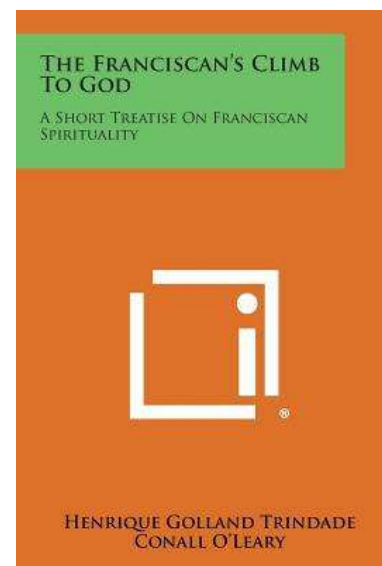
Julie Bash led the ongoing formation. We looked at the book Franciscan Climb to God, Chapter 8. We need to maintain a spiritual environment around us. Work, when done joyfully, enables us to live in a truly spiritual atmosphere. It brings order and discipline into our actions. In Jesus, Mary, and Joseph we see work performed to perfection.

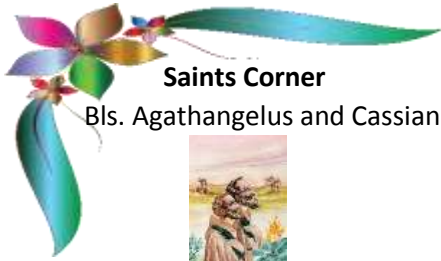
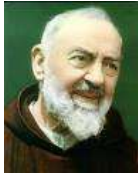
Francis' spiritual children were expected to do manual labor. To this day, Franciscans are expected to work. Saints are perpetually occupied. Never be wholly idle. Pray, read spiritual works, and work for others. Let us love work and be always occupied. Examine your conscious in relation to the work you do. Work is more than what we think of as a job to provide our daily needs. Work can and should be the work of the Lord with no material gain. The jobs we hold should reflect our dedication to the Lord. For example, we would not expect to find a Franciscan or any Christian performing a job that did not reflect our Christian values. We would not do anything that went against the Lord's teaching or that

hurt others. No job is too menial or beneath us as long as it is done to give glory to the Lord.

Spiritual reading places us in contact with the Holy Spirit and the saints. This type of reading contains teaching that came down from Heaven. The primary spiritual reading is found in the Gospel. We look to the saints as examples. We are inspired to think, "If they can do this, why can't I?" This type of reading contains eternal truth, eternal beauty, and eternal holiness. We strive to avoid reading or viewing things that lead us away from the Lord and threaten our spiritual well-being. Read spiritual books slowly; page by page and chapter by chapter. Take the time to meditate on what you have read. Reread the works several times. For your daily spiritual reading, you will need an atmosphere of peace and serenity. Julie closed by reminding us that we are not just reading words, but are learning who we are in Christ.

In September, we will cover Chapter 9.





**Saints Corner**

Bls. Agathangelus and Cassian



Agathangelus was born in Vendome in 1589. Cassian was born in Nantes in 1607. They both joined the Capuchins and were sent to the African missions after they had finished their studies. They met in Cairo where they learned of Christians being persecuted in Abyssinia. Both wished to labor and suffer for Christ and decided to go to Abyssinia.

They had just begun their work when they were captured and put into chains. For one month, they stayed in prison, and then for another twenty-five days were taken to Gondar. During this time, they were treated in an unspeakable manner and exposed to the heat of the July sun. The Abyssinian king planned to force Blessed Agathangelus and Cassian to renounce their faith.

Father Cassian replied with firm determination, "We wish to live and die as children of the Catholic, apostolic, and Roman Church, outside of which there is no salvation. We do not wish to purchase our lives with the price of infamous apostasy. We do not wish to enjoy honors and riches, which you offer us at the price of our immortal souls"

"The Catholic Church, as the body of Christ, is the only saving Church. It is the mystical body of Christ, the incarnate Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Is it possible to think of more than one body belonging to this Head? That is plainly impossible. Besides, it is the task of the Church to lead souls to God. There is only one such goal, and there cannot be various ways which are opposed to one another, as in the non-Catholic churches. The

Catholic Church, therefore, says with Christ: 'I am the way.' Be faithful to this way."

Both confessors were then sentenced to be hanged. When the executioners were looking about for ropes, the two confessors, who were inflamed with a desire to be martyrs, called out, "If you need ropes, use our cords." Their cords were removed and were used to hang the holy missionaries who had won the crown of martyrdom on August 7, 1638. Pope Pius X beatified them.

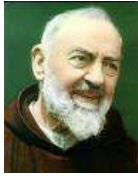
From the Franciscan Book of Saints by Fr. Marion Habig, OFM

**August Calendar of Saints**

- 2 Our Lady of the Angels of Portiuncula
- 4 St. John the Baptist Mary Vianney
- 7 Bls. Agathangelus and Cassian
- 8 Holy Father Dominic
- 11 St. Clare of Assisi
- 14 St. Maximillian Kolbe
- 17 St. Roch
- 19 St. Louis
- 21 St. Pius X
- 25 St. Louis IX, king, member, and patron of III Order

**Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

August 2<sup>nd</sup> is very special to all Franciscans. It is the Feast of Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula. Portiuncula means "Little Portion." It was one of the three chapels that St. Francis repaired. The land now belongs to the Benedictines, having been given to St. Benedict in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. In 1211, it became to motherhouse of the Franciscans. The chapel is now enclosed in a basilica in Assisi. St. Francis persuaded Pope Honorius to grant a plenary indulgence to all who visited the Portiuncula on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and confessed their sins. This indulgence has been extended to all churches, especially those held by Franciscans.



**Please Pray**



- Elena Ramirez-Healing
- Julie Bash-Healing
- Samuel-kidney failure
- Barbara Turkowski-Hospice
- Tom Turkowski-Health
- Barbara, Jr.-Comfort and strength
- Jeffery and Joanne Kmiecik-Hospice
- Janis Grosz-Health
- Kathryn Grosz-Health
- Charlie Hale-Healing
- Joe Leslie-Health
- Germaine Thompson-Health
- Mary Pluegar-Healing
- Patty Jimenez-Knee surgery
- Wayne Del Rio-Repose of Soul
- Katy Del Rio-Comfort and strength
- Adriana Lopez-Health
- Victims of war and an end to war
- An end to abortion
- An end to random acts of violence
- Thanks for our blessings
- Thanks for Jesus, for His sacrifices, and for our salvation

**August Birthdays**



8/21

Christine Nordlander

**August Anniversaries of Profession**



8/18/12

Julie Bash

**Wisdom of the Aging**



Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing.

*Mother Teresa*

**Serra Retreat**



Our Lady