

St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity



Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis
~ Secular Franciscan Order ~
St. Francis calling . . . Are you listening?

St. Mark Catholic Church, Boynton Beach, Florida

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2023

Spiritual Assistant

Fr. Richard Florek, OFM Conv.

Minister

Jane Rader, OFS

Vice Minister

Carol Knight, OFS

Secretary

Gilda Galdo, OFS

Treasurer

MariAnn Hannon, OFS

Formation

Sylvia Chai, OFS

Councilor-at-Large

Ana Kenefick, OFS

Newsletter Editor

Jane Rader, OFS

*Please email submissions
to JaneRaderOFS@gmail.com*

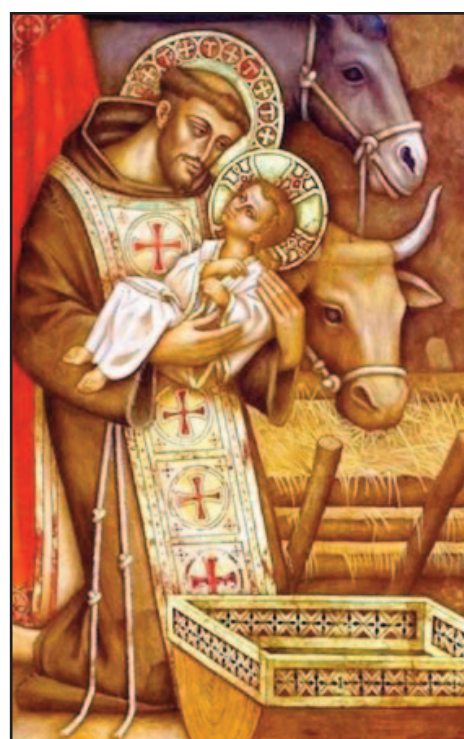
The Story of Christmas at Greccio

As we approach the coming of Advent and celebration of Christmas, let us welcome the Infant Jesus with joy and open arms. This year, Franciscans will commemorate the 800th Anniversary of St. Francis' nativity at Greccio.

The following article is from "Saint of the Day: December 24" from Franciscan Media at franciscanmedia.org:

"What better way to prepare for the arrival of the Christ Child than to take a brief journey to Greccio, the spot in central Italy where Saint Francis of Assisi created the first Christmas crib in the year 1223.

Francis, recalling a visit he had made years before to Bethlehem, resolved to create the manger he had seen there. The ideal spot was a cave in nearby Greccio. He would find a baby—we're not sure if it was a live infant or the carved image of a baby—hay upon which to lay him, an ox and an ass to stand beside the manger. Word went out to the people of the town. At the appointed time, they arrived carrying torches and candles.



One of the friars began celebrating Mass. Francis himself gave the sermon. His biographer, Thomas of Celano, recalls that Francis "stood before the manger...overcome with love and filled with a wonderful happiness..."

For Francis, the simple celebration was meant to recall the hardships Jesus suffered even as an infant, a savior who chose to become poor for our sake, a truly human Jesus."





Nov./Dec. 2023

CELEBRATIONS

Profession Anniversaries

Nov. 21: Lesley Vaitekunas
Nov. 21: Mary McNally
Dec. 10: Eleanore Lindelof

Birthdays

Nov. 7: Rita Napolitano
Nov. 12: Martina De Boise
Nov. 16: Eleanore Lindelof
Dec. 11: Sandy Myron
Dec. 18: Sue Ann Miller
Dec. 23: Father Richard

FEAST DAYS

Nov. 16

St. Agnes of Assisi
Virgin, the Franciscan
2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare"
sister, d. 1253

Nov. 19

St. Elizabeth of Hungry
Virgin Patroness of
Franciscan Third Order
Secular, d. 1231

Dec. 7

Blessed Louis Beltrame
Quattrocchi
Confessor, religious of the
Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1951

Dec. 16

Bl. Honorat de Biala
Priest, Capuchin religious,
d. 1916

Dec. 25

Nativity of Our Lord

Dec. 31

St. Gaspard Buffalo
Priest, Franciscan Third Order
Secular, d. 1836;

Upcoming Dates to Remember

DECEMBER 17, 2023

10:30am Mass and Adoration
Followed by Fraternity Meeting
Please remember to bring food items
for the Food Pantry and Birthline.

JANUARY 7, 2024

1:00pm Christmas Celebration
Potluck Fraternity Luncheon

Please bring your
Crown Rosary
to pray
as a group
during
Adoration
after Mass.

Prayer for Peace

Lord, make me an instrument
of your peace.
Where there is hatred,
let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that
I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood
as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving
that we receive;
it is in pardoning
that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that
we are born to eternal life.
Amen.



The Pope's Monthly Intentions

NOVEMBER

For the Pope

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission,
may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him,
with the help of the Holy Spirit.

DECEMBER

For Persons with Disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center
of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive
programs which value their active participation.

Instant Replay: Our Fraternity Commemorates Transitus

On October 3rd, the St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity gathered at St. Mark Church for a prayer service commemorating the Transitus of St. Francis. Along with the friars and our fraternity, members of the parish attended. The 7pm evening service led by Parochial Vicar Father Carl

Zdancewicz, OFM Conv. included Scripture readings, music, readings from the life of St. Francis and a blessing with the relic of St. Francis. Father Carl blessed the St. Francis bread and it was distributed. After the service, the fraternity provided hospitality with refreshments in the narthex.



Walking the Camino de Santiago

by Gilda Galdo, OFS

The following article is written by Gilda Galdo, OFS, as she reflects on her recent Camino de Santiago journey.

I have walked over one million steps during the last 37 days of my Camino de Santiago journey — from St. Jean Pied de Port in France to Santiago in Spain — and covered 790 kilometers (the official count) of the popular pilgrimage, the Camino de Santiago (also known as “The Way” or “The French Way.”)

From the days when I set forth to the USA from Japan (back in 2000) to today, I have experienced many challenges in my personal life. When I reflect on these many circumstances, my heart cries out with gratitude. I knew I had to find a way to thank God for the gift of life and for all of His blessings.

Why a Pilgrimage? Why do it again?

In 2019, I walked the Camino de Santiago from Sarria. It was the last 100 kilometers — the most popular distance requirement to experience what a walking pilgrimage is like. It was a beautiful experience but I believed God deserves more. I promised myself that one day I would do it again and walk the entirety of it.

A pilgrimage has a very deep spiritual significance. It can represent in itself an important form of catechesis and offers a tremendous opportunity for grace and conversion. And, I believe that the Camino de Santiago (“The Way”) is the heart of the spiritual life I can offer to merciful God.

Walking each day taught me many things. One of the blessings of the Camino is that you have the time to let God teach you about the simple, beautiful things. Each day offers varied surface, terrain and vista. When you walk 15 kilometers, 24 kilometers or 34.5 kilometers (the longest I did),



St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity member Gilda Galdo, OFS (at far right) with her “Welcome Party” — Ana, Mary, Sue, Liza, and Jim.

you renew your commitment to Christ daily, and over and over again.

For months prior to my 2023 Camino, I trained by walking rigorously around my area in Boynton Beach and I even walked 17 miles around Jupiter. My son Hiroshi took me to Mt. Rainier in Washington and I struggled with even the easiest climb. Yet, I believed I could go without any trouble.

I came to realize that I was wrong! On the very first day, I was confronted with a storm and a 26-kilometer uphill climb considered to be the most difficult part of the Camino! I was drenched, cold and shivering from the heavy downpour. It took me four hours to climb just 7 kilometers.

I told my family and friends back in Florida that there was nothing complicated with my Camino. All I have to do was to get up each day and walk. At times it was very hard, while at times it was great joy. It was never complex. Whatever the case, I know God was ever present. If I got lost or wondered where the path was, I always found someone who was in the right path to guide me.

On the day that my Camino drew to a close, it was like my final examination. I walked alone in the dark in a wooded path with my swollen toes. I felt someone was beckoning me and waiting for me. I instinctively knew it was Christ waiting for me, and Mary and Sue who arrived in Santiago a day ahead of me.

I cannot explain exactly what was taking place in my heart. I was increasingly consumed by the feeling of accomplishment and the reality that God was waiting for me.

Over those 37 days, I had seen so much beauty — the natural beauty of the mountains and plains; the streams and the lakes; the Gothic cathedrals and the stone chapels; and the beauty of my fellow pilgrims (Elaine, Wolfgang, Mary, Sue, Sarah, Susan, Eric and many more) whose faces will be stamped in my memory for all time.

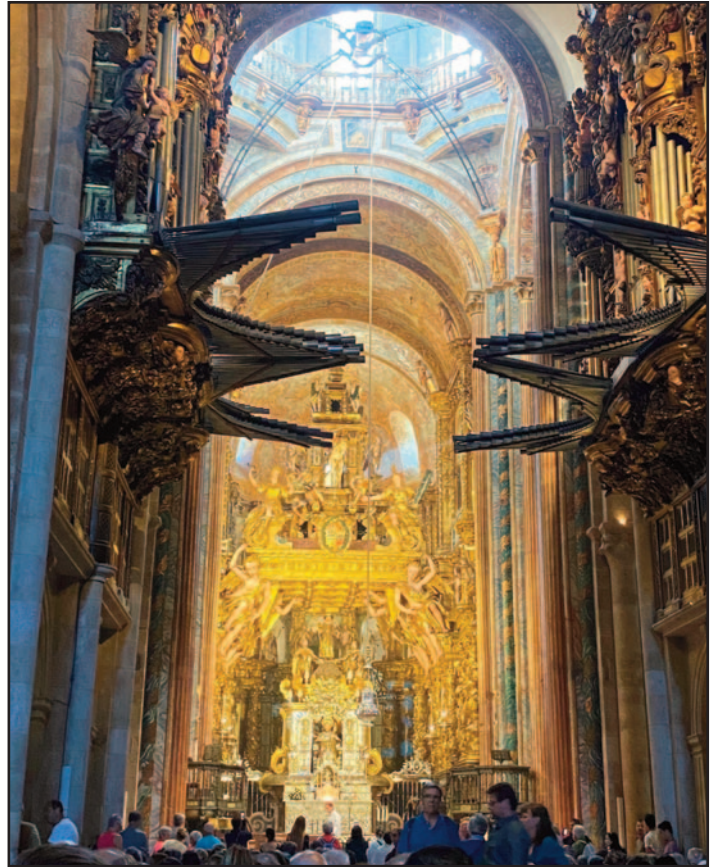
As I was watching the famous botafumeiro swing high and low, my heart was singing, “May my prayer be set like incense before you . . . For my eyes are upon you, Oh Lord, my Lord. Oh God, You are my God and I will praise you.”

Walking the Camino de Santiago

Photos courtesy of Gilda Galdo, OFS



Gilda Galdo, OFS pictured in front of the western façade of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela



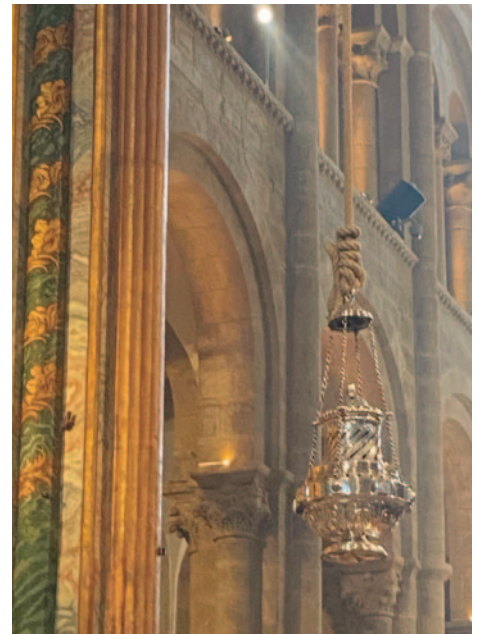
The high altar at the Santiago de Compostela Cathedral with the remains of the apostle St. James under the altar



The Shrine of St. Irene - a favorite of Gilda's and the namesake of her daughter Airin



Camino markings guide pilgrims along the way to Santiago de Compostela



The botagumeiro, a famous thurible (censor) used at the Santiago de Compostela Cathedral