

THE CORD

San Luis Rey
Fraternity of the
Secular Franciscan
Order
Mission San Luis
Rey

Formation is our focus

As Secular Franciscans, we will begin evangelizing in our own parishes by distributing a new quality brochure on what it means to be an SFO. Our 'sometimes using words' happens when we answer phone queries from people who respond to these booklet invitations about "going from gospel to life and life to the gospel."

Our own new ongoing formation will lead up to this opportunity of expressing our faith to others. New assortments of tools are being added.

Eileen C, our formation director, has developed a course, which includes on-line videos conducted by Fr. Franklin Fong, OFM. They will be taught in the tradition of the First Order.

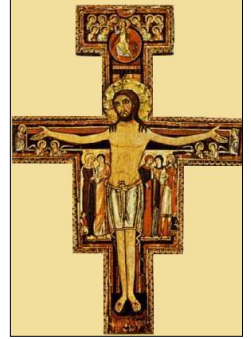
Among the material being covered is 'why religious orders are formed.' Small group discussions along with new speakers are all part of this preparation to live more fully our Franciscan family lives. Fr. Kenan Osborne, OFM, Br. Bill Short, OFM and the pope's encyclical on evangelization are included in this program to build our confidence about our faith and our order.

Much of what we will do was described by one of the council members as being the cause of our 'radical life changes.' "It is the world versus the Secular Franciscan Order," Scott H. "It is living significantly different." "Who wants to be a nobody?" said David Y

"We are learning to preach the gospel in a different way." Scott concluded.

Sunday, March 6th
Inquirers- O'Keefe Room
12:45 – 1:45 p.m.
General Meeting
Lasuen Room 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Please note changes in Rooms for March meetings.



LENT BEGINS MARCH 9

Our name is Penitent. This is our season of joy. For in it we begin to understand through St. Francis the greatness of God's love.

Francis prayed, "May the power of your love, O Lord, fiery and sweet as honey, wean my heart from all that is under heaven, so I may die for the love of your love, you who are so good to die for the love of my love."

We live in a world of material beauty but are blind to the world of spiritual beauty. We love more the created rather than the Creator.

Christ redeemed beauty. Scripture tells us that he is "the fairest of the sons of men" (Ps 45:2). On the other hand, during his passion, Scripture applies the words of the poem of the Servant of YHWH to him: "He had no form or comeliness that we should look on him, and no beauty that we should desire him... as one from whom men hid their faces." (Is 53:23).

Jesus redeemed beauty by denying himself of any beauty.

Lent is a time to embrace the cross and become one with Jesus, Our Lord.



NOTES FROM THE MINISTER



Tim C, SFO

The Franciscan universe is never dead.... Everything makes up a grand symphony - and God is the conductor.

Leonardo Boff.
Ecology and

Poverty: cry of the earth, cry of the

poor.

I have read that scientists studying the eye of humans state that there must be a Great Designer. Many of these same scientists are agnostic, at best.

One has to only look at our environment and see the work of the Creator God.

Our vocation as Secular Franciscans is, by our example and words, to exemplify the Gospel values in our communities: home, neighborhood, work place, and the community at large.

We meet, once a month, to further our Franciscan vocation, by on-going formation.

Our community is our families, San Luis Rey Fraternity, the Secular Franciscan Order, and the rest of our portion of the world.

Pax et Bonum
Tim C, SFO
Minister

the little flowers of saint francis

by Brother Ugolino – Translated by Raphael Brown

How Brother Juniper

Kept Silent for Six Months

By nature this servant of God had little patience when something was done or said to him. But he made such strong efforts to control himself that with the grace of God he acquired that virtue in a short time.

Seeing therefore that he could not remain silent and refrain from answering when something unpleasant was said to him or when he was scolded, once, realizing that his tongue was doing him much harm, he decided to remain silent at all cost. And he arranged it this way in order to observe it better: on the first day he kept silent out of love for the Heavenly Father, the second day for love of Jesus Christ, the next for love of the Holy Spirit, the next for love of the Virgin Mary, the next for love of our Father St. Francis, and so on. Every day for love of some Saint, he remained silent and did not speak for six months. And although he suffered pain and anxiety within, nevertheless externally he forced himself not to reply, even though with great difficulty.

Now one time it happened that certain words were said that were extremely hard for him to bear, and he made such a violent physical effort and his suffering and violence were so great that blood gushed from his chest and he spat it out of his mouth.

On seeing it, Brother Juniper grieved intensely and went into the church before the crucifix, and there he devoutly complained and mourned over the great suffering and pain that he was enduring. And he said: "See, my Lord, what I was bearing for love of you!"

Then the Crucified Christ miraculously raised His right hand from the wood of the cross, where it was nailed, and laid it on the wound in His side and said: "And I—what am I bearing for you?"

(Bro. Juniper continued)

And Brother Juniper was utterly amazed and frightened and shocked to the core of his being. And he felt such emotion in his soul and mind that from that moment he was changed into another man. For just as formerly he could not endure the least painful word without suffering, so henceforth, with the help of divine grace, he not only bore with joy the insults and offenses that were said or done to him, but he went out hunting for them as for precious stones for his soul. To the glory of Christ. Amen.

FRANCISCAN SAINTS in MARCH

2 nd – St. Agnes Bohemia (II)	18 th – St. Salvator of Horta (I)
3 rd – Bld. Liberatus Weiss, Samuel Marzorati & Michele Fasoli (I)	23 rd – St. Catherine of Genoa (III)
5 th – St. John Joseph of the Cross (I)	29 th – Bld. Ludovico of Casoria (I)
6 th – St. Colette	30 th – St. Peter Regaldo (I)
2 th – Blessed Angela Salawa (III)	

Birthdays

Virginia V's birthday is on March 2nd. **Edna P** celebrates her birthday on the 9th, while **Karron E's** is March 26th. A very Happy Birthday to all!

Anniversaries of Profession

David Y marks his second anniversary as a Franciscan (**Mar. 8**) On the 9th, **Mary B & Pat D** celebrate their 14th anniversary. **Marjo G** celebrates 17 years as an SFO and **Joanne T** will be 19 years in the order on the 22nd.

Memorials

Amanda Martineau	March 2, 1995	Gertrude Brown	March 16, 1989
Robert Wells	March 15, 1995	Katherine Kundinger	March 28, 2001

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the Christians in India. The Conventual Friars in Malta requested these prayers through our National Minister Tom Bello
- Tom Bello has also requested prayers for his brother, Gerry and his mother. Gerry is undergoing chemo and has lost 25 pounds in six weeks.
- Eileen C requests prayers for her daughter, Jennifer, who is in her 22nd week of high-risk pregnancy. Her doctor recommends "bed rest and prayer."
- Pray for the success of Mary B's operation and the doctors and nurses caring for her.
- Pray for Sandra B, who suffers from a blood disease.
- Pray for good health for Jack S.
- Pray for all our Order Friar Minor especially our Mission friars, Fr. David Gaa, Fr. Laurence Dolan, Fr. Andres Rivero and Br. Mo Peltier
- Pray for the SLR Parish Church friars, Fr. Charles 'Chuck' Talley, Fr. Adrian Peelo and Fr. Luis Guzman

Saint Colette (Feast Day March 6)

Nicolette Boilet, called Colette, was the daughter of Robert Boilet, the carpenter of the famous Benedictine Abbey of Corbie; her mother's name was Marguerite Moyon. Her parents were near 60 at her birth. Orphaned at age 17, she was left in the care of a Benedictine abbot. Her guardian wanted her to marry, but Colette was drawn to religious life. She initially tried to join the Beguines and Benedictines, but failed in her vocation. As a Franciscan tertiary she became a Hermitess. On 17 September 1402, at age 21, she became an anchoress - walled into a cell whose only opening was a grilled window into a church.

She had visions in which Saint Francis of Assisi ordered her to restore the Rule of Saint Clare to its original severity. When she hesitated, she was struck blind for three days and mute for three more; she saw this as a sign to take action.

Colette tried to follow her mission by explaining it, but had no success. Realizing she needed more authority behind her words, she walked to Nice, France, barefoot and clothed in a habit of patches, to meet Peter de Luna, acknowledged by the French as the schismatic Pope Benedict XIII. He professed her a Poor Clare, and was so impressed that he made her superioress of all convents of Minoreesses that she might reform or found, and a missionary to Franciscan friars and tertiaries.

She travelled from convent to convent, meeting opposition, abuse, slander, and was even accused of sorcery. Eventually she made some progress, especially in Savoy, where her reform gained sympathizers and recruits. This reform passed to Burgundy in France, Flanders in Belgium and Spain.

Colette helped Saint Vincent Ferrer heal the papal schism. She founded seventeen convents; one branch of the Poor Clares is still known as the **Colettines**. She was known for a deep devotion to Christ's Passion with an appreciation and care for animals. Colette fasted every Friday, meditating on the Passion. After receiving Holy Communion, she would fall into ecstasies for hours. She foretold the date of her own death.

The Colettine Sisters are found today, outside of France, in Belgium, Germany, Spain, England, and the United States



Celebrating Four New Secular Franciscans

The time had come. Sandra B processed into the old Mission church to enter into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ by becoming a professed Secular Franciscan. Her journey was another step in rebuilding the Church. Eight hundred years of Franciscan culture and tradition is mirrored in the greens, pinks, tans and pastels of the 19th Century Spanish church.

In this environment, Sandra would make promises to be a penitent and a new sign of Christ in the world. This paradox expresses perfectly 'the foolishness of God' in our materialistic 21st century world.



Over the last three years, with the help of Penny J, her sponsor, Marjo and Jack, her teachers, and Eileen C, her formation director, Sandy was ready. Sharing the last part of her journey toward profession were three other candidates from two neighboring fraternities.

With them, she listened to the prayers of the beginning of the Mass. Celebrant Father David Gaa, OFM read the gospel of the day and then sat down. Our minister, Tim C, called Sandra Baden

forward.

Jim T, Minister of St. Francis Fraternity echoed the call to his candidates, Tony C and Annette, Diane, minister of St. Maximilian Kolbe fraternity, called John D. All were ready.

The three ministers spoke together, "What do you ask of God, the Church and the Franciscan family?"



"We ask to be admitted to profession of the Rule of the Secular

Franciscan Order and make a permanent commitment to Gospel life..."

After making their promises, the Mass continued. Fr. Gaa gave his homily and then intoned,

"Do you wish to embrace the gospel way of life by following the example and words of St. Francis of Assisi, which are at the heart of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan



Fr. David Gaa, OFM

Go Forth To Love and Serve the Lord Order?

"Yes, this is what I want," the candidates replied.

After the Eucharist celebration ended, the candidates and fraternities processed out.

(Continued from Page 5)



The celebration of the Secular Franciscans and their guests continued in the refreshment area. Joining Sandy was her husband Ted and her sister and brother-in-law. Sandy and her sponsor, Penny, have become good

Franciscans Celebrating Four New Seculars

friends, calling each other every week since they discovered they had so much in common. Like Penny, a widow, Sandy had lost her first husband. Sandy also became closer to Eileen C, an example of the sisterhood and brotherhood of the SFO. Sandy's practice of evangelization has been enriched by her Franciscan experience. Her 'little way' of preaching the gospel means remembering to smile and greet people while shopping; it is encouraging members of her family through prayer and even by babysitting her grandchildren. Next week Sandy and her husband Ted will be visiting their son Teddy and their two grandchildren, Blake, 7 and Sophia, 3. This is just one way the Catholic faith will continue to grow in her family.

FRATERNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Minister

Timothy C.

Vice Minister

Scott H.

Director of Formation

Eileen C.

Secretary

Marjo G.

Treasurer

David Y.

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED

Councilor

Connie H.

Councilor

Barbara U.

Councilor

Edward U.

Spiritual Assistant
Sr. Madeline



San Luis Rey Mission