

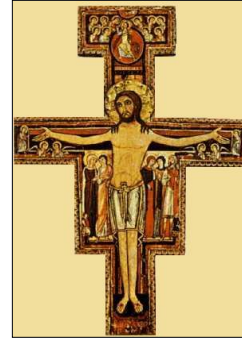
General Meeting – Clare Room

THE CORD

San Luis Rey Fraternity of the
Secular Franciscan Order
Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside, CA.
April 2011

Next Meeting: April 3, 2011

12:45 – 1:45 p.m.
Candidates – Clare Room
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.



EASTER PEACE AND JOY

SEEKING NEW SECULARS



Ed & Barbara U. present their new brochure

What does it mean to be members of the San Luis Rey Fraternity Council? To Barbara and Ed U., it meant finding a new and improved way to make the fraternity better known to Catholics in our parishes from Oceanside to San Diego. After the

discussion at the February council meeting, the couple redesigned the green brochure, changed the art and copy, added color and a new typeface composed on a white matte stock. The quality brochure will stand out in any parish information rack.

The Yonkers, New York, team-couple celebrate their 48th anniversary this year. Parents of two children and two grandchildren, the cradle Catholic and the convert continue to grow in their faith as they participate more in parish ministry and our fraternity. The retired sales executive and former fashion model are growing in their knowledge experience of St. Francis through trips to Assisi and the Holy Land.

The work and the five hundred brochures are their gift to the fraternity as their way to help evangelize.

THE JOURNEY

In our 21st Century, be it TV, cable, computer or film via fiber optics, DVD or satellite, we can expect that something will go wrong. Never fear, Eileen C., our formation director meets these electronic challenges. There was no live feed, DVD or streaming for our March formation meeting because Fr. Franklin F. had to cancel. (Cont. Pg. 2)

(The Journey – Continued from Page 1)



Coming to the rescue, Eileen gave us Bt. Bill Short, ofm, on an audio track. His, 'The Crib, the Cross, and the Eucharist' begins with St. Francis' conversion. As our ears perked up, we listened to the sounds

harkening back to the old days of radio.

We discovered how desperate were the fears that people had of lepers in the 12th and 13th centuries. Fear was the real disease of that time. White patches of skin found on a person in the town mayor's house to house search meant instant exile from the

community. The individual was banned to *the monastery of the infected*. A funeral was conducted over the living leper's body. This was the world that St. Francis knew. His conversion began when he braved his fear of the leper. Embracing the leper, he changed. This was the beginning of his real spiritual journey.

What Francis realized was that people didn't understand the gospel. Francis experienced the words as being addressed to him. "Take nothing with you." He responded, "This is what I want. This is what I desire."

Like our Father Francis, when we face our greatest fear, we too will be free to love and serve the Lord.

At April's meeting we will be talking with Fr. Franklin F. via Skype. Eileen asks that those with computers listen ahead of time to Fr. Franklin's talk on the San Damiano Cross. See Eileen's e-mail of March 27th for the link.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday! **Bob G.** on the 9th, **Irene E.** celebrates her birthday on the 14th of April, and Tim C. is a birthday guy on the 25th!

Anniversary of Profession

On the 10th of this month, **Winnie B.** and **Tom S.** celebrated their 6th anniversary of profession. **Alice P.** celebrates 38 years on the 14th. **This is Sr. Madeline Fitzgerald's, OSC 40th Anniversary of Holy Vows on the 22nd.** 🍀

Memorials

Cornelia S., April 2nd 1999, Nicholas F., April 17th 2003 and Mary G., April 28th, 2009

FRANCISCAN SAINTS FOR APRIL

Apr.2 – Bld. Elisabetta Vandramini
Apr.3 – St. Benedict the African (I)
Apr.21 – St. Conrad of Parzham (I)
Apr.23 – Bld. Giles of Assisi (I)

Apr.24 – St. Fidelis Sigmaringen (I)
Apr.25 – Bld. Pedro de San Jose Betancur
Apr.27 – St. Zita of Lucca (III) *
Apr.28 – Bld. Luchesio & Buonadonna (III)

Apr. 30- St. Joseph Cottolengo (III)

Prayer Requests:

- Mary B. is doing well after her surgery the second week of March. She thanks us for our prayers. Please continue to pray for her recovery.
- Please continue to pray that our newly professed Sandra B. recovers from the blood disease she suffers.
- Barbara U.'s miraculous recovery from the brain aneurism was followed up with corrective surgery on her right eye on March 24. Pray the miracles continue.
- Pray for Scott & Connie H. and their family's continued health and well being.
- Dorothea H. asked if we would pray for her brother, Edward B., whose cancer has returned.
- That God may guide and inspire the Secular Franciscan Order, and our fraternity to work and serve Jesus through Francis for the greater honor and glory of God.

FRATERNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Remember, it was He who once said to His people through Isaiah: "Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget I will never forget you!" (49: 15).

GOD WILL PROVIDE



Joseph Benedict Cottolengo was the eldest of 12 children, six of whom died in infancy or childhood. He became a member of the Third Order of St. Francis in his youth. It was here that his thinking and spirituality were first formed. In 1811, he entered the priesthood. His work and his priesthood were uneventful until 1827. It was the night he was called to give the last sacraments to a young pregnant Frenchwoman in the slums of the city of Turin, Italy, that impacted his life. The young woman, en route back to France, lived in a hovel. The sick woman gave birth to a little girl. He baptized the child, heard the woman's confession and administered the other sacraments. Within a few hours, the woman and the baby were dead. Father Cottolengo felt overwhelmed. In Turin there was no emergency medical care in the whole city. The local hospitals rejected caring for the sick woman because she lacked funds.

disease they might suffer from, without distinction of race or creed or their ability to pay. Without thought of
St. Joseph Benedict Cottolengo (1786-1842) Feast Day April 30

Returning to the Church of the Corpus Domini that night, he paused in front of the statue of Our Holy Mother of Grace. In that moment, he was inspired to create a home open to everyone in need, whatever whether this inspiration was financially or politically possible, Father Joseph devoted his life to this mission. It began with a small home, which initially held only 4 beds. When the demand grew too great, he increased the

size of the building, calling upon men and women to volunteer. As the “hospital” grew even larger, he called upon the Brothers of Saint Vincent and the Vincentian Sisters for assistance in nursing and volunteering.

When the care of the sick and the poor became his life, he relied totally on God and the Blessed Mother to provide him with the funds. One of his friends said Fr. Joseph had more confidence in God than did the entire city of Turin. When he was asked about the source of his revenues, he answered, “Providence sends me everything.” He kept no books or accounts. What he got he immediately spent, never investing it as a cautionary or prudential measure. He even refused to put his center under royal patronage as a security, and would allow no endowments. Whenever a need arose, therefore, he trusted that the God who had allowed it to arise would provide funds to deal with it.

This “Volta Rossa” hospital suffered a brief setback in 1831. A cholera epidemic broke out, and the city authorities, fearing that the hospital would become a breeding ground for the disease, shut it down. Canon Cottolengo kept his cool, and simply planned to move the hospital to other quarters. Meanwhile, his nurses took care of the cholera victims in their own homes. The hospital was moved in 1832 to Valdocco, suburban to Turin. Not only did the transplanted emergency hospital thrive in its new locale; there soon sprang up alongside it a number of auxiliary institutions called into being by additional human needs. There was a nursing school, a building for epileptics, and others for deaf-mutes, the blind, orphans, homeless kids, prostitutes, the aged, and the mentally retarded (“My good boys and girls,” he affectionately termed his retarded children.) In the end, he had a vast complex of charitable homes.

Some would think it a folly to start and maintain institutions without knowing where the funds were coming from. But St. Joseph Cottolengo did know where they were coming from. If he had no source of money, he had a battery of people praying for it – various organizations and religious orders that he had founded especially to storm heaven for aid. His center was not called the Little House of Divine Providence in vain. He really did challenge God to provide for the good works. And God never failed him. Joseph directed the operation until a few days before his death, and the *Casa* continues to today, serving 8,000 or more each day. He founded fourteen communities to serve the residents, including the *Daughters of Compassion*, *Daughters of the Good Shepherd*, *Hermits of the Holy Rosary*, and *Priests of the Holy Trinity*.



Tim C., SFO Minister of San Luis Rey

NOTES FROM THE MINISTER

In the book titled *Through the Year With Padre Pio*, the author Patricia Treece, compiling St. Pio’s letters, tells us in his Letters, Vol. 3, 1094-1095: wherein he states “I now come to reply to your question – that is, whether those who had the misfortune to sin can be accepted into the Third Order of St. Francis (SFO.) I say yes, as long they have truly repented....”

During Lent, in the Liturgy of the Hours, we are reminded that we are all sinners and are in need of repentance. But, there is Hope on the horizon – Easter! When I was a student at university, the Archbishop of Canterbury visited our campus. In the chapel, as he mounted the pulpit, he glanced at the crucifix and stated, “ every time I look at that, I pondered what He did for the likes of me.”

As we journey through the Season of Lent, let us all ponder our Franciscan vocation and our need for on-going repentance, and reflecting on what Our Lord suffered for us.

Pax et Bonum,

Tim C, Minister

How Brother Giles Removed a Doubt Concerning the Virginity of Mary from the Heart of a Friar Preacher

(from the Little Flowers of St. Francis Translated by Raphael Brown)

At the time when the holy Brother Giles was alive, there was a certain great Master of the Order of Preachers who for many years suffered from a serious doubt concerning the virginity of the Blessed Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ. For it seemed to him impossible that she could have been both mother and a virgin. Otherwise he had real faith, and therefore he suffered very much from the doubt of his, and he wished to be freed from it by some enlightened man.

Now when he heard that the holy Brother Giles was a very enlightened man, he went to him. But Brother Giles, knowing in advance by the Holy Spirit about his coming and intention and spiritual conflict, went out to meet him. And before reaching him, he struck the ground with a stick that he held in his hand, and he said: "Oh, Friar Preacher, Virgin before bearing!"

And at once a very beautiful lily came up on the spot, which he had struck with the stick.

Then he struck a second time, saying: "Oh, Friar Preacher, Virgin in bearing!"

And another lily sprang up.

And striking a third time, he said: "Oh, Friar Preacher, Virgin after bearing!"

And a third lily appeared. And after doing that, Brother Giles ran away. But that Friar Preacher was immediately freed from his temptation on seeing such an amazing and novel miracle. And when he learned that it had been Brother Giles, from that moment he conceived such devotion for him that he used to praise both him and his Order in a wonderful way.

To the Glory of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

