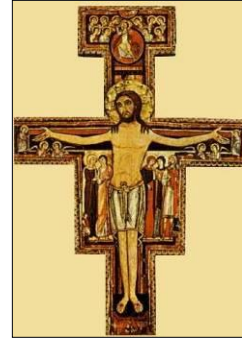


THE CORD

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



Aug 5, 2012

**Future Meetings:
September 2, 2012 (?)
October 7, 2012
November 4, 2012**

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

General Meeting – Pablo Tac Hall, aka Peyri Hall

Formation Meeting,
Contact Sandy

FRANCISCAN SAINT(S) FOR AUGUST

We are going to have 3 this month, we probably know them all for their love of Jesus in the Sacraments and or ‘Love of Family.’

St. John Vianney, Pastor (III) ‘The Cure of Ars,’ born 1786, died 1859 Canonized by Pope Pius XI. He was ordained in 1815 and assigned to the parish of Ars in 1818, where he spent the rest of his life. He was known for his care of souls, spirit of prayer and mortification, and tireless dedication to the Sacrament of Penance. He spent most of his life in the confessional, drawing energy from his intimate and constant friendship with Our Lord in the Eucharist. Pope Pius XI proclaimed him patron of parish priests. Page 1884, *Daily Roman Missal*, 3rd Edition.

St. Pius X, Pope (III) Born 1835, died 1914, was known for his service to all members of the Church as a priest, bishop, Patriarch of Venice, and Pope. He defended the purity of Catholic doctrine against modern and resurgent heresies and was instrumental in extending the practice of frequent reception of Holy Communion. Page 1809 *Daily Roman Missal*. 3rd Edition. Note: he is the one that lowered the age for 1st communion from 14yrs to 7yrs.

St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe (I) born 1894, died 1941. He became a Franciscan and devoted his life to fostering devotion th the Blessed Virgin Mary as a priest, publisher, and founder of the “City of the Immaculate.” Sentenced to hard manual labor at the death camp in Auschwitz, he offered his life in exchange for that of a family man (who was present at his canonization.) He is remembered for his prophetic words, “Hatred is not a creative force. Only love is a creative power.” Page 1898 *Daily Roman Missal* 3rd Edition. (this is a hand Missal, not the big altar edition)

Ongoing Formation for 1 July 2012



by **Fr. Efrain Bautista**, Administrator of St Francis Parish, Vista CA.

Fr. spoke to us on the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**, Confession, or Penance as these are different names for this awesome sacrament.

“We all know that a ‘sacrament,’ is a sign instituted by Jesus. that bestows grace on us.

There are 3 groups of sacraments, the Sacraments of Initiation, are Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. The Sacraments of Vocation, are Marriage and Holy Orders, and The Sacraments of Healing are Anointing of the Sick, and Reconciliation.

The purpose of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is to bring us back into ‘communion’ with God, as it reminds us that we are sinners and that we have done wrong. We need help to recognize how we have failed to be in ‘communion,’ with God. It isn’t that God doesn’t know what we have done, just that we need a way to recognize that we have wronged/sinned, against God.

Fr. represents God in confession when he forgives you with the words of absolution, “I absolve you.....” It is Jesus that is forgiving you, not the priest, as Fr. is acting, “in persona Christi,” (in the person of Christ) not of his own power. “It is Jesus that is forgiving you, not Fr.” A sinner’s sins are between the sinner and God, not the sinner and Fr. for the priest is only the visible instrument of Jesus’ forgiveness of their sins.

When we go to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we need to remember that our sins have no need for “justification,” for justified or not, they are still sins. We did the wrong against God, and He doesn’t care why, as the act was still wrong. He gave the following example; a penitent came to confession, and confessed that she stolen money out of her husband’s wallet, and tried to justify it with, “Well Fr. he is a drunkard, and would have drunk up the money that was needed for rent and groceries...” The stealing is still a sin, no matter why it was stolen, and the justification doesn’t reduce the wrong against God.

Oh, and when you confess your sins, tell the priest your sins, don’t say things like, “oh, I have done this so many times, oh so many times, Fr. please forgive me..., get to the sins. Don’t drag it out, get to your sins and confess them, as this is a confession of your sins. Ex. I lied 20 times, Fr. doesn’t need to know to whom or why you lied, just that you lied... Tell the whole truth to Fr., include your state in life, if pertinent. Ex. A man flirts with a girl, and confesses it, Fr. will think “awesome, he saw a cute girl.” Then later He admits, “I am a married man.” that makes a big difference, as flirting is a sin for him, where as it isn’t for a single man.

Tell the whole story, but don’t drag it on and on, as this can make Fr. sin by causing him to get frustrated at the amount of time it is taking for you to confess your sins, along with the amount of time those in line are going to have to wait; again this is a confession! If you

want “spiritual direction,” make an appt. with the parish office, and one of the priests will be glad to give you some spiritual guidance, the “confessional,” isn’t the appropriate place for spiritual guidance.

Question from audience: “Are there any sins that a priest can’t forgive?” Fr answered, “Yes, there are a few that are reserved to Bishops and or to Rome, such as: Suppose Fr., and Sr. stole from the collection basket, Fr. wouldn’t be able to absolve Sr. when she came to him in confession, as he was an accomplice to the sin (robbery.) Fr. can’t forgive the sin of Sr. as he participated in the taking of the money from the collection basket. Another instance is a direct assault on the Holy Father, or the desecration of a church, as these would be reserved for Rome to contend with.

Again Fr. reminded us that it is Jesus that forgives the sins, and not the priest, as Fr. is acting, “in persona Christi,” just as he does when he pronounces the words of consecration at Mass. As he, Fr. Efrain, doesn’t consecrate the elements of the Eucharist, Jesus does through Father’s words and actions.

I believe that a reference to Purgatory from the audience led to these comments about Lazarus and the ‘Good Thief’;

Lazarus: Would Christ have raised Lazarus if he had already been in Heaven with God? No, as he was already with God, thus he, Lazarus must have been in purgatory being purified before meeting with the Lord.

The ‘Good Thief,’ to whom Jesus said, “Today you will be with me in paradise,” immediately forgiving the “thief,” of his sins, as God exists out of time and place. But in this instance he referred to ‘today,’ to help humankind to understand as we do live in time and place.

Do we need to atone for our sins? No, as Jesus has already done so by His death on the Cross. We can’t ‘pay,’ for our sins, as Jesus’ death has already ‘paid,’ for them.

When Fr. absolves you of your sins, it is between you and God as only God knows what is in your heart, only He knows your sorrow. The truthfulness (depth) of your sorrow is what controls the affectedness of Father’s absolution, as only God knows whether you are truly sorry for your sins against Him.

Response to an unheard comment/question from the audience; Devotions, such as Bible reading, can be effective against venial sin, but not mortal/grave sin, as devotions don’t cause a person to “take ownership” of their sins as the Sacrament of Reconciliation does. “We need to forgive in order to let go of our own sins”. Fr. “I am able to forgive others as our loving God forgives me.”

In Summery

- Confess your own sins, not the sins of others.
- Stay with your own facts and sins ... don’t exaggerate.

- Keep to your confession, get in, confess, get out, as others are waiting to make their confessions.
- Don't be scrupulous, as every little tiny thing doesn't need to be confessed.
- Don't understand what your confessor wants, don't be afraid to ask him.
- **Sacrament of Reconciliation isn't a sacrament to be afraid of; it is a sacrament of God's love. Don't be afraid of the Sacrament of God's love.**
- "Pray for us priests, especially those that you disagree with or don't understand, we priests need your prayers, and lots of them."

Editor's comment: Basically keep your confession; short, direct and to the point, so that the next penitent can get into the confessional and get forgiven of their sins as well. When you believe that it is going to be a long and drawn out situation, make a special appt. with father.

This was an awesome 'Ongoing Formation,' presentation from Fr. Efrain of St. Francis of Vista.

God Bless Fr. and his ministry.

A few words from our minister



The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, Sec 6 "Therefore, they should go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission (the Church) among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words.

This Section of our Rule calls us to live the Gospel message in our various communities, our families, our neighborhoods, our work places and our world in general.

We come together once a month for our on-going formation and to re-charge our Franciscan vocation.

It is important to note, that it is necessary to have a prayer life, in order to live the Gospel message in our communities.

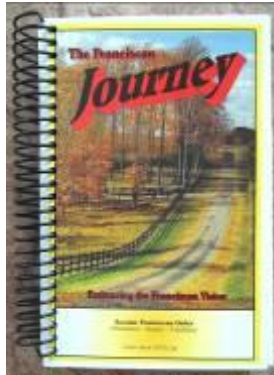
We have a rich treasure in our Catholic faith, a great variety of prayers, e.g. the Holy Rosary, The Franciscan Crown Rosary; the Liturgy of the Hours, to name a few. (Don't forget Holy Mass, Editor.)

We will be addressing the subject of Franciscan Prayer in our up-coming formation gatherings.

Pax et Bonum,

Tim, OFS
Minister

Formation Reminders from Sandy Baden, Formation Director



Inquiry and Candidacy classes will be at Sandy's home Sunday, July 29th, 12:30 PM, at my home

Our Candidacy class will continue to focus on the SFO Rule, "A focus on Christ and an Encounter with Jesus." Jack S. is doing a wonderful job in helping Dorthea understand these lessons. Both classes will then be brought together and we will learn how to use the Christian Prayer book, The Liturgy of the Hours. We all will also see a short half hour DVD on Francis in Assisi, by Bob and Penny Lord.

May we continue to pray for our Inquiry class and Candidate as they continue in their formation.

I thought I would share a poem I wrote when I first became a Roman Catholic:

NEVER ENDING JOY

*A feeling of happiness, knowing He is there to guide you through
all tribulations; this feeling of peace, pleasant and unending;
a knowing of His presence, with such joy at the thought.*

*Understanding of forgiveness, also knowing it is done;
being perceptive and not knowing why.
Contemplating on diversions of the day with empty longing;
still knowing His presence is there and joy returns.*

*This joy shared with others, a unity beyond compare;
a harmonious praise of love, a rapture of oneness.
Never ending presence, so much can be said, so
intimate and so desired, a joy to behold.*

November 1971

God Bless,

Sandy, OFS
Director of Formation

Anniversaries of Profession



8-17-1980

Barbara F.

Memorials



August 13, 2003
August 20, 1996

Julia Nick D.
Irving S.

Birthdays



August 22

Alice P.

Let us Pray for our brothers and sisters, especially:



- Angela C., Eileen's daughter-in-law, is having serious open heart surgery to correct an aortic aneurism on Monday, **June 18th**.
- Dorothy J. for continuing recovery from the surgery on her leg.
- Jerry P., recovering from heart stent surgery.
- Mary B.'s granddaughter, Natalie, whose cancer has returned.
- Dorothea H.'s brother, Edward B., who might not have long to live.
- Scott H., who is undergoing more testing.

-Marjo G.'s brother, Jack A., who had a heart attack and will undergo open heart surgery.

-Our brothers and sisters who are in formation.

-All of our Fraternity members, especially the elderly and homebound.

-Hector, a fifth grader, who has a very difficult home life and who has troubling behavior issues in school.

-Preston, the 7 yr. old grandson of Scott and Connie, who has been on the list for a heart transplant for several years. His family prays that he will move up the list more quickly.

-Irene E.' son, Mark, has a special intention for which he is requesting our prayers.

Dorothy is now home, but still needing prayers for healing.