



THE CORD

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



Next Gathering:

Sunday, April 6, 2014

10:00 Mass in OMSLR's 'Serra Center'

(Gather at 9:45 so we can sit together as a fraternity)

**11:15 Fraternity Prayer in the Retreat Center. Tim C will lead the
Liturgy of the Hours. Bring your copy of Shorter Christian Prayer.**

Noon: Bring your own lunch to the Refreshment Center to eat together.

The General Meeting will be held in the O'Keefe Room from 1:00 to 2:30 P.M.

At the meeting, Jack S will facilitate a discussion of the Introduction to *Evangelii Gaudium*, *The Joy of the Gospel*, the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis. For the next few months we'll use this for on-going formation, examining how the Pope's message fits into our Franciscan mission.

David recently sent everyone a link to the online version of *Evangelii Gaudium*, but you can find it easily by searching Google: *Evangelii Gaudium*. The easiest link to use is the one that probably will turn up first on the Google list which points to Vatican.va. Another option is to get a copy from your favorite bookstore, especially if you like to mark up your books with notes. If you requested a paper copy from David you will be able to pick it up from him at the April meeting.

We also will welcome our inquirers into the Orientation phase of formation at the meeting.

Future Meetings: May 4, 2014 -- June 1, 2014 -- July 13, 2014 (Profession)

The **Franciscan School of Theology** has invited us to a series of talks by Fr. Jack Clark R., OFM, exploring the presence of Franciscan missions in U.S. history. The last two will be on **Friday, April 11, from 7 to 9 pm and Saturday, April 12, from 9 am to noon. We have been given free coupons in lieu of the suggested donation.** I went on March 21st and eagerly went back the next morning. Mark your calendars. The lectures are fascinating.

--Marjo G.

A few words from our Minister ...

Just a little bit more than a year ago, my wife Juliet and I watched as several severely overweight women struggled, but finished running their first half marathon. Something the broader base of society is simply inclined to believe "can't be done". The next morning, Juliet stood emotional in our kitchen, looked at me and said, "Those women, what they accomplished, what's my excuse?" She got up the next morning, and ran a mile. Something she had never done before.

A few weeks ago, I ran alongside her on a training day. After about 2 hours, she looked at me and said, "My body hurts so bad, but my mind right now is so clear!" I smiled happily at her and said, "That's suffering!"

Notably, athletes refer to this phenomenon as a "Runners High". However, this type of endorphin rush can teach us a valuable lesson as Christians. That is, never be afraid to carry the Cross. Invariably when I think about the worst times of my life, upon reflection, I realized there was good reason as to why they were the BEST moments of my life. And each of those great moments was a direct result of having overcome the bad ones.

In the life of Christ, He emerged from the desert and brought us the Beatitudes. From the Cross, He brought us to Salvation. Lent gives us an opportunity to meditate upon: 'Out of suffering, comes an even greater joy!' Each day, many will yearn for that mountain top experience with El Shaddai. But if we wish to commune with the God of the Mountains, we first need to be willing to climb up a pretty big hill!

This weekend, Juliet got up at 4:00 a.m. and ran 13.1 miles, having completed her first half marathon. Hands raised, beaming with joy, the image of her crossing the finish line is now part of the race's official promotional video. That's my wife.

Wishing you all perfect peace and clarity this Lenten Season.
Your most unworthy minister,
David A. Y., ofs

This morning my soul is greater than the world since it possesses You,
You whom heaven and earth do not contain.

St. Margaret of Cortona, after Holy Communion.

Formation Reminders from Sandy B., Formation Director



Orientation and Candidacy classes will be at Sandy's home.

Orientation Class: 10:00 AM Saturday, April 5th .

Candidacy Class: 1:00 PM Saturday, April 5th.

ORIENTATION:

Our last class of Orientation will be Saturday, April 5th. We will be concentrating on Chapter 3 and also part of Chapter 2, "Writings & Stories of Francis & Clare and Three Orders and Structures." We will also prepare for the Rite of Welcoming for new Inquirers at the General Meeting on Sunday, April 6th. Our Franciscan family is growing!

CANDIDACY:

Congratulations to Laura C., who now officially joins our Candidacy class. On April 5th we will be discussing Chapters 27 and 28, "Bearers of Peace, Rule 19 and Fraternities: Gathering as One, Rule 20. We will learn "What is Perfect Joy?"

ONGOING FORMATION FOR ALL MEMBERS OF OUR FRATERNITY:

These comments are taken from the Franciscan Journey Book.

Francis believed the Gospel.
The WHOLE THING – Matthew, Mark,
Luke, John and all the rest.
Jesus said: "Do not worry over what to eat..."
and Francis didn't.
Jesus said: "Whoever wishes to follow me,
let him deny himself"
And Francis did.
Jesus said: "...take nothing with you on the way."
And Francis didn't.

It sounds simplistic, even impossible
or at best – ridiculous, wouldn't you say?
No matter what you say, it happens to be
the way Francis saw things.

It is Gospel living according to Francis,
taking the whole Gospel seriously.
Not watered down, not interpreted away,
not ignored nor pushed aside,
but embracing
the whole GOOD NEWS called Gospel.

Photos from the Rite of Admission for Laura Chun on March 2nd



From L to R:
New Inquirer
Karen W.,
Eileen C.,
Laura C.,
our Minister
David Y.,
Sr. Madeline
F., OSC,
and Formation
Director Sandy
B..

The photos were taken in the beautiful new St. Clare's Chapel in the Retreat Center by Marta K.



Let us Pray for our brothers and sisters, especially:



- Mary B., continuing her recovery from cancer.
- good health for Vincent B., Mary's son.
- Anna D., for her continuing recovery

- Freeda P., as she continues to recover from breast cancer.

Mary N., a friend of Freeda's, who was recently diagnosed with a life-threatening disease.

- Bob P., who continues to fight chronic leukemia and its complications.

- Virginia V., an excused member of our fraternity, who has been unable to attend our gatherings because of almost daily migraine headaches.

- In thanksgiving for the healthy birth of Carol I.'s grandson, Michael James S., on February 18, 2014.

Please remember to pray for our Pastors and their Assistants.

<http://www.diocese-sdiego.org/en-us/diocese/clergy/prayerforpriests.aspx>

April Anniversaries

Birthdays

April 14 Irene E., OFS

Professions

April 10, 2005 Winnie B., OFS

Memorials

April 2, 1999 Cornelia S., OFS

April 17, 2003 Nicholas F., OFS



Oh, last but definitely not least, remember your donation envelope for the Common Fund. The box will be waiting for you.

Or mail to: Edward

Meditation for Lent: AND GOD SAID “NO”

I asked God to take away my pride, and God said “No”.
He said it was not for Him to take away, but for me to give up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole, and God said, “No”.
He said her spirit is eternal, while her body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience, and God said, “No”.
He said patience is a by-product of tribulation. It isn’t granted – it is earned.

I asked God to give me happiness, and God said “No”.
He said He gives blessings. Happiness is up to me.

I asked God to spare me pain, and God said “No”.
He said, “Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you close to Me.”

I asked God to make my spirit grow, and God said “No”.
He said I must grow on my own, but He will prune me to make it fruitful.

I asked God if He loved me, and God said “Yes”. He gave me His only Son, who died for me, and I will be in heaven someday because I believe.

I asked God to help me love others as much as He loves me,
And God said, “Ah, finally you have the idea.”

...by Claudia Minden Weisz