



THE CORD

San Luis Rey Fraternity of the
Secular Franciscan Order

Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside, CA.

Next Gathering is on May 1 2016

Mass in the Serra Center at 10:00 AM

Community Prayer in the St. Clare Chapel after Mass

Lunch in the O'Keefe Lounge from 12:00-12:50 PM

General Meeting in the Luiseño Room from 1:00-3:00 PM



Council Meeting will follow at 3:00 PM

Future Meetings:

September 6, 2015, Oct. 3, Transitus-4, Gen. Mtg. 2015

A QUOTE FROM POPE FRANCIS



**Monthly
Meditation,
saint, special
prayer....**

Love cannot be reduced to an ephemeral emotion. True, it engages our affectivity, but in order to open it to the beloved and thus to blaze a trail leading away from self-centeredness and towards another person, in order to build a lasting relationship; love aims at union with the beloved. Here we begin to see how love requires truth. Only to the extent that love is grounded in truth can it endure over time, can it transcend the passing moment and be sufficiently solid to sustain a shared journey. If love is not tied to truth, it falls prey to fickle emotions and cannot stand the test of time. True love, on the other hand, unifies all the elements of our person and becomes a new light pointing the way to a great and fulfilled life. Without truth, love is incapable of establishing a firm bond; it cannot liberate our isolated ego or redeem it from the fleeting moment in order to create life and bear fruit.

~~Lumen Fidei: The Light of Faith

Tax season is over, so we are blessed with a **MINISTER'S NOTE**

My Dear Brother and Sisters,

Over the years, and in various ways, I continually hear others among us who tend to shy away from the word "Secular" in reference to our Order. As for me, this is something that I hope to continually embrace. When I introduce myself as being in Religious Orders, invariably, the follow up questions all stem from the words, "*But, how?*" My response to them is unequivocal, "I'm a Secular." Every day I am further reminded by all that is around me - I am a Religious Man in a Secular World.

Those I have talked to across the State and Nation all seem to be experiencing a universal uprising in both angst and vexation. I cannot help but think this has spawned the polarizing political movements that are dominating our mass media outlets today. Pure vitriol. Yesterday I came across a car that had two bumper stickers. A "Tolerance" sticker on one side of the car, yet some very damning words directed towards a minority political group were displayed on the other. Many people today are angry, incensed, and hurt to the point of blindness and loss of rational thought. All things you might commonly find in a Secular World.

In the Gospel of John, Christ offers up one of the most amazing prayers for his disciples. If we focus more specifically on the few verses around John Ch. 17 :15 we find some pertinent words from our Savior for us "today". Our Lord asked that you and I remain in this world. He knew we would be exposed to evil, so He provided us with Truth as our sanctification.

Recently, I spoke with our Regional Minister, Judith Mussatto, and she shared this important lesson. In part: ' As Franciscans we supposed to come together in Joy and take that Joy out into the World. Sometimes we get this reversed and we bring the World into the Franciscans.'

This is the challenge put before us. We are in this World but not of it. When we come together, let us share God's Love. When we leave, let us take that Truth out in to the World.

I will leave you with a paraphrase of a quote that frequently inspires me:
"*... We choose to do these things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard.*" And this is why I am a "Secular" Franciscan, and will remain.....

Your most unworthy,

David A. Y., OFS
Minister ~ San Luis Rey

Duties and Responsibilities of Fraternity officers and Councilors

The Fraternity Council, Article 49

1. The council of the local fraternity is composed of the following offices: minister, vice-minister, secretary, treasurer, and master of formation. Other offices may be added according to the needs of each fraternity. The spiritual assistant of the fraternity forms part of the council by right.
2. The fraternity, meeting in an assembly or chapter, discusses questions regarding its own life and organization. Every three years, in an elective assembly or chapter, the fraternity elects the minister and the council in the way established by the Constitutions and statutes.

Article 50

1. It is **the duty of the council of the local fraternity**:

- to promote the initiatives necessary for fostering fraternal life, for improving the human, Christian, and Franciscan formation of its members and for sustaining their witness and commitment in the world;
- to make concrete and courageous choices, appropriate for the situation of the fraternity, from among the numerous activities possible in the field of the apostolate.

2. The **duties of the council are also**:

- a. to decide on the acceptance and admission to profession of new brothers and sisters;
- b. to establish a fraternal dialogue with members in particular difficulties and to adopt consequent measures;
- c. to receive the request for withdrawal and to decide on the suspension of a member from the fraternity;
- d. to decide on the establishment of sections or groups in conformity with the Constitutions and the statutes;
- e. to decide on the destination of available funds and, in general, to deliberate on matters concerning financial management and economic affairs of the fraternity;
- f. to assign duties to the councilors and to the other professed members;
- g. to request from the competent superiors of the First Order (*Second Order*) and (*or*) the TOR suitable and prepared religious as assistants;**
- h. to perform such other duties as are required by these Constitutions or which are necessary to carry out its proper purposes.

The Offices in the Fraternity

Article 51

1. While firmly upholding the co-responsibility of the council to animate and guide the fraternity, the minister, as the primary person responsible for the fraternity, is expected to make sure that the directions and the decisions of the council are put into practice and will keep the council informed about what he or she is doing.
2. The **minister** also has the following duties:
 - a. to call, to preside at, and to direct the meetings of the fraternity and council; to convoke every three years the elective chapter of the fraternity, having heard the council on the formalities of the convocation;

- b. to prepare the annual report to be sent to the council of the higher level after it has been approved by the council of the fraternity;
- c. to represent the fraternity in all its relations with ecclesiastical and civil authorities. When the fraternity acquires a juridical personality in the civil order, the minister becomes, when possible, its legal representative;
- d. to request, with the consent of the council, the pastoral and fraternal visits, at least once every three years.
- e. to put into effect those acts which the Constitutions refer to his or her competence.

Article 52

1. The **vice-minister** has the following duties:

- a. to collaborate in a fraternal spirit and to support the minister in carrying out his or her specific duties;
- b. to exercise the functions entrusted by the council and/or by the assembly or chapter;
- c. to take the place of the minister in both duties and responsibilities in case of absence or temporary impediment;
- d. to assume the functions of the minister when the office remains vacant.

2. The **secretary** has the following duties:

- a. to compile the official acts of the fraternity and of the council and to assure that they are sent to their respective proper recipients;
- b. to see to the updating and preservation of the records and the registers, noting admissions, professions, deaths, withdrawals, and transfers from the fraternity;
- c. to provide for the communication of the more important facts to the various levels and, if appropriate, to provide for their dissemination through the mass media.

3. The **master of formation** has the following duties:

- a. to co-ordinate, with the help of the other members of the council, the formative activities of the fraternity;
- b. to instruct and enliven the inquirers during the time of initiation, the candidates during the period of initiation formation, and the newly professed;
- c. to inform the council of the fraternity prior to profession, concerning the suitability of the candidate for a commitment to live according to the Rule.

4. The **treasurer**, or bursar, has the following duties:

- a. to guard diligently the contributions received, recording each receipt in the appropriate register, with the date on which it was given, the name of the contributor, or the one from whom it was collected;
- b. to record in the same register the items of expense, specifying the date and the purpose, in conformity with the directions of the fraternity council;
- c. to render an account of his or her administration to the assembly and to the council of the fraternity according to the norms of the national statutes.

5. The provisions regarding the rights and duties of the vice-minister, the secretary and the treasurer apply, with the appropriate adaptations, to all levels.

() mine, Carol I. VM OMSLR Fraternity.

For those that have the purple "Essential Documents" book this can be found under section 2, page 35.

Notes from our vice minister

If you tell Pat in the retreat center that you are a professed SFO, she just might have a surprise for you, but you have to inform her that you are a 'Professed' SFO.

Also His Holiness Pope Francis has published a new "Apostolic Exhortation" entitled "**Amoris Laetitia: On Love in the Family.**" that will be included with this newsletter as an attachment. Or you can go to, <http://www.stcath.com/media/1/14/Post-Synodal%20Apostolic%20Exhortation%20Amoris%20Laetitia.pdf> and download the actual document on your computer or mobile device.

It is a PDF, and can be read on your computer or mobile device, provided you have a PDF reader on your tablet or smartphone.

This can be printed out, and comes out in a nice large font provided you select the right settings for your printer. **Just be careful as it is a large (260 page) book.**

Can be purchased from Amazon.com for 12-14 dollars if you wish to buy one.

MISSION RETREAT CENTER

∞ FEED YOUR SOUL ∞

ATTEND A PROGRAM, ENJOY A QUIET DAY, OR TAKE A RETREAT



PRIVATE RETREAT

Take time away from your busy life to recharge, and find peace.

In addition to the Historic Church, guests may use the Retreat Center chapel and Blessed Sacrament Chapel for prayer and meditation.

Check in is at 4pm and check out is at 10am. Rates per person: Single Occupancy: \$75 per night without meals, and \$100 per night with meals. Shared Occupancy: \$65 per night without meals, and \$85 per night with meals.

QUIET DAYS

Quiet Days are offered during the week. Take a day to unplug from your cell phone and

emails. This is your day to relax and unwind. Fee per person: \$30; private room and boxed lunch included.

Relax
Chill out AND
Unwind

ASK ABOUT: PRIVATE RETREATS & SPIRITUAL DIRECTION!

Formation Reminders from Sandy, Formation Director



Classes are held the Saturday before the meeting.
God Bless,
Sandy B., OFS
Director of Formation

Anniversaries of Profession



12-10-2006 Penny J. (7 years)
12-10-2006 Freeda P. (7 years)

Memorials



December 4, 2002 Mary P. Ryan M.
December 29, 1998 Mae C.

Birthdays



This month, we will think of the most important 'Birthday' Feast on the Church calendar, that of the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ as we celebrate Christmas on Dec. 25, as we have no known member birthdays this month.

Understanding Papal Documents (Interesting Information)

Below is a list of the major types of papal documents according to the typical weight of their authority.
Papal bull: A type of apostolic letter authenticated with a bulla or seal generally issued to confer the titles of bishops or cardinals, to promulgate canonizations, to proclaim Holy Years and for other purposes.

Apostolic constitution: The highest and most authoritative form of ecclesiastical, legal or legislative pronouncement issued by the pope in his own name.

Motu proprio: A Latin phrase designating an important document issued by a pope on his own initiative. Documents of this kind are generally brief and often concern administrative matters, though they can be doctrinal in nature.

Encyclical letter: The highest form of papal teaching document expressing the mind of the pope. Generally addressing pastoral issues, it is normally addressed to all the bishops and/or to all the faithful.

Apostolic exhortation: Similar to an apostolic letter, an exhortation often communicates the thoughts of a pope on a particular topic, often stemming from the recommendations of a Synod of Bishops.

Apostolic letter: Holding less solemn authority than an encyclical, letters can be used in a multitude of ways by a pope and can address doctrinal matters or announce a papal act such as furthering a sainthood cause.

Sources: Catholic Encyclopedia (OSV), Catholic Dictionary (OSV), EWTN.com

Note...

We are going to have a couple of guests from regional who are going to explain to us just what happened last month as we, David and I, are just as perplexed as everybody else is.. as to what is going on..

Please remember to pray for spiritual assistance in your daily prayers.

Let us Pray for our brothers and sisters, especially:



- For the safety of David our Minister in his journeys during this busy time of year for him.
- Mary B., for healing of her arm after a fall in November. Also for her general health and well-being.
- Mike P. - who is receiving hospice care at his home
- Pat D., for strength and support as she cares for her husband Pepe.
- For Pope Francis, Bishop Robert McElroy, for our pastors, priests, deacons and consecrated religious, including those in lay orders and institutes.
- For the victims of the atrocities of ISIS throughout the world.
- For all the other Secular Franciscans served by the fraternity's outreach program.
- All of our Fraternity members, especially: our council members, our brothers and sisters who are in formation, our elderly and or homebound who aren't able come to our fraternity gatherings.
- Members of all three Orders of the Franciscan Family who need our prayers.

New, or missing requests, email Carol.

DEAR GOD

I know that I am not perfect, I know sometimes I forget to pray, I know I have questioned my faith, I know sometimes I loose my temper,

But thank you for loving me, unconditionally and giving me another day to start over again!!!!

One of our members posted this to "Facebook," and I just think that it is awesome, as how many times do we think these things when life brings us trials and tribulations? Things such as two marriages in your family going sour within a 6 month period, your daughter, 31 years old, finding out she needs a knee either totally replaced or partially replaced. To make things worse, she just bought a two story house that she won't be able to navigate while her knee is healing. There are times when this is the prayer that we need to pray many times in a day, just to thank the Lord for loving us unconditionally. Thank you to whoever it was that found it and posted it to "Facebook." Yes there is some good that can come from social media.



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

**When you want to publish something in our newsletter, please have it in to the Editor, a minimum of TWO (2) weeks before the upcoming Gathering.
Thank You**