



the Cord

San Luis Rey Fraternity of the
Secular Franciscan Order
Mission San Luis Rey,
Oceanside, CA.
www.slr-ofs.org



Next Meeting April 7, 2019

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 - 1250PM
General Gathering 1:00 - 2:50 PM
Council Meeting follows at appx 3:15PM

Future Meetings:

May 5, 2019, June 2, 2019, July 7, 2019, **August 4, 2019 Chapter of Elections.**
These are regular monthly gathering; Dates subject to change

Join us as we both reflect on the 'First' Penitent and celebrate the
"Birthday of the Franciscan Order"
Presented by Laura Chun .

Mission San Luis Rey Parish is presenting ***Faustina, Messenger of Divine Mercy, Monday***, April 8th, 2019 at 7 pm in the Serra Center. Admission is \$10.00 a ticket, suitable for ages 13 and up. For more information, contact Mission San Luis Rey Parish (760) 757-3250
www.sanluisreyparish.org, mslrp@sanluisreyparish.org

Submitted by Karen, OFS

Minister's Note

Messengers of [Perfect Joy](#)

Dear sisters and brothers,

As we continue to reflect on our Rule this year, the following passage seems especially well-suited to a month that includes the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord:

Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon. Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others. Since they are immersed in the resurrection of Christ, which gives true meaning to Sister Death, let them serenely tend toward the ultimate encounter with the Father.



— [Rule](#) of the Secular Franciscan Order – Article 19

When have you been a messenger of joy in a difficult circumstance? When *should* you have been such a messenger?

I can think of many times when I acted as a messenger – not of joy and hope – but of criticism and discouragement to others. So I depend on love and pardon every day!

This holy month, may we each be immersed in that Paschal joy which prepares us for the ultimate encounter.

Donna OFS

Image: *Noli me tangere* (Do not touch me) about 1368-70, [probably by Jacopo di Cione](#)

FRANCISCAN THOUGHTS ON PRAYING THE GOSPEL

By Eileen OFS

St. Francis prayed with the gospel by understanding the word of God not from the outside or mastering an analysis of the word but from an awakening within himself. Each person can receive this awakening or revelation on condition of being engaged with one's whole heart and senses in praying the gospel.

An exercise found in *The Journey into God* by Josef Raischl, OFS and Andre Cirono, OFM helps in developing this type of prayer.

Try to be present to all your senses by becoming aware of each one!

- * Go for a walk focusing on inner concentration.

Experience in quiet and meditation a sunrise or sunset

or a walk through the night with the bright stars.

- * Ask yourself the following questions:

Where do I sense a desire for peace in my life now?

What areas of my life lack inner or outer peace?

- * Write some answers to those questions on paper.

For each answer use a separate small sheet of paper.

- * Then burn the pieces of paper, lighting a candle from this new

flame while praying for peace, using for example, the

Taize chant, *Da pacem domine.*

Like the fire that consumes these papers, may your desire for reconciliation,

renewal and peace never die.

With this sense of peace, pray *Lectio Divina.*

:



We are in the downhill run, before the next uphill walk, as Fraternal Elections are in 4, yes FOUR months... And here is something for you to ponder...

Prayer for our Coming Fraternity Elections

I thank you, Lord for making me a Secular Franciscan.

Pardon my shortcomings, weaknesses and failures as I seek to lead a Gospel life according to our Holy Rule. Please make me the Franciscan you want me to be.

Jesus, just as I have a body, and my body has several parts, and each part has a separate function, so all of us in this fraternity, in union with you, Lord, from one body. As parts of that body, we belong to each other. Each of us has gifts that you have given us.

If my gift is administration, let me use it for administration; if teaching, let me use it for teaching. If I be a preacher, let me deliver sermons, if an alms giver, let me give freely, if an officer let me be diligent, and if I am to do works of mercy, let me do them cheerfully. Whatever my gifts, Lord let me use them to serve you as you see fit.

Borrowed from "Joy of Francis" newsletter

Do not let my love be a pretense, but let me love others as brother or sister should, and give me a profound respect for each of them.

Let me work for you and with you, Lord.

Let me recognize in myself and others the gifts we need to enliven and guide the group. Let us encourage and assist one another in your work. Lord, we give thanks for all your gifts, especially wisdom, knowledge, strength, discernment, kindness and generosity of spirit.

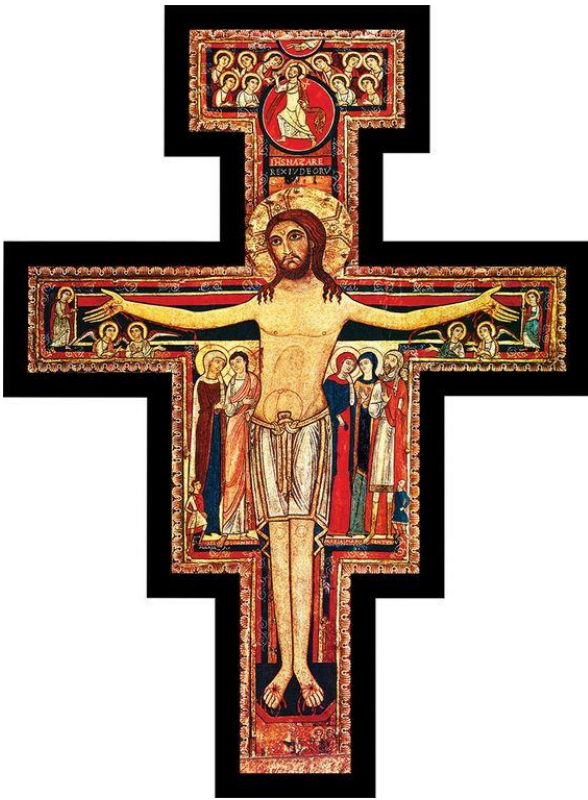
Lord, give me right faith, firm hope and perfect charity, and give me the wisdom and perseverance to accomplish your will. I trust in you and ask for your light.

Jesus, grant that your Gospel in the spirit of St. Francis be alive in our community.

Jesus, grant that we know what you want us to do, that we want what pleases you and will to do what you want for your sake alone.

I(we) ask this through Christ our Lord Amen.

I believe this was composed by our own **Karron Esmonde OFS** when she was our Minister



see the form of a flying dove. When I mentioned it to J.A. Hemingway (Photographer) he was surprised, as all he thought he had captured was a sunset.

HOLY RULE Paragraph 21: “On various levels, each fraternity is animated and guided by a council and minister (or president) who are elected by the professed according to the constitutions.

Their service, which lasts for a definite period, is marked by a ready and willing spirit and is a duty of responsibility to each member and to the community.

Within themselves the fraternities are structured in different ways according to the norm of the constitutions, according to the various needs of their members and their regions, and under the guidance of their respective council.”

Page 10, (section 1), *Essential Documents of the SFO*, (Maroon Book)

Check chapter 29, (page 310) in *The Franciscan Journey* for more discussion on this paragraph in our Holy Rule.

You can find more information in our Constitutions as well in Articles 31-34 in the maroon *Essential Documents of the SFO* book.

In this same book under articles 51 & 52, General Constitutions page 35-6 you can find information on “The Offices in the Fraternity.”

Formation reminders from Sandy Baden, Formation Director



Classes are held the Saturday before the meeting, please call Sandy for more information
God Bless,
Sandy Baden, OFS
Director of Formation

Memorials



April 2, 1999
April 2, 2012
April 6, 2018
April 17, 2003
April 28, 2009

[Cornelia Sussman](#)
[Elaine Smith](#)
[Mary Behnke](#)
Nicholas Furticella
Mary Gregush

The Lord's Prayer

Mat 6:5-19 (RSV)

*Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.*

Amen.



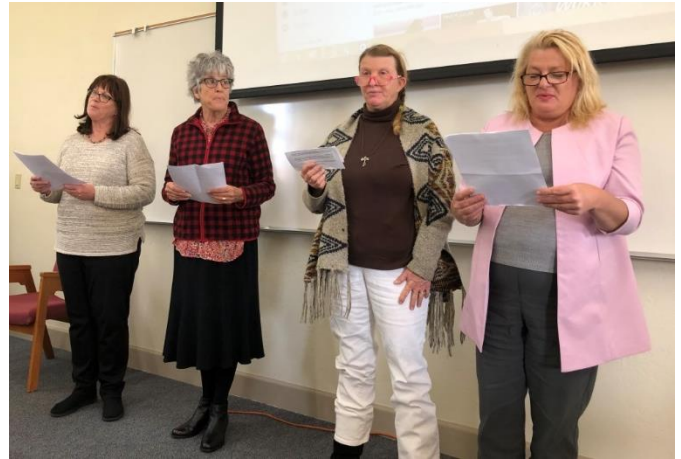
Let us Pray for our brothers and sisters, especially:

- ❖ For the safety of Donna our Minister in all her journeys and endeavors.
- ❖ For Pope Francis, Bishop Robert McElroy, and all Bishops.
- ❖ For our pastors, priests, deacons and consecrated religious, and lay orders.
- ❖ For the victims of war and terrorism throughout the world.
- ❖ For all of our brothers and sisters served by our fraternity's home outreach.
- ❖ For our Fraternity members, our council, in formation, and homebound.
- ❖ Members of all three Orders of the Franciscan Family who need our prayer.

Fraternity Photos



Luis & his 3 Beautiful Princesses



Our Four new Inquires (above, from left to right) are Cathy, Patti, Heidi, and Lisa.



Kelly and Barbara - not quite twins, but they do get mixed up!

God Whispers...

Find yourself a quiet place to listen, and see if you can relate to any of these situations... *God Whispers*, Author unk., From Kerey Q's Facebook wall, 12 Mar 2019. Beautiful music in background, so do turn up your speakers. Shift right click on following link for playback.

<https://www.facebook.com/merrill.bagwell/videos/10152292303277927/>

Fraternity Finances

As found on our Fraternity's website, our Secular Franciscan [Rule](#) regarding donations and expenses states:

- (25) Regarding expenses necessary for the life of the fraternity and the needs of worship, of the apostolate, and of charity, all the brothers and sisters should offer a contribution according to their means. Local fraternities should contribute toward the expenses of the higher fraternity councils.

With this in mind, at our April meeting we will discuss the following question, "What happens to the donations we place in the red box?"



Submitted by: Eileen, OFS, our Treasurer

Franciscan Saint / thought for the month Saint Crescentia Hoess



Feast Day – April 5

Saint Crescentia Hoess was born on October 20, 1682, in Kaufbeuren, a little town in the diocese of Augsburg. Her father, Matthias Hoess, a simple weaver, was barely able in spite of diligent work to provide the necessaries for his family of eight children. But he was a pious Christian, satisfied with his condition, and delighted to think upon the poor life and the bitter suffering of Jesus Christ. The mother bore a tender love for the sick and poor.

Crescentia received the virtues of her good parents as a precious inheritance. Even as a child she would withdraw from association with her playmates in order to pray in church or in a quiet corner of the house. If a poor person came to the house at mealtime, she often asked permission to give her portion to him.

At an early age Saint Crescentia Hoess was so thoroughly instructed in the truths of religions that her spiritual director permitted her to go to Holy Communion at the age of seven. Her answers in catechism class were sometimes filled with such depth of meaning that she said:

“My child, you must surely have a higher teacher.”

It has been recorded that her guardian angel and the Lord Himself, in the guise of a child frequently conversed with her.

As Crescentia grew older, she not only assisted her mother in all the housework, but also learned weaving from her father in spite of the fact that she was not robust. Her whole deportment, however, showed that she was not destined for this world. In town she was called “the little angel,” and she entertained no fonder hope than to be admitted among the consecrated virgins in the convent of the Tertiaries in her native town. But the convent was poor, and the superiors declared that they could not receive her without a dowry. Then the Protestant Mayor of the town lent his aid. He had rendered the convent a great service; when the nuns came to offer their expressions of gratitude, he told them that they might now, as a favor to him, accept the daughter of the poor weaver Hoess.

“It would surely be a shame,” he added, “if such an angel were spoiled by the world.” Now Crescentia was received into the convent, but she was made to feel that she had come without a dowry and was received only through force of necessity. She was compelled to do the lowliest work of a maid; she was regarded as a burden, frowned

upon and despised. Her readiness to be obliging and friendly were set down as flattery and hypocrisy; and when visible persecutions came from the devil, she was called a witch. The nuns would gladly have gotten rid of her if they had not been obliged to consider the mayor.

In spite of all these things, Saint Crescentia Hoess remained steadfast in her vocation. When the evil enemy said to her, "Go home, there you will not have it so bad as here," she said in answer: "I am ready to suffer still worse things."

Often Saint Crescentia Hoess said that she was only a poor weaver's daughter who was received out of pity, and should consequently not be permitted to make demands. Nevertheless, after four years conditions improved. A new superior soon recognized the eminent virtue of Sister Crescentia; she was appointed portress, and later on novice mistress, in which position she won the love and respect of all the sisters to such a degree, that after the death of the superior she was unanimously elected as the successor.

As superior, Saint Crescentia Hoess evinced not only maternal affection for his sisters and holy zeal for their spiritual advancement, but also such prudence in material affairs that the circumstances of the convent became better than they had ever been. Meanwhile, she was entirely devoted to the interior life.

God almighty granted her very special enlightenment, so that her advice was constantly sought. Not only did the people come from all parts of Swabia, but princes and princesses as well as bishops and even two cardinals came or wrote to her, to ask for her advice and opinion in most weighty matters. Withal Crescentia, like a true daughter of St Francis, always remained a model of humility.

In her final sufferings her virtue was to be specially tried. From the very beginning of her convent life, she had been much afflicted with headaches and toothaches. Added to this, she was later attacked with severe pains in the side, so that she could not walk a step. As the years advanced, bodily sufferings increased. She lay so severely ill, that her hands and feet were entirely crippled, and her whole body rolled up like a ball; to this was added severe pain in the back. But remembering the sufferings of Christ, in which she wished to share, she cried out:

"O ye bodily members, praise God that He has given you the capacity to suffer."
Yes, she drew from her sufferings peace and joy in the Holy Spirit as is indicated by her Hymn in Sufferings, which begins with the following words:
"Thou sweet Hand of God givest joy to my heart, And grantest that in pain I play the jester's part."

Finally, perfected in the way of sanctity, Saint Crescentia Hoess went to the joys of her Lord on Easter Sunday, April 9, 1744. Her virtues were pronounced heroic as early as 1801. She was beatified by Pope Leo XIII in the Jubilee year 1900.
from The Franciscan Book of Saints, edited by Marion Habig, OFM

Holy Gospel for 5th Sunday of Lent, cycle “C”

Gospel

JN 8:1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, and he sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. They said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, **“Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”** Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him. Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She replied, “No one, sir.” Then Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you.”

“Let him that is without sin cast the first stone.” (Traditional) Just who, other than Jesus himself, would be able to cast this stone? Just think about it... but he stated, “Neither do I condemn you. Go and do not sin any more.” (NCV)

“Do not judge, so that you in turn may not be judged. For you will be judged in the same way that you judge others, and the measure that you use for others will be used to measure you...” (Matthew, 7:1-2, NCV)

Both are about judging, and the Spirit led me to insert the 2nd one here... for it reminds us that the measure, rule, you use to measure others, will also be used to measure you.

“... forgive others, your heavenly father will also forgive you. ...if you do not forgive, ... your Father will not forgive your transgressions. (Matthew 6:14)

Editor: The quotes above are on forgiveness. The Holy Spirit made me do it.

From the outset in this reading, it is clear that the Pharisees who bring the adulteress to Jesus are not honest. Jesus simply bends down and starts tracing on the ground with his finger, indicating that he is not interested in their hypocritical nonsense, very much as we doodle when bored! Finally, they leave. And an unhappy woman who had faced death regains hope by meeting a good person.

God’s word to us through this tradition could be: With regard to the past, God is merciful. With faith in him work for a happy future!

Reflection on today’s Gospel from St. Joseph’s Complete Sunday Missal.



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

Fraternity Council



Minister
Donna Foley, OFS



**Secretary
Newsletter Editor,**
Carol Imhoff, OFS



Vice Minister
Karron Esmonde, OFS



Treasurer
Eileen Costa, OFS



Formation Director
Sandy Baden, OFS



Councilor
Dorothy Mann, OFS



Spiritual Assistant
Sr. Madeline Fitzgerald,
OSC



**Councilor,
Web Designer**
Laura Chun, OFS