

St. Elizabeth of Hungary

*Protectress of the Secular
Franciscan Order*

Feast Day: November 17



The Cord

November, 2020

*Newsletter of the San Luis Rey
Secular Franciscan Fraternity*

***CHANGE of Monthly Gatherings Dates
to 2nd Sunday of the month***

Upcoming Gatherings on Zoom:

- November Monthly General Gathering ~
Sunday, November 8th, 1:00 – 3:00pm
- Mid-Month Evening Prayer ~
Tuesday, November 17, 7pm - 8pm
- **JPIC Regional Meeting** ~ details on page ___
Saturday, December 12th, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
- December Monthly General Gathering ~
Sunday, December 13th, 1:00 – 3:00pm

Our Gatherings Will Be on Zoom:

Login Link: www.zoom.us

Click on: **Join a Meeting**

Meeting ID: 760 726 2486

Password: 1798

Contact Us via our website [Contact Page](#)

*San Luis Rey Secular Franciscan Fraternity
Mission San Luis Rey
4050 Mission Avenue
Oceanside, CA 92057*

Minister's Note for November

We move into darkness; it seems like the darkening evenings that come with the loss of daylight savings time on November 1st along with the seasonal shortening of days dovetails into the darkness of the continuing pandemic. We look at upcoming holidays that might not be the large and ebullient gatherings of past. Perhaps, this year, more quiet and more reflective.



Yet, around the corner is a season of light. Advent begins on November 29th. Early in December we also celebrate the most Franciscan of holidays: the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. We are truly blessed as a Fraternity to have a wonderful guest visitor joining us for our November Gathering. [Sr. Mary Beth Ingham, CSJ](#) will be joining us for our Fraternity gathering on Sunday, November 8th at 1pm via Zoom. Sr. Mary Beth is a professor from the [FST](#) (Franciscan School of Theology) and specializes in the 13th Century Franciscan Tradition: John Duns Scotus. Come join us as Sr. Mary Beth discusses Blessed John Duns Scotus and his role in formalizing the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Sr. Mary Beth Ingham is one of the world's foremost scholars on [Blessed John Duns Scotus](#). We will be dedicating the first half of our gathering to listening to Sr. Mary Beth as well as discussion on amazing Franciscan, 'one of the most influential Franciscans through the centuries.' Pope Pius IX solemnly defined the Immaculate Conception of Mary in 1854 drawing form the thought of John Duns Scotus. Franciscan Media offers the following reflection from Father Charles Balic, O.F.M., the 20th-century authority on Scotus: "The whole of Scotus's theology is

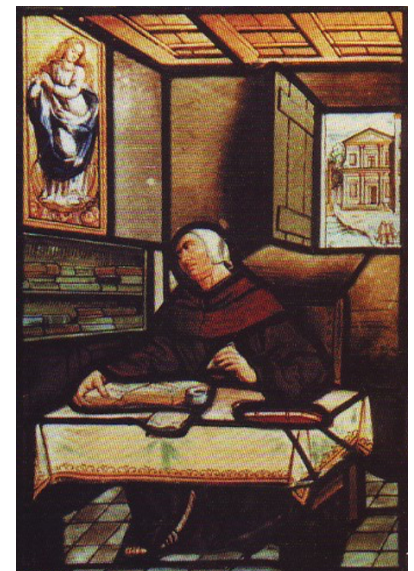
dominated by the notion of love. The characteristic note of this love is its absolute freedom. As love becomes more perfect and intense, freedom becomes more noble and integral both in God and in man." (*New Catholic Encyclopedia*, Vol. 4, p. 1105).

Do you have Franciscan minded friends who might be interested in joining us to listen to Sr. Mary Beth and learning about the role of John Duns Scotus in our understanding of the Immaculate Conception? I'm sure it will be intense – but WOW... what an opportunity. The Council would like to encourage you to share the Zoom link and invite them to attend the talk with us; it will be the first half the gathering. They are very welcome to experience this with us.

And in sharing this joy, in some small way – we will be helping to bring light to the darkness.

Pace e Bene +
Laura Chun OFS, Minister

SLR Fraternity



My Father - † November 1st, 1999

Remembering our Loved Ones on All Saints Day and Thanksgiving



As I was watching EWTN this evening, suddenly a deep understanding came over me about the real meaning of Father. It was the Journey Home program when those who belong to another denomination share their stories of conversion and journey back to home to the mother church, the Catholic Church. I only tuned in towards the end. The “traveler” said something significant about not fearing the moment of death if we are in the state of grace (that is we have not committed any deadly sin that we felt deeply sorry for and have already sought reconciliation for). Then he added, but it is the great King we’ll stand before, expressing how trembling this might be.



At this moment, something struck me. The image of Father in contrast to that of the King. Our heavenly Father. Why did Christ want us to pray to God as Our Father in heaven? Because He is. He is our Father in Heaven. He could have given us a different prayer, and asked us to call God by a different name (such as King). He chose Father. Since Christ is the truth, he can’t tell us anything but the truth. This is the reality. God is not like a Father, but is a Father, the Father of us all. Christ is the “only begotten Son” of the Father, meaning that He is divine like His Father, and is the second person of the Trinity. We on the other hand are not divine in nature. We are human, but God decided to take up his dwelling (residence) in us, thus we are given the choice to allow Him to manifest through us, and become Godlike. Through His indwelling, He saves us from our iniquities

and becomes our compass if we turn to Him and listen to Him. In the great Eucharistic (Thanksgiving) prayer of Jesus at the Last Supper, He asks the Father that we may become one “as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us ..., I in them, and you in me”. (John 17:21,23) ...”that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.” (John 17:26)

Children are expected to imitate their parents. As God’s children, we’re expected to imitate God, our heavenly Father. We also have been given a heavenly Mother, Mary, who like us has no divine nature. However, she has so perfectly imitated God that if we follow her example, she will lead us to Him. Through her intercessions, we’ll come closer and closer to God, and become more and more Godlike in a hidden transforming way. Just like a baby is formed in the mother’s womb, conceived by the Father, and hidden from the eyes of the world. Heaven truly rejoices when a “baby”, a new born, emerges from her womb.



It was, however, the image of Father that struck me as I was watching the end of the Journey Home program. If God is our Father, how do we know what a Father, a true Father, is like? We would look to our earthly Father for clues. What if that earthly Father is anything but Godlike, or we don’t even know him because we are raised by a single mother, or are orphans? Yes, how blessed are those who have an earthly Father who is the image of our Heavenly Father, whose love is unconditional, who is not self-centered, and puts his family’s needs first, before his own, who makes self-sacrifices, and wants the best for each of his children, and puts himself last. A father who is patient, listens and is wise, on whom his family can always count on, who provides for their needs and protects them from the harshness of the world, someone with integrity, who never lies, or cheats, but always says the truth, whom one can trust and rely on, one who is the rock for his family, a man of principles, who dreams big for his children, but lets them choose their path. A father who is always available to his children when they need him, but never forces his will on them, rather guides them toward the right path. A merciful and forgiving father, who

is compassionate and understanding, gentle yet strong, and is most generous. What a blessing, indeed to have such a father on earth! And it struck me, my father was such a father, and how blessed I am because of that. How much easier it is for me than for those who weren't so blessed.

What a responsibility a father has! What an important role and vocation he has been given, none other than to be the true image of God the Father. How awesome! Tears started to role down my cheeks as an array of emotions flooded my soul; gratefulness and joy for having a deeper understanding of God as our Father in heaven, and sorrow for missing my father on earth as the image of the two fathers have merged into one. Through the example of my Dad, I have come to a deeper experience of who God is. From my early childhood, I went to my Dad with the question of who God is. He explained, and guided me in who God truly is through the years I was growing up, and even after I went to college. He was the source of my religious education as there was no catechism taught in Hungary during communism. Dad was taught by Jesuits, and he even contemplated the vocation to the priesthood before he met my mother. As he explained to me, he found the family the most perfect place for him to live out the Gospel. And he did. He often quoted some Gospel passage when making a difficult decision, or when trying to guide us, or comfort us, and it gave us great peace.

I never forget as we were getting ready to escape from Hungary in a hurry. We laid the suitcases on the large dining table to quickly put in what we thought we'll need in our new home. What if they open the suitcases at the border and ask us why we're taking winter clothes and jackets with us on a Summer vacation in August to France? - my mother asked. We'll tell them we're going to the Alps. Do we have visa to Switzerland? Of course my father was wise enough to get visas to all the Western European countries that we might possibly cross in our escape whether we leave Hungary through the Western, Southern, or Northern border. We spent the afternoon what we would answer if the Hungarian border patrol found this or that, like silver utensils, people don't normally bring with them for vacation. Finally, my Dad told us



Jesus said don't try to figure out ahead of time what you are to say when they bring you before judges, the Holy Spirit, the Advocate will reveal to you what you are to say. We stopped. This promise of God gave us peace, and we stopped worrying what we are to say. We put our trust in God that the Holy Spirit will reveal to us what to say when needed. And so it was. As the border patrol asked my Mom if we were bringing any gifts to whom we visit in France, she said yes. "What is it?" He asked. My Mom responded "You know, something little", and she gestured with her hands trying to show the size of the gift. She kept repeating "something little" as her eyes were searching the suitcases above our heads as if trying to figure out in which suitcase this gift might be so she can show him. The patrol then gave her a form to fill out with the list we're bringing, and told us that he'll come back to collect it later. He disappeared and never returned. If any of the suitcases were opened, the content would have told him we are leaving Hungary for good, not just for a Summer vacation. Then he would have had to stop and arrest us as dissidents. We all realized how wise our Dad was, and felt that the Holy Spirit was truly with us.

As I was watching the end of the Journey Home program, I realized that even nine years after his death, my Father is still teaching me about who God is - our true heavenly Father! He is not so much a King as a loving Father. My tears rolled down my cheeks in thanksgiving. Thank you Dad for this insight. I love you!



By Dr. Marta M. Kassai, OFS, June 2, 2008

Doctor Jon Duns Scotus, OFM ***Philosopher, Theologian***

It is with timidity and humility that I tender my thoughts on our Franciscan Doctor of theology, Blessed Johannes Duns Scotus 1256/66 – Nov. 08, 1308.



How appropriate to explore Scotus on his Feast Day Sunday, Nov. 8th. At the beginning of our November fraternity gathering, Dr. Mary Beth Ingham, CSJ, Franciscan School of Theology, Professor of Philosophical Theology, will offer a short presentation of Scotus.

Jon Scotus' life followed the period of Thomas Aquinas and Franciscan Friar Bonaventure's enlightenment. Through the period from the time of the death of Saint Francis in 1226 thru 1318 there were 18 different Popes and a constantly shifting power structure and intellectual growth. In this period of the late 13th. century, Jon brought a challenging clarity of a new and developing church.

It is fascinating to read his writings and I can only imagine him standing in the center of the Paris university gallery discoursing his Latin to the students trying to grasp the idea, for which he is best known, the "*univocity of being*", that existence is the most abstract concept we have, applicable to everything that exists.

This challenge of established ideas and the presentation of new concepts remind me of the characteristic of a Jesus who challenged all norms from eating with tax collectors to curing non-Jews. While we accept the Immaculate Conception and Mariology today, Jon Scotus was justifying and establishing the theology against others who would argue otherwise. It would not be until 1854 that it would become dogma.

Even seven centuries later we debate Jon Duns' challenge to Thomas Aquinas and the question of why God sacrificed himself for humanity..

Lastly, I would be remiss to not reference the "dunce cap" conceived as punishment on a stool in the corner of the room. **Not so!** According to the "Straight Dope", Duns Scotus recommended the wearing of the conical hats to stimulate the brain – so called – thinking caps. When you next see a wizard with a pointy hat let it be known that it makes one wiser.

In 1307 Friar Jon was in the garden with a group of students when he received word that he had to leave Paris and the University immediately. Without collecting his belongings he left (fled) for the safety of Franciscan studies in Cologne. He passed away a year later.

God Bless our dear Scotus

Joe Cannon, OFS



Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC)



There are some teachers and preachers in our Franciscan family who delight, inspire, and often just blow me away. Prominent among them is Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM. The founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation, he is a prolific author and renowned spiritual teacher.

This month, I'd like to share a meditation from Friar Richard's recent series titled, "Franciscan Ecological Wisdom" that speaks volumes to our Franciscan view of creation.

God is Being Itself

The Franciscan philosopher and theologian John Duns Scotus (1266–1308), whom I studied for four years in seminary, wrote that "God first wills Christ as his supreme work." [1]

In other words, God's "first idea" and priority was to make the Godself both visible and shareable. The word used in the Bible for this idea was *Logos*, which was taken from Greek philosophy, and which I would translate as the "Blueprint" for reality.

The whole of creation—not just Jesus—is the partner in the divine dance. Everything is the "child of God"—no exceptions. When you think of it, what else could anything be? All created beings must, in some way, carry the divine DNA of their Creator.

Without a sense of the inherent sacredness of the world—in every tiny bit of life and death—we struggle to see God in our own reality, let alone to respect reality, protect it, or love it.

The consequences of this ignorance are all around us, seen in the way we have exploited and damaged our fellow human beings, the dear animals, the web of growing things, the land, the waters, and the very air. It took until the twenty-first century for a pope to clearly say this, in Pope Francis' prophetic document *Laudato Si'*.

May it not be too late and may the unnecessary gap between practical seeing (science) and holistic seeing (religion) be fully overcome. They still need each other.

Franciscan mysticism has an *incarnational worldview*, which is the profound recognition of the presence of the divine in literally “every thing” and “every one.” It is the key to mental and spiritual health, as well as to a kind of basic contentment and happiness.

An incarnational worldview is the only way we can reconcile our inner worlds with the outer one, unity with diversity, physical with spiritual, individual with corporate, and divine with human.

What we see in Franciscan mystics, again and again, is a joyful and unitive consciousness that intuits and experiences what Duns Scotus called “the univocity of being.” By this, Duns Scotus meant that we can speak with *one consistent and true voice* about a rock, a tree, an animal, a human, an angel, and God! They all participate in the one same state of Being to varying degrees, and *Deus est Ens*, he often wrote: “God is Being itself.”

This eliminates any clear distinction between the sacred and the profane, because Christ existed in matter from all eternity (Colossians 1:15–20; Ephesians 1:3–11), ever since God decided to materialize and reveal who God is through creation. It is summarized on our Franciscan coat of arms by the Latin phrase *Deus Meus et Omnia*: “My God and All Things!”

[1] Scotism entry, *Encyclopedia of Theology*, ed. Karl Rahner (Burns and Oates: 1975), 1548. Duns Scotus identified Christ as “*summum opus Dei*.”

Article from Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation, Wednesday, May 20, 2020



*Karron Esmonde, OFS
JPIC Animator*

The Immaculate Conception, “The Mother of God”

The Immaculate Conception is a doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church in regards to Mary, the Mother of God, and seems to be a very interesting topic in my humble estimation. In some articles I have read concerning the meaning of the Immaculate Conception seems to articulate this has nothing to do with Jesus. How could this be? The thought brought to mind is that this concerns “only Mary,” and she has been deemed to have been born without sin and does not receive the consequences of Original Sin. This may be true, but how could this have nothing to do with Jesus?

As I think of Mary, Jesus always comes into my mind. Would God bring His only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, out of time and into time on this earth, to be born of someone who is with sin and has the consequences of Original Sin? Jesus would have to reside in the womb of Mary in sin? Christ came into this world without sin and could not possibly be in the first “Tabernacle of our Lord,” in the womb of Mary, and reside with sin?

The perfect “Mother of God” would have to be without sin in order to give birth to our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, how would John the Baptist be sanctified in Mary’s womb when Mary came to greet Elisabeth after the incarnation, and John leap with Joy? Did not “St. Gabriel the Archangel” announce to Mary, “Hail Mary full of grace.”

God knew Mary before she was born as God had said to Jeremiah in 1:1-19, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you.” The Immaculate Conception, in my thinking, has everything to do with Mary and our Lord Jesus Christ, as God created Mary to be the “Mother of God.”



Sandy Baden, OFS
Vice Minister

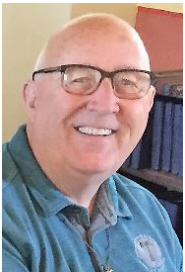


News from the Fraternity Council

From our Formator & Councilors



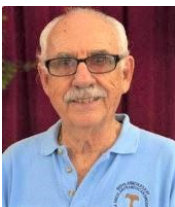
On October 10th the Orientation class met for the last gathering. We focused on the compass of the direction in their Franciscan path and what lay ahead. The sharing was of “a moment or an individual” who inspired us on our path to Profession to which every Franciscan can relate. As our brothers and sisters journey forward in their calling, may we reflect that Jesus’ life is our model. *May we pray to be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love as Christ loved. (Eph 5:1)* May Francis and Clare be our guiding lights.



We joyfully pass our new friends on to the loving hands of Liz and Sam in November.

Kelly Farnum, OFS and Joe Cannon, OFS - Councilors

From our Treasurer



You can mail your OFS fraternity contributions to:

**Rock DeSpain OFS,
1257 Lodgepole Drive,
Hemet CA, 92545**



Sr. Mary Beth Ingham, CSJ at our November 8th Gathering



[Sr. Mary Beth Ingham, CSJ](#) will be joining us for our Fraternity gathering on Sunday, November 8th at 1pm via Zoom. Sr. Mary Beth is a professor from the [FST](#) (Franciscan School of Theology) and specializes in the 13th Century Franciscan Tradition: John Duns Scotus. Come join us as Sr. Mary Beth discusses Blessed John Duns Scotus and his role in formalizing the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception that we celebrate on December 8th.

Evening Vespers on November 17th Celebrating St. Elizabeth of Hungary



All are invited to attend our Fraternity evening prayer on Tuesday, November 17th, the Feast Day of St. Elizabeth of Hungary. St. Elizabeth is proclaimed to be the patron saint of "bakers, countesses, death of children, falsely accused, the homeless, nursing services, tertiaries, widows, and young brides." These are appropriate because she herself was all of these things.

Patrick Martin, OFS, the regional minister of St. Margaret Cortona region tells us that 'during an especially harsh period of long winters, poor harvests, floods and pestilence, Elizabeth used her authority to distribute their personal grain harvest to the poor, and to build hospitals where she would personally tend to the sick. It was probably during this time that Elizabeth became a member of the Franciscan Third Order, known today as the Secular Franciscan Order.'

Marta Kassai OFS, will be sharing her knowledge and love of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, the patroness of the Secular Franciscan Order. Please come join us on November 17th at 7pm.

Secular Franciscan Regional & National News

SAVE THE DATE! - JPIC Regional Meeting

Saturday, December 12th, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

CARE FOR CREATION presentation for Everyone!

Karron Esmonde, OFS will be presenting.

To Sign Up, send an email to patriciaelizabethgrace7@gmail.com with **JPIC Regional Meeting** on the subject line, for the ZOOM login.

Please see the most recent [National Tau Newsletter](#) for all the National News.

Laura Chun's Zoom Meeting Room



To join by **Computer**, Laptop, Tablet, SmartPhone App:

- Click or Go to this [link](#) (full link is below):
- If prompted use: Meeting ID: 760 726 2486
- Then use Password: 1798

To join by **landline or audio-only Phone** (no video):

- Dial this number (it's in San Jose): 1-669-900-6833
- Meeting ID: 760 726 2486
- Then use Password: 1798

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7607262486?pwd=dmRBNVU5WFUxMTdzaUxGcy9ibGtwdz09>



Let us Pray for our brothers and sisters, especially: :



- ❖ For those who died in the month of November~~~✝
 - November 4, 1998 **Catherine Wagner, OFS**
 - November 6, 2006 **Rose Rita Langen, OFS**
 - November 9, 2006 **Rosemary O'Hagan, OFS**
 - November, date unknown **Sandra Stevens, OFS**
- ❖ Let us pray for all those that are impacted by the fires, who have lost their homes, been evacuated, or breathing the fire-ravaged air.
- ❖ For all of our families and friends and neighbors...for conversion and holiness and healing.
- ❖ For the safety of Laura, our Minister, and our Council that they may be filled with wisdom and grace to fulfill the roles in which they have been entrusted.

From the Editor: Thank you all for your contributions to this month issue of The Cord. Due to change in our monthly general gathering date to second Sundays, please submit your articles, reports or adds by the 25th of the month to publish in next month issue. Send your Word or Pages files (font Arial 12 pt, if possible) and any photos (jpg or png) via email to: mksfo@me.com. Thanks, Marta

Dr. Marta Kassai, OFS



The Litany of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Protector, Third Order Franciscan



Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, hear us.
O Christ, graciously hear us.
O God the Father, of heaven:
have mercy upon us.
O God the Son, Redeemer of the world:
O God, the Holy Ghost:
O Holy Trinity, one God:
have mercy upon us.
Holy Mary:
Pray for us.
Immaculate Virgin:
Mother and Mistress of our Order:
Pray for us.
St. Elizabeth, Princess of Hungary:
Pray for us.
St. Elizabeth, Duchess of Thuringia:
St. Elizabeth, mother in Israel:
St. Elizabeth, queen in the Kingdom of God:
St. Elizabeth, consoler of sinners:
St. Elizabeth, nurse of lepers:
St. Elizabeth, devoted wife of Louis the Good:
St. Elizabeth, famous exemplar of Christian widowhood:
St. Elizabeth, fervent spouse of the Son of God:
St. Elizabeth, humble in prosperity:
St. Elizabeth, patient in adversity:
St. Elizabeth, mighty in penance:
St. Elizabeth, wondrous in prayer:
St. Elizabeth, first-born of the tertiaries regular:
St. Elizabeth, protectress of our Order:
St. Elizabeth, the "dear saint" of Holy Church:
Pray for us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:
spare us, O Lord.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:
graciously hear us, O Lord.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

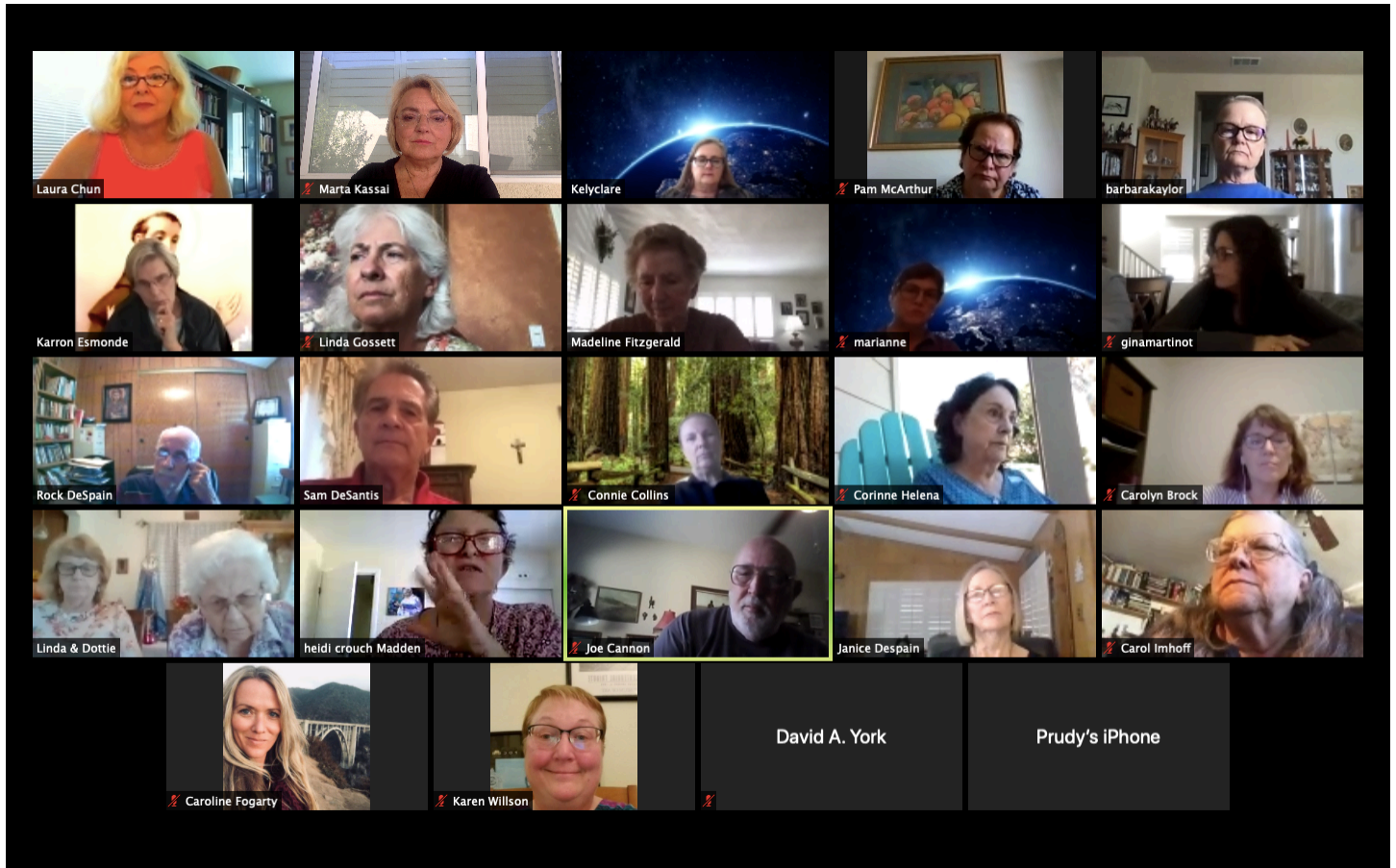
V. Pray for us, O blessed Elizabeth. Alleluia.

R. That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ. Alleluia.

Let us pray.

Merciful Lord, we pray Thee to pour the bright beams of Thy grace into our hearts: that, by the glorious prayers of Thy Saint Elizabeth, we may learn to despise all worldly prosperity, and ever to rejoice in all Heavenly consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

San Luis Rey Secular Franciscan Fraternity: Our October General Gathering on Zoom



*A Very Blessed Thanksgiving to All!
From the San Luis Rey Fraternity*

