

*Christmas*  
*Nativity of Our Lord*

*December 25*



Antonio da Correggio:  
Nativity, Adoration of the Shepherds  
c.1529-1530

# *The Cord*

*December, 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:**

- **Mid-Month Evening Prayer ~**  
Tuesday, December 8th, 7pm - 8pm
- **JPIC Regional Meeting ~** details on page 8  
Saturday, December 12th, 1:00 – 3:00 pm  
Please R.S.V.P.  
[patriciaelizabethgrace7@gmail.com](mailto:patriciaelizabethgrace7@gmail.com)
- **December Monthly General Gathering ~**  
Sunday, December 13th, 1:00 – 3:00pm
- **January Monthly General Gathering ~**  
Sunday, January 10th, 1:00 – 3:00pm

***Our Gatherings Will Be on Zoom:***

**Login Link:** [www.zoom.us](http://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 December

It seems to me that as Brothers and Sisters of Penance, Advent, a joyous time of preparation and repentance is especially attuned to our Franciscan spirituality. Perhaps it is with a Franciscan sense of wonder that we are able to even better enter into Advent.

Fr. Jeffrey Kirby writes in [Crux](#) that *'For the believer, or the person of goodwill, who chooses to observe Advent, they are allowing themselves to receive the blessings of the season. While different in how they are given, based on personal temperament and authentic need, the blessings of Advent include hope, peace, reconciliation, and conversion.'*

There a 'liminal space' in waiting. A space of unique blessings. In this liminal space, this space between, there can be hope, peace, reconciliation, conversion. We can move through this liminal space and allow ourselves to be transformed by God's graces. It's like that wonderful time of waiting and anticipation through the nine months of pregnancy for a baby to be born (and the joy St. Francis helped us celebrate at Greccio!). Waiting in anticipation for a dear friend's arrival. Waiting during the time of engagement a longed-for wedding. Tending for a dying loved one as Lady Jacoba did for Francis, waiting with them for the arrival of Sister Death, helping them to prepare for their journey home.

In this Advent-Amidst-a-Pandemic we have an opportunity to actually forgo excessive shopping and spend time in Scriptures. Rather than parties or gatherings, we can write heart-felt letters to family and friends that might need an uplifting thought or prayer. Especially during the pandemic, we can still share *joy*.

**This 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, we focus not on the waiting, but on this unbounded joy.** The [Readings for today](#) jump with joy! We light the rose-colored candle on the Advent wreath. Our long time of penitential waiting is nearly complete. There is light at the end of the tunnel. Our responsorial psalm today is stunningly beautiful: *My soul rejoices in my God. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked upon his lowly servant.*

I invite you to peruse the many articles included in this Cord; our spiritual life is full of so much Joy; the story of Greccio and the Incarnation, Our Lady of Guadalupe, our invitation to help others through Catholic Charities. At our December 13<sup>th</sup> gathering, Sr. Mary Beth Ingraham will be joining us to talk about Franciscan Duns Scotus and the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception. There is so much joy!

May God Grant You Peace +



Laura Chun, OFS  
Minister, SLR



## Our Lady of Guadalupe



“Our Lady of Guadalupe,” as she is commonly known, has many names attached to her image as she appeared on Dec. 9, 1531 to Juan Diego as a humble farmer and a Catholic convert. As I reflected on writing this article it occurred to me there is so much history and facts related to the miraculous occurrence of the Blessed Virgin Mary, anyone can look them up on the computer to see the dates and related investigations the Catholic Church undertook in approving of this apparition. I would like to keep this as a brief synopsis of a few items that may be of interest.

As “Our Lady of Guadalupe” appeared to the Aztec people of that time she seems to be attached to the Mexican people, however, she has also been given the title, “Our Lady of the Americas” which would make all of us smile in appreciation. Our Lady appears with a blue sash around her waist and flows down her dress which is an indication she is pregnant. How appropriate this is as her feast day has been given as December 12<sup>th</sup> and she is waiting for birth of our Lord as we wait for the birth of our Lord on December 25<sup>th</sup> at Christmas. This clearly tells us this image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is a gift from God for love of life and for love of the unborn.

In the first apparition, Mary tells Juan Diego she has appeared because she wants a temple built in the exact spot she has appeared to heal the suffering people of Mexico. There were four apparitions in total, and the fourth apparition was to Juan’s uncle who was ill and dying when he was miraculously healed.

Mary’s image alone is miraculous as she is also appears on Juan’s Tilma when the mystical roses fall to the ground and were picked by Juan in the middle of winter. No one can explain how the image appears glorious and detailed. It tells us the important message from God that Mary is there, and as Mary herself may say, “see me and hear me because I am your Mother.”

Our Lady of Guadalupe appears to be alive in the image as it has been proven the reflection of the people present were reflected in her eyes. Her cloak she is wrapped depicts the constellation of stars at the exact moment of her first appearance to Juan Diego. We still have the Tilma today at the Church that was built in Mexico City to venerate as was seen in 1531.

Hail Mary full of Grace, bless us in your presence,  
Hail Our Lady of Guadalupe,  
Hail Our Lady of the Americas,  
Hail Our Lady of the unborn,  
Pray for us sinners at the hour of our death. AMEN!



*Sandy Baden, OFS  
Vice Minister*



## *Advent Morning of Reflection with Fr. Joe Chinnici, OFM "Becoming Fully Human: Celebrating Christmas with St. Francis of Assisi"*

We had a most wonderful Advent Morning of Reflection led by Fr. Joe Chinnici, OFM at St. Mary's of Los Gatos in the Hoffman Center hosted by the Christian Formation Committee of the parish. While the elements raged outside as the storm of the year veraciously pounded the windows of the Center with rain and high gust, inside there was calm and peace as Fr. Joe led us into a deep reflection on the meaning of Christmas as St. Francis celebrated it. The 25 courageous souls who ventured out in this ungodly weather have certainly been blessed beyond their expectation.

Fr. Joe talked about the house of the Lord. How God wants a house He can dwell in. Not so much a physical building, but rather He wants to make a house of us where He can dwell, where He is present. One may ask why God waited so long with the incarnation. The Lord delays that we may be responsible for His coming. After 9/11, we felt His presence in the firemen, the ambulance workers, and the policemen who first arrived at the place of tragedy. A similar response occurred in Assisi after the big earthquake of the Fall of 1997. When Father visited the town at Christmas after the earthquake, the people of Assisi displayed their nativity scenes in their windows as usual. Only this time in place of putting shepherds and sheep around the manger, they placed firemen, fire trucks, ambulances, nurses and paramedics around the babe Jesus. They were the people who made present Jesus for them that Christmas.



At the crèche of Greccio, three years before his death, Francis recreates the first nativity scene in the midst of a Mass, and invites the whole town to witness. During Mass, in the empty manger, suddenly the babe Jesus appears in a vision. First the babe of Bethlehem is lifeless. Then Francis approaches the child, and wakes him up from a deep sleep. The babe Jesus is in the heart of each of us, we just need to wake him up - urged us Fr. Joe. We need to breath life into the babe. Since that vision in Greccio,

having a nativity scene in our churches during the Christmas season has become a tradition that spread all over the world.

Fr. Joe talked about simplicity as harmony between the inside and the outside. When our outward actions are in accord with our words, and inner believes, we live simply. This is a conversion, a conversion to simplicity. It grows, it's not given. We need to work on it. Then he asked us to reflect on what we really desire and what images shape our lives. What do we hunger for? The animals that ate from the manger of Greccio were cured form their diseases, and people with various illnesses were healed when the hay was placed on them. Jesus feeds us, satisfies our hunger, from the manger to the Eucharist. He is bread for us. What do we hunger for? Bread, freedom, spirit, truth, healing, understanding, peace, love, Jesus...? What are the necessities of my life, and how do I become food for others? - was our second reflection question.

We all really have one need. Love and be loved - said Fr. Joe. There is no greater love than this ..... to become human for us. God became human for us. We have companionship. God is with us. He experienced frailty, temptation, discouragement, betrayal like us, because He was human. He showed us what it is to be fully human, and he loves us. We need to become fully human for others.



As our reflection came to a close at noon, the raging storm outside calmed down, and the rain stopped just long enough for us to get home safely. God indeed cares, and watches out for us. Merry Christmas



Dr. Marta M. Kassai, OFS  
Editor



## *Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC)*

### *A Season For Giving*

Now that the Christmas Season is upon us and 2020 draws to a close, we are very much aware how many of our brothers and sisters are in urgent need of our prayers and our help.

Due to Covid-19, the Fraternity will not meet live this Christmas. And we cannot, as we've done in the past, collect all our checks and gifts for distribution to a local charity.

Instead, this year the Fraternity requests we all donate **Catholic Charities USA online**.

To make your donation, just click on this address:

<https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/ways-to-give/>

We picked Catholic Charities because they have the vision, resources and expertise to minister to families throughout the country, in the midst of a number of emergencies.

Climate change is causing homelessness from flooding, hurricanes, and forest fires. Catholic Charities provides emergency services as well as long-term help to address issues such as health care, food and nutrition, housing.

Founded over one hundred years ago, Catholic Charities has locations in every state and possession of the U.S., and manages a vast network for the support and assistance for those in need. And as you can see from their Mission Statement, Catholic Charities shares our Franciscan values:

**At Catholic Charities we help people, regardless of their faith, who are struggling with poverty and other complex issues. At CCUSA, our advocacy and disaster relief programs — and our support of member agencies in our network — is making tangible progress toward providing help and hope to our neighbors across the country. Our collective efforts focus on a set of strategic priorities that make a difference in the lives of people in need.**

<https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/ways-to-give/>



Karron Esmonde, OFS,  
JPIC Animator

## [News from the Fraternity Council](#)

### *From our Formator & Councilors - Kelly Farnum, OFS & Joe Cannon, OFS*

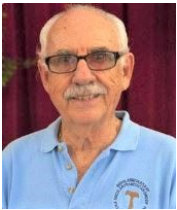


During Advent the church looks back upon Christ's coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of



Christ's kingdom when he returns for his people. In this light of Advent may we rejoice "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel".

### *From our Treasurer*



You can mail your OFS fraternity contributions to:

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



### *Evening Vespers on **December 8<sup>th</sup>** Immaculate Conception of Mary*

All are invited to attend our Fraternity evening prayer on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception

### *Sr. Mary Beth Ingham, CSJ at our **December 13<sup>th</sup>** Gathering*

#### *"John Duns Scotus and the Immaculate Conception"*



Join us at our December 13<sup>th</sup> Gathering, Sr. Mary Beth Ingham, CSJ illuminates our understanding of this beautiful doctrine.

[Sr. Mary Beth Ingham, CSJ](#) will be joining us for our Fraternity gathering on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Secular Franciscan Regional & National News

### JPIC Regional Meeting - *December 12, Saturday*

Karron Esmonde, OFS will be presenting. To Sign Up, send an email to:

[patriciaelizabethgrace7@gmail.com](mailto:patriciaelizabethgrace7@gmail.com)

with **JPIC Regional Meeting** on the subject line,  
for the ZOOM login.



**DECEMBER 12, 2020  
BY ZOOM  
1:00 TO 3:00 P.M.**



**We come together to Praise God for Creation,  
As her beauty resonates in our Franciscan  
hearts**

**We come to learn of many things -  
Sacred and Scientific -**

**As we Prepare ourselves to honor, heal, and help  
This Loving Sister in her Present Distress**

**KARRON ESMONDE, OFS, WILL SERVE AS FORMATOR  
PLEASE R.S.V.P**

[patriciaelizabethgrace7@gmail.com](mailto:patriciaelizabethgrace7@gmail.com)

The NEW DATE for our 20th Quinquennial Congress is August 3-7, 2022.

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



# **F**REE Zoom Lecture Series at the Franciscan School of Theology: Keith Douglass Warner, OFM: "The Culture of Encounter in the Spirituality of Pope Francis and Fratelli Tutti"

December 3, 2020 7:00 p.m. PST

In "Fratelli Tutti", Pope Francis elaborates his vision a culture of encounter, and thus communicates his vision for spirituality and the Catholic church in the 21st century. When framed by the Franciscan Intellectual/Spiritual tradition, the meaning and praxis of a culture of encounter become much clearer.

[Click here to register](#)

# **Dr. Dan Horan, OFM** "Why Did God Become Human? Renewing our Understanding of the 'Reason for the Season'"

December 17, 2020 7:00 p.m. PST



Franciscan School of Theology  
 at the UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

## Winter 2021 Continuing Education The Franciscan Spiritual and Social Vision

**January 18–22 Dr. Maureen Day**

### The Challenges and Blessings of Catholic Family Life Today

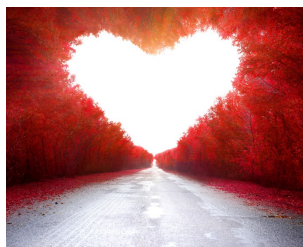
With its foundation in Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia* [The Joy of Love], this continuing-education course will examine the American family's social role through a theological lens. Specifically, this course will explore the stresses and graces American families encounter. It will also discuss the ways parishes can better serve families as well as generate ways to invite families to become active in their Church and world. Dr. Maureen Day is the Assistant Professor of Religion and Society at the Franciscan School of Theology in San Diego, CA. She was a theologian at the Diocese of San Diego's synod on the family and is married with two children.

**What people say about Maureen Day:**

*"She has an extraordinary pastoral presence and gentleness in the midst of discussing challenging issues."*

*"She is a 'natural' on these topics and it's so refreshing to have her energy leading discussions because she is so inclusive and nonjudgmental that you really feel safe in her class. This safety invites people to share, heal, learn and in that become more transformed into Christ's likeness."*

Dr. Maureen Day is the Assistant Professor of Religion and Society at the Franciscan School of Theology in San Diego, California. She has taught a variety of courses on marriage and family life and has written articles on the topic for both Catholic and academic publications. She has provided her expertise on families and pastoral ministry to the Church at both the diocesan and national level, recently assisting with the San Diego Synod on the Family as well as taking on the role of principal investigator for the 2019 National Study of Catholic Campus Ministry in collaboration with the USCCB's Secretariat on Catholic Education. Maureen, her husband, and their two children attend St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Oceanside.



**SCHEDULE**

All classes are held online via Zoom Monday through Friday 9:15 am-12:30 pm Pacific Time

**COST**

\$250 per one-week session. Each course earns one CEU credit. Payment may be made online or by check. Payment by phone using credit or debit card may be made for an additional \$1.00 fee.

**REGISTRATION PERIOD**

Registration for the course must be completed by Jan 12, 2021. The course must have a minimum of 10 students.

**CANCELLATIONS**

90% refund until January 8, 2021  
 70% refund until January 15, 2021  
 No refunds after January 15, 2021

**REGISTRATION AND CONTACT**

Sharmeen Enayat  
 senayat@sandiego.edu  
 (619) 574-5800  
 Franciscan School of Theology  
 5998 Alcalá Park  
 San Diego, CA 92110  
 www.FST.edu

Register online at:  
<https://bit.ly/38vxn8P>

The course information will be sent to the participants before classes begin.

# 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 December~~~✝
  - December 4, 2002                   **Mary Molnar, OFS**
  - December 29, 1998               **Mae Coash, OFS**
- ❖ For those who were professed in the month of December:
  - December 10, 2006               **Penny Johnson, OFS**
- ❖ Sandy's husband Ted who is experiencing afib issues with his heart. Please pray for his health and well being and that Sandy and Ted get through this very stressful and difficult time.
- ❖ Carl and Chris Parker, Carol Imhoff's two cousins in the east that have Covid-19.
- ❖ Dolores Gum Mui Chun, that she be spared unnecessary discomfort as she approaches end of life - and that her transit to eternity be peaceful and surrounded with love.
- ❖ For the safety of Laura, our Minister, on her journey this month.
- ❖ All who are sick and suffering; there is so much of that in the world right now.

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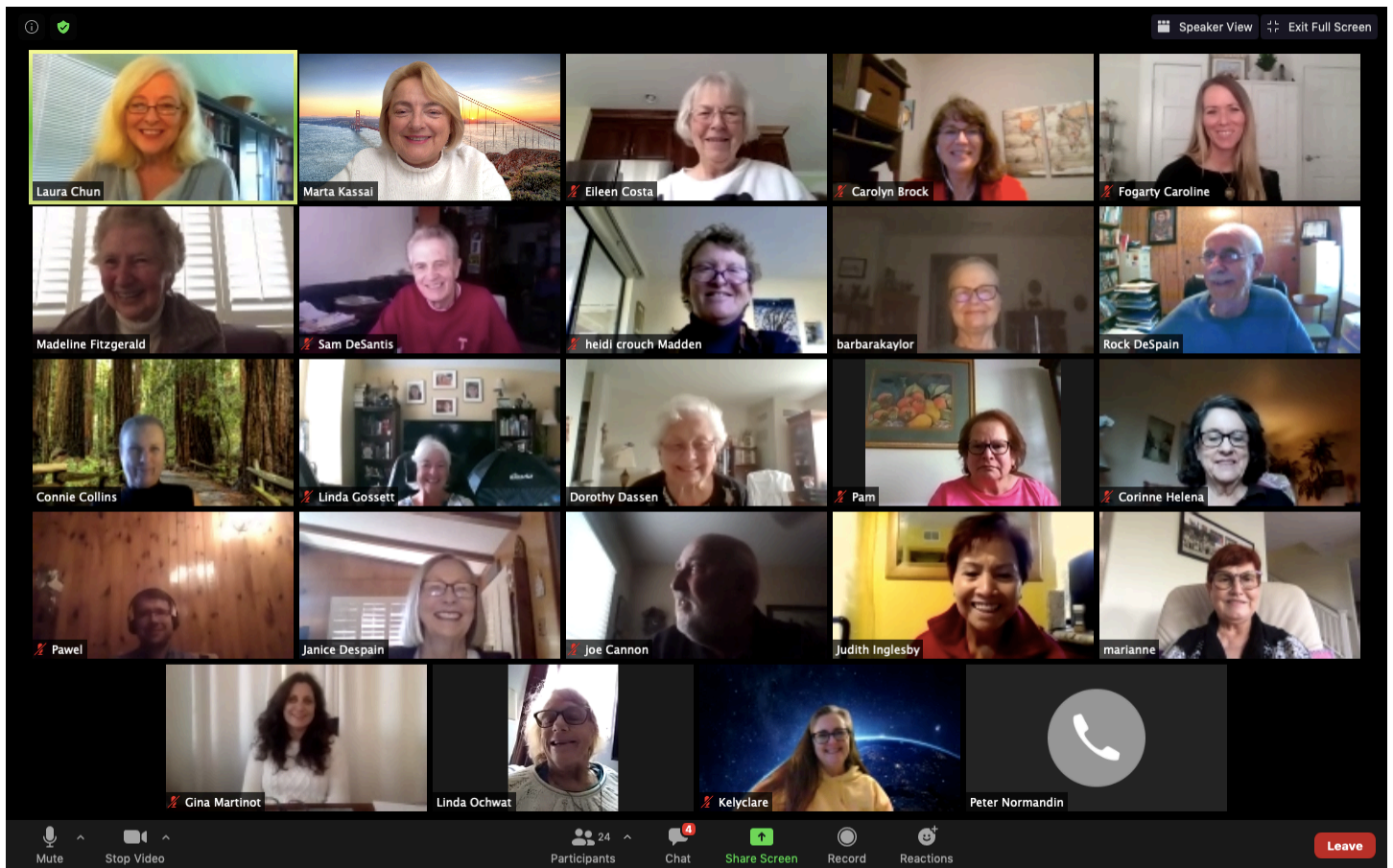
**From the Editor:** Thank you all for your contributions to this month issue of The Cord. Due to change in our monthly general gathering date to second Sundays, please submit your articles, reports or adds by the 25th of the month to publish in next month issue. Send your Word or Pages files (font Arial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

Dr. Marta Kassai, OFS





# San Luis Rey Secular Franciscan Fraternity November General Gathering on Zoom



*A Very Merry Christmas to All!*  
*From the San Luis Rey Fraternity*

