

# Easter

April 4, 2021

"He has Risen" (Mt 28:6)



Rubens: The Resurrection of Christ, 1611

# The Cord

April, 2021

Newsletter of the San Luis Rey  
Secular Franciscan Fraternity

Our Monthly Gatherings are on the  
**2nd Sundays** of the month

Upcoming Gatherings on Zoom:

- **April Monthly General Gathering ~**  
Sunday, April 11th, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
- **Vespers Evening Prayer ~**  
Friday, April 16th, 7:00 – 8:00 pm  
For Zoom Link, [see p. 10](#)
- **May Monthly General Gathering ~**  
Sunday, May 9th, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

**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 April - The Joy of the Resurrection!

Francis of Assisi truly lived for 'Gospel to life and life to Gospel.' We are called to do the same! We have lived a shared Lent in the form of the pandemic that seems to have started in Lent 2019 and continued to this very day. We are not out of this yet – but we can feel a hope and a light at the end of this very long tunnel.

This month the Council wanted to embrace the joy that is Easter, this celebration of new Life, or our shared life in Jesus Christ. The gospels during the season of Easter are simply *resplendent*. We walk through this time of new belief, new beginnings, new understanding with the early Church. This is our journey too! Throughout this month of April, we ask you to take a fresh look at these amazing Gospels and what they mean for us. On April 4<sup>th</sup> we experience the Empty Tomb and not yet understanding what exactly that means... truth is unfolding. I just love this scene from John 20:1: 'On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb.' It's that quiet before the 'aha!' moment. It's the quiet moment before... *everything* changes.



On April 11<sup>th</sup>, we'll hear the story of what we in the west often call 'Doubting Thomas' – but which our Orthodox brothers and sisters call '[The Touching of Thomas](#).' Thomas was touched by the Risen Christ and believed. In fact, his statement of faith resonates through the centuries, 'My Lord and my God.'

We all want to be touched by Jesus. We all want to believe. We all have out questions and doubts. May we all live a life so dedicated to Christ and spreading the Gospel as did Thomas! He seems to have been an analytical guy, asking the right questions... In fact, in John 14:1-6, Jesus talks about the place prepared for each of us in his Father's house. It's Thomas who asks, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, how can we know the way?' Jesus responds, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life...' Score another one for Thomas for being willing to *ask the question*.

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, we hear the story in Luke 24 where 'The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way, and how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread.' How central is the Eucharist to our experience of the living Christ! Francis shared with us his deep reverence for the Eucharist and it's centrality to our faith. This past year, the centrality of the Eucharist has come into even sharper focus – it will be a joy for us to celebrate the Eucharist together again!

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, we hear the story of the Jesus as the Good Shepherd. A Shepherd who is willing to lay down his life for his flock. Of a Shepherd willing to sacrifice all to save even one lost sheep. With so much vying for our attention in this cacophonous world, may we also only hear and respond to the voice of the *Good Shepherd*.



Pace e Bene +

Laura Chun, OFS, Minister, San Luis Rey Fraternity

## *“The Empty Tomb”*

They laid Jesus in the tomb and then rolled a huge stone to close its entrance. No way in and no way out. As the women approached they see the stone is rolled away from the entrance and the tomb seems empty. Angels appear and announce, “He is not here, He has risen as He had said.” How unbelievable this story is to our human understanding, but the wisdom of God and His love for us gives us the miracle of Christ’s resurrection. How awesome is the gift of faith God has given.

When I was twelve years old in San Francisco, 1959, I was in Clinton’s cafeteria with my mother and brother having lunch. I had noticed a well dressed gentleman watching us from his table. My mother, to my surprise, suggested we stop and pray before our meal. I bowed my head and said grace quietly. After the prayer the gentleman got up from his table and approached us. He handed me a postcard with a picture of a sand sculpture of Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane and said, “This is my card and that was beautiful.” I remember I did not understand why he gave this card to me and not my mother or brother. I have since lost that beautiful postcard, and after 63 years I have searched the computer and discovered the sand sculpture artist was Ted Conibear. Pictures of him are what I remembered that gentleman had looked like. No doubt in my mind.

The attached picture was taken of one of Ted Conibear’s sand sculptures of the tomb of Christ as it had looked 2,000 years ago and the tomb looks to be empty. Ted Conibear passed away in 1994 in his sleep. This wonderful man who touched my heart at age 12 now lies at the Fallbrook Masonic Cemetery in Fallbrook, Ca. The only surviving statue by Ted Conibear is titled, “Suffer the Little Children” and has been recovered in cement at his grave-site in the Fallbrook Masonic Cemetery. I intend to visit that grave-site in the near future.



Sandy Baden, OFS  
Vice Minister



## ***Blessed Luchasio Modestini and Buonadonna Modestini - April 28, 1260***

### ***Our Very First Third Order Members***

This married couple is traditionally recognized to be the first members of the Order of Penance, which later came to be called the Third Order of St. Francis. Luchasio was a merchant from the small town of Poggibonzi in Tuscany. He was reputed to be extremely greedy, as was his wife, Buonadonna.

There is no information on his conversion experience, but it must have been powerful as his wife also joined him in service to the poor. To keep him from covetousness, he also decided to give up his business. He was born about 1180 - 1182, so he would have been about the same age as Francis and would have been in business about the same time as Francis was working with his father in merchandising cloth.

After Luchasio's conversion, Francis happened to travel to Tuscany and visited him because of their prior business dealings. He rejoiced to see the change in this avaricious man. He then preached penance to the townspeople. Luchasio asked Francis for special instructions on how to live a holy life while in the world. Francis told him of his plan for an order for lay people. After hearing this, he and his wife asked to be accepted at once. Scholars believe that this must have happened not long after Francis had founded his first order in 1209. Francis gave the new lay order his first Primitive Rule. However, this first rule was supplanted in 1221 as worded by Cardinal Hugolino and approved by Pope Honorius.

Luchasio undoubtedly was a man of hope and mercy. He was extremely generous to the poor. One day his wife became vexed when yet another poor soul showed up at their door asking for bread. Luchasio asked her to check their pantry, but Buonadonna knew what was in there and giving it away would cause them to go hungry. Luchasio remembered the generosity of Our Lord in multiplying the loaves and fishes, so asked her to get the food anyway. When she went to the pantry, it was not only filled with bread, but the best kinds of bread.

Like our OFS saint from last month, St. Catherine of Genoa, the town of Poggibonzi also suffered a plague. To help the poor and sick, Luchasio packed necessities on his donkey to deliver. When he ran out of supplies he would beg from others. In 1260 he became very ill with no hope of recovery. Buonadonna requested of him to, "Implore God, who gave us to each other as companions in life to now permit us to also die together". After complying with her wishes, Buonadonna fell ill with a fever and died before him on the same day, April 28, 1260. They are buried at the Franciscan Church in Poggibonzi where many miracles have been reported. Luchasio was declared Blessed by Pope Pius VI. There is a Plenary Indulgence for the OFS (Renewal of Tertiary Engagements). I could not find any other information on the indulgence other than this.

*Jan DeSpain, OFS  
Director of Formation*



## The Road to Emmaus

“That very day two of them were going to a village named Emma’us ...and talking with each other about all these things (the crucifixion and empty tomb) that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him” (Luke 24:13-16).

It seems inconceivable that the disciples, while walking and talking about the crucifixion of Jesus that had happened just days ago, and when another man fell into step with them, would not recognize him as the one whose death and mysterious disappearance they were lamenting!. Jesus himself! Who wouldn’t recognize him? *Would we?*

“When he was at table with them, he took bread and blessed it and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him.” (Luke 24:30-31)

I remember clearly one day early in the pandemic when I was “attending” mass at home. I was dearly missing the communal celebration of the Eucharist – and lamenting the “loss” of communion. Then when we said the Act of Spiritual Communion, I suddenly saw in my mind’s eye the faces of homeless and disenfranchised individuals. At that moment I recognized the face of Jesus. *Where else might we see him today?*



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/frted/5512468149/>



Connie Collins, OFS  
Secretary

## *Divine Mercy Sunday*

### *John 20:19-31*

#### *Gospel Reflection*

*&*

#### *Doubting Thomas ?*

Today's Gospel is one of comfort for those of us who question everything. Often upon first impression I have tended to think chidingly of Thomas who in reality was probably so blown away that he needed a reality check just to get a grip on the moment.

How could this be ?

His dear Lord present in His resurrected body and what the even heck is that !!?

Jesus knows our need to know.

Thomas missed Jesus appearing among the disciples!

He had to hear of it second hand.

He missed the Commissioning and the bequeathing of the Holy Spirit.

He was amongst them for a subsequent appearing thus is it any wonder he might not have been rejoicing as the others had been ?

Might he have felt left out and not up to speed !!?

How would you have reacted, do you think ?

A week later Thomas had his reckoning.

Jesus was willing to allow him to execute the test of faith he had demanded in order to 'not doubt but believe,' yet at Jesus words, "Peace be with you," his faith test faded away into Adoration.

On the other hand...

How much internal toil he could have saved himself if he could have simply rejoiced at the news of Jesus having come among them though he'd not been there...



*Kelly Farnum, OFS  
Councilor*



## *JPIC: My Journey to Easter*

I'm writing this today on my birthday, an anniversary of sorts and a celebration. I celebrate because I'm still here, at the anniversary and ending of a difficult year.

At first, I welcomed the lockdown as a chance for meditation, an opportunity to run around less and pray more. Then the real cost in human life became apparent. The loss of normal church gatherings, as we attended Mass via internet, as my dear Franciscans went to Zoom and the easy conviviality of parish life became a fond memory. Though food was certainly available, grocery shopping became very hazardous. In July, my dear friend Ali the chocolate lab died, regardless of my best efforts to comfort and assure her, and cushion her joints on rides to the park.

By this time, any illusions I had about being in control of my life, fate, or fortunes - or the lives and well-being of those I love - were over.

About this time, I began a lengthy study of the ecological causes of the pandemic and the many disruptions caused by pollution and a blatant disregard for the natural world. The very Nature we are pledged to treasure. The science is clear: we can reverse climate disruption, air and water pollution, and the wholesale extinction of most animal species – our own included – if we move quickly and compassionately.

Our prayers and suffering this past year may bring us out of this transformed. Many of us who suffered major losses – personal, financial, emotional – are now enriched with greater insight. Our lives won't just go on as before, because we are different people. We have been chastened, pruned and rendered repentant.

As we continue to pray: let us pray for the healing of the blindness, greed, and indifference to the natural world that brought us to this juncture. Let us pray all hurts breed new compassion.

Now we see how we are all connected – the earth and all life on earth, our own included. And going forward from this time of Lent – on to Easter and the promise of Pentecost – our hearts begin to heal. Refreshed in the beauty of His spectacular creation, we are enveloped by His love.

I remember the person I was last year, and trust God to bless the person I've become.

*Karron Esmonde, OFS  
JPIC Animator*



## Transformation

Nature will surrender  
Her beauty in November.  
Awake she could not keep.  
She will remain asleep  
Until the kiss of Spring  
Her redemption will bring.

What goes on beneath snow,  
No one will ever know.  
The veil that covers all  
Can penetrate no soul.  
The Creator's at work,  
And cannot be disturbed.

God puts forward His best  
While Nature is at rest.  
As she opens her eyes,  
Nobody this denies:  
Beneath Winter's disguise,  
Still so much beauty lies.

*Marta Kassai, OFS  
November 19, 2001*



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## News from the Fraternity Council

### *News about our Vice-Minister, Sandy Baden OFS*

Sandy Baden has stepped down from her role as Vice-Minister, effective March 25<sup>th</sup>. Sandy will continue to be an active and loving member of our Fraternity. Sandy has spent a great deal of time in prayer regarding this decision and for her, it is the best way to allow space to deal with both her own, and her husband's, many ongoing health issues.



As Minister, I am deeply indebted to Sandy and how wonderfully she has executed her role as Vice-Minister. Even prior to all the many challenges presented by the pandemic, Sandy was doing the heavy lifting Council members do behind the scenes to make things work. When the role of Formation Director quickly and unexpectedly became vacant, Sandy stepped in and provided Formation leadership until we were blessed with Jan DeSpain taking on that role. When the Treasurer's role was also unexpectedly vacated, Sandy again stepped in until Rock DeSpain graciously became our Treasurer. When I was away for my Mom-in-law's funeral, Sandy attended a virtual Regional Minister's conference in my place. Each month, Sandy has lovingly shared her poetry and art in the Cord with all of us.

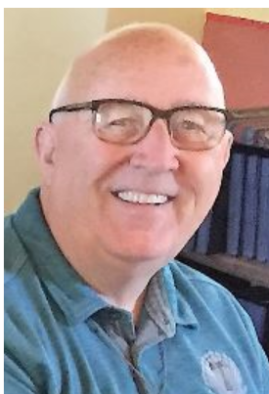
I selected the Marian image above to represent Sandy's contribution to the Fraternity; holding the Fraternity lovingly in her loving arms. As Sandy wrote in a recent Cord article (9/20): *'As we go from Gospel to Life and Life to the Gospel, we must always remember the words Mary said at the wedding at Cana, "Do whatever He tells you." These words are so important in living our lives in Christ, "Do whatever He tells you."'*



St. Francis instructs us each to listen to God's call and to hear what God is calling each of to do. Through much prayer and discernment, Sandy feels that the Lord is asking her to focus on her home and health responsibilities right now. Just as Sandy is focusing on doing what is hers to do, may we each answer God's call to do what is *ours* to so.

Pace e Bene +  
Laura Chun, OFS  
Minister, San Luis Rey

### *St. Francis Holy Card in Memory of Joe Cannon, OFS*



You should have received a beautiful St. Francis holy card in memory of Joe Cannon, OFS. The cards were purchased for us by Joe's wife, Pat. She wanted us to know that our Fraternity held a very special place in Joe's heart.

Due to COVID restrictions, Joe's funeral was private and open to family only. However, Pat wanted us to know that she was thinking of us, appreciates us and the place that we had in Joe's life.

I let her know that the feeling was mutual – and that she was welcome to join us at any time.

## ***From our Director of Formation:***

Formation for April: Saturday 4/10/21

**Inquiry:** 11:00 am on Zoom using usual meeting link

We will be covering "The Franciscan Journey, Chapter 7. A Brief Overview of OFS History and Development of the Rule. Be prepared to share your insights on the End of Chapter Questions.

**Professed Members:** Our Rule is so foundational to living our profession. Do you still keep your little Red Rule Book handy? How have you grown since receiving it with your Tau and rule book at the beginning of Candidacy?

**Candidacy:** 2:00pm on Zoom using our usual meeting link

We will focus on The Franciscan Journey, Chapter 23. The theme is Justice and Franciscan Life. It covers Art. 15 of our rule. "Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith.

This is a very challenging article, as it calls us to be in the forefront and make choices in harmony with our faith.

*Jan DeSpain, OFS*

## ***From our Treasurer***

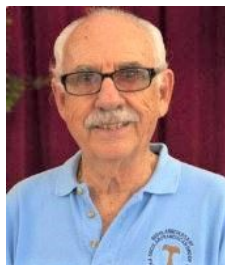
We just had the Gospel of John:10 last Sunday, on The Good Shepherd "who laid down his life for the sheep."

Now consider how these words of our Lord imply a "test" for ourselves. Ask yourselves whether you belong to His flock, or do you know Him. St. Gregory the Great said in a homily " I assure you that it is not by faith that you will come to know Him, but by love; not by mere conviction, but by action." A deep call affirming the primacy of faith concerning vocations. We as Franciscans are called to a diversity of services in our Profession Statement when we are professed.

So, if I may suggest, "do not be afraid to pray and ask for the strength and courage to guide you in discerning your mission as a Franciscan, Catholic, Christian. May our Lord be with you!

*Rock*

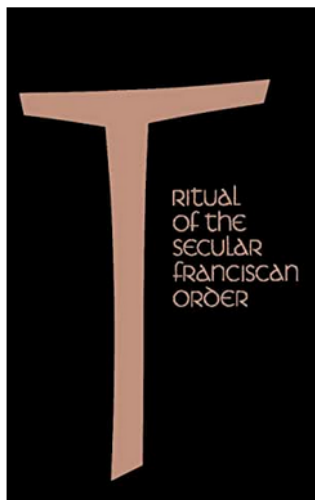
You can mail your OFS fraternity contributions to:



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



## Mark your calendars for Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup> for Vespers!



What's so special about April 16<sup>th</sup>? It's our birthday!!! According to [Britannica](#):

In 1209 Francis composed for his mendicant [disciples](#), or [friars](#), a simple rule (Regula primitiva, "Primitive Rule") drawn from passages in the [Bible](#): "To follow the teachings of our Lord [Jesus Christ](#) and to walk in his footsteps." He then led the group of 12 disciples to Rome to seek the approval of [Pope Innocent III](#). At first Innocent was hesitant, but, following a dream in which he saw Francis holding up the church of San Giovanni in Laterano, he gave oral [approbation](#) to the Franciscan rule of life. This event, which according to tradition, occurred on April 16, 1210, marked the official founding of the [Franciscan order](#). The [Friars Minor](#), or Lesser Brothers, as they came to be known, were street preachers with no possessions and only the Porziuncola as a center.

Come join us on Zoom on **April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** for Vespers where we, as Secular Franciscans, will renew our Profession promises. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7607262486?pwd=dmRBNVU5WFUxMTdzaUxGcy9ibGtwdz09>



Franciscan School of Theology  
at the UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

### Winter Franciscan Zoom Lecture #7: Bishop Robert McElroy "Saint Francis and Fratelli Tutti: Shattering Boundaries"



Bishop Robert McElroy  
Diocese of San Diego

**April 8, 2021, 7:00 p.m. PST (Free FST Lecture series)**

This talk will proceed from Saint Francis' fundamental call for a piercing social friendship that breaks the bonds that imprison us in our tribalism. And a reconsideration of how the Parable of the Good Samaritan can lead us to such a friendship.

**Register Here**

If you are unable to attend, get notified by YouTube as to when the recording is available for viewing by subscribing on the [YouTube Channel](#). The recording should be available by April 16, 2021.

NEXT LECTURE: Look to the [FST News and YouTube](#) web page for details. Future lectures are on: 4/22, 5/6, 5/13, 6/3, 7/1, & 8/12.



## *Are you feeling the 'Fratelli Tutti' in your future?*



We are blessed to have Sr. Kathy Warren joining us at our May 9<sup>th</sup> gathering to speak on ***Fratelli Tutti***, the latest encyclical letter from Pope Francis. Sr. Kathy Warren, OSF, is the Director for Women Religious for the Diocese of San Diego and will be joining us at the invitation of Sr. Madeline Fitzgerald, OSC. You may remember Sister Kathy from when we studied her book, '[The Sultan and the Saint](#).'

Sr. Kathy will help us to start unwrapping and diving into this beautiful document. As a Council, we'd like to unfold this very important text over several sessions – this talk with Sr. Kathy will be our first. You can start diving in ahead of time to make the best use of our time with Sr. Kathy! You can access the entire text of the 'Fratelli Tutti' document on the Vatican [website](#).

The USCCB says of *Fratelli Tutti*, that it 'was released in October 2020. An invitation to renewed social friendship and universal fraternity, this encyclical was published as the global community was seven months into the COVID-19 pandemic. A call to come together in solidarity, *Fratelli Tutti* provides a starting point for renewing our commitment to caring for our neighbor and a global society built on justice and the common good. The USCCB has a Fratelli Tutti study guide [here](#).

Just look at how this letter begins – with Pope Francis acknowledging how St. Francis referred to 'All Brothers:'  
...*Fratelli Tutti*... Pope Francis says that "With these words, Saint Francis of Assisi addressed his brothers and sisters and proposed to them a way of life marked by the flavor of the Gospel. Of the counsels Francis offered, I would like to select the one in which he calls for a love that transcends the barriers of geography and distance, and declares blessed all those who love their brother "as much when he is far away from him as when he is with him".



**We look forward to beginning our Fraternity 'Fratelli Tutti' journey with Sr. Kathy Warren on May 9<sup>th</sup>.**

## 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 April~~~✝

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

**Cornelia Sussman, OFS**  
**Elane Smith, OFS**  
**Mary Behinke, OFS**  
**Nicholas Furticella, OFS**  
**Mary Gregush, OFS**

❖ For those who were professed in the month of April:

- April 10, 2005
- April 22, 1961
- April 24, 1994

**Winnie Baumer, OFS**  
**Sr. Madeline Fitzgerald, OSC**  
**Dr. Marta Kassai, OFS**

- ❖ For Joe Cannon, OFS who passed into eternal life on February 11.
- ❖ For Br. Alexander Escalera, OFM Cap experienced a stroke on 2/18.
- ❖ For Corinne who had an accident and suffered a broken wrist and bruises to her head and body.
- ❖ For the repose of the soul of Carol Imhoff's sister-in-law Afaf Prom who passed into eternal life.

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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 Fraternity March 14, 2021 Gathering on Zoom*

**Happy Easter to You!**

