

St. Francis of Assisi

October 4



The Cord

October, 2021

Newsletter of the San Luis Rey
Secular Franciscan Fraternity

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

In-Person at Mission San Luis Rey:

- **October 10: Monthly General Gathering**
10:00 am Mass @ Serra Ctr.
11:30 am Social: lunch in O'Keefe Lounge
12:30 pm Prayer, Adoration in St. Clare Chapel
1:00 – 3:00 pm: General gathering in a room of
the Old Mission ([also on Zoom](#))
- **October 2: Profession**
2:30 pm Mission San Luis Rey Chapel
- **November 14: Monthly General Gathering**

Upcoming Gatherings on Zoom:

- **October 3: Transitus at 5:00 pm**
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 October: St. Francis was a Loser

What? Did I hear that right? **'St. Francis was a loser.'** It was just last year, sitting outside during the pandemic in the cool night air for Mass on the Feast Day of St Francis. Fr. Sam Nasada OFM began his homily and said... **'St. Francis was a loser.'** Fr. Sam asked us to consider:

As a youth, Francis dreamed of becoming a knight. He did become a soldier, but was captured in battle and imprisoned instead. Francis came from a wealthy family, but rejected his father and his wealth, and served the lepers and fixed delapidated churches instead. Francis begged for building materials and food. His old friends called him a *loser*.



Francis attracted followers, calling them “lesser brothers”, *fratres minores*. ‘*Minores*’ referred to peasants and poor people who didn’t have any power in society, as opposed to the *mayores*: royalties, knights, merchants – who did. People called Francis, ‘*Il Poverello*,’ the Poor one. Francis thought his followers believed in his ideals of poverty. But when he came home after traveling to the Holy Land, he found that even *they* had renovated their once-simple house to be more comfortable. After Francis’s death, his order broke into bitter arguments and divisions.

According to our world’s standards, Francis was a loser. But if we are using world’s standards, aren’t we Christians, losers too? Don’t we have people like Archbishop Oscar Romero who died defending the poor of El Salvador; the Trappists of Algeria who died in solidarity with their Muslim neighbors; Sr. Dorothy Stang who was killed by loggers and landowners for defending the indigenous people of Brazil; and Fr. Roberto Malgesini who was killed last year in Italy by a homeless person he had been ministering to? Doesn’t the world look at them as losers? Don’t WE look at them as losers?

But what if this is exactly where we need to be as church? Don’t we worship a God who spent his time among the poor, prostitutes, and other sinners and marginalized people, the losers of society; a God who died on a cross, considered foolishness and a scandal, a loser by many? Pope Benedict once said that “It is not the Church of successful people that we find impressive... Rather what strengthens our faith, what remains constant, what gives us hope, is the Church of the suffering.”

Do we want to build impressive fancy churches made of precious materials, stained glass, and imposing design or do we build a church that can serve as a field hospital for those who have lost the battles of life, who suffer from violence, addiction, broken heart, illness, abandonment? Do we build a church that caters primarily to the powerful or do we build a poor church for the poor like what Pope Francis wants, a church filled with people considered losers by the world?

We know what kind of church St. Francis chose to build. That night, Fr. Sam shared his hope that all of us, the Franciscans of today, habit and non-habit, vowed and non-vowed, who are part of this ongoing Franciscan movement, can follow Francis’s example.

Homily by Fr. Sam Nasada, OFM, given on the Feast of St. Francis, October 4th, 2020 and used with his kind permission. Fr. Sam’s homily was inspired in part by the article: <https://wherepeteris.com/catholics-are-losers/>

Laura Chun, OFS
Minister, San Luis Rey Fraternity

Community

We are a community of people who follow in the footsteps of Saints Francis and Clare, specifically, in our fraternity, San Luis Rey. How fortunate are we!

We have traveled diverse paths in life to get here: some of us are converts to the Church, while others are “cradle Catholics;” some are single, and some are married; we belong to many (17!) different parishes, each of which has its own parish culture; we are diverse in age (although more young people are welcome!), as well as gender (although more men are welcome!). We hold disparate political views and have a range of passions for causes.



How is that, especially in these days of polarization, we all come together and truly love each other as brothers and sisters? How is it that we have a sense of unity, even though we have only met in person twice since the beginning of the pandemic?

Social psychologists point to the benefit of having a superordinate goal when seeking unity among diverse groups ([Sherif et al., 1988](#)). Surely, as Franciscans we do have an overarching superordinate goal. But in our lives as a fraternity, we are more than a diverse group with a superordinate goal; we are a community; we are family. What unites us is love, that golden thread in our fraternity tapestry, woven throughout our individual lives, hopes, prayers, missions, and personalities. We truly are fortunate.

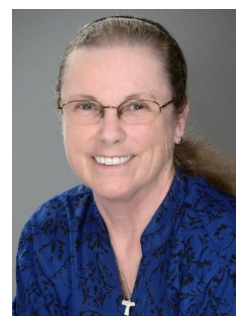
https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Tapestry-with-Franciscan-family-tree-donated-to-the-basilica-in-Assisi-by-Sixtus-IV_fig3_337700044



Pope Francis @Pontifex

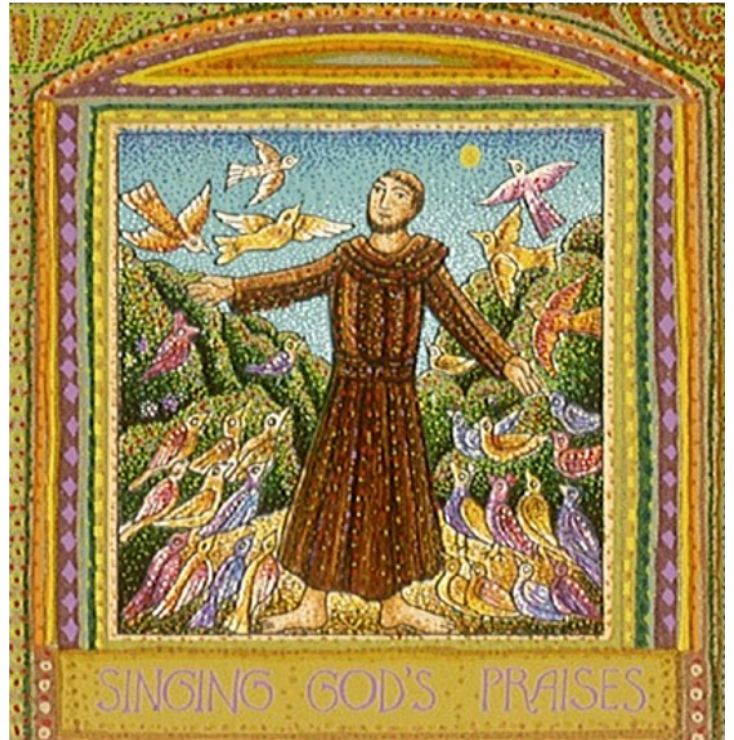
All of us are brothers and sisters! Let us pray to the Most High that, after this time of trial, there may no longer be “others”, but rather, a great “we”, rich in diversity.

Connie Collins, OFS
Vice Minister
San Luis Rey Fraternity



What does it mean to be a Secular Franciscan?

Connie Collins OFS and I were recently reflecting together on what it means in a religious order... and to be decidedly *in* the world. Later that night, Connie sent me the article below. This article is not from some obscure place, but rather right out of our FUN Manual. FUN, for our new folks, is of course, what we have together as Franciscans. It's also calls to mind Francis's words to his brothers 'Let us begin again, For **Up** to **Now** we have done nothing.' The FUN manual is the formation resource that was used prior to the Journey book. It was called 'FUN' or 'For Up to Now' because we follow the footprints of Francis each day as he calls us to 'begin again' our Christian journey. To get an idea of where Connie found this article, the entire **500** page FUN manual is on our website [here](#) (it takes a moment to download); to make finding things easier, the Index is [here](#). Here's the passage that jumped out of the FUN manual to Connie:



The professed Secular lives IN the world and FOR the world. Let's forget about that pious little phrase ... "We are in the world but not of the world." There's no getting away with it ... we are IN the world ... a good world created by God. It is up to Franciscans to show others the good which is in our midst ... remember, the Kingdom of God is among us! The Order has not made you secular ... you were BORN secular. It will be the duty of the Professed to seek out and find the "theological dimensions" to that secularity. Cangelosi make the argument that what we consider to be human and secular – that which we sometimes consider to be unimportant or nothing special, actually does assume a theological significance. Since our desire is to get to heaven, it stands to reason that the way to get there will be through what is familiar to us here on earth – other people, friends, our daily routine, the illnesses we bear, etc. This is the special way given to the Secular Franciscan to realize and to give witness to salvation. There are still a few people who are upset with the term "secular" Franciscan thinking that it denotes something flawed – having come in contact with the wicked world. But this is all we have to work with. Fr. Felice reminded his listeners that "You can only be a Secular Franciscan in the world ... to wish anything else would be a betrayal of your Profession."

We will be experiencing Heidi Madden's profession on October 2nd (and celebrating it at our gathering on October 10th). This little article was a beautiful reminder to me of embracing and celebrating the Secular nature of our vocations. We as Secular Franciscans do indeed, **'live in the work and for the world.'**

Laura Chun, OFS
Minister, San Luis Rey Fraternity





Be the Light

Profession Reflection

This month we warmly welcome Heidi as a professed member of San Luis Rey Fraternity on October 2nd along with four others from San Juan Capistrano, Claremont, and Moreno Valley.

They all received two powerful symbols of their promises: a copy of the Holy Gospels and a lighted candle. When they received their candle lit from the Pascal Candle they heard these words... "By your profession you are the light of Christ in the world. Your light must shine before all so that they may see goodness in your acts and give praise to your heavenly Father."



Sisters and Brothers, as professed members we too, like the burning candles are meant to be consumed every day in countless ways living in daily conversion. Our commitment calls us to be ready and willing to be witnesses and a gift to all people of good will so to reach the goal of perfect Christian love. This we seek to do until the day Sister Death gently blows out the flame.

Blessings to all, professed and those in formation for your witness in your families, workplace, fraternity and diligently seeking to spread peace and radiant light in your Franciscan walk. St. Clare, bright light, pray for us.



*Jan DeSpain, OFS
Director of Formation*



Left to right, it's Pam McArthur, Carolyn Brock, Linda Gossett, and Gina Martinot (new candidates as of September 12), and Dottie Dassen (renewal of profession).

We "Walk for Water"

As We Pray

Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward – Mark 9:41

Yes! Our Fraternity is taking part in the **"Walk for Water"** campaign!

This campaign will give people all over the world the technology (wells, pumps, pipes, water purifiers) necessary to bring them clean drinking water. A clean water supply means families swallow no parasites, get fewer water-borne diseases, and grow safe food.

From this moment on, you are authorized to raise funds for our **"Walk for Water"** campaign. Tell your family and friends about our commitment to **"Walk for Water"** and ask them to support us with a donation.

All walkers and their teams will raise funds and pray for our success.

And yes, there's a PARTY! On **November 6**, we'll come together at the Mission. We'll gather at **9:00 am** for coffee and start our collective promenade at **10:00 am**! While member Walkers stride around the Mission, the team joins them in prayer. And as the Walkers circle, we enthusiastically cheer them on. When each walk is completed, we'll come together and CELEBRATE a job well done!

That day, **November 6**, each team will give the funds collected to your JPIC Animator, Karron Esmonde, and she will send the monies to the Treasurer of the National Fraternity:

National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order
Claudia Kauzlarich OFS
2007 Maverick Trail
Harrisonville, Mo 64701

Mark the check "For the H2O Water Fund from San Luis Rey Fraternity, St. Francis Region"

Everyone will have an opportunity to make a financial contribution should they desire to do so. Every team can participate at the Mission finale, with special recognition for the team that collects the most money, the team Walker that walks the farthest, and so on.

*Karron Esmonde, OFS
JPIC Animator*



Feast Day of our Patron Saint - San Luis Rey, August 27th 2021

A full set of Mission San Luis Rey photos are [here](#). A video is [here](#).

The Feast of San Luis Rey was AMAZING. This was the first year that the Secular Franciscans had a role in and supported the Feast Day of our patron saint, San Luis Rey at the Old Mission. Many thanks to Corinne, Pam, David, Carol, Gina, Karen E, Dottie, Linda O, and Connie for all your help in our booth and for representing us so beautifully both in the booth and in the Procession! Tuan and Marie Cao processed with us as well - which was WONDERFUL!

At our booth, we sold note cards featuring Fr. Franklin Fong's calligraphy and donated the proceeds to the event. Carol Imhoff, one of our longest Professed carried the Crown of Thorns during the Procession into Mass; Gina Martinot, one of newest Candidates, carried the Crown during the Procession after Mass. David York, our former Minister, and Regional Vice-Minister, carried the Reliquary. Everyone worked at our booth, with special thanks to Dottie Dassen who was one of the first there in the afternoon and the very last to leave in the evening and helping with things the entire time (the benefits of driving with me!).

Many, many thanks especially to our Vice-Minister, Connie Collins OFS. There have been many planning meetings over the last couple of months at the parish and with the friars for this event and Connie was there to represent us and make this all happen. **THANK YOU, CONNIE!**



A view from behind the Altar showing the crowd – which stretched back into the lawn. Connie was in the choir on the plazita behind the altar, so had a stunning view.

David York OFS, our former Minister and current Regional Vice-Minister was the bearer of the reliquary holding a relic of St. Louis.



Carol Imhoff OFS, one of our longest professed members, carried the Crown of Thorns into the Mass.

David York OFS, and Carol Imhoff OFS, processing into Mass carrying the reliquary and the Crown of Thorns, respectively.

Laura Chun OFS, read an intention at Mass for the Secular Franciscan Order:

For the members of the Secular Franciscan Order: that following the example of St. Louis the King, their patron, they may serve the needs of the poor and give witness to a holy way of life.



David York OFS and Gina Martinot Quinn, newly a Candidate, accompanied in the Procession by the Knights.



Karron Esmonde OFS, Connie Collins OFS, Corinne Helena OFS, are holding the banner created by Joe Cannon OFS during the Procession. Laura Chun OFS walking behind.



Marie & Taun Cao OFS and Laura Chun OFS, following in the procession



Pam McArthur, Connie Collins OFS, Dottie Dassen OFS, and Linda Ochwat OFS staffed our booth featuring Fr. Franklin's photography throughout the evening. The Mission was just beautiful!

St. Bridget of Sweden 1303 - 1373

In my search for OFS saints I found a wonderful sister that used her Franciscan foundation as an OFS to do incredible things. She was born of lower nobility being the daughter of a knight. From age ten on she had many visions of Christ and hoped to consecrate herself in a religious vocation, but she was obedient to her father's wishes and was married at age 14. Prince Ulf was a pious man and they both became Secular Franciscans. Together they had eight children. One daughter, Catherine is also a canonized saint.



Birgitta of Sweden on an altarpiece in Salem church, Södermanland, Sweden.

During her marriage Bridget was very involved in helping unwed mothers and their children. Her husband died in 1344 when Bridget was in her early forties. She divided her estate between her children and the poor and began to live a very austere life. During this time she founded an order, the Order of the Most Holy Savior. (Today called The Brigittines).

Bridget moved to Rome and worked to return the papacy to Rome during the Avignon papacy. Her order had double monasteries with both men and women forming a joint community. They were called to give all surplus income to the poor. Sounding a bit Franciscan to you? What I found amusing is that they were allowed to have as many books as they pleased. 😊 She spent the rest of her life in Rome and worked to end church abuses at that time.

She suffered a similar situation as St. Clare with getting her rule approved. Since the Popes were in Avignon for many years, she could not get approval until they returned to Rome. This meant she had to wait 20 years until 1370, three years before her death. Might she have been praying for St. Clare's intercession for patience!?

She died July 23, 1373 at age 71. She was buried at the Poor Clare Convent of St. Lawrence in Rome. Her body was moved the following year to the convent she founded at Vadstena in Sweden (Motherhouse of the Brigittine Order).

The Brigittines today are very ecumenical. Their primary charism is for the re-establishment of unity of all Christians in accord with Vatican II. They follow the Rule of St. Augustine. Their habit is very unique with a black veil with a white crown with five wounds of Christ.

There has been a positive move to greater ecumenism between the Vatican and Lutheran Church. For many years there had been disagreements regarding indulgences given during the Middle Ages regarding one of Bridget's visions. Dialogue resulted in an ecumenical process of reconciliation on her Feast Day in 1991 when JPII and two Lutheran Bishops met and prayed together in Rome. This was the first time in history anything like this had ever happened. St. Bridget is venerated not only by Catholics and Lutherans, but also Anglicans. She is the Patron Saint of Sweden and also one of the patrons of Europe.

[News from the Fraternity Council](#)

From our Director of Formation:

October Formation News

We welcome Heidi Madden, OFS, newest professed member of San Luis Rey fraternity on October 2, 2021. The journey continues... She already is involved in helping with putting together a slate of candidates for our Council elections in a few months. Thank you Heidi! She and Dotti have sojourned together through Candidacy and are beautiful examples for our four new candidates of faithful service.

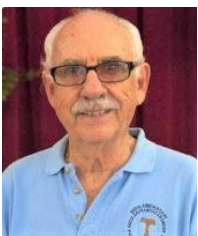
Carolyn, Linda, Gina, and Pam continue on their beginning journey through Candidacy on Zoom. This month we meet on October 9th at 11am to discuss Chapter 12 in The Journey text, "A Focus on Christ." Continue to pray for these wonderful women, that they grow in their love of our order and find a sponsor to be a companion on their journey through Candidacy.



*Jan DeSpain, OFS
Director of Formation*



From our Treasurer



You can mail your OFS fraternity contributions to:

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



St. Francis Novena 2020 | St Anthony Shrine

“Desire above all things to have the Spirit of the Lord and its holy activity, and pray always with a pure heart,” - St. Francis of Assisi (The Later Rule, Chapter X:8)

<https://www.stanthony.org/st-francis-novena-2020/>
<https://www.stanthony.org/st-francis-novena-2020/?fbclid=IwAR1b8cWoMaB07VY3CbEGvxNoiTEtf7UMqaHDadObEeAyYsLg4Vx-7JYaK-g>

Prayers Requested:

Mary Haynes, OFS, our fraternity member, is requesting the fraternity to pray for her. She is now residing at Silvergate Fallbrook Assisted Living: 420 Elbrook Drive, Room 313, Fallbrook, CA 92028. Visitors must have proof of vaccination. <https://silvergaterr.com/silvergate-fallbrook-elder-care/>



Karron Esmonde, OFS is requesting prayers for the repose of the soul of her brother-in-law Richard Markeloff, 61, who died suddenly on September 28th in Herndon Virginia. Karoon's sister, Jeannine, and their two college-age children, Mia 21, and Nicholas 18, are grieving.

Eternal rest grant unto Richard, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul, and the sould of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Carol Imhoff, OFS is requesting prayers for her brother Don, and her Sister, Sr. M. Therese OSB who both had Cataract surgery yesterday. How they did it, Carol says she doesn't know, but they had the surgery at the same time of day... both are on the mend, and prayers are for quick and complete healing...

Marianne Grisez, OFS is requesting prayers on behalf of a dear college friend of hers, Janet. Janet is asking for prayers for her sister-in-law Michele. Michele was diagnosed with bone cancer and will be undergoing chemo, radiation, and eventually a stem cell transplant. Let us pray for successful treatment and cure.

Marianne Grisez, OFS also asks us to pray for healing for her niece-in-law who was recently diagnosed with has breast cancer. Her name is Angel. Per Marianne, Angel's treatment is being determined.

Patricia Grace, OFS, our Regional JPIC representative, is requesting prayers for the people impacted by the dire situation in Haiti. Please see below for the Zoom link to a brief but poignantly beautiful 30 minute prayer time for those in need. The Prayer time is scheduled for Thursday (tomorrow) at 6pm for thirty minutes. Details and Zoom link are in the attached email.

Linda Ochwat, OFS, our fraternity member, requested prayer that she soon find satisfactory housing and regain her physical health.





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 October ~~~✝

- October 3, 2014
- October 4, 1991
- October 5, 1995
- October 9, 2003
- October 9, 2015
- October 13, 2005
- October 19, 2014
- October 27, 1995

- Dorothy K. Johnson, OFS**
- Virginia Ward Tapp, OFS**
- Richard Boerger, OFS**
- Margaret Nelson, OFS**
- Freeda Perrotto, OFS**
- Michelle Sagnimeni, OFS**
- Robert Porfirio, OFS**
- Mary Juranick, OFS**

❖ For those who were professed in the month of October

- October 1, 2017
- October 1, 2017
- October 1, 2017
- October 2, 2021
- October 4, 2015
- October 6, 2019
- October 6, 2019

- Kelly Farnum, OFS**
- Liz Marvis, OFS**
- Sam DeSantis, OFS**
- Heidi Madden, OFS**
- Laura Chun, OFS**
- Linda Ochwat, OFS**
- Pamela Pert, OFS**

❖ We congratulate our newest professed member, Heidi Madden, OFS and pray for a special blessing on her. May Father Francis and Clare guide her in perfecting Christian Love.

* * *

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 M. Kassai, OFS

