

Our Lady of Lourdes

February 11



["I am the Immaculate Conception"](#)

St. Margaret of Cortona, OFS
February 22



Attributions: [Ecstasy of St. Margaret of Cortona](#)

February, 2023

Newsletter of the San Luis Rey
Secular Franciscan Fraternity

Monthly Gatherings: 2nd Sundays

February Gatherings:

Profession: Only in Person

February 4: Saturday, No Zoom access

1:30pm San Luis Rey Old Mission Church

Followed by Reception @ Parish Dining Rm

General Gathering:

February 12:

10:00am Mass at San Luis Rey Mission
Church

11:30am BYO box lunch at Mission Retreat
Center Refreshment Lounge

* * *

12:30pm Prayer in Mission St. Clare Chapel

1:00 to 3:00 pm General Monthly Gathering

Room TBD and on Zoom ([link here](#))

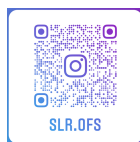
Vespers: No Vespers in February

Next Month General Gathering:
Sunday, March 12, 2023

Login for All Zooms:

www.zoom.us Click on: **Join a Meeting**

Meeting ID: **760 726 2486** Password: **1798**



Contact us via our website [Contact Page](#)
Mission San Luis Rey
4050 Mission Avenue
Oceanside, CA 92057

Minister's Note for February

My dear Fraternity,

It is with a heart full of love and excitement that we invite you to the Profession of our four Candidates: Gina Martinot, Carolyn Brock, Linda Gossett, and Pamela McArthur. These women walked their entire path toward Profession in the midst of a pandemic. In a time where many Secular Franciscan Fraternities in the Region held no gatherings (either in person or virtual), we were blessed with these women and their commitment to Formation. They are each an inspiration. Their Profession will be on Saturday, February 4th at 1:30pm in the historic San Luis Rey Mission Church. A reception with light refreshments will occur in the parish dining room immediately following the Profession Mass. This is SUCH a joyous occasion!!!



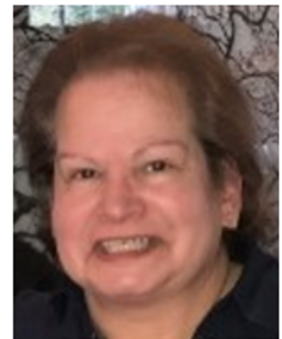
Gina Martinot,
Candidate



Carolyn Brock,
Candidate



Linda Gossett,
Candidate



Pam McArthur,
Candidate

We treasure the Sacraments. They are familiar and visible rites that celebrate, signify, and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. Sacraments are familiar and visible rites. Each Sacrament, beginning with Baptism, brings us closer to God. Each subsequent sacrament intensifies and deepens the relationship. Think for a moment about the Rites we would have participated in Prior to profession: Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, and most fundamentally, Baptism. Through our Baptism we are called to be Priest, Prophet, and King.

The Rites of the Secular Franciscan Order signify the desire to become a member of the order and to make a permanent commitment to the Gospel Life. The Rite of Profession testifies to all of this, because it is God's action and a saving event: it is a moment when salvation reaches the faithful. It enables us to make a promise to live the Franciscan gospel life and produces in us particular effects of grace, by which we are deputed to specific tasks within the People of God.

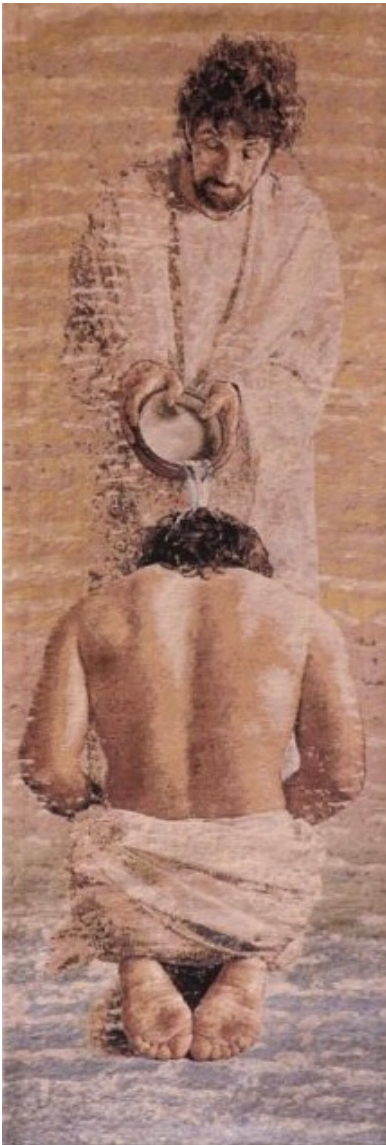
I lovingly invite, strongly encourage, and completely cajole you to join us on Saturday February 4th at 1:30pm in the historic MSLR mission church for Professions. And if you have a moment prior, please also check out this beautiful and comprehensive [reflection on Profession](#) from the OFS National website as well as this [video](#) from Br. Bill Short OFM on 'The Gospel as a Rule of Life.' We are not only celebrating the Professions of Gina, Carolyn, Linda, and Pamela. We are celebrating our *own* as well.

Blessings,

Laura Chun, OFS, Minister, San Luis Rey Fraternity



Baptism and our call to Priesthood



Baptism of Christ: Tapestry by John Nava in the [Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels](#)

Christ is the light of the Nations and enlightens the hearts of all the baptized. As the baptized, we share in many privileges that flow from the grace of our baptism into the community. There are also responsibilities that flow from that same baptism. In a homily at the Casa Santa Marta on April 17, 2013, Pope Francis asks if we as the baptized hope that the priests and bishops take on their role and allow the baptized sit on the sidelines, or as Pope Francis describes it, to “sleep.” Pope Francis asks us to reflect on our baptism and the *responsibility* that comes with that baptism. We participate in the baptism of Jesus – and in our own – though acting in our roles of priest, prophet, and king. To be priest, prophet, and king has real impact on how we live our lives. What follows is a focus on our Baptismal call to priesthood.

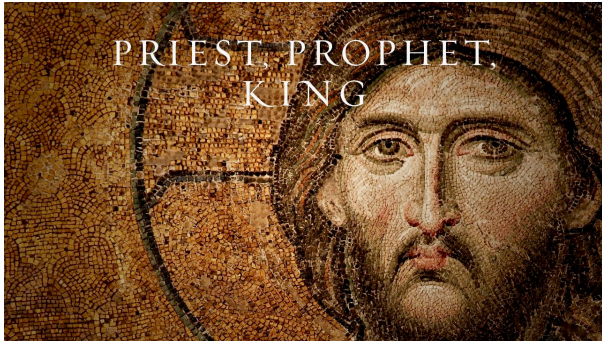
The Baptismal Call to be ‘Priest’

The pivotal Vatican II document, *Lumen Gentium* revitalizes the call to priesthood of the faithful through the grace of baptism. All the baptized are called to holiness through participation in the mission of the Church leading to the Reign of God. To be priest is to live consciously as a person of prayer, to attentively and fully participate in the liturgy, scripture, and sacraments and to be a conduit of that grace for others. The priestly role is tied closely to worship, in praying with Christ to the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. Each of the Baptized is called to priesthood. *Lumen Gentium* recognizes the baptismal priesthood as well as the ordained priesthood specifying that although they are different in “essence” they are interrelated. Each call to priesthood, both through baptism and ordination, is a participation in the priesthood of Christ.

The call to priesthood changes us; we become different beings. There is the ontological change that occurs with ordination, and likewise in baptism we become a new creation as we respond to the call to holiness. *Lumen Gentium* emphasizes the power and grace given to every Christian at baptism and confirmation and through the reality of the spiritual gifts received live a life of holiness. The priesthood of the laity through baptism resonates in the role of the historical Jesus as he himself lived a life as a religiously committed lay person who in his culture and age would not be formally recognized as a priest. The historical Jesus was a pious and engaged lay person responding to the call to holiness.

Although Jesus himself as a layperson neither referred to himself as a priest nor was referred to as such in the Gospels, the author of the Letter of Hebrews used the image of the great high priest to refer to Jesus in the context of the fullness of his life, passion, *and* resurrection. The author recognized in Jesus the fulfillment on the Old Testament understanding of priest and the priest’s role to intercede on the behalf of humanity before God, to represent humanity before God, to pray for the

people before God. In this life, passion, and resurrection, Jesus is the model for both the priesthood of the baptized and of the ordained.



[Jesus Christ is Priest, Prophet and King](#)

In being called to priesthood, the baptized are called to live lives of faith through the entirety of their lives. The baptized are called to lives of holiness. It is in the moments of each day and each encounter that the vocation of priesthood is lived. For Christians, the story that is remembered in living out that priesthood is that of Jesus of Nazareth. It is not just the dramatic death and resurrection of Jesus that is our pivotal story as Christians, but as the Vatican II theologian Fr. Edward

Schillebeeckx insists it is the entire life and ministry of Jesus that matters, including his passion and resurrection. The Incarnation is the totality of the life of Christ, from his conception through his life of action, completed in his death, resurrection, sending of the Holy Spirit.

In his ministry Jesus preached the message of the Kingdom of God. He showed us through his behavior, interactions, and relationships a God who is concerned about humankind; whose coming rule means life and wholeness for people. This is a strong sign that in our life with others and their needs we truly find God and grow in our relationship with God. Fr. Edward Schillebeeckx believed that this understanding of the Kingdom of God was rooted in Jesus' experience of God as Abba. Schillebeeckx emphasizes "the uniqueness and importance of this Abba experience" as it flows through the life of Jesus in his ministry and on the cross. Jesus' use of the term "Abba" showed a simplicity, intimate closeness, and deep confidence in his relationship to God as well as a profound reverence and obedience. For Schillebeeckx, the center of Jesus' entire life was his relationship with God. As are priestly people, we are called to the same relationship.

What it means to be priest and part of the priestly community comes into being through the sacraments and virtues. Sacraments are powerfully symbolic vehicles conveying deep human meaning, but they are also, for believers, direct encounters with the Divine, with Christ- perhaps even something akin to an Abba experience. To encounter Christ is to encounter God, and this sacramental grace is a personal and immediate encounter with God. It is something more than experiencing God through the wonderful joy and beauty of creation; it is instead a direct and personal communion. The sacraments are mediation between Christ and us, the Christ that is living in the here and now. These are moments when the Church gathers together in communal sacramental sharing, to intensify our spiritual life, and to share in our priesthood.

Through the grace of our baptisms we are called to be *priest* – to be open to God's grace through prayer, scripture, and sacraments. We are called to be conduits of God's grace to each other. We are called to help lead each other to the healing and loving presence of God. We are called to be the face of God for each other. We are called to follow Christ by being the sacrament of the presence of the love of God in the world.

In future articles, I'd be happy to explore our call through baptism to be prophet and king – all three come as a set through our Baptism... the call to be priest, prophet, and king.

Laura Chun, OFS, Minister,
San Luis Rey Fraternity



The Gifts of The Holy Spirit

Scripture is our primary source of information on the Gifts of the Spirit, and they are first listed in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. Frustrated by the behavior of Israel's king Ahaz, whose actions were governed by fear rather than the counsel of God's prophet, Isaiah prophesied the coming of the "just King" on whom the "spirit of the Lord" rests. Today, what Christians call the "gifts of the Spirit" are the virtues of Immanuel, the king Isaiah prophesied.

Isaiah 11:2-5

The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,

A spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD,

and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD.

Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide,

But he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide fairly for the land's afflicted.

He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked.

Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips.



Fresco from the [Sistine Chapel ceiling](#) by [Michelangelo](#)

Isaiah's king is graced with the spirits of "wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge and fear of the Lord". A seventh, piety, was later added. Note that "fear of the Lord" is more accurately translated as "awe" or "wonder". The scripture passage further illustrates how the "spirit of the Lord" is evident in the reign of this anointed King.

Jesus the Christ fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy, and the Gospels recount Jesus' powerful ministry and great works. Certainly, Jesus' first followers were awed by Jesus' heavenly gifts, used to help and teach them.

What Isaiah's prophecy didn't anticipate was the spiritual legacy Jesus left each of His followers. In making us part of His body and heirs of His kingdom, we also share in the gifts of Isaiah's just king, as each of us is called to participate in Christ's ministry.

Being called to carry on His work – and Jesus said we would do greater works than He – we are afforded guidance and help beyond any we'd anticipated. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to guide and help us in this merciful work.

One such worker was Saul of Tarsus, renamed Paul. Paul documented his travels around the Mediterranean as he spread the Good News in Jesus' name. Today, as we study the letters he sent to cohorts and new converts, we uncover a person who served God as an apostle, evangelist, teacher, healer, miracle worker, discerner of spirits and prophet who spoke in tongues.

I write about Paul, rather than our Father Francis, since Paul wrote explicitly and deliberately about the spiritual gifts. I would St. Francis had chronicled his conversation with the wolf of Gubbio or the birds who heard him preach, but Francis is silent on the subject. Rather, St. Francis' actions speak to the great power of a humble and loving heart. And as a devoted follower of Christ, Paul is in total accord. (See **1 Cor 13:1-13**) Paul discusses the gifts of the Spirit at length in his First Letter to the Corinthians, and later in his Letter to the Romans.



St. Paul's Grotto in Rabat, Malta,
[Photo by Augustyński](#)

Members of the church at Corinth were blessed with many spiritual gifts, and some of these were of the miraculous variety. Paul lists the miraculous gifts in **1 Cor 12:8-10**:

To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues.

Today, these are known as dynamic or charismatic gifts of the Spirit. These are less often available human tool kit and to awaken our "spiritual senses" so the Holy Spirit can move powerfully in and through us for the benefit of the community.

Today, these are known as dynamic or charismatic gifts of the Spirit. These are not essential to our survival-oriented human tool kit. By awakening of one or more of our "spiritual senses", the Holy Spirit opens a direct channel of communication so as to raise our awareness of God's Presence and work among us.

Unfortunately, the Corinthians were new converts and not yet spiritually mature. They were overly impressed by the "wow" factor of the spectacular and Spirit-manifesting gifts. It fell to Paul to point out their error in valuing one gift over another.

So, before listing the "wow" gifts, he reminds them:

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit. **1 Cor 12:4**

AND

There are different forms of service but the same Lord. **1 Cor 12:5**

AND

There are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual, the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. **1 Cor 12:6-7**

What then, of other Gifts of the Spirit? Later in the chapter, Paul continues:

Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. Some people God has designated in the church to be, first, **apostles**; second, **prophets**; third, **teachers**; then, **mighty deeds**; then, **gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues**.

Here, Paul prioritizes apostles, prophets and teachers as essential ministries. Next, he lists the spiritual gifts essential to a community of believers. Paul's emphasizes that all gifts are given in support of God's work: the gifts strengthen us and grace our ministries in the church.

At baptism, we took on the mantle of Christ, were marked as His own and called to further his kingdom on earth. As professed religious in the Franciscan Order, our Rule of Life requires each of us to actively participate in ministry. And in the grace of the ministry God bestows on us, we receive Gifts of the Spirit to further His work in us and in those that we serve.

In summary:

The graces of the Spirit strengthen confirmed Christians to carry out their vocations for the good of others and the benefit of the Church and the world.

John 15:1-8.

*Karron Esmonde, OFD
JPIC Animator*



Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday



The Mardi Gras season actually begins on Epiphany, a Christian holiday celebrated on January 6 that is otherwise known as Three Kings Day or the Twelfth Day of Christmas. In Brazil and many other countries, this period between Epiphany and Fat Tuesday is known as Carnival. Whichever name you prefer to use, the revelries of Mardi Gras last until midnight on Shrove Tuesday, the night before Ash Wednesday, which ushers in 40 days of Lent. Mardi Gras is French for Fat Tuesday reflecting

the practice of the last night of eating rich, fatty foods before the ritual of Lenten sacrifices and fasting of the Lenten season.

Mardi Gras is believed to have arrived in North America on March 3, 1699, when, sent by King Louis XIV, the French-Canadian explorer Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville camped about 60 miles downriver from the future site of New Orleans. Knowing it was Fat Tuesday back in France, Iberville named the spot Point du Mardi Gras and held a small gala. A few years later, French soldiers and settlers feasted and wore masks as part of Mardi Gras festivities in the newly founded city of Mobile (present-day Alabama). Although Mardi Gras celebrations are held in many cities, but to this day, Mobile claims to have the oldest annual Mardi Gras celebration in the United States.



Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and begins with the marking of ashes on the foreheads of worshipers with words as stated in Gn 3:19 "For you are dust, and to dust you shall return" words spoken by God to Adam and Eve after their Sin. This custom began with Pope Gregory I The Great (c540-604). In 1969, in a revision to the Roman Rite, an alternate formula was introduced from Mk 1:15 "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

In the Catholic church and some others, Lent occurs for 46 days and ends at the start of the Easter Triduum on the evening of Maundy Thursday. Lent lasts for 46 days (Sundays not included) and represents the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert while being tempted by Satan and is marked by fasting and repentance.

Resources: *The New American RE Bible and Wikipedia.*



*Sam DeSantis, OFS
Vice Minister, SLR Fraternity*

Our Profession February 4, 2023

On February 4, 2023 at 1:30 pm in the Historic San Luis Rey Old Mission Church we will joyfully celebrate with Gina, Pam, Linda, and Carolyn their continuing vocation as perpetually professed Franciscans in our Order.



Gina Martinot,
Candidate



Carolyn Brock,
Candidate



Linda Gossett,
Candidate



Pam McArthur,
Candidate

They certainly are deserving as they have navigated a challenging journey from the beginning of their formation three years ago because of the lengthy Covid problem.

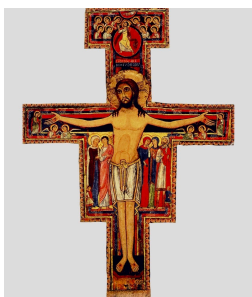
Please join us for this important occasion as we welcome them all as true gifts to our fraternity.

Unfortunately we are unable to provide Zoom for this event.

Reception:

Right after the profession Mass, we will walk over to the San Luis Rey Parish dining room which is a short walk across the parking lot. It is right across the courtyard from the new Serra Center which is right next to the cemetery. Many thanks to Corinne for coordinating this effort. At our last meeting we announced that the fraternity will be providing sandwiches and cake. Professed members are invited to add to the festivities by bringing a savory or sweet addition if desired. The reception is a great time to welcome these new sisters and meet any family or guests they have invited.

See you there!!



*Jan DeSpain, OFS
Formation Director, SLR Fraternity*



Border Compassion

Compassion Knows No Borders - Advent/Christmas Project Matthew 25 Update

Border Compassion is a non-profit faith-based, grassroots effort to respond to the needs of families who have migrated to the border crossing at Calexico, CA. and Mexicali, Mexico. These asylum seekers left their homes to escape violence, poverty, and climate disasters.

The Mission of Border Compassion is to invite Faith-Communities to **Cross-Over** at the border to offer compassionate humanitarian response to families living at the *Posada del Migrante Shelter* which houses up to 300 to 400 people.



Everyone in the shelter has registered for an immigration hearing in Tijuana which is the Port of Entry into the USA. Some have waited in the shelter for eight to twelve months. Their Pro Bono Lawyers have crossed 210 in 2021-2022.

DO NOT BELIEVE THE LIES THAT THE BORDER OPENS AND EVERYONE RUNS ACROSS? RIDICULOUS!

Asylum Seekers are called up for their immigration hearing and they have to be on the list. When they are called for their appointment, they must have a rapid test for covid, show proof of vaccination and submit the name and address of their sponsor in the USA. If approved to cross into USA, Jewish Family Services coordinate their travel to destination.

I NEED YOUR HELP!

The Religious Sisters in the San Diego Diocese will be doing the **CROSS-OVER** in early 2023. We will be bringing

donations and needed items for the Shelter. I volunteered to bring new **SOCKS, JACKETS** new and/or worn in good condition and **DONATIONS**.

Socks for children. (School is donating these.) **Socks for men (Youth) Socks for women (St. Vincent De Paul) Jackets for men and women (RCIA) Monetary Donations and/or any of the above.** (The Parish at large)

The **requested donation** from the parish community is **\$2,000**. We will do what we can! **Please leave donations at the parish office and make checks payable to Saint Francis Church and write BORDER COMPASSION in the MEMO.** We have until mid-January when we have our meeting to give a report on how we are doing.

We will be doing the Crossover in February. Date TBA

Thank You in advance for your **help, stewardship and generous heart.**

God Bless You! And a Happy New Year!

Sister Madeline Fitzgerald, OSC



News from the Fraternity Council

Please note: **The February General Monthly Gathering** will be on Sunday, February 12, 2023. **Zoom access starting at 1 pm** will be provided for those **who cannot attend in person.**

The San Luis Rey Fraternity Council



Laura Chun, OFS
Minister



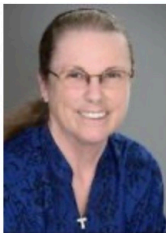
Sam DeSantis, OFS
Vice-Minister & Formator



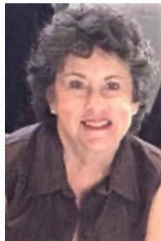
Jan DeSpain, OFS
Formation Director



Sr. Madeline Fitzgerald, OSC
Spiritual Assistant



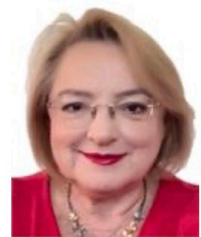
Connie Collins, OFS
Secretary



Corinne Helena, OFS
Treasurer



Pam Pert, OFS
Councilor



Marta Kassai, OFS
Councilor & Newsletter Editor

No Vespers on Zoom in February



The Council is prayerfully considering whether to go forward with Vespers on zoom on a monthly basis due to the low attendance in the past few months. An announcement will be made shortly regarding the path forward.

From our Treasurer



You can mail your OFS fraternity contributions to:

Corinne Helena, OFS
1048 Turnstone Way
Oceanside, CA 92057



Prayers Requested from the Fraternity:

1. **Gina Martinot Quinn, Candidate** has requested prayers for healing. She had surgery on her knee, which went as well as could be expected. She is requesting prayers now for continued healing as recovery has been slow, and she has to return to work to finish the semester with her students. She has pain and swelling which is a challenge.
2. **Linda Ochwat, OFS** requests that she may find a stable housing arrangement after release from the facility where she's being treated for health condition.



Praying Hands by Albrecht Dürer

Prayer for Homeless "Men, Women, and Children"

Precious Holy Spirit, I come to You with a broken heart for all of our brothers and sisters in Christ who are living with no security, no shelter, and no safety from the outside world. Please be with all the men, women, and children in our world who are homeless. Give them extra warmth, peace, and guidance like only Heaven can send. Let angels hold their hands at all times, ease their worries, and provide opportunities for a better life. Give hope where there is no hope and provide wisdom as they work through their trials. Lord, let them know they are loved, prayed for, and Your precious children who will never be forgotten. In Jesus name, I pray.

3. **Pam Pert, OFS** requests prayers for husband Tim who was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Psalm 38: 22-23

Do not forsake me, O Lord, my God, be not far from me. Come quickly to help me, my Lord and my salvation

Psalm 57: 2-4

Have mercy on me, God, have mercy on me. In you I seek refuge. In the shadow of your wings I seek refuge till harm pass by. I call to God Most High, to God who provides for me. May God send help from heaven to save me, shame those who trample upon me. May God send fidelity and mercy.

Psalm reflections courtesy of the New American RE Bible



Prayers Answered

Carol Imhoff, OFS thanks the fraternity for their prayers. Her cataract surgery was successful on both eyes and now she does not have to wear glasses.

Marianne Grisez expresses her gratitude for a successful knee replacement surgery November 9.

* * *



Please update us so we can continue to pray for your special intentions, or give thanks to God for his great mercy and love.

Please send your prayer requests and updates to Sam DeSantis, OFS, Vice Minister: carguyrt66@gmail.com

*Sam DeSantis, OFS
Vice Minister*





.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

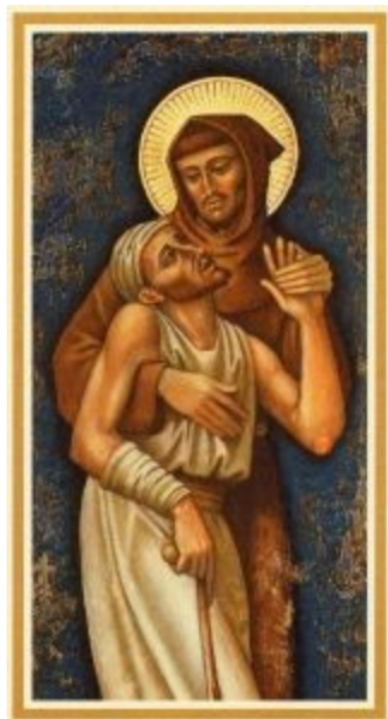
To join by landline or audio-only Phone (no video):

- 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 February ~~~✝

- February 2, 1996 **Gertrude Weaver, OFS**
- February 9, 2007 **Charles Dotson, OFS**
- February 21, 1996 **Florence Collins, OFS**

❖ For those who were professed in the month of February

- February 10, 2002 **Edna Patterson, OFS**
- February 14, 1965 **Carol Imhoff, OFS**

❖ For Linda Ochwat, OFS that she find good housing, and for her good health. Linda's cell phone is 760-583-5749.

❖ For Pam Pert's husband Tim for speedy recovery after surgery.

❖ For the four candidates Gina, Pam, Linda, and Carolyn who will be professed into the Secular Franciscan Order on Saturday, February 4 at the Old Mission Church

❖ For Gina Martinot Quinn, Candidate for a good recovery from knee replacement surgery.

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



Marta
Dr. Marta M. Kassai, OFS, Editor