

# Stigmata

September 17



## Attributions:

[Saint Francis Receiving the Stigmata by Giotto](#) between 1295 and 1300

# The Cord

September, 2023

Newsletter of the San Luis Rey  
Secular Franciscan Fraternity

Monthly Gatherings: 2nd Sundays

## September Gathering:

### September 10:

**12:00 noon** Social Time O'Keefe Lounge  
(BYO Lunch)

**12:40 pm** Prayer St. Clare Chapel

**1:00 to 3:00 pm** General Monthly Gathering

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**No Vespers in September**

Next Month General Gathering:

2nd Sunday

**October 8, 2023**

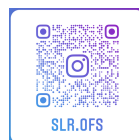
Login for All Zooms:

[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](#)

Mission San Luis Rey  
4050 Mission Avenue  
Oceanside, CA 92057



## Minister's Note for September

**We have a new schedule starting in September.** Gratefully receiving feedback we received from our Regional Minister, we'd like to make it easier for us to have some additional social interaction time. We'd like to streamline our schedule to help with that. We will meet:

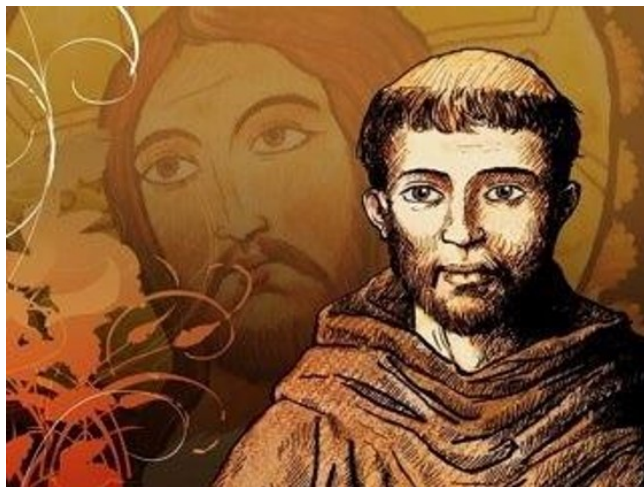
- **Noon** for lunch in the O'Keefe Lounge (bring your own and maybe something to share)
- **12:40 pm** for Chapel prayer
- **1 pm – 3 pm** for our Gathering

On Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the Feast of one of our Secular Franciscan patrons, St. Louis the King of France. Our Concil member Corinne Helena and Connie Collins were there – with a table full of religious items donated by the Fraternity and Calligraphy donated by Fr. Franklin Fong, OFM. We celebrate San Luis Rey ... and just like that... it's September and fall is approaching. Those of us that came from colder climes know what is to live in cadence with the seasons (even in Southern California, we *do* have seasons). This cadence is reflected in our spiritual life in the liturgical seasons. Each year, we get to experience feast days, holy days, and seasons anew. We get to go deeper.

In September we celebrate the feast of St. Rose of Viterbo, a young Franciscan woman and street preacher who was willing to publicly and fearlessly preach the Gospel. Darleen Pryds shares Rose's story in our Cord this month. Another example of living a Gospel life, especially as related to forgiveness, is Padre Pio. Sam shares his thoughts on Padre Pio as we also celebrate his feast day in September. Many came after Jesus following in his footprints. One particularly dear to us, of course, is St. Francis of Assisi. I listed to Br. Bill Short OFM give a reflection at Mass several years ago on St. Francis and living the Gospel life. Br. Bill distills the essence for Francis as this:

*The basic intuition of Francis was as simple as it was difficult. He said he wanted to follow the teaching and the footprints of Jesus. To know the teaching of Jesus he listened to the reading of the Gospel, and he focused especially on any passage in which Jesus is speaking. Then he would ask himself, "How can I put this into practice today?"*

**THAT** is the question that each morning, after we read & reflect on a passage from the Gospel in our morning prayer... before we close our Bible, our NT, our 'Magnificat' or our 'This Day' ... before we close the cover – we reflect 'How can I put this into practice today?'



At our gathering, we will be spending some time together reflecting on the Feast of the Stigmata and what that means today with a video provided for us by Br. Bill Short, OFM.

Pace e Bene -

Laura Chun, OFS  
Minister, San Luis Rey Fraternity



## Stigmata of Saint Francis



[Giotto - Stigmatization of St Francis, 1297-1300.](#)

Upper Church, San Francesco, Assisi

Shortly after the Greccio scene was created, St Francis was nearing the end of his earthly life. These last years were spent in prayer, fasting, illness and suffering. The Gospels were his inspiration especially the passion of our Lord and his three loves were the Crib, the Cross, and the Eucharist

In 1224, Francis began a forty day retreat of fasting and prayer on Mount La Verna in Italy. During the retreat he had a vision of an angel standing above him. The angel had six wings and was fixed to a cross. After the vision Francis was filled with both sorrow and joy. Marks appeared on his hands, feet, and side. On his hands and feet, it looked like nail heads and his side looked like it was pierced with a lance. The wounds often bled staining his clothing. He accepted these wounds as a gift from God but only shared it with his close friends. What happened on the outside, was a reflection/indication of what was happening on the inside, as the interior life of a Christian disciple is to follow in the

footsteps of Christ. Francis wished nothing more than to follow the poor Christ, naked on the cross, who gave His life to redeem the world. This is the heart of the feast of the Stigmata which happens on the seventeenth day of September every year.

Next year we will be celebrating the Centenary of the Gift of the Stigmata and hopefully we will renew our own commitment to prayerful and contemplative silence in our daily lives as Francis did.

In Fratelli Tutti 48 we read:-

“Saint Francis heard the voice of God, he heard the voice of the poor, he heard the voice of the infirm and he heard the voice of nature. He made of them a way of life.”

This is a very special day for me as it was on this day in 1959 that I entered the Sisters of Saint Clare to give my life in the service of others.

*Sister Madeline Fitzgerald, OSC  
Spiritual Assistant,  
San Luis Rey Fraternity*



## Rose of Viterbo



Rose of Viterbo by Bartolome Esteban Murillo

In September we celebrate the feast day of St. Rose of Viterbo, a fearless Franciscan lay woman. Darleen Pryds of the Franciscan School of Theology shares the story of Rose, a strong, articulate, young woman who answered the call to be a truth teller by preaching in the streets. Even as a child, she was *fearless* in speaking truth to power. Read below the transcript of a recording created by [Darleen Pryds](#), Associate Professor of Christian Spirituality and History at the Franciscan School of Theology. You can listen to Darleen's talk in her own voice on YouTube [here](#), or read the transcript below:

Hi, I'm Darleen Pryds. Today I'd like to tell you the story of one of my favorite Franciscan women, Rose of Viterbo. She really speaks to me because she lived her life in a way that was really different than how I was reared. See, when I was girl growing up in the 60's and 70's, I was taught to be quiet. It wasn't seen as proper for girls to speak their minds. In fact, girls who had a strong voice, those girls who knew their

own mind and voiced their own concerns, were usually called 'bossy' - as if having opinions and being able to articulate their opinions were a bad thing. Now, more recently, social scientists have pointed out that by the times girls are 12 or 14, they often start self-censoring themselves in classrooms and group events. Why is that? Why don't we want girls to grow up to be intelligent and articulate adults willing to voice their opinions and enter into reasonable debate that involves critical thinking and articulation of thought?

Now, I hope things have changed since I was a kid, In fact, I hope we are open with fresh eyes at many traditions, including the Franciscan tradition, where we actually might actually be surprised by the strong, articulate women we find there. In the Franciscan tradition, we have several women, mostly lay women, who could be role models of articulate faith and critical thinking today. Women who stood up for what they believed in. Women who called out bad behavior among their contemporaries, including some Franciscan friars. They did not do this to be cantankerous or mean spirited, but because their faith called them to be Truth tellers. One of these women was actually a girl when she started preaching in the streets. Her name was Rose and she lived in the city of Viterbo way back in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. What is, perhaps the most remarkable thing about her, is not necessarily that she had an extraordinary faith to start preaching in the street as a child around the age of 7 or 8, and dressed in a habit, although that's extraordinary enough. What's really extraordinary is that people around her, both men and women, listened to her.

Sure, some may have listened because it was a spectacle to see a kid preaching in the streets. But many listened to her words because as a child, she was fearless to speak the truth. She continued to speak openly preaching in the streets though her teen years until her very early death at the age of 18. What was the cause of her death? **An enlarged heart.**

Now, Rose's feast day is September 4<sup>th</sup>, so if you're so inclined, give a little shout out to Rose of Viterbo and to those outspoken girls and women who know their minds and are fearless in speaking truth to power. If you'd like to learn more about Rose of Viterbo, and women like her check out my book, [Women of the Streets: Early Franciscan Women and their Mendicant Vocation](#).

## *St. Pius of Pietrelcina*

Padre Pio was an Italian Capuchin friar, priest, stigmatist, and mystic. Born May 25, 1887, of poor parents in Pietrelcina, Southern Italy, Francesco Forgione was tutored privately until his entry into the novitiate of the Capuchin Friars at the age of fifteen taking the name Pio. Of feeble health but strong will, with the help of grace, he completed the required studies and was ordained a priest in 1910 at the age of twenty-three. Eight years later, on September 20, 1918, he received the visible stigmata, the five wounds of our Lord's Passion, making him the first stigmatized priest in the history of the church.

For the next fifty years, pilgrims flocked to the convent of San Giovanni Rotondo, where Padre Pio reconciled many to Christ in the confessional. He bore both physical sufferings and continual scrutiny. Entrusting himself to Our Lady of Grace "my little Blessed Mother" as he called her. His trust in God was shown through two of his common counsils: "Pray, hope, and don't worry," and, "Worry is useless, God is merciful, and he will hear your prayer." He died on September 23, 1968 and was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2002.

### The Day the Devil went to Confession

There are many stories of Padre Pio in the confessional. However, on one certain day as on any other day, Padre Pio was hearing confessions in San Giovanni Rotondo. And, as usual, there was an endless line of people waiting for confession. There was a tall elegantly dressed man in a striped suit waiting outside the sacristy that would not smile at anyone and was at the front of the line. When he entered the confessional, the man was standing, and Padre Pio asked him to kneel down. The man responded by saying emphatically, "that I cannot do." Thinking the man had a physical ailment, Padre Pio told him to go ahead and confess his sins. He confessed many sins as if he had the entire world on his shoulders.

Finally, he was instructed to bow his head in order to receive absolution and once again, the man said, "that I cannot do." Padre Pio was somewhat speechless and told the man that when he puts his pants on in the morning he has to bow. The man said "I am Lucifer, and in my Kingdom, no one bows down. At this time, Padre Pio was above as he was known to levitate, suspended in the air and in his place was Jesus. Padre Pio floated down and the figures of Jesus and Padre Pio merged. Suddenly, Lucifer disappeared and left behind a stench. Padre Pio continued confessions as if nothing had happened.

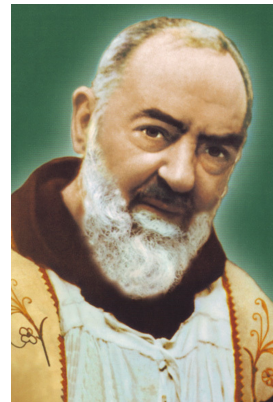
Today, St Padre Pio's body is incorrupt and on public display in San Giovanni Rotondo Italy. Also, of note, the film "Padre Pio" premiered at the 79<sup>th</sup> Venice International Film Festival on September 23, 2022 and was released in the United States on June 2, 2023. The film is based on Padre Pio's letters and the History on San Giovanni Rotondo.

**Resources:** Information courtesy of *The Magnificat Magazine*, *Fatima Center*, and *Wikipedia*



*Submitted by:*

*Sam DeSantis, OFS  
Vice Minister, San Luis Rey Fraternity*



## ***What does it mean to live a Gospel Life?***

A reflection given by Br. Bill Short, OFM, several years ago still resonates with me. I'd like to share it with you (I added the bolding as emphasis). Br. Bill reflects on St. Francis of Assisi and how centuries later, he is still beloved:

What is the great attraction of this man from the early 13<sup>th</sup> century? He was the son of a wealthy cloth merchant, he tried a career in the military when he was in his early 20s, once on the winning side and once on the losing side, spending a year as a prisoner of war. He underwent a powerful experience of conversion, later writing that the Lord let him among people who had leprosy and he showed mercy to them. Before long he attracted others, men and women, single and married, to his way of life. He is therefore credited with the founding of three orders in the Church. The order of Lesser Brothers or Friars, the Poor Sisters or Poor Clares under the leadership of St. Clare of Assisi, and the Third Order, made up of religious and lay men and women, today called the Third Order Regular and the Secular Franciscan Order.

**The basic intuition of Francis was as simple as it was difficult. He said he wanted to follow the teaching and the footprints of Jesus. To know the teaching of Jesus he listened to the reading of the Gospel, and he focused especially on any passage in which Jesus is speaking. Then he would ask himself, "How can I put this into practice today?" In the same way he looked for what he called the "footprints" of Jesus. These were not words but actions of Jesus in the Gospel – healing the sick, washing feet, fasting and praying in the desert. He would then try to do similar things in his own life.** A dramatic example illustrates this point.



Francis head the command of Jesus, "Love your enemies," and chose the person many considered "Public Enemy Number One" in his day, the leader of the Muslim armies fighting with Christian armies in the Crusade, the Sultan of Egypt Malek el Khamil. In 1219 Francis travelled all the way to the mouth of the Nile River in Egypt in order to meet this "enemy," exposing himself to the possibility of death in the process. Much to the surprise of his contemporaries, Francis was received very kindly by the Sultan, who listened to the preaching of Francis very willingly. A decade after Francis' death the same Sultan agreed to a peace treaty with Christian forces, allowing Christians to return to the Shrines of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, to Bethlehem, and Nazareth.

Francis however, did not want people to imitate himself. Toward the end of his life, when one of his followers asked who they would be able to survive after his death, Francis gave this reply, which I think is appropriate for us to remember: He said, "I have done what was mine to do, may Christ teach you what is yours."

Let us be inspired by the example of this humble poor saint from Assisi, lover of peace and friend to the poor and sick, and one who had a great affection for animals. We do not need to imitate his actions, but to be challenged ourselves to listen to the words of Jesus in the Gospel, and to remember the actions of Jesus, then trying to put these into practice in our lives.

[Br. Bill Short](#), with a special love of things medieval, is a scholar and professor at the [Franciscan School of Theology](#). His frequent lectures, retreats and workshops outside the school educate the wider community about the Franciscan tradition. The essay posted here was a talk Br. Bill gave on the Feast of St. Francis on 10/4/16 at [Mission San Luis Rey Parish](#).

<http://robertlantz.com/featured-icons-st-francis-and-the-sultan/>  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-bWly\\_IBJTA&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-bWly_IBJTA&feature=youtu.be)

Shared by Laura Chun, OFS

# Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation



## COMING IN SEPTEMBER:

### September 16

Br. James Lochman & Caroline Archer OFS

#### **The Care of Creation (Laudato Si) Action Platform & the Seven Goals**

Mission San Luis Rey

9:00 am to 3:30 p.m

### September 24

#### **Cardinal's Mass and Reception**

#### **The Season of Creation, Peace and Justice**

Cardinal McElroy will bless our Care of Creation Action Plan, and those of other groups.

St. James Parish, Solano Beach

11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

### **Our Care of Creation Action Plan**

Our activities over this year – both those completed and upcoming – are being documented in the [San Luis Rey Fraternity Laudato Si Action Plan](#). This is simply a description of the activities the Fraternity has undertaken to raise awareness about our stewardship of the Earth and to be advocates for the Planet. Any writings, artwork, slides etc., you create as part of your Team Presentation can be included in this Action Plan – presented for the Cardinal's blessing on September 24<sup>th</sup>

### **The September Presentation for Care Of Creation**

At our September gathering, we will learn how our diet – the types of food we eat – impacts the well-being of our Planet. How food is raised, preserved, processed, and preserved – or wasted has a huge impact on humans, the animals around us, and Mother Earth. So please listen attentively – whoever among us buys food, cooks or eats on a regular basis is sure to find “food for thought” in September presentation from the “Green Team.”

Pax et Bene!

*Karron Esmonde OFS,  
JPIC Animator, SLR Fraternity*



News from the Fraternity Council

Please note the changes going forward:

The September General Monthly Gathering will be in person and on Zoom on Sunday, September 10. **Social time will start at 12 noon**, BYO lunch. **Prayer service** will start at **12:40pm** in St. Clare Chapel, and will last 20 min. Zoom access will start at 1 pm for those who attend via zoom.

*The San Luis Rey Fraternity Council*



Laura Chun, OFS  
Minister



Sam DeSantis, OFS  
Vice-Minister & Formator



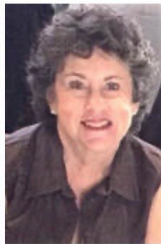
Jan DeSpain, OFS  
Formation Director



Sr. Madeline Fitzgerald, OSC  
Spiritual Assistant



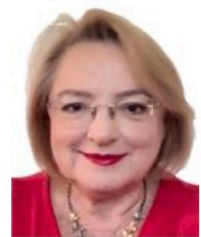
Connie Collins, OFS  
Secretary



Corinne Helena, OFS  
Treasurer



Pam Pert, OFS  
Councilor



Marta Kassai, OFS  
Councilor & Newsletter Editor

*From our Treasurer*

You can mail your OFS fraternity contributions to:



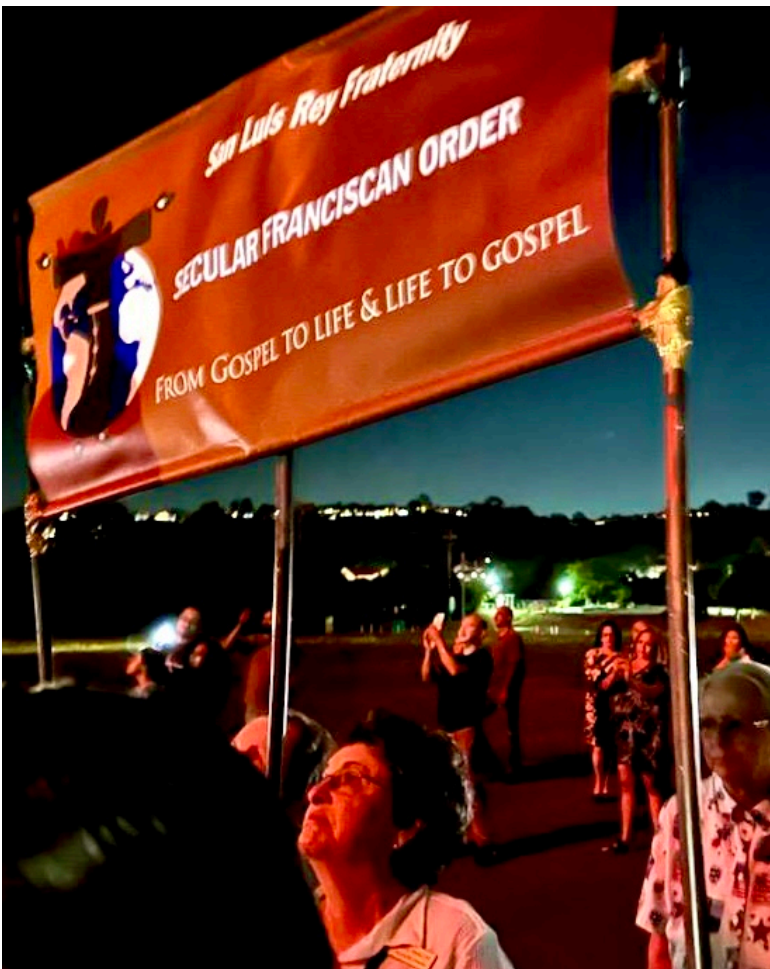
**Corinne Helena, OFS**  
1048 Turnstone Way  
Oceanside, CA 92057





## *Celebrating the Feast Day of San Luis Rey - August 26*

*Mass Followed by the Procession of the Saint and Fireworks in Front of the Historic Mission*



## Regional Picnic:

*Saturday, September 9th from 10 am to 2 pm*

*at*

*Mason Regional Park in Irvine*



### **Address:**

18712 University Drive  
Irvine, CA 92612-2601

### **Parking:**

\$5 per vehicle \$5 on  
Saturday

## Upcoming Events:

### **September 16**

Br. James Lochman & Caroline Archer, OFS

### **The Care of Creation (Laudato Si) Action Platform & the Seven Goals**

Mission San Luis Rey

9:00 am to 3:30 p.m

### **September 24**

### **Cardinal's Mass and Reception**

### **The Season of Creation, Peace and Justice**

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St. James Parish, Solano Beach

11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



### **Q-2026:**

7/29-8/26 at the [Griffin Gate Marriott](#) in Lexington, KY. Save the date!



**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 were professed in the month of September

- **Sep. 9, 2007** **Barbara Upson, OFS**
- **Sep. 9, 2007** **Edward Upson, OFS**

❖ For Rock DeSpain, OFS who has been placed on hospice care, and for Jan DeSpain, OFS to have the strength caring for him.

❖ For 9 year old Mateo, altar server at St. Peter's in Fallbrook, requested by Sam DeSantis. Mateo is now in hospice care.

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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)

*Marta*

*Dr. Marta M. Kassai, OFS, Editor*

