

# St. Francis of Assisi



#### Attributions:

Celebration of the Transitus of St. Francis.  
Photo taken by Bro. Bill Short, OFM at the  
Altar of St. Isidore's in Rome, Italy.



#### Attributions:

St. Francis of Assisi by [Philip Fruytiers](#)  
(1610–1666)

# The Cord

October, 2023

Newsletter of the San Luis Rey  
Secular Franciscan Fraternity

Monthly Gatherings: 2nd Sundays

## October Gathering:

### October 8:

**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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**Transitus: October 3, Mission San Luis Rey  
Old Church**

**Next Month General Gathering:**

**2nd Sunday**

**November 12, 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 October

As October approaches, we move into this very special time for Franciscans: Transitus and the Feast of St. Francis. David York OFM, one of our beloved former Ministers once said, that for Secular Franciscans, it's Christmas, Easter, and Transitus! Transitus and the Feast of St. Francis are poignant for us as Franciscans. You are invited to commemorate the Transitus of St. Francis to eternal life on Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm in the Mission San Luis Rey historic church. Join us for a reflective, prayerful evening to remember and to pray. A reception featuring almond cookies (of course!) to follow.

Fr. Franklin Fong OFM, shared some thoughts with our Fraternity on Transitus a few years ago. One was so simple but touching. He asked us to look at what we knew of the last moments of Francis's life and what might we learn? Francis asks his dear friend, 'Brother' Jacoba to bring with her some of his favorite dessert – almond cookies! We have carefully recorded that even on his *death bed* he wanted to be joyfully enjoying his earthly life. He wanted to be surrounded by his brothers and also his friend, Lady Jacoba. He wanted to die in the poverty he embraced in his life. We can do well to embrace this Transitus and just quietly reflect on the meaning that unfolds for us.

Fr. Franklin said that this sort of reflection is necessary in our lives as Franciscans; it will take years if not decades of our lives for each of us to pull this all together. Fr. Franklin encourages us to take some moments of private prayer to recall all the different ways and times of how we each learned to show God's love as a Secular Franciscan. To reflect more on how we learned how to enter into a particular ministry more deeply and most importantly how we now understand our ministry after many years or decades. Finally, he asks us to reflect on what lessons in your life we have learned only because we are blessed with being in a Secular Franciscan fraternity.



Pace e Bene -

*Painting of the Transitus by Chilean painter Pedro Subercaseaux Errazuriz, OSB (1911-1920s). Public domain*



*Laura Chun, OFS  
Minister, San Luis Rey Fraternity*



## Professor Martín Carbajo Núñez, OFM

Greetings, All!

I would like to introduce you to a friend of mine, Fr Martin Carbajo, OFM. Some of you may have met him previously when he spoke to us on The Spirituality of Laudato Si. For those of you who have not had the pleasure of knowing Fr Martin, you're in for a treat as he will speaking to us again in November at our regular Fraternity gathering.

I first met Fr Martin during a visit to St Elizabeth's in Oakland many years ago. When I found out he was from Spain, I promised I would cook some Paella for him when he came down to FST. The first recipe I read called for rabbit. I was totally horrified! It doesn't make sense that I'm okay with chicken and not okay with rabbit, but I don't have to make sense all the time! The Paella was a hit!

Fr Martin is a scholar and author par excellence! More importantly, he is a true son of St Francis, dedicated and humble. He has written more books than I can count, many of them translated to other languages. He is also a popular conference speaker and often presents internationally. His latest book, hot off the press, celebrates the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Greccio. It's called *Celebrating Life: The Rule and Christmas at Greccio*. Fr Martin will speak to us about Greccio in November.



The following is from the Franciscan School of Theology website:

Born in Zamora, Spain, Martín Carbajo Núñez, OFM has lived in Rome since 1995, where he currently teaches ethics and communication at two universities: the Antonianum (Pontifical University Antonianum or PUA) and the Alfonsianum (Pontifical Lateran University or PUL). At the PUA, he has served as Vice-Rector and Rector *Magnificus ad interim* for three years. He also teaches regularly in Spain and the USA. Professor Carbajo studies the relevance of the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition in formulating a global ethic and facing the challenges of the new digital age. He also studies journalistic deontology in regard to informational privacy. Find more information about Professor Carbajo, including a comprehensive list of publications, on his [personal web page](#) [Prof. Martín Carbajo Núñez \(antoniano.org\)](#)

His personal web page is worth a look, even if only for the pictures! Look closely and you might find a picture of Fr Martin giving one of his many books to Pope Francis. I'm looking forward to November!



Corinne Helena, OFS  
Treasurer, San Luis Rey Fraternity

## **How I Became a Franciscan**



As a young boy growing up in Sharon, Pa (W Pa), our family attended an old but beautiful Church of the Sacred Heart built in 1866. My mother and father were divorced when I was about 5 years old, and my brother and I lived with our Italian grandparents. After the divorce, my sister went to live with my mother on the Croatian side of the family. My grandparents made sure we attended weekly mass and received the sacraments. During my young years, I had the thought of becoming a priest and this thought stayed in my mind for many years. I was 16 when my father passed away at a young age of 39. I discussed the thought of becoming a priest with my father's sister of whom I was very close. I was told that if I really wanted to become a priest then I would have to go to all the masses on Sundays to determine if this was right for me. However, this did not seem good for me, so I did not do it. While in high school, I met a

girl who belonged to the same Sacred Heart Parish as I did. Once we started dating, the thought of becoming a priest kind of disappeared from my mind and, in 1964, were married four years after high school while Vatican II was going on.

I began going to college while starting a career in the automotive industry. We were married at the age of 21 and were blessed with four children by the time we were 29. All the time, off and on, I still had thoughts of one day serving in the church in some capacity. Years later at the age of 57, I attended a two-day seminar at St Patrick's Church in Carlsbad about becoming a deacon. I became very interested and was told it would take 4 years of study and, by that time, would be about 61 and told I would be too old to become a deacon.

Years later, I had some friends at St Thomas More Church in Oceanside. After I retired from the car business, I was caring for a retired priest and driving him to daily mass. One morning while in the office looking at the information rack, I found a brochure about the Secular Franciscan Order, and it piqued my interest. Inside the brochure were the names of Ed and Barbara Upson who, I found out later, were on the council and the treasurers of the fraternity. I met them one morning after mass and began asking them about the fraternity. I did not act right away, but over a period of short period of time, Ed and Barbara asked me if I had any questions and encouraged me to a "come and see" and attend a session at the mission. I had been feeling a "nudge" to investigate the Order. I then met David York who was the Minister and Sandy Baden the Formation Director. They helped me seal the deal and now, nearly seven years later, I have been elected to the council and the Vice-Minister of the fraternity. In studying and learning about St Francis and St Clare, I have learned, and continue to learn, that Profession is not the end of Formation and is ongoing. The Mission San Luis Rey Secular Franciscan Order fraternity has more than fulfilled my longing to be a closer part of the One Holy and Apostolic Catholic Church.

Pax et Bonum.

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

## Prudence A. Hrisanthopoulos - Autobiography



On September 1, 1941, Prudence Ann DiMartino was born of Guiseppe DiMartino of Palermo, Italy and Frances M. DiMartino of Norton, Massachusetts. The first of three children, followed by sister Charlotte and brother Joseph.

I grew up in Pawtucket, RI and attended St. Mary's School through 9<sup>th</sup> grade, taught by the Sisters of Mercy. I attended West Senior High School. During these years, I was very active and competitive, earning many honors. I was a member of the church choir, a Brownie, a Girl Scout, President of the CYO and a member of the Legion of Mary. I won gold and silver medals from the State Science Fair at Brown University. My essay on Interracial Justice won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the State of Rhode Island Essay Contest. My medal was presented by Bishop Russell J. McVinney

in a televised Mass, followed by a reception at the Martin DePorres Center.

At 16, I worked as a clerk for an ad agency weekday evenings. Weekends, I was a counter clerk for a dry cleaning business.

Each day began with Mass, followed by classes, extracurricular activities, the job and then homework. Long, eventful days! After graduating at 17, I began working full-time as a secretary at a road and bridge construction firm in Providence at the onset of The Interstate Highway Program. During my employment, I attended evening classes at Hubbard Business School, graduating in 1961 with high honors.

At 22, I became engaged to a tall, handsome law student who impressed me with his kindness. Just prior to our wedding, we were in an auto accident and Alex was severely injured. The day after he was discharged from the hospital, on July 4, 1964, we were married. Our son Andrew was born 3 years later. In the twenty-four years that followed, my life with Alex was very loving; the stresses were all due to the accident's residual effects on my husband's health.

At the construction company, I became Executive Secretary to the President. My 38-year tenure there ended when the company was sold. Afterward, I worked for the Town of Seekonk, Massachusetts as Secretary to the Planning Board and to the Zoning Board of Appeals. This at a time when large chain stores gradually replaced small contractors.

I was professed as a Secular Franciscan in June, 1990 at the newly established St. Clare of Assisi Fraternity in Providence, and immediately became Secretary.

With my work career winding down, I moved to Oceanside in 2004 to be close to my son and his beautiful family. I have a lovely granddaughter, Victoria, and two remarkable grandsons, Alex and Sebastian. My house is in Emerald Lake Village, and I'm a parishioner at St. Patrick's Church. I was able to transfer as a Secular Franciscan to the San Luis Rey Fraternity at the Mission. There I have been active on the Outreach Team, calling and visiting older Secular members.

Over the course of 82 years, I've reached out to others through hospitality, teaching CCD, and aiding those less able. What life has taught me is **GOD IS GOOD – ALL THE TIME!!**

*Prudy*

## **The Outreach Ministry**

*The long, loving arm of this Franciscan Family*

Once professed, we are Franciscans for life. For most of us, this means we'll be Franciscans through our old age.

Typically, elderly Franciscans live with a spouse, other family members, or a house mate. These members have someone to assist them - or to summon assistance – should they fall ill. Though **Outreach** may visit or call them, those with home support are not our main focus.

**Outreach** was designed to serve those we unexpectedly don't hear from. These elderly Franciscans are single and living alone or in a care facility. When these members miss several meetings, it's too easy for them to be "out of sight" and then "out of mind."

Sometimes, we don't know that a Sister or Brother is suddenly not walking or unable to drive. Their change in health status makes them vulnerable – physically and emotionally – and they may feel overwhelmed. In a short time, they can be in and out of hospital, at a rehab facility and transitioning to assisted living. With so much going on, they often don't call to let us know where they are, how they are, and what they are living through.

Unless we follow up, it is easy to lose touch with a Sister or Brother in transition, which often involves an address change and a new phone number. If we have information on who to contact, **Outreach** will soon be asking them, "Where is our Franciscan?"

This Fraternity's **Outreach** team has visited, called and journeyed with our Brothers and Sisters since the ministry's inception in 2012.

The purpose of the **Outreach Ministry** is to safeguard the well-being of our isolated elderly members, whether at home or in a facility. Specifically, we take care --

- 1) To bring the Fraternity to the member when they cannot come to us;
- 2) To see that their needs are being met, that they live in a clean and supportive environment;
- 3) To ask what we can do for them – to provide whatever they need or would like.
- 4) To check they have access to the Sacraments on a regular, ongoing basis.
- 5) To introduce ourselves to caregivers, show interest as a way to know our Sister or Brother is kindly treated, and never abused or neglected.
- 6) Be in touch with family, explain our ministry, and keep communication ongoing.

Please contact me if you'd like to join our Team. (And do fill out a Contact form!)

*Karron Esmonde*

*JPIC Animator, San Luis Rey Fraternity*  
*Laura Chun, OFS, Minister of San Luis Rey Fraternity*





## Upcoming Events:

### *December with Darleen Pryds*

Please join us at our December gathering where our guest speaker will be Darleen Pryds, professor at the Franciscan School of Theology.

We will be focusing on the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Greccio. You are invited to bring a figurine from your own Christmas creche at home (please write your name on the bottom) for the day – and to be mutually blessed by us all.

Our speaker, Darleen Pryds, will speak on “A Spirituality of Interdependence: Reconsidering the Entire Community of Faithful at Greccio.” With Darleen, we will engage in the Franciscan story of Greccio to listen for deeper connections and ways of being present with one another and with all of creation. There will be an experiential component of contemplative presence which can prepare us to experience Advent as the contemplative season that it is. If you’d like to read and reflect on the story ahead of time, Darleen is asking that we please read [from Thomas of Celano’s First Life of Francis](#).



Darleen Pryds is a professor at FST but more importantly has found Franciscan studies and spirituality to be her lifelong path to understand and experience God in the ordinary daily life that surrounds us all. She’s written books and articles on lay Franciscan spirituality, but finds that her most important contributions come on Friday nights when she volunteers as a caregiver in hospice.

*From Laura Chun, OFS*

### *A Special Guest for our December Gathering*

Darleen Pryds, PhD will be our guest speaker on December 10<sup>th</sup> and will be sharing about “A Spirituality of Interdependence: Reconsidering the Entire Community of Faithful at Greccio.” Darleen’s talk with us will use her forthcoming article in *St. Anthony Messenger Magazine* on Greccio. It’s due out in the November/December issue. Please bring a figure from your own Christmas creche at home to the Gathering (or the entire creche, if it’s not too big!). We will share in blessing them all.



### ***TRANSITUS is Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm at the Old Mission.***

You are invited to join the Franciscan Friars, the MSLR Staff, and the Secular Franciscans as we commemorate the Transitus of St. Francis to eternal life. Join us for a reflective, prayerful evening to remember and to pray. A reception featuring almond cookies to follow.

**Q-2026:** 7/29-8/26 at the [Griffin Gate Marriott](#) in Lexington, KY. Save the date!

# Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation



## **FRANCISCAN ZOOM LECTURE SERIES - October 12, at 7 PM PDT**

**Catechesis of Laudate Si presented by Christina Bagaglio Seltz, Ph.D. on October 12 at**



*This discussion presents three dimensions of Pope Francis' second encyclical, which offers a powerful opportunity for revolutionizing the way we share the Gospel and invite people to such radical love. Taking a Franciscan approach, Laudato Si' brings the Gospel to life, revealing the truth of the Living Word in the dynamics of creation, easily visible and accessible to all. Building upon this revelation, the encyclical compels us to action, offering a message of existential threat and a prescribed Christian response that invites faith and reason*

*into dialogue and awakens animation and transformation.*

*Dr. Christina Slentz joined the Diocese of San Diego in July 2022 as the first full-time employee dedicated to directing the ministry of creation care. She brings with her leadership experience from her service in the United States Navy as well as a strong academic background on the topic of the human impact of environmental degradation, climate migration, and potential for climate-induced socio-political destabilization and human insecurity. In addition to her work in the creation care ministry, Christina has also served as a catechist for over 25 years, has coordinated marriage preparation at her parish since 2018, and is a board member for the Emerald Keepers environmental non-profit organization in Coronado, CA*

Sign up by clicking on the link: [Franciscan Zoom Lectures](#)

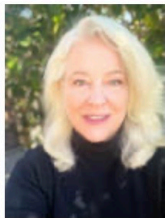


## News from the Fraternity Council

*Please note the changes going forward:*

The October General Monthly Gathering will be **in person only** on Sunday, October 8 . **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. There will be no zoom coverage of the October gathering

### *The San Luis Rey Fraternity Council*



Laura Chun, OFS  
Minister



Sam DeSantis, OFS  
Vice-Minister & Formator



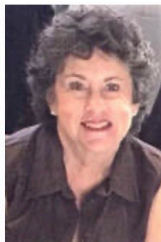
Jan DeSpain, OFS  
Formation Director



Sr. Madeline Fitzgerald, OSC  
Spiritual Assistant



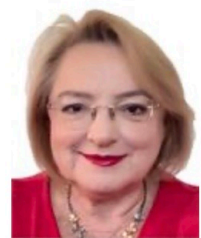
Connie Collins, OFS  
Secretary



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



.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 October

- **October 3, 2014**      **Dorothy K. Johnson , OFS**
- **October 4, 1991**      **Virginia Ward Tapp, OFS**
- **October 5, 1995**      **Richard Boerger, OFS**
- **October 9, 2003**      **Margaret Nelson, OFS**
- **October 9, 2015**      **Freeda Perrotto, OFS**
- **October 13, 2005**      **Michelle Sagnimeni, OFS**
- **October 19, 2014**      **Robert Porfirio, OFS**
- **October 27, 1995**      **Mary Juranick, OFS**

❖ For those who were professed in the month of October

- **October 1, 2017**      **Kelly Farnum, OFS**
- **October 1, 2017**      **Liz Marvis, OFS**
- **October 1, 2017**      **Sam DeSantis, OFS**
- **October 4, 2015**      **Laura Chun, 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 the 91 years Father-in-Law of the son of Carol Imhoff, OFS who passed after a fall & surgery.
- ❖ For Mateo Yanez, who has been in hospice care with brain cancer and recently turned 10 yrs of age, passed away on Saturday 9/16, He has been altar server at St. Peter's in Fallbrook.

\* \* \*

***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

