

# Thanksgiving

November 23



Attributions:  
Library of Congress: The First Thanksgiving  
1621  
<http://loc.gov/pictures/item/2001699850/>

## [The Eucharist as Thanksgiving](#)



Attributions:  
[The first Eucharist](#), depicted by Juan de  
Juanes in The Last Supper, c. 1562

# The Cord

November, 2023

Newsletter of the San Luis Rey  
Secular Franciscan Fraternity

Monthly Gatherings: 2nd Sundays

## November Gathering:

November 12, Sunday:

**12:00 noon** Social Time in our Gathering Rm  
**Fraternity Thanksgiving celebration!**

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

**1:00 to 3:00 pm** General Monthly Gathering  
with **Fr. Martin Carbajo Núñez, OFM**

\* \* \*

Next Month General Gathering:

2nd Sunday

**December 10, 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 November

Fall is in the air and Thanksgiving is on the way! As we prepare for this time focused on gratitude for our many blessings, the Council invites you to participate in a Fraternity Thanksgiving celebration! We invite everyone to bring something to share (sweet or savory, preferably finger-foods) to our gathering on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Please also bring a person's name in your heart for whom you are especially thankful.

One group of people to whom I am especially thankful is the Outreach Committee lead by Karron Esmonde. This group has provided love, support, and kindness to our homebound Fraternity members. Many have been serving in this Fraternity ministry for many years. We will be especially thanking these wonderful people at our November gathering and commending them for their years of service and they, now older and perhaps even a bit frail themselves, look to pass this beautiful ministry on to the next generation.

During this time of thanksgiving, there tends to be a lot of cooking going on. I'd like to share with you a special person in my kitchen, San Pascual Bailon, OFM. San Pasqual was born in Spain on May 24, 1540 and his faith led him to become a Franciscan. As a lay brother and uneducated, he took on roles such as cooking and being the porter. As porter his duties entailed tending to the poor who came to the friars' door. He cared with all who came with such love that Paschal gained a reputation for his remarkable humility, courtesy, and generosity. His devotion to his faith and kindness of heart to the poor made him beloved by all. San Pascual is the patron saint of cooks and the kitchen.

He frequently meditated and prayed as he worked. He would often spend the night in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Once while in France, he was nearly killed while defending the dogma of the Real Presence to a Calvinist crowd. Later, Pope Leo XIII in 1897 proclaimed San Pasquel as the "[seraph](#) of the Eucharist. Art often depicts him wearing the Franciscan habit and holding a monstrance to symbolize his devotion to the Holy Eucharist. San Pasqual is noted as having said, "*I joyfully celebrate the food I am given. May it deeply nourish everyone that I feed.*"



As we share in meals this holiday season – may be also celebrate the food we are given and strive to nourish others, too. May we also be blessed with an awe and appreciation for the Eucharist; Jesus nourishing us with his very Divinity.

Pace e Bene -

<https://sanpasqualskitchen.com/>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paschal\\_Baylon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paschal_Baylon)  
<http://www.franciscanos.org/santoral/pascualbailon.htm>



Laura Chun, OFS  
Minister, San Luis Rey Fraternity

## Blessed John Duns Scotus, OFM

I'm offering this brief article on Blessed John Duns Scotus to you, not as a theologian or philosopher, as I am neither, but as a lover of all things Franciscan. Keep in mind that entire books have been written about this wonderful Franciscan who lived in the latter half of the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. I will use Wikipedia for some basic biographical information and Richard Rohr, OFM, for an attempt to capture a portion of the essence of his teachings.



Per Wikipedia, which reads like a novel full of politics and intrigue, John was born in the vicinity of Duns Castle, in Scotland. John Duns Scotus is referred to as The Subtle Doctor and his feast is celebrated on November 8th. He was educated at Franciscan schools and Oxford and lectured at the University of Paris. Per Wikipedia, Scotus is considered one of the four most important Christian philosopher-theologians of Western Europe in the High Middle Ages, together with Thomas Aquinas, Bonaventure and William of Ockham. Except for Aquinas, all were Franciscans! If you really like political intrigue, check out William of Ockham.

As I mentioned previously, there are many books written about the teachings of Blessed John Duns Scotus. He wrote about the existence of God, the Immaculate Conception and 'haecceity' or 'thisness' (loving things as they are). I decided to share with you one of Fr Richard Rohr's Daily Meditations from Center for Action and Contemplation in which he discusses Duns Scotus. Anyone can sign up to receive these meditations. This one was shared on September 5<sup>th</sup> of this year.

*[Franciscan alternative orthodoxy emphasized incarnation more than redemption. Franciscans did not believe that God sent Jesus to earth to die as a substitutionary atonement\* for our sins. Father Richard summarizes:*

In the thirteenth century, the Franciscans and the Dominicans were the church's debating society, as it were. We were allowed to have minority positions in those days. We invariably took opposing positions in the great debates in the universities of Paris, Cologne, and Oxford, and neither opinion was kicked out of the church at that time.

In these debates, Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) and the Dominicans were being true to the Scriptures, the Jewish temple metaphors of sacrifice, price, and atonement. Many passages can give the impression that a ransom is required. But our Franciscan teacher, Blessed John Duns Scotus (c. 1266–1308), who founded the theological chair at Oxford, said that Jesus' crucifixion didn't solve any problems with God or change God's mind about us. God's mind didn't need changing. Rather, Jesus was changing *our* mind about God!

Duns Scotus built his argument on a New Testament understanding of the pre-existent Cosmic Christ in Colossians, Ephesians, and John's Gospel. Jesus is "the image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15), who came forward in a moment of time so we could look upon "the One we have pierced" (John 19:37) and see God's unconditional love—and at the same time, see what humans do to almost everything—and God's unconditional love-response to that. [1]

Duns Scotus firmly believed that God's freedom had to be maintained at all costs. If God "needed" or demanded a blood sacrifice to love God's own creation, then God was not *freely* loving us. Duns Scotus taught that Christ was Plan A from the very beginning (see Colossians 1:15–20; Ephesians 1:3–14; John 1:1–18). Christ wasn't a Plan B after the first humans sinned, which is the way most people seem to understand the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection. The Great Mystery of Incarnation was not motivated by a problem but by *love*.

The Franciscan view grounds Christianity in love and freedom from the very beginning. It creates a coherent and positive spirituality, which draws us toward lives of inner depth, prayer, reconciliation, healing, and universal at-one-ment, instead of any notion of sacrifice, which implies an angry God who needs to be bought off. [2]

On the cross, Jesus bears the consequences of hatred publicly, but in an utterly new way that consists of forgiveness and letting go. We finally call it "resurrection," not just for Jesus' body, but for all of history. A new and possible storyline is set forth. If God and Jesus are not hateful, violent, punitive, torturing, or vindictive, then our excuse for the same is forever taken away from us. Jesus' entire journey told people two major things: that life could have a positive storyline, and that God was far different and far better than we ever thought. 3]

[1] Adapted from Richard Rohr, *Dancing Standing Still: Healing the World from a Place of Prayer* (Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2014), 70–71.

[2] Adapted from Richard Rohr, *Franciscan Mysticism: I AM That Which I Am Seeking* (Albuquerque, NM: Center for Action and Contemplation, 2012). Available as MP3 download.

[3] Rohr, *Dancing Standing Still*, 72–73.



Corinne Helena, OFS  
Treasurer, San Luis Rey Fraternity

## **The Life of a Priest**

My article this month is to summarize an extraordinary life of a Priest that I have known for over eleven years and have been a caregiver to him for the past several years. I feel his story, as with many priests who live a life of service, is of interest.



First, a little background. In 1844, Fr Jerome Nadine's grandfather, Isaac Johnson, was born on a plantation in Kentucky to a white owner. When growing up, he decided to keep his last name as that of his mother who was an African-American slave as he did not want to be associated with his white father, the slave holder. During the Civil War, after several attempts, he achieved freedom fleeing from the plantation finding refuge with the Union regiment marching through Kentucky. He served with this unit until the end of the Civil War. In 1901, he wrote a book entitled "Slavery Days in Old Kentucky." This stirring story parallels some of the scenes portrayed in "Roots" by Alex Haley.

Fr Jerome (Jerry) Nadine was born June 10, 1933, and raised in Scranton, Pa. He was named after his father Jerome E Nadine Sr who worked on the railroad. He was the youngest of three siblings including a brother and a sister. As a young boy, to keep him out of trouble and although not from a Catholic family, his father decided to send him to St Michael's School for Boys near Scranton. The school was operated by the Immaculate of Heart of Mary Sisters who played an important role in his early formation. Over 300 boys attended the school and several them were fatherless due to many men who died in the coal mines.

After graduating from St John's High School in 1950, he went to live with his mother's sister in Syracuse, NY. There, he entered a seminary there and then went on to St Peter's Seminary in London Ontario, Canada. In 1958, he was the first black priest to be ordained at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse. He told me he had a hard time finding a diocese that would take him but finally the Diocese of Brooklyn accepted him and assigned him to parish duties at Holy Rosary Church and School, an all-black parish. In 1965, the Archdiocese of Military Service recruited him, and he attended Chaplain school in San Antonio, Tx. He was sent to Vietnam, Korea, Hawaii, and many Air Force bases in the U.S. as well as Nellis AFB in Las Vegas. In 1993, after 27 years of military service, he retired with the rank of Colonel at Travis AFB in Ca. He returned to the Diocese of Brooklyn and a few years later, returned to the southwest moving to Las Vegas. He served at Christ the King church and, at the time, became associate pastor at the new St Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church.

He retired from active priestly ministry and moved to Fallbrook, Ca. Although retired, he offered his priestly services as a fill in priest to St Peter the Apostle parish in Fallbrook, St Thomas More parish in Oceanside, Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base, and Mission San Antonio de Pala and assisted during priest reconciliation services during the busy Easter and Christmas periods to many local parishes. In summary, near the end of his life here on earth at the age of 90 and 65 years of ministry, he passed away Sept 30, 2023, ironically, on the Feast of St Jerome. Recently when asked how he was doing, he made the comment "I'm doing the best I can" and added "I'm giving myself back to God." A life well lived.



Sam DeSantis, OFS  
Vice Minister, San Luis Rey Fraternity

## *Story of the Christmas Creche*

Have you ever seen a Christmas creche? Perhaps your family displays a Christmas nativity scene featuring the baby Jesus in a stable in Bethlehem each year. Do you know where this custom came from?

800 years ago, a little town was tormented with violence and power struggles. This little town was Assisi. Assisi was a violent place: there was violence through class struggles in Assisi itself, wars with a rival town, wars with Islam in the form of the Crusades. Travel was dangerous.

But despite the violence, there was also a hunger to follow Jesus Christ, not necessarily by living in a monastery but in day-to-day life in the real world. This was the radical life that Francis of Assisi had chosen after his conversion.

Like most Catholics, Francis was a lay person and received no formal training in philosophy or theology. For Francis, the relationship between God and humanity was holistic, involving not just the soul, but one's entire being. Francis understood the world in very concretely and really wanted to 'follow the teaching and footprints of Jesus Christ concretely, too.' In his life, he and his fellow friars did this by living in community, in voluntary poverty, chastity, and obedience. The friars ministered to people with leprosy and the poor. During a Crusade, Francis journeyed to the Holy Land to reach out to the people of Islam in peace. Francis wanted to live the gospel life 'without gloss'.



[Greccio](#) Convent

Francis and his fellow friars were active in the world, but also contemplative. They frequently went on 'retreats' in isolated hermitages. In 1223, Francis had spent several weeks in prayer at the hermitage outside the beautiful village of Greccio, spiritually preparing for Christmas.

As Christmas of 1223 approached, Francis organized a living nativity scene with the help of the people of Greccio. Francis wanted to show the people in a very concrete and real way how Jesus actually entered into our everyday world with real people and real animals enacting all the roles of the first Christmas in faraway Bethlehem.

Francis wanted to demonstrate the *reality* of Jesus's birth. That reality was that not everything went perfectly, just like in our experience. The Inns were full, and Mary and Joseph had to figure something out. A kind innkeeper let them use his stable, a place for animals – that Joseph likely had to clean up and prepare for Mary's privacy and wellbeing. Greccio, with a climate similar to Bethlehem and even San Diego, would have been chilly at night. Did Joseph make a fire for his bride and soon-to-be newborn? Mary did not have other women of her extended family or village to help her with the birth. Mary and Joseph had to deal with what it means to be new parents. There were no

angels there to change the diapers.

Francis, in creating his Nativity re-enactment in Greccio, communicated the humility of Jesus. Jesus was 'like us in all things but sin'. This was not a formal sermon or something out of a book. By using real animals and real people, the people were moved by the Holy Spirit to encounter Jesus in his humanity. That year, in 1223, the community of Greccio gathered to celebrate the Incarnation at Christmas midnight Mass while *enacting* the Jesus' birth at the first Christmas.

It was a night of human reality and such joy! So many people were involved with the Nativity celebration, carrying their torches that evening to the live Nativity scene enactment, that Greccio became a light in the darkness with 'torches and candles to light up that night.' It was a message of love, of Jesus being born into the world. People received this message in their hearts, and it has resonated in people's hearts for 800 years.

Francis' biographer, Thomas of Celano, tells the story of how lovingly Francis preached that night. Unlike most medieval preaching which tended to be rather harsh, Francis spoke so tenderly that his 'mouth was filled more with sweet affection than with words.' Francis stood by the manger, overcome with love, and filled with a wonderful happiness.

*The Cord, November 2023*

In creating the scene of the Nativity at Greccio, Francis created something new. Bethlehem was no longer just a faraway location reached by traveling through dangerous lands. Francis allowed Jesus's ordinary birth to become a sacred place in the human heart. Bethlehem that night was in Greccio. Bethlehem can be wherever we set up a Nativity scene and recall the beautiful humility of God becoming one with humanity in the form of a little baby.

In that time of violence, war, and darkness – Francis showed the Light of Christ to all those assembled. Francis had used this beautiful Christmas scene to light not only that night, but to share the experience and understanding the Light that Christ brought to the world.



A candlelit procession walks up the mountain to celebrate the re-enacted living nativity as it happened in Greccio eight centuries ago.

*Laura Chun, OFS*

*Fr. Anthony Garibaldi, OFM*

## *December with Darleen Pryds on Greccio*

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*

Darleen's article on Greccio: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/st-anthony-messenger/greccio-and-the-first-live-nativity-800-years-of-tradition/>





## Be a “Meat Cheat” – Healthy for You and the Planet!

Given we’re all **Caring for Creation**, I thought a little reminder on “Meatless” would come in handy. In our household, we are meatless at dinner half the time – other times, I conjure chicken, fish or eggs – and hide them in a lot of veggies. This is what frittatas, casseroles and pastas are all about – spreading it out!

Go to the site next to “Overview” and sign up for a Meatless Monday **newsletter!** Or jump immediately to “Recipes” – there have a lot of good ones. Before long, you will be doing Meatless Monday - on Wednesday and Friday as well.

### **Meatless Mondays – Get the Recipes –**

*An abstinence practice with benefits for you and creation!*

**Overview:** [Meatless Monday - Meatless Monday \(mondaycampaigns.org\)](http://meatlessmonday.com)

**Recipes:** [Meatless Monday Recipes - Meatless Monday \(mondaycampaigns.org\)](http://meatlessmonday.com)

**TOP REASONS TO GO MEATLESS MONDAY**

- Delicious Food** (Image: Tacos)
- Health & Wellness** (Image: Heart with stethoscope)
- Save Water** (Image: Glass of water)
- Fight Climate Change** (Image: Earth)

**MM** @MeatlessMonday #MeatlessMonday

### AND THEN TAKE THE LAUDATO DEUM ACTION PLEDGE:

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.salsalabs.org/LaudateDeumActionPledge/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=352cf5fb-543f-4e4f-816f-8af031b2bffd>



## Upcoming Events:

### *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.

### *Holiday Cheer – For this Year and Many to Come!*

At the time of year, our hearts light up with gladness and thanks for God’s bountiful love, and we share our good fortune by giving to friends in need. This year, our hearts are open to those Brothers and Sisters most often unheard and unheeded: the forest and desert creatures, the birds, rivers and trees so often taken for granted. Here is a list of their best known and most effective helpers, with their web sites. Blessings!

*Karron Esmond, OFS*

#### **ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION**

*Mission:* To inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. To plant 500 million trees in the next 5 years.

The nonprofit is using reforestation and urban forestry to solve issues of climate change, community, and biodiversity. Has planted over 500 million trees over the world.

<https://www.arborday.org>

#### **AUDOBON SOCIETY**

*Mission:* Protect birds and the environments they need to thrive through advocacy, networking, field sites & education.

<https://www.audubon.org>

#### **EARTH JUSTICE**

Earth Justice is a nonprofit public interest organization based in the U.S. dedicated to litigating environmental issues.

<https://earthjustice.org>

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND**

*Mission:* To work in the places, on the projects & with the people that can make the biggest difference.

EDF is a U.S.-based environmental advocacy group known for its work on global warming, ecosystem restoration, oceans, and human health, and advocates using sound science, economics and law to find environmental solutions that work worldwide.

<https://www.edf.org>

### NATIONAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL (NRDC)

NRDC (the Natural Resources Defense Council) combines the power of 3 million members and online activists with the expertise of 700 scientists, lawyers, and environmental specialists to confront the climate crisis, protect the planet's wildlife and wild places, and ensure the rights of all people to clean air, clean water, and healthy communities.

<https://nrdc.org>

### THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

*Mission:* To conserve the life and waters on which all life depends.

Among the most effective and wide-reaching environmental organizations in the world. With a million members, a diverse staff and 400 scientists, they make conservation practical in 79 countries and territories. Check out their great website: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/>



Franciscan School of Theology  
at the UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO



Save the Date

REV. GARRETT GALVIN, OFM, PRESIDENT  
cordially invites you to a special

Mass and Meal

DEC 07 | 5:30 pm • St. Clare Chapel  
Historic Mission San Luis Rey  
4050 Mission Ave  
Oceanside, CA 92057

Sign me up!

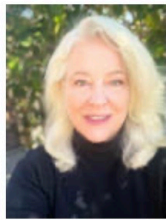
RSVP by Nov 30

## News from the Fraternity Council

The November General Monthly Gathering will be on Sunday, November 12. with **Fr. Martin Carbajo Núñez, OFM** our guest speaker. Come directly to our **Gathering room at 12 noon**. Council invites you to participate in a **Fraternity Thanksgiving celebration!** We invite everyone to bring something to share (sweet or savory, preferably finger foods - cookies, crackers, cheese, small bites) to our gathering. Please also bring a person's name in your heart for whom you are especially thankful. **We will have Chapel prayer at 12:40pm coordinated by Marta. Our guest speaker will be Fr. Martin Carbajo, OFM - speaking on Greccio.**

**Social time will start at 12 noon, Prayer service** will start at **12:40pm** in St. Clare Chapel, and will last 20 min.

### *The San Luis Rey Fraternity Council*



Laura Chun, OFS  
Minister



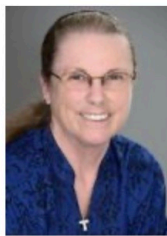
Sam DeSantis, OFS  
Vice-Minister & Formator



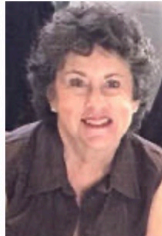
Jan DeSpain, OFS  
Formation Director



Sr. Madeline Fitzgerald, OSC  
Spiritual Assistant



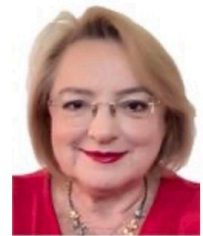
Connie Collins, OFS  
Secretary



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 died in the month of November ~~~✝

- **November 4, 1998 Catherine Wagner, OFS**
- **November 6, 2006 Rose Rita Langen, 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 Fr. Jerome E Nadine who passed away in Fallbrook on Saturday September 30, 2023 ironically, on the Feast Day of St Jerome. He was born in Scranton, Pa in 1933 and was 90 years of age.

❖ For our Franciscan sister in Christ, Penny Johnson, OFS and her son Tyler Johnson who passed away Oct 8, 2023.



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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