



the Cord

San Luis Rey Fraternity of the
Secular Franciscan Order
Mission San Luis Rey,
Oceanside, CA.
www.slr-ofs.org



Next Gathering, March 1, 2020

10:00 AM Mass in the Serra Center at
11:30 AM-Lunch in the O'Keefe Lounge from
12:30 PM-Community Prayer in the St. Clare Chapel
12:50 PM-Adoration, St. Clare Chapel Annex,
1:00-3:00 PM General Gathering
Council Meeting follows at appx 3:15-Finish

Future Meetings:

Oct. 6, 2019, Nov. 6, 2019, Dec. 1, 2019, Jan. 5, 2020. Feb. 2, 2020,
These are regular monthly gatherings, All dates subject to change

Encountering Christ

Remember, Jesus
suffered and died for you,
don't forget to thank him
for your redemption.

We adore You, Lord
Jesus Christ, in all Your
churches throughout the
world, and we bless You,
for through Your holy
cross you have redeemed
the world.

St. Francis of Assisi

Page 23 "*Manual of
Eucharistic Adoration*"
TAN publishing © 2018.



In Memory



*Father Lester Bach OFM Cap, Oct. 15, 1931- Feb. 3, 2020
Franciscan Friar, Priest, Author, Franciscan Formator
May his and all the souls of the faithfully departed rest in
peace. Amen.*

In the quiet of my office, I was reading a book called, "Prayers From Franciscan Hearts," contemporary reflections from women and men, by Paula Pearce, SFO and foreword by Murray Bodo, OFM

The book gives reflections from various people who have visited Assisi on pilgrimage of St. Francis and St. Clare. I came across a writing that filled Me with the love of Christ. The reflection in the end, I was surprised to see, was written by Lester Bach. In tribute to Fr. Lester Bach, as I have just learned of his passing to our Lord today, I would like to share it with all of you.

THE WORD—A GOD WHO CAN ONLY LOVE

*The Lord calls in silence.
In a world of peace, Gods word comes.
like the descent of a quiet, velvet night.*

*There is no special way to speak to God,
no particular way that says everything.
What a marvelous experience,
to be in the presence of God—
and what is adequate is silence.*

*God reads the heart
and proclaims marvels to people who love God,
even those who may not know God.*

*God writes, etches our names
on the palm of God's hand
where they are seen when God raises
those hands before his eyes.
If the world were to stop tomorrow,
God would still be present to me.
Should I die or no longer be able
to speak, or see, or walk,
God would still exist and love me.*

*If all the things I have done,
all the people I have met,
all the panels I have nailed to walls,
the cabinets I have created,
the words I have written,
the sermons I have given,
If they would all disappear,
God would still be present
and God would still love me,*

for our God is a faithful God.

*It is difficult for a person
who is full of "self"
to acknowledge such a loving God.
It would mean acknowledging
that there is someone whom I cannot control,
Someone I cannot teach,
Someone whom I cannot stop
from loving me and calling me to new life.*

*Despite whatever I may do,
God continues to be God,
continues to love me,
continues to call me to love
so that God's will may be done
on earth as it is in heaven.*

*A proud person is blind.
It is a blindness that comes from the
brilliant shine of his/her own sun.
It is bright
and blinds our eyes to the Light of the world.
How strange it is to realize
that two different lights
have two different effects.
One leads to blindness,
the other to light and vision.
Lord, heal the blindness caused by my own sun,
Open me to the light of your son.*

*Make me a Eucharist,
someone who is always thanking you
for the wonder of you
Light and the Word-made-flesh. Amen.*

Lester Bach

This reflection is beautiful in all the reality of God and the love Fr Lester Bach had for our Lord. For those loving people who have gone through formation with "The Franciscan Journey" book, you have been touched in some way by Fr. Lester Bach, in whose writing of that book gave you your Formation on the road to Profession. Sandy OFS, Vice Minister



Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph

February 3 at 5:31 AM ·

We regret to inform of the death of our Capuchin brother, Lester Bach OFM Cap., yesterday at the age of 88.

Lester was born on 15 October 1931 in Sherry Wisconsin, the son of Francis and Amelia (née Long) Bach. He was invested in the Capuchin habit in 1949, perpetually professed in 1953, and ordained in 1957.

For most of his religious life, Lester was involved in ministry to the Secular Franciscan Order. He was also involved in formation ministry in the 1960s, as well as the preaching ministry beginning in the 1970s. His ministries took him to Huntington and Crown Point, Indiana; Saginaw Michigan; Madison and Marathon, Wisconsin; and Chicago. Lester would have celebrated 70 years of religious life this summer.

Lester was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers and one sister. He is survived by his sister Anna Gillis of Stevens Point, Wisconsin, as well as his many Capuchin brothers with whom he lived, prayed and ministered for more than 70 years.

Facebook, early February 2020.

Fr. Lester wishing me and all Franciscans peace (Shalom) when he signed my *The Franciscan Journey* book. God rest his and all the souls of the faithfully departed. Amen.

The Franciscan
Journey
Embracing the Franciscan Vision



Secular Franciscan Order
Orientation + Inquiry + Candidacy

Shalom
Lester Bach ofm Cap

Secular Franciscan Order
Orientation + Inquiry + Candidacy

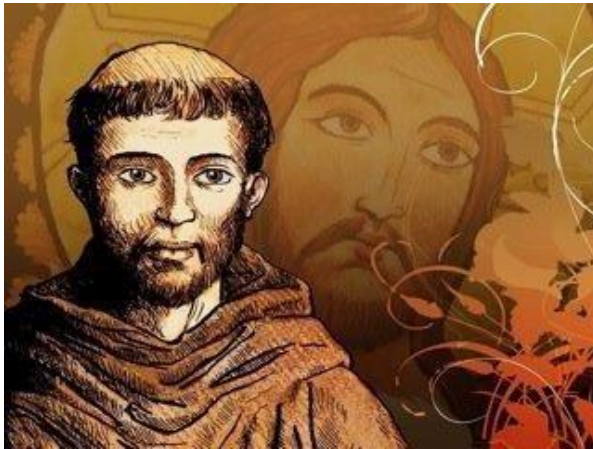
Shalom
Lester Bach ofm Cap

Lester Bach OFM Cap

Lester Bach OFM Cap

Minister's Note for March

We are called to a spirituality of encounter. We **encounter** Christ in the Eucharist (and all the Sacraments), Scriptures, in prayer, in creation, and in each other. We are called to walk with Jesus – to pick up our cross and to follow Him.



In the time of St. Francis, pilgrims would walk across Europe to Jerusalem to literally walk in the footsteps of Jesus. The Via Dolorosa, the Way of Sorrows, is the meandering route through the narrow and crowded streets of bustling old city of Jerusalem where pilgrims recall and reflect upon Jesus carrying his cross to Calvary. Francis was so touched by the experience of walking the Via Dolorosa, that when he returned from the Holy Land, he popularized this experience of the 'Stations of the Cross' so that all Christians could share in the

experience. Each time you see the 'Stations of the Cross' devotion on the walls of a Catholic church, *or as a prayer walk (editor)*, you're looking at a Franciscan devotion – a Franciscan gift to the church.

In the Stations of the Cross, we **encounter** the Passion of Christ. We prayerfully walk with Jesus. In both the Gospel of John and depicted in the San Damiano cross, we are like the apostle John, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mary's sister (Salome), Mary (wife of Clopas), and Mary Magdalene – *we are present at the foot of the Cross*. This Lent, let us be *present*. Present at the foot of the Cross. Present through the 'Via Dolorosa' we each experience in our own lives. Let us open our hearts to the suffering of others. Let us accept in gratitude all that Jesus has done for us. As a Fraternity, we will be spending time reflecting on the Stations of the Cross at our March gathering. Each month, you are also invited to be present for our shared time of community prayer. I wholehearted and earnestly invite everyone to experience as much as our day together as you are able. Mass (10am), Lunch (11:30), **Community prayer (12:30) Adoration (12:45)**, and finally our gathering (1pm – 3pm). Please, if you are able, arrive by 12:30pm so we can experience this dedicated time of prayer and adoration *together* – *as a community*. Let this be a spirituality of **Encounter**.

Pace e Bene -
Laura, OFS
Minister SLR

Reminders Page



Classes are held the Saturday before the meeting, Please call Janice at (951)288-6037, or email sfojan@gmail.com for more information.

God Bless,
Jan, OFS
Director of Formation

Anniversaries of Profession



Mar. 8, 2009 David York
Mar. 8, 2015 Dorothy Mann
Mar. 9, 1997 Mary Behnke
Mar. 9, 1997 Patricia Dominguez
Mar. 20, 1994 Marjo Gray

Memorials



Mar. 2 1995 Amanda Martineau
Mar. 9, 2012 Thomas F.M. Siersma*
Mar. 11, 2012 Thomas Siersma*
Mar. 15, 1995 Robert Wells
Mar. 16, 1989 Gertrude Brown
Mar. 28, 2001 Katherine Kundering

Birthdays



02 Virginia Villicano
09 Edna Patterson
19 Judith Inglesby
26 Karron Esmonde

Let us Pray for our brothers and sisters, especially:



- For the safety of Laura our Minister in her journeys during this busy time of year.
- For Pope Francis, Bishop Robert McElroy, and all of our Diocesan Bishops, for all of our pastors, priests, deacons and consecrated religious, including those in lay orders and institutes.
- For the victims of war, violence, and terrorism throughout the world.
- For all who have asked for our prayers.
- For our families and friends.
- For all of our brothers and sisters served by our fraternity's outreach program.
- All of our Fraternity members, especially: our council, our brothers and sisters who are in formation, our elderly, and or homebound who aren't able come to our fraternity gatherings.
- Members of all three Orders of the Franciscan Family who need our prayers.

Formation News

In February we were blessed to have three aspirants (newcomers) express interest in exploring our vocation further.

This provides a great opportunity for professed members to invite someone you believe has an interest or would be open to considering a vocation to the OFS. Invite them to "Come and See" at our March monthly gathering as the new orientation class will be beginning the following month, **Saturday, April 4th, at 9:00am.**

Candidacy class: We currently have one candidate, Heidi and Dottie, a professed member who is going through Candidacy after an extended absence from community life. They will be covering Chapter 15 in The Journey (Gospel, Conversion, and Reconciliation) Article 7 in our Rule.

Important reminder: Professed members are an important part of Initial Formation. Get to know our inquirers, chat with them at our monthly gatherings, and please pray for their discernment.
Jan OFS
Formation Director

Linda M. asks that we bring baby items such as diapers, diaper rash preparations, baby formula and bottles, baby clothing ... that can be used by new mothers for their new babies.



Holy Gospel for Gathering Sunday

Gospel MT 4:1-11

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread."

He said in reply,
"It is written:

One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."

Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple,

and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down.

For it is written:

He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone."

Jesus answered him,

"Again it is written, ***You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.***"

Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you,

if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." At this, Jesus said to him,

Get away, Satan! It is written:

The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve."

Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.

Commentary:

Pope Benedict XVI called the temptation of Jesus in the desert "a descent into the perils besetting mankind." This happened so that we may be counted among those "who receive the abundance of grace, coming to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ. "The 'one righteous act' that St. Paul speaks about in the Letter to the Romans is Jesus' unflinching fidelity to the Father's will. As the serpent comes close, we will not be duped by the suggestion that somehow God will be jealous at the prospect that we 'will be like gods.' For it is God himself who planted that hope in our hearts. It is the Lord's greatest joy and glory that we share his image and likeness ... not through self-seeking but through the obedience by which 'many will be made righteous'--that is, will become like God.

Just take the **red** text into "Lectio Divina," as it will keep you contemplating for a great while. "*Magnificat*", March 1, 2020

*We had an awesome gathering
in February...*



Our members sharing their thoughts on St. Francis' Canticle of the Sun. Just how many can you name?

The beautiful 'Environment Table' set up by Kelly.

Many thanks to our Membership for such a beautiful Franciscan gathering.



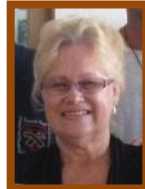


Oh, last but definitely not least, remember your donation envelope for the Common Fund. The box will be waiting for you, or you can mail your contribution to Luis, OFS our Treasurer.

OUR ELECTED FRATERNITY COUNCIL



Minister
Laura, OFS



Vice Minister
Sandy, OFS



Secretary
Connie, OFS



Formation
Janice, OFS



Treasurer
Luis, OFS



Councilor 1
Joe, OFS



Councilor 2
Kelly, OFS



Spiritual Assistant
Sister Madeline OSC

OUR VOLUNTEER HELPERS



Outreach
Karron, OFS

Addresses, Telephone #... can be found on your Fraternity Membership Roster



CORD Editor
Carol, OFS