



# THE CORD

San Luis Rey Fraternity of the  
Secular Franciscan Order  
Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside, CA.

[www.slr-ofs.org](http://www.slr-ofs.org)



## Upcoming Gathering on Feb. 4, 2018

Mass in the Serra Center at 10:00 A

Community Prayer in the St. Clare Chapel after Mass

Lunch in the O'Keefe Lounge from ~12:00-12:50 PM

General Meeting in the Luiseño Room from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Council Meeting after General Gathering at 3:15

### Future Meetings:

March 4, 2018, April 1, 2018, May 6, 2018, dates subject to change.



## “Authority”



We hear about the “authority” of our Holy Father, our Pastors, the police and other government officials, but just what is authority? According to The Catechism of the Catholic Church, (CCC 1097) states, “By “authority” one means the quality by virtue of which persons or institutions make laws and give orders to men [and women] and expect obedience from them.”

(CCC 1899) states, “The authority required by the moral order derives from God: “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. God there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore he who resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgement. (Rom. 13:1-2 RSV)

Remember when Jesus was standing before Pilate when Pilate stated, “...Surly you know I have power to release you and I have power to crucify you?’ ‘You would have no power over me’ replied Jesus, ‘if it had not been given from above...” (Jn. 19:11 JB). Even Jesus the Son of God respected Pilate’s authority over him, as this authority was granted God, and thus submitted to Pilate’s commands.

Realizing that all legitimate authority comes from God, leads us to realize that we are mandated to obey all the laws and mandates of our earthly governments and authorities, providing such obedience doesn’t lead us to sin against God. Example: abortion is legal, but the government authorities may not force you to abort the child you are carrying, even if that child will cause a monetary burden to the state in the future.

(CCC 1900) States “The duty of obedience requires all to give due honor to authority and to treat those who are charged to exercise it with respect, and, insofar as it is

deserved, with gratitude and good-will. More on “Authority” can be found in the section/chapter of the CCC entitled “Chapter Two, The Human Community” Article 2, Participation in Social Life” In my edition it is on page 515. Read (MK 1: 21-28), the Gospel for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time, and you will see what caused me to speak on “Authority.” [Editor]

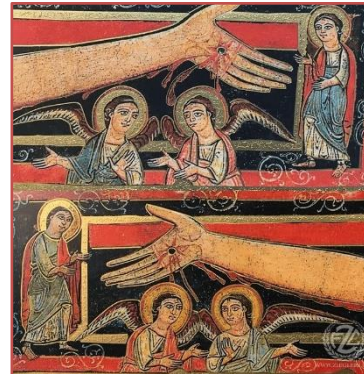
## Notes from our minister

### Love in the Letters of St. Clare

We often speak of St. Francis’ conversion experience before the San Damiano crucifix. St. Clare actually spent 42 years in prayer before that same crucifix, noticing and absorbing every detail, until it became a kind of mirror of love for her. In the four letters we have from her to Agnes of Prague, the word **caritas** (love) appears many times. Here are two examples:

#### **The Third Letter to Agnes of Prague (1238)**

*Indeed, it is now clear that the soul of the faithful person, the most worthy of all creatures because of the grace of God, is greater than heaven itself, since the heavens and the rest of creation cannot contain their Creator; only a faithful soul is His dwelling place and throne, and this only through the **charity** that the wicked lack. (v. 21-22)*



#### **The Fourth Letter to Agnes of Prague (1253)**

*Indeed,  
in that mirror,  
blessed poverty,  
holy humility,  
and inexpressible **charity** shine forth as,  
with the grace of God,  
you will be able to contemplate them throughout the entire mirror. (v. 18)*

Images teach us a lot - about love, or about other things. What we watch actually forms us. What images do you watch during the day? How do they shape who you are? What is a mirror of love for you?

To read all four of St. Clare's letters to St. Agnes, just visit the [‘Claire’s Letters to Agnes’](#) page on our fraternity website.

Donna F. OFS Minister

We celebrated 'Martin Luther King Day, (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in January) and Fr. Fong Created some Calligraphy cards for his video, the link to which is on the MLK '[News](#)' item on our website for January. my favorite is below, is the one that really hit me when I read it.

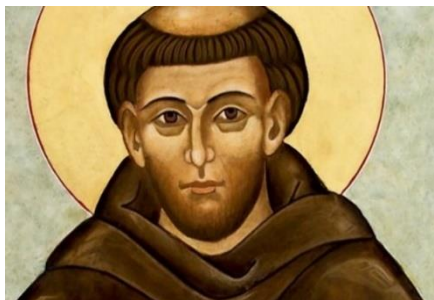


Calligraphy by Fr. Franklin Fong OFM

Just think of all of the refugees that come knocking at our borders for help. They bring their children, their old-folks, their faith traditions..., can we not tighten our belts just a little, and open our hearts to them... and invite them in to live peaceably with us in this great nation of ours? Editor.

## Love Letters

***I wish to share the beautiful love letters*** from St. Francis of Assisi that resonate across eight centuries to all Secular Franciscans. These letters are the first and second version of the Letters to the Faithful – also known as ‘Exhortations.’ The first letter has become the Prologue to our Secular Franciscan Rule. The Second Version is longer and calls us to a deeper life of penance. These letters demonstrate the love and concern of St. Francis for our community, the Brothers and Sisters of Penance – today known as the Secular Franciscan Order.



Francis is calling us to a life of love of God. Paragraphs 19 through 32 of the Second Version seem tailor made for Lent – a time of conversion and a time to grow in love. Francis says, *‘Let us love God therefore, and adore Him with a pure heart and a pure mind.’* Francis beautifully exhorts us to deepen our spiritual lives through the Sacraments, especially Reconciliation and the Eucharist. Francis urges us to be conduits of God’s grace for others by performing worthy fruits of penance, loving our neighbor as ourselves, and acting with mercy. Francis urges us to embrace charity and humility. Francis asks us to fast and abstain from sin and remained lovingly connected to the Church. All of that, in a few very short paragraphs. This document is a love letter, to us – and from Francis urging us to deeply fall in love *with God*.

Francis’s love of God and for us shines through this document. Francis speaks from his heart saying, *‘I Brother Francis, your little servant, ask and implore you in the love which is God and with the desire to kiss your feet, to receive these words and the other of our Lord Jesus Christ with humility and love, and observe them and put them into practice.’* Francis then asks God to bless all the Secular men and women who both hear and *live* his words.

Ash Wednesday this year is on 2/14 – Valentine’s Day. This Lent, please consider prayerfully reading the Second Version of the Letter of Faithful, this love letter from St. Francis to the Secular Franciscan Order. Savor it, let it shape you. Excellent books that contain the letters are noted below; *The Writings of St. Francis of Assisi* by Fr. Kajetan Esser, OFM is on our website [www.slr-ofs.org](http://www.slr-ofs.org) (Go to ‘Resources’ => [‘Books, Lectures, & Audio’](#), scroll down to the first entry under ‘Recommended Reading’). The Letter to the Faithful starts on page 40 of the Esser PDF. This Lent, you may even want to join Franciscans globally praying at the tomb of Francis via live webcam [here](#).

May you be blessed with a Lent filled with Grace and Love –

Laura Chun, OFS

### References –

Francis and Clare, the Complete Works, edited by Regis Armstrong, OFM Cap, and Ignatius Brady, OFM.  
Francis of Assisi, The Saint, Edited by Regis Armstrong, OFM Cap, Wayne Hellman, OFM Conv, William Short, OFM.



### **Holy Gospel, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday O.T. (Cycle B)**

On leaving the synagogue Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them. When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him.

Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.



Image courtesy of Bing images.

## Formation Reminders from our Formation Director



Classes are held the Saturday before the meeting, Please call Sandy for more information  
God Bless,  
Sandy Baden, OFS  
Director of Formation

## Anniversaries of Profession



Feb. 6, 2011 Sandra Baden (7 Years)  
Feb. 10, 2002 Edna Patterson (16 years)  
Feb. 14, 1965 Carol Imhoff (53 years)

## Memorials



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

## Birthdays



6	Jack S
17	Kelly F
14	Marta K
28	Mary B

## Let us Pray for our brothers and sisters, especially:



- For the safety of Donna our Minister in her travels, especially travels for our Fraternity
- For Pope Francis, Bishop Robert McElroy, Bishop J. Dolan his assistant, as well as, all bishops, priests, deacons and consecrated religious, including those in lay orders and institutes.
- For the victims of war and terrorism, and natural disasters throughout the world.
- For all of our brothers and sisters served by our fraternity's outreach program.
- All of our Fraternity members, guests, and 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.

Individual requests will be announced by a member of our outreach committee at our general gathering. Editor.

# *Our January Gathering in the St. Clare Chapel*



Thank you Sr. and Karron for such a beautiful 'Ongoing Formation' Session. Editor.

Images courtesy of our editor.



## Minister's Message

Dear brothers and sisters,

Our newsletter includes many offerings this month, and I invite you to take time with each one. I want to offer my own special thanks to our Vice Minister Karron, who graciously represented our fraternity in the recent Chapter of Elections for St. Francis Region. Please do read her excellent report of that weekend here.

We are also focusing a bit on “love letters,” but not the romantic kind. These are letters from St. Francis and St. Clare to their followers – and to us.

This leads me to reflect on the fact that this year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 14. A peculiar reminder maybe, that nothing we give up or offer up has any meaning without *caritas*, without love.

I very much look forward to seeing everyone who can be with us at our February gathering. For those who truly cannot be here, please know you are held in prayer.

Blessings of love as the holy season of Lent approaches!  
Donna, Minister



Image courtesy our editor.

Remember that when these sacred bells call to us to give worship to the Lord, that we don't necessarily have to come/go to the Mission to render this worship to the one who created us, but that we can lift up our hearts in worship to Him. Editor.

**Jesus**, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like Your heart.

**O Lord**, may we be of one mind in truth and of one heart in charity.

**Sweet Heart of Mary**, be my salvation.

**Hail, O Cross**, our only hope.

These Invocations are from, "*Favorite Indulged Prayers*," by Catholic Book Publishing Corp. of New Jersey





Oh, last but definitely not least, remember your donation envelope for the Common Fund. The box will be waiting for you.

Or mail to: Eileen Costa

## *Fraternity Council*



**Minister**  
Donna Foley, OFS



**Secretary**  
**Newsletter Editor,**  
Carol Imhoff, OFS



**Vice Minister**  
Karron Esmonde, OFS



**Treasurer**  
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**Councilor,**  
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**Spiritual Assistant**  
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OSC



**Councilor**  
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