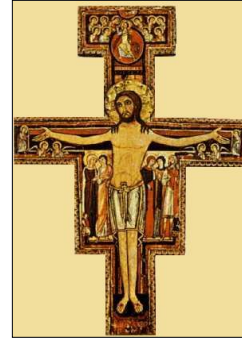


THE CORD
San Luis Rey Fraternity of the
Secular Franciscan Order
Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside, CA.



December/ January Issue

Next Meeting: December 13, 2009

12:45 – 1:45 p.m.

Candidates – Clare Room

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

General Meeting – Clare Room

FRANCISCAN SAINTS IN DECEMBER

Dec. 1 - Rembert Kowalski (I)

Dec. 16 - Blessed Honoratus Koziminski (I)

Dec. 2 - Blessed Rafal Helsinki (I)

Dec. 18 - Mother Alfred Moes (III)*

Dec. 5 - Blessed Mary Frances Schervier (III)

Our Christmas Gathering

Welcome to Advent and the start of a new liturgical year. This time of year, when the days grow short and somewhat colder, is perfect for Advent. It is a time to be quiet and retreat a bit into ourselves. Then we can hear the soft whisper of God's voice as He calls us to pray in joy at His coming. To us He gives new life, new hope, a new and glorious beginning.

This year, as you pray the way to Christmas, please lift up our Fraternity to Jesus and ask for His Spirit, His gifts, His guidance and direction. Pray for all His Blessings on the fraternity throughout this Christmas season and the coming year. Pray that His heart be our heart, and claim for us His wisdom, peace, knowledge and strength. Pray we may be healed by His love, re-created in His grace and restored to the purpose and plan that He has for us.

Let this be our Advent preparation, our Advent exercise – an hour spent each day, asking for His gifts and blessings.

For our Meeting

All fraternity members, candidates and inquirers are urged to attend our December Christmas celebration. Come share the Christmas lights, music, decorations and good company. Please bring along several of your nearest and dearest for the festivities, so they can partake of the treats and sweets that always show up at our celebrations – because you bring them.

Sister Madeline will be visiting the homeless and the working poor once again this Christmas. She asks us each to bring a package of dark socks – either wool or cotton – and/or warm jackets.

Come to our Fraternity meeting December 13th – bring a friend and a sweet treat to share!

Karron's Korner –

This month, we open with the spiritual message of the Newsletter on the front page, befitting a Christmas newsletter. And now, in this Korner, I can fill you in on the practical details.

New Meeting Day. Starting in January, the fraternity meets the first Sunday of the month. Our first meeting of the new year is on January 3rd at the usual time.

December Meeting. We were very pleased by the attendance at November's meeting, and hope we will all come for the Christmas gathering this month. **Please bring a sweet or salty treat to share**, along with your clothing for homeless workers and a special donation for charity. If you have any questions about guests, food, etc. for the meeting, please call **Eileen at 760-231-9930**.

Finances. Due to the Treasurer's absence and our absent-mindedness, we did not collect any envelopes or checks at last month's meeting, so our level of contributions is falling far short of last year. Please see what you can do to help.

Special Request. As you pray for the fraternity in Advent, **please lift up Scott H. in your prayers: he is**

critically ill. Scott served God brilliantly as our fraternity Minister and is a spirit-filled and very generous man.

Blessed Mary Frances Schervier (1819-1876)

Mary's parents were Johann Heinrich Schervier, a wealthy needle-factory owner and vice-mayor of Aachen, and Maria Louise Migeon; god-daughter of Emperor Francis I of Austria. After the death of her mother and older sisters of tuberculosis, Mary ran the household, developing a reputation for generosity. In 1844 she became a Secular Franciscan, and in 1845 she and four companions established a religious community devoted to caring for the poor. This group, Sisters of the Poor of Saint Francis, was approved by their bishop in 1851.

The first community in the United States was founded 1858; Mother Frances visited in 1863 to help the sisters nurse Civil War soldiers. She visited the United States again in 1868, to oversee the foundation of several hospitals and to encourage Philip Hoyer as he established the Brothers of the Poor of Saint Francis.

She was cured of asthma in 1870 on a pilgrimage to Lourdes. When Mother Frances died at Aachen at 57, her community numbered 2,500 worldwide. She was beatified in 1974 by Pope Paul VI.

Intercessions

- **Please pray for God's abundant blessings on our fraternity (see cover).**
- **Please pray for Scott H. His condition is critical.**
- Please pray for Sandy B., who is recuperating from surgery.
- Pray for Lacie I., the daughter-in-law of Carol I.. She has been very ill.

December Memorials

Mary P. Ryan M.	December 4, 2002	Mae C.	December 29, 1998
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Anniversaries of Profession

Penny J. & Freeda P. were professed on December 10, 2006.

This month's meditation, in preparation for the Nativity, focuses on the Names of God used in the Hebrew Bible and their meaning. (See below)

“HALLOWED BE THY NAME” – THE NAMES OF GOD

I bless your name, **Elohim**, the Creator of heaven and earth, Who was in the beginning. You are the God of might and strength. Hallowed be Thy name!

I bless your name, **EI Shaddai**, the God Almighty of blessings. You are the Breastly One Who nourishes and supplies. You are all-bountiful and all-sufficient. Hallowed be Thy name!

I bless your name, **Adonai**, my Lord and my Master. You are Jehovah – the Completely Self-Existing One, always present, revealed in Jesus Who is the same yesterday, today and forever. Hallowed be Thy name!

I bless your name **Jehovah-Jireh**, the One Who sees my needs and provides for them. Hallowed be Thy name!

I bless your name, **Jehovah-Rapha**, my Healer and the One Who makes bitter experiences sweet. You sent Your Word and healed me. You forgave all my iniquities and You healed all my diseases. Hallowed be Thy name!

I bless your name, **Jehovah-M’Kaddesh**, the Lord my Sanctifier. You have set me apart for Yourself. Hallowed be Thy name!

Jehovah-Nissi, You are my Victory, my Banner and my Standard. Your banner over me is love. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, You will lift up a standard against him. Hallowed be Thy name!

Jehovah-Shalom, I bless Your name! You are my Peace – the peace which transcends all understanding, which garrisons and mounts guard over my heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Hallowed be Thy name!

I bless you, **Jehovah-Tsidkenu**, my Righteousness. Thank you for overcoming sin for me that I might become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. Hallowed be Thy name!

Jehovah-Rohi, You are my Shepherd and I shall not want for any good or beneficial thing. Hallowed be Thy name!

Hallelujah to **Jehovah-Shammah** Who will never leave or forsake me. You are always there. I take comfort and am encouraged. I confidently and boldly say, The Lord is my Helper, I will not be seized with alarm - I will not fear or dread or be terrified. What can man do to me? Hallowed be Thy name!

I worship and adore you, **EI-Elyon**, the Most High God Who is the First Cause of everything, the Possessor of the heavens and earth. You are the everlasting God, the great God, the living God, the merciful God, the faithful God, the mighty God. You are Truth, Justice, Righteousness and Perfection. You are the Highest Sovereign of the heavens and the earth. Hallowed be Thy name!

Father, You have exalted above else Your name and Your Word, and You have magnified Your Word above all Your Name! The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and His name is **Jesus!** Hallowed be Thy Name!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday, December 13, 2:00pm

San Luis Rey Fraternity December Gathering and Christmas Celebration

Thursday, December 17, 12:30 pm

San Luis Rey Council Meeting

December 7 thru 21 - Mondays at 10:30am or at 7:00pm.

Advent Mondays

With Fr. Philip G., OFM and Bro. Kelly C., OFM

Our Advent Monday series is a prayerful reflection on the Readings of Advent to discover how we might come more alive this Christmas.

Optional lunch is available with the morning session. Free will offering.