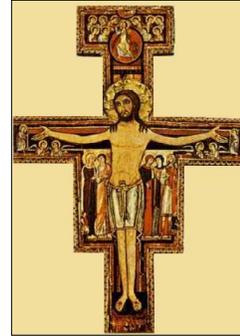


THE CORD

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



March 2009

Next Meeting: March 8, 2009

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

General Meeting and Mass – Clare Room/Retreat Center Chapel

FRANCISCAN SAINTS in March

2nd – St. Agnes Bohemia (II)
3rd – Bld. Liberatus Weiss,
Samuel Marzorati & Michele Fasoli (I)
5th – St. John Joseph of the Cross (I)
12th – Blessed. Angela Salawa (III)

18th – St. Salvator of Horta (I)
23rd – St. Catherine of Genoa (III) *
29th – Bld. Ludovico of Casoria (I)
30th – St. Peter Regaldo (I)
* *Saint of the month*

February's Meeting

We started the February meeting with another presentation in the series on St. Paul, compliments of Tim C., who is doing an amazing job illuminating the life of this great apostle and theologian for us. Tim accompanied his presentation with some very useful hand-outs, and a list of scriptures from Romans for meditation.

Our minister followed, with a presentation on the Regional Ministers' Meeting held at Marywood in Orange at the end of January. Besides the election of a new Regional Council, the focus of the meeting was on the continuing formation of SFOs, who are called to step up to a more active and vital role in the Franciscan family.

To assist in this continuing formation, the Region put funds for scholarships into the budget, and will increase the funds available through the sale of the new Franciscan polo shirts and windbreakers commemorating the 800th Anniversary of the Secular Franciscan charism (1209 – 2009 A.D.) Many members ordered shirts. These will be available for pick up on March 21st, at the Regional Day of Recollection in

San Diego. If you ordered a shirt, make your check payable to the fraternity and give it to Frances, our treasurer.

For those interested in taking courses to enhance their understanding of Franciscan spirituality, or of general theology, several colleges offer online and correspondence courses and degrees. Our Regional Minister, Sylvia P., is taking the Franciscan Certificate Program offered by St. Francis University in Loreto, on a non-credit basis. If you are interested in courses and want to apply for a scholarship, contact Karron.

Our Fraternity Council voted in February to donate \$XXX.XX to Brother Benno's in Oceanside. A letter was sent with the check.

Coming in March

Our March meeting marks a time of great joy as we celebrate the Profession of David Y., welcoming him into fraternity as a SFO and renewing our own profession. Mass is at 2:00 p.m. in the Retreat Center chapel, with Fr. Steve G. officiating. Social time and refreshments will follow.

Karron's Korner – I suspect that we are in touch with Jesus all the time – I'm sure He never leaves our side – so it is just a question of whether we are open to Him. It is an act of will, a consent, a "Yes, Lord" that allows us to experience Him, most often mediated by our subconscious mind.

Though I've read only a brief version of her biography, it seems Catherine of Genoa had a direct experience of God and never turned back. Life from then on was about intimacy with God.

That is also what happened to Francis. Yet Francis pried his ego off, beat it back, resisted it at every step as he waged a fierce battle with his selfish side to give his soul room to grow in Christ.

Catherine and Francis each came to a place where they realized their lives had been hollowed out – and when they turned inward, they found themselves looking into the eyes of God.

For most of us, conversion is slow: the image of a gradual wearing down is probably apt. Our selfish egos are gradually and gently moved aside as we become more "fully mature" in Christ – a functioning person with a big ego who loves God. We still have our idols – ideas we hold about ourselves, our role, what's possible for us – all come between us and a true "Yes, Lord."

Though it may not be comfortable, meditating on the fact that God alone is Real can put things in perspective.

March: – St. Catherine of Genoa (III)

Catherine was born in 1447, the daughter of Giacomo Fiesca, Viceroy of Naples. She was the grand niece of Pope Innocent IV.

At thirteen she asked to enter the convent, but was refused because of her age. In 1463, the lovely 16-year old wed Giuliano Adorno in a political match. Adorno

was unfaithful and squandered his money. Lonely and disappointed in her marriage, Catherine wanted solitude.

In 1474, while visiting her older sister, a nun, she experienced a profound conversion. From that time on, her life was devoted to prayer and penance. She had deep mystical experiences and many private revelations.

She worked with the sick poor, tending and clothing them. For twenty-three years, she fasted completely during Lent and Advent, with no adverse effects on her health. Eventually, Catherine supervised patient care at the Genoa hospital, and was appointed the hospital rector.

In the last years of her life, Catherine's confessor and several close friends wrote down her teachings, compiling them in two works: the "Purgation and Purgatory" and the "Dialogues," now spiritual classics.

The only spiritual genius of her time, she affected both Catholics and Protestants with her teaching on the Pure Love of God, acceptance of the divine will, and the teaching on purgatory in this life and next.

The life circumstances are significant: she was a lay person, a married woman, a mystic devoted to the care of others while involved in daily life, and a good Christian who experienced a second conversion.

Catherine died on the 15th of September 1510, at sixty-three and was canonized on April 30th, 1737.

Birthdays

On the 2nd of this month, **Virginia V.** is having a birthday: **Edna P.** celebrates her birthday on the 9th and **Karron E.'s** is on the 26th. A very Happy Birthday to all!

Anniversary of Profession

On the 9th, **Mary B.** and **Pat Dominguez** celebrate their 12th anniversary as SFOs, while on the 12th, **Mary G.** celebrates 14 years in the Order and on the 20th, **Marjo G.** marks her 15 year anniversary as a Secular Franciscan.

Memorials

Amanda M.	March 2, 1995	Gertrude B.	March 16, 1989
Robert W.	March 15, 1995	Katherine K.	March 28, 2001

Prayer Requests:

- For Elaine S. who suffers from arthritis and will have cataract surgery March 4th.
- For Joanne T. who holds a job while caring for her 93-year-old father.
- For Joanne's daughter, Michelle H., who has breast cancer.
- For Virginia V., who had a gall bladder operation in December. She injured the area again and was hospitalized in February. Also for severe migraine headaches.
- For Virginia's husband, who is a diabetic and needs her constant care
- For Mary B., recuperating from severe bruising in an auto accident
- For Mary's grandson, Russell, who needs our prayers for a hip problem
- For Mary's granddaughter, Natalie G., who suffers from colon cancer.
- For Karron's cousin, Mary B., who has cancer in addition to kidney failure.

Scriptures for Healing

John 8:36 **(Healing for all needs)**

If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.

Psalms 28:7 **(Afflictions)**

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped...

Hebrews 12:12-13 **(Arthritis)**

Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

Isaiah 32:3 **(Eyes and Ears)**

Then the eyes of those who see will no longer be closed, and the ears of those who hear will listen.

Isaiah 29:18 **(Eyes and Ears)**

In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll, and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 **(Cancer)**

But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

2 Timothy 1:7 **(Cancer)**

For God has not given us a spirit of fear: but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Hebrews 4:12 **(Bones, Joints, Hips, Diabetes)**

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow...

John 14:27 **(Headaches, pain)**

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you:

(This type of peace in Greek is peace for the body in the original Greek interpretation. It dispels discomfort and pain).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

March 21 Saturday

SFO Formation Seminar 9:00 am to 4:00 p.m.

St. Patrick's in San Diego

3585 30th Street, San Diego 92104

Formation Topics:

- The Catholic Church in Light of Vatican II
- The Pauline Rule (from Vatican II)
- Papal Encyclicals and Pastoral Statements
- Sacred Scripture and Lay Spirituality (from Vatican II)

April 19th (3rd Sunday)

San Luis Rey Fraternity Meeting on the Sunday after Easter

May 17th (3rd Sunday)

San Luis Rey Fraternity Meeting on the Sunday after Mother's Day