

Pentecost

May 23, 2021

"Come Holy Spirit"



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The Cord

May, 2021

*Newsletter of the San Luis Rey
Secular Franciscan Fraternity*

*Our Monthly Gatherings are on the
2nd Sundays of the month*

Upcoming Gatherings on Zoom:

- **May Monthly General Gathering ~**
Sunday, May 9th, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
- **Vespers Evening Prayer ~**
Thursday, May 20th, 7:00 – 8:00 pm
For Zoom Link, [see p. 10](#)
- **June Monthly General Gathering ~**
Sunday, June 13th, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Our Gatherings Will Be on Zoom:

Login Link: www.zoom.us

Click on: ***Join a Meeting***

Meeting ID: 760 726 2486

Password: 1798

Contact Us via our website [Contact Page](#)

San Luis Rey Secular Franciscan Fraternity
Mission San Luis Rey
4050 Mission Avenue
Oceanside, CA 92057

Minister's Note for May

I was standing where countless pilgrims before me had stood. At Calvary itself, now nestled within the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Between the chapels commemorating the place where Jesus was nailed to the Cross and where Jesus was crucified is a statue of Our Lady with a sword dramatically and completely through her heart. The statue seemed a bit barbaric to me; a literal representation of a metaphorical comment.



Antoniazzo Romano (1430-1508)

I was called to look at the image with new eyes and a breaking heart when dear friends of ours lost their 26-year-old daughter to a tragic car accident just days ago. I thought back to that statue in Jerusalem and realized it so dramatically **underrepresented** the grief of a parent losing a child. Our Blessed Mother endured this terrible grief in a way to resonates across the centuries in tenderness and love. During this month of May, may all those who mother be blessed, especially all mothers and fathers suffering the loss of a child. Please pray for our dear family friend, Michele Williams, and her family who are in so much pain at her loss, for the DeSantis family on the third anniversary of the death of their daughter Christine Marie, and for *all* parents connected to their children through this incredible bond of love, that extends in the here and now – and into Eternity.

And speaking of Mother's Day – yes! We do know that our next Fraternity gathering fall on Mother's Day, Sunday May 9th. If you can't make the Gathering, we get it and it's ok. What we will do is record the session for you, so you won't miss our guest speaker.

Our Guest speaker on Sunday, May 9th is Sister Kathy Warren OSF, speaking on Fratelli Tutti – Pope Francis's letter to us, 'Brothers and Sisters All.' In order to help us prepare for Sister Kathy's visit, the Cord is full of little bite-sized articles on Fratelli Tutti. Please check them out. If you're up for it, you can link to the full text of Fratelli Tutti on the [Vatican website](https://www.vatican.va/holy_father_fratelli_tutti/letter/2020/05/20200513_hf-letter-fratelli-tutti_en.html). Or take a look at the cheat sheet, er, the official USCCB Fratelli Tutti Study Guide: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/Fratelli-Tutti-Study-Guide.pdf>.

Pace e Bene +

*Laura Chun, OFS
Minister, San Luis Rey Fraternity*



Fratelli Tutti

Introduction and Chapter One of the Encyclical Letter of the Holy Father Francis

Who hasn't been felt concern over both the current state and the future of our world? And how quickly does our denial emerge to protect us from the stark realization of that which we have to be concerned about!

Pope Francis introduces his encyclical by sharing how Francis of Assisi had inspired the writing of both *Laudato Si* and *Fratelli Tutti*, and inviting us all to "acknowledge, appreciate, and love each person, regardless of physical proximity, regardless of where he or she was born or lives." He tells us of his visit to the Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb and does not shy away from the natural comparison to St. Francis' visit with Sultan Malik-el-Kamil. Both meetings were occasions of listening, seeking understanding, and finding common purpose. The Pope, speaking of a "universal fraternity" alludes to a transcendent love by and for humanity.

In Chapter One, the Holy Father draws our attention to the many ills in our world, drawing us in to his reverie by describing the "shattered dreams" of our forebears, citing extremism, nationalism, and selfishness as destroying the ideals of the past. He goes on to describe the abhorrent practices employed by power-seekers to polarize and colonize – to divide and conquer.

Our world, Francis observes, has adopted a perspective in which not only are goods and products disposable, but so also are people. He describes institutional and economic policies that espouse and reinforce disregard for human life and dignity in order to sustain and enlarge the resources of the wealthy and the institutions that support them. The momentum is sustained by conflict and fueled by fear, and people view other people as either "us" or "them." This is a lonely place to be, and one which creates a vulnerability to indoctrination into groups that offer false fraternity.

The Pope describes how the rapid progress in technology and science has tremendous potential, yet it seems that rather than uniting us, it has served to diffuse our sense of responsibility toward each other. That is, our maturity has not kept pace with the advances in technology. The world had a brief moment of shared concern for humanity when faced with a global pandemic, but then the divisive forces returned in the form of fear and intolerance, resulting in racist attitudes, behavior, and policies. Such societal ills now proliferate faster than ever with our modern technology. Speaking of international relations, the Holy Father explains how subjugation of the less developed countries creates alienation and rootlessness. What could be worse than having no concept of "home?"

Pope Francis, having thus taken us on a journey exploring the reality of the troubles of the world, ends Chapter One by offering hope. Pointing out that we, who are made in God's own image, have within us the desire, the willingness, and the ability to move toward a more positive expression of God's love in our everyday lives. The Holy Father invites us to move beyond the mundane desires and to value the true treasures of creation. Like Francis.

*Connie Collins, OFS
Vice Minister
San Luis Rey Fraternity*



A 'Stranger' On The Road

Chapter 2 of the Encyclical Letter Fratelli Tutti of the Holy Father Francis

LUKE 10

**If I be the Samaritan, who is my Judean ?
Who can I be present to, alongside who can I cross any kind of barrier for ?
With whom will I draw near with no questions asked ?
To who am I neighbor ?**

Who considers me “not even a people & foolish?”

I am too, the Samaritan woman who has life giving water for the thirsty...

**I am possessed with Body~Blood~Soul~Divinity.
My frontiers have no boundary.**



*Kelly Farnum, OFS
Secretary*

I am welcome

HEART OPEN



Fratelli Tutti – Chapters 3 & 4

Chapter 3 of Fratelli Tutti is ‘Envisaging and Engendering an Open World,’ and conveys a story with which we are all familiar, the story of the Good Samaritan. The USCCB study guide explains that *‘the example of the Good Samaritan reveals to us that our deepest fulfillment is found in the gift of ourselves to our neighbors. As Pope Francis points out, each act of love towards a neighbor is an outward movement of God’s grace in the world that unites and moves us to foster a true sense of social friendship, which values each human person. This outpouring of love enables a more universal understanding of community that embraces each “brother or sister in need” so that none are ignored.’*

Bishop McElroy recently taught via Zoom on Fratelli Tutti with a special emphasis on the Good Samaritan. I loved how he drew a line that I had not seen before, that the Samaritan is a man full of zeal for others - not unlike St. Francis. Bishop McElroy also underlines how for the Samaritan providing assistance was a risky action. Were the robbers still lurking nearby? Could the wounded man be a trick? Be a trap? The Samaritan was willing to risk all in order to help a stranger. This is the type of 'Social Friendship' that Pope Francis talks about in Fratelli Tutti. It resonated with me – surely helping another can be inconvenient, perhaps even costly. But risky? Framing Fratelli Tutti in **this**



Vincent van Gogh. *The Good Samaritan*

context of the Good Samaritan led me to see social responsibility through a new perspective and caused me to ask, 'Am I willing to risk?'

Chapter 4 of Fratelli Tutti is 'A heart Open to the Whole World,' and emphasizes the profound interconnectedness of us all. So many problems bubble up globally or with no concern regarding national borders: migration, refugees, poverty, access to justice, access to vaccines. The USCCB study guide tells us that *'Pope Francis asks us "to think not simply as a country but also as part of the larger human family". We ought to bring the best of our own cultures with us as we embrace the global community and cultivate a universal fraternity with our brothers and sisters. This allows us to open our hearts to those outside our neighborhoods and countries and be moved by what is happening on a global scale.'*

The call to global fraternity can seem daunting; after all – we're having trouble solving our own problems. But it would seem to be that we are all part of a global community – and called to be a part of global solutions. We won't get out problems using the same mindset that caused the issues in the first place. It would seem to me that a NIBMY (not in my back yard) perspective won't be enough anymore. We need to think bigger – and have a bigger perspective of what 'family' means.

Laura Chun, OFS
Minister



Paths of Renewed Encounter

Chapter 7 of the Encyclical Letter Fratelli Tutti of the Holy Father Francis

In Chapter 7 Pope Francis states that we are to acknowledge prior conflicts, but to move forward to peace starting anew with truth. Truth needs to lead to reconciliation and forgiveness. True peace can be achieved only when we strive for justice through dialogue. We need to get people to work together side by side in pursuing goals that benefit everyone. This is true for families, communities, and countries of the world. The Charter of the United Nations, when applied is a reference point of justice and a channel of peace.

Forgiveness and reconciliation are central themes in Christianity and other religions. Jesus never promoted violence or intolerance. He openly condemned the use of force to gain power over others. Consequently early Christian communities sought to show unfailing patience, tolerance, and understanding. As individuals we have to do the same: to speak out and promote social justice. We

must promote negotiation and reconciliation. Obviously there is no place in our world for violence or war.

To facilitate this, the Church condemns violence from the death penalty to war. Christians tempted to yield to violence in any form need to keep in mind the words of the book of Isaiah: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares (2:4) Seeing a disciple tempted to violence, said firmly: "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword"(Mt26:52) " I will require a reckoning for human life. Whoever sheds the blood of a man, by man shall his blood be shed"(Gen 9:5-6). Jesus' reaction, which sprang from his heart, bridges the gap of the centuries and reaches the present as an enduring appeal.



*Elizabeth B. Mavis, OFS
Councilor & Formator*

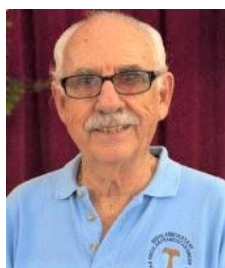
Fratelli Tutti - Chapter 8

Fratelli Tutti (meaning BROTHERS ALL) an encyclical (from Greek meaning CIRCLE) is a circular letter written by a pope to bishops.

In Chapter 8, "Religions at the Service of Fraternity in Our World," focuses on "the different religions, based on their respect for each human person as a creature called to be a child of God, who contribute significantly to building fraternity (a fruit of of the knowledge, per St. Francis of Assisi)

In Fraternity and defending justice in society." (271) Religions acknowledge relating to a spiritual or nonphysical realm truth, such as knowing the difference between Equity and Equality, serve as witnesses to God's guidance, and promoting wisdom through reflection on religious traditions, "For us, an original and bountiful source of something of human dignity and fraternity s in the Gospel of Jesus Christ," (277) who teaches us to see as God does, with our hearts.

In Fraternity we have an outstanding secret that shows us how to dream and to turn our life into a wonderful adventure. No one can face life in isolation...We need community to help and support us.



*Rock DeSpain, OFS
Treasurer*

Laudato Si' – Love Inspires Action

With the publication of Laudato Si' in 2015, Pope Francis called for the care and restoration of our common home. The encyclical raised awareness of the issue worldwide, and emphasized its moral and spiritual importance.

Laudato Si' Week, May 16th - May 24th, will be the crowning event of the Special Laudato Si' Anniversary Year, and a celebration of the great progress the whole Church has made on its journey to ecological conversion.

Receive Pope Francis' invitation to celebrate the Laudato Si' Anniversary: [#LaudatoSi6](https://twitter.com/LaudatoSi6) And join thousands of Catholics around the world, uniting to protect our common home. Together, through action and faith, we can solve the ecological crisis. See more at www.laudatosiweek.org

In the meantime, I offer this prayer of Pope Francis from Laudato Si':

A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, ***help us*** to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it,

That we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature

as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.



Karron Esmonde, OFS
JPIC Animator

Happy Mother's Day

Blessings to all as we gather together in fraternity on Mother's Day to remember all our mothers and especially Our Blessed Virgin Mary in the month dedicated to her. Let us begin by considering what our rule says about Our Lady.

Article Nine: The Virgin Mary, humble servant of the Lord was open to his every word and call. She was embraced and declared the protectress and advocate of his family. The Secular Franciscan should express their ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently.

We have been given two beautiful devotions, The Franciscan Crown Rosary and The Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Both of these can help us focus on the example of Mary's life. May Mary become for us the example of true discipleship she was for Francis, however we might express our love for her.

What beautiful words Francis speaks of her from his writings: "Hail His Palace! Hail His Tabernacle! Hail His Home! Hail His Robe! Hail His Servant! Hail His Mother! (SalBVM).

His biographer Celano wrote: "Toward the Mother of Jesus he was filled with an inexpressible love, because it was she who made the Lord of Majesty our brother. He sent special praises to her, poured our prayers to her, offered her his affections , so many and so great that the tongue of man cannot recount them. (2Cel 198).

May is also a good time to meditate on the Litany of BVM. We probably all have titles that we connect with more than others. Some of my favorites are Virgin Most Powerful, Mother of Mercy, Mother of Hope, Comforter of the Afflicted and Virgin Most Faithful.

As we pray for her intercession, let us remember what our rule also calls us to do, imitate her complete self-giving. I'm sure, as a good Mother, she will help us grow in this area of conversion and surrender. I would like to close again with words from Francis. In his Office of the Passion he wrote an antiphon to be prayed before and after each Psalm. May his words be ours also.



Madonna of humility by Fra Angelico, c. 1430.

Holy Virgin Mary,
Among the women born into the world,
There is no one like you.
Daughter and servant
Of the most high and supreme King
And of the Father in Heaven,
Mother of our most holy Lord Jesus Christ, Spouse of
the Holy Spirit,
Pray for us
With St. Michael the Archangel,
All the powers of heaven
And all the saints,
At the side of your most holy beloved Son,
Our Lord and Teacher.

*Jan DeSpain, OFS
Director of Formation*



[News from the Fraternity Council](#)

Changes in the Fraternity Council

<http://www.slr-ofs.org/our-council.html>

The San Luis Rey Fraternity Council



Laura Chun, OFS
Minister



Connie Collins, OFS
Vice-Minister



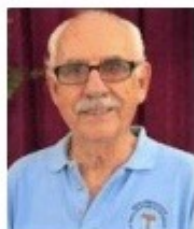
Jan DeSpain, OFS
Formation Director



Sr. Madeline Fitzgerald, OSC
Spiritual Assistant



Kelly Farnum, OFS
Secretary



Rock DeSpain, OFS
Treasurer



Sam DeSantis, OFS
Councilor & Formator



Liz Mavis, OFS
Councilor & Formator

Fraternity Support



Karron, OFS
JPIC Animator, Sick &
Home-bound Outreach

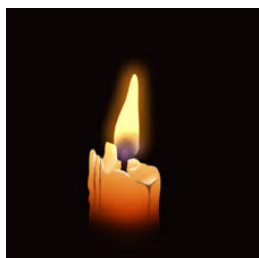


Marta, OFS
Cord Newsletter Editor



Carol, OFS
Cord USPS Outreach

Mark your calendars for Thursday, **May 20th** for Vespers!



Lit your candle and join us on Zoom on **May 20th at 7pm** for praying the psalms together with our fraternity brothers and sisters.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7607262486?pwd=dmRBNVU5WFUxMTdzaUxGcy9ibGtwdz09>

From our Director of Formation:

Formation for May: Saturday May 8, 2021

Inquiry: 11:00am on Zoom using the usual link. Chapter from the Journey is Chapter 8 on Scripture. Session will be facilitated by Kelly.

Candidacy: 2:00 on Zoom using the usual link. Chapters 24 and 25 will be covered. The focus is on work and family. Facilitator will be Jan DeSpain

Interviews: Interviews are being scheduled for all Inquirers and Candidate for May/June with Sr. Madeline, our Spiritual Assistant and Jan DeSpain, Formation Director. More information will be given at your session.

Retreat: A retreat is being planned for all those in initial formation at San Luis Rey Mission in July. We are so looking forward to gathering in person once again!



*Jan DeSpain, OFS
Director of Formation*



From our Treasurer

You can mail your OFS fraternity contributions to:



**Rock DeSpain, OFS
1257 Lodgepole Drive,
Hemet CA, 92545**





Are you feeling the 'Fratelli Tutti' in your future?



We are blessed to have Sr. Kathy Warren joining us at our May 9th gathering to speak on ***Fratelli Tutti***, the latest encyclical letter from Pope Francis. Sr. Kathy Warren, OSF, is the Director for Women

Religious for the Diocese of San Diego and will be joining us at the invitation of Sr. Madeline Fitzgerald, OSC. You may remember Sister Kathy from when we studied her book, '[The Sultan and the Saint](#).'

Sr. Kathy will help us to start unwrapping and diving into this beautiful document. As a Council, we'd like to unfold this very important text over several sessions – this talk with Sr. Kathy will be our first. You can start diving in ahead of time to make the best use of our time with Sr. Kathy! You can access the entire text of the 'Fratelli Tutti' document on the Vatican [website](#).

The USCCB says of *Fratelli Tutti*, that it 'was released in October 2020. An invitation to renewed social friendship and universal fraternity, this encyclical was published as the global community was seven months into the COVID-19 pandemic. A call to come together in solidarity, *Fratelli Tutti* provides a starting point for renewing our commitment to caring for our neighbor and a global society built on justice and the common good. The USCCB has a Fratelli Tutti study guide [here](#).

Just look at how this letter begins – with Pope Francis acknowledging how St. Francis referred to 'All Brothers:'
...Fratelli Tutti... Pope Francis says that "With these words, Saint Francis of Assisi addressed his brothers and sisters and proposed to them a way of life marked by the flavor of the Gospel. Of the counsels Francis offered, I would like to select the one in which he calls for a love that transcends the barriers of geography and distance, and declares blessed all those who love their brother "as much when he is far away from him as when he is with him".



*We look forward to beginning our Fraternity '**Fratelli Tutti**' journey with
Sr. Kathy Warren on May 9th.*

Laura Chun's Zoom Meeting Room



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 were professed in the month of May:

- May 4, 2003
- May 4, 2003
- May 4, 2003
- May 06, 2018
- May 06, 2018
- May 16, 1999
- May 16, 1999

Roger Alves, OFS

Jack Shuk, OFS

Frances Thompson Garcia, OFS

Connie Collins, OFS

Joe Cannon, OFS

Connie Herman, OFS

Scott Herman, OFS

❖ For Joe Cannon, OFS who passed into eternal life on February 11.

❖ For Br. Alexander Escalera, OFM Cap experienced a stroke on 2/18.

❖ For Corinne who had an accident and suffered a broken wrist and bruises to her head and body.

❖ For the repose of the soul of Carol Imhoff's sister-in-law Afaf Prom who passed into eternal life.

* * *

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. Thanks, Marta

Dr. Marta M. Kassai, OFS

