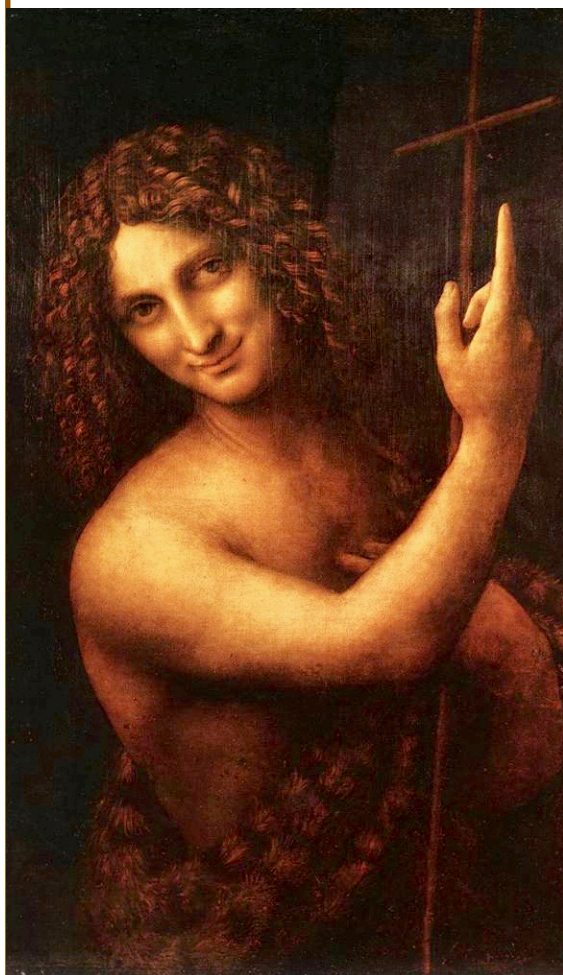


St. John the Baptist

June 24, 2021

"Make straight the way of the Lord."

John 1:23



Attribution:

St. John the Baptist (c. 1513–1516),
[Leonardo da Vinci](#)

The Cord

June, 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:

- **June Monthly General Gathering ~**
Sunday, June 13th, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
- **Vespers Evening Prayer ~**
Wednesday, June 23rd, 7:00 – 8:00 pm
For Zoom Link, [see p. 8](#)
- **July Monthly General Gathering ~**
Sunday, July 11th, 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

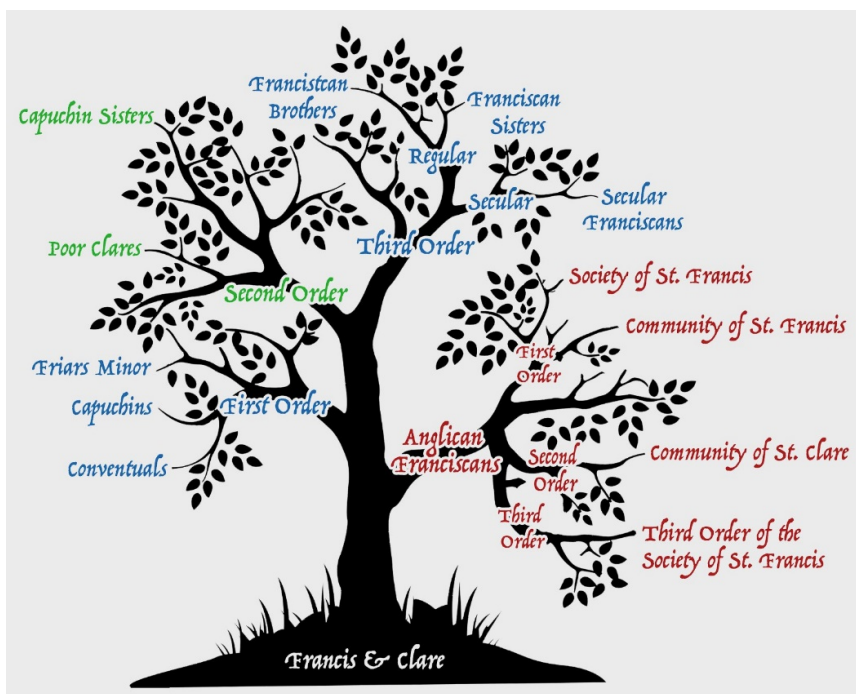
Password: 1798

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 June

The Franciscan family since the earliest of times has had many branches. The diversity of Franciscan communities seems to be part of our history and our DNA. One big, beautiful, ancient branch of the Franciscan Family is the Secular Franciscan Order. The Secular Franciscan Order was one of the three Orders founded directly by St. Francis of Assisi. There are about 350,000 active Secular Franciscans globally today.¹ I especially like this Franciscan Family Map that includes our Anglican brothers and sisters.²



We've recently had guests joining us at our Fraternity gatherings including Fr. David Gaa, [Fr. David Gaa OFM](#), the Minister Provincial of the Franciscan

Province of St. Barbara and Sr. Kathy Warren OSF, the Director of Women Religious for the Diocese of San Diego. Both shared a similar message regarding Secular Franciscans, 'Now is a GREAT time to be a Secular Franciscan; the world needs you!' This Secular Franciscan vocation of ours is a beautiful **gift**, something for us to be continually unwrapping, cherishing, and putting it to service in a world that is so terribly in need of it.

Thomas of Celano in his first Life wrote: *"Many people, well-born and lowly, cleric and lay, driven by divine inspiration, began to come to Saint Francis, for they desired to serve under his constant training and leadership... To all he gave a norm of life and to those of every rank he sincerely pointed out the way of salvation"*.³

During this year especially, our 800th anniversary as an Order founded by St. Francis of Assisi, let us hold our brothers and sisters in prayer and seek to bring this beautiful vocation of ours out into the world. Though JPIC (Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation) we have outreach into all sorts of ways to help heal the world. Through bringing our Franciscan charism into all our ministries and interactions. It would seem to me that it is our job, like St. Francis and St. Claire before us, to be the face of God to those on the margins of society and to all that whom we encounter.

Pace e Bene +

Laura Chun, OFS, Minister, San Luis Rey Fraternity



¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secular_Franciscan_Order

² <https://franciscansinternational.org/about/franciscan-corner/>

³ 1 Cel, 37 St. Bonaventure writes: "For set on fire by the fervor of his preaching, a great number of people bound themselves by new laws of penance according to the rule which they received from the man of God. Christ's servant decided to name his way of life the Order of the Brothers of Penance. As the road of penance is common to all who are striving toward heaven, so this way of life admits clerics and laity, virgins and the married of both sexes"

Mother of the Disappeared

An **icon** is an image that comes to us from the Eastern and Orthodox traditions and is much more than art; it is a prayer form. Icons are referred to as being prayerfully 'written' rather than 'painted' and used as a teaching tool using symbolism to reveal its truths. I feel an attraction to the icon, "[Mother of the Disappeared](#)" as a contemporary version of the Sorrowful Mother image by Br. Robert Lentz, OFM. I invite you to visit his [website](#) to view his many icons, especially those of [Francis](#), including [Francis and the Sultan](#). Lentz is known for incorporating contemporary social themes. Was he inspired by our Franciscan challenge to live the Gospels when he chose to create icons of [St. Oscar Romero](#), [Dorothy Day](#), and many unknown subjects, [including non-Christians](#)?



In the icon "[Mother of the Disappeared](#)," Br. Robert portrays Mary as sharing the lot of the downtrodden and standing in solidarity with them. The icon honors the tens of thousands of Latin American mothers whose family members were "disappeared" by death squads in the 1970's and 80s. In 1976 Argentinean mothers began a silent protest in front of government offices wearing black dresses and white kerchiefs, carrying photographs of their missing loved ones. They wore a white rose if they hoped their loved one was alive and a red rose if they were dead. This march then spread to El Salvador, where Oscar Romero was martyred in 1980.

Br. Robert Lentz describes the layers of meaning in this new icon of the Madre Dolorosa. Mary wears the white kerchief of the Argentinian mothers and her Byzantine garment is almost black, matching theirs. Rather than a photograph of her son who was *also* abducted by a death squad, she holds his crown of thorns. She wears both red and white rosebuds, since she is Mother of all the Disappeared.

The white handprint is the signature of the El Salvador death squads and was intentionally added to the icon. The icon has in essence been violated, but this detail expresses a deep truth. The death squads violate icons of God every time they abduct and torture a human being. As Franciscans we should let the words of St. Oscar Romero burn into our hearts. "I am a shepherd who with his people has begun to learn a beautiful and difficult truth: **Our Christian faith requires that we submerge ourselves in this world**" (my bolded emphasis)

A [hauntingly beautiful musical reflection is the song 'Mother of the Disappeared' by the Irish rock band, U2](#). The song is featured on their 1987 album, The Joshua Tree. The [song](#) was inspired by lead singer Bono's experiences in Nicaragua and El Salvador in July 1986. The proceeds from the song were donated to Amnesty International.



How does Article 13 of our Rule challenge us to go deeper?

"As the Father sees in every person the features of his son, the firstborn of many brothers and sisters, so the Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ.

A sense of community will make them joyful and ready to place themselves on an equal basis with all people, especially with the lowly for whom they shall strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ. In November 2002 Pope John Paul II addressed Franciscans at the Tenth General Chapter. Quote taken from his letter:

"You must deepen the true foundation of the Worldwide Fraternity and create everywhere the spirit of welcome and the atmosphere of brotherliness. Commit yourselves firmly against all forms of exploitation, discrimination, marginalization, and against all attitudes of indifference towards others."

Does this not sound like it came from the lips of our current Pope Francis?

Let us move forward in ongoing conversion each day to know how our rule and Our Lord wants us to make a difference for those who suffer so many kinds of injustices and violence today. Mary, Madre Dolorosa, pray for us.



*Jan DeSpain OFS
Director of Formation*

Fratelli Tutti Chapters 5 & 6

Fratelli Tutti-Chapter 5 A Better Kind of Politics is one truly at the service of the common good. The question then is, can universal fraternity and social peace exist without sound politics?

Today, it is difficult for someone to express a viewpoint on any subject due to a divided society. Populism disregards the legitimate meaning of the word "people." To be part of "People" is to be part of a shared identity advancing toward a common project. Popular leaders can be unhealthy when interpreting the feelings and cultural dynamics of people. May it be the greatest desire of all individuals to advance processes of justice for all.

Pope Francis has no intention of proposing an irresponsible "Populism" and welfare projects should be temporary. The biggest issue is EMPLOYMENT to be able to use individuals talents. It's the best way to help the poor. We need to allow them a dignified life through work. Work is an essential dimension of social life. It gives a sense of shared responsibility for the development of the world, and ultimately, for our life as a "people."

Chapter 6 Dialogue and Friendship in Society In coming to know and understand one another and find common ground are summed up in one word "Dialogue." A dialogue that respects the other's point of view and one that seeks social friendship in the encounter with the most impoverished. In this

way, we can do more. We can heal the open wounds generated by conflict and establish peace once again.

The lack of dialogue means they are not concerned for the common good, but for the benefit of power or imposing their own ideas. The heroes will be those who can break from this unhealthy mindset and promote truthfulness aside from personal interest.

God does not see with his eyes, he sees with his Heart. Dialogue, Justice, and Peace



Sam DeSantis, OFS
Councilor

Fratelli Tutti at our May Gathering

At are May gathering, we were blessed to have Sr. Kathy Warren joining us 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 joined us at the invitation of our Spiritual Assistant, Sr. Madeline Fitzgerald, OSC.



Sr. Kathy Warren, OSF

Sr. Kathy immersed into this beautiful document, especially chapter 8 The USCCB says from Chapter 8 that: *The different religions of the world recognize human beings as God's creatures. As creatures, we are in a relationship of fraternity. The religions are called to the service of fraternity in the world (Ch.8). In dialogue and with hearts open to the world, we can establish social friendship and fraternity.* In the words of *Fratelli Tutti*, we are truly 'brothers and sisters all.'

USCCB Summaries and our Own Recording: USCCB provides a beautiful *Fratelli Tutti* [Overview](#) and [Summary](#). For Sr. Kathy Warren's recording of her talk on *Fratelli Tutti* and an deeper analysis of Chapter 8 from our May gathering, go to this [Zoom link](#), then type in this password: **!nF0tT9#**

Dorothy Mann, OFS provided some very striking comments on Sr. Kathy's recording, '...Kathleen Warren's presentation on "Fratelli Tutti"...was an informative and enjoyable presentation, confirming our fraternal relationship with other religions and beliefs, especially that of the Muslims and Christians, and our place as part of the universal world of religious beliefs, cultures, and similarities. It was an informative and enjoyable presentation! - Dorothy Mann, OFS



St. Thomas More, OFS

St. Thomas More OFS
One of Our Own
Thanks be to God
For Such a Time As This

STAYING THE COURSE

On this day of Pentecost, the birth of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Marianne & I review the life of St. Thomas by watching [A Man For All Seasons](#) together.
Our dear Secular Franciscan brother held fast to truth and tradition unfussed by the errant demands
of those in power (namely King Henry VII).

Of course the Church needs reform and we are called to rebuild her yet we do not throw the baby out
with the bath water !

We do not shrink back but hold on inviting God's children home, "Come in, the waters are terrible.'

From St.Thomas More Parish
Oceanside CA

As we continue on our journey, we dedicate ourselves to continue to walk in the footsteps of St.
Thomas More, our patron, whose dedication to You was primary, even at the cost of his life.

His final words will always echo within the spaces of our community:

"The king's good servant, but God's first."

From St.Thomas

"Little as I meddle in the conscience of others, I am certain that my conscience belongs to me alone.
It is the last thing that a man can do for his salvation: to be at one with himself."

Thomas More was canonized in 1935.
In 2000, he was declared "the heavenly patron of statesmen and politicians."

Brother, pray for us.

June 2021

Marianne Grisez
&
Kelly Farnum, OFS



*Kelly Farnum, OFS
Secretary*



Marianne Grisez

Highlights of Laudato Si' Week -

A week of Webinars brought together activists, educators, farmers, religious, & other experts to share progress and process on the goals of Laudato Si'. Videos are available on YouTube. The last in the series, Pentecost / Laudato Si' Special Anniversary Year Closing & Missionary Sending includes a talk by Fr. Michael Perry, OFM, Minister General of Friars Minor, on "Fraternity & Mission" which is most brilliant & inspiring. Check it out here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9A6ESD4CDmY>

For reference, here's a list of Laudato Si' goals with brief explanations. In the months to come, I hope we'll have ample opportunity to discuss them.

Laudato Si Goals –<https://www.laudatosi.org/laudato-si/>

1. Response to the Cry of the Earth - Greater use of clean renewable energy & reducing fossil fuels in order to achieve carbon neutrality, efforts to protect & promote biodiversity, guaranteeing access to clean water for all, etc.

2. Response to the Cry of the Poor - Defense of human life from conception to death & all forms of life on Earth, with special attention to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, migrants, children at risk through slavery, etc.

3. Ecological Economics - Sustainable production, Fair-trade, ethical consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels & any economic activity harmful to the planet & the people, investment in renewable energy, etc.

4. Adoption of Simple Lifestyles - Sobriety in the use of resources & energy, avoid single-use plastic, adopt a more plant-based diet & reduce meat consumption, greater use of public transport & avoid polluting modes of transportation, etc.

5. Ecological Education - Re-think & re-design educational curricula & educational institution reform in the spirit of integral ecology to create ecological awareness & action, promoting the ecological vocation of young people, teachers & leaders of education etc.

6. Ecological Spirituality - Recover a religious vision of God's creation, encourage greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy & gratitude, promote creation-centered liturgical celebrations, develop ecological catechesis, prayer, retreats, formation, etc.

7. Emphasis on Community - Involvement & participatory action to care for creation at the local, regional, national & international levels (promote advocacy & people's campaigns, encourage rootedness in local territory & neighborhood ecosystems, etc.

Sessions:

Critical Opportunities in 2021 to Create Change: Call for an Integral Path

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uDxeC13iQSo>

Laudato Si Dialogue on Education

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4RdAptMpCA>

May 18

Laudato Si Dialogue on Energy & Fossil Fuels: Global Catholic Divestment Drumbeat

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KsYhbJzZiA>

May 19, 2021

Sowing Hope for the Planet: Creation Care Prayer Network. | LSW Day 4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqgcZ6lSKO8>



*Karron Esmonde, OFS
JPIC Animator*

Franciscan School of Theology Summer Programs



FST is offering several online programs this summer as a part of their Summer 2021 Continuing Education as a part of their Franciscan Spiritual and Social Vision series.

- June 21-25: Dr. Maureen Day - The Challenges and Blessings of Catholic Family Life Today
- June 28-July 2: Dr. Joseph Chinnici, OFM - Francis of Assisi: His Life and Historical Setting
- July 6-9: Dr. William Short, OFM - Francis and Clare of Assisi: Writing and Charism
- July 12-16: Dr. Garrett Galvin, OFM - The Book of Psalms: A Franciscan Approach

To learn more, you can download their summer program flyer [here](#). You can register online [here](#).

If you wish to do a manual registration, please send your request to Sharmeen Enayat at ContinuingStudents@fst.edu or fax: (619) 849-8431. The registration deadline is June 11, 2021.

*Mark your calendars for Wednesday, **June 23rd** for Vespers!*



Lit your candle and join us on Zoom on **June 23rd at 7pm** for praying the psalms together with our fraternity brothers and sisters.

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

News from 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



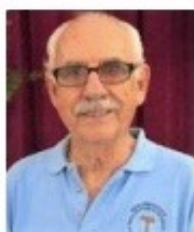
Jan DeSpain, OFS
Formation Director



Sr. Madeline Fitzgerald, OSC
Spiritual Assistant



Kelly Farnum, OFS
Secretary



Rock DeSpain, OFS
Treasurer



Sam DeSantis, OFS
Councilor & Formator



Liz Mavis, OFS
Councilor & Formator

From our Director of Formation:

June Formation News

Sessions: June 12 at 11:00 and 2:00pm

Inquiry: Chapter Nine in the Journey text. Vatican II / Rule / Constitutions Facilitators Jan, Liz, Sam

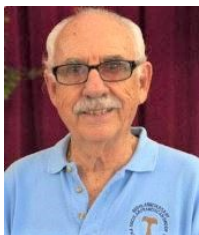
Candidacy: Chapter 26 Universal Kinship: Article 18 and Chapter 27 Bearers of Peace: Article 19

We should all be challenged by the words in our rule to be transformed by the power of love and pardon.

Interviews: All those in initial formation are now preparing for either Candidacy or Profession by dialoguing with Sr. Madeline (Spiritual Assistant) and Jan DeSpain (Formation Director). Please keep Heidi, Gina, Pan, Carolyn, Caroline and Linda in your prayers as they discern their ongoing journey.

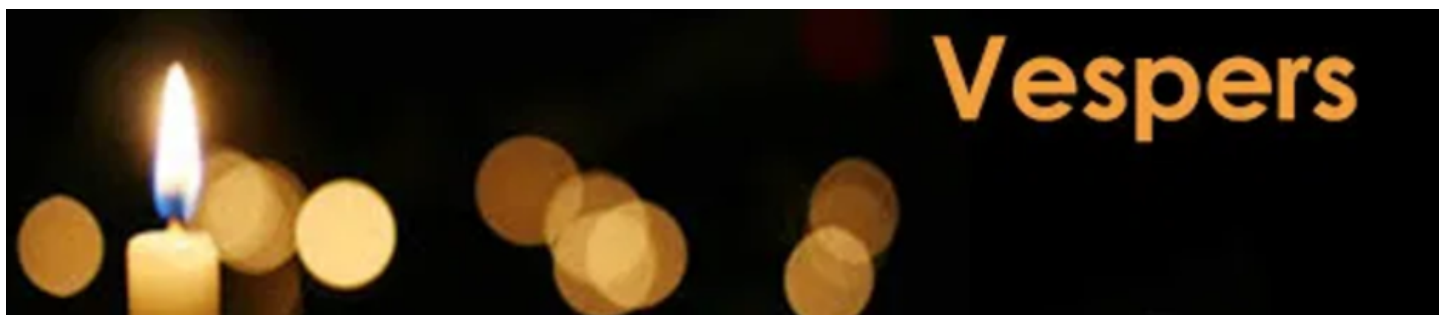
Jan DeSpain, OFS
Director of Formation

From our Treasurer



You can mail your OFS fraternity contributions to:

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



Let us pray... prayer requests from our May 20th Evening Vespers

Sam DeSantis and Liz Mavis organized an intensely prayerful evening, focusing on the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was so wonderful to share the beautiful music and prayer as a community.

Prayer requests from our May Vespers included:

- ❖ Let us pray for Linda Menser and her family, especially her brother Rick and her father Richard. Richard is in hospice. Although Linda has left our Fraternity, she is *definitely* still in our hearts. :-)
- ❖ Let us pray for Sam's sister who is terminally ill. Marian Elizabeth Bree (Buffy) is 76 years old and is full of faith and love.
- ❖ Let us pray for Connie's grandson, Gabriel.
- ❖ Let us pray for Marta's brother Denis who is having surgery on June 15th.
- ❖ Let us pray for Karron's husband who has undergone surgery on his rotator cuff. Karron also asks for prayer for Marianne, Prudy, and Winnie.
- ❖ Let us pray for Eileen for issues with her eyes as well as for her husband, Bob who is suffering spinal issues.

Mark your calendars for June: Vespers will be Wednesday, June 23rd at 7pm on [Zoom](#).

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

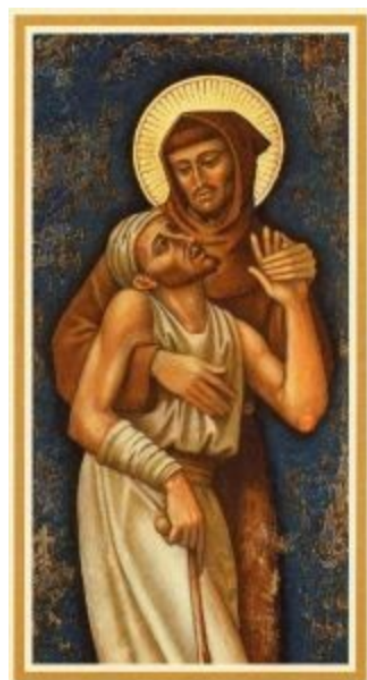
To join by landline or audio-only Phone (no video):

- 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 died in the month of June~~~✝

- June 1, 2000
- June 2, 1997
- June 8, 2009
- June 14, 2000
- June 18, 2017
- June 28, 1964
-

Raphael Brown, OFS
Ruth Gallagher, OFS
Betty Lou Carson, OFS
Beverly Raphael Brown, OFS
Anna M. Day, OFS
Edna May Knox, OFS

❖ For those who were professed in the month of June:

- Jun. 06, 2004
- Jun. 14, 1990
- Jun. 21, 1991
- Jun. 25, 1978

Donna Foley, OFS
Prudence Hrisanthopoulos, OFS
Karron Esmonde, OFS
Eileen Costa, OFS

- ❖ For the sister of Sam DeSantis, OFS, Marian Elizabeth Bree (Buffy).
- ❖ For the brother of Dr. Marta Kassai, OFS, Dénes Kassai.
- ❖ For Karron's husband, Gary and Connie's grandson, Gabriel.
- ❖ For Eileen to have a successful eye surgery.

* * *

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



Canticle of the Sun

Composed by St. Francis of Assisi

*Most High, all powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, the honor, and all
blessing.*

*To You alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no man is worthy to mention Your name.*

*Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures,
especially through my lord Brother Sun,
who brings the day; and you give light through him.
And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendor!
Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the
stars,
in heaven you formed them clear and precious and
beautiful.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene,
and every kind of weather through which
You give sustenance to Your creatures.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom you light the night and he is beautiful
and playful and robust and strong.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains us and governs us and who produces
varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.*

*Praised be You, my Lord,
through those who give pardon for Your love,
and bear infirmity and tribulation.
Blessed are those who endure in peace
for by You, Most High, they shall be crowned.*

*Praised be You, my Lord,
through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whom no living man can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin.*

*Blessed are those who will
find Your most holy will,
for the second death shall do them no harm.*

*Praise and bless my Lord,
and give Him thanks
and serve Him with great humility*

Mission San Luis Rey de Francia, Oceanside, California

