

St. Clare of Assisi

1194 to 1253

Feast Day:

August 11



Detail depicting [Saint Clare](#) from a fresco (c. 1320) by [Simone Martini](#) in the Lower basilica of San Francesco, Assisi

Foundress of the Order of Poor Ladies and the Monastic Order for Women in the Franciscan Order

The Cord

August, 2022

Newsletter of the San Luis Rey
Secular Franciscan Fraternity

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

Upcoming Gatherings In-Person:

- **August 14: Monthly General Gathering**

Visitation

ONLY IN PERSON

1:00 – 3:00 pm

- **September 11: Monthly General Gathering**

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Prayer in Chapel: 12:30 pm

Upcoming Gathering on Zoom:

- **August 29: Vespers at 7:00 pm**

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 August

One of the joys of summertime is traveling, visiting with far flung friends, and gaining new perspectives. We can look to St. Francis who spent a lot of time travelling – to Rome, the towns surrounding Assisi in Umbria, Santiago de Compostela in Spain, Damietta to visit with the Sultan, al-Kamil, perhaps even Jerusalem. It would seem to me that Francis was open to be transformed by these experiences of each of these places and all those he encountered. Being open to God's grace and the possibility of transformation in such a way perhaps would make one a pilgrim rather than merely a traveler.



I ask that we prayer for our own four pilgrims that are traveling this month to the 20th Secular Franciscan Quinquennial Congress 2022 in Phoenix, AZ. The Q will be hosting 600 Secular Franciscans from across the country. Our pilgrims are Sam DeSantis, Corinne Helena, Pam Pert, and Carol Imhoff. I pray that they are blessed by their encounters just as I know they will be a blessing to whom *they* encounter. As a Fraternity, we will be blessed as they return and share their stories with us at our September gathering.

At our August 14th gathering, we will be welcoming Visitors from the St. Francis Region. We will be having both a Fraternal visitation (with the Council only) and Pastoral visitation with the entire Fraternity. Please plan on attending our August gathering in person if you are able. During our Gathering from 1pm-3pm, the Pastoral Visitor will be spending time with us, and we will be visiting with them – ideally all with open hearts and open to transformation of such encounters. Bring your thoughts and your dreams for our fraternity. Due to the intimacy of visitation and the guidelines from Region, the August gathering will be in-person only. The session cannot be shared on Zoom. Please give me a call if you have any questions about our upcoming Visitation at 760-271-4968.

For our August 14th gathering, please feel free to join other Fraternity members for lunch at 11:15-ish (after the 10am MSLRP 10am Mass). Please note that Council members will be tucked away participating in the Fraternal visitation at that time. I warmly invite all in the Fraternity who can to please join us in St. Clare's Chapel for our monthly Chapel prayer at 12:30pm to 1pm.

I pray for blessings on each of our journeys this summer, whether we're venturing out for the first time since the pandemic began, are seasoned travelers in our new Covid-y world, are on a journey the Q in Phoenix, are traveling for business or visiting friends & family... or are taking more of an interior journey and cherishing nearby encounters – while tapping your sparkly ruby heels together and happily chanting, *'there's no place like home...'*

Pace e bene –



Laura Chun, OFS
Minister, San Luis Rey Fraternity

Saint Maximilian Kolbe

Saint Maximilian Kolbe was a Conventual Franciscan priest who spread devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary through print and radio in Japan and his native Poland and active in promoting the veneration of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, founding a monastery near Warsaw. In Auschwitz, Karl Fritzch, the deputy camp Commander, chose to pick ten men to be starved to death in an underground bunker to deter escape attempts. When one of the men, Franciszek Gajowniczek, cried out, "My wife, My children!" Kolbe volunteered to die in his place. According to an eyewitness, who was an assistant janitor at that time, in his prison cell Kolbe led the prisoners in prayer. Each time the guards checked on him, he was standing or kneeling in the middle of the cell and looking calmly at those who entered. After they had been starved and deprived of water for two weeks, only Kolbe remained alive. The guards wanted the bunker emptied, so they gave Kolbe a lethal injection of carbolic acid. Kolbe is said to have raised his left arm and calmly waited for the deadly injection. He died on 14 August 1941 at the age of 47. His remains were cremated on 15 August, the feast day of the Assumption of Mary. He was Beatified 17 October 1971 by Pope Paul VI and Canonized 10 October 1982 by Pope John Paul II. The man Kolbe saved at Auschwitz, Franciszek Gajowniczek, survived the Holocaust and was present as a guest at both the beatification and canonization of the Saint.

Abandoning Ourselves to Our Heavenly Father and Mother

Jesus himself in the Garden of Olives said, when he was begging his Father to release him from the appalling suffering that awaited him: "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will" (Mt 26:39). And the cup did not go away, and Jesus, the Son of God, went through a heartrending Passion. God knows better than we do what is useful: health or sickness, wealth or poverty, respect or defamation. We can and should pray when we are discouraged, but it is essential to defer to the will of God.

If (your suffering) were to increase even one degree your glory in heaven for all eternity, then it would secure an infinite benefit. Life passes quickly, even suffering passes, while eternity will last forever. It is worth it.

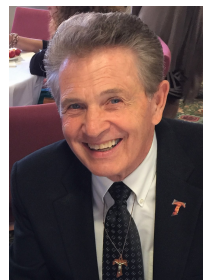


I invite you to give yourself to the divine Immaculate Mother, as a child to the best of mothers. Appeal to her with simplicity in all your worries, sufferings, and temptations and she will happily accompany you throughout this short life. And how blessed death will be, under the cloak of the Immaculate! None of those who love her will be lost forever. Courage, then!

Saint Maximilian Kolbe

The above information courtesy of Magnificat magazine and Wikipedia.org

*Sam DeSantis, OFS
Vice Minister*

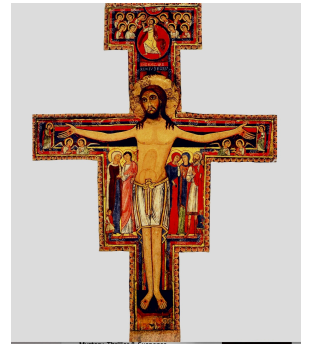


St. Clare of Assisi

Last month I took Fr. Tom Herbst, OFM continuing education class on The Theology, Philosophy, and Spiritual Anthropology of St. Bonaventure. He shed light on the Letters of St. Clare to Agnes of Prague in which Clare directs Agnes to look into the mirror as a way to contemplate Christ.



" Place your mind before the mirror of eternity!
Place your soul in the brilliance of glory!
Place your heart in the figure of the divine substance
and through contemplation,
transform your entire being in the image
of the God head Itself,
so that you too may feel what friends feel
in tasting the hidden sweetness
that, from the beginning,
God himself reserved for His lovers."



*St. Clare of Assisi, 3rd Letter to Agnes of Prague 12-17
From Early Documents: Clare of Assisi, The Lady*

The great Greek philosopher Plato, popular in Clare's time, uses the image of the mirror in his work "The Republic", as a means to understand the difference between the ideals of created things, that only exist in the mind of God, and the actual created things. The idea comes first before the material existence. The idea of the horse was in the mind of God before the horse was spoken into existence. In Nature many different breeds of horse exist, they vary in size, color etc., but when we look at them we call all of them horse. We can tell it's not an elephant or a lion but a horse. So we have a picture of the idea of a horse in our mind. The actual creature is a reflection of this ideal horse.

For instance the idea of a human being is conceived in the Mind of God like let's say a "prototype" from which all actual humans are created. Each being reflect the "prototype", like an image in a mirror reflects a real being. The image in the mirror is not the real thing, it simply reflects what the original looks like. God created man in his image and likeness (Genesis 1:26-27). Thus when we look into the mirror we reflect our creator. This can be used as a subject of contemplation. How do we reflect our Creator?

"Gaze upon the mirror each day,
O Queen and Spouse of Jesus Christ,
and continually study your face in it,
that you may adorn yourself completely, ...

Fourth Letter of Clare to Agnes.

Clare teaches us to reflect and contemplate on Christ's poverty, humility and charity as we move from the edge of the mirror to its very center where we encounter the crucified Lord who endured tremendous suffering and a most shameful death for the redemption of the whole human race. What "ineffable charity" ! - exclaims St. Clare.



Dr. Marta Kassai, OFS, Councilor

A New Shade Tree for Our Anniversary

As the years of a tree, so the years of my people; and my chosen ones shall long enjoy the work of their hands. Isaiah 65:22b

JOY, JOY, JOY!

I'm delighted to report that permission is granted
And a spot designated, so trees can be planted -
To provide shade & shelter, beauty and ease
For all who enjoy the wonder of trees.

Though it's too hot right now for a sapling to grow
We'll plant in October, we'll put on a show
Praying blessings and healing, peace & all good
On God's great creation and all of His brood.

Our tree will provide shelter and shade
For birds & their families, the creatures God made
To grow lovely feathers, to fly and to sing
So we can see, touch and hear the love of our King

The life of one person is not all that long,
Though our Franciscan family has been going strong --
And at San Luis Rey, a Mission so dear
It's now 70 years since our founding - right here!!!

-- K. Esmonde

Note –

My apologies for the silly verse – it was prompted by a sense of fun and jubilation – a pleasure to know our Fraternity has been here at the Mission all these years.

Peace and All Good!

*Karron Esmonde, OFS
Your JPIC Animator*



*San Luis Rey Fraternity is hosting the
Summer Picnic!*

When: **Saturday, September 24th**
10am – 2pm

Where: **[San Dieguito Park](#)**

1628 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Del Mar, CA 92014

We'll be at Picnic Site #2 in the Upper Park. There are ten picnic tables (up to 100 people). Parking and restrooms nearby.



Regional Event:



AUGUST 20, 2022

ST. FRANCIS REGION

OFS

Regional Picnic

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

*William Mason Regional Park Picnic Shelter #6
18712 University Dr, Irvine, CA 92612*



Something New in October – Gathering on Saturday, October 8th!

Amidst all the joy and intensity that is October for us (Transitus, the Feast of St. Francis), we have something new! Please mark your calendar now... Our October Gathering will be one day early. Rather than gathering on Sunday October 9th, we will be gathering with Secular Franciscans at MSLR from across the Region on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8th. The topic will be 'Living and Leading Laudato Si' with Br. Keith Warner, OFM. The day will be from 9:30am to 3:30pm. Please see the detail in the flyer included here in the Cord. The important thing now...

SAVE THE DATE.

News from the Fraternity Council

Please note: **August Gathering** will be **in person only** because of the Visitation.

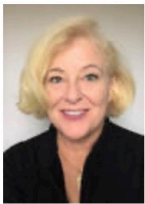
Mark your Calendars for Monday, **August 29th** for Vespers!



Join us on Zoom on **August 29th at 7pm** for praying the psalms together with our fraternity brothers and sisters.

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

The San Luis Rey Fraternity Council



Laura Chun, OFS
Minister



Sam DeSantis, OFS
Vice-Minister & Formator



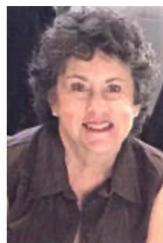
Jan DeSpain, OFS
Formation Director



Sr. Madeline Fitzgerald, OSC
Spiritual Assistant



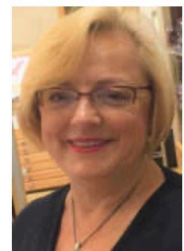
Connie Collins, OFS
Secretary



Corinne Helena, OFS
Treasurer



Pam Pert, OFS
Councilor



Marta Kassai, OFS
Councilor & Newsletter Editor

From our Treasurer



You can mail your OFS fraternity contributions to:

Corinne Helena, OFS
1408 Turnstone Way
Oceanside, CA 9205



Formation August 2022 News

We will meet on Zoom at a new time of 10:00am on August 13th. Thanks to all for being flexible in joining together to Journey towards profession. All mid-candidacy interviews have been completed with Sr. Madeline and myself. The next step is to gather Letters of Intent to Profess as we approach the home stretch.

Thanks to Carol Imhoff, one of our sponsors for joining us in July. I hope other sponsors might also do the same. It is a great way to journey with your candidate and refresh looking at the articles of our rule more deeply.

In August we are covering two chapters of the Journey text. Chapter 22 is on the Foundations for the Kingdom. It covers article 14 which focuses on building a more fraternal and evangelical world. Chapter 23 covers Justice and Franciscan life and article 15.

Ongoing reflection topic for the Professed:

1. Read art.14. Dialogue is so key in our Franciscan walk. Do you listen to others carefully and attentively? Do you consider that others might have a different way of expressing themselves? When people are respected, listened to and treated justly we help build the Kingdom of God.
2. Read art. 15. Part of it states. Let them be individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives... How does this play out in your own life? We all have opportunities and they differ because of the context of our circumstances. This is an area where JPIC gives us direction. Thanks to Karron for enlightening us as our fraternal JPIC representative.

Come and See

Another reminder to start thinking of Franciscan minded people in your church or groups that you could invite to visit our meeting and come and see if the Holy Spirit might be calling them into a vocation. This is the very best way to surface possible members to our fraternity. At the very least your invitation will plant a seed. Thank you in advance.

Peace and blessings,

Jan



Jan DeSpain, OFS
Formation Director

Franciscan Rite of Extraction at Epiphany Saints in August



Corinne Helena, OFS
Treasurer

Saint for 2022

Blessed Maria Del Transito Cabanillas

Feast Days

Aug 25



Pam Pert, OFS
Councilor



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 August ~~~✝

- August 7, 2013 **Alice Pritchard, OFS**
- August 13, 2003 **Julia Nick Dexter, OFS**
- August 20, 1996 **Irving Sussman, OFS**
- August 26, 2016 **William 'Bill' Haynes, OFS**

❖ For **Prudy** Hrisanthopoulos, **Liz** Mavis, Connie's nephew **Ruben**. and for Eileen's husband **Bob** for healing after her surgeries.

❖ For **Dottie** Hansen, who is considering new housing arrangement.

❖ For **Linda** Ochwat who recently spent two days in the ER and was transferred to a rehab hospital. She's in pain, and finds it very difficult to walk on her own. However, she remains connected to the world through her cell phone. Linda's cell phone is 760-583-5749.

* * *

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, SFO, Editor





May the LORD
always be
with you
and
may you always be with
Him.

Blessing of St. Clare of Assisi

Pfister 2012