

St. Francis of Assisi



[Giotto - St Francis Points to Death](#), c. 1320. Lower Church, San Francesco, Assisi

The Cord

October, 2022

*Newsletter of the San Luis Rey
Secular Franciscan Fraternity*

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

October Gathering:

October 9:

**10:00am Mass at San Luis Rey Mission
Church**

**11:30am BYO box lunch at Mission Retreat
Center Refreshment Lounge**

* * *

12:30pm Prayer in Mission St. Clare Chapel

**1:00 to 3:00 pm General Monthly Gathering
in the Guadalupe Room and on
Zoom (link [here](#))**

Transitus in Person:

October 3:

7pm - 2pm Old Church, Mission San Luis Rey

Vespers:

October 24: 7pm-8pm on Zoom (link [here](#))

Login for All Zooms:

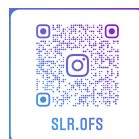
www.zoom.us Click on: [Join a Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 760 726 2486 Password: 1798

Next Month General Gathering: Sunday, November 13

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

Mission San Luis Rey
4050 Mission Avenue
Oceanside, CA 92057



Minister's Note for October

David York OFS, a former Minister and member of our Fraternity once said as Franciscans, 'There's Easter, Christmas, *and* Transitus!' As you read this missive in the days following Transitus and the Feast of St. Francis, I hope you are still unpacking the meaning and joy that comes from these celebrations and commemorations. In the Transitus we call to mind the passing of Francis to eternal life. It's like a funeral of a loved one where we honor the life they had lived, but also, strive to take their essence, the gift of their life, into the world.

While on a visit with my parents in the Chicago area, we found a movie on Netflix to watch, a [movie](#) about Fr. Stu Long. For me, the movie itself didn't have the feel of a great film. But I was mesmerized by the great *story*. Falling asleep that night I grabbed by phone to research Fr. Stu's [story](#). I read his [obituary](#). And even his own testimony in his own [words](#). I woke up the next morning after having dreamt of Fr. Stu Long.

According to [The Pillar](#), the movie portrays Stu Long's rough and tumble life and shares with us his eventual baptism and call to priesthood. He [taught and coached](#) at Bishop Alemany High School in Mission Hills, CA. After three years, he gave away everything he owned and moved to the Bronx in 1997, to discern life with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, the CFRs. The friars sent Stu to Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, where he earned a masters degree in philosophy. He was eventually steered toward a Diocesan seminary thinking he was a better fit there.



During his priestly formation, Stu developed an aggressive muscle disorder with horrible expected outcomes. There would be great suffering and an early death. However, [The Pillar](#) writes that *'Bishop Thomas of Helena believed that suffering is a gift in the Christian life — a gift Stu had received in spades. That's a fundamental idea in Catholicism – Christ redeemed us through his suffering and death on the cross, and in a mysterious way our suffering, united to his, can be redemptive.'*

I was touched in the film of images of this man, unable to walk, *clawing* himself prostrate up the church aisle and pleading before the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary for his vocation, his call to serve God and the Church. That shot was haunting. His intensity was palpable.

AND I HIT MY SNOOZE AMLARM WHEN I INTEND TO GET UP EARLY TO PRAY?!?!?

Fr. Stu accepted his Transitus to eternal life and became a beacon to others, even with the suffering and debilitation. He celebrated Mass. Lines formed outside the care home where Fr. Stu eventually lived – for people *wanting* to go to confession and to experience that sacramental encounter with him. He was steadfast and unwavering in his call to serve God. This man, although not a Franciscan (albeit formed also by Franciscans), *lived* the Transitus. During this holy season, may we as Franciscans, remember the Transitus of Francis – and also the Transitus of all those who have lived faithfully their response to God's call.



Laura Chun, OFS, Minister,
San Luis Rey Fraternity

Our Lady of Good Help



"Go and fear nothing. I will help you."

<https://championshrine.org/>

In this Marian month I felt inspired to write about **our country's first and only Marian Apparition site**. It was only declared a national shrine by the U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops in 2016... a mere six years ago.

There are numerous reasons for wanting to share this, but the tie in to us as Franciscans is the visionary involved was a Third Order Franciscan. Her name was Adele Brise and her first visions began on **Oct.9**, (our October meeting day) 1859. This took place in the woods in Champion, Wisconsin (near Green Bay). She arrived in this country as a young Belgium immigrant in 1855 when she was 28 years old.

The message Adele was given by Mary was to teach the faith to the children because of the neglect of their parents (at this time there were no Masses where the immigrants could understand the language, thus creating apathy in the people.) She was a simple lay woman, handicapped, uneducated, and pious.

For thirty five years Adele dedicated her life to this evangelizing mission teaching from her own love of God and the Blessed Mother. She was encouraged by her pastor to begin a community of women to share this mission. She began a Third Order group she called the Sisters of St. Francis. They took no formal vows and were free to leave if they wished. This group was officially recognized by the Diocese of Green Bay and wore religious habits. In the 1860's they

founded a school near the chapel erected to Our Lady, where they turned no one away if they couldn't pay. The Sisters often had to beg to make ends meet.

There have been many miraculous events and healings here. The most spectacular occurred in 1871 when the chapel grounds and buildings were threatened by a fire storm which effected the whole Midwest . **The Peshtigo fire** was reported as the most devastating fire in the history of the U.S. with 2,000 lives lost and 1,200,000 acres destroyed. Because of the suddenness of the fire, the frightened people fled to the chapel with the Sisters fearing sure death. They processed with the statue of Our Lady for hours. All should have been incinerated, but on **Oct. 9**, twelve years after the first apparition, rain poured down. Everyone was safe but the country side all around them was demolished.

The other visionary of the Americas, Juan Diego was similar in that he was a simple humble man. Both Juan and Adele were dedicated to instruct others in the gifts given to them. For Juan, the tilma, For Adele, an intangible plan for catechesis. She taught the basic fundamentals of the faith. Conversion and catechesis seem to be at the heart of the message that is still relevant today because while the message to Adele was personal, the mission is universal and grows more relevant in our time.

The approval given to the apparitions received by Adele Brise has allowed for Our Lady's message and story to resurface in an era marked with the same



Photo taken by Sam DeSantis, OFS

trends as of old - an era where Catholics have been raised in their faith but do not necessarily practice or even understand its basic tenants. The message to and mission of Adele was relevant in its day and in keeping with the conclusions reached at the Baltimore Councils (1852, 1866, 1884). This message and mission remain relevant today, the call to cooperate with the movement and direction of the Church under Pope Benedict - because they provide a blueprint for catechesis and evangelization. By knowing the historical context for the apparitions to Adele Brise, one is then able to understand the further implications they have in the life of the Church by proposing a way of life for all believers. **(Called to Evangelize: Adele Brise ecommens.udayton.edu p13)**

So why did the Bishop of Green Bay open a commission in 2009? It seems to connect what has been happening in the Church for some time now. Pope Paul VI wrote about a need for a new evangelization in *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, and St. John Paul II also developed this theme as well as Pope Benedict XVI.

These three Popes saw today's society as being marked by an age of defiance to Church authority, a decline in Mass attendance and Reconciliation, breakdown of the family, secularism and rising atheism.



Photo taken by Sam DeSantis, OFS

It seems that the approval by the Church has allowed Our Lady's message to resurface in an era marked with the same trends of old – an era where Catholics have been raised in the faith but do not necessarily practice or even understand its basic tenants. Pope Benedict's writings provided a blueprint for catechesis and evangelization. Good catechesis results in deeper conversion. Now we have Pope Francis to carry us forward.

Sam informed me of a short film (25 min) he recommended that you might enjoy. It is called "An American Apparition – Our Lady of Good Help". Here is the link:

[An American Apparition - Our Lady of Good Help \(ewtn.com\)](http://ewtn.com)

Here is the link to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help with lots of pictures and information:

[The National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help - in Champion WI \(championshrine.org\)](http://championshrine.org)

On their Pray With Us tab you will find the Shepherd Project. From May 1st to the end of October they have been praying for each U.S. Bishop. **Oct 9th** they will pray for Bishop Alberto Rojas, Diocese of San Bernardino and **Oct. 10th** they will be praying for Bishop, now Cardinal, Robert McElroy from San Diego. During these uncertain times our bishops are facing extreme challenges.



Our Lady of Good Help, pray for Your bishops as we join our prayers too.

Jan DeSpain, OFS
Director of Formation



Photo taken by Sam DeSantis, OFS

The Theology and Philosophy of St. Bonaventure - Part 2

The Trinitarian Theology of St. Bonaventure

This is a series of four articles, one per month, on the theology and philosophy of St. Bonaventure based on a weeklong Continuing Education Course I took at the Franciscan School of Theology this Summer given by Fr. Tom Herbst, OFM.



17th-century portrait of Bonaventure by French painter and friar [Claude François](#)

The theology of St. Bonaventure, OFM is a trinitarian theology, not just Christology, says Fr. Tom Herbst. The concept of a triune God is not easy to grasp. Here is the philosophical explanation by Bonaventure told to us by Fr. Tom.

Let's start at the beginning, with Creation. Only God exists, nothing else. God does not have a beginning or an end. God exists from eternity. God simply exists always. He owns his existence to no one else. Philosophically speaking, God is an objective being. His existence is not subject to anyone or anything else. We on the other hand are subjective beings. Our existence is subject to God's existence. The only way I exist is in reference to my maker. Without my maker, I do not exist. God has no maker. God simply is existence.

In your spiritual imagination, envision a reality that there is no creation yet, only God exists. What is God? Based on Scripture, God is Love. The Epistles of John and Christ himself tells us this. Love cannot exist in a void. Love needs an object to love. All there is is God, so what's God going to love? The answer is simple. Since only God exists before creation, God is going to love God, himself. God is love himself forever, and always. He is the perfect being, all good, what's there is not to love? It is natural for God to love God. God loves himself, so he speaks his own name, self articulates because you have to know what you're loving. God says God. The Word spoken is also an objective being. And this is the eternal begetting of the Son. God speaks who God is which is an objective being. That's why the Son is another being, an objective being, and not a subjective or created being.

The Trinity exists because God loves God; certainly true for Father & Son, adds Fr. Tom. The Son, the spoken word of the Father, also talks back. He is a "chatter box". He likes to talk. The first word the Son speaks is "I love you" back to the Father. Bonaventure does not spend much time on the Holy Spirit. But we can add what the Church teaches. The Holy Spirit bears witness to Jesus, gives us faith, and sustains that knowledge and causes it to grow within us as our understanding increases.



["Holy Trinity" from the Tretyakov Gallery](#), Moscow, by Andrei Rublev, c. 1400, but more properly known as the "Hospitality of Abraham." The three angels symbolize the Trinity.

Bonaventure gives specific attributes to each person of the Trinity. One of the attributes of the Father is that he is the Eternal Source. The Son articulates who that Eternal Source is. He says to the Father I love you, and that reciprocation is another person the Holy Spirit. There is no natural analogy to this. Only God exists in that mode. Which is why it is hard for us to comprehend the divine Trinity. Nothing is like God. We could quote St. Michael the Archangel: "Who is like God?"

Let's not forget that we are made in the image and likeness of God, and as a result we too have a trinitarian nature. A vast majority of people forget they are not singular but triune beings, says Fr. Tom. Our trinitarian nature is composed of the body, the soul, and the spirit.

The Body is our physical, material body. The Soul is not material. The Soul provides you with rational faculties, teaches you what's right and wrong. It's the seat of your conscience, which helps you to envision things you have no experience of, like eternity. It's immaterial. It does not exist in your body. The Spirit is the life force, actual grace. It keeps your heart beating. It's your ability to draw air. It's your life, without it you're dead.

The whole of creation reflects the trinitarian nature of God. God exists in triune Nature per Bonaventure. Creation exists out of the love of God who has an impulse to create. Bonaventure understood that the second person of the Trinity has the most active part in creation. The causal agency of the World is the Father. The actual creation belongs to the Son.

Who is Christ Jesus? What did he come to do? Next month In Part 3, we'll address creation, the Fall, and the Incarnation.

Dr. Marta Kassai, OFS, Council



Pope St. John XXIII, 1881 -1963 - Feast Day October 11



We remember this surprising man of change, St. John XXIII, who was a Secular Franciscan (called Third Order Franciscan then), a peasants' son who became Pope on October 28, 1958. In 1959 he astounded the Church by calling for an ecumenical council known as Vatican II. He wanted to "open the windows" of the Church, and let the Holy Spirit in to modernize it. He did not live to see Vatican II completed.

As a young boy of 14, while enrolled in the junior seminary in Bergama, he was received as a Third Order Franciscan. On October 4, on the eve of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, Pope John made a rare trip outside of Rome to visit Assisi, and pray to the Blessed Mother of St. Francis for the success of the Council; a deep reminder of his Franciscan roots. From his death bed five years later, he wrote: *"Now more than ever, certainly more than in past centuries, our intention is to serve people as such and not only Catholics; to defend above all and everywhere the rights of the human person and not only those of the Catholic Church; it is not the Gospel that changes; it is we who begin to understand it better.... The moment has arrived when we must recognize the signs of the times, seize the opportunity, and look far abroad."* Quotes from franciscanmedia.org.

For more on Pope John XXIII, check out the comprehensive article of Jan DeSpain, OFS in the 2020 October Cord, on page 4: [A Surprising Man of Change, St. John XXIII, Secular Franciscan](#)

Saint John of Capistrano, OFM, 1386 - 1456 - Feast Day October 23

Europe was in turmoil in the 14th century. One-third of the population and nearly 40 percent of the clergy were wiped out by the bubonic plague. The Western Schism split the Church with two or three claimants to the Holy See. England and France were at war. The city-states of Italy were constantly in conflict. Gloom dominated the spirit of the culture and the times.



Statue of János Kapisztrán (Saint John Capistrano) in Kapisztrán Tér, Budapest, Hungary.

At age 26, John was appointed Governor. A war broke out between Perugia and Malatesta. John gets thrown into prison where he begins to study theology. John becomes an effective preacher in northern and central Europe. John entered the Order of Friars Minor at Perugia on 4 October 1416. He becomes a great reformer of the Church against heresies of every kind.

When the Turks captured Constantinople in 1453, John at age 70 was commissioned by Pope Callixtus III to preach a crusade for the defense of

Europe. Gaining little response in Bavaria and Austria, he decided to concentrate his efforts in Hungary. He led the army to Nándorfehérvár, the present Belgrade. Under the great Hungarian General John Hunyadi, they gained an overwhelming victory, and the Turks were held back for almost 100 years from attacking Europe again. The Pope ordered the noon bell for the victory which we have to this date. Capistrano falls prey to an infection after the battle and dies on October 23, 1456. He is so loved by the Hungarians, that he's adopted as Patron of Hungary.



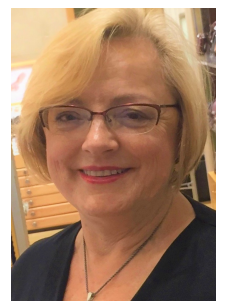
San Giovanni di Capistrano, by Santi

At the 500 years anniversary of Capistrano's death, on October 23, 1956, the Hungarian revolution against the oppressive communist government breaks out, and defeats the communists. Only that victory is short lived as the Russian army invades Hungary on November 4 in overwhelming numbers.



Monument in Vienna, near St. Stephen's Cathedral

Dr. Marta Kassai, OFM



Living and Leading Laudato Si Workshop, Saturday, October 8th!

Amidst all the joy and intensity that is October for us (Transitus, the Feast of St. Francis), we have something new! The topic is 'Living and Leading Laudato Si' with Br. Keith Warner, OFM. The day will be from 9:30am to 3:30pm. They're looking for people to attend who after learning wants to implement some of the ideas in their family, fraternity, parish or other community. Please see the detail in the flyer included here in the Cord. **SAVE THE DATE.**

Laura Chun, OFS, Minister

October 8, 2022
9:30AM – 3:30PM
MISSION SAN LUIS REY / OCEANSIDE, CA

Living and Leading Laudato Si'

**A Workshop for
Secular Franciscans by
Brother Keith Warner, OFM**

**No cost to participate!
A Free Will offering is
invited and encouraged.**

To Register:
Contact Patricia Grace, OFS
patriciaelizabethgrace7@gmail.com
442-300-4652



Pope Francis calls for the moral and religious renewal of humanity to

tackle the twin crises of global environmental degradation and poverty.

Come to this workshop to learn how you can integrate your Franciscan spirituality with community leadership to live out the vision of both St. Francis and Pope Francis for our time!

Sponsored by:



The Saint Francis Region
of the OFS



Br. Keith Warner, OFM is the incoming Director of the Franciscan Renewal Project at the Franciscan School of Theology and co-author of *Care for Creation: A Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth*. He is an active participant in the retrieval of the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition with a focus on Franciscan environmental ethics.

The San Luis Rey Fraternity Council



Laura Chun, OFS
Minister



Sam DeSantis, OFS
Vice-Minister & Formator



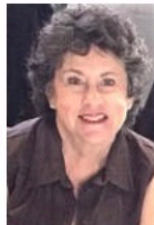
Jan DeSpain, OFS
Formation Director



Sr. Madeline Fitzgerald, OSC
Spiritual Assistant



Connie Collins, OFS
Secretary



Corinne Helena, OFS
Treasurer



Pam Pert, OFS
Councilor



Marta Kassai, OFS
Councilor & Newsletter Editor

News from the Fraternity Council

Please note: **October Gathering** will be **in person & zoom**. October Gathering will be on 2nd Sunday October 9. The October 8 'Living & Leading Laudato Si' is a regional workshop.

Mark your Calendars for Monday, October 24th for Vespers!



Join us on Zoom on **September 26th 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 Treasurer

You can mail your OFS fraternity contributions to:



Corinne Helena, OFS
1048 Turnstone Way
Oceanside, CA 9205



Formation October 2022 News

Our Candidates will gather Saturday Oct. 8th at 10:00 am on Zoom. We will cover Chapter 26 on Universal Kinship (article 18) and Chapter 27 on Bearers of Peace (article 19)

I am very happy to announce that your council accepted the letter of Intent from our four Candidates to profess into the Secular Franciscan Order. We congratulate Linda, Carolyn, Pam, and Gina for enduring the many trials of formation during the pandemic.

We have also secured the chapel near Serra Center on February 4, 2023 at 1:30pm. More details will be shared in the upcoming months. We look forward to enlarging our fraternity with four more beautiful Sisters.

A reminder to keep inviting others you feel might have a heart for the Franciscan way of life to attend our meeting. Ask them to come and see if God might be calling them. Keep praying for vocations to all our wonderful orders. Jan

Jan DeSpain, OFS
Formation Director



Franciscan Rite of Extraction at Epiphany Saints in October



Corinne Helena, OFS
Treasurer

Saint for 2022

Feast Days

Blessed Angela Truszkowska	Oct 10
St. John XXIII	Oct 11
<u>St. Restituta Kafka</u>	<u>Oct 29</u>



Pam Pert, OFS
Councilor

Prayers Requested from the Fraternity:

1. **Linda Ochwat, OFS** requests that she may find a stable housing arrangement after release from the facility where she's being treated for health condition.



Praying Hands by
[Albrecht Dürer](#)

Prayer for Homeless "Men, Women, and Children"

Precious Holy Spirit, I come to You with a broken heart for all of our brothers and sisters in Christ who are living with no security, no shelter, and no safety from the outside world. Please be with all the men, women, and children in our world who are homeless. Give them extra warmth, peace, and guidance like only Heaven can send. Let angels hold their hands at all times, ease their worries, and provide opportunities for a better life.



Give hope where there is no hope and provide wisdom as they work through their trials. Lord, let them know they are loved, prayed for, and Your precious

children who will never be forgotten. In Jesus name, I pray.

- 2. **Laura Chun, OFS** our Minister got Covid and asks for our prayers for a speedy recovery without complications.

Memorare:

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen

- 3. **Carol Imhoff, OFS** requests for a successful cataract surgery on her other eye.

St. Lucy Prayer

Saint Lucy, whose beautiful name signifies light, by the light of faith, which God bestowed upon you, Increase and preserve His light in my soul, so that I may avoid evil, Be zealous in performance of good works, and abhor nothing so much as the blindness and the darkness of evil and sin.

Obtain for me, by your intercession with God, perfect vision for my bodily eyes and the grace to use them for God's greater honor and glory and the salvation of souls.

St Lucy, Virgin and martyr, hear my prayers and obtain my petitions. Amen



Saint Lucy, by Francesco del Cossa (c. 1430 – c. 1477)

Prayers Answered

Carol Imhoff, OFS thanks the Fraternity for their prayers. Her cataract surgery on one eye in September was successful.



* * *

Please update us so we can continue to pray for your special intentions, or give thanks to God for his great mercy and love.

Please send your prayer requests and updates to Sam DeSantis, OFS, Vice Minister: carguyrt66@gmail.com



Sam DeSantis, OFS
Vice Minister





.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 diseased in the month of October:

- October 9, 2003 **Margaret Nelson, OFS**
- October 13, 2005 **Michelle Sagnimeni, OFS**
- October 3, 2014 **Dorothy Johnson, OFS**
- October 14, 2014 **Robert Profino, OFS**
- October 9, 2015 **Freeda Perrotto, OFS**
-

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

- October 7, 2015 **Laura Chun, OFS**
- October 1, 2017 **Sam DiSantis, OFS**
- October 1, 2017 **Liz Mavis, OFS**
- October 1, 2017 **Kelly Farnum, OFS**
- October 6, 2019 **Linda Ochwat, OFS**
- October 6, 2019 **Pam Pert, OFS**
- October 2, 2021 **Heidi Madden, OFS**

❖ For Laura Chun who came down with Covid that she recover fast.

❖ For **Linda Ochwat**, OFS that she find good housing, and for her good health. Linda's cell phone is 760-583-5749.

❖ For **Christine Treadway**, Marta's close friend's daughter that she receive the right treatment.

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

