

Christmas

December 25



RAFAEL - [Madonna Sixtina](#) (Gemäldegalerie
Alter Meister, Dresden, 1513-14

The Cord

December, 2022

Newsletter of the San Luis Rey
Secular Franciscan Fraternity

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

December Gathering:

December 11:

Advent Day of Recollection

with Fr. Michael Blastic, OFM

Guadalupe Room

12:00 pm Catered Free Luncheon*

**1:00 to 3:00 pm Recollection lead by Father
in person and on Zoom ([link here](#))**

*** Complement of our Edna Patterson, OFS**

Vespers:

December 19: 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:

Epiphany

Sunday, January 8, 2023

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

Mission San Luis Rey
4050 Mission Avenue
Oceanside, CA 92057



Minister's Note for December

I think for a moment of all the things that come quickly to us... Free next day delivery to my doorstep. Fast food in minutes through the drive through. Instant movie and book downloads. Microwave popcorn. Instant ramen. I can't wait anywhere more than a few minutes before I'm checking my phone. My own inclination toward instant gratification reminds me of a movie scene from my childhood in the 1971 telling of "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" where Julie Dawn Cole as Veruca Salt throws a spectacular fit while singing '[Don't know how... I WANT IT NOW!!!](#)'



It seems to me we've not changed much since 1971. Except we want more. And we want it faster. I invite us all this Advent season to pause... *to wait*.

Waiting can be so very difficult. We wait for test results from the doctor for ourselves or a loved one. We wait for a loved one to come home late at night. Waiting by the bedside of a beloved sick... or dying. For years during my career I worked with incredible teams through the night to service was restored for customers. I yearned for daylight to come, for fresh people with rested minds to take over responsibilities. I knew the feeling of the watchman waiting for the dawn.

Waiting.

Let us all focus on making a quiet place in our hearts to wait. A quiet place to prepare a welcome. As we prepare our homes for Christmas with decorations and lights, let us look inside and clear a place for the Light of the World. Pick a psalm, perhaps [Psalm 130](#) and simply *be* with it. Let the Word wash over you. If you are able, let the voices of Keith and Kristen Getty share the words of this psalm wash over you [here](#).



I pray my soul / Waits for the Lord / My hope is in his Word

More than the Watchman waits for dawn

My soul waits for the Lord

Pace e Bene –

Laura



Laura Chun, OFS, Minister,
San Luis Rey Fraternity

Br. Benno Christmas Appeal

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It's the most wonderful time of the year..... and we have the opportunity to share the love of Christ. Last year we donated sleeping bags socks and toiletries to Br. Benno's at our December gathering.

This December we are blessed to have a Day of Recollection and luncheon gifted to us by our deceased Sister Edna Patterson, OFS. Let us open our hearts and ...place ourselves on an equal basis with all people, especially the lowly... (art. 13) We are messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance. We should strive to bring joy and hope to others. (art. 19)

This December we will meet on Gaudate Sunday. The council asks you to joyfully participate again by bringing that joy to the children served at Br. Benno's in Oceanside. Bring an unwrapped toy, stuffed animal, or gifts geared to children of all ages. You may also gift adults with donations of toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothpaste, etc.) socks, diapers, etc. All are gratefully accepted. Corinne has offered to deliver whatever is collected.

I recently researched the history of this wonderful apostolate. I was so impressed! I wish I lived closer to volunteer my time but perhaps this article might generate interest interest in those in the area who are passionate about our struggling brothers and sisters. Rock and I have served and supported Valley Restart, a much smaller shelter in Hemet for years. Please talk to Eileen Costa who has volunteered many years in service at Br. Bennos for her valuable insights.

History: I will give a brief overview but am attaching a link with a nine-minute video that will bring this all to life. [Our History – Brother Benno's](#) Br. Benno's was founded in 1983 by a Catholic couple (Harold and Kay Kutler). They were originally inspired by a Marriage Encounter weekend and a Eucharistic Congress where Mother Teresa of Calcutta was a speaker to open a small soup kitchen in Oceanside. They were also inspired to name it Br. Bennos because of their connection with a Benedictine Monk who had been active in Oceanside helping the homeless. When you watch the short video you will be amazed with what they have done in less than 40 years.

In 1991 they moved from downtown Oceanside to 3260 Production Ave. It is only two or three miles away from San Luis Rey Mission. Harold and Kay realized people needed a lot more than food. This facility is a 12,00 sq ft warehouse that has been divided into a dining room, full kitchen, children's reading room, offices, showers, clothing room, computer lab, chapel and warehouse space.

The need for a recovery program became evident. This is brought out in the link. Fellowship is a critical component in what they do. Since they do not depend on government help they can operate in a more free way. They totally depend on volunteers. They stated that they would not be in existence without them. Ninety percent of their funding is private donations and the volunteers are a combination of ecumenical, businesses, and other community groups. They are highly rated as a charitable organization to donate to.

Here is a link to their November Newsletter. [November-Newsletter.pdf \(brotherbenno.org\)](#) It has lots of information on what is happening there currently.

Thank you in advance for bringing hope and joy to many.

*Jan DeSpain, OFS,
Director of Formation*



St. Bonaventure Part 4 - based on Fr. Tom Herbst, OFM lectures

The Theology of St. Bonaventure

Who is Christ Jesus? He is the Savior. What did he come to do? Salvation. He wants to lead us back to the Father. We can't do it on our own. We lost our way because of the disobedience of Adam and Eve. Men couldn't walk and talk with God the Father directly anymore. In obedience, one is aligned with God, His will, and with Creation itself. Disobedience severs our relationship with God and Creation. Although we have freedom of choice, that is we can choose between good and evil, and accept God who is all good or reject Him, but we do not have the authority, or right to define what is good and what is evil aside from God. The tree of knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden of Eden symbolizes that according to the Encyclical of St. John Paul II, *Veritatis Splendor*.

"35. In the Book of Genesis we read: "The Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'You may eat freely of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die'" (Gen 2: 16-17).

*With this imagery, Revelation teaches that "the power to decide what is good and what is evil does not belong to man, but to God alone." The man is certainly free, inasmuch as he can understand and accept God's commands. And he possesses an extremely far-reaching freedom, since he can eat "of every tree of the garden". But his freedom is not unlimited: it must halt before the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil", for it is called to accept the moral law given by God. In fact, human freedom finds its authentic and complete fulfillment precisely in the acceptance of that law. God, who alone is good, knows perfectly what is good for man, and by virtue of his very love proposes this good to man in the commandments." (Pope John Paul II, *Veritatis Splendor*)*

In Genesis Chapter 1, God creates the world in 6 Days. On Day 1, the Spirit of God hovers over the primordial darkness (chaos). God says "Let there be light", and light is separated from darkness. At the end of the six days, "God saw everything he had made, and behold it was very good." (*Genesis 1:31*) Then he rested on the 7th Day. Creation is not only good, but very good. However, the disobedience of Adam and Eve corrupted creation. They chose death instead of life by eating of the forbidden fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and were cast out of the garden of Eden, of eternal life.

We don't have to look too far today to find people who, apart from God, are redefining what's good and what's bad. Even some of our own elected officials are doing it by redefining sex, gender, marriage, and making abortion a constitutional right. It's getting more and more confusing to know what's good. The definition can of course change tomorrow. Truth is now all relative.

Father Tom explains that Bonaventure depicts the natural order of creation as a pyramid where Day 1 is at the bottom and Day 7 is at the apex, see Figure 1. This is a vertical model. Sin corrupts this model. The top oppresses the bottom: Extinctions of animals, devastation of rainforests, oppression of humans. In order to save creation, and return to Paradise, Christ flips this vertically hierarchical pyramid. He humbles himself, and takes upon the sufferings caused by sin. He tells us in the Gospels that the first will be last, and the last will be first. This is how God operates. God is found at the bottom of the pyramid. We go backward to find our way, and reclaim what was lost. Kind of like in the Hansel and Gretel folk tale, where children find their way back following the morsels they dropped on the way to the witch's house. The new notion of power is in the inverted pyramid. Francis understands the vertical pyramid model of power of his time, but in following Christ, he inverts it. He is the humble

poor man at the bottom. His Order is the Friar Minor, the lesser brothers. He understands how God operates.

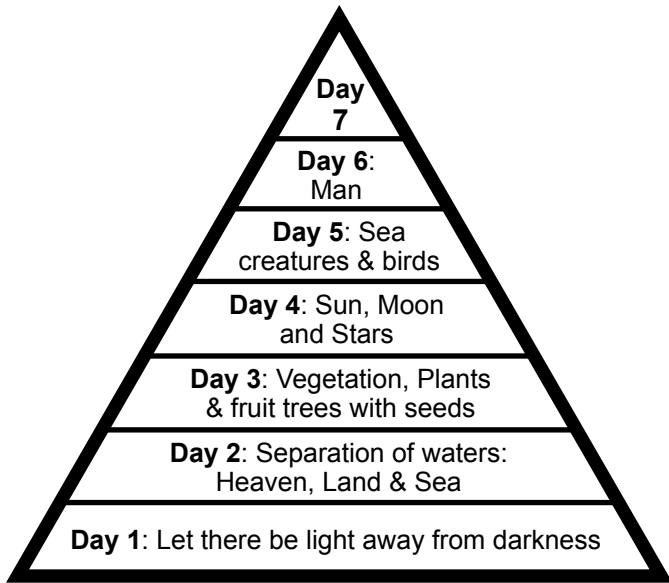


Figure 1: Seven Days of Creation Hierarchical Pyramid

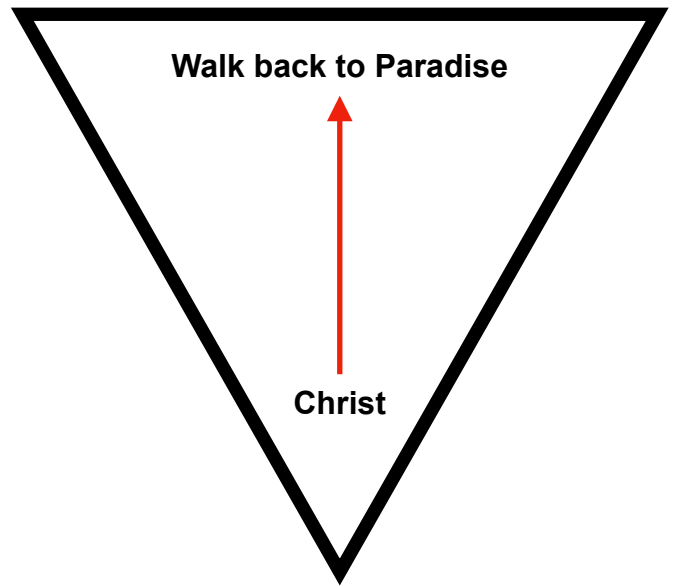


Figure 2: Inverted Pyramid

In the incarnation, God could have chosen to be born in a royal palace, but he chose to be born in a stable and was placed in a manger the animals eat from. This shows us the ultimate humility of God (*Phil 2:6-8*). He is the suffering servant, in whom we have our faith and salvation.

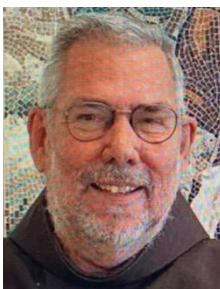
Dr. Marta M. Kassai, OFS
Councilor, San Luis Rey Fraternity



Father Thomas Herbst OFM

Father Tom Herbst OFM died on Tuesday November 8, 2022 in England. He was 68 years old, 41 years professed and 30 years ordained.

Funeral Mass



The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated in San Luis Rey Mission Church on Saturday *December 3, 2022* at 10:30 AM. Father Tom's ashes will be inurned with his family at San Luis Rey cemetery after Mass with a reception following at the Mission Pavilion.

Please keep Father Tom and his family in your prayers.

Eternal life grant unto him O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him..

Advent Day of Recollection

with **Father Michael Blastic, OFM**

Sunday, December 11, 2022

In the **Guadalupe Room** of Mission San Luis Rey

Luncheon @ 12 noon, Presentation: 1 to 3 pm



Francis, Clare, and an Advent Psalm

We will pray and reflect on the Advent Psalm from
Francis' Office of the Passion (Psalm VII).



This event with luncheon is made possible by the generous gift our
late sister **Edna Patterson, OFS**
left to our Fraternity in her Will.

Thank you Edna!

RSVP: Dr. Marta Kassai, OFS @ 951-314-2020

Biography

Fr. Michael W. Blastic, OFM

*Distinguished Visiting Professor of Franciscan Studies
Franciscan School of Theology*

Father Mike's scholarship and service as a Franciscan have been dedicated to the study and teaching the early Franciscan tradition. He has taught at the Washington Theological Union in Washington DC, The Franciscan Institute at St. Bonaventure University in Olean, New York, and at Siena College near Albany, New York. He spent ten years in Novitiate Formation, most recently at the Old Mission Santa Barbara at the Novitiate for the US-6 OFM provinces. He has done workshops and retreats for Franciscan groups and communities in India, Africa, Australia, the Philippines, and across North America. His publications have attempted to critically study early Franciscan sources as a resource for Franciscan life and ministry today.

Degrees

- Ph.D., Historical Theology, St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO, 1991
- S.T.L. Gregorian University, Rome, 1976
- S.T.B. Seraphicum, Rome, 1974
- B.A. Loyola University, Chicago, 1971



Please remember to bring if you have any of the followings to spare:

Children of all ages:

- unwrapped toy
- stuffed animal
- or other gifts

For adults:

- toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothpaste, etc.)
- socks, diapers, etc.



The San Luis Rey Fraternity Council



Laura Chun, OFS
Minister



Sam DeSantis, OFS
Vice-Minister & Formator



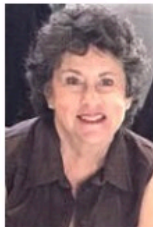
Jan DeSpain, OFS
Formation Director



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: **The December General Monthly Gathering** will be on Sunday, Dec. 11, 12 noon to 3:00 pm, an **Advent Day of Recollection** with Fr. Michael Blastis, OFM, Visiting Professor of the Franciscan School of Theology. We gather in the Guadalupe Room at 12 noon for a free lunch (complement of our late sister Edna Patterson, OFS) for those who registered by Thanksgiving with Marta Kassai, OFS (mksfo@me.com). For more details, see attached flyer below. **Zoom access starting at 1 pm** will be provided for those **who cannot attend in person**.

From our Secretary

Please contact Connie Collins, OFS if you'd like to place an order for a San Luis Rey Fraternity name tag. Give her your name and whether you want a magnet or a pin.

From our Treasurer



You can mail your OFS fraternity contributions to:

Corinne Helena, OFS
1048 Turnstone Way
Oceanside, CA 92057



Formation December 2022 News

Profession:

Time to get excited family!!! On **February 4, 2023** we welcome four new sisters into the Secular Franciscan Order and our San Luis Rey Fraternity: Carolyn Brock, Linda Gossett, Gina Martinot Quinn, and Pam McArthur.



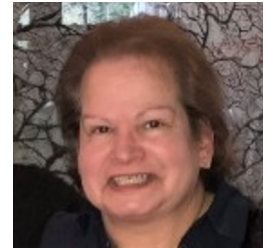
Carolyn Brock



Linda Gossett



Gina Quinn



Pam McArthur

Remember your profession day? They can all be amazingly different. Rock and mine was quite unusual. Since we were not involved in planning, it seems that since it fell in mid December, there was no room at the Inn (Church). 😊 We offered to open our house as an alternate as we had room at that time to accommodate all. We had Mass in our living room and a reception in our kitchen/family room/ dining room/ living room after.

Why did this work? Because we are family and dive in to make wonderful things happen.

This year, we had intended to utilize Fratelli's Restaurant but their policy changes made it prohibitive. We considered several options, and the best choice was using the parish dining room that is located only steps away from the St. Francis Chapel where the Profession will be.

However, this requires planning and your participation.

At our December 11 Day of Recollection **I will be sending around a sign up sheet for attendance** for the profession and also the Late lunch/early dinner opportunity to celebrate together in the dining room.

We will need much help in coordinating this. Corinne has already offered to help with her wonderful hostess skills.

Are you willing to help with set up, contributions, or clean up? The fraternity will provide sandwiches from the Rendezvous Bakery and a celebration cake. We are asking members who come to add to the menu by bringing side dishes (salads/ fruits/veggies/other sweet or savory choices).

I will also have a sign up sheet for helping. Time is closing in. We only have December and January to pull this all together, but we are confident of your participation as we join together as family to celebrate our new sisters. The council thanks you in advance for your support at this most joyous time.

Keep praying for our Candidates and future vocations to our fraternity.

*Jan DeSpain, OFS
Formation Director*



Franciscan Rite of Extraction at Epiphany Saints in November



Saint for 2022

Feast Days

Blessed Frances Schervier

Dec 18



Corinne Helena, OFS
Treasurer

Pam Pert, OFS
Councilor

Events at Mission San Luis Rey:

Advent Retreat: A Season for Peace, Light and Wonder

Saturday, December 3 at Mission San Luis Rey Retreat Center

9:30am-3:30pm, includes lunch

- A day of guided prayer, art and reflection incorporating Advent themes, Scripture, Laudato Si' and the beauty of God's Creation.
- Registration required. Seculars should call the Retreat Center at **760-757-3659** for the discounted rate: Cost is \$22.50.
- More information at

https://mslr.retreatportal.com/events/f?p=101:2::NO:RP,13:PROGRAM_ID:1734

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.



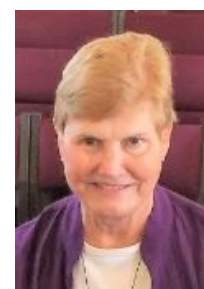
Praying Hands by
Albrecht Dürer

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. **Marianne Grisez** requests prayers for post surgical healing. The Fraternity Council recommends that text messages and/or phone calls in the afternoon hours be made to Marianne to offer prayers and loving support for her healing. Her cell phone number is (916) 995-0807.



Dear Lord Jesus, through your precious Blood, through your stripes and through your bruises, through the Healing Power of the Eucharist and through the Loving Power of the Eucharist and through the Forgiving Power of the Eucharist, we ask

for a speedy and complete cure of all Marianne's infirmities. Jesus, we know that when we ask we receive. We claim the healing and now thank and praise you for this healing. We praise you for this healing and thank you Lord Jesus. We adore and worship You dear Lord, King of eternal glory.

- 3. **Carol Imhoff, OFS** requests the fraternity to pray for her brother (Donald 77) and sister-in-law, (Jackaline(sp)) who both have Covid.

St Corona Prayer:

Faithful St Corona, who willingly received the crown of martyrdom for the Catholic Faith, I ask for thy intercession against the coronavirus pandemic. Pray for me and my family, for my loved ones, and for every person who has the virus or is in danger of getting it and being harmed by it. Through thy intercession, obtain the protection of our physical health from our Lord's goodness, if it be God's will, and if not, obtain for us the help to remain in sanctifying grace and so to be ready always to meet our Lord face to face. St Corona, patron against plagues, pray for us.

(Source is the Catholic Novena app)

- 4. **Pam Pert, OFS** requests prayers for husband Tim who went to the ER November 30 apparently with a liver condition.

Psalm 38: 22-23

Do not forsake me, O Lord;my God, be not far from me. Come quickly to help me, my Lord and my salvation

Psam 57: 2-4

Have mercy on me, God, have mercy on me. In you I seek refuge. In the shadow of your wings I seek refuge till harm pass by. I call to God Most High, to God who provides for me. May God send help from heaven to save me, shame those who trample upon me. May God send fidelity and mercy. *Psalm reflections courtesy of the New American RE Bible*



Prayers Answered

Marianne Grisez expresses her gratitude for a successful knee replacement surgery November 9.

* * *

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 December ~~~✝:

- December 4, 2002 **Mary P. Ryan Molnar, OFS**
- December 12, 2021 **Mary Haynes, OFS**
- December 29, 1998 **Mae Coash, OFS**

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

- December 10, 2006 **Penny Johnson, OFS**
- December 15, 1991 **Jan DeSpain, OFS**
- December 15, 1991 **Rock DeSpain, OFS**

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

❖ For Fr. Tom Herbst, OFM who passed away unexpectedly on November 8 this year.

❖ For Pam Pert's husband Tim for speedy recovery after surgery.

❖ For Connie Collins' cousin Roy who fell off the latter and broke his back.

❖ For Marianne Grisez for post surgical healing and gratitude for successful knee replacement 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, SFO, Editor

