

Epiphany



Baptism of Christ



Attributions: Adoration of the Magi, [Gentile da Fabriano](#), 1423,
Baptism of Christ (1643) by Jusepe de Ribera

The Cord

January, 2023

Newsletter of the San Luis Rey
Secular Franciscan Fraternity

Monthly Gatherings: 2nd Sundays

January Gathering:

January 8: Epiphany

**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](#))**

Vespers: 4th Mondays

January 23: 7pm-8pm on Zoom (link [here](#))

Profession:

February 4:

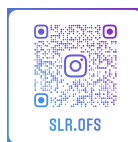
1:30pm San Luis Rey Parish Chapel

**Next Month General Gathering:
Sunday, February 12, 2023**

Login for All Zooms:

www.zoom.us Click on: **Join a Meeting**

Meeting ID: 760 726 2486 Password: 1798



Contact us via our website [Contact Page](#)
Mission San Luis Rey
4050 Mission Avenue
Oceanside, CA 92057

Minister's Note for January

We begin the new year with a sense of joy and anticipation!

In January, we gather on the Feast of the Epiphany. A reminder that in the darkest of nights, we look in the distance and see the star. And that star is **luminous**. We celebrate the Incarnation, the birth of Christ, when the winter nights are the longest. In Christmas we celebrate the coming of the Light. The days start growing longer; Light returns to the world.



The Magi followed the Star, that luminous light, that led them to the Christ Child. These wise people represent us all. The Magi demonstrate the beautiful catholicity or universality of the Church. Christ is the light; we are called to be the channel of his Light in the world. Let the good we do in the world, let the hope share with others in dark times, let our faith in our living God... **be luminous**.

I would like to highlight the good in the world by our own Fraternity Council. This Council has had such a beautiful optimism during their first year of service. Each Council member has contributed so much of their heart and soul into these new roles they have taken on, being a conduit of God's grace and light: Please pray for our Council, and if you have a moment, thank them for their service to our Fraternity. Our Council is comprised of Sam DeSantis, Jan DeSpain, Connie Collins, Corinne Helena, Pam Pert, and Marta Kassai, myself, and of course, Sr. Madeline Fitzgerald, OSC. You can also see your Council on our [website](#).

A wonderful celebration is also on our immediate horizon. As a Fraternity, we will be celebrating the Profession of our four Candidates: Gina Martinot, Carolyn Brock, Linda Gossett, and Pam McArthur. Their **Profession will be on Saturday, February 4th at 1:30pm in the Mission San Luis Rey Parish Chapel**. Please mark your calendar for this wonderful celebration of Light in the World!



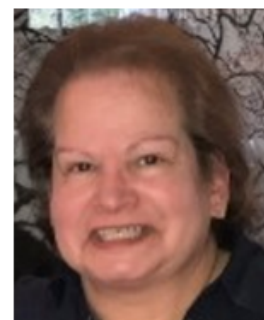
Gina Martinot,
Candidate



Carolyn Brock,
Candidate



Linda Gossett,
Candidate



Pam McArthur,
Candidate

Peace and All Good,

Laura Chun, OFS, Minister,
San Luis Rey Fraternity



Epiphany/Incarnation

God's entrance into this world as human imprinted Himself in all creation. St. Bonaventure wrote, "All creatures, from rocks to angels, are signs in the sense of shadows and traces of God."



[Adoration of the Magi](#) by El Greco, 1568,
[Museo Soumaya, Mexico City](#)

This idea is implanted in our 1978 Rule. When meeting to create a new Rule for the Third Order, the Interobediential Council (composed of friars) were frustrated with the rejection of the Rule, that they came up with, by the national fraternities. As an answer, they had the idea of inviting Third Order Franciscans to contribute to the creation a Rule for their members. That decision made all the difference. So, in 1969 at the Assisi Congress, Friars and Third Order Franciscans contributed together. Rule Commission II came up with 17 essential elements that had to be incorporated in the New Rule. Number 3 was: 'To live as a brother or sister of all people and of all creation.'¹ This led to Article XVIII of our 1978 Rule, "Moreover they should respect all creatures, both animate and inanimate, which 'bear the imprint of the Most High,'..."

"God entered creation and became a part of it as a human man in order to save the rest of humanity. For many, this is all they understand about the incarnation. While it is true, it is not the whole of the truth. In reality, the incarnation is about the establishment of God's deifying grace to the whole of creation, to elevate creation so that the whole of creation, and not just humanity, can participate in and experience the kingdom of God..."²

"At the center of St. Francis' spirituality was the Incarnation, God becoming one of us," Brother Tim Sucher, OFM, explains. "As a result of this, all of creation experienced the love and mercy of God. All of creation was elevated to a new reality, in that, through Jesus, the entire created world reflects the love, mercy, and majesty of God. This is at the heart of Franciscanism."³

Thomas Merton reminds us, "We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent, and God is shining through it all the time... God shows Himself everywhere, in everything – in people and in things, and in nature and in events."

William Wicks, OFS
Former National Minister of the
Secular Franciscan Order in the USA



¹ Wicks, William, OFS, *A History of the Secular Franciscan Order*, Vol IIA, 109

² Karlson, Henry, *The Incarnation is for the Whole of Creation*, Para. 1

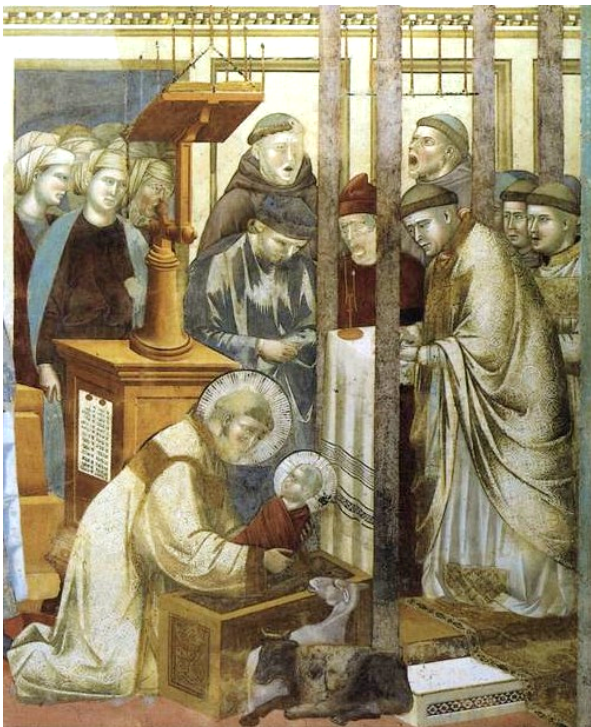
³ Sucher, Br. Tim, OFM, *St. Anthony Messenger*, Dec. 2022/Jan. 2023

Minister's Note for Epiphany - St. Francis, the Incarnation, and Greccio

Francis and his brothers were dedicated to prayer and contemplation and stayed frequently at hermitages where the brothers would care and support each other in their physical and spiritual needs. In 1223, Francis had spent weeks in prayer at the hermitage in Greccio spiritually preparing for Christmas. In the 1200's most of the local lay people had joined his order of penitents (they were likely some of the first Secular Franciscans!) and were engaged in the local fields as farmers and shepherds.

As Christmas of 1223 approached, and after Francis had spent such time in prayer preparing for this very special feast of the Incarnation, he arranged for a living nativity scene in order to give emphasis on to the birth of Christ. Thomas of Celano, an early biographer of Francis, says that it is here, in the birth of Jesus, that the intimate link between creation and Incarnation become 'visible.' Francis saw the most profound revelation of God's love for humanity in the Incarnation. Through the Christmas scene he created at Greccio with the participation of the local people, Francis wanted to show everyone how God entered into our everyday world of creation through the Incarnation. The Incarnation made all of creation holy.

In a time of filled with oppression, violence, war, and darkness, Francis showed the Light to all those assembled. Francis had used the enactment of the beautiful Christmas scene at Greccio to share the experience and understanding of the Light that Christ brought to the world. At midnight Mass, Francis put on the vestments of the Deacon, for he was one, and preached on the humility of God's entrance into time, and on the poverty of Jesus.



Thomas of Celano tells of Francis speaking 'charming words' overflowing love. Unlike most medieval preaching which tended to be harsh, Francis spoke so tenderly that is 'mouth was filled more with sweet affection than with words.' Francis stood by the manger, overcome with love, and filled with a wonderful happiness. Thomas describes a 'wonderful vision' seen by a virtuous man present that night: *he saw Francis rousing the Child, as if from a deep sleep.* To Thomas, this image was entirely fitting as it illustrated how Francis awoke the love of the Holy Child in the hearts of the people in a way that would make an indelible mark on their hearts and memories.

At this celebration of Epiphany, may we also crib as did the Magi. May our hearts be awakened to the love of our sweet Lord and be indelibly marked with that love. May we, as Secular Franciscans, be emboldened to take that wonderful Love out into the world.

Pace e bene +

Laura Chun, OFS
Minister, San Luis Rey Fraternity



The Wisdom of Epiphany

Imagine wise people bearing precious gifts, traveling to an unknown destination, to make their offerings to the newborn King. They have come from very far for this very important mission, guided only by a star. The magi are tired and dusty, but they travel on, eager to lay their gifts at the feet of the Christ Child. When they arrive (to a stable! Could this be right??), they are received graciously by a young mother and her husband and allowed to present their gifts to the Baby. What must that have been like for them? Every step of the long journey was inspired by the knowledge that they would soon behold His radiant Presence. What must that have been like – to be in His actual Presence?

I suspect St. Francis had similar experiences throughout his life – most notably when he encountered the person with leprosy (Winz, 2022).



[Giotto di Bondone](#), 1320–1325, Adoration of the Magi

Today our own opportunities to present our gifts to the Lord and be in His Presence may be less obvious to us, simply because they are so commonplace. Where are the stables? They may actually be the freeway offramps, encampments, or shelters. Who are the lepers? They may be people suffering from substance use disorders, mental illness, or both, or those whom we just don't like because we don't agree with something about them. Francis himself was filled with "horror and disgust" when he encountered people with leprosy, but he managed to kiss the person anyway, and give them money. At that point, he recognized the Presence of Christ.

In our contemporary world, we hear people protest that some of "these people are scamming." That may be so. And doubtless there are people taking advantage of the generosity of others. I suspect that there have

ALWAYS been people who take advantage that way. It's tempting for us to turn away from them all because, well, one never knows who is scamming and who is in genuine need. Keeping safety in mind (perhaps limiting interaction to shelter staff members for that reason), we might ask ourselves, "What if it doesn't matter that some recipients are scamming? What if it's not our business to determine someone else's level of need?" What if, regardless of the other person's original motive, each one of these encounters is an invitation to present our own gifts to Jesus Himself?

Winz, J. (2022). Francis meets the leper. <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/franciscan-spirit-blog/st-francis-meets-the-leper/>

Connie Collins, OFS
Secretary



The Illumination of Profession

As of this publication of the Cord, we wait in wonder for the gift of four new sisters who bring their own special radiance to our fraternity. They certainly are deserving as they have navigated a challenging journey from the beginning of their formation three years ago because of the lengthy Covid problem.



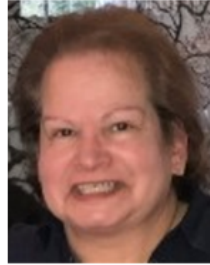
Gina Martinot,
Candidate



Carolyn Brock,
Candidate



Linda Gossett,
Candidate



Pam McArthur,
Candidate

Profession:

On **February 4, 2023** at **1:30 pm** in the San Luis Rey Parish Chapel we will now joyfully celebrate with them their continuing vocation as perpetually professed Franciscans in our Order.

At that profession they will receive three symbols of their promises; a copy of the Holy Gospels, a San Damiano Crucifix, and a candle. All these symbols are powerful reminders of who we are called to be, but the words with which they are given should also burn in all our hearts as professed Franciscans. As they receive their candle enflamed from the Pascal Candle they will hear these words from our Ritual.

“By your profession you are the light of Christ in the world. Your light must shine before all so that they may see goodness in your acts and give praise to your Heavenly Father.”

Sisters and brothers, as professed members, we too like the burning candles are meant to be consumed every day in countless ways as we live out daily conversion. Our commitment calls us to be ready and willing witnesses and a gift to all people of good will so as to reach the goal of perfect Christian love.

We are empowered to do this because the priest during the prayer of epiclesis at Profession calls down the Holy Spirit right before the candidates individually consecrate themselves to the service of His kingdom. In doing so, they will be strengthened in their journey, just as all the professed as we willingly, but imperfectly seek to do what is ours to do until the day Sister Death gently blows out the flame.

Reception:

Right after the profession Mass, we will walk over to the dining room which is right next door. Many thanks to Corinne for coordinating this effort. All are welcome to celebrate with our new sisters with food and fraternity.

We are in a season of Light. The Light that came into our world in the Incarnation. The light of the star on Epiphany. Let us all go forward diligently seeking to spread peace and be the light the light for others in your Franciscan walk. Father Francis and St. Clare, bright light, pray for us.



Jan DeSpain, Formation Director, OFS

News from the Fraternity Council

Please note: *The January General Monthly Gathering will be on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023. Zoom access starting at 1 pm will be provided for those who cannot attend in person.*

The San Luis Rey Fraternity Council



Laura Chun, OFS
Minister



Sam DeSantis, OFS
Vice-Minister & Formator



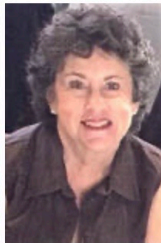
Jan DeSpain, OFS
Formation Director



Sr. Madeline Fitzgerald, OSC
Spiritual Assistant



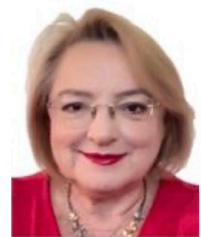
Connie Collins, OFS
Secretary



Corinne Helena, OFS
Treasurer



Pam Pert, OFS
Councilor



Marta Kassai, OFS
Councilor & Newsletter Editor

Mark your Calendars for Monday, *January 23rd* for Vespers!



Join us on Zoom on **January 23rd 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 92057



Prayers Requested from the Fraternity:

1. **Gina Martinot Quinn, Candidate** has requested prayers for healing. She had surgery on her knee, which went as well as could be expected. She is requesting prayers now for continued healing as recovery has been slow, and she has to return to work to finish the semester with her students. She has pain and swelling which is a challenge.



Prayer from The Franciscan Friars for Health and Healing:
 Compassionate Saint Anthony,
 you are called the "Miracle Worker"
 by those who have been blessed by your special friendship.
 I ask you to look with favor on Gina,
 who is weak and failing.

Great Saint Anthony,
 come to the assistance of Gina.
 Obtain for her health in mind and body,
 and the strength to accept all suffering
 in union with Christ, our Savior.

Loving Saint Anthony,
 console all those who are afflicted, and guide them
 to the heart of the Divine Physician,
 where they will obtain compassion, mercy, and hope.
 Amen.

2. **Karen Wilson, OFS** requested healing for her husband Chris Weber who was taken to ER with a very dangerous form of the flu.
3. **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.

Prayer for Homeless "Men, Women, and Children"

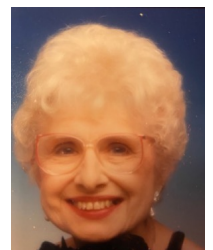


Praying Hands by
 Albrecht Dürer

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.



4. **Dorothea Hoskins, OFS** celebrates her 99th birthday, our oldest fraternity sister. We are asked by Outreach to keep her in our prayers. May God continue to bless her in the year to come!



5. **Pam Pert, OFS** requests prayers for husband Tim who was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

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

Psalm 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

Carol Imhoff, OFS thanks the fraternity for their prayers. Her cataract surgery was successful on both eyes and now she does not have to wear glasses.

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*



Fraternity photo taken December 9, 2023 at the Advent Day of Recollection with Fr. Michael Blastics, OFM. Photo by Connie Collins, OFS.



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

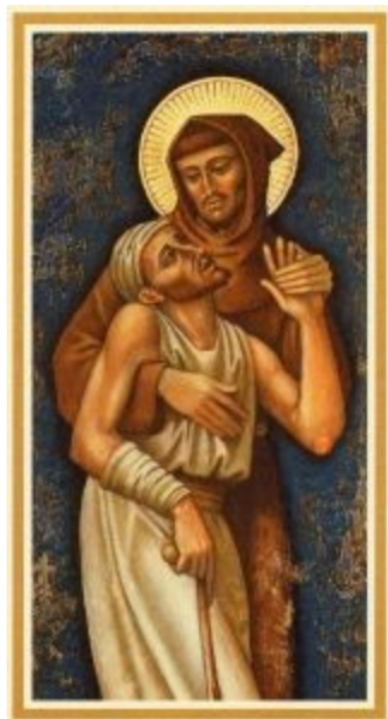
To join by landline or audio-only Phone (no video):

- 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 January ~~~✝

- January 20, 2017
- January 26, 2004
- January 29, 2016
- January 31, 1972

Tim Corrigan, OFS
Armando Quarantiello, OFS
Michael Pollack, OFS
Raymond Langen, OFS

❖ For those who were professed in the month of January

- January 24, 2010
- January 24, 2010

Richard (Dick), OFS
Diane Holdron, OFS

They moved to Sequim, Washington State, and transferred to a fraternity there.

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

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

❖ For Chris Weber, husband of Karen Willson, OFS who was admitted at ER with a very dangerous form of the flu.

❖ For Gina Martinot Quinn, Candidate for a good recovery from 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

Happy New Year to All!



Marta
Dr. Marta M. Kassai, OFS, Editor