

St. Colette

February 7



Attribution: [Saint Clare of Assisi and Saint Colette \(c. 1520\)](#), by the Master of Lourinhã (National Museum of Ancient Art, Lisbon, Portugal).

The Cord

February, 2024

Newsletter of the San Luis Rey
Secular Franciscan Fraternity

Monthly Gatherings: 2nd Sundays

February Gathering:

February 11, Sunday:

12 noon Social Time in our Gathering Rm

12:40 pm Prayer in St. Clare Chapel

1 to 3 pm General Monthly Gathering

Next Month General Gathering:

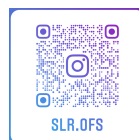
2nd Sunday

March 10, 2023 **ELECTION**

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 February



Laura Chun, OFS
Regional Secretary
St. Francis Region

As you know, Laura Chun, our Fraternity Minister, was recently elected to, and accepted, the position of Regional Secretary of the St Francis Region. Laura's contribution to the San Luis Rey Fraternity for the past six years has been amazing for all of us. The energy, love, compassion, and guidance she has shown of how she involved us in service by bringing others into strengthening the council and the fraternity will long be remembered. With the use of technology, she increased the channels of communication between the fraternity and region while guiding us through the Covid pandemic using Zoom meetings to insure everyone had an opportunity to participate in the monthly gatherings. And she did this while maintaining a positive attitude about it all even with life's daily challenges. Her leadership has had a profound effect not only on our fraternity, but on me personally as well.

Now, a word about council elections. Elections to the council are held every three years whether they are at the regional level or the local fraternity level. The newly elected members take possession of their positions on an immediate basis following the elections. This means that in Laura's absence, I now assume the responsibilities as Minister of the San Luis Rey Fraternity until the next election that happens to take place at our March gathering. As Laura mentioned in her recent email to the fraternity and for those members who are eligible to vote, we encourage you to mail your nomination forms to Heidi Madden as soon as possible or turn them in to Heidi at our gathering no later than February 11th. Heidi has a lot of work to do to create the slate and insure we have nominations for each position.



Jesus Tempted in the
Wilderness by
[James Tissot](#), Brooklyn
Museum

On another note, on February 14th we celebrate St. Valentine's Day and this month has become known as the month that "love is in the air." However, this year, Ash Wednesday begins on Valentine's Day and is when Christians begin a six-week journey with Jesus in the desert through penance and sacrifice. In this month's Magnificat Magazine, Fr Sebastian White has mentioned "we recognize that our relationship with Jesus is based on love. And, like any truly loving relationship, it demands purity of heart and a willingness to sacrifice ourselves for the sake of the other. As we enter Lent this year, may the Lord bless you and reveal to you the depth of his love. And may we grow to love Him more each day."



Sacred Heart of Jesus, by
[Pompeo Batoni](#)

There is no better love shown of how much Jesus loves us than when we look at the Corpus of His sacrifice on the cross.

Pax et Bonum

Sam DeSantis OFS
Minister, San Luis Rey Fraternity



St Margaret of Cortona *(Courtesy of Franciscan Media and [Wikipedia](#))*



St Margaret was born of farming parents in the town of Laviano in Tuscany, Italy. At the age of seven, Margaret's mother died and her father remarried. Neither Margaret nor her stepmother liked each other. At the age of 17 she eloped with a young nobleman, who kept her as his mistress. For ten years, she lived with him near Montepulciano and bore him a son even though he would not marry her.

When he failed to return home from a journey one day, Margaret became concerned. The unaccompanied return of his favorite hound alarmed Margaret, and the hound led her into the forest to his murdered body. That crime shocked Margaret and she took this as a sign of God's judgement on her life. This led her into a life of prayer and penance. She returned to his family all the gifts he had given her and left his home. With her child, she returned to her father's house, but her stepmother would not have her and her father would not take her in.

Now homeless as well as destitute, with her son, she made her way to Cortona where she had heard of the compassion of the Franciscan friars where her son eventually became a friar. She introduced herself walking through town with a rope around her neck, a sign of penance. The friars quickly urged her to quit this spectacle and she was accepted as a Franciscan tertiary. She fasted, avoided meat, and subsisted on bread and vegetables.

In 1277. After three years of probation, Margaret joined the Third Order of Saint Francis and chose to live in poverty. Following the example of Francis of Assisi she begged for sustenance and bread. She pursued a life of prayer and penance at Cortona, and there established a hospital for the sick, homeless and impoverished. To secure nurses for the hospital, she instituted a congregation of Tertiary Sisters, known as "le poverelle" (Italian for "the little poor ones")

While in prayer, Margaret recounted hearing the words, "What is your wish, poverella?" (Little poor one?), and she replied "I neither seek nor wish for anything but You, my Lord Jesus." She also established an order devoted to Our Lady of Mercy and the members bound themselves to support the hospital and to help the needy.

Nevertheless, stories of her former life continued to generate gossip. She observed, "I see more Pharisees among Christians than surrounded Pilate." Over time, as reports spread of her holiness and her purported miracles, as well as her private colloquies with Christ, Margaret attracted more positive attention. The Franciscans urged her to embark on a public crusade to call sinners to conversion.

Penitents from all over Italy, as far away as France and Spain, made their way to Cortona to hear her spiritual discourses. On several occasions, Margaret participated in public affairs. Twice, claiming divine command, she challenged the Bishop of Arezzo, Guglielmo Ubertini Pazzi, in whose Diocese Cortona lay, because he lived and warred like a prince. She moved to the ruined church of Basil of Caesarea, now Santa Margherita, and spent her remaining years there. She died on February 22, 1297 at the age of 49-50. After her death, the church was rebuilt in her honor. Her body, found to be incorrupt even after 400 years, is preserved in a silver casket inside the church. She was canonized by Pope Benedict XIII on 16 May 1728.

Show now that thou art converted; call others to repentance....The graces I have bestowed on thee are not meant for thee alone. A message from God to St. Margaret of Cortona.

Sam DeSantis OFS, Minister, San Luis Rey Fraternity

What is your “love language?”

I have to admit that I had never once wondered about this concept until someone in our parish’s Mental Health Ministry gave a presentation on it. What I learned was that, according to Gary Chapman (1992), there are five basic “love languages” – that is, five categories of behavior that communicate love, caring, and connection: quality time, words of affirmation, acts of service, physical touch, and receiving gifts. The idea is that we each have our own primary love language that resonates with us and indicates to us that we are valued and significant to someone else. The concept is not restricted to romantic love, but applies to many different types of relationships, and refers to both how we express and how we receive love.



Parental love is said to be the best example of unconditional love.



Not surprisingly, miscommunication abounds when the communicator’s love language is different than that of the receiver. It is therefore helpful to know both one’s own language and that of the other person in order to effectively connect with them and communicate love. There are many online quizzes to determine one’s own love language, but one can also simply look at the list and see what resonates.

Some of us were discussing this topic and how it pertains to our Franciscan life. After all, isn’t love in our Franciscan DNA? What emerged from that discussion were questions for reflection.

Wood carved polychrome sculpture of [St Elizabeth with a beggar](#), by [Rudolf Moroder](#), Parish church of Urtijëi,

- What was St. Francis’s love language? How about that of St. Clare? Blessed Giles? St. Elizabeth of Hungary?
- Which Franciscans do we most want to emulate? Might part of our attraction to them be because we share the same love language?
- How do we become multilingual in love languages?

We would “love” to discuss this with everyone at the gathering this month! We also have some special activities planned and hope to see as many of us as can make it.

Reference: *Chapman, Gary (1992). The 5 love languages: the secret to love that lasts (Chicago: Northfield Publishing).*



Two children showing affection

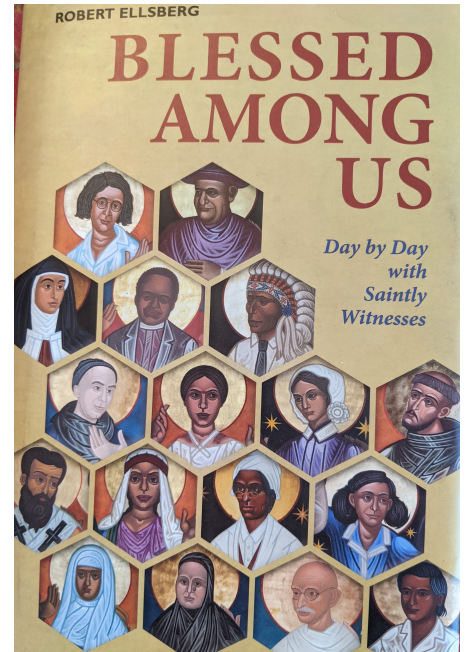
Connie Collins, OFS Secretary



The Franciscan Princess, Blessed Isabel of France

In perusing the Saints for the month of February I came across a 13th Century Franciscan, the daughter of Louis VIII, King of France. Robert Ellsberg's book, *Blessed Among Us* is a gem and I love discovering new Franciscans. Just imagine – in my intellectual delusions, at one point a very long time ago, I thought I knew most of the Saints. How wrong I was!

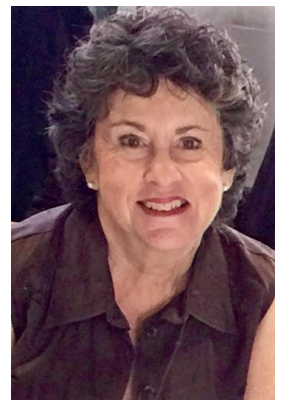
Isabel had a choice between luxury and austerity. Even living in the Court, Isabel chose to fast and live simply. It's reported that this caused her to fall ill. Upon recovery from her illness, Isabel was committed to a different lifestyle than that of a King's daughter. There's more to the story, but basically Isabel refused to accept any proposals of marriage, even when Pope himself urged her to marry!



Per Ellsberg's narrative, Princess Isabel felt increasingly attracted to the Franciscan movement which was sweeping Europe at the time. She would invite poor people to dinner and wait on them personally. After dinner she would leave the palace to visit the sick.

When her brother became King of France, he agreed to support Isabel in establishing a Franciscan convent. The next sentence in the book took me completely by surprise. St Bonaventure helped to write the rule for the new Convent which was called The Monastery of the Humility of the Virgin Mary. Interestingly, Princess Isabel never officially joined the enclosed community. She lived separately, continuing to wear her secular clothes, and led a life of prayer and contemplation. She died in 1270.

Peace and All Good



Blessed Isabel of France, copy after the gothic original. Porch of Saint-Germain l'Auxerrois, Paris

Corinne Helena, OFS
Treasurer, San Luis Rey Fraternity

News from the Regional Council

January 2024 Regional Election results:

Minister:	Caroline Yandell
Vice Minister:	Frank Miller
Formation:	John Kwon
Treasurer:	Amelia Sandoval
Secretary:	Laura Chun
Councilor:	Ed Graff
Councilor:	Janet Serros
Councilor:	Maria Rodriguez
Councilor:	Paul Lee



News from the Fraternity Council

The February General Monthly Gathering will be on Sunday, February 11. Come directly to **our Gathering room at 12 noon**. Bring your lunch or something to share (sweet or savory, preferably finger foods - cookies, crackers, cheese, small bites) to our gathering. We will have the **Chapel prayer** will start at **12:40pm** in St. Clare Chapel, and last about 20 minute. Then we return to our gathering room for the general session.

From our Treasurer



You can mail your OFS fraternity contributions to:

Corinne Helena, OFS
 1048 Turnstone Way
 Oceanside, CA 92057



Consequences of Regional Election

Sam DeSantis, OFS is now acting Minister of our Fraternity. Laura Chun, OFM who assumed the Regional Secretary office in January, had to resign from our Fraternity Minister office as this would present a conflict. However, she continues to support the management of our fraternity Website.

Further Changes on our Council and Fraternity Support

Pam Pert, OFS who resigned from her Councilor position was replaced with Linda Gossett, OFS replaced in January via a vote by the Council. Eileen Costa, OFS and Kelly Farnum, OFS stepped in to help out Jan DeSpain, OFS Formation Director while providing hospice care for her husband.

The San Luis Rey Fraternity Council



Sam DeSantis, OFS
Minister

Jan DeSpain, OFS
Formation Director

Sr. Madeline Fitzgerald, OSC
Spiritual Assistant



Connie Collins, OFS
Secretary

Corinne Helena, OFS
Treasurer

Linda Gossett, OFS
Councilor

Marta Kassai, OFS
Councilor & Newsletter Editor

Fraternity Support



Karron, OFS
JPIC Animator

Carolyn Brock, OFS
Sick & Homebound Outreach

Kelly Farnum, OFS
Formator

Eileen Costa, OFS
Formator

Laura Chun, OFS
Website

Fraternity Council Election: at **March 10 Gathering**

There will be a Fraternity election at our **March 10 Gathering** for a new Council, see Nomination Form below. If you have not yet sent your nominations to Heidi Madden, OFS, please bring it to the February gathering. You must be present to vote. Please arrive on time, late comers cannot cast their ballots. No absentee voting 😞. See nomination form below.

OFS - San Luis Rey Fraternity Nomination Form ~ due Feb. 11, 2024

ELECTIO

Return fr
Before o
via email
or U.S. N
Borrego :

Name:

Date:



Minister	Vice-Minister	Forma
*Secretary		*Treasurer
*Councilor		*Councilor

Active & Professed more than 3 years as of March 2024 (Can be nominated for ANY role list)

Carol Imhoff, OFS - 02/14/1965 Eileen Costa, OFS - 06/25/1978 Prudy Hrisanthopoulos, OFS - 06/14/1990 Karron Esmonde, OFS - 07/21/1991 Jan DeSpain, OFS - 12/15/1991 Marjo Gray, OFS - 03/20/1994 Marta M. Kassai, OFS - 04/24/1994 Denise M Scalzo, OFS - 07/21/1996 Roger Alves, OFS - 05/04/2003 Barbara Upson, OFS - 09/09/2007 Edward Upson, OFS - 09/09/2007 David York, OFS - 03/08/2009	Dorothea Hoskins, OFS - 07/07/20 Dorothy Mann, OFS - 03/08/2015 Laura Chun, OFS - 10/4/2015 Karen Willson, OFS - 7/10/2016 Sam DeSantis, OFS - 10/1/2017 Kelly Farnum, OFS - 10/1/2017 Liz Mavis, OFS - 10/1/2017 Connie Collins, OFS - 5/6/2018 Corinne Helena, OFS - 5/5/2019 Barbara Wonka, OFS - 5/5/2019 Linda Ochwat, OFS - 10/6/2019 Pam Pert, OFS - 10/6/2019
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<p>*Professed 1-3 years as of March 2024 (can be nominated for Secretary, Treasurer, or Councilor only).</p> Dassen, Dorothy, OFS - 09/12/2021 Heidi Madden, OFS - 10/02/2021 Carolyn Brock, OFS - 02/04/2023 Linda Gossett, OFS - 02/04/2023 Gina Martinot Quinn, OFS - 02/04/2023 Pamela McArthur, OFS - 02/04/2023	<p>While our beloved retired men nor be nominated for office, w</p> Winnie M. Baumer, OFS - 04/10/21 Penny Johnson, OFS - 12/10/2006 Rock DeSpain, OFS - 12/15/1991 Josephine Matranga OFS - 6/11/1 Jack Shuk, OFS - 05/04/2003
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Franciscan School of Theology
at the UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

February 15, 2024:

Weaving the Franciscan Threads: Engaging the Imagination, Constructing Laudato Si' Bridges

Michael Perry, OFM, Ph.D.

Laudato Si' calls us to recognize the interconnectedness of all living things, deepen our knowledge of the common threats the earth and all its inhabitants face, rediscover the spiritual bonds that unite us, and engage our collective energies to address underlying causes in an effective and sustainable manner. The Center for Integral Ecology, A Laudato Si' initiative located at Siena College, is working with those involved in the physical structures and natural environment at Siena College to promote a culture and ethics of sustainability that might contribute to the healing of the earth. The Center is working to establish effective partnerships with Franciscan universities and studies centers in the U.S. and in other parts of the world towards these same goals. The lecture will discuss ways our center seeks to engage the Franciscan spiritual, moral, and social imagination in a creative and effective manner, identify obstacles, and propose a way forward for transformative collaboration.

PRESENTING A SERIES WITHIN OUR FRANCISCAN ZOOM LECTURE SERIES

Laudato si' @10 YEARS

Four lectures commemorating the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' Laudato Si', an encyclical crafted to provide guidance on Earth's care.

CHRISTINA BAGAGLIO SLENTZ, PH.D. October 12, 2023	KEITH WARNER, OFM, PH.D. January 18, 2024	MICHAEL PERRY, OFM, PH.D. February 15, 2024	JOAN BROWN, OSF April 18, 2024

REGISTRATION: [FST.EDU/LAUDATO-SI-SERIES](https://www.fst.edu/laudato-si-series) ZOOM 7 PM PST

Funded in part by the Sisters of St. Francis – Sacred Heart Charitable Fund.

To register: <https://www.fst.edu/laudato-si-series/>



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 February ~~~✝

- February 2, 1996 Gertrude Weaver, OFS
- February 9, 2007 Charles Dotson, OFS
- February 11, 2002 Joseph Cannon, OFS
- February 21, 1996 Florence Collins, OFS

❖ For those who professed in the month of February:

- February 4, 2023 Carolyn Brock, OFS
- February 4, 2023 Linda Gossett, OFS
- February 4, 2023 Pam McArthur, OFS
- February 4, 2023 Gina Martinot Quinn, OFS
- February 14, 1965 Carol Imhoff, OFS

❖ For Rock DeSpain, OFS who has been placed on hospice care, and for Jan DeSpain, OFS to have the strength caring for him.

❖ Denes Kassai, brother of Marta Kassai, OFS, who was admitted to the ER with a badly infected leg and receiving IV antibody.

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



Marta

Dr. Marta M. Kassai, OFS, Editor