

Easter
March 31



Attribution:

[The Resurrection of Christ](#)

by Peter Paul Rubens Date = 1611

The Cord

March, 2024

*Newsletter of the San Luis Rey
Secular Franciscan Fraternity*

Monthly Gatherings: 2nd Sundays

February Gathering:

March 10, Sunday:

12 noon Social Time in our Gathering Rm

12:40 pm Prayer in St. Clare Chapel

1 to 3 pm **ELECTION - In person ONLY**

* * *

Next Month General Gathering:

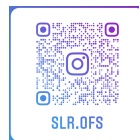
2nd Sunday

April 14, 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 March

First, I'd like to offer a reflection on our recent February gathering. Sunday Feb 11th happened to be the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes and was also designated as the World Day of the Sick. With this in mind, it led to the Litany of Compassion for the Sick being prayed during our Chapel Prayer time and then we proceeded to our meeting room. With Ash Wednesday being early this year on Feb 14th, it just happened to be St Valentine's Day. It's interesting to note that the spelling of lent is in the middle of VaLENTine. This meant that "Love is in the Air" and we began with the Five Love Languages being presented by Connie and Corrine. This included an activity of affirmation that gave each person in attendance an opportunity to express their comments for each other by writing notes on everyone's paper placed on the tables. The highlight of the day was a celebration expressing much gratitude to Sr Madeline for over 30 years of her Spiritual Assistance and now her ultimate retirement from the Fraternity. We honored Laura as the outgoing Minister of the Fraternity for her guidance, loyalty, and direction the past three years and provided gifts to both Sr Madeline and Laura. We recognized and honored Carol Imhoff as she is in her 60th amazing year of profession as a Secular Franciscan. And much to our delight, Fr Ignatius was in attendance as well.

The month of March this year is especially a busy month. Our next gathering is on March 10th with the start of Daylight Savings Time and it also begins the Fourth week of Lent. Before we know it, Palm Sunday is on March 24th and Holy Week begins. The Triduum starts on Holy Thursday, March 28th, with the suffering and Passion of Christ on Good Friday, and the Holy Saturday vigil culminates with the joy and celebration of the light of Christ's Resurrection promising new life on Easter Sunday March 31st.

Now back to March 10th when our gathering begins with Chapel Prayer at 12:40 pm and then we will proceed to the meeting room. This is our Fraternity Election Day that occurs once every three years when elections are held for a new Fraternity Council. The election will be hosted by Regional personnel. There will not be any Zoom broadcast for this meeting. Positions for Minister, Vice-Minister and Formation Director are to be professed at least three years with all other positions a minimum of one year professed. As Laura mentioned in her Jan 6th email message to the Fraternity, elections are part of the lifeblood of our Fraternal life. All Council offices are open to nominations. We need a majority of Active members, at least 16, physically present in our room. Our willingness to be open to responding to God's call through the nominating process by responding **YES** if we are nominated to serve in a leadership role. Let's keep in prayer all those who will be nominated.

Pax et Bonum,

*Sam DeSantis OFS
Minister, San Luis Rey Fraternity*



When the Swallows Come Back to Capistrano



Swallows nesting under the arch of the Great Stone Church ruins

Famously for many years, we have heard of the swallows returning yearly to Mission San Juan Capistrano on St Joseph's Day. Interestingly, the swallows leave the Mission October 23rd on the Memorial of the Franciscan Saint John of Capistrano. Somewhere along the line God must have His hand in all of this. And once again on March 19th, the Church will celebrate the annual Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This year, it also happens to be the first day of spring which is bringing new life. Having lived in Mission Viejo with my family in the late 70's and 80's while operating my car business in San Clemente, quite often I frequented Mission San Juan Capistrano. During this time, I became curious as to know if the swallows really did return to

the Mission on St Joseph's Day as proclaimed. And yes, I have spotted some swallows there overhead. Some of you may recall as I have, the song written in 1939 "When the Swallows come back to Capistrano" and later recorded by Pat Boone in the late '50s

The swallows celebrated by the Mission are cliff swallows. Before there were human structures, these swallows-built mud nests on the faces of cliffs. When the Great Stone Church fell in an earthquake in 1812, the swallows took up residence in the ruins. This was a perfect place for a colony-protected by the elements, lots of insects to eat over the creeks and grasslands, and nearby sources of mud for nest building. Over the years, the colony expanded to hundreds of nests throughout the Mission grounds. The tradition of celebrating the return of the swallows was started by Fr John O'Sullivan in the 1920s. On what has become known as the Mission's Swallows Day, the bells of the Mission ring, live Mariachi music and native storytelling, and a parade are part of the celebrations as the Franciscan Friars welcome them back. The nests that had been empty since the previous fall, were full again, spring had arrived, along with the promise of new life and new beginnings.

But what has happened to the swallows? In 1991, the Mission had to remove all of the swallow's nests to accommodate earthquake retrofitting-procedures necessary to stabilize the crumbling structure. When the swallows returned, many of them did not find their nests and sought elsewhere ending up at Saddleback Community College in Mission Viejo just up the creek from the Mission, as the swallow flies. Hundreds of nests developed at the college and the college determined to rid themselves of the approximate 450 nests by covering them. Swallows are protected by the Migratory Bird Act, and many students and faculty members filed complaints with the regulatory agencies. The college was fined but the damage was done.

Fortunately for the swallows, the retrofit project at the Mission was finished in 2000. After two extended closures due to COVID-19, the Mission reopened March 19, 2021, and have welcomed the slow return of the swallows.

(This information courtesy of Swallow Creek Productions and the Orange County Register)

*Sam DeSantis OFS,
Minister, San Luis Rey Fraternity*



Reflection on This Lenten Season

We began with Ash Wednesday which signals a sign of our faith and a reminder of remorse for our sins. This is a time for reflection and spiritual growth. We can deepen our faith and learn to live a more meaningful and purposeful life. The period of 40 days (46 if Sundays are included) reflects Jesus time in the desert before his ministry. The 3 pillars during Lent are prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Just as Jesus fasted in the desert we are asked to forgo something as a sacrifice. We fast and abstain on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Also abstain on all Fridays. I believe fasting clears our minds from the daily clutter of everyday life and allows a deeper awareness of the glories of God around us and His sacrifice for us on the cross.

Almsgiving stresses the importance of those in need, just as Jesus helped us in need. It is an act of service that is always given in charity.

Prayer guides us closer in relationship to God and self growth. Lent allows us an opportunity for self examination in order to better discover our identity as His children and improve our relationship with Him.

In addition to observing the 3 pillars I have become accustomed to adding a practice to follow beyond Lent each year. For example, I have added veiling, liturgy of the hours (Bishop Barron's monthly books), the Hallow(for praying)and Ascension(Bible in a year video)apps to my phone.

This is a beautiful and enriching time of the year for us. The Church has given us an outline on what we need to focus on with the 3 pillars as our guide. Lent ends on Holy Thursday which is the beginning of the Triduum. Though chronologically 3 days, they are liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery.

Peace and all good,



Linda Gossett, OFS

News from the Fraternity Council

The March General Monthly Gathering will be on Sunday, March 10. It's ELECTION time, start sharp at 1:00 pm. Late comers will not be allowed in the room. There will be no zoom. It's only in person. We must have a quorum to proceed with election. Please plan to attend.

Fraternity Council and Support

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 Kassaj, OFS
Councilor & Newsletter Editor

Fraternity Support



Karon, 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.

February 15, 2024:

From our Treasurer



You can mail your OFS fraternity contributions to:

Corinne Helena, OFS
1048 Turnstone Way
Oceanside, CA 92057



Franciscan School of Theology
at the UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

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.

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

Let us Pray for our brothers and sisters, especially: :



- ❖ For those who professed in the month of March
 - Mar. 8, 2009 **David York**
 - Mar. 8, 2015 **Dorothy Mann**
 - Mar. 9, 1997 **Mary Behnke**
 - Mar. 9, 1997 **Patricia Dominguez**
 - Mar. 20, 1994 **Marjo Gray**

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



- ❖ For Gina Martinot's Sister Christine whose mental health has deteriorated and is now very fragile.
- ❖ For Joseph, Carol Imhoff's husband, who is in the ER for the 2nd time this week,



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

Sunset at Capernaum from Denise

