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San Luis Rey Fraternity of the
Secular Franciscan Order
Mission San Luis Rey,
Oceanside, CA.
www.slr-ofs.org



Upcoming Gathering Date!

Mass in the Serra Center at 10:00 AM
Community Prayer in the St. Clare Chapel after Mass
Potluck Lunch in the O'Keefe Lounge from 11:30AM – 1:30PM
Adoration, St. Clare Chapel Annex, 1:15 – 1:30PM
General Gathering 1:30 - 3:00 PM
Council Meeting follows at appx 3:15-?? PM

Future Meetings:

Feb. 2, 2020, Mar. 2, 2020, April 5, 2020, May 3, 2020, June 7, 2020
These are regular monthly gatherings, All dates subject to change

Epiphany of the Lord Potluck Lunch

Franciscan Saints for December.

3. St. Francis Xavier, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, Martyr, 1623
- [5. Bl. Peter of Siena, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1289](#)
6. Bl. Elisabeth la Bonne, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1420
8. Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the Seraphic Order, Holy Day of Obligation, Plenary Indulgence for tertiaries and cordbearers
9. Bl. Delphine de Glandeves, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1360
12. Discovery of the tomb of St. Francis 1820
14. Bl. Barthole Buonpedini, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1300
15. Mary Queen of the Seraphic Order
21. St. Raphael Kalinowski, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1907
- 25. Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Holy Day of Obligation**
28. Feast of the Holy Innocents
31. St. Gaspard Buffalo, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1836; Plenary Indulgence (Chant the Te Deum in public)

Minister's Note:

I hope you have been blessed with an abundance of spiritual gifts during this graced season!

As we pause and reflect in this season of joy, let's think a bit about the word *'epiphany.'* 'Epiphany' is an "Aha!" moment; the moment when a person is struck with a life-changing realization that can often begin with a small, ordinary experience.¹



Francis had such an epiphany. After suffering defeat in battle, his imprisonment in Perugia, and his failure as a knight, Francis was deeply struggling. Eventually he set out *again* to become a glorious knight, this time in the Papal Army – but had a dream in which he heard a voice, 'Francis, which is better, to serve the master or the servant?' He replied, 'Why, Sir, the master of course.' Francis then heard the voice instruct him to return to Assisi where it would be shown to him what he was to do. On the way, Francis encountered a leper. Rather than steering clear out of revulsion and concern for his own safety, Francis dismounted his horse, overcame his terror, and approached the leper. Francis gave the leper both money... *and a kiss.* Something incredible happened inside Francis at that moment. He had a joyous 'Aha!' moment, an epiphany – *he saw that the face of the leper was the face of Christ.*²

As we each reflect on the Epiphany, where wise travelers from distant places became witnesses to the Incarnation of God in the child Jesus – this infant who was a divine King. Let us also look for the small 'epiphanies' in our own lives. Like Francis, let us reach out to the marginalized with not only concrete assistance, but also with love.

My husband and I were young newlyweds when on our honeymoon we first saw the musical production of Victor Hugo's 'Les Misérables.' It could have been that graced honeymoon time when it is so very easy to float on love... we looked at each other with tears as it was sung, ***'to love another person is to see the face of God.'*** In that moment, we received a gift – an 'Aha!' moment for our young marriage (well, that song and another by Elvis, the *'King of Rock and Roll,'* but that's *another* story).

May we all reach out to others with love, have the courage to put fear aside, and to 'work Mercy.' I pray that we're open to epiphanies in our own lives – and like Francis did as he encountered the leper with love – *to see the face of God.*

Pace e Bene –

Laura, OFS

Minister, SLR Fraternity

¹ "Literary Terms." *Literary Terms*. 1 June 2015. Web. 3 Nov. 2016. <<https://literaryterms.net/>>.

² "Jesus Christ Is the Fullness of the Incarnation of God." *Surrounded by Love: Seven Teachings from Saint Francis*, by Murray Bodo, Franciscan Media, 2018.

*O Jesus, since I cannot now receive
Thee under the sacramental veil,
I beseech ' Thee with a heart
Full of love and longing to come
spiritually into my soul through
the Immaculate Heart of Thy
Most Holy Mother and abide
with me forever - Thee in me, and
I in Thee, in time and in eternity,
in Mary. Amen. (EWTN)*

Reminders...



We'll be having a **potluck lunch** at our January

Gathering, so please bring your favorite dish to share with your Franciscan brothers and sisters.

Please remember to bring your own place-setting: knife, fork, plate, bowl, mug or glass and a napkin or two, along with a plastic bag to carry your dishes... in, as we are trying to make this a 'trash free' event.

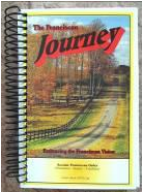
Our Council asks that you bring a can of food for the poor that will be donated to OMSLR's food bank.

Yes we are having a 'Regular Gathering' after lunch, so please stay for it.

And below we can see that our local Southern California beach town mountains sharing in the winter/Christmas spirit with a display of the cold white stuff that we don't see that often, it is called SNOW.



Reminders Page



Classes are held the Saturday before the meeting,
Please call Jan for more information
for more information
God Bless,
Jan DeSpain OFS
Director of Formation

Anniversaries of Profession



December 10, 2006 Penny Johnson

Memorials



December 4, 2002 Mary P. Ryan Molnar
December 29, 1998 Mae Coash

Birthdays



December 28 Peter Normondin(sp)
December 31 Michelle Castellanos

Let us Pray for our brothers and sisters, especially:



- For the safety of Laura our Minister in her journeys during this busy time of year.
- For Pope Francis, Bishop Robert McElroy, and all Diocesan Bishops for all of our pastors, priests, deacons and consecrated religious, including those in lay orders and institutes.
- For the victims of war and terrorism throughout the world.
- For all of our brothers and sisters served by our fraternity's outreach program.
- All of our Fraternity members, especially; our council, our brothers and sisters who are in formation, our elderly and or homebound who aren't able come to our fraternity gatherings.
- Members of all three Orders of the Franciscan Family who need our prayers.



Holy Gospel for Epiphany (A)

Gospel *MT 2:1-12*

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.*" Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Our meditation this Month, is to look at this image, and think of the hardship the Holy Family had when they had to flee to another land for the safety of their child, the Infant Jesus.

Have we ever had to flee our homes for safety? From a natural disaster, such as a wildfire, flood etc.?

Are we here in the USA due to political upheavals, war... etc.?
Photo " ??, without borders"

May the Infant Jesus in his mercy and love, having suffered the difficulty of unplanned immigration, help those who are forced to immigrate to new lands, especially at this special time of the year. We ask this through Christ Jesus Our Lord. Amen

Eucharistic Adoration



The most important time of our Gathering Sunday, is our 15 minute communal Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. We are so blessed to have Him here in the Tabernacle just waiting for us to pay Him a visit.

... adoration, ..., begins when we walk in the door of the church or adoration chapel. When we genuflect before the Blessed Sacrament, kneel (or sit) in the pew, and show Him our respect by giving Him our full attention, we adore Him. When we turn off our cell phone(s) and maintain a reverent silence in the chapel, we adore Him. When we make a simple act of faith in His Real Presence, we adore Him. When we place ourselves before Him as empty vessels to be filled with His love, we adore Him. Pgs., 32-3, *Manuel for Eucharistic Adoration*, St. Joseph Adoration Monastery PCPA © 2016 TAN Books. '()' my additions, editor.

I adore You, Most Holy Lord Jesus Christ, present here and in all the tabernacles of the world; and I bless You; because by your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world. St. Francis of Assisi, page 95, *Mass and Adoration Companion*, © 2017 TAN Books.



**Merry Christmas!!!
Happy Birthday Jesus!!!**

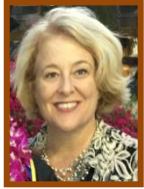
Job Opening as “Joy of St. Francis” Editor

Anybody out there looking for something to do in their “spare time?” Our Region is looking for a newsletter editor, and if you think that you could handle the challenge, contact David York. His contact info. Is in your Membership Roster that was sent out a few months ago. I am sure that you have seen the “Joy of Francis” newsletter, and that is what needs a new Editor, as the current one is stepping down in order to take on new duties with the Region.

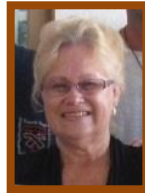


Oh, last but definitely not least, remember your donation envelope for the Common Fund. The box will be waiting for you, or you can mail your contribution to Luis, OFS our Treasurer.

OUR ELECTED FRATERNITY COUNCIL



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OUR VOLUNTEER HELPERS



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Addresses, Telephone #... can be found on your Fraternity Membership Roster



CORD Editor
Carol, OFS

