THE CORD

San Luis Rey Fraternity of the
Secular Franciscan Order
Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside, CA.

www.slr-ofs.org

Image from Facebook

Mass in the Serra Center at 10:00 A
Community Prayer in the St. Clare Chapel after Mass
Lunch in the O'Keefe Lounge from 12:00-12:50 PM
General Meeting in the Luiseño Room from 1:00-3:00 PM

Upcoming Gathering on July 2, 2017

Council Meeting, After our meeting at 3:15 – 4:30 pm

Future Meetings and events:

Regional Picnic Aug 12, 2017, Day of Recollection w/Fr. Higgins, August 27, 2017
September Gathering, Sept. 2, 2017 Oct. Gathering, Oct. 1 2017
November Gathering, Nov. 5, 2017.
Dates subject to change.

Gospel 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**
You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation;
announce the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.
R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**
Jesus said to his apostles:
"Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.
Whoever finds his life will lose it,
and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

"Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.
Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple— amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward."
The Gospel of the Lord. R**. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Minister's Corner

LOVE AND WISDOM

Dear sisters and brothers,

On the 15th of this month, we remember a great lover of God: St. Bonaventure. In a Franciscan parish, you might hear this opening prayer at Mass on his feast day:

All-powerful Father,
may we who celebrate the feast of
St. Bonaventure
always benefit from his wisdom
and follow the example of his love.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus
Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Though he was an extremely busy man, St. Bonaventure took time once to help a Third Order person. She was Isabel of Longchamp, sister of King Louis. Isabel wanted to form a community of Franciscan women, and she asked Bonaventure for something to read. He wrote On the Perfect Life for her.

In that writing, St. Bonaventure introduces Isabel (and us) to the beautiful concept of *devotio*. By *devotio* he meant an attitude of reverence and affection towards God, along with a way of life that expresses this attitude. Through the Holy Spirit, *devotio* is the deep wish to love God and to cling to Him, to understand and absorb God's Word into one's very self. For St. Bonaventure, this is the way to wisdom.

May our desire to love God and neighbor continue to grow! With His help, may we continue to seek the Holy Spirit's true instruction and formation. And as our father Francis exhorts us, may our *devotio* always bear good fruit for others.

The Lord give you peace, love and wisdom.

Donna OFS
Minister, San Luis Rey Fraternity

(Image: St. David's Capuchin Friary, Pantasaph, UK)

We are Gathering as a Fraternity on July 2, 2016

Interdependence

In July, our thoughts gratefully turn to Independence Day, warm summer afternoons, and all those that gave so much for our political independence as a nation. As we gather with friends and family, it's also a good time to think about how *dependent* we also are on all of creation and on each other. For me, Francis saw the *interdependence* of all things and that is reflected in his beautiful work, *'The Canticle of the Creatures.'* In it, Francis praises God for all creation, *praises those who forgive for the love of God*, and also offers praise for Sister Death. It was also the first song ever written in the local Italian dialect rather than Latin, so it could be understood by everyone.

During this time of turmoil and violence, it's import to remember that Francis added that verse about the 'Peacemakers' for a very specific reason. The Mayor and Bishop of Assisi were the powerful leaders of Assisi. They were also furious with each other; they *hated* each other. This hatred would have spilled out into the city and amongst their various supporters. Although Francis was near death, out of immense love for them both, Francis intervened. Francis added a verse to the Canticle that included *'Praised by You, my Lord, though those who give pardon for Your love… Blessed are those who endure in peace…'*

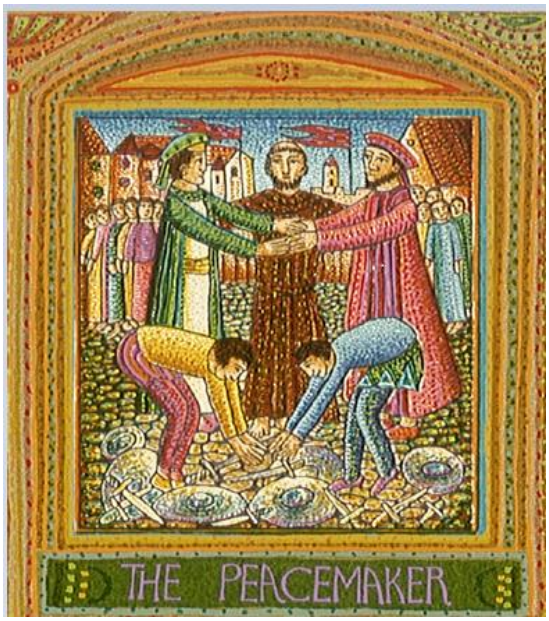
Francis then instructed his brothers to go to both of these powerful leaders and ask them to prayerfully *listen* to the loving prayer-song and to each other. The Brothers sang the Canticle that celebrates the interdependence of all of Creation and the praise and blessings for those that seek peace. Through the request of Francis, the persistence of the Brothers, and the grace of God, the two leaders forgave *each other*. They let go of their many mutual and perhaps even justified grievances and made peace – a peace that resonated though the entire community.

Questions for Reflection:

Do I contribute to the hatred in the world in what I do or fail to do? Or Do I seek to be an instrument of God's Peace – especially to my friends, family, people I see every day?

Are there ways I can support and encourage those in Leadership roles (in the church, community, or country) to take the path of forgiveness, reconciliation and peace?

As a Secular Franciscan, what is God calling me to do to promote peace?



Submitted by Laura Chun, OFS

Story from *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents, Volume 2*. Edited by Regis J. Armstrong, J. A. Wayne Hellmann, William J. Short.
The images of Francis as Peacemaker is a detail from 'Francis and the Wolf' by John August Swanson and is used with permission.

Our SLR-OFS Website and Ongoing Formation

I was recently asked a **GREAT** question, *'Is there any ongoing formation on the website that I don't have to pay for?'* The answer is a resounding, 'YES!' All the articles on the website are designed to support Franciscan formation, of course. But there are scads of links to all sorts of resources there for you:

- For everyone with any interest in things Franciscan, on our SLR-OFS.ORG website, Navigate to RESOURCES => Books, Lectures, & Audio. Everything highlighted in that teal color is a link you can click on to get to a Franciscan resource. Everything (except one) is free. Look around to see what appeals to you. There are audio podcasts, videos, online courses, documentaries, and more (since everyone learns differently, there's an array of things for everyone).

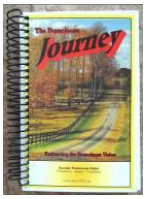
- For the deeply interested Secular, on our SLR-OFS.ORG website, Navigate to FORMAMTION => Ongoing Formation. For the juicy links, scroll to the bottom of the page. These are formation links that will likely appeal for those really into Franciscanism and specifically life as a Secular Franciscan.

- For the very intensely dedicated not-faint-of-heart people ***really*** wanting a deep-dive into Franciscan education, on our SLR-OFS.ORG website, Navigate to RESOURCES => Acknowledgements (These links are also on the 'Resources' page, but highlighted here along with Fr. John Abela, OFM). Scroll down to the second entry to '**Franciscan Studies on the Internet**.' It looks like the image below. Click on 'Franciscan Studies' or 'Franciscan Experience.' There is extensive coursework provided by the Franciscans in Malta & the Holy Land. I'll also bring my laptop to our next meeting to walk you through it, if you're interested.

Submitted by Laura Chun, OFS (Webmaster)

Name Badges, Karron will be collecting money for badges at the July 2nd meeting they are $7.50 each. Also, anyone who wants to order a badge and hasn't done so, can email or call Karron now and then and pay for the badges at the July 2nd meeting. Karron will place the order in July and we'll have badges ready in August.

Reminders from our Formation Director



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

See also the “Formation Newsletter” for July.

Anniversaries of Profession

Jul. 7, 2013	Dorothia
Jul. 11, 2004	Irene
Jul. 13, 2014	Mary
Jul. 21, 1996	Denise
Jul. 10, 2016	Brinda
Jul. 10, 2016	Karen
Jul 10, 2016	Luis

YOU, A LIVING LETTER

Rev. Stephen Sabbagh, OFM
Provincial Assistant, Holy Land Prov.

In every one of His children, Jesus sends a letter to the world. If you are Christ's follower, He sends in you a letter to the family, the city, the street where you live. Jesus, dwelling in you, desires to speak to the hearts of those who are not acquainted with Him. It may be that through you, they will be led to understand something of His goodness and be won to love and serve Him.

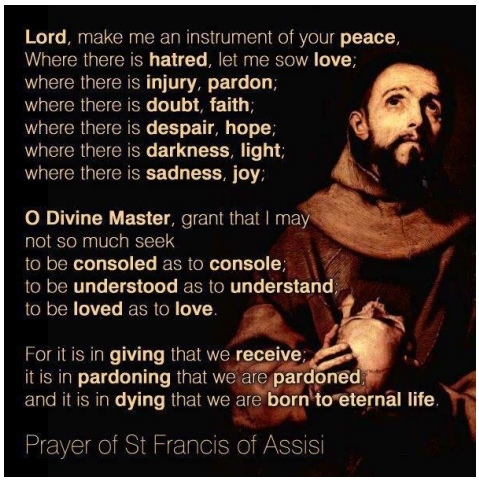
National Fraternity Newsletter Spring 1993

Memorials

July 1, 2013	Dn. Dustin Miller
July 21, 1995	Roberta Reynolds Steiner
July 23, 1990	George Wagner

Birthdays

July 3	Frances
July 22	Dorothy



Prayer of St. Francis (Facebook, English Fraternity)

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

Light a Lamp

Note that there are four lamps. The first is that of God's Word, of which is said: *Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my paths* (Ps 119:105).

Note that it speaks of "feet" first, and then "paths," because when we hear the Word of God, we are first made to shine in heart, and then we walk with straight steps.

The second lamp is that of good works, of which is said: *Let your loins be girt and lamps burning in your hands* (Lk 12:35).

We hold lamps burning in our hands when we show good works to our neighbors.

The third lamp is that of intention, which gives light to the whole collection of good works. Matthew says: *The light of your body* (your work) *is your eye* (your intention). *If your eye be single, thy whole body shall be lightsome* (Mt 6:22).

The fourth is that of the humanity of Jesus Christ, of which Luke says: *What woman having ten groats, etc.* (Lk 15:8).

Let the Lord say *in the time of judgment I will search Jerusalem*, that is, each and every Christian. I will search with lamps: Does he hear the word of preaching and amend his life? Does he show the light of good example to others? Does he do his works with a right intention? Does he shape his life by the example of the poverty and humility of Jesus Christ? Then he will visit upon people (those who trust in their own strength) who are settled in their filth, their iniquities.

SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA

Saint Anthony of Padua († 1231) was a renowned Franciscan preacher.

From June 2017 on line Magnificat Magazine

Let us Pray for our brothers and sisters, especially:

- For the safety of Donna 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 members who are in formation, our elderly and homebound who aren't able come to our fraternity gatherings.
- Members of all three Orders of the Franciscan Family who need our prayers.

Trinity Sunday Homily: Fr. Vince Mesi, OFM, of Mission San Luis Rey Parish - with a Trinitarian prayer suggestion.

From Fr. Vince Mesi's homily on Trinity Sunday 2017:

Fr. Vince began his homily, reminiscing about a missionary, who when visiting a city saw a beautiful sundial that he purchased for the villagers. When he brought the sundial to the village, the villagers insisted that he place it in the middle of the village where everybody could see it, and learn to tell time with it. The villagers were so proud of the beautiful sundial that they wanted to protect it from damage from rain, sun and environment. So they erected a tarp over it protecting it from the **sun** and other elements.

Now just what is the connection between this sundial and the Holy Trinity, that we are celebrating today, asked Fr. Vince, Well instead of using the church's teaching about the Trinity that is the core of our faith we build a tent over it to protect it from loss. When he finished with this little story, he proceeded to give a short little "homework" assignment of a prayer to the Holy Trinity that only takes three minutes as we prepare to lie down to sleep for the night:

- **Minute 1**, think about the **highpoint** of the day, something that made you happy, and thank God the Father for it. Just who/what made you really happy today?
- **Minute 2**, next, what was the **low point** of your day, what/who made you sad, speak to Jesus, the Son of God about this situation asking forgiveness for anything you caused by your misunderstandings or actions.
- **Minute 3**, and to conclude think about **tomorrow** and what you will have to do that you don't want to do, are scared or afraid to do, and ask the Holy Spirit for help with this event/activity.

Every so often Fr. Vince will give a little spiritual "homework" assignment during his homily, that are short, simple and easy to accomplish this was todays. Editor.

THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

Mary C. Lahiff, SFO
Evangelization 2000

In their wisdom, and as a result of personal experience with the curtailment of freedom of religious worship and expression of beliefs, our Founding Fathers sought to ensure religious freedom for themselves and their posterity by enshrining it in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States with the words:

> "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Our Founding Fathers understood the word "establishment" in the sense that it existed in England - an established national church. No particular church was to be declared the National or Established Church of the United States. All churches were to be given liberty and freedom to worship, teach, preach, etc. The free exercise of religion included not only worship, but freedom of holding religious assemblies, evangelizing, missionary work, publication and promoting religious books, papers, and conducting religious schools hospitals, and social efforts to help people in need.

What the Founders had in mind was that Religion was about God and about religious values such as the inherent dignity and worth of individuals who were "endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights". Yes, freedom of and for religion and the free exercise thereof is very much a part of our heritage. One has only to look at the inscriptions carved in our national monuments and to read some of the writings and speeches of our forefathers to realize how deep was their reliance on God and how intertwined was their faith in their shaping of our nation. John Adams declared that "our Constitution was made for a moral and religious people." In his Farewell Address George Washington stated that "reason and experience both forbid us to expect that National morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principles." We can deduce from that that our public decisions need to be guided by religious principles.

But what have we come to today? How have we allowed this precious freedom to be eroded, misinterpreted? The constitutional separation of church and state was never intended to rule out religiously-based values as a basis for a public policy consideration. The problem stems in part from some subsequent Supreme Court decisions. One such decision defined Ethical Culture and Secular Humanism as religions. This was in stark contrast to the fact that religion in the Constitution meant a theistic or God-related religion. This gave credence and support to the militant secular "separation of Church and State" view on constitutional questions that blatantly declare religious-based values cannot be considered or advanced in public business or affairs.

We now have Supreme Court rulings prohibiting non-sectarian prayer in public schools and at graduations - it is unconstitutional. Non-sectarian prayer to God has long been a tradition at many public gatherings. Americans do pray and acknowledge God as a Supreme Being. Our Supreme Court seems to be imposing an absence of religion, or at least the free exercise of it, in some areas of public life. We have a right "not to believe", but we have no right to force absence of God on others who do believe.

There is a distinct necessity for prayer and for like-minded people who believe that religious-based values must guide our decisions to make their voices heard to bring about a public policy that returns to the intent of our Founding Fathers as expressed in the First Amendment. Our Founding Fathers never intended that we should leave God out in making public policy decisions for our Country. God is not unconstitutional!

THE NATIONAL FRATERNITY

of

THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

Taken from National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order's Newsletter for Spring 1993. This is the predecessor to their current newsletter, "TAU-USA" Yes, 25 years ago... Editor

This Year's Retreat at Malibu

Karron Esmonde OFS

Over Memorial Day weekend, several fraternity members attended the annual retreat for Seculars at the Serra Center in Malibu.

Our speaker this year was Sr. Joanne Schatzlein OSF, a Franciscan nun and evangelist. Her topic was "*Clare of Assisi: Mirror of Christ for the World."* It was a fascinating weekend.

Sister Joanne started with a description of a medieval woman's life. Typically betrothed at 14, she married soon afterward. Once married, all her property, her children and her life belonged to her husband, who used them as he saw fit. Between the hazards of childbearing and a life of unmitigated toil, most women lived to be twenty-five. Men typically lived 10 years longer. Men wore out their bodies working on the land, or were casualties of a Crusade.

As an aristocrat, St. Clare was an exception. The eldest of three daughters of Favarone and Ortulana Offreduccio, she refused offers of marriage to pursue a life of prayer. At 16, she heard Francis preaching and, after two years' instruction, left home to follow her Franciscan calling.

Clare's first years as a Poor Lady were fraught with uncertainty: a noblewoman, she was the Franciscan's first and only female recruit. She trusted in God's direction, as she had neither rule, nor community nor convent. Her first enclosure was with Benedictine nuns, where she lived and observed their life and Rule.

Clare embraced Francis' vision heart and soul, and fulfilled it as a contemplative. Clare was a spiritual powerhouse, and a standard-bearer for the charism and its founder in the thirty years following his death.

Clare had a spectacular and lasting impact on our Franciscan way of life. From her cloister at San Damiano, she comforted Francis in his last illness with gifts of healing. As an abbess, she was visited by laymen, friars and Popes who sought her counsel and guidance.

Sr. Joanne remarked that scholars began to re-evaluate Clare's significance in 1993, the 800th anniversary of her birth.

Clare was the first woman to write her own Rule of Life and have it approved by the Pope.

Her most startling request was for the "privilege of poverty". By refusing private patronage, land ownership or dowries for her

support, Clare placed the Poor Ladies exclusively in God's care. Though her insistence on abject poverty alarmed her contemporaries, Clare maintained that poverty was essential to her way of life.

For thirty years after Francis' death, Clare was a unifying force for the Franciscans, keeping his vision alive by her example. She was generous and kind, compassionate and strong.

Within her community, Clare was a servant leader, making decisions based on the discernment of the entire group. She claimed the Holy Spirit as her authority, rather than looking outside for guidance of priests and bishops.

Clare's spiritual practice was to live as Christ lived, so to be transformed in His image. Respected by the Church for her holiness, she was at once humble and resolute, rational and inspired as she sought approval for her Rule of Life.

Clare defended her calling to live among the lowly. By insisting that dowries be alms, not income, she prevented preferential treatment of wealthy women, which would undermine discipline within the enclosure.

An inspiration to all those around her, Clare's sisters Catherine and Beatrice joined her in the cloister, followed eventually by their mother, Ortulana.

Clare's mystical union with Christ is apparent in her life and writings. In 1224, as soldiers of Emperor Frederick II were about to attack, she interceded for her sisters and for Assisi while standing before its gates with the Eucharist in her hands. The army miraculously retreated. Among her writings, we have four beautiful letters on the spiritual life sent by Clare to Agnes of Prague.

On August 11, 1253, two days after receiving the Pope's official approval of her "Form of Life", Clare passed from this life. She was canonized in 1255.

Sister Joanne mentioned several publications on St. Clare's life and influence:

Clare of Assisi – The Lady: Early Documents, by Regis J. Armstrong, 2006.

Saint Clare: Beyond the Legend, by Marco Bartoli, 2010 (translated from the Latin by Sr. Ingrid Petersen)

All pictures taken by Karron E. OFS

From our June Fraternity Gathering: Denise sharing about the good works done by the organization 'Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land,' at our June 4, 2017 general gathering on the Feast of Pentecost.

At our meeting on 6/4/17, Denise, a member of our Fraternity and also the Vice President and a founding member of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land (a Franciscan organization that supports Christians living in the Holy Land) shares a first-hand story of the President and First Lady's recent visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. You can visit Holy Land site at [www.ffhl.org.](http://www.ffhl.org)

Submitted by Laura Chun, OFS

~~~~~~~

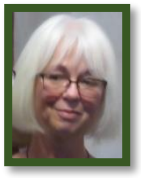
1 Corinthians 13: 1-13 (version of Holy Bible unknown) borrowed from either Facebook or Bing. Sorry but I don't remember which.

We just have to remember to look at our spouses, and all others with love, as all have something good in them. - Editor
~~~~~~~

Oh, last but definitely not least, remember your donation envelope for the Common Fund. The box will be waiting for you.

Or mail to: Eileen

FRATERNITY COUNCIL



Minister
Donna Foley OFS

Secretary
Newsletter Editor,
Carol, OFS

Vice Minister
Karron Esmonde OFS

Treasurer
Eileen Costa OFS

Formation Director
Sandy Baden, OFS

Councilor,
Webmaster
Laura Chun OFS

Spiritual Assistant

Sr. Madeline Fitzgerald, OSC

Councilor
Dorothy Mann OFS