



IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

JOY FOR THE JOURNEY

NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL, 2016

IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY GATHERINGS

April 24th

May 22nd

June 25th

July 24th

IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY

St. James Catholic Church, Petaluma

Meeting April 24, 2016

Fraternity Meeting: 1:30 – 3:00

Celebrate Br. Bob: 3:00 – 4:45

Please be sustainable and bring own plates & utensils

Next meeting we will discuss ministry options as a fraternity and organizations we wish to support financially as a fraternity

IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY COUNCIL

Minister:

Kathleen Robbiano, OFS

Vice Minister:

Eunice Edgington, OFS

Treasurer:

Margaret Enea-Patrizi, OFS

Formation:

Il Poverello Formation team

Spiritual Assistant:

Il Poverello Formation team

* * *

Special Ministries

Librarian:

J. Patch Guglielmino, OFS

Newsletter Editors:

Noreen & Edd Ringlein

J P I C:

Edd & Noreen Ringlein

Birthdate and Profession Anniversaries

Kathleen Robbiano, OFS

Profession: 4/17/2010

Minister's Letter April, 2016

Greetings of peace and all good.

"Be not afraid." I spoke these words to a long time neighbor/friend of our family on April 2, as he sat with his oxygen tubing, working hard to breathe for his frail body, and trying to not cry too much at the loss of his dear wife the day before. She died of lung cancer, and he also has lung cancer, although hers was diagnosed 3+ years before he began having symptoms. Their story is one of incredible love, moving through cancer together, encouraging each other and comforting each other.

What else could I really say that might give hope as he faces his journey home to God as well, probably quite soon. And who am I to know not to be afraid? God constantly has to remind me to stay in this moment and trust God for what may unfold in the next.

1 John 4: 18 "Love has no room for fear; rather, perfect love casts out all fear"

In God's love, we may be able to move past our fears. But perfect love? That we can strive for, always looking to Christ as the example, and knowing our very human condition will constantly challenge us.

Another friend died this same weekend. I will never forget seeing him look at me and say "I'm dying". And I echoed, yes, you are dying. And we (other friends also) are here to support you. You can let go, become one with God's breath. You will be free.

In every step of our lives, we have opportunities to let go of fears and be free. It is the faith of a child that Jesus wants us to have, so we can be held without reservations in God's arms of love, guided through all the joys and sorrows that life presents.

Humbly in the love and light of Christ,

Kathleen Robbiano, OFS

Minister, Il Poverello

Scripture reading from John, Chapter 17

The Prayer of Jesus.

"Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that he may give eternal life to all you gave him. Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began.

"I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you gave me is from you, because the words you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are. When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely. I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth.

"I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me. Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them."

The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

*As Secular Franciscans
we are constantly challenged to
mindfully follow the rule of St Francis*

~ Rule 23 ~

Rquests for admission to the Secular Franciscan Order must be presented to the local fraternity, whose council decides upon the acceptance of new brothers and sisters. Admission into the Order is gradually attained through a time of initiation, a period of formation of at least one year, and profession of the rule. The entire community is engaged in this process of growth by its own manner of living. The age for profession and the distinctive Franciscan sign are regulated by the statutes. Profession by its nature is a permanent commitment. Members who find themselves in particular difficulties should discuss their problems with the council in fraternal dialogue. Withdrawal or permanent dismissal from the Order, if necessary, is an act of the fraternity council according to the norm of the constitutions.

Prayer Intentions of the Holy Father for March

Universal: Small Farmers

That small farmers may receive a just reward for their precious labor.

Reflection: Besides a greater concern for the land, what other values do family farms contribute to the good of society?

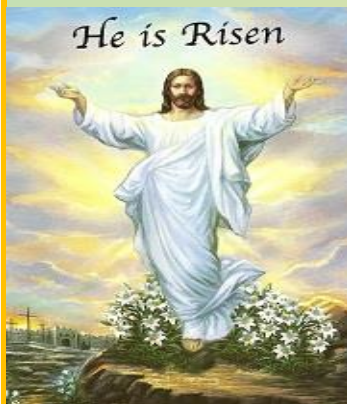
Scripture: 2 Timothy 2: 6 "The hardworking farmer ought to have the first share of the crop."

Evangelization: African Christians

That Christians in Africa may give witness to love and faith in Jesus Christ amid political-religious conflicts.

Reflection: How have I experienced the fact that love is the only force capable of changing the world for good?

Scripture: Romans 12: 9-21 "Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good."



Our Fraternity Prayer Intentions

Let us pray

For our Il Poverello fraternity families and friends, for Deacon Tom Bello, OFS, (see following message from National Minister), for Patch Guglielmino, OFS, who is still recuperating, for Joan Schaefer, Julie's aunt who recently left this life, for Sharon and Robert Salisbury, Marguerite and Kristen Bacich, Kathleen Leyden, Rest In Peace, and for Davide & Elizabeth, for John's family, Mary Anne and Alice, Evelyn, for Br. Mateo, for Fr. Epperson's mother, Robert Bayley, Elaine Stevick, and John Norris, as well as Priests for Life and Religious Freedom, for Anthony, Tim, Theresa, Emma and Mark;

For all of the penitential fraternities worldwide striving to live through the Rule of St. Francis and St. Clare, for all who will soon be professed into a Franciscan Order;

For all religious to be guided through the Holy Spirit to be the feet and hands as our Lord's evangelizers;

For Pope Francis and all church leaders, guidance in directing the church members worldwide;

For our nations electorate, to be guided to choose those who will seek the common good for everyone;

For all who service our nation's communities, the men and women who are daily sacrificing their lives for the benefit of all no matter their race or creed;

For all struggling to meet their needs for fresh water;

For healing and restoration for those who are recovering from natural and man-made disasters;

For comfort of the homeless worldwide especially for those fleeing conflicts at home and abroad;

For these and all our individual intentions,

We pray to the Lord.

April – Month of the Holy Face and the Redemption

1. **Bl. Elisabeth Vendramini, Virgin**, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1860
2. **St. Francois de Paule, Priest**, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1507
3. **St. Benoit le Maure, lay brother**, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1589
4. **Bl. Guillaume de Sicli, Confessor**, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1404
5. **St. Marie-Crescence, Virgin**, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1744
6. **Bl. Angele Salawa, Virgin**, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1922
7. **Bl. Maria-Assunta, Virgin**, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1925
8. **Bl. Julien de St. Augustin, lay brother**, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1606
9. **Bl. Thomas de Tolentino, Priest**, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1321
10. **Bl. Marc de Bologne, Priest**, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1479
11. **Bl. Ange De Chivasso, Priest**, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1495
12. **Bl. Boniface Zukowski, Priest**, Conventual Religious, martyr 1942
13. **Bl. Isabelle Rovira, Virgin**, Capuchin religious, martyr, 1937
14. **Bl. Lidwyne de Schiedam, Virgin**, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1433
15. **Bl. Gandolphe de Binasco, Priest**, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1260
16. **St. Benedict-Joseph Labore, Confessor**, Corderbearer, d. 1783
Plenary Indulgence for Corderbearers.

Anniversary of the profession of St. Francis (1209)

17. **Bl. Paul de St. Madeleine, Priest**, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1643
18. **Bl. Andre Hibernon, lay brother**, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1734
19. **Bl. Conrad e Ascoli, Priest**, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1289
20. **Bl. Anastase Pankewicz, Priest**, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1942
21. **Bl. Francois de Fabriano, Priest**, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1322
22. **St. Conrad de Parzham, lay brother**, Capuchin religious, d. 1894
23. **Bl. Gilles of Assisi, lay brother**, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1262
24. **St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest**, Capuchin, martyr 1622
25. **St. Marc, Grandes Rogations**
26. **Bl. Pierre De Pethancourt, Priest**, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1667
27. **St. Zita de Lucques, Virgin**, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1278
28. **St. Paul of the Cross, Priest**, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1775;
& **Bl. Luchesius**, 1st Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1260
Plenary Indulgence for Franciscan Third Order Seculars (renewal of Tertiary Engagements)
29. **Bl. Benoit d'Urbin, Priest**, Capuchin, d. 1625
30. **St. Joseph-Benoit Cottolengo, Priest**, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1842



Justice Peace and the Integrity of Creation

A Good Friday reflection on the experience at Lawrence Livermore Nuclear Weapons R&D Laboratory

Individuals from the San Francisco Bay area had a beautiful Good Friday at LLL, pondering Empire and Cross while Sowing the Seeds of Hope. Kathleen and I shared our Good Friday morning with others wishing to bring attention to the ongoing development of nuclear weapons to the people of these United States. This gathering follows the announcement of continuing budgetary increases in future investments in nuclear weapons and nuclear energy which this nation can ill afford. We're told that a nuclear missile is being designed which enters low evading radar.

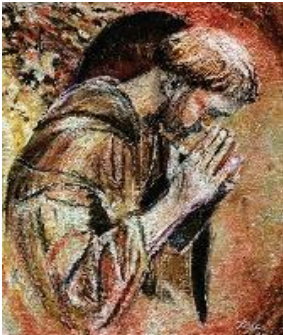
Personally, I felt in touch with the crucified Christ in a manner that I had not for many years and it was intoxicating, freeing, and spirit-filled. I also felt touched by a saint, just holding hands with the Holy Criminal, Father Louie Vitale, OFM, whose steadfast example of nonviolent civil disobedience puts the others gathered at some numerical disadvantage and in awe. While the gathering of clergy and laity was a sparse 110 or so souls, this symbolic protest was eminently meaningful to those in touch with the lunacy of nuclear proliferation. Gently, I wondered where were all the others who feel as we do.

I had been praying all Lent, thinking, contemplating, some fasting, never enough, and feeling this need to put a body on this line again. It came to me incessantly the juxtaposition of working in good conscience to request meager funding of services for impoverished, disadvantaged children with disabilities and their families, when I also know the volumes of money sucked out of our enormous federal and state budgets down an evil sink hole, to honor our culture of death. I stand with St. Francis and walk in a garden with St. Clare and cannot fathom this insane intent to kill and decimate the fragile populations and ecology of planet Earth. While many might see the peacefully assembled protesters; a thin 83 year old Franciscan, Dominican nuns, anti-nuclear peace activists now gray, creased with worry lines, people from suburbia, teachers, dancers, young idealists, as pathetic, I, however, saw them as brave souls in witness to Christ crucified, reviled, and persecuted. We gathered, we sang, we prayed, we knelt and we asked for conversion to peace. It was all heart-felt and yet for the others, the hardened hearts of military police, military officers, and local Livermore police it was just a well-orchestrated, easy day for them. Good Friday served up with a bit of mischief from the masses, not even annoying, since the numbers were low this year.

There was permission to gather, to park, to hear the Stations of the Cross, to walk to the gate. Here was ritual liturgical dance, a salute to life. Each station of the cross evokes Christ's bleeding wounds for our very much "made-in-America" weapons of mass destruction- for costly encroachments on humanity in Immigration, the suffering of refugees out of Palestine-Gaza, Syria, and elsewhere in the Middle East and Africa. I asked for peace filled purpose in lives turned from killing. I thanked every officer-soldier I encountered, blessed the beautiful sun, and apologized if I had taken any of them away from their children, family or friends. I talked of PTSD with an older soldier back from Afghanistan and the Golan Heights bordering Israel to Syria. I said this cannot go on. He agreed with a nod. The others all assured me that I had not affected them and in the end some 21 holy individuals were cited for "unlawful assembly" with court dates pending.

So there was no real break in the good order of making bombs that will destroy life as we all know it on Earth. There were, however several friends and merry Franciscans present to offer protest, but there was no pause to the madness of war, torture, dislocation, starvation, and deprivation. I left worrying as I do, praying on how to heal the cracks through which the most adorable, trusting children plunge. With children afflicted by mental illness, illiteracy, rare conditions, syndromes such as Autism, we need to reflect at this time of year, with Christ on the cross. Vulnerable, at-risk children are reminders to me - just as vivid as the bodies that fell from the twin World Trade Towers on 9-11. We are harming our own with this lunacy at every step; with each billion we misspend, we are also sanitizing and justifying murder. I can be only a small speck of sand in the way, praying to be a pebble, seeking to inspire an avalanche of boulders from creation that might perform a random act of kindness by rolling in front of the gates of war - to please make this evil stop.

Noreen Ringlein, OFS



Please share this news with our Franciscan family, and others who might want to know:

Thank you, Tom Bello, for touching our lives! We love you!

Please pray for us, as we pray for you and for your wonderful and loving family!

We will miss you, but we know you are with us in a special way.

I will close with a Scripture from Tom's **MercyHour** message for today, and with a prayer and a blessing. Remember Tom's message to us, "Rejoice always!"

With much love, Easter joy and hope,

Your sister,
Jan Parker

National Minister

Up Coming Events

At our next meeting on May 22nd, Peggy Wyman, director of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, is scheduled to speak to our fraternity about their mission in helping the poor in the north bay counties.



Fr. Thomas West, OFM

Franciscan School of Theology
Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology
Ph.D. California Institute of Integral Studies 1994
M.Div. Franciscan School of Theology 1985
M.Ed. Boston University 1974
B.A. St. Bonaventure University 1970
Phone: 510/848-5232
E-mail: twest@fst.edu

For our upcoming Day of Reflection in June, we have asked Father Tom West, OFM to spend the day with us to discuss Franciscan Mercy. Please save the date of Saturday, June 25th and spread the word for others who would like to join us.

Current Research and Teaching Interests

- Pastoral Counseling
- Psychology and Spirituality
- Pastoral Care with the Terminally Ill

Selected Publications

"The Experience of Being with a Dying Person,"
in *Phenomenological Inquiry in Psychology*, ed.
Ron Valle (Plenum Press: New York, 1998).

Fr. Tom West, OFM has been a Franciscan for over 30 years and has recently moved back to the San Francisco Bay Area from Mission San Luis Rey Parish. He has also been with the Franciscan School of Theology where he was an Ass. Professor of Pastoral Theology. Fr. Tom is also a licensed psychotherapist and spiritual director. He was a chaplain at SAF and has ties to St. Anthony's Foundation that extend back over twenty years, when he and Fr. John lived with St. Anthony's founder, Fr. Alfred Boeddeker, at St. Boniface Church, and served in the St. Anthony's Dining Room. St. Anthony's is dedicated to serving the poor and promoting justice, peace, care of creation, and reconciliation in the joyful and prophetic spirit of St. Francis of Assisi.

Links:

St. Junipero Serra Regional Newsletter:

http://www.juniperoserraregion.com/juniperoserraregion.com/Regional_News/Entries/2016/MOJ/MOJ_2016_Winter.pdf

The National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order-USA:

<http://www.nafra-sfo.org/>

Tau-USA- Newsletter:

http://www.nafra-sfo.org/tau-usa/tau_newarticles.html

Franciscan Action Network (FAN):

<http://franciscanaction.org/>
www.FranciscanEarthCorps.org

Digital Franciscans:

<http://www.digitalfranciscans.com/>

San Damiano retreats calendar:

<http://sandamiano.org/retreats-programs/retreats-calendar>

Santa Rosa Diocese:

<http://www.santarosacatholic.org/>
<http://srdiocese.org/content/year-mercy-dec-2015-nov-2016>

