



IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

JOY FOR THE JOURNEY

PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA
FEBRUARY 2016

IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY GATHERINGS

Feb. 28th
March 20th
April 24th
May 22nd

IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY

Meeting February 28, 2016

St. James Catholic Church, Petaluma

Fraternity Meeting: 1:30 - 3:30

1:30 Prayer: Kathleen and Assistants

1:50 Fraternity & Visitors: Discuss ministry opportunities

2:30 Break

2:45 Reflections: On Laudato Si' Chapter 6: Ecological Education and Spirituality

Mark will provide a survey of future ongoing formation topics for discussion

Candidate/Inquiry Formation (see info following on pg.2)

IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY

COUNCIL

Minister:

Kathleen Robbiano, OFS

Vice Minister:

Eunice Edgington, OFS

Treasurer:

Margaret Enea-Patrizi, OFS

Formation Director:

Il Poverello Formation Team

Spiritual Assistant:

Bro. Bob Brady, OFM



Special Ministries

Librarian:

J. Patch Guglielmino, OFS

Newsletter Editors:

Noreen & Edd Ringlein

J P I C:

Edd & Noreen Ringlein

**Birthday and Profession
Anniversaries**

Michelle Schumacher 2/18

Minister's Letter February 2016

Dear Franciscan Friends and Family,

As I write this, I remember today is "Groundhog Day", a little celebration of one of the creatures that shares our common home, God's Creation. Just a thought to bring a smile.

Soon we will begin the Lenten journey again, a time to reflect more on the purpose of life in the suffering Christ. In some sense, is it not quite simple? Jesus loved so much, and in being the Light of God, it was only possible for Him to push past all human limits to reflect amazing miracles, healing and compassion. Of course, for enough of His contemporary community, the force was too overwhelming, and all they could think of was to kill Jesus.

How can we expand our willingness to love, with all the suffering it may bring? Fear of those who are "other", comfort with our lifestyles, feelings of unworthiness, and discontent with aspects of "organized religion"- the list goes on of those things which can block our way. And honestly, who wants to suffer? Who wants to push limits and disrupt the community?

Visiting a friend who recently had a stroke and is trying to recover at Stanford Hospital, I came to the realization that being a doctor at Stanford is grueling work. Imagine being Jesus at work! Grueling! So being the hands and feet of Jesus in the world will demand no less from us. At this point in time, the task is daunting, our world is so needy.

Prayer-it is the precious quiet time with God, and the time of building community strength and support for giving love that surprises the world. I hope for that kind of love to grow within all our Franciscan community.

Let us encourage each other in every effort we make. Let us love each other into our light. Imagine doing the works that Jesus did- He told us it is possible!

Peace and all good,

Kathleen Robbiano, OFS

Minister, Il Poverello Fraternity

Secular Franciscan Candidates Formation

All fraternity members are invited to participate in initial formation sessions. The more people involved, the more we all get out of the discussions.

Inquiry Session #4 will be on Thursday, February 25 at 3:30 pm in the home of Michelle Schumacher: 151 Temelec Circle, Sonoma (from Arnold Dr., turn right at Mission Dr., and then turn onto Temelec Circle).

Please read and answer questions for chapters 7 and 9 in *Franciscan Journey*. Chapter 7 covers OFS History and development of the OFS Rule. Chapter 9 covers Vatican II, the OFS Rule and Constitutions. Besides *Franciscan Journey*, please bring your copy of *Essential Documents*.

Contact Dianne Prior if you have any questions:
707- 252-1506 or prior_di@hotmail.com

The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

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

-Rule 20-

The Secular Franciscan Order is divided into fraternities of various levels – local, regional, national, and international. Each one has its own moral personality in the Church. These various fraternities are coordinated and united according to the norm of this rule and of the constitutions.

The Catholic Church no longer officially honors St. Valentine, but the holiday has both Roman and Catholic roots.

The Origins of St. Valentine's Day

A quick quiz: St. Valentine was:

- a priest in the Roman Empire who helped persecuted Christians during the reign of Claudius II, was thrown in jail and later beheaded on Feb. 14.
- a Catholic bishop of Terni who was beheaded, also during the reign of Claudius II.
- someone who secretly married couples when marriage was forbidden, or suffered in Africa, or wrote letters to his jailer's daughter, and was probably beheaded.
- all, some, or possibly none of the above.

If you guessed d), give yourself a box of chocolates. Although the mid-February holiday celebrating love and lovers remains wildly popular, the confusion over its origins led the Catholic Church, in 1969, to drop St. Valentine's Day from the Roman calendar of official, worldwide Catholic feasts. (Those highly sought-after days are reserved for saints with more clear historical record. After all, the saints are real individuals for us to imitate.) Some parishes, however, observe the feast of St. Valentine.

Pope Francis' prayer intentions for the month of February:

Universal Intention – Care for Creation

- That we may take good care of creation—a gift freely given—cultivating and protecting it for future generations.

Evangelization Intention – Asia

- That opportunities may increase for dialogue and encounter between the Christian faith and the peoples of Asia.

Scripture reading for Ash Wednesday

Reading from 2 Corinthians 5:20–6:2

Brothers and sisters:

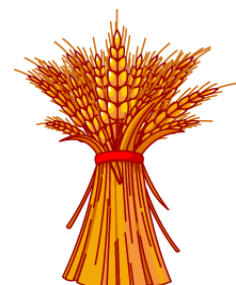
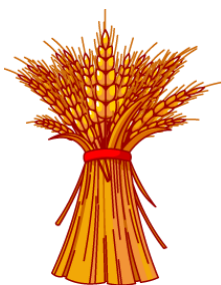
We are ambassadors for Christ,
as if God were appealing through us.
We implore you on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin,
so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

Working together, then,
we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.
For he says:

*In an acceptable time I heard you,
and on the day of salvation I helped you.*

Behold, now is a very acceptable time;
behold, now is the day of salvation.



Our Fraternity Prayer Intentions

Let us pray

- For our Il Poverello fraternity families and friends: for Tom Bello, John, Mary Anne and Alice, Evelyn, Br. Mateo, for the soul of Fr. Michael Kelly, also for Antonio, Nicolas, and Rosa Cortez, for Kathleen Leyden and Vincent DiFruscio, for Robert Bayley, Josh and granddaughter, for Jeff, Tanya, and their children, for Keith Salisbury (successful cancerous brain tumor removal), for Elaine Stevick and John Norris, as well as Anthony, Ken, Tim, Emma and Mark;
- For all penitential fraternities worldwide striving to live through the Rule of St. Francis and St. Clare, as well as all our religious to be guided through the Holy Spirit as the feet and hands as our Lord;
- For Pope Francis and all church leaders, guidance in directing the church members worldwide;
- For our nation, as it prepares for another series of elections, that the electorate is guided to choose representatives who will seek the common good;
- For all the servicemen and women who are daily sacrificing their lives for the benefit of our nation;
- For comfort of the homeless especially for those fleeing conflicts at home and abroad;
- For these and all our intentions,

We pray to the Lord.

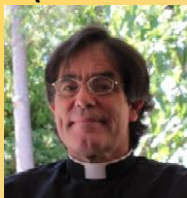
Christian tradition can name at least seven reasons for fasting:

1. From the beginning, God commanded some fasting, and sin entered into the world because Adam and Eve broke the fast.
2. For the Christian, fasting is ultimately about fasting from sin.
3. Fasting reveals our dependence on God and not the resources of this world.
4. Fasting is an ancient way of preparing for the Eucharist—the truest of foods.
5. Fasting is preparation for baptism (and all the sacraments)—for the reception of grace.
6. Fasting is a means of saving resources to give to the poor.
7. Fasting is a means of self-discipline, chastity, and the restraining of the appetites.

February-Month of the Holy Family

1. Bl. Patrick O'Loughran, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr d. 1612
2. Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary
3. Martyrs of Japan, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, lay brothers and Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1597
4. St. Joseph de Leonisse, Priest, Capuchin religious, d. 1612
5. St. Jeanne de Valois, Virgin, the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1505
6. Bl. Pius IX, Pope, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1878
7. St. Egide-Marie de St. Joseph, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order d. 1812
8. Bl. Antonie de Stroncone, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1461
9. Bl. Claire de Rimini, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1346
10. Bl. Alojzije Stepinac, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1960
11. Apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes, 1858
12. Bl. Andre Ferrari, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1921
13. St. Eustochie de Messine, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1485
14. Bl. Philipa Mauri, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1263
15. Translation of the relics of St. Anthony
16. Bl. Veridiane, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1242
17. Bl. Luc Belludi, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1286
18. St. Bernadette Soubirous, Virgin, cordbearer, d. 1879
Plenary Indulgence possible for the Cordbearers only
19. St. Conrad de Plaisance, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1351
20. Bl. Pierre de Treja, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1304
21. St. Margaret of Cortona, penitent, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1297, Plenary Indulgence possible
(renewal of engagements of the Franciscan Third Order Secular)
22. Feast of the Chair of St. Peter
23. Bl. Isabelle of France, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1270
24. Bl. Innocent XI, Pope, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1689
25. Bl. Sebastien d'Apparicio, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1600
26. Bl. Antoinette de Florence, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1533
27. Bl. Louise Albertoni, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1533
28. Bl. Jeremie de Valachie, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1625

Congratulations and blessings to Fr. John Boettcher, OFS who celebrated 25 years of priesthood at a mass on February 2nd. He was ordained at the cathedral in Santa Rosa by Bishop John Steinbock (God rest his soul).



"I offered Mass today in gratitude for the priesthood and for everyone I ever met or served. And in a special way for you who have contributed to the fruitfulness and joy of the priesthood in my life. May God reward you!"



Upcoming Events



Sr. Ilia Delio, OFS

(<http://www.csjthewell.org/ilia-delio/>)

Will be giving a presentation at Dominican College in the Grand building on Friday evening, March 18th, 7-8:30. There is no cost, but there is limited space, so please call to register 1-415-453-8303.

St. Junipero Serra Region
Chapter Mtg.
February 19th – 21st
San Damiano Retreat Center

Vatican City, Feb 4, 2016 / 10:03 am (CNA/EWTN News).-

The incorrupt body of Padre Pio has arrived to Rome for the first time ever alongside that of another friar, St. Leopold Mandic, as a special initiative for the Jubilee of Mercy.

Urns containing the relics of Saint Padre Pio of Pietrelcina and Saint Leopold Mandic arrived to Rome's basilica of St. Lawrence outside the Wall Feb. 3.

They will remain for a week of vigils, Masses and stops at several Roman churches, including St. Peter's Basilica, before returning to their usual place of repose.

Both members of the Order of Friars Minor founded by St. Francis of Assisi, more commonly known as "Franciscans," the saints lived during the same time period, and were both canonized by St. John Paul II.

The relics of the saints, consisting of their incorrupt bodies, meaning they haven't decomposed, were welcomed to St. Lawrence with a large celebration and procession into the basilica.



St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina



St. Leopold Mandic

Care for Creation

Link to the Pope's Video on Care for Creation:

<http://catholicclimatemovement.global/pope-video/>

Care for Creation in the Daily Life of the Friars Minor

http://www.ofm.org/01docum/jpic/DailyLifeEcology_ENG.pdf

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>

Daily Lenten reflections from Bishop Robert Barron: sign up here - <http://LentReflections.com>

