



IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

JOY FOR THE JOURNEY

FEBRUARY 2017

IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY GATHERINGS

Feb. 26th

March 26th

April 23rd

May 21st

Day of Reflection

IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY GATHERING

Meeting St. James Catholic Church, Rm. 9 - February 26th, 2017

Council Meeting: 12:00 - 1:15

Fraternity Gathering: 1:30 - 3:30

Opening Prayer

Ongoing Formation: Discussion of Nonviolent Training

Break: Snack and Fellowship

Business: Old and New

Closing Prayer

IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY

Council

Minister:

Mark Kroncke, OFS

Vice Minister:

Edd Ringlein, OFS

Secretary:

Noreen Ringlein, OFS

Treasurer:

Susan Forsyth, OFS

Formation Director:

Kathleen Robbiano, OFS

Spiritual Assistant:

TBA

Councilors

Dianne Prior, OFS

Cosmos Bacich, OFS

Margaret Enea-Patrizi, OFS

Special Ministries

Librarian:

TBA

Newsletter Editors:

Noreen & Edd Ringlein, OFS

J P I C:

Edd & Noreen Ringlein, OFS

Minister's Letter - February 2015

Gone to Seed . . .

As hard as it is to believe, what was just Advent, is now almost Lent.

I can't believe that the planting of the winter crops in my garden will shortly give way to the Spring and Summer crops. Yet, I suppose it is only appropriate as a metaphor for the spiritual lives of Christians. Advent allows us to look toward new life in the midst of darkness, cold, seemingly adverse conditions for birth and the breaking out of life. In my garden, the planting of winter crops allows me to hope that a new harvest, in the midst of darkness and cold is also possible, and capable of feeding and nurturing my own life.

In Lent, we prepare for the experience of death – or rather, that continuing of life beyond death. In the garden I've been blessed to see what happens when the gift of life is allowed to continue naturally through what may be described as the latter stages of life, and eventually, death. Many of us may feel that we are entering these latter stages, and are "long in the tooth" as the saying goes. Yet, this should bring us encouragement and joy!

Lent, leading to Easter, reminds us that as Christians we should embrace death – Francis himself embraced Sister Death with openness. Getting old, being infirm, and even dying are natural stages of life, but never the end. From these experiences can come great gifts. In fact, the winter crops are showing us in their humble ways what can come from a well lived life.

I was at San Damiano for a retreat recently, and had a chance to visit the garden. There, I found some humble reminders of the gifts of life. Not all the lettuce and beets were harvested, and were left to naturally get "long in the tooth." Surprisingly (for those who think veggies come only from a market!), these simple creatures continued on to offer flowers and eventually seeds, from which new life continues.

Can we, too, give flowers and seeds even in the sunsets of our lives? Such possibilities fly against a culture of death, but we Christians never bought into that anyway – not since that event at the empty grave, which seeded a faith we enjoy to this day. Don't worry – it's okay to have gone to seed ... I look forward to such a chance!

Mark Kroncke, OFS

Minister, Il Poverello Fraternity

Scripture reading from Mathew 25: 31- 46

The Judgment of the Nations

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’

Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’

And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’

Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.’

Then they will answer and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?’

He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’

And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

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

- Rule 8 -

As Jesus was the true worshipper of the Father, so let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all they are and do.

Let them participate in the sacramental life of the Church, above all the Eucharist. Let them join in liturgical prayer in one of the forms proposed by the Church, reliving the mysteries of the life of Christ.

Pope Francis’ prayer intentions for the month of February

Comfort for the Afflicted: *That all those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and marginalized, may find welcome and comfort in our communities.*

Scripture and Reflection

Matthew 25: 31-46: *Neither group saw Jesus in the hungry, sick, and strangers, but one group had a heart like Jesus that was moved by suffering. The other group had hard hearts and Jesus said that there was no room in his heavenly kingdom for those with hard hearts. By their “sins of omission” they ended up “omitted.”*

How am I challenged to reject sins of omission?

1 Corinthians 12: 12-26: *The Body of Christ consists of Jesus, the Head, and all the baptized, parts who are joined to him. Thus, “if one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it.”*

How do I find myself suffering when I see suffering in the world?

The Pope Video 02-2017 – Welcome the needy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBU4kj51rxQ&feature=share>

The Classic Examen in Five Steps

Before starting, take a moment to slow down; remind yourself that you are in God’s presence and ask God to help you with your prayer.

- **Gratitude:** Recall anything from the day for which you are especially grateful and give thanks to God.
- **Review:** Recall the events of the day, from start to finish, noticing where you felt God’s presence and where you accepted or turned away from any opportunities to grow in love.
- **Sorrow:** Recall any actions for which you are sorry.
- **Forgiveness:** Ask for God’s forgiveness and/or healing if needed. This may include deciding whether you want to reconcile with anyone you have hurt.
- **Grace:** Ask God for the grace you need for the next day (or for your life in general) and an ability to see God’s presence more clearly.

Fraternity Prayer Intentions ...

We pray to the Lord...

For Pope Francis and all the church leaders, as well as all religious for guidance in directing the church worldwide;

For the conversion of all who do not yet know God's overwhelming Love;

For all the penitential fraternities and members of St. Junipero Serra Region - that the elective chapter gathering 2/17-19 gives us faithful, prayerful, dedicated and competent leaders;

For our Il Poverello fraternity, their families and friends, for Frances' successful surgery, for Mary Anne and Alice, Evelyn, John, and their families, for the healing of Patch and for Julie's goddaughter, for Cindy's niece, for Catherine Galiata and for all who are ill as well as Mike Ortelle and family, for Lindy, 7mos.

pregnant and is having complications, that she has a safe delivery and healthy baby, for the Porter family, and for the family of Daryl Fraser;

For all who are suffering from cancers and for those who care for them;

For our nation that those elected are guided to serve and seek the common good of all in His creation;

For all refugees of worldwide conflicts that they may be sheltered, healed, and comforted;

For the activists and environmentalists continuing in the protest of the DAPL, that their efforts protecting Native American reservations and sacred tribal lands of the indigenous peoples, as well as all of the farmlands, and other communities down river may be successful;

Lord, hear our prayers

Anniversaries in February

Birthday

Michelle Schumacher 2/18

Mary Anne Curme 3/25

Susan Forsyth, OFS 3/26



Prayer at the Lourdes Grotto in the Vatican Garden

O blessed Virgin, Mother of God, Mother of Christ, Mother of the Church, look upon us mercifully at this hour. Virgin faithful, pray for us. Teach us to believe as you believed. Make our faith in God, in Christ, in the Church, always to be serene, courageous, strong, and generous. Mother, worthy of love, Mother, of faithful love, pray for us. Teach us to love God and our brothers and sisters as you loved them: make our love for others to be always patient, kindly, and respectful. Cause of our joy, pray for us. Teach us to be able to grasp, in faith, the paradox of Christian joy, which springs up and blooms from sorrow, renunciation, and union with your sacrificed Son. Make our joy to be always genuine and full, in order to be able to communicate it to all.

Amen.

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

Upcoming Events

February 17-19, St. Junipero Serra Regional Elective Chapter gathering at San Damiano Retreat Center.

February 26, Il Poverello fraternity gathering

March 1, Ash Wednesday

March 26, Il Poverello fraternity gathering

April 9, Palm Sunday

April 14, Good Friday

April 16, Easter Sunday

April 23, Il Poverello fraternity gathering

May 21, Day of Reflection

Lenten Fast for Climate Justice

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him. Mark 1:12-13

- **Fast:** from food during at least one meal or an entire day, remembering to be careful and don't compromise your health; (everyone sacrifices in different ways based on their age, physical strengths, and limitations). You are also encouraged to doing a "Carbon Fast," that is trying to avoid activities that produce carbon dioxide and other wastes (by reducing your use of fossil fuels, electricity, plastic, paper, and toxins).
- **Pray 1:** Start the day by putting yourself in God's presence and recite this prayer: "*Lord, look upon us and hear our prayer. By the penance and good works you inspire, help us to discipline our appetites and to be renewed in spirit. So that we may be better stewards of creation, help us to live simply even when our desires are great. And help us to love greatly, even when we are not loved. 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.*" (Adapted from the Divine Office.)
- **Pray 2:** sometime during the day include the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, or the Divine Office.
- **Read Scripture:** especially those passages referring to Creation Stewardship and Environmental Justice.
- **Take part in a mass or holy hour in your parish:** asking to incorporate "the urgent solution of the climate change crisis" as a prayer intention.
- **Discuss and Inform:** whenever possible, talk with others letting them know of what you are doing and encourage them to consider what it is that they can do to help contribute to Climate Justice.

Secular Franciscan Links:

The National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order-USA:

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

Tau-USA- Newsletter (complete issues):

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

Franciscan Action Network (FAN):

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

San Damiano retreats calendar:

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

Saint Junipero Serra Regional Fraternity:

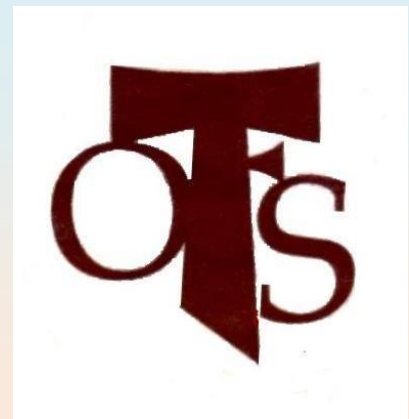
<http://www.juniperoserraregion.com/juniperoserraregion.com/Homepage.html>

Secular Franciscan Order - Ordo Franciscanus Sæcularis:

<http://www.ciofs.org/portal/index.php/en/>

Ecumenical and Interfaith Committee's new web site:

<https://www.ofsusaecumenicalinterfaith.org/>



Franciscan Spirituality Retreat
 at San Damiano Retreat Center
 January 27-29, 2017
 by Dianne Prior

Mark Kroncke, Michelle Schumacher and Dianne Prior enjoyed an inspiring weekend recently at a retreat given by Fr. Joseph Chinnici OFM. The theme was **Performing Ordinary Things in Extraordinary Ways**. There were 5 sessions of Fr Joe’s talks, celebration of Eucharist on Saturday and Sunday, as well as time on Saturday afternoon and after the sessions for quiet individual time or for discussing the talks with other retreatants.



Here are some notes from the talks.

- 1) Our Mission Today: To see Jesus coming towards us.
 Where does Jesus come to me? Do I see Jesus coming toward me? We don’t climb to Heaven; Heaven descends to us. Faith does not flee the world, but endures the world. Good intentions do count.
- 2) Seeing in the Spirit: Discovering Wonder.
 Wonder opens us up to the knowledge and anticipation of immortal life. Did Christ have wonder? The agony in the garden was a wondrous event. What is my experience of wonder? – feed it; let it grow. St Bonaventure wrote, “... we can contemplate the divine immensity by *reasoning* AND by *wonder*.” (emphasis mine).
- 3) “Plenteous Redemptions”: Becoming Co-Lovers with God.
 If God does not help me, then I must help God [to help me], and defend God’s habitat in my heart. I must do what I can in the midst of suffering. What is this Mystery of Suffering? Christ willingly chooses to become human, to embrace his condition of being human. How has God come to me in the narrative of my life? Embrace the narrative of my own life. Give your body for each other / bear one another’s burdens on a daily basis as Christ did for us. God always rewards beyond our worth.
- 4) Medicine for the Nations (Apoc. 22:1-2).
Poverty and pilgrimage.
Mercy and patience.
Hope and celebration.
 It’s through other people that we come to God (prayer, touch, word, active work). You can’t give peace if you don’t have peace. Never underestimate the power of the small action that multiplies itself because you follow Christ. When I see suffering, be there; not just duty, but compassion and love. Give dignity, possibility, potential. Why do we practice virtues? – duty; sense of responsibility, obedience, it’s expected, fear of punishment, expectation of reward, love? It’s Christ’s virtues (love) that led Him to the crucifixion, not our sins.

5) Rules for the Road.

- Fruits (of the Spirit / virtues) are constrained by circumstances
- God rewards beyond our merits
- Fruits are expressed in word and deed (and are subversive)
- Wonder is the starting point.
- All things are possible, but in a human way (ie: imperfectly).

How do we do this? Methods include:

- Gathering in Community
- Meditation
- Prayers of Thanksgiving
- Exemplars (people who give us an example)
- Discretion
- Virtuous Action

<u>Followers of Christ</u>	<u>Followers of the Antichrist</u>
Emptiness or Humility	Arrogance
Wonderful Compassion	Merciless Cruelty
Meekness	Insane Anger
Patience or Steadfastness	Hostile Severity
Unspeakable suffering or punishment	Carnal Lasciviousness
Highest Poverty or Neediness	Cupidity and Avarice
Incomprehensible Love or Burning Charity	Wickedness or Hatred of Truth