



IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
JOY FOR THE JOURNEY

PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA

APRIL, 2014

DEUS MEUS ET OMNIA

Il Poverello Fraternity
Gatherings

April 26

May 24

June 28*

*Day of Reflection/@ St. Philip's

Il Poverello Fraternity

Gathering April 26, 2014

St. James Catholic Church 10:00 - 2:00

Morning Prayer

Fraternity Meeting

Ongoing Formation: Falling Upward, by Richard Rohr
(Chap 4: The Tragic Sense of Life)

Inquiry Formation: Franciscan Journey Chapter Eleven
(Candidacy in the SFO)

Il Poverello Fraternity

Council

Minister:

Kathleen Robbiano OFS

Vice Minister:

Eunice Edgington OFS

Treasurer:

Margaret Enea-Patrizi
OFS

Formation Director:

Julie Schaefer OFS

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Newsletter Editors:

Noreen & Edd Ringlein

J P I C:

Edd & Noreen Ringlein

April 2014
Minister's Letter

May God give you peace!

The time of Lent draws to an end as we prepare for Easter this April, and ponder again the glorious Resurrection of Christ.

What mystery we face with the first disciples of Jesus! The ultimate challenge of "thinking outside of the box"- Jesus rising from the dead. This calls us to our deepest conversion and faith, which, we admit, is a daily call. Renewal, death and new life are the constant journey for us as Christians, and especially Franciscans.

In each of our lives, we find our joys and shortcomings when we open our hearts and spirits to life in Christ.

While preparing to write this month's letter, I opened to this scripture passage. How precious and reassuring:

Mark 2:15-17

When Jesus was at dinner in his house, a number of tax collectors and sinners were also sitting at the table with Jesus and his disciples; for there were many of them among his followers. When the scribes of the Pharisee party saw him eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "It is not the healthy who need the doctor, but the sick. I did not come to call the virtuous, but sinners."

Translation from The Jerusalem Bible

Jesus came, died and rose again for love of each of us, wherever we are in our faith journey. As the early disciples, we must face fears and uncertainty, and be willing to let our worlds be shaken to the core.

Many blessings to all as we awake and discover what special Easter message may come to each of us this year.

Peace and all good
Kathleen Robbiano, OFS

The Divine Mercy

message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC:

A - Ask for His Mercy.

God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B - Be merciful.

God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

C - Completely trust in Jesus.

God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive. .



The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

As Secular Franciscans we are constantly challenged to mindfully
Follow the rule of St Francis - Rule 7

United by their vocation as “brothers and sisters of penance,” and motivated by the dynamic power of the gospel, let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel itself calls “conversion.” Human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily.

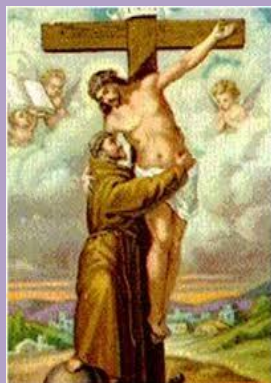
On this road to renewal the sacrament of reconciliation is the privileged sign of the Father’s mercy and the source of grace.

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.

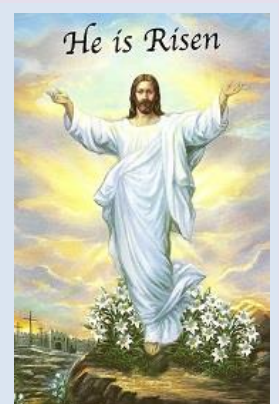
For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him. As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God.

Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as being dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus. - Romans 6: 3 – 11



Love in Action

I admonish and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ all my sisters, both those present and those to come, to strive always to imitate the way of holy simplicity, humility and poverty and also the integrity of our holy way of living, as we were taught from the beginning of our conversion by Christ and by our blessed father Francis And loving one another with the love of Christ, may you demonstrate without in your deeds the love you have within so that, compelled by such an example, the sisters may always grow in the love of God and in mutual charity. - St. Clare of Assisi, “The Testament,” 64



The Courage to be Reconciled

“I beg you to show the greatest possible reverence and honour for the most holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ through whom all things, whether on the earth or in the heavens, have been brought to peace and reconciled with the Almighty God.”

– Francis of Assisi, Letter to a General Chapter, *Omnibus*, p.104

We wrestle in our desire for peace. In the utter confusion we experience around us, it is easy to place the burden of reconciliation and peacemaking in the hands of others. But deep within we know that true peace can emerge only as each one of us reconciles his or her broken relationships. We, like Francis, are invited to enter the depths of our inner being and find there the Real Presence of Divine Good, the source of peace. In this Real Presence we find our courage to be reconciled.

Carry the gift of God’s reconciling presence into your day, becoming aware of at least one person in whom you sense a lack of peace. Through a smile, a comforting word, or an act of thoughtfulness, may you become Eucharistic presence. In this small act you join peacemakers across our world in a shared effort to become reconciled to the all-powerful God.

Spirit of the living God, as I breathe in your presence, I open myself to my deep yearning for peace. Fill me with gratitude for the peace that already is your gift. Give me the courage to probe the crevices of my heart that are cluttered with the residue of resentment, anger, and judgments that block me from more fully receiving your gift of peace. Strengthen my desire to surrender these blocks to your healing mercy so that I may be peace today. Amen.

- Eucharistic Adoration: Reflections in the Franciscan Tradition p. 90



Franciscan Saints in April

- 2 Bl. Elisabetta Vendramini, religious, III Ord., founder
- 3 St. Benedict the Moor, religious, I Ord.
(Sometimes celebrated on April 4)
- 6 St. Crescentia Höss, virgin, III Order
- 16 St. Bernadette Soubirous, cord-bearer of St. Francis
St. Benedict Joseph Labre, cord-bearer of St. Francis
- 21 St. Conrad of Parzham, religious, I Ord.
- 23 Bl. Giles of Assisi, religious, I Ord.
- 24 St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, priest, martyr, I Ord.
- 25 St. Pedro de San Jose Betancur, religious, III Ord., founder
- 27 St. Zita of Lucca, virgin, III Ord.
- 28 Bl. Luchesius, III Ord.
- 30 Bl. Benedict of Urbino, priest, I Ord.
St. Benedict Joseph Cottolengo, III Ord.

Birthdays & Professions:

Lynn Angeli - 5/28

Eunice Edgington, OFS – 5/5

Edd Ringlein – 5/25

John Kennedy, OFS – 5/20

Prayer Intentions

For April of the Holy Father, Pope Francis

Ecology and Justice. That governments may foster the protection of creation and the just distribution of natural resources.

Hope for the Sick. That the Risen Lord may fill with hope the hearts of those who are being tested by pain and sickness.

Pray for moral guidance, dialogue, and compromise in decisions made by our nations’ representatives and world leaders;

Pray for refugees of civil unrest especially for Syria, Ukraine, et al.

Pray for those seeking work and for needed financial relief;

Pray for immigration reform and the unification of families divided by current policies;

Pray for those suffering with illness and discouragement, that they may be healed;

Pray for reconciliation and unity within the church;

Pray for Holy Father Pope Francis, Bishop Robert Vasa, and all priests;

Pray for Tori Heart, Dick Archer, Nancy Trucker, Fr. Eric Freed, for family and friends including Evelyn, Mary Anne and Alice, Tim, and Mark; and all individual intentions.

Let us pray, As Holy week approaches may we consider the depth of our love for others, our giving of ourselves in speaking out about following God’s way, caring for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the prisoners, bringing about true justice and true peace. Your ways, Oh Lord, threaten those who seek to retain power, those who triumph by violence and those interested in their own position and prestige. In flame my heart to the needs of others. May I become a faithful steward of your Creation.

Amen

Upcoming Events:

Please save this date!

The 3rd All Franciscan Family Gathering



Franciscans in the World
“BE THE BRIDGE”
Bringing Christ’s Love to All
September 20, 2014

Keynote speakers:
Bishop Richard Garcia
Maria Elena Martinez, OSF
Br. John Boylan, OEF chaplain
Place:
Napredak Hall
770 Montague Expy,
San Jose

Let all those in your Order and Fraternities know about this event and encourage everyone to join us!

Registration information will be sent in March 2014.

More information:

Cindy Wesley OFS

cwesley@mcn.org or 805-714-6249

Day of Reflection

At St. Philips the Apostle Church
Occidental, CA

Saturday, June 28th

Presented by:



Father Bruce Lamb, OFM Conv.
Chaplain at St. Clare Retreat Center
Soquel, CA



Links:

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

