



IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

JOY FOR THE JOURNEY

**PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA
FEBRUARY 2015**

DEUS MEUS ET OMNIA

IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY GATHERINGS

Feb. 22nd

March 22nd

April 26th

***Il Poverello Fraternity* COUNCIL**

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Kathleen Robbiano, OFS

Vice Minister:

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Noreen & Edd Ringlein

J P I C:

Edd & Noreen Ringlein

Minister's Letter

February 2015

Peace and all good!

January 2015 has given new life to our Il Poverello Fraternity, with a few new faces beginning to appear. May we grow in our faith and vocation, and be a presence of Christ's love and hospitality each time we meet. Hopefully, we can welcome more community members to our group.

As I mentioned last month, the theme of Franciscan poverty and renunciation seems to be requesting attention. Most recently, I finished the book about Mother Teresa's spiritual life and struggles, and her whole desire for the Missionaries of Charity was to live "Franciscan Poverty". Now, the story of Maximilian Kolbe has me in awe, and his view of Franciscan poverty for the cause of spreading God's kingdom is profound.

For our February meeting, we will take time to reflect on how Franciscan poverty and simplicity speaks to each of us, and how our choices in life can affect our ability to be truly present to spread the love of Christ in our needy world. What are our attachments? How can we encourage each other in gently softening our hold on the things of the world?

We continue to lift so many people in our prayers right now. May God give us the grace to pray unceasingly.

Peace,

Kathleen Robbiano, OFS
Minister, Il Poverello Fraternity

Il Poverello Fraternity

Gathering

February 22, 2015

St. James Catholic Church 1:30 - 4:30

Fraternity Meeting 1:30 - 3:30

Ongoing Formation: Discuss what "Franciscan Poverty" means

Inquiry Formation: 3:30 - 4:30

Franciscan Journey Chapter Seventeen

The Mother of God . . . and our Mother

[St. James has a 5PM mass on Sundays for those who wish to attend service after meeting]



Joel Chap. 2: 12 - 18

Even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God.

For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment. Perhaps he will again relent and leave behind him a blessing, Offerings and libations for the LORD, your God.

Blow the trumpet in Zion! Proclaim a fast, call an assembly; Gather the people, notify the congregation; Assemble the elders, gather the children and the infants at the breast; Let the bridegroom quit his room and the bride her chamber.

Between the porch and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep, and say, "Spare, O LORD, your people, and make not your heritage a reproach, with the nations ruling over them! Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

Then the LORD was stirred to concern for his land and took pity on his people.

Have Mercy on Me, O God (from Psalm 51)

**Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your loving-kindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.**

**Wash me through and through from my
wickedness and cease me from my sin.**

**For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy Spirit from me.**

**Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

**Deliver me from death, O God,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.**

The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

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

- Rule 2 -

The Secular Franciscan Order holds a special place in this family circle. It is an organic union of all Catholic fraternities scattered throughout the world and open to every group of the faithful. In these fraternities the brothers and sisters, led by the Spirit, strive for perfect charity in their own secular state. By their profession they pledge themselves to live the gospel in the manner of Saint Francis by means of this rule approved by the Church.

Pope Francis' prayer intentions for the month of February:

Universal Intention – Prisoners

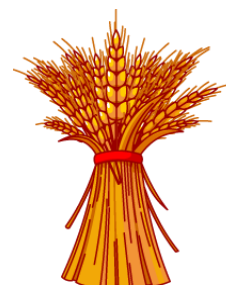
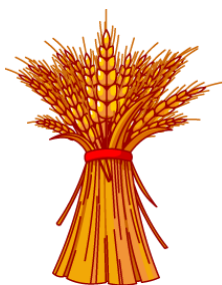
Pray that prisoners, especially the young, may be able to rebuild lives of dignity.

Evangelization Intention – Separated spouses

Pray that married people who are separated may find welcome and support in the Christian community.

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 7th

World Day for Consecrated Life

Celebrated in Parishes February 7-8, 2015

In 1997, Pope John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life.

This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on Feb. 2. This feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples. The celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life is transferred to the following Sunday in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church.

Prayer for the Year of Consecrated Life

O God, throughout the ages you have called women and men to pursue lives of perfect charity through the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. During this Year of Consecrated Life, we give you thanks for these courageous witnesses of Faith and models of inspiration. Their pursuit of holy lives teaches us to make a more perfect offering of ourselves to you. Continue to enrich your Church by calling forth sons and daughters who, having found the pearl of great price, treasure the Kingdom of Heaven above all things.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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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 Stronccone**, 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

Let us pray to the Lord:

For our Il Poverello fraternity families and friends, especially for Lou Guglielmino, for Sebastian, for Elaine Stevick, Anthony, Ken, Evelyn, Mary Anne and Alice, John, Tim, Frate Fabrizio, Br. Mateo, and Mark, prayers also for Fr. Gary Lombardi's mother, Ida Lombardi, 1/13/21-12/18/14;

For the penitential fraternities worldwide preparing for the season of lent and striving to live through the Rule of St. Francis;

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

For Healing and Restoration for those who are recovering from recent natural disasters;

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

For all our individual intentions;

Lord, hear our prayer



Upcoming Events

March dedicated to St. Joseph

3/19 Feast of St. Joseph the Worker



Novena to St. Joseph:

<http://www.praymorenovenas.com/st-joseph-novena/>

Prayer to St. Joseph for a Happy Death

O Blessed Joseph, you gave forth your last breath in loving embrace of Jesus and Mary. When the seal of death shall close my life, come with Jesus and Mary to aid me. Obtain for me this solace for that hour – to die with their holy arms around me. Jesus, Mary, Joseph, I commend my soul, living and dying into your sacred arms.

Franciscans, Pope Francis, and the Joy of the Gospel

For Lent, Pope Francis wants parishes to be ‘islands of mercy’

By Inés San Martín

Vatican correspondent January 28, 2015

ROME — In his annual message for Lent, Pope Francis once again blasted what he called a “globalization of indifference,” saying that when people grow materially comfortable they tend to forget about others, becoming unconcerned with their problems, suffering, and injuries. He called on Christian communities to become “islands of mercy,” transforming parishes, communities, and groups into places where God’s mercy becomes visible. “How greatly I desire that all those places where the Church is present may become islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference!” said Francis.

“Our heart grows cold,” the pope said. “As long as I am relatively healthy and comfortable, I don’t think about those less well off. Today, this selfish attitude of indifference has taken on global proportions, to the extent that we can speak of a globalization of indifference.”

Facing this scenario, said the pope, “someone might be discouraged because it may seem that he [or she] cannot change anything,” since we are in a social and economic crisis that’s beyond us.

In his Lenten message, presented Tuesday in Rome, Francis said the answer to this indifference is to pray, to help others, and to recognize the need for God. These three things can be done at different levels, he said: in the Church as a whole, in parishes and communities, and individually.

Lent Fast for Climate Justice

<http://catholicclimatemovement.global/fast/>

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2015

http://m.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/len/documents/papafrancesco_20141004_messaggio-quaresima2015.html

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

San Damiano retreats calendar:

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

Blessed Junipero Serra Regional Newsletter:

http://juniperoserraregion.com/juniperoserraregion.com/Regional_News/Entries/2014/10/MOJ_2014_Summer.pdf

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

Conquering the Wolf within



Word on Fire blog:

<http://www.wordonfire.org/resources/blog/st-francis-and-the-wolf-of-gubbio/4657/>

See: San Damiano's Winter/Summer 2015