



**IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY  
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER**

*JOY FOR THE JOURNEY*

**PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA  
FEBRUARY, 2014**

*DEUS MEUS ET OMNIA*

*Il Poverello Fraternity  
Gatherings*

February 22

March 22

April 26

*Il Poverello Fraternity*

Gathering

February 22, 2014

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

Divine Office

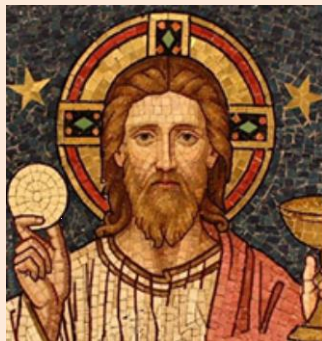
Fraternity Meeting

Ongoing Formation: Falling Upward, by Richard Rohr  
(Chap 2 The Hero and Heroine's Journey)

Inquiry Formation: Franciscan Journey Chapter Nine  
(Vatican II + SFO Rule and Constitutions)

Grant, O Lord of life, that we may savor every season of our lives as a gift filled with promise for the future. Grant that we may lovingly accept your will, and place ourselves each day in your merciful hands. And when the moment of our definitive "passage" comes, grant that we may face it with serenity, without regret for what we shall leave behind. For in meeting you, we shall find once more every authentic good which we have known here on earth. Amen.

--from Bl. John Paul II's  
1999 Letter to the Elderly



*The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order*

As Secular Franciscans we are constantly challenged to mindfully  
Follow the rule of St Francis  
Rule 19

Peace is the work of justice and the fruit of reconciliation and of fraternal love. *Secular Franciscans are called to be bearers of peace in their families and in society:*

- they should see to the proposal and spreading of peaceful ideas and attitudes;

- they should develop their own initiatives and should collaborate, individually and as a fraternity, with initiatives of the Pope, the local Churches, and the Franciscan Family;

- they should collaborate with those movements and institutions which promote peace while respecting its authentic foundations.

*Blessed is anyone who perseveres when trials come. Such a person is of proven worth and will win the prize of life, the crown that the Lord has promised to those who love him. Never, when you are being put to the test, say, 'God is tempting me'; God cannot be tempted by evil, and he does not put anybody to the test. Everyone is put to the test by being attracted and seduced by that person's own wrong desire. Then the desire conceives and gives birth to sin, and when sin reaches full growth, it gives birth to death. Make no mistake about this, my dear brothers: all that is good, all that is perfect, is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow caused by change. By his own choice he gave birth to us by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all his creation.*

- James 1: 12-27



O God, strength of all the Saints,  
 Who through the Cross were pleased to call  
 The Martyrs Saint Paul Miki and companions to life,  
 Grant, we pray, that by their intercession  
 We may hold with courage even until death  
 To the faith that we profess.  
 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.

## Franciscan Saints in February

February – Month of the Holy Rosary and the Holy Angels

- 1 **St. Veridiana**, virgin, III Ord.  
**Bl. Andrew of Segni**, religious, I Ord.
- 4 **St. Joseph of Leonessa**, priest, I Ord.
- 6 **Sts. Peter Baptist, priest, Paul Miki and companions**, martyrs [*Martin of the Ascension, Francis Blanco, priests; Philip of Jesus, cleric; Francis of St. Michael, Gonsalvo Garcia, religious; seventeen tertiaries*], I and III Ord.
- 7 **St. Colette of Corbie**, virgin, II Ord.
- 8 **St. Giles Mary of St. Joseph**, religious, I Ord.
- 15 **Transfer of the Body of St. Anthony of Padua**
- 17 **Bl. Luke Belludi**, religious, I Ord.
- 19 **St. Conrad of Piacenza**, hermit, III Ord.
- 27 **Bl. Sebastian of Aparicio**, religious, I Ord.

### Birthdays & Professions:

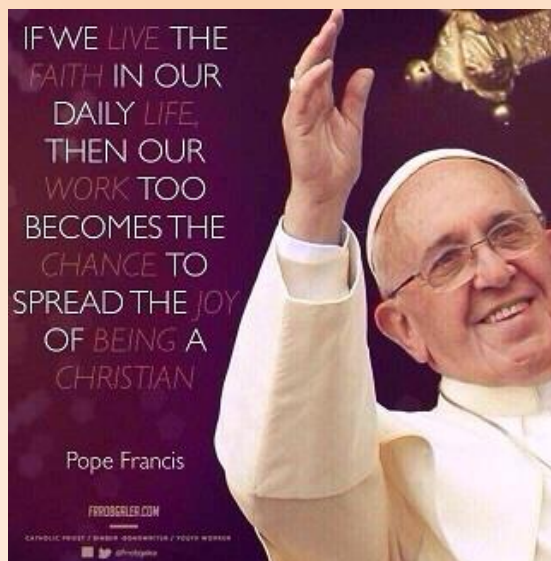
Mary Anne Curme 3/25

**Pope Francis' universal prayer intention for February is:**

*“That the Church and society may respect the wisdom and experience of older people”.*

**His intention for evangelization is:**

*“That priests, religious, and lay people may work together with generosity for evangelization”.*



### Prayer Requests

Thank you for our much needed rain, prayers for those who suffer due to weather conditions ;

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 moral guidance, dialogue, and compromise in decisions made by our nation and world leaders;

Pray for reconciliation and unity within the church;

Pray for Holy Father Pope Francis, Bishop Robert Vasa, and all priests of the Santa Rosa Diocese;

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

### Lord hear our prayers

*Let us pray to God for one another, for by carrying each other's burden of charity in this way, we will easily fulfill the law of Christ. – St. Clare of Assisi, “The Letter of St. Clare to Ermentrude of Bruges”*

**Minister's Letter**

Peace and all good!

I am reflecting on the words Richard Rohr reminded us of in "Falling Upward", seen in scripture over and over "Do not be afraid".

Personally, I have experienced several friends "crossing over" or in preparation for the journey recently. As I write this, I am reflecting on Tori, whose memorial is tonight (2/6) and who purposely left to meet the other side on her own- when I looked for her, I was so close, yet did not cross a fence on the land where she was later found.

God is too expansive for me to fathom-what ways are these?

Today I choose to love the best I can, knowing that I carry the light and dark in my grand humanity, in my feeble humanity.

My friend Emma Wallace just found me a book in the library containing writings of Pope Francis. For us as professed Franciscans, or those discerning the call: "The worst that can happen to those that are anointed and called to service is that they live with the criteria of the world instead of the criteria that the Lord commands from the tablets of the law and the Gospel." From "On Heaven and Earth: Pope Francis on faith, family and the church in 2013" How is God shaking us deeper today? How is God calling us to drop more of our worldliness? How can we find our way through the fences that allow love to blossom?

My prayer is for God to be more present and shining in us each day.

In Christ's love,  
**Kathleen**

**IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY**

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**COUNCIL**

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Vice Minister: Eunice  
Treasurer -Secretary: Margaret  
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**Links :**

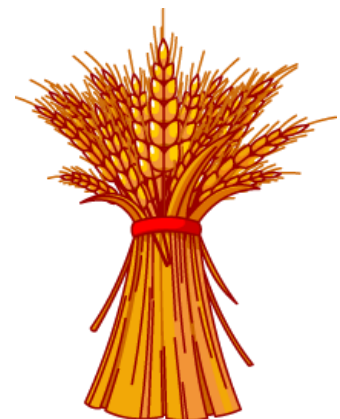
**The National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order-USA:**

[http://www.nafra-sfo.org/monthly\\_Jun12.html](http://www.nafra-sfo.org/monthly_Jun12.html)

**Tau-USA- Newsletter:**

[http://www.nafra-sfo.org/tau-usa/tau\\_newarticles.html](http://www.nafra-sfo.org/tau-usa/tau_newarticles.html)

**www.FranciscanEarthCorps.org**







## A Reflection on Lenten Fasting

— by Rev. Daniel Merz,  
Associate Director,

USCCB Secretariat of Divine Worship

How did *fasting* become such an important means of preparing for the Eucharist and of learning virtue through self-discipline? Christian fasting is revealed in an interdependence between two events in the Bible: the "breaking of the fast" by Adam and Eve; and the "keeping of the fast" by Christ at the beginning of his ministry.

Humanity's "Fall" away from God and into sin began with eating. God had proclaimed a fast from the fruit of only one tree, the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:17), and Adam and Eve broke it. Fasting is here connected with the very mystery of life and death, of salvation and damnation. Food perpetuates life in this physical world, which is subject to decay and death. But God "created no death." (Wis. 1:13) Humanity, in Adam and Eve, rejected a life dependent on God alone for one that was dependent rather on "bread alone." (Dt. 8:3; Mt. 4:4; Lk. 4:4) The whole world was given to man as a kind of food, as a means to life, but "life" is meant as communion with God, not as food. ("Their god is their belly." Phil. 3:19) The tragedy is not so much that Adam ate food, but that he ate the food for its own sake, "apart" from God and to be independent of Him. Believing that food had life in itself and thus he could be "like God." And he put his faith in food. This kind of existence seems to be built on the principle that man does indeed live "by bread alone."

Christ, however, is the new Adam. At the beginning of his ministry in the Gospel of Matthew, we read, "When He had fasted 40 days and 40 nights, He became hungry." Hunger is that state in which we realize our dependence on something else—when we face the ultimate question: "on what does my life depend?" Satan tempted both Adam and Christ, saying: Eat, for your hunger is proof that you depend entirely on food, that your life is in food. Adam believed and ate. Christ said, "Man does NOT live by bread alone." (Mt. 4:4; Lk. 4:4) This liberates us from total dependence on food, on matter, on the world. Thus, for the Christian, fasting is the only means by which man recovers his true spiritual nature. In order for fasting to be effective, then, the spirit must be a part of it. Christian fasting is not concerned with losing weight. It is a matter of prayer and the spirit. And because of that, because it is truly a place of the Spirit, true fasting may well lead to temptation, and weakness and doubt and irritation. In other words, it will be a real fight between good and evil, and very likely we shall fail many times in these battles. But the very discovery of the Christian life as "fight" and "effort" is an essential aspect of fasting.

## Upcoming Events:



## Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative

### JOIN US! INTERFAITH SUSTAINABLE FOOD

### COLLABORATIVE'S 2ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

**FAITH, FAMILY FARMS & FOOD ACCESS**

**FEBRUARY 23RD, 2014 1:30PM – 7PM**

**AT THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST**

**CONGREGATION OF MARIN**

**240 CHANNING WAY, SAN RAFAEL, CA**

### Key Speakers:

James Ennis - Catholic Rural Life

Francesca Hyatt - Come to the Table, North Carolina

Armanda Nieto - Community Food and Justice Coalition

Register now for our 2014 conference at the early-bird price!

Price: \$55 (Full and partial scholarships are available.)

Discounts for multiple members of the same congregation.

Includes a resource guide and reception featuring delicious locally grown food. Space is limited!

Reservations are strongly recommended.

Register online or fill out the printer version application and send it to us at ISFC 632 Petaluma Ave, Sebastopol 95472.

If you have questions contact the Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative at (707) 634-4672 - [info@interfaithfood.org](mailto:info@interfaithfood.org).

## Day of Reflection

At St. Philips the Apostle Church  
Occidental, CA

Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>

Presented by:



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

**Please save this date!**

**Come to the family reunion!**  
**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**

**Please save this date!**

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](mailto:cwesley@mcn.org) or 805-714-6249

