



IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

JOY FOR THE JOURNEY

PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA
JULY, 2014

DEUS MEUS ET OMNIA

Il Poverello Fraternity
Gatherings

July 26th

August 23rd
Handicapables

September 27th

Il Poverello Fraternity

Saturday July 26th, 2014 - 10:00-2:00
St. James Catholic Church

Morning Prayer

Fraternity Meeting

Ongoing Formation: Falling Upward, by Richard Rohr
(Chap 6: Necessary Suffering)

Inquiry Formation: Franciscan Journey

(Chapter Thirteen: Encounters with Christ)

Il Poverello Fraternity

COUNCIL

Minister:

Kathleen Robbiano OFS

Vice Minister:

Eunice Edgington OFS

Treasurer:

Margaret Enea-Patrizi OFS

Formation Director:

Julie Schaefer OFS

Spiritual Assistant:

Bro. Bob Brady OFM

Special Ministries

Librarian:

J. Patch Guglielmino

Newsletter Editors:

Noreen & Edd Ringlein

J P I C:

Edd & Noreen Ringlein

Minister's Letter

Peace and all good.

A title for a book is stirring in my heart and mind.

"Sacrifice: A Call to the People of All Creation"

The theme is hardly new, but came in a unique way when I was on retreat at Redwoods Monastery in Mendocino County. Deep silence and the chaplain reminding me one day "Jesus wants your heart" led to more human "letting go" and the opportunity for grace to flow in.

Of course we have heard the Gospel reminder:

"If you wish to be perfect, go sell what you have and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Matthew 19:21

And Pope Francis recently stated:

"The dignity of the human person and the common good rank higher than the comfort of those who refuse to renounce their privileges."

Evangelii Gaudium, Section 218

Sacrifice is the key to peace, a necessity for the survival of our creation, and a path to true freedom in our souls. Let us again find the quiet and ask Jesus to take our hearts, infuse our beings with grace, and guide us as we strip away our unnecessary clutter. Let us commit to be examples of sacrifice and love for Jesus that we may be true peacemakers in our Franciscan journey.

When we begin with small sacrifices as a spiritual practice, the larger sacrifices eventually become more bearable, too. May God bless all our humble efforts and surround us with joy.

In Christ's Light,

Kathleen

Peter 1: 14-25

Like obedient children, do not act in compliance with the desires of your former ignorance but, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in every aspect of your conduct, for it is written, “Be holy because I am holy.”

Now if you invoke as Father him who judges impartially according to each one’s works, conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning, realizing that you were ransomed from your futile conduct, handed on by your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ as of a spotless unblemished lamb. He was known before the foundation of the world but revealed in the final time for you, who through him believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Since you have purified yourselves by obedience to the truth for sincere mutual love, love one another intensely from a pure heart. You have been born anew, not from perishable but from imperishable seed, through the living and abiding word of God, for:

“All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of the field; the grass withers, and the flower wilts; but the word of the Lord remains forever.”



The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

As Secular Franciscans we are constantly challenged

to mindfully follow the rule of St Francis

- Rule 3 -

The present rule, succeeding “*Memoriale Propositi*” (1221) and the rules approved by the Supreme Pontiffs Nicholas IV and Leo XIII, adapts the Secular Franciscan Order to the needs and expectations of the Holy Church in the conditions of changing times. Its interpretation belongs to the Holy See and its application will be made by the General Constitutions and particular statutes.

“Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away, and he gives you everything. When we give ourselves to him, we receive a hundredfold in return. Yes, open, open wide the doors to Christ — and you will find true life”

Homily of Pope Benedict XVI, 24 April 2005



Slowly but surely, however, it would become evident that the light of autonomous reason is not enough to illumine the future; ultimately the future remains shadowy and fraught with fear of the unknown. As a result, humanity renounced the search for a great light, Truth itself, in order to be content with smaller lights which illumine the fleeting moment yet prove incapable of showing the way. Yet in the absence of light everything becomes confused; it is impossible to tell good from evil, or the road to our destination from other roads which take us in endless circles, going nowhere. - *LUMEN FIDEI* (3.)

***Evangelii Gaudium* 120.** In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. *Mt* 28:19). All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients. The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God’s saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love. Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are “disciples” and “missionaries”, but rather that we are always “missionary disciples.” If we are not convinced, let us look at those first disciples, who, immediately after encountering the gaze of Jesus, went forth to proclaim him joyfully: “We have found the Messiah!” (*Jn* 1:41). The Samaritan woman became a missionary immediately after speaking with Jesus and many Samaritans come to believe in him “because of the woman’s testimony” (*Jn* 4:39). So too, Saint Paul, after his encounter with Jesus Christ, “immediately proclaimed Jesus” (*Acts* 9:20; cf. 22:6-21). So what are we waiting for?

**Reflections of Day of Recollection: “The Faith: It Can Be *Taught*, but It Must Be *Caught*;
A Look at Conversion through the Eyes of Francis of Assisi”**

As we gathered to reflect in June 2014, we were graced with the wisdom of Fr. Bruce Lamb, OFM Conv. ** Fr. Lamb noted that there are approximately 1.3 billion Catholics worldwide and in previous centuries, Catholics have historically contributed immensely to the arts, sciences, and politics of the day. We operate the largest private health care system and we educate more children than any other religion. In spite of this, Catholics today have little influence across these domains.

According to Fr. Lamb, only 20% of U.S. Catholics attend weekly Mass. In Rome, the seat of the Holy See, only 17% of Italians are what we would consider practicing Catholics. France, the country that witnessed the Immaculate Conception, Therese of Lisieux, and St. Bernadette is now overwhelmingly atheistic, such that the majority of populations in France and some other parts of Europe have abandoned the practice of this significant faith.

In all communities, Fr. Lamb stresses that the faith is still being diligently taught by our religious and lay instructors. Yet, it seems more and more apparent that -- the faith it has been taught, but it has not been caught. The Gospel of Matthew mentions that many will cry out, Lord, Lord, but not all will enter heaven. Fr. Lamb left us all pondering, how is it that in a faith where miracles are performed and demons have been cast out in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit that so few keep this faith?

There is work and prayer to do, says Fr. Lamb, around inviting God in, so that others may see God in us. To be credible, while our Catechists perform a good job of teaching, we seem to do an abysmal job of teaching, understanding and performing John’s Gospel: *“Do you not believe that I am in the Father as He is in me, and the Father is in me? The words I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing His works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves.”* The “in-dwelling” language and nature of Christ allows that others must see God in us. By our actions and deeds, we may through free will choose to act, both blessing and curse. St. Francis heard an urgent call to be a servant of our Lord, and opened himself, “Lord, enlighten the darkness of my soul...”

Fr. Lamb explained that for St. Francis there was no easy change, rather there was confusion, pain, and despair. St. Francis underwent a significant life change following his carefree youth, battle experiences, incarceration, and serious illness. In modern terms St. Francis seems to have been impacted by depression and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. In coming to understanding of The Christ incarnate, St. Francis realized that there was much vain glory in his youthful indiscretions and sinful ways. St. Francis embraced poverty, charity, and obedience to the will of God. Despite teaching of the faith, many of our own Catholic friends and our children do not seem to realize the gift of the Lord’s mercy. St. Francis repeatedly cried out, “Lord, be merciful to me a sinner.” The assurance of being forgiven filled St. Francis with indescribable joy, such that he could walk with the Holy Spirit by exemplifying, **“I am the way, the truth, and the light.”**

St. Francis, our seraphic guide, was caught up in the faith. He was caught up above himself and remarkably changed. This required that he seek solitude. We too must seek solitude, so that we can get to know the Trinity on the deepest level. We are called by baptism and sent by confirmation to replicate the deep abiding, in-dwelling love of God. We must catch the faith, so that love overflows from our being. By catching the faith, we can see the hearts that are hurting, the hearts that are weak and by serving God, as St. Francis served, strengthen people. We can take God to people by our prayers and by actions. The Holy Spirit renews us, infuses us, and inflames us to discern the signs of the times, yet in all ways, Jesus is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Jesus is not a compromiser, so unless we revere the Eucharist, unless we eat of the flesh of the Son of God, made man, and drink of His blood, we cannot truly catch the faith. There is this one true path and we do have free will to reject Christ. We must plant this seed, to encourage all to believe, follow, worship and adore God, just as St. Francis did through his tender prayer and example.

*****(Fr. Lamb’s talk was videotaped and we will announce when it will be in a format for viewing and sharing.)***

Pope Francis prayer intentions the month of July

General intention is for: Sports. Such that sports may always be occasions of human fraternity and growth.

Intention for evangelization is for: Lay Missionaries. That the Holy Spirit may support the work of the laity who proclaim the Gospel in the poorest countries.

We especially ask prayers for

Evangelists and Unification of the faithful;
World peace and the refugees of all conflicts to be sheltered, healed, and comforted, and the safe return of children to their families;

Immigration reform and the unification of families divided by current policies;

All travelers to receive safe journeys;

Fraternities worldwide striving to live as St. Francis and St. Clare guides us through the Rule;

Il Poverello Family and friends for strength in their struggles:

Pat McShane, John and Dorothy Kennedy, Alice & Mary Anne, Jim Chlebeda, Tari Hogan (St. Francis fraternity in Reno who has been very ill with a staph infection), Br. Mateo, Todd, Julie, Tim, Mark, & Damien;

All the faithful departed. Lord, hear our prayers.

Franciscan Saints in July

- 1 Bl. Junipero Serra, priest, I Ord.
- 4 St. Elizabeth of Portugal, queen, III Ord.
- 7 Bl. Davanzato, bishop, III Ord.,
- 8 Bl. Gregory Grassi, bishop,
and companions, martyrs, I and III Ord.
- 9 St. Nicholas Pick, priest,
and companions, martyrs, I Ord.
- 10 St. Veronica Giuliani, virgin, II Ord.
- 12 Sts. John Jones and John Wall, priests,
martyrs, I Ord.
- 13 Bl. Angeline of Marisciano, religious, III Ord.
- 15 St. Bonaventure, bishop, doctor, I Ord.
- 16 Canonization of St. Francis –
Canonized 16 July 1228 by Pope Gregory IX
St. Francis Solano, priest, I Ord.
* Outside of the U.S., he is celebrated on July 14
- 18 St. Simon of Lipnica
- 21 St. Lawrence of Brindisi, priest, doctor, I Ord.
- 23 Bl. Cunegunda, religious, II Ord.
St. Bridget of Sweden, widow, III Ord.
- 24 Bl. Louise of Savoy, widow, II Ord.
Bl. Modestino of Jesus and Mary, religious, I Ord.
Bl. Antonio Lucci, bishop, I Ord.
- 27 Bl. Mary Magdalene of Martinengo, virgin, II Ord.
- 28 Bl. Mary Teresa Kowalska, virgin,
martyr of Poland, II Ord.
Bl. Mattia Nazarei, virgin, II Ord.

July 11th Feast Day of St. Benedict



Description of the St. Benedict Medal and its meaning:

<http://www.osb.org/gen/medal.html>

Web 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

Radical call to New Evangelization:

<http://www.osservatoreromano.va/en/news/popes-radical-call-new-evangelization#.U8BVUPIdXHQ>

Blessed Junipero Serra Regional Newsletter:

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

