



IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
JOY FOR THE JOURNEY

PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA

MARCH, 2014

DEUS MEUS ET OMNIA

Il Poverello Fraternity
Gatherings

March 22

April 26

May 24

Il Poverello Fraternity

Gathering March 22, 2014

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

Morning Prayer

Fraternity Meeting

Ongoing Formation: Falling Upward, by Richard Rohr
(Chap 3: The First Half of Life)

Inquiry Formation: Franciscan Journey Chapter Ten
(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

Spiritual Assistant:

Bro. Bob Brady OFM

Special Ministries

Librarian:

J. Patch Guglielmino

Newsletter Editors:

Noreen & Edd Ringlein

J P I C:

Edd & Noreen Ringlein

Ministers Letter

The Lord give you peace!

These were the beautiful words St. Francis instructed his followers to use when greeting persons they met.

For those of you who are Franciscans, and you who find this letter out of curiosity and interest in our Franciscan way of life, may you feel God's blessing of peace. Certainly in reflecting on our world, we can see the wisdom and care in the greeting of Francis- the soul's greatest longing is for real peace.

Recently, I attended a "Chapter" meeting, joining other Secular Franciscans from our Region for prayer, fellowship, council elections and other business. The meeting was inspirational and informative. However, as I shared with brother and sister Franciscans over several days, the significant word that came to mind was "devotion". I experienced the presence of some very spiritually devoted people, often with incredible personal challenges in their lives.

As we journey through Lent once again, how can we increase our devotion? In our world so hungry and aching, the spirit of Francis calls us more to Gospel simplicity- which then allows us to truly be available as God's instruments. Lent is an opportunity to devote more time to prayer, spiritual reading and deepening our exploration of the question "What more can we share?"

And from the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:37-40:

Then the just will ask him: "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or see you thirsty and give you to drink? When did we welcome you away from home or clothe you in your nakedness? When did we visit you when you were ill or in prison?" The king will answer them: "I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers or sisters, you did it for me"

Let us encourage each other to seize every opportunity to witness the love and peace of Christ, and grow stronger, more devoted and more beautiful in the mysterious ways of God.

In peace,

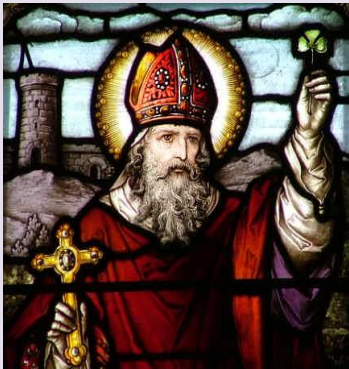
Kathleen

kayrobiano@yahoo.com (707)3315718

Christ with me,
 Christ before me,
 Christ behind me,
 Christ within me,
 Christ beneath me,
 Christ above me,
 Christ at my right,
 Christ at my left,
 Christ in the fort,
 Christ in the chariot seat,
 Christ in the poop [deck],

Christ in the heart of everyone
 who thinks of me,
 Christ in the mouth of everyone
 who speaks to me,
 Christ in every eye that sees me,
 Christ in every ear that hears
 me.

I bind to myself today
 The strong virtue of an
 invocation of the Trinity,
 I believe the Trinity in the Unity
 The Creator of the Universe.



The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

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

Rule 22

The local fraternity is to be established canonically. It becomes the basic unit of the whole Order and a visible sign of the Church, the community of love. This should be the privileged place for developing a sense of Church and the Franciscan vocation and for enlivening the apostolic life of its members.

He exhorts them to contribute bountifully to relieve the poor of Jerusalem.

Now we make known unto you, brethren, the grace of God, that hath been given in the churches of Macedonia. That in much experience of tribulation, they have had abundance of joy; and their very deep poverty hath abounded unto the riches of their simplicity . . . With much entreaty begging of us the grace and communication of the ministry that is done toward the saints. And not as we hoped, but they gave their own selves first to the Lord, then to us by the will of God: Insomuch, that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so also he would finish among you this same grace. That as in all things you abound in faith, and word, and knowledge, and all carefulness; moreover also in your charity towards us, so in this grace also you may abound. I speak not as commanding; but by the carefulness of others, approving also the good disposition of your charity. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that being rich he became poor, for your sakes; that through his poverty you might be rich. . . Now therefore perform ye it also in deed; that as your mind is forward to be willing, so it may be also to perform, out of that which you have. . As it is written: He that had much, had nothing over; and he that had little, had no want.

- 2 Corinthians 8: 1 - 15



The Ministers and Poverty

When the brother ministers urged him to allow the brothers to have something at least in common, so that such a great number would have some resources, Saint Francis called upon Christ in prayer and consulted Him about this. Christ immediately responded that He would take away everything held individually or in common, saying that this is His family for whom He was always ready to provide, no matter how much it might grow, and He would always cherish it as long as it would put its hope in Him.

- *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents Volume II - The Founder*

Lenten Prayer Of St. Ephrem The Syrian



*O Lord and Master of my life!
 Take from me the spirit of sloth,
 faint-heartedness, lust of power, and idle talk.
 But give rather the spirit of chastity,
 humility, patience, and love to Thy servant.
 Yea, Lord and King! Grant me to see my own errors
 and not to judge my brother,
 for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.*



LENTEN MESSAGE OF OUR HOLY FATHER FRANCIS 2014

*He became poor, so that by his
poverty you might become rich
(cf. 2 Cor 8:9)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As Lent draws near, I would like to offer some helpful thoughts on our path of conversion as individuals and as a community. These insights are inspired by the words of Saint Paul: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich" (2 Cor8:9).

The Apostle was writing to the Christians of Corinth to encourage them to be generous in helping the faithful in Jerusalem who were in need. What do these words of Saint Paul mean for us Christians today? What does this invitation to poverty, a life of evangelical poverty, mean for us today?

Vatican City, 28 February 2014

(VIS) – The Pope's universal prayer intention for March is "that all cultures may respect the rights and dignity of women"; for evangelization "that many young people may accept the Lord's invitation to consecrate their lives to proclaiming the Gospel".



Franciscan Saints in March

- 2 St. Agnes of Prague, virgin, II Ord.
- 3 Bls. Liberatus Weiss, Samuele Marzorati and Michele Pio Fasoli, priests and martyrs, I Ord.
- 5 St. John Joseph of the Cross, priest, I Ord.
- 9 St. Frances of Rome, religious, III Ord.
- 12 Bl. Angela Salawa, virgin, III Ord.
- 18 St. Salvator of Horta, religious I Ord.
- 20 Bl. John of Parma, priest, I Ord.
- 22 St. Benvenute of Osimo, priest, I Ord.
- 23 St. Catherine of Genoa, III Ord.
- 24 Bl. Ludovico of Casoria, priest, I Ord.
- 30 St. Peter Regaldo, priest, I Ord.

Birthdays & Professions:

Mary Anne Curme 3/25

Prayer Requests

Pray for refugees of middle east civil unrest, i.e. 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 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"

PRAY THE RULE

O Lord, our God, we intend to make present the charism of our Seraphic Father Francis in the life and mission of the Church, in various ways and forms but in life-giving union with one another. By our profession, we pledge ourselves to live the Gospel in the manner of St Francis by means of our Rule approved by the Church (*Arts. 1-3*). Help us, we pray, so that daily we may:

- observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of St Francis, going from gospel to life and from life to the gospel (*Art. 4*);
- seek to encounter the living and active person of Jesus Christ in our brothers and sisters, in sacred scripture, in the Church and in the Eucharist (*Art. 5*);
- go forth as witnesses and instruments of the Church's mission among people, proclaiming Christ by our life and words (*Art. 6*);
- conform our thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by the radical interior change which the Gospel calls "conversion", making use of the sacrament of reconciliation on the way to renewal (*Art. 7*);
- let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all we are and do (*Art. 8*);
- imitate the Virgin Mary's complete self-giving in her openness to your every word and call (*Art. 9*);
- faithfully fulfil the duties proper to our various circumstances in life (*Art. 10*);
- seek the proper spirit of detachment and purify our hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power (*Art. 11*);
- acquire the purity of heart needed to set ourselves free to love God and our brothers and sisters (*Art. 12*);
- accept all people as your gift, Lord, and an image of Christ (*Art. 13*);
- exercise our responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of service (*Art. 14*);
- be in the forefront of promoting justice by the testimony of our human lives and by courageous initiatives (*Art. 15*);
- esteem work both as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption and service of the human community (*Art. 16*);
- cultivate the Franciscan spirit of peace, fidelity and respect for life in our families, striving to make it a sign of a world already renewed in Christ (*Art. 17*);
- respect all creatures, animate and inanimate "as bearing the imprint of the Most High" (*Art. 18*);
- be bearers of peace and messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, as immersed in the resurrection of Christ, we serenely tend towards Sister Death and our ultimate encounter with you, our Father (*Art. 19*).

All this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Brother. Amen.

Links:

The National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order-USA:

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

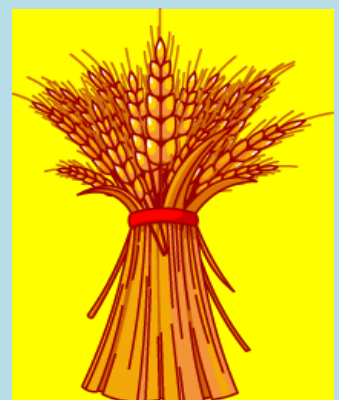
Tau-USA- Newsletter:

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

Franciscan Action Network (FAN):

<http://franciscanaction.org/>

www.FranciscanEarthCorps.org



Upcoming Events:

The Spiritual Enrichment Center *"I am the vine...you are the branches." John 15:5*



Lenten Series

**Theme: Apostolic Exhortation
Of Our Holy Father – Pope Francis**
Introduction: The Joy of the Gospel
- A Joy ever New, a Joy which is Shared
Presenter: Sr. Killian, R.S.M

March 11th: The Church, Missionary Transformation
– a Church involved and supportive, bearing fruit and rejoicing.
Presenter: Dr. Ray Noll, PhD

March 18th : The Challenges of Today's World
– no to a financial system that rules rather than serves,
no to the inequality that spawns violence.
Presenter: Yvette Fallandy, PhD

March 25th: The Proclamation of the Gospel
- this is the work of the entire People of God.
Each Catholic has a responsibility to share in the work Jesus started
– by word or example.
Presenter: Monica Miller, M.A.

April 1st: The Social Dimension of Evangelization
- this involves a Confession of Faith and a Commitment to Society.
Presenter: Len Marabella, PhD

April 8th: Spirit Filled Evangelization
– we need to know Jesus not just to know about Him,
we need to experience a personal encounter with the Love of Jesus
Presenter: David Del Castillo

Time: 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

Place: St. Rose Parish Hall, Rm. A; March 18th - Convent

Donation: \$10 per presentation or \$40.00 per series

*God's will for me is done when my talents meet the
needs of my world.*

Director: Sister Antonia Killian R.S.M

Phone: 707-546-1781

E-mail: officeec@sonic.net

Website: www.spiritualenrichmentcenter.net

**The Center is a self-supporting ministry.
All contributions are tax deductible**

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



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 or 805-714-6249

