



**IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER**

JOY FOR THE JOURNEY

PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA

JANUARY, 2015

DEUS MEUS ET OMNIA

***Il Poverello Fraternity
Gatherings***

January 25th

February 22nd

March 22nd

Il Poverello Fraternity

COUNCIL

Minister:

Kathleen Robbiano, OFS

Vice Minister:

Eunice Edgington, OFS

Treasurer:

Margaret Enea-Patrizi, OFS

Formation:

Julie Schaefer, OFS

Spiritual Assistant:

Bro. Bob Brady, OFM



Special Ministries

Librarian:

J. Patch Guglielmino, OFS

Newsletter Editors:

Noreen & Edd Ringlein

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Minister's Letter January 2015

A blessed and joyous New Year to all! In the challenges each of us face, may we continue to risk opening our hearts and spirits to new life in Christ each day.

In my recent reading and reflection about Christ, St Francis and St. Clare, and our contemporary Mother Teresa, a word that comes up is "renunciation". To be most available for God's work, there is much to be given up. How might that concept apply to us as individual Franciscans and as a fraternity community? Certainly we can share about this some at our upcoming January meeting.

Another mighty challenge comes from our Pope Francis in his *Evangelii Gaudium* or *Joy of The Gospel*. "Any Church community, if it thinks it can comfortably go its own way without creative concern and effective cooperation in helping the poor to live with dignity and reaching out to everyone, will also risk breaking down, however much it may talk about social issues or criticize governments. It will easily drift into a spiritual worldliness camouflaged by religious practices, unproductive meetings, and empty talk." (Section 207)

In caring for creation, he suggests: "There are other weak and defenseless beings who are frequently at the mercy of economic interests or exploitation. I am speaking of creation as a whole. We human beings are not only the beneficiaries but also the stewards of other creatures. Thanks to our bodies, God has joined us so closely to the world around us that we can feel the desertification of the soil almost as a physical ailment, and the extinction of a species as a painful disfigurement. Let us not leave in our wake a swath of destruction and death which will affect our own lives and those of future generations" (Section 215)

"Small yet strong in the love of God, like Saint Francis of Assisi, all of us, as Christians, are called to watch over and protect the fragile world in which we live, and all its peoples." (216) And to the issue of privilege:

"The dignity of the human person and the common good rank higher than the comfort of those who refuse to renounce their privileges. When these values are threatened, a prophetic voice must be raised." (218)

As I move in the world, wearing the Tau, and discussing our lay religious order with various peoples, I realize that those who know of St. Francis expect a lot from those who follow him. We are beginning anew in our fraternity, so let us pray to the question - How is Pope Francis trying to guide us, and how is Christ asking us to deepen our vocation as Franciscan Christians?

Clearly, there is much work to do.
Peace and all good,

Kathleen Robbiano, OFS
Minister, Il Poverello Fraternity

Il Poverello Fraternity Gathering

January 25, 2015

St. Sebastian's Church, Rm. 6 *

Council Mtg.: 12:30 - 1:30

Fraternity Mtg.: 1:30 - 3:30

Ongoing Formation: Falling Upward: Completion

Candidate/Inquiry Formation: 3:30 - 4:30

Franciscan Journey: Chapter 16 *When You Pray*

*** See Upcoming Events for address and map**

SCRIPTURE READING

MARK 3:13 -19

JESUS WENT UP THE MOUNTAIN AND SUMMONED THOSE WHOM HE WANTED AND THEY CAME TO HIM. HE APPOINTED TWELVE, WHOM HE ALSO NAMED APOSTLES, THAT THEY MIGHT BE WITH HIM AND HE MIGHT SEND THEM FORTH TO PREACH AND TO HAVE AUTHORITY TO DRIVE OUT DEMONS: HE APPOINTED THE TWELVE: SIMON, WHOM HE NAMED PETER; JAMES, SON OF ZEBEDEE, AND JOHN THE BROTHER OF JAMES, WHOM HE NAMED BOANERGES, THAT IS, SONS OF THUNDER; ANDREW, PHILIP, BARTHOLOMEW, MATTHEW, THOMAS, AND JAMES THE SON OF ALPHAEUS; THADDEUS, SIMON THE CANANEAN, AND JUDAS ISCARIOT WHO BETRAYED HIM.

~NAB from usccb.org

We pray to the Lord...

For peace on earth through the elimination of the causes of war;
For comfort of the homeless especially for those fleeing conflicts at home and worldwide;
For moral guidance in dialogue and compromise among world leaders in making their decisions;
For Healing and Restoration for those who are recovering from recent natural disasters;
For those who are sick and dying, especially for the faithful departed;
For reconciliation and unity in the church;
For Pope Francis and church leaders, guidance in directing the church, locally for Bishop Vasa and the priests of the Santa Rosa diocese;
For our fraternity and the fraternities worldwide striving to live through the Rule of St. Francis;
For Il Poverello fraternity family and friends, strength in their struggles, especially for Patch's great-grandson, Sebastian, and for Elaine Stevick, Anthony, Ken, Evelyn, Mary Anne and Alice, John, Tim, Frate Fabrizio, Br. Mateo, and Mark;
For all our individual intentions,

Lord, hear our prayer

January Birthdates

Margaret Enea-Patrizi, OFS
1-22

Noreen E. Ringlein
1-31

THE RULE OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER AS SECULAR FRANCISCANS WE ARE CONSTANTLY CHALLENGED TO MINDFULLY FOLLOW THE RULE OF ST FRANCIS

RULE 1

The Franciscan family, as one among many spiritual families raised up by the Holy Spirit in the Church, unites all members of the people of God – laity, religious, and priests – who recognize that they are called to follow Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi.

In various ways and forms but in life-giving union with each other, they intend to make present the charism of their common Seraphic Father in the life and mission of the Church.

Prayer Intentions ... Of the Holy Father for January

Universal Intention - Peace

That those from diverse religious traditions and all people of good will may work together for peace.

We began this month with the annual World Day of Peace. The theme Pope Francis has chosen for this day is "Slaves No More, But Brothers and Sisters." That theme confronts one of the root causes of war—seeing others as objects to be enslaved, bought, and sold.

It has been said that the first casualty in a war is the truth. That may be so, but the fact remains that wars are often caused by lack of truth.

Jesus declared "I am the truth" (John 14: 6), "For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth" (John 18: 37) . . . What is that truth? First, that God is Love, love that is willing to give all, even life itself, for the good of the beloved. Second, that the human person is precious to God, precious enough to die for.

So we pray that all people of good will from all the world's religious traditions may know and hold fast to the truth of the human person and work together for peace.

Scripture Reflection James 4: 1-12

Evangelization Intention - Consecrated Life

That in this year dedicated to consecrated life, religious men and women may rediscover the joy of following Christ and strive to serve the poor with zeal.

Pope Francis has given us a Year of Consecrated Life, which runs from November 29, 2014 to February 2, 2016. He asks all Catholics to reflect on the gift of consecrated life, to support those who are called, and to pray for new vocations.

St. John Paul said, "the consecrated life is at the very heart" of the mission of the Church. Consecrated persons make visible to the world "the characteristic features of Jesus—the chaste, poor, and obedient one." They show the world that every person is called to an intimate relationship with God that can best be described as "spousal."

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's document "On the Renewal of Religious Life." That document called for congregations to return to their sources and to adapt "to the changed conditions of our time." When he announced the Year of Consecrated Life, the Pope said: "The Church must be attractive. Wake up the world! Be witnesses of a different way of doing things, acting, living! It's possible to live differently in this world."

We pray that consecrated persons help us all to live differently.

Scripture Reflection Romans 12: 1-8

Prayer of the Month

Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, and hermits, as well as members of Secular Institutes. Renew their knowledge and love of you, and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your will.
--from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops



Franciscan Saints Days in January

Month of the Holy Name of Jesus
and His Holy Childhood

1. The Octave Day of Christmas - Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God (Formerly - Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord) — Holy Day of Obligation; *Plenary Indulgence possible (Chant in public Veni Creator)*
2. Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus
3. Bl. Chriatiane Menaburi, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1310
4. Bl. Angele de Foligno, widow, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1310
5. Bl. Pierre Bonilli, priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1935
6. Feast of the Epiphany—Holy Day of Obligation
7. St. Charles de Sezza, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1670
8. Bl. Roger de Toddi, priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1237
9. Bl. Gilles de Lorenzana, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1518
10. Bl. Gregory X, Pope, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1276
11. St. Thomas de Cori, priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1729
12. St. Bernard of Corleone, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1667
13. Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ
14. Bl. Oderic de Pordenone, priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1331
15. Bl. Jacques del Piebe, priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, martyr d. 1304
16. Sts. Berard and Companions, Protomartyrs of the Order, d. 1220
17. Sl. Matthieu d'Argrigente, Bishop, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1451
18. Bl. Jeanne of Saint Mary, virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1360
19. Bl. Marcel Spinola y Maestre, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1906
20. Bl. Jean-Baptiste Triquerie, priest, conventual religious, martyr d.1794
21. Bl. Joseph Nascimbeni, priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1922
22. St. Vincent Pallotti, priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1850
23. Feast of the Marriage of the Blessed Virgin Mary
24. Bl. Paule Gangara Costa, widow, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1515
25. Bl. Emmanuel Dominguo y Sol, priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1909
26. Bl. Georges Matulwicz, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1927
27. St. Angela Merici, virgin, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1540
28. Bl. Bienvenu de Recanati, priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1289
29. St. Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, Cordbearer, d. 1622
30. St. Hyacintha of Mariscotti, virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1640
31. St. John Bosco, priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1888

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him.
~ 1 John 4: 7-9



Remembrances of December Day of Reflection

Julie Schaefer, OFS presented a meditation on "Christmas at Greccio" where St. Francis imagined the first Nativity through the live reenactment of the event. In so doing, he helped those witnessing find Jesus within themselves by experiencing His entering the world in the lowliest of places, in a manger among domesticated animals. With this understanding we will have a better response when seeking to find Jesus in others.

Mark Kronke gave us a musical meditation focused on the first nativity where the angels singing brought attention to the great event that took place in Bethlehem. That a child was born in a manger and would be known as Emanuel, God with Us! Today we need to continue to remind others that "With us is God" through our everyday actions.

Brother Bob Brady, OFM helped us see that living the Franciscan Rule can fit within the latest apostolic letter, Joy of the Gospel, given to us by Pope Francis. Through its 5 chapters: 1) Church, 2) Crisis of Community, 3) Aspects of Evangelization, 4) Preferential option for the poor, 5) Missionary of the Gospel. We are challenged to give more of ourselves with the admonishment: "Do not be afraid". This occurs 365 times in the bible and therefore we respond with it as a daily reminder. Daily prayer will help and strengthen us on our shared journey. We begin our prayers with the sign of the cross, the first movement being the longest journey, from the mind to the heart, Knowledge becoming knowing God's love for all His creation. The second movement, crossing from the left to the right across the heart, opens us to embracing others to the invitation of that divine love.

Upcoming Events

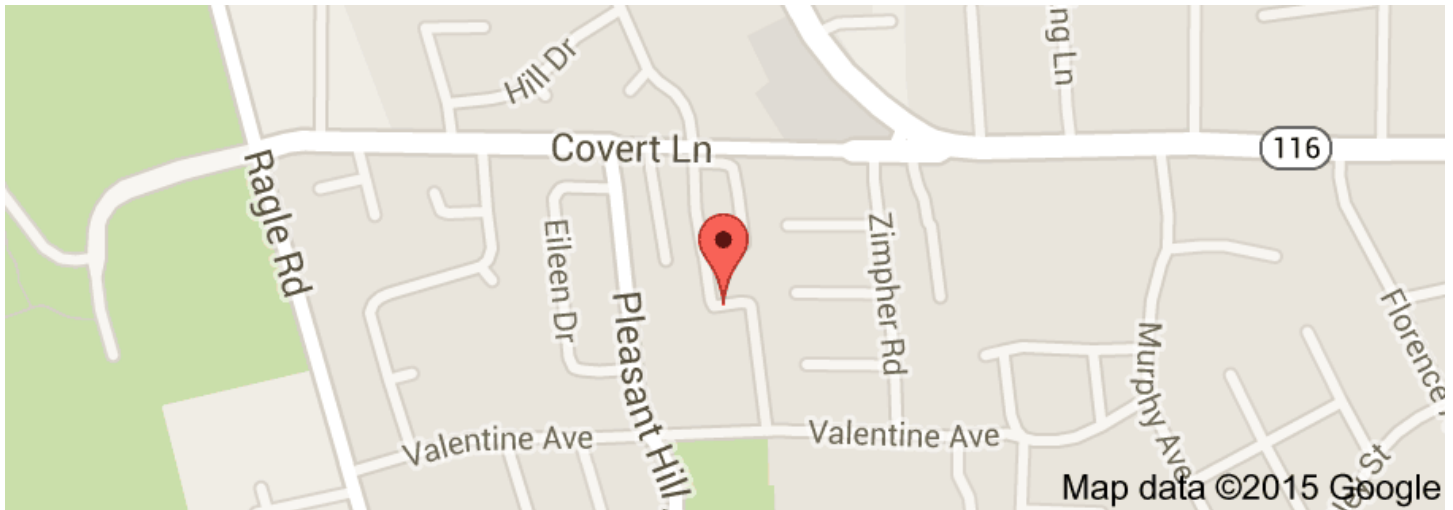


St. Sebastian's Catholic Church

7983 Covert Lane
Sebastopol, CA 95472
Phone: 707- 823-2280

*January 25th mtg. will be in Rm. 6 which is in one of the buildings behind the church at the end of the parking lot.

We will discuss: - Renunciation
- Quotes from Pope Francis (shared in this month's Ministers letter)
- Falling Upward
Julie will introduce new topics for meetings in 2015.



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

Blessed Junipero Serra Regional Newsletter:

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

Franciscan Action Network (FAN): <http://franciscanaction.org/>

www.FranciscanEarthCorps.org

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

Radical call to New Evangelization:

<http://www.osservatoreromano.va/en/news/popes-radical-call-new-evangelization#.U8BVUPldXHQ>