



IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

JOY FOR THE JOURNEY

DECEMBER 2017

Il Poverello Fraternity

Gatherings

Dec. 10th

Day of Reflection

Jan. 28th

Jan. 26, 27, 28

Franciscan Spirituality Retreat San
Damiano Retreat Center

Feb. 18th

March 25th

Il Poverello Fraternity

Presents an Advent Day of Reflection

A Discussion on

Advent: Journey with Mary

Date: Sunday, December 10th

Time: 9 AM – 3:30 PM

Location: St. James Multi-use Room
125 Sonoma Mtn. Pkwy., Petaluma

Il Poverello Fraternity

COUNCIL

Minister:

Mark Kroncke, OFS

Vice Minister:

Edd Ringlein, OFS

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Noreen Ringlein, OFS

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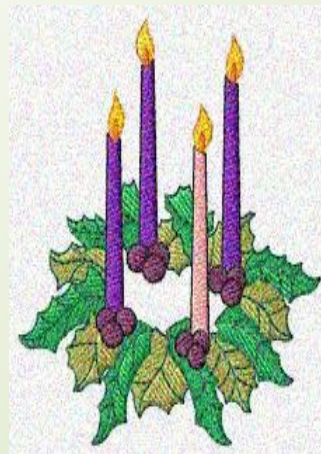
Edd & Noreen Ringlein, OFS

J P I C:

Noreen & Edd Ringlein, OFS

The Adventus wreath . . .

A few years ago I was blessed with the chance to spend a good part of advent in Germany, and I still have memories which shape my view of this period of expectation. Some of those involve the practice of the advent wreath, a tradition that visually helps us measure our period of waiting. Those who know me know I can't pass up a chance to step into a church and visit when travelling – and in Germany, the Lutheran churches were amazing in their sacredness and beauty. Some of these churches used the advent wreath in new and different ways, at least in my experience. One church, for example, used large candle stands (at least 8 feet tall and sturdy!) to physically embrace the congregation, and there was no way to avoid feeling as though one was a living part of this journey of waiting and anticipation. Other churches used a wreath of good diameter (think 6 or 7 feet in diameter) hung near the sanctuary for all to see, but in addition to the traditional four candles, there are 6 additional candles in between those, counting – literally – every day of advent. There are many ways to use an advent wreath, and I would like to share some thoughts on how you may use the wreath when lighting the four candles on the Sundays of advent.



1st CANDLE – (purple) THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE: We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God! *Reading from Romans 15:12-13*

2nd CANDLE – (purple) THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION: God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to “get ready”. Help us to be ready to welcome you, O God! *Reading from Luke 3:4-6.*

3rd CANDLE – (pink) THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY: The shepherds received a message of joy! *Reading from Luke 2:7-15.*

4th CANDLE – (purple) THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE: The angels announced the good news of a Savior! *Reading from Luke 2:10b-11.*

Remember: Advent is a time to step back and stand with the least, and without fear, to securely “stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:36). Have a Blessed Advent!

Mark Kroncke, OFS

Minister Il Poverello Fraternity

Scripture reading for Dec. 15th

Feast of Mary Queen of the Seraphic Order

Mt 11:16-19 - Jesus said to the crowds:

"To what shall I compare this generation? It is like children who sit in marketplaces and call to one another,

'We played the flute for you, but you did not dance, we sang a dirge but you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they said,

'He is possessed by a demon.'

The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said,

'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.'

But wisdom is vindicated by her works."



Pope Francis Prayer Intentions for December:

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

Reflections

Consider yourself kneeling before Christ on His Cross. Ask yourself: How have I shared the faith with young people? How am I sharing the faith? How ought I to share the faith? (Conversely, younger people might ask how they share the faith with their elders.)

Scripture

Mt 19:13-14 - Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked them, but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

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

~ Rule 19 ~

Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon. Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others. Since they are immersed in the resurrection of Christ, which gives true meaning to Sister Death, let them serenely tend toward the ultimate encounter with the Father.

Article 23

1. **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.

2. While acknowledging both the personal and national right to legitimate defense, they should respect the choice of those who, because of conscientious objection, refuse to bear arms.

3. To preserve peace in the family, the brothers and sisters should, in due time, make a last will and testament for the disposition of their goods.

Article 26

1. Even in suffering, Francis experienced confidence and joy from:

- the experience of the fatherhood of God;
- the invincible faith of rising with Christ to eternal life;
- the experience of being able to meet and praise the Creator in

the universal fraternity of all creatures.

Rule 19 Following the Gospel, Secular Franciscans, therefore, affirm their hope and their joy in living. They make a contribution to counter widespread distress and pessimism, preparing a better future.

2. In the fraternity, the brothers and sisters should promote mutual understanding and they should see to it that the atmosphere of their meetings is welcoming and that it reflects joy. They should encourage one another for the good.

Article 27

1. **Rule 19** The brothers and sisters, progressing in age, should learn to accept illness and increasing difficulties and to give a deeper sense to their life. This should be undertaken with increasing detachment as they set out for the Promised Land. They should be firmly convinced that the community of those who believe in Christ and who love one another in Him will go forward into eternal life as the "communion of saints."

2. Secular Franciscans should commit themselves to create in their environment and, above all, in their fraternities, a climate of faith and hope so that "Sister Death" may be regarded as a passage to the Father, and all may prepare themselves with serenity.

Fraternity Prayer Intentions

Let us pray

For Pope Francis, the church leaders, and all religious worldwide, guidance by the Holy Spirit in directing the faithful into the one true church; For world leaders, may the national representatives govern wisely for the good of humanity, for the common-man;

For the souls of the faithful departed their families and friends who have gone before us, remembering those who have recently passed after their experiences with cancer: Steve, Jim, and Graham, also for those who are fighting the ravages of cancer including John K., Marian, Karlin, and Chuck;

For all members of our Franciscan Fraternities', their families and friends;

For our Il Poverello fraternity active and inactive members, their families and friends, especially for Alberto Cortez, OFS to return to good health, for Mary Anne and Alice, for Frances Cookson, for Br. Mateo, and for the Porter family, Michele Porter Ricard, Noreen and Edd brother- in law Lyle's sister, who lives in Nebraska, she suffered a brain aneurysm recently and was taken off life support. She had been an active, talented high school science teacher for many years;

For the homeless and the worldwide immigrant and refugee populations, especially for those fleeing natural and manmade disasters, especially the fire victims and their families of Sonoma, Mendocino, and Napa counties for those who have died and for those who are recovering from their losses;

For these and all our individual intentions;

We Pray to the Lord

Franciscan Saints in December

1. Bl Marie-Angele Astorch, Virgin, Capuchin religious, d. 1665
2. Bl. Raphael Chylinski, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1741
3. St. Francis Xavier, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, Martyr, 1623
4. Bl. Francois Galves, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, Martyr 1623
5. Bl. Pierre de Sienne, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1289
6. Bl. Elisabeth la Bonne, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1420
7. Bl. Louis Beltrame Quattrocchi, Confessor, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1951
8. **Feast of the Immaculate Conception,**
Patroness of the Seraphic Order, Holy Day of Obligation, Plenary Indulgence for tertiaries and cordbearers
9. Bl. Delphine de Glandeves, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1360
10. Bl. Conrad d'Offide, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1306
11. Bl. Hugolin Magalotti, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1373
12. **Discovery of the tomb of St. Francis in 1820**
13. Bl. Pius Bartosik, Priest, Conventual religious, Martyr 1941
14. Bl. Barthole Buonpedini, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1300
15. **Mary Queen of the Seraphic Order**
16. Bl. Honorat de Biala, Priest, Capuchin religious, d. 1916
17. Bl. Francois Bell, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, Martyr 1643
18. Bl. Marie-Francoise Schervier, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1876
19. Bl. Jean Discalceat, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1349
20. Bl. Antoine Galvao, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1822
21. St. Raphael Kalinowski, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1907
22. St. Francis Xavier Cabrini, Virgin, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1917
23. Bl. Nicolas Factor, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1583
24. Bl. Bentivoglio de Bonio, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1231
25. **Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ,** Holy Day of Obligation
26. St. Albert Chmielowski, Confessor, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1916
27. Bl. Mathie de Nazareis, Virgin, the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1320
28. **Feast of the Holy Innocents**
29. Bl Gerard de Valence, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1342
30. Bl. Marguerite Colonna, Virgin, the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1280
31. St. Gaspard Buffalo, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1836; Plenary Indulgence (Chant the Te Deum in public)

Anniversaries

Birthday Profession

Robert Bayley, OFS – 12/6

Mark Kroncke, OFS – 12/6

Eunice Edgington, OFS – 12/12

Susan Forsyth, OFS – 12/6

Kay Robbiano, OFS – 12/12

Edd Ringlein, OFS - 12/6

Alberto Cortez, OFS – 12/25

Noreen E. Ringlein – 12/6

Some thoughts shared from our formation discussion, *History of the Rule of the Order*, at our November gathering:

Describe the Secular Franciscan way of life in 25 words or less . . .

R. E. S. P. E. C. T.

- Forgiving one another when we are hurt, "Where there is injury, let me bring pardon".
- Before deciding we've been hurt, we give each other the benefit of the doubt.

Living an Adventurous & Joyful journey.

Comrades in arms together, following the teachings of St. Francis: to know, love, and praise Jesus (God).

Lovingly care for God's creation that we share with all of His universal existence. Love the Lord for what He has given and for all with whom we share His creation.

To be a Secular Franciscan means embracing a life of prayer, contemplation, and action that brings Christ's incarnation, death, and resurrection into a Gospel life.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Advent Day of Reflection

A Discussion on

Advent: Journey with Mary

Date: Sunday, December 10th

Time: 9AM - 3PM

**Location: St. James Multi-use Room
125 Sonoma Mtn. Parkway, Petaluma, CA 94954**

This Day of Reflection is open to anyone interested in exploring Franciscan spirituality
Mass will be celebrated at 11 AM

Free will offerings gladly accepted to help support our services to the community

Bring healthy food and drinks to share for breaks

For more information please call Mark: 415-2507362 or Edd: 707-246-5311

Preparation of Blessing Bags

We will take some time during the Day of Reflection to assemble the Blessing Bags that will be presented to the homeless population in Petaluma.

Please remember to bring your items that you wish to contribute. Also remember that if you wish to include any food items, they need to be individually wrapped.

Franciscan Connections:

The National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order-USA:

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

Tau-USA- Newsletter (complete issues):

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

Il Poverello Fraternity Facebook page:

[Il Poverello Fraternity OFS - Petaluma, CA](http://www.facebook.com/IlPoverelloFraternity) OR

www.facebook.com/IlPoverelloFraternity

Il Poverello Fraternity website:

www.ilpoverellofraternityofs.org

Franciscan Action Network (FAN):

<http://franciscanaction.org/>

www.FranciscanEarthCorps.org

Franciscans for Justice:

<http://www.franciscansforjustice.org/>

San Damiano retreats calendar:

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

