



IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

JOY FOR THE JOURNEY

FEBRUARY 2018

IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY GATHERINGS

Feb. 18th

March 17th

Handicapped Luncheon Ministry

March 25th

May 20th

Day of Reflection

IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY GATHERING

Meeting St. James Catholic Church, Rm. 9 - February 18th, 2018

Council Meeting: 12:00 - 1:15

Fraternity Gathering: 1:30 - 3:30

Opening Prayer

Ongoing Formation: Discussion of the Life of St. Clare

Break: Snack and Fellowship

Business: Old and New

Closing Prayer

IL POVERELLO FRATERNITY

Council

Minister:

Mark Kroncke, OFS

Vice Minister:

Edd Ringlein, OFS

Secretary:

Noreen Ringlein, OFS

Treasurer:

Susan Forsyth, OFS

Formation Director:

TBA

Spiritual Assistant:

TBA

Councilors

Dianne Prior, OFS

Cosmos Bacich, OFS

Margaret Enea-Patrizi, OFS

Special Ministries

Librarian:

TBA

Newsletter Editors:

Edd & Noreen Ringlein, OFS

J P I C:

Noreen & Edd Ringlein, OFS

Minister's Letter - February 2018

Seizing the Franciscan Moment in the Church Today: Peace and Relationship

I was reading a past issue of the Tau and came across an article that presented the Reflections from the 2014 National Retreat with Br. Bill Short, OFM, as summarized by Marie Thomas, OFS. Brother Bill presented four areas of current interest in our "*Franciscan Moment*" in today's church. He spoke of not only Francis, but Pope Francis, and challenged us to be more open and faithful to both their messages as we live out our religious vocations. One part spoke of Peace and Relationships - it is from this talk of Brother Bill's that I would like to share a few thoughts that caught my attention:

"We are an order of peace! That is not an option! We should preach PEACE by our deeds! Watch the facial reactions, the movements of the hands and feet, etc. People no longer trust language (maybe because of all the electronic communication that exists), but gestures are trusted because they do not lie and they are not hidden. How do you show peace with your gestures? Try smiling an honest smile. Your eyes light up! You are honestly loving that person and not just pretending to like him or her. It is not a polite "I must be nice to you," it is an honest-to-goodness loving smile. If it's not inside; it won't show outside! Joy speaks eloquently! Ponder that for a while! True peace will always choose the person who is overlooked. Again, go to the edge as Francis did. If you cannot do this - you do not have Christ's true inner peace! God's name is ...

RELATIONSHIP! He is not counting your good deeds, or the number of rosaries you say, or whether you remembered to say the Divine Mercy novena, etc. No. He wants a relationship with you! How do you accomplish this? The same as with any person. Spend time with Him, talk to Him honestly, be with Him all the time! How? By being in His presence. If you have inner peace, you are in His presence. If you are upset, angry, annoyed or worried, He is not with you, because you pushed Him out. Take a deep breath and ask Him to return." Brother Bill ends this part by reminding us to "Love with an open heart at the center of unbearable tension."
"React ... with LOVE!"

Mark Kroncke, OFS

Minister, Il Poverello Fraternity

Scripture reading Feb. 22nd

Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, Apostle
MT 16:13-19

When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples,

"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

He said to them,

"But who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus said to him in reply,

"Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.

And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.

I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Pope Francis' prayer intentions for the month of February

Universal:

Say "No" to Corruption - That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

Points for Meditation

Have I been tempted by the lure of riches, be they material, financial or social? Am I in business relationships or friendships with individuals who are abusing power and influence? How might I challenge them, or extricate myself from these webs?

Scripture

Ephesians 4:20-24 That is not how you learned Christ...as truth is in Jesus, that you should put away the old self of your former way of life, corrupted through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind and put on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth.

Reflection on the Chair of St. Peter



Like the committee chair, this chair refers to the occupant, not the furniture. Its first occupant stumbled a bit, denying Jesus three times and hesitating to welcome Gentiles into

the new Church. Some of its later occupants have also stumbled a bit, sometimes even failed scandalously. As individuals, we may sometimes think a particular pope has let us down. Still, the office endures as a sign of the long tradition we cherish and as a focus for the universal Church.

The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

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

- Rule 21 -

On various levels, each fraternity is animated and guided by a council and minister who are elected by the professed according to the constitutions. Their service, which lasts for a definite period, is marked by a ready and willing spirit and is a duty of responsibility to each member and to the community. Within themselves the fraternities are structured in different ways according to the norm of the constitutions, according to the various needs of their members and their regions and under the guidance of their respective council.

Article 31

1. Rule 21 "On various levels, each fraternity is animated and guided by a council and minister (or president)." These offices are conferred through elections, in accordance with the Rule, the Constitutions, and their own Statutes. Only by way of exception or in the first phase of their establishment may fraternities exist without a regular council. The council of the higher level will make the arrangements necessary for this inadequate situation only for the specific amount of time it takes to get a fraternity back on sure footing or to establish a new fraternity; to give its leaders the proper formation and to carry out the elections.

2. The office of minister or councilor is a fraternal service, a commitment to hold oneself available and responsible in relation to each brother and sister and to the fraternity so that each one will realize his or her own vocation and each fraternity will be a true community, ecclesial and Franciscan, actively present in the Church and in society.

3. The leaders of the SFO at every level should be perpetually professed, convinced of the validity of the Franciscan evangelical way of life, attentive to the life of the Church and of society with a broad and encompassing vision, open to dialogue, and ready to give and receive help and collaboration.

4. The leaders should see to the spiritual and technical preparation and animation of the meetings, both of the fraternities and of the councils. They should seek to inspire life and soul into the fraternities by their own witness, suggesting appropriate means for the development of the life of the fraternity and of apostolic activities in the light of the fundamental Franciscan options. They should see to it that the decisions made are carried out and they should promote collaboration among the brothers and sisters.

Article 32

1. The ministers and councilors should live and foster the spirit and reality of communion among the brothers and sisters, among the various fraternities, and between them and the Franciscan family. They should, above all, cherish peace and reconciliation in and around the fraternity. General Constitutions 2000 14 14

2. Rule 21 The ministers' and councilors' task to lead is temporary. The brothers and sisters, rejecting all ambition, should show love for the fraternity with a spirit of service, prepared both to accept and to relinquish the office.

Article 33

1. In the guidance and co-ordination of the fraternities and of the Order, the personality and capacity of the individual brothers and sisters and of the individual fraternities should be promoted. The plurality of expressions of the Franciscan ideal and cultural variety must be respected.

2. The councils of higher levels should not do what can be adequately carried out either by the local fraternities or by a council of a lower level. They should respect and promote their vitality so that they fulfil their duties properly. The local fraternities and councils concerned should commit themselves to carry out the decisions of the international council and of the other councils of higher levels, and to implement their programs, adapting them when necessary to their own situation.

Article 34

Where the situation and the needs of the members require it, sections or groups which gather members sharing particular needs, common interests, or the same choices, may be established within the fraternity under the guidance of the one council. Such groups can give themselves specific norms relative to their meetings and activities, firmly remaining faithful, however, to the requirements which arise from membership in the one fraternity. National statutes may establish criteria suitable for the formation and functioning of these sections or groups.

Fraternity Prayer Intentions ...

We pray to the Lord...

For all the penitential fraternities and all the members of our St. Junipero Serra Region;

For our Il Poverello fraternity, all active, inactive, and deceased members, for their families and friends, especially for John Kennedy, OFS, Alberto Cortez, OFS, for Br. Mateo, Mary Anne and Alice, and Francis Cookson ;

For Pope Francis and all the church leaders, as well as all religious for guidance by the Holy Spirit in directing the church worldwide;

For the conversion of all who do not yet know God's overwhelming Love;

For all who are suffering from cancers and for those who care for them;

For our nation's representatives and all world leaders that those elected are guided to serve and govern wisely to seek the common good of all in His creation;

For all refugees of worldwide conflicts both natural and manmade, for the homeless, 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 that they may be sheltered, healed, and comforted;

For the souls of the faithful departed, all who have gone before us, for their families and friends;

For these and all our individual intentions;

Lord, hear our prayers



Birthdays in February

Michelle Schumacher 2/18

Mary Anne Curme 3/25

Susan Forsyth, OFS 3/26

February-Month of the Holy Family

1. Bl. Patrick O'Loughran, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr d. 1612
2. Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary
3. Martyrs of Japan, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, lay brothers and Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1597
4. St. Joseph de Leonisse, Priest, Capuchin religious, d. 1612
5. St. Jeanne de Valois, Virgin, the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1505
6. Bl. Pius IX, Pope, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d.1878
7. St. Egide-Marie de St. Joseph, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order d. 1812
8. Bl. Antonie de Stronccone, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1461
9. Bl. Claire de Rimini, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1346
10. Bl. Alojzije Stepinac, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1960
11. Apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes, 1858 (160 yrs. Ago)
12. Bl. Andre Ferrari, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1921
13. St. Eustochie de Messine, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1485
14. Bl. Philipa Mauri, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1263
15. Translation of the relics of St. Anthony
16. Bl. Veridiane, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1242
17. Bl. Luc Belludi, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1286
18. St. Bernadette Soubirous, Virgin, cordbearer, d. 1879
Plenary Indulgence possible for the Cordbearers only
19. St. Conrad of Plaisance, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1351
20. Bl. Pierre de Treja, Priest religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1304
21. St. Margaret of Cortona, penitent, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1297, *Plenary Indulgence possible*
(renewal of engagements of the Franciscan Third Order Secular)
22. Feast of the Chair of St. Peter
23. Bl. Isabelle of France, Virgin of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1270
24. Bl. Innocent XI, Pope, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1689
25. Bl. Sebastien d'Apparicio, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1600
26. Bl. Antoinette de Florence, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1533
27. Bl. Louise Albertoni, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1533
28. Bl. Jeremie de Valachie, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1625

The Classic Examen in Five Steps

Before starting, take a moment to slow down; remind yourself that you are in God's presence and ask God to help you with your prayer.

- **Gratitude:** Recall anything from the day for which you are especially grateful and give thanks to God.
- **Review:** Recall the events of the day, from start to finish, noticing where you felt Gods presence and where you accepted or turned away from any opportunities to grow in love.
- **Sorrow:** Recall any actions for which you are sorry.
- **Forgiveness:** Ask for God's forgiveness and/or healing if needed. This may include deciding whether you want to reconcile with anyone you have hurt.
- **Grace:** Ask God for the grace you need for the next day (or for your life in general) and an ability to see Gods presence more clearly.



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. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.
John 4:7-10

Upcoming Events

February 14, Ash Wednesday
February 16-18, Franciscan Spirituality Retreat *
February 18, Il Poverello fraternity gathering
February 23-25, St. Junipero Serra Regional gathering *
March 17, Handicapped Luncheon Ministry **
March 25, Il Poverello fraternity gathering

* at San Damiano Retreat Center

** at Church of the Roses

March 25, Palm Sunday
March 30, Good Friday
April 1, Easter Sunday
April 22, Il Poverello fraternity gathering
May 20, Day of Reflection

Gathering formation topics and volunteer presenters:
February – The Life of St. Clare - Dianne Prior, OFS
March – Crucified Love – St. Bonaventure - Mark Kroncke, OFS

Lenten Fast for Climate Justice

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan.

He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him. Mark 1:12-13

- **Fast:** from food during at least one meal or an entire day, remembering to be careful and don't compromise your health; (everyone sacrifices in different ways based on their age, physical strengths, and limitations). You are also encouraged to doing a "Carbon Fast," that is trying to avoid activities that produce carbon dioxide and other wastes (by reducing your use of fossil fuels, electricity, plastic, paper, and toxins).
- **Pray 1:** Start the day by putting yourself in God's presence and recite this prayer: "Lord, look upon us and hear our prayer. By the penance and good works you inspire, help us to discipline our appetites and to be renewed in spirit. So that we may be better stewards of creation, help us to live simply even when our desires are great. And help us to love greatly, even when we are not loved. Grant this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever." (Adapted from the Divine Office.)
- **Pray 2:** sometime during the day include the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, or the Divine Office.
- **Read Scripture:** especially those passages referring to Creation Stewardship and Environmental Justice.
- **Take part in a mass or holy hour in your parish:** asking to incorporate "the urgent solution of the climate change crisis" as a prayer intention.
- **Discuss and Inform:** whenever possible, talk with others letting them know of what you are doing and encourage them to consider what it is that they can do to help contribute to Climate Justice.

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 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>

