



“Share the Joy”

*Holy Spirit Fraternity of the
Secular Franciscan Order
of Claremont*



Newsletter

Listen, Discern, Go Forth!

Mar 2024

Minister’s Corner

Sharing about our Order at the Religious Education Congress was one of the highlight of my month. We think everyone knows about us, but they don’t. We met several people from our area who didn’t realize that there is a local presence. Hopefully the sowing we did will bear fruit.

The retreat with Fr. Marek Stybor, OFM, Conv was a great way to prepare for Lent. He reminded me that Lent is about growing closer to God. What I give up or change should be focused on this, not just temporary changes, but gradual improvements. For the Spiritual Assistants Class I’ve been reading St Boneventure’s Life of St. Francis and was struck by St Francis’s gradual conversion. I pray that I will take this time and improve my habits to get closer to God and learn to be more gentle and listen mor attentively.

Your servant,
Bill Mussatto, OFS

Calendar of Events:

- Mar 9th 10:00~noon Spiritual Assistant Class (ZOOM)
- Mar 10th 1:00~4:00 pm Fraternity Meeting 1st floor OLA Convent (bldg C-5)
- Mar 11th 7:00 ~ 8:30pm Initial Formation @ OLA Classroom
- Mar 16th / 17th Food drive @OLA
- Mar 18th 7:00 ~ 8:30pm Initial Formation @ OLA Classroom
- Mar 23rd 4:00~5:45pm Palm Sunday Pre-sale
- Mar 23rd 6:00 pm Set up auditorium for Bake Sale
- Mar 24th 7:30 ~1:00pm Palm Sunday Bake Sale
- Mar 23rd 10:00~noon Spiritual Assistant Class (ZOOM)
- Mar 26th 1:00~3:00pm Council Meeting 1st floor OLA Convent (bldg C-5)
- Apr 10th 11:00 ~ noon Mass with Renewal of Profession at OLA
- Apr 10th noon ~ 4:00pm Joint Fraternity Meeting OLA Auditorium

Thoughts of Francis and Friends:

My God, make me worthy to grasp your ardent and ineffable love, overflowing from the Blessed Trinity and effecting the profound mystery of the holy Incarnation, the source of our salvation.

Bl Angela of Foligno, OFS

Joint Fraternity Meeting Plus

In April we will be hosting several fraternities for a viewing of Br. Bill Short’s presentation on Re-imagining Francis for our time. We will begin by attending the 11:00am Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption parish. The pastor has agreed that we can do our annual Renewal of Profession at this Mass and have invited our visitors to join us. We will follow this with lunch in the auditorium (rather than Building C-5). We will discuss food for the gathering at the March Fraternity Meeting.

Palm Sunday Bake Sale

Because Palm Sunday is late in March we will be able to finalize plans at the March Fraternity Meeting. If you want to work as a group with this we will have a sign up sheet where you can indicate what you plan to bring. We will need volunteers to make and decorate the cross and lamb cakes. We will also need someone to man the table outside of church after the Saturday Evening Mass on March 23rd as well as to setup the auditorium at 6:00pm.

Emergency Contact forms:

We are still missing the updated emergency contact forms from most members. Please update your form and return it either to Judith or bring it to the next Fraternity meeting. We know the list we currently have is out of date. If something happens to you while at our gatherings, we need to know who to contact in an emergency.

Please remember in your prayers:

Cynthia Hewitt (Ted’s wife); Zoila, Amelia, Amelias’ sister, Mary Macleod who is in remission; Rachel who is in hospice, All Secular Franciscans who are, for whatever reason, unable to attend Fraternity meetings.

For refugees especially those suffering the effects of both long and short term natural disasters, conflicts, weather related food shortages and those who minister to them.

That we listen to Pope Francis who reminds us we are called to be peacemakers, bridge builders and for the willingness to listen to and learn from each other.

For peace and an end to suffering in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan and those places that do not make the news..

To be thankful for our many blessings.

Absent Members:

Remember, Teresa Cullen, OFS, and Rachel Rodriguez, OFS. They would welcome your phone calls or visit.

Formation:

Initial Formation: Gail continues her classes and Jaqui will be contacting members to arrange to share their experiences as Franciscans at the formation sessions. Juanito has agreed to be her sponsor. Currently we are bringing readings to share and discuss at the session. The next class will be March 11th in a classroom at OLA. .

Council Ongoing Formation: Bill led the formation in February on the Stigmata.

On-going Formation: Jaqui will lead a class on the Stations of the Cross in March and they will be prayed at the meeting.

JPIC

I would first of all thank the Fraternity for granting me the opportunity to work with you in upcoming projects to do with regards to Peace and Justice.

Because this is such an encompassing subject, I would like to invite all of you to become participants with me in creating a deeper awareness of issues around us.

Not just awareness but collective action based plans for the duration of this assignment that can involve all of us.

I am sure that most of us carry in our hearts and minds deep concerns for any number of issues that have to do with justice and peace in our world, country and local communities. By sharing these concerns the hope is to dialogue topics and brainstorm ways to approach this awareness with the end result of creative game plans that will involve action steps.

Along the way we will include making a communal awareness of our Fraternity within our communities, inviting others to join us in our mutual desire to not only enhance our spiritual growth, but to include going from Gospel to Life.

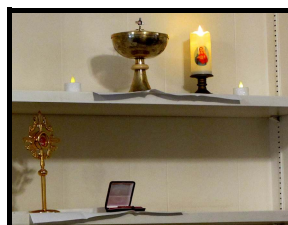
Your sister in Francis and Jesus,
Diana Cerda



Fraternity Retreat

Fr. Marek Stybor, OFM, Conv. lead the Fraternity in a retreat on January 10th. It was a prayerful and joyous event. In the morning he talked about being a follower of St Francis. We paused for lunch and were joined by our three students from the Spiritual Assistance Class.

In the afternoon he talked about how St Francis asked the Lord to let him feel the suffering that Christ



underwent for the salvation of souls and in answer St Francis was blessed with the Stigmata. In keeping with St. Francis's belief in the need for humility, he kept it from most of the brothers. One brother only discovered this when he brushed against St. Francis and the seepage from the wound in his side came through his tunic. The caution is to be careful what you ask of the Lord, He may grant it. Fr. Marek brought several relics which along with the Blessed Sacrament in front of which we prayed while he offered confessions to those who wished to receive it.



Lenten Food Drive:

Bags have been prepared for the Lenten food collection for the unhoused and for St. Madeline's Food Pantry. They will be handed out on March 2nd. We need two Fraternity members after each Mass to help on March 16th and 17th to move the food to the trailer and sort the food for the unhoused and food pantry.

Outreach Religious Educational Congress

Once again the Region represented our entire order at the Religious Education Congress in Anaheim. People stopped by to learn about third orders and in particular the one founded by St. Francis of Assisi. Reminding them it was the 800th Anniversary of St Francis receiving the Stigmata caught their attention, so we had time to explain who we are and a bit about our Charism.



Many people we talked to were from Southern California and we provided them with information about the local Fraternities in their area. A few people live near enough to Claremont that they may visit us to see what we are about. People from other parts of the US were given contact information for the Region in their area as well as the 1-800-Francis number. Several people came from further away (Canada and Australia) and we directed them to check CIOFs web site. We also had time to talk to members of the Capuchin and Observant Novitiates as well as friars from all three 1st orders. Attendance is growing but its still not up to pre-COVID levels.

Visitors during Retreat

While we were having our retreat a team of Vietnamese Dragon Dancers (with drum) were passing through. They gave us a chance

