

Immaculata Vision

IMMACULATA FRATERNITY
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA



MARCH, 2011

Editor: Lisa M. Boebinger, sfo
lisa.sfo@att.net

Calendar of Events for March:		Looking Ahead to April...
4th - World Day of Prayer 4th - First Friday Adoration, Queen of Angels Church, 6:00pm 5th - Fraternity Mass, Queen of Angels Church, 5:30pm 6th - Girl Scout Sunday 9th - Ash Wednesday - Fast & Abstinence 11th - Stations of the Cross, Queen of Angels Church, 6:00 pm 🍌 11th - Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich Brigade, 7:00 pm at St. Thomas' KDC 13th - 1st Sunday of Lent 13th - Daylight-Saving Time begins: Turn clocks forward 1 hour 14th - Council Meeting, Mickie's house, 7:00 pm 17th - St. Patrick's Day 18th - Stations of the Cross, Queen of Angels Church, 6:00 pm 19th - St. Joseph's Day 20th - 2nd Sunday of Lent / Spring begins 25th - The Annunciation of the Lord 25th - Stations of the Cross, Queen of Angels Church, 6:00 pm 27th - 3rd Sunday of Lent 28th - Fraternity Meeting Queen of Angels Conf. Room, 7:00 pm		1st - First Friday Adoration, Queen of Angels Church, 6:00pm 1st - Stations of the Cross, QofA, 6:00pm 2nd - Fraternity Mass, QofA, 5:30pm 3rd - 4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare) 8th - Stations of the Cross, QofA, 6:00pm 8th - PB&J Brigade, 7:00 pm, KDC 10th - 5th Sunday of Lent 11th - Council Meeting, 7:00pm 15th - Stations of the Cross, QofA, 6:00pm 17th - Passion Palm Sunday 19th - Passover begins 21st - Holy Thursday 22nd - Good Friday of the Lord's Passion - Fast & Abstinence & Stations of the Cross, QofA, 3pm 22nd - Earth Day 23rd - Holy Saturday - Vigil of Easter 24th - Easter Sunday - The Resurrection of the Lord! 25th - Fraternity Meeting 7:00 pm 29th - National Arbor Day
🍌 March Birthdays: (none) 🍌	Our Fair Share this year is \$42.00 each fraternity member, there's 25 of us, thus we must pay Region \$1050 before June, 2011. Any amount you can help us with as a donation for our common fund would be greatly appreciated! 🍌	🍌 April Birthday: 🍌 5th -- Lisa Boebinger
Don't forget our apostolate! The Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich making brigade, <u>Friday, March 11th</u> at St. Thomas' KDC center at <u>7:00pm</u> . Help us out by bringing 2 loaves of sandwich bread OR 2 cases of bottled water. We need to make 100 sandwiches. It goes fast when we have lots of us helping out.	Franciscan Lenten Day Away Retreat Saturday, March 12, 2011 At Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Hemet, CA 26340 Soboba Street, Hemet, CA 92544 Phone: (951) 927-8544 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Presented by Brother John Gray, BBSF (an Eastern Rite Franciscan) Bring a sack lunch Be prepared to be moved and enlightened by this retreat. You will not want to miss this Lenten opportunity. 🍌	🍌 April Anniversary: 🍌 ? - Aarne Lozano, 1991
From the spiritual desk of Stella Pacifica Caywood, sfo Feb-90 I'M NOT ALONE. <i>Thank You Father for those special moments from within, where in the hallowness of my soul You silently step in, to hover in a corner within this aging form.</i> <i>My Lord warms and nurtures me and tells me I'm not alone.</i> <i>For the hearth of my soul is warmed by the fire of His Love.</i> Stella Caywood, S.F.O.		HEADS UP! <i>Start thinking about nominations for our new council -- Elections are on June 26, 2011!!! This could be <u>your</u> big chance!</i>
		<u>Your Monthly Pearl of Wisdom:</u> "Life is ten percent what you make it and ninety percent how you take it." ~ Ben Franklin <i>You too can have something published in our humble little newsletter! Just mail it to me at 10406 Indiana Ave, Apt 205, Riverside, CA 92503 or email it to me at the email address above. All submissions welcome! Isn't that wonderful?!?!?</i>

BI-MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT FOR IMMACULATA FRATERNITY

DATE: Monday, February 28, 2011

Amounts:

Beginning Balance Description:

Beginning account balances at Bourns EFCU:

Checking Account	(our Common Fund)	\$	125.64
Savings Account		\$	5.00
Total balances as of		January 24, 2011	\$ 130.64

Income Description:

1/24	Common Fund donations received (includes Fair Share donations)	Transfers, Checks & Cash	\$	137.00
-	Fund Raisers		\$	-
-	Ongoing Formation Book Sales - "To Live As Francis Lived"		\$	-
-	Book Sales - "From Gospel To Life" (the White Book)		\$	-
-	Tau Cross sales		\$	-
1/24	Silent Auction income	Transfers, Checks & Cash	\$	6.25
1/31	Checking acct dividends		\$	0.01
-	Other income		\$	-
-	Other income		\$	-
Total Income			\$	143.26

Expenses Description:

-	Charitable Donations made		\$	-
-	Spiritual Assistant/Other stipend, etc		\$	-
-	Fair Share to Region Treasurer		\$	-
Reimbursements:				
1/26	Lisa Boebinger			
-	transferred - Feb. Newsletter & SFO vocations brochure printing		\$	57.71
-			\$	-
-			\$	-
-			\$	-
Total Expenses			\$	57.71

Ending account balances at Bourns EFCU

Checking Account	(our Common Fund)	\$	211.19
Savings Account		\$	5.00
Total balances as of:		Monday, February 28, 2011	\$ 216.19

Attested to by:

Date:

Lisa Millen-Boebinger, sfo -- Fraternity Treasurer - Immaculata Fraternity, Riverside, CA

Happiness is not a station to arrive at, but a manner of traveling. ~ Margaret Lee Runbeck

Faith is what makes life bearable, with all its tragedies and ambiguities and sudden, startling joys. ~ Madeleine L'Engle

All Things Really Are Possible for You

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. John 14:29

Peter starts off well, takes a few steps, and begins to sink. Jesus asks, "Why did you doubt?" I pause and ponder, "Who did Peter doubt? Jesus or himself?" And it seems there's a whisper in response ... *Same thing.* What I mean is this ...

I no longer live but Christ lives in me. Galatians 2:20

I'm still quick to protest, "But I have so many weaknesses!" And then I remember that every promise given and every truth declared was for us, all of us, and none of us have it together. Our humanity isn't too much for God.

Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it's the Lord's purpose that prevails. Proverbs 19:21

There is nothing God can't do through a heart fully surrendered to Him. Nothing. With God all things are possible. Matthew 19:26

Lead an entire nation through a desert. Knock down a giant with a single stone. *Fulfill His purpose for your life.* Let's believe that in us, through us, in spite of us ...

What does this sound like in our everyday lives? "This seems impossible for me. But nothing is impossible for the God who lives in me. That means all things really are possible for me too. I can do this with Him." Now that's good news! Can I get an "amen" and a "woo-hoo" too? -- by Holley Gerth

God brings men into deep waters not to drown them but to cleanse them. ~ Aughey

MINISTERS (A)MUSINGS

From our E'Steamed Leader:

Ray Hardwick, sfo

Just run this, it says it quite well for me...

MYSTICAL LOVE

(from Fr. Richard Rohr)

Let me put it this way. A very little bit of God goes an awfully long way. And when someone else's experience of God isn't exactly the way I would say it, it doesn't mean that other people have had no experience of God or that their experience is completely wrong. We have to remain with Francis' question: "Who are you, God, and who am I?" Isn't there at least ten percent of that person's experience of God that I can agree with? That I can say, "That's good! You know, I wish I understood God in that way."

What characterizes anyone who has had just a little bit of God is that they always want more! Could it be that this Hindu, this Sufi, this Jewish woman has, in fact, touched upon the same eternal Mystery? Can't we at least give one another the benefit of the doubt? I can be somewhat patient with people who think they have the truth, the problem is those who think they have the *whole* truth.

It seems to me that too quickly categorizing others as wrong or mistaken is consummate arrogance and is not honoring the mystic's journey. The mystic always knows it can't easily be talked about. It's beyond words. It's ineffable. It will always be mystery; and this experience of something that is always mystery and is always bigger than our ability to understand it, is, in fact, what makes one into a mystic. It allows us to use the old shibboleth, but with a new twist: "Those who really know don't talk too easily. Those who talk too easily don't really know."

Adapted from *Following the Mystics through the Narrow Gate* (CD/DVD/MP3)

Starter prayer:

"Who are you, God, and who am I?"

We are told that St. Francis used to spend whole nights praying the same prayer: "O God, who are you? And God, who am I?" Evelyn Underhill claims it's almost the perfect prayer. The abyss of your own soul and the abyss of the nature of God have opened up, and you are falling into both of them simultaneously. Now you are in the true realm of Mystery and grace, where everything good happens!

Notice how the prayer of Francis is not stating anything but just asking open-ended questions. It is the humble,

seeking, endless horizon prayer of the mystic that is offered out of complete trust. You know that the prayer will be answered, because there has already been a previous answering, a previous epiphany, a previous moment where the ground opened up and you knew you were in touch with infinite mystery and you knew you were infinite mystery. You only ask such grace-filled questions, or any question for that matter, when they have already begun to be answered



Peace and all Good, Ray





Franciscan Action Network

Transforming the World in the Spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi

"Being Agents of Change Using the Franciscan Values"

If you missed FAN's conversation last week with Fr. Tom Nairn, OFM, you can view and listen to a recording of the webinar. Fr. Tom's presentation on eight Franciscan Values included stories from Francis' lifetime and preceded a lively discussion with webinar participants about how we can live out these values for transformation in society. You can access the archived webinar at the following link:

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/933038098>



Development, Security and Economic Justice:

What's Gender Got to Do with It?

Come to the 9th annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days, as we explore **Development, Security & Economic Justice: What's Gender Got to Do with It?** Join faith-based advocates from across the U. S. in the nation's capital **March 25-28, 2011** to be inspired and equipped to speak boldly on behalf of people-centered sustainable development and economic justice, physical safety, security and peacemaking, with a particular focus on those most impacted - women, girls and families.

Experts will train participants on policy issues and advocacy, culminating on Monday with lobby visits on Capitol Hill. Learn more and register:

<http://advocacydays.org/>





**From the Neat and Orderly Desk
of Brenda Rogers, sfo:**

Dearest Lisa,

Pope Benedict XVI prayed this prayer for the protection of life and the family on November 27, 2010 at the end of the Prayer Vigil for the Unborn. I thought you might want to publish it.

Lord Jesus,

You who faithfully visit and fulfill with your Presence the Church and the history of men; You who in the miraculous Sacrament of your Body and Blood render us participants in divine Life and allow us a foretaste of the joy of eternal Life; We adore and bless you.

Prostrated before You, source and lover of Life, truly present and alive among us, we beg you,

reawaken in us respect for every unborn life, make us capable of seeing in the fruit of the maternal womb the miraculous work of the Creator, open our hearts to generously welcoming every child that comes into life.

Bless all families,

sanctify the union of spouses,

render fruitful their love.

Accompany the choices of legislative assemblies with the light of your Spirit, so that peoples and nations may recognize and respect the sacred nature of life, of every human life.

Guide the work of scientists and doctors, so that all progress contributes to the integral well-being of the person, and no one endures suppression or injustice.

Give creative charity to administrators and economists, so they may realize and promote sufficient conditions so that young families can serenely embrace the birth of new children.

Console the married couples who suffer because they are unable to have children and in Your goodness provide for them.

Teach us all to care for orphaned or abandoned children, so they may experience the warmth of your Charity, the consolation of your divine Heart.

Together with Mary, Your Mother, the great believer, in whose womb you took on our human nature, we wait to receive from You, our Only True Good and Savior, the strength to love and serve life, in anticipation of living forever in You, in communion with the Blessed Trinity. --

Amen

Peace, bren

Seek not to understand that you may believe, but believe that you may understand. ~ Saint Augustine

**From the desk of Ray
Hardwick, sfo**

Hi all, the message below is from Ted Hewitt our Regional newsletter editor and he and his family are facing a tough situation for both sides of the family. Please ask the people you call to pray for them and their intentions. Thanks. Peace and all Good, Ray

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Edwin Hewitt <brogoose@charter.net>

To: RAY HARDWICK <rayhardwick@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Tue, February 22, 2011 10:57:24 AM

Subject: Message from Ted Hewitt sfo

Hi Ray, I just sent the letter below to Sylvia. There is a lot happening right now. This is only part of it. Please pray for us from time to time.

My mother-in-law was evicted by her insurance company from the hospital and is in convalescent care 100 miles from her home. The hospital caused some of her problems, such as the punctured lung, but won't take responsibility. Her insurance is going to pull the plug on the convalescent care before too long, and we hope that she will be strong enough to move by then.

There is some discussion of a pacemaker. The insurance company (supplemental to Medical) has told her that she has used up her benefits. We'll see if Medical will do anything. There doesn't seem to be any money for in-home nursing especially since she lives in the middle of nowhere in Lucerne Valley.

My father's pain meds have him half in reality and half in a dream state. He's starting chemo tomorrow. My father has a lot more money than my mother-in-law, so he is being treated like royalty by comparison. Even so, the prognosis is not good, "four days to four years at best." My brother is helping my father's wife make arrangements for the worst.

My kids and I visited both of them today. We don't have the gas to do more traveling until my monthly paycheck at the end of next week. We will try to do more then. I was grateful to see both of them, and I have to face the reality that it may have been the last time - but I hope not.

Christ's Peace be with you, Ted H

Diversity ...

"This is America, where a white Catholic male Republican judge was murdered on his way to greet a Democratic Jewish woman member of Congress, who was his friend. Her life was saved initially by a 20-year old Mexican-American gay college student, and eventually by a Korean-American combat surgeon, all eulogized by our African-American President." -- Mark Shields, PBS



*As he brought new faith to Ireland
So may he bring to you,
A touch of Irish happiness
In everything you do...
And through the good Saint Patrick
May your home and life be blessed,
With all God's special favors
That make you happiest.*

The world is moved not only by the mighty shoves of the heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker. -- Helen Keller

From the spiritual desk of

Stella Pacifica Caywood, sfo

Tuesday, February 08, 2011

OH Mother of God and of all comfort, I pray for the forgotten. Those that are in jails or in prisons, their lives seem sometimes without love and their hearts can be darkened by hate or loss of hope and peace. But they are the forgotten ones. I pray you give their hearts a Mother's gentle blessing that they may come to you in their darkest hours, knowing you are the Mother of peace and of us all. The world takes us away from the warmth of your caring touch, away from the warmth of your love. I pray that you intercede in their lives so they might find peace of love and soul. Oh Mother of God help us to remember the lost and forgotten because through our prayers we can change lives. Amen

Stella Pacifica Caywood, sfo

All those who have walked with God have viewed prayer as the main business of their lives. ~ Delma Jackson

Notes from The Council

Meeting:

REMINDER: bring your Silent Auction items to the next fraternity meeting to help save up to pay our fair share assessment to the Region!

Listen with the ear of your heart.

Ongoing Formation...

FROM THE BOOK

"To Live As Francis Lived":

Feb. 28, 2011 -- Chapter 19
"Humility Toward Others" -- **Mickie Rogers**

March 28, 2011 -- Chapter 20 "A Life of Chastity" -- **Bob & Lisa Boebinger**

Our upcoming Fraternity Masses are for the intentions of Immaculata Fraternity! Be sure to go to these Masses at Queen of Angels Church, 5:30 pm Mass -- the 1st Saturday evening of the month. We will all be sitting together on the Holy Family side and wearing our Tau Crosses! See you there!

Saturday, 5:30 pm Masses @ QofA:

March 5th 2011

April 2nd 2011

Four Agreements

1. Be Impeccable With Your Word

Speak with integrity. Say only what you mean. Avoid using the word to speak against yourself or to gossip about others. Use the power of your word in the direction of truth and love.

2. Don't Take Anything Personally

Nothing others do is because of you. What others say and do is a projection of their own reality, their own dream. When you are immune to the opinions and actions of others, you won't be the victim of needless suffering.

3. Don't Make Assumptions

Find the courage to ask questions and to express what you really want. Communicate with others as clearly as you can to avoid misunderstandings, sadness and drama. With just this one agreement, you can completely transform your life.

4. Always Do Your Best

Your best is going to change from moment to moment; it will be different when you are healthy as opposed to sick. Under any circumstance, simply do your best, and you will avoid self-judgment, self-abuse and regret.

Franciscan Quiz 43 – March, 2011



Quiz questions & comments: contact John U. at john.d.ubelhor@boeing.com



- Francis composed "The Canticle Of The Sun" here _____.
A. July 16, 1228
- Rent for this Franciscan home? One basket of fish per year _____.
B. Stigmata
C. Peter Catani
- Clare fought for this _____.
D. Bishop Guido
- What are the branches of the Franciscan first order?? _____.
E. Padre Pio
- Francis bore these 5 miraculous signs _____.
F. San Damiano
- Francis relinquished authority of the order to him _____.
G. OFM, OFM Conv, OFM Cap
- 20th century Capuchin who bore the stigmata and was canonized by Pope JP11 in 2002 _____.
H. TOR (Third Order Regular)
- Assisi clergyman who helped Francis _____.
I. St. Mary Of The Angels (the "Portiuncula")
- Francis was canonized by Pope Gregory IX on this date _____.
J. "Privilege of poverty"
- Third Order folks that live in community & take vows _____

Answers: 1-F; 2-I; 3-J; 4-G; 5-B; 6-C; 7-E; 8-D; 9-A; 10-H;

Knowing Your Place

You are seated with Christ at God's right hand...

Nothing is higher than that !

God loves you with an everlasting love...

Nothing is deeper than that !

He invites you to drink from the river of His delights...

Nothing is purer than that !

He shares His heart with you in communion...

Nothing is dearer than that !

He watches over you with tender mercies...

Nothing is kinder than that !

He is with you and will never leave you...

Nothing is nearer than that !

He leads you according to the counsel of His own will...

Nothing is wiser than that !

He faithfully feeds you from His word...

Nothing is truer than that !

He is in you and joined to your spirit...

Nothing is closer than that !

-Roy Lessin

Read encouraging messages by Roy Lessin, DaySpring co-founder and writer, on Roy's blog [Meet Me in the Meadow.](#)

I'm happier...I guess I made up my mind to be that way. ~~ Merle Haggard

"We all have to start with ourselves. It is time to walk the talk. Take the journey of making very difficult decisions. Start removing things from your life that are not filling your cup and adding things that bring joy in to your life." ~~ Lisa Hammond

More to pray for.....Please pray for Donna Baylor, for Georgia Zepek's parents and for Mary Belle's sister Becky Boyd -- all for health reasons.



From the Desk of Fr. Richard Rohr

Fr. Richard Rohr, Founding Director,
Center for Action and Contemplation

Mysticism In Religion: Three Ways to View the Sunset

Three men stood by the ocean, looking at the same sunset.

One man saw the immense physical beauty and enjoyed the event in itself. This man was the "sensate" type who, like 80 percent of the world, deals with what he can see, feel, touch, move, and fix. This was enough reality for him, for he had little interest in larger ideas, intuitions, or the grand scheme of things. He saw with his first eye, which was good.

A second man saw the sunset. He enjoyed all the beauty that the first man did. Like all lovers of coherent thought, technology, and science, he also enjoyed his power to make sense of the universe and explain what he discovered. He thought about the cyclical rotations of planets and stars. Through imagination, intuition, and reason, he saw with his second eye, which was even better.

The third man saw the sunset, knowing and enjoying all that the first and the second men did. But in his ability to progress from seeing to expaining to "tasting," he also remained in awe before an underlying mystery, coherence, and spaciousness that connected him with everything else. He used his third eye, which is the full goal of all seeing and all knowing. This was the best.

The Urgent Need For Contemplative Seeing

Third-eye seeing is the way the mystics see. They do not reject the first eye; the senses matter to them, but they know there is more. Nor do they reject the second eye; but they know not to confuse knowledge with depth or mere correct information with the transformation of consciousness itself.¹

The mystical gaze builds upon the first two eyes -- and yet goes further. It happens whenever, by some wondrous "coincidence," our heart space, our mind space, and our body awareness are all simultaneously open and nonresistant. I like to call it presence. It is experienced as a moment of deep inner connection, and it always pulls you, intensely satisfied, into the naked and undefended now, which can involve both profound joy and profound sadness. At that point, you either want to write poetry, pray, or be utterly silent.

In the early medieval period, two Christian philosophers at the monastery of St. Victor in Paris had names for these three ways of seeing, and these names had a great influence on scholars and seekers in the Western tradition. Hugh of St. Victor (1078-1141) and Richard of St. Victor (1123-1173) wrote that humanity was given three different sets of eyes, each building on the previous one. The



first eye was the eye of the flesh (thought or sight), the second was the eye of reason (meditation or reflection), and the third eye was the eye of true understanding (contemplation).²

I cannot emphasize strongly enough that the separation and loss of these three necessary eyes is the basis of much of the short-sightedness and religious crises of the Western world. Lacking such wisdom, it is very difficult for churches, governments, and leaders to move beyond ego, the desire for control, and public posturing.

Everything divides into oppositions such as liberal vs. conservative, with vested interests pulling against one another. Truth is no longer possible at this level of conversation. Even theology becomes more a quest for power than a search for God and Mystery.

One wonders how far spiritual and political leaders can genuinely lead us without some degree of mystical seeing and action. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that "us-and-them" seeing, and the dualistic thinking that results, is the foundation of almost all discontent and violence in the world.³ It allows heads of religion and state to avoid their own founders, their own national ideals, and their own better instincts. Lacking the contemplative gaze, such leaders will remain mere functionaries and technicians, without any big picture to guide them for the long term. The world and the churches are filled with such people, often using God language as a cover for their own lack of certainty or depth.

The third-eye person has always been the saint, the seer, the poet, the metaphysician, or the authentic mystic who grasped the whole picture. There is more to the mystical gaze, however, than having "ecstatic visions." If people have ignored the first and the second eyes, their hold on the third eye is often temporary, shallow, and incapable of being shared with anybody else. We need true mystics who see with all three sets of eyes, not eccentrics, fanatics, or rebels. The true mystic is always both humble and compassionate, for she knows that she does not know.

What It Means To Be A Mystic

Now do not let the word "mystic" scare you off. It simply means one who has moved from

mere outer systems of belonging to actual inner experience. All spiritual traditions agree that such a movement is possible, desirable, and available to everyone. In fact, Jesus seems to say that this is the whole point! (See, for example, John 10:19-28.)

Some call this movement conversion, some call it enlightenment, some transformation, and some holiness. It is Paul's "third heaven," where he "heard things that must not and cannot be put into human language" (2 Corinthians 12:2, 4). Consciously or not, far too much organized religion has a vested interest in keeping you in the first or second heaven, where all can be put into proper language and deemed certain. This keeps you coming back to church, and it keeps us clergy in business.

This is not usually the result of ill will on anybody's part; it's just that you can lead people only as far as you yourself have gone. Transformed people transform people. From the way they talk so glibly about what is always Mystery, it's clear that many clergy have never enjoyed the third heaven themselves, and they cannot teach what they do not know. Theological training without spiritual experience is deadly.

We are ready to see and taste the full sunset now and no longer need to prove it or even describe it. We just enjoy it -- and much more!

1. Richard of St. Victor, *Classics of Western Spirituality* (New York: Paulist Press, 1979), De Sacramentis, I,X,ii, and *The Mystical Ark* (Benjamin Major), III-IV.
2. See David Berreby, *Us and Them: The Science of Identity* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005).
3. Aldous Huxley, *The Perennial Philosophy* (New York: Harper, 1945), 294-95.

*Three Ways to View the Sunset, Chapter Three of **The Naked Now: Learning to See as The Mystics See**, by*

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From the Third Week in Ordinary Time

BEATITUDES: Blessings for our Time

Zephaniah admonishes us to "seek justice, seek humility" (Zep 2:3). The Beatitudes in Matthew's Gospel (5:1-12) expand on this oracle's path to favor with God and offer a fitting meditation in preparation for and reflection on the webcast ["Creativity for Creation" webcast, which was on January 26th].

- We are blessed to **be poor in spirit**, when we embrace Franciscan poverty and simplicity;

- We are blessed to **mourn**, for the damage caused by our choices as we turn to Franciscan penance;

- We are blessed to **be meek**, that we might be fitting heirs of the land;

- We are blessed to **hunger and thirst for righteousness**, in our pursuit of right relationship;

- We are blessed to **be merciful**, when we encounter all creatures;

- We are blessed to **be clean of heart**, with pure intentions towards all of Sister Mother Earth's goods;

- We are blessed to **be peacemakers**, who heal the restlessness that drives greed and excess;

- We are blessed to be and do all these things without fear of rejection or opposition, that the kingdom of heaven might be our reward.

From the Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Light of the World: Franciscan Values Today

The readings for the Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time (February 6) call us to be the "light of the world" (Mt 5:14) through justice. Psalm 112 offers a portrait of the just person, whose "light shines through the darkness." This person is gracious, merciful, and just, with a steadfast heart, and gives lavishly to the poor.

The impact of the just person's light is profound: it "shall break forth like the dawn" (Is 58:8), healing wounds and turning gloom into midday (10). As Jesus instructs us, his disciples, "your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father" (Mt 5:16). The strength for justice and good deeds comes not from our own capacity; it comes from "Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (1 Cor 2:2), the power of the cross, the "power of God" (1 Cor 2:5).

Francis and Clare found the Crucified Christ and the power of God everywhere. The Franciscan tradition offers values that help us to live out justice and shine light in our dark world today. FAN featured eight values developed by Fr. Tom Nairn, OFM during our Advent 2010 reflection series. Next week (Feb. 8; 2-3pm ET),

Fr. Tom joins us for a webinar on living these values in transformative ways. Last week's "Creativity for Creation" webcast offered many ways to live out the primary Franciscan value of care for creation.

On January 26, 2011, FAN hosted "Creativity for Creation," a webcast to explore how the Franciscan tradition can contribute to the collective effort to care for creation, especially as we face the challenge of climate change. This interactive event included discussion of how to move towards our goals of ecological sustainability locally and regionally as we continue to advocate for comprehensive federal legislation to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

You can view a recording of the webcast online at:

<http://www.visualwebcaster.com/event.asp?id=75396>

and visit FAN's new webpage for additional resources from our presenters:

<http://www.franciscanaction.org/creativityforcreation>

From the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

Living the Law: Relationship with Christ

Psalm 119 names those who follow God's law blessed and suggests that we learn the law in relationship with God:

"Instruct me, O LORD, in the way of your statutes, that I may exactly observe them. Give me discernment, that I may observe your law and keep it with all my heart" (33-34).

In Jesus' words to his disciples and Paul's in his first letter to the Corinthians, we gain a fuller understanding of relationship and law. Jesus identifies himself as the fulfillment of the law, which entails spirit and interior intentions as well as letter and external acts. Lust incurs the guilt of adultery and anger the guilt of murder. Jesus challenges us to the fullness of right relationship, such that our privilege and duty of approaching the altar depends on reconciliation with our brothers and sisters. Jesus calls us to a fullness in which "Yes" means "Yes" in thought, word, and deed (cf. Mt. 5:37).

Paul came to understand the fulfillment of the law in relationship with Christ, whom he recognized as "God's wisdom" (1 Cor 2:7). Although Jesus is "not a wisdom of this age" (1 Cor. 2:6), men and women of every age have known this wisdom. Franciscan values emerge from the experience of Christ in the world. In relationship with Christ and one another, may our lives witness the challenging blessedness of these values.

Faith ... acts promptly and boldly on the occasion, on slender evidence. ~ John Henry Cardinal Newman

Sts. Cyril and Methodius - From the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

Where is the Love? Gospel Answers

As we reflect on the true meaning of love this week, the readings for the Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time (February 20) offer food for our spiritual nourishment. The Scriptures instruct us to know God's love, to imitate God's love, and to be God's love in the world.

Psalm 103 teaches us to know God's love, which is "merciful and gracious..., slow to anger and abounding in kindness" (8), forgiving and compassionate (cf. 12-13). Jesus describes the love of his Father, who "makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust" (Mt 5:45). Jesus invites us to imitate divine love when he admonishes, "love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father" (5:44-45). As children, we must "be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect" (5:48).

To be God's love in the world is not only possible, it is the essence of our baptismal vocation: "Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (1 Cor 3:16). Through the Spirit's indwelling, "all belong to you, and you to Christ, and Christ to God" (3:22-23).

Jesu Dulcissime... the sweetest Valentine!

In anticipation of Valentine's Day, last week's FAN email included information about Green America's resources to promote Fair Trade certification in the cocoa industry. Fair Trade is a step towards right relationship with the brothers and sisters whose labor serves our wants, so that our enjoyment does not depend on forced or child labor.

A FAN member in South Carolina noted right relationship to chocolate extends beyond economic justice. She pointed to the misuse of research on the health benefits of moderate quantities of high-quality chocolate (with a high percentage of cocoa products, low percentage of sugar, and without substitutes for cocoa butter, such as palm kernel oil) as a justification for excess and the idolization of chocolate as an elixir.

The quest for quick fixes today is not new to humanity. The young Francis searched for satisfaction in various activities and relationships. Through his profligacy, Francis learned that no created good can satisfy us, whom only God can fulfill. With a new vision, Francis' quest for God allowed him to find Christ everywhere, including in all creatures.

God our Father,

you have promised to remain for ever with those who do what is just and right.

Help us to live in your presence.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

[Opening Prayer for the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time]

Friday, January 07, 2011

Dear Franciscan Youth and Young Adults, Secular Franciscans and all those interested, Peace be with you!

As we celebrate Bl. Angela of Foligno's feast day, a women who, after her conversion, worked tirelessly for the weak and poor, we present to you the SFO~Franciscan Youth/Young Adults Lenten Project 2011 – The H2O Project.

Many of you throughout the USA have participated in this project to bring clean drinking water to youth around the world, especially those in most need. We collected **\$20,831.54** in 2010 by fasting and donating! National and international tragedies only underscore the world's need for clean, safe drinking water. This one project can be our way of providing some of that needed water. The recipient of the 2011 Lenten H2O Project donations is the Catholic Relief Services (CRS), specifically for clean drinking water in Haiti.

We challenge you and your fraternities to not only *donate* ---but to *participate* in this project. By actively fasting from all beverages except water, we get a truer idea of how important clean water is to our brothers and sisters around the world. We who participate in the project experience solidarity with the poor, a solidarity that is called for within our Franciscan Charism.

There are two new ways to donate to the H2O Project in 2011. The H2O Project is a restricted account, so we can accept donations anytime and all through the year. The first new way is to give monthly or quarterly. Donations received after June 1, 2011 however, will be donated as part of the 2012 H2O Project. The second way to donate is to *"Donate in Memory"*. This program allows a donation to be made in memory of a person, group or event. For example, you can "Donate in the Memory of Mary Elizabeth on the date of her Solemn Profession", or "In the Memory of Bl. Angela of Foligno Fraternity's 35th Anniversary". A certificate stating this donation will be mailed to the address you provide.

We ask you to consider joining us this year. Attached is everything you need to begin. You can find out more information on The H2O Project on their web site. If you have further questions, email SFO-H2O@hotmail.com . As The H2O Project website video states, "We all gave it up so we could all give it away!" Help our Council to give it away this year to those who need it the most!

"When I was thirsty you gave me drink." Matthew 25:35

"It is not what we take up, but what we give up, that makes us rich." Henry Ward Beecher

2010 TOP 5 REGIONS:



\$8,598.99 Saint Francis
\$2,878.00 Solanus Casey
\$1,697.75 Troubadours of Peace
\$1,502.00 Tau Cross
\$1,075.05 Brothers and Sisters of Saint Francis



Bringing water
to the world by
moving from
consumption
to contribution.

The H2O Project Savings Scorecard

Beverage	Cost Per Serving	X	Week 1 fast	Week 2 fast	=	Savings
Milk-home, 8oz.	\$.25					\$
Milk-restaurant	\$1.50					\$
Soda-home, can	\$.50					\$
Soda-restaurant	\$2.00					\$
Soda-machine	\$1.25					\$
Juice-home, 8oz.	\$.50					\$
Juice-restaurant	\$2.00					\$
Juice-conv. store	\$1.50					\$
Sports Drink-conv.store	\$2.00					\$
Coffee-home	\$.25					\$
Coffee-Shoppe, small	\$2.00					\$
Coffee-specialty, small	\$3.50					\$
other						\$

MY contribution \$ _____

Secular Franciscan Saints/Blesseds for March:

3rd Bl Elizabeth Amodei, virgin, 1498
7th Bl Margaret Lekeux, virgin, 1916
9th St Frances of Rome, widow, 1440
12th Bl Angela Salawa, 1922
14th Bl Appollonia of Bologna, widow, 1500
16th Bl Torello of Poppi, hermit, confessor, 1282
19th Bl Hippolyte Galantini, confessor, 1639
23rd St Catherine of Genoa, widow, 1514
27th Bl Archangela Tardera, virgin, 1608



*A partial indulgence is granted the Christian faithful who on the day of the liturgical feasts of any Saint recite in that Saint's honor the prayer taken from the Missal or another prayer approved by legitimate authority. (Handbook of Indulgences, no. 54)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH*

Lord God, You teach us that the commandments of heaven are summarized in love of You and of our neighbor. By following the example of blessed Angela, the virgin, in practicing the works of charity may we be counted among the blessed in Your kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Secular Franciscan Saint/Blessed of the Month Club:

Bl Angela Salawa, 1922

Come, blessed of my Father, says the Lord: I was ill and you comforted me. I tell you, anything you did for one of my brothers, you did it for me.

Blessed Angela's life (1881-1922) is striking because of its simplicity and the felt sense of love. Some parts of her family history, though, was tough: she was the youngest child of nine brothers, often undernourished, weak and sick, she was unruly and capricious. Angela received some schooling and learned to read, but spelling was not a skill she could take pride in. Angela learned to be a pious woman and in time she was eager to read good books. By her late teenage years, she entered to the Association of Saint Zita (caring for sick people.)

Little by little she understood that her vocation was to suffer with Christ, and accept it resolutely, but conscious of its weakness. She spent many hours in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament and read books of spiritual depth, taking copious notes. By order of her confessor, Angela began to make notes of the mystical experiences. When one of the people she was looking after died, interpersonal difficulties with the deceased's family surfaced for Angela. She wrote that it feels suddenly that Jesus says to her: "Daughter, why do you worry? I have not left you."

In order to follow more closely Christ crucified and poor, she joined the Secular Franciscan Order on March 15 1912, and is professed vows on the 6th of August of 1913. As a lay woman consecrated to Christ living under the Rule of St Francis for the Laity, Angela is an example to all of us that obstacles can be overcome with grace. At her 1991 beatification in Krakow, Pope John Paul II said: "It is in this city that she worked, that she suffered and that her holiness came to maturity. While connected to the spirituality of St. Francis, she showed an extraordinary responsiveness to the action of the Holy Spirit" (L'Osservatore Romano, 34.4, 1991).

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## Have a Holy & Blessed Lenten Journey!

