
The Canticle

St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity, Los Alamitos, California

VOLUME 14, No. 1

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

Feb 2011

Fraternity Information

FEBRUARY MEETINGS:

Monthly Fraternity Meeting: Sunday, Feb. 13, 2010, at St. Hedwig's, Los Alamitos in the Library/Lounge (Next to Quinn Hall)

Monthly Prayer and Social: Feb. 25, 2010, 6:30pm – potluck and prayer, at St. Hedwig's, Los Alamitos in the Library/Lounge (Next to Quinn Hall)

Council Meeting: Feb 27, 2010, 1:30pm at Diane's house



Your Council

Minister – Diane Halal, sfo - (562) 596-3162 dhalal@juno.com

Vice Minister – Thomas Prisk, sfo (562) 425-3085 tsprisk@hotmail.com

Secretary – Shirley Prisk, sfo (562) 425-3085 tsprisk@hotmail.com

Treasurer – Mariana Simeone, sfo (562) 430-4680

Formation Director – Mike Morris, sfo - home: (562) 366-1537 cell: (562) 212-8984 mw_morris@verizon.net

Spiritual Assistant – Sr. Sam Settar (562) 431-8524 sealbeachsam@yahoo.com

Councilor – Anne Killian, sfo - (714) 891-5526 annkillian@yahoo.com

Councilor - Stellamarie Nadeau, sfo

Please feel free to contact any of us for information or concerns.

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Congratulations to John Davies, on his profession into the Secular Franciscan Order, at an impressive ceremony at the Mission San Luis Rey on Sunday, February 6!

Thanks to all for a wonderful Epiphany Party. A great time was had by all.

The annual St. Francis Regional Ministers' Meeting was January 14-16, at Marywood. We had Four National visitors: Fr. Lester Bach OFM Cap (Pastoral Visitor), Arturo Villareal (Fraternal Visitor), Elaine Hedtke (National Vice Minister) and Michelle Kim (National Councilor-Korean).

Friday evening, Ray Hardwick, Anne Killian and I gave a Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) presentation, and on Sunday morning Georgianne Lovett, our Diocesan JPIC person gave another presentation. The business of the region was conducted on Saturday. FYI – there will be a folder on the table at our pot luck and next meeting, in case anyone wants to look at the reports, Budget, Minutes of last meeting etc...

We had many inspirational liturgies, wonderful discussions, open forums and restful sleep. I enjoyed being with many old friends some that I have known for over thirty years. We had a District meeting led by our District Liaison, Mike Morris, where we planned a picnic, retreat and other events. Our visitors gave wonderful talks and at open forums they asked the members to discuss their goals and challenges. Arturo gave a moving talk on his personal experiences and the love of God. Overall it was a wonderful weekend!

Peace, love and prayers, Diane

THE MATERNAL FACE OF GOD

**Closing Prayer by Fr. Ken Deasy at St. Hedwig Mission – January 2011
(Which we used at our JPIC presentation on January 14, 2011)**

The Lord be with you...and also with you.
Bow your Heads and pray for God's blessing.

May you not only talk about justice,
But do it.

To loose all bonds.
To overturn misery.
To bring liberation.

May you not only talk about peace,
But create it
To summit walls
To work for reconciliation
To approach each other.

May you not only talk about creation,
But preserve it.
To protect life.
To be a guardian.
To support the weak.

May you not only talk about love,
But live it.
To accept each other
To be there for one another.
To give one's heart away.

And may you not only talk about hope,
But spread it.
To give evidence.
Not to give up.
To look forward.

And may Almighty God bless you in the name of the Father....



Local Needs

St. Francis Center, Long Beach –
Hygiene products: soap, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorants, etc. In addition: non-perishable foodstuffs. Please contact Tom and Shirley Prisk

Catholic Worker, Santa Ana – Used clothes (all ages), used blankets, toys for the children (no small parts that can get lost and render the toy useless), stuffed animals, diapers (size 5 and 6), coffee, meat, and paper goods. Please contact Dwight and Leia Smith at (714) 835-6304.



Articles

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY the “sacred ” character of gender?

By Richard Rohr, ofm

In the image of God they were created, male and female God created them. ~ Genesis 1:27

Some might wonder about the appropriateness of the term *sacred* being applied to the issues of maleness and femaleness. Are we just being trendy? Are we trying to give a falsely elevated status to our notions of gender? What makes anything “sacred” at all?

When we call something sacred, we normally mean that it connects us directly to the divine, to the transcendent, to our soul, or quite simply to God. The term is probably used more and more loosely today to apply to almost anything that evokes any deep sentiment or loyalty. That is not what I want to say here. We need the true Sacred now, and not mere counterfeits.

I recently stopped in a church in Arizona where old American flags were disposed of in a “sacred,” safe, and decorated container in the vestibule. I would expect this confusion in a secular culture where there is no clear sense of the sacred, but I expected a Catholic Church to know much better. How did we lose our own understanding of the authentic sacred, and how can we “know better” about what makes something sacred—and how gender might also be “sacred”—and connect us to God?

First of all, as you see in the above quote from Genesis, maleness and femaleness is already presented in the Bible as the two unique revelations of the *very image* of God. It is as if God is “cut” (*sectare* = sex) into two halves, and God can only be fully revealed as these two halves respect, draw from, unite, and give to one another. *The two being one are “it”!*

Of course, we are not first of all talking about individual women and men, but what Eastern philosophy has always called yin and yang, or the female and male principles or energies. Sometimes women represent very strong male (yang) energy and

sometimes men represent very strong female (yin) energy. And we all know people who seem to represent the best or the worst of both!

Then along come gay, lesbian, eunuch, hermaphrodite, and trans-gender people, who only in our lifetime have become visible or publicly acknowledged. Do they reveal the sacred? If so, how? If we do not recognize the obvious sacred in the foundational male and female gender itself, it will be almost impossible to find anything sacred about these constant and universal surprises of God. We are usually scandalized or disappointed instead. Clearly the Bible was trying to expand our notion of either/or gender, and even name some kind of third gender as sacred: “*To the eunuchs who cling to my covenant . . . I will give a monument and name better than the sons and daughters. I will give them an everlasting name that shall never be effaced*” (Isaiah 56:4–5). Wow! Where did that come from?

Non-dual thinking seems to apply also to the world of gender, but as I say in my book, *The Naked Now*, we have not largely read the Scriptures from a contemplative or non-dual mind up to this point. I now believe that none of us can recognize the authentic sacred, except with a *both/and*, or non-dual, mind. Dualistic thinking will divide people into either/or worlds where the genders cannot heal or inform one another, but instead are in competition. Dualistic thinking will give us lust instead of love, patriarchy instead of community, domination instead of cooperation, and mistrust or fear instead of reconciliation of opposites. *It is exactly in our wholeness—not merely one or the other—that the image of God is revealed and we are healed.*

I believe, therefore, we can rightly and fully speak of gender as a direct connection to the divine and to our True Self, and therefore sacred self. Our gender is our unique doorway to intimacy, to relationship, to our own truth, and to communion at all levels. No one is whole alone. How we relate humanly is how we relate divinely. If we have no search or capacity for “the other,” for our other half, our twin and partner, I cannot imagine how we would ever search for or understand union with God. Gender allurements provides the energy, the path, and the foundational school of holiness for all of us. If you deny the fascinating “face of the other” to anyone, you might just deny them their unique and driving path to God. Passionate people create passionate saints. Cold people create cold people.

We avoid the energies of gender at our own peril. The need and call to union and communion is so urgent and so important that God risked all the silliness, the addictions, the promiscuity, and the abuse that come with so much human sexuality. Yes, there is

sacred feminine and sacred masculine, but the most sacred of all is when they love and honor one another in ten thousand different forms and styles. Not using one another, or controlling one another, but loving one another.

When female and male come together as separate individuals, or when the two energies find balance within any one individual, we always find goodness and greatness and creativity in spades! Male and female are most distinct and distant, or “unsacred,” only at their most immature level. At their most mature level, male and female energies are friends, companions, and partners—to one another—and thus they are perhaps the quickest path to both wholeness and holiness. *Gender is indeed sacred and lays the very path and energy by which we come to God.*

Sin is to avoid this path of intimacy and communion by any guise whatsoever, even celibacy or abstinence. Evil is to deny anyone, including ourselves, the possibility of this path by making their or our sexuality inferior, in any sense enslaved or controlled, or mere entertainment. If humans cannot enjoy the delighting and delightful face of at least one other, how will they ever seek or surrender to the seductive and loving face of God? They will not even know how. Sexuality and spirituality really are two sides of the same coin: one is body and the other is Spirit.



Area Happenings and Upcoming Events

All are invited to attend any of these events

Every Wednesday – Centering Prayer at St. Cornelius Church in Long Beach at 7:30pm in the Nun’s convent chapel.

Every Wednesday – Centering Prayer at St. Irenaeus Church in Cypress at 7:30pm.

1st and 3rd Saturday of the month - food and clothing distribution to the poor by H.O.P.E. at St. Irenaeus Church in Cypress, 8:30 to 11:00am.

Sunday – February 6 – Profession for John at Mission San Luis Rey at 2:30 PM Mass

Sunday – February 13 – Normal meeting (Formation at 2, Meeting at 3 PM)

Thursday – February 24 – “Way of the Mystics” at St. Cornelius, Long Beach at 7:30 PM

Friday – February 25 – Pot Luck at St. Hedwig Library Lounge at 6:30 PM

Sunday – February 27 – Executive Council Meeting at Diane’s at 1:30 PM

Mission on St. Francis at Mission San Juan Capistrano Feb 28- March 2 – Evenings

Saturday – March 12 - 4:00 PM Mass at Catholic Worker (Eat & feed the poor)

Sunday – March 13 - Normal meeting (Formation at 2, Meeting at 3 PM)

March 17 – 20 Religious Ed Conference in Anaheim – Many good speakers & liturgies

Thursday – March 24 – “Way of the Mystics” at St. Cornelius, Long Beach at 7:30 PM

Friday – March 25 – Pot Luck at St. Hedwig Library Lounge at 6:30 PM

Saturday – March 26 - Retreat at St. Joseph’s in Santa Ana 10 AM - 1 PM (We’ll Car pool)

Sunday – March 27 – Executive Council Meeting at Diane’s at 1:30 PM

Look forward: Annual St. Francis Region Retreat at Serra Memorial Day weekend

Save for the Cruise – November 27 to December 4 (7 nights on a big ship-see flyer)

If you know of any events planned at your parishes that you think we might be able to attend together, let me know so that I can get the word out. Also, if you have access to the Internet you can look at our Regional Calendar located on our Regions website, <http://www.stfrancisregion.org>, for upcoming events in other fraternities. We are all part of a big Franciscan family. All are welcome to attend these gatherings

Franciscan Calendar of Saints: February

4	ST JOSEPH OF LEONISSA
6	STS PETER BAPTIST, PAUL MIKI, AND COMPANIONS
7	ST COLLETTE
19	ST CONRAD OF PIACENZA

From the Constitution:

CHAPTER III LIFE IN FRATERNITY

THE FRATERNITY AT THE VARIOUS LEVELS

Participation in the Life of the Fraternity

Article 54

1. In cases where the fraternity of whatever level has property or real estate at its disposal, the procedures necessary for that fraternity to acquire a juridical personality in the civil order must be followed in conformity with the national statutes.
2. Based on the respective civil legislation, the national statutes must establish precise criteria regarding the purpose of the juridical person, the administration of its material goods and the relevant internal controls. They must also contain instructions so that the establishing document may provide for the disposal of its property in case the juridical person ceases to exist.
3. The national statutes must also set up precise criteria for local fraternities that possess or administer property or real estate, so that the respective council, before its term of office is finished, has the fraternity's financial and real estate situation audited either by an expert who is not a member of the council or by the fraternity's board of examiners.

Feb 19 St. Conrad of Piacenza

Hermit of the Third Order of St. Francis, date of birth uncertain; died at Noto in Sicily, 19 February, 1351. He belonged to one of the noblest families of Piacenza, and having married when he was quite young, led a virtuous and God-fearing life. On one occasion, when he was engaged in his usual pastime of hunting, he ordered his attendants to fire some brushwood in which game had taken refuge. The prevailing wind caused the flames to

spread rapidly, and the surrounding fields and forest were soon in a state of conflagration. A mendicant, who happened to be found near the place where the fire had originated, was accused of being the author. He was imprisoned, tried, and condemned to death. As the poor man was being led to execution, Conrad, stricken with remorse, made open confession of his guilt; and in order to repair the damage of which he had been the cause, was obliged to sell all his possessions. Thus reduced to poverty, Conrad retired to a lonely hermitage some distance from Piacenza, while his wife entered the Order of Poor Clares. Later he went to Rome, and thence to Sicily, where for thirty years he lived a most austere and penitential life and worked numerous miracles. He is especially invoked for the cure of hernia. In 1515 Leo X permitted the town of Noto to celebrate his feast, which permission was later extended by Urban VIII to the whole Order of St. Francis. Though bearing the title of saint, Conrad was never formally canonized. His feast is kept in the Franciscan Order on 19 February.

.Prayers

Creator of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need. Amid mental and physical suffering may they find consolation in your healing presence. Show your mercy as you close wounds, cure illness, make broken bodies whole, and free downcast spirits. May these special people find lasting health and deliverance, and join us in thanking you for all your gifts. We ask this through the Lord Jesus who healed those who believed. Amen

Jeannie Sutton, sfo
Stellamarie Nadeau, sfo
Lupe Torrence, sfo
Fr. William Brand, OFM
Bill Denham – Karen's Father
Karen Paplia

If you know of others who are in need of our prayers, please let me know. Also, if names need to be removed from the list, let me know.

Profession Anniversaries for February

none

Birthdays for February

none



***JOIN OTHER SECULAR FRANCISCANS
AT CATHOLIC WORKER
ISAIAH HOUSE***

***316 CYPRESS, SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA
ON SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2011***

Mass at 4:00 PM

Serve dinner and eat with the poor!

Bring large cold side dishes for dinner.

Bring regular coffee, plastic silverware & drink mixes (Like
Countrytime Lemonade-For their supply closet)

**Questions – Call Diane Halal SFO (562) 596-3162
Or Catholic Worker (714) 835-6304**

**Join Fr. Stephen Gross OFM Conv. and the Secular Franciscans
on their Caribbean Get-a-way to pray & play, Sunday, November 27, 2011.
Sponsored by St. Francis Region**

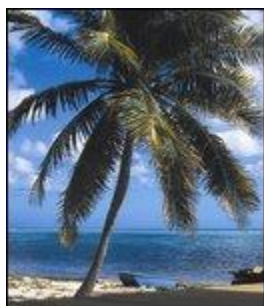
You'll board the beautiful **Mariner of the Seas** in Galveston, TX, and set sail for a fabulous week on the blue waters of the Caribbean. Everyone is welcome; invite your friends and family.



Day	Port	Arv	Dep
Sun	Galveston, Texas - Embarkation - Times are subject to change		04:30 PM
Mon	At Sea Hosted Cocktail Reception		
Tue	Cozumel, Mexico - Docked	07:00 AM	04:00 PM
Wed	Georgetown, Grand Cayman - Tendered	10:00 AM	06:00 PM
Thu	Falmouth, Jamaica - Docked	09:00 AM	06:00 PM
Fri	At Sea		
Sat	At Sea Sunday Mass before dinner		
Sun	Galveston, Texas - Disembarkation - Times are subject to change	07:00 AM	

Enjoy these Ports:

Falmouth, Jamaica s Georgetown, Grand Cayman s Cozumel, Mexico s Galveston, TX



INTERIOR	OCEAN VIEW / PROMINADE	BALCONY
From	From	From
\$621	\$771	\$921

Rate is Per-Person based on double occupancy.
Rate Includes cruise, port fees, taxes, and **hosted Cocktail Reception**.
Father Steve will be celebrating Mass daily
Airfare, Transfers and Travel protection insurance are extra.

**Only \$250 per person will hold your stateroom
Everyone is welcome.**

For best choice of staterooms, call Mark today!

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949-716-3020 or 1-866-716-3020
mfurlan@CruiseOne.com



If you need help with booking your flight or airport transfers,
contact Mark or Kathy Furlan at: **CruiseOne**

