



“Share the Joy”

Holy Spirit Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order of Claremont



Newsletter

Listen, Discern, Go Forth!

Feb 2024

Minister's Corner

As we begin this new year we are starting with a Fraternity Retreat (see below), which we have not had for many years. Finding space requires that it occur on a Saturday. We are also looking at additional events which we can do as a group throughout the year. I hope we can find more ways to grow together as a community.

I read a meditation from Brian McLaren. If we believe that we are free and responsible creatures in a creation made by a good, wise, and loving God, and that our Creator wants us to pursue virtue, collaboration, peace and mutual care for one another and all living creatures and that our lives have profound meaning... then our society will take a radically different direction. Fr Richard Rohr reminded me that in Genesis it is stated that creation is very good and it is our vocation to nurture and grow such goodness whenever we can. I ask myself how can I help grow a 'more fraternal ... world'. Most news sources and social media make money by re-enforcing what we already believe, but as Franciscans I believe we are called to listen to others and embrace our leper, particularly when this makes us uncomfortable.

Your servant.

Bill Mussatto, OFS

Fraternity Retreat

Fr. Marek Stybor, OFM, Conv. has agreed to lead the Fraternity in a retreat on January 10th. This is a Saturday so he can be with us for the whole day starting at **10 am**. Fr. Marek is one of the National Spiritual Assistants for our order, representing the Conventual Friars. He is also the novice master for the Conventual Friars, so he is on the west coast. He will be leading two sessions with a break for lunch. It will be a chance to grow and strengthen bonds with the branch of the family which agreed to our Fraternity being founded. This retreat will be **in place** of our monthly meeting.



Calendar of Events:

Feb 5 th 6:30 ~ 8:30pm	Initial Formation @ Gail's
Feb 10 th 10:00~noon	Spiritual Assistant Class (ZOOM)
Feb 10 th 10:00~4:00 pm	Fraternity Retreat 1 st floor OLA Convent (bldg C-5)
Feb 11 th 1:00~3:00pm	Council Meeting 1 st floor OLA Convent (bldg C-5)
Feb 14 th all day	Ash Wednesday Lent begins.
Feb 16 th - 18 th noon	Religious Education Congres, Anaheim Convention Center
Mar 10 th 1:00 ~ 4:00 pm	Monthly Fraternity Meeting 1 st floor OLA Convent (bldg C-5)
Mar 16 th / 17 th after masses	Food drive @OLA
Mar 23 rd 4:00~5:45pm	Palm Sunday Pre-sale
Mar 23 rd 6:00pm	Set up auditorium for Bake Sale
Mar 24 th 7:30 ~1:00pm	Palm Sunday Bake Sale
Apr 14 th 1:00 ~ 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

Epiphany Party:

Fourteen of our members were able to gather in person and three joined us via ZOOM for our annual Epiphany Party. We began with a song. Randy read an explanation of the song '12 days of Christmas'. The song was developed during the persecution in England to teach young children about our faith. For example the 'two calling birds' refer to the old and new testament and the 5 golden ring to the 1st 5 books of the old testament. After a bountiful meal we exchanged gifts, but you could only steal a gift once after which it was locked. Even the ZOOM participants sent in gifts to share. We closed with a prayer and another song.

Palm Sunday Bake Sale

Easter will be coming soon which means our Palm Sunday Bake Sale. Its time to start your craft projects. Remember its really a craft and bake sale. 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 decorate the cross

and lamb cakes. We will also need someone to man the table outside of church after the Saturday Evening Mass. We will have sign-ups at the March Fraternity Meeting. Because Palm Sunday is late in the month we will have both the bake sale and the regular Fraternity meeting in March.

Council Planning Session

Your council met to lay out the calendar for this year. We are still looking for ideas for additional outside events. If your parish would be open to having our group attend a Mass at one of their Masses let a member of your council know.

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 we need to know who to contact in an emergency.

Please remember in your prayers:

Cynthia Hewitt (Ted's wife); Zoila, Amelia, Salvador (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 the other.

For peace and an end to suffering in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, and Sudan.

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 in sharing their experiences as Franciscans at the formation sessions. Currently we are bringing readings to share and discuss at the session. The last class was Feb 5th.

Council Ongoing Formation: Randy led the formation in January. Bill will lead a formation on the Stigmata in February.

On-going Formation: the retreat will be our formation for February.



JPIC: Homeless Count, Food Drive, Medical Mission

Members of the Fraternity have been involved in various JPIC projects. Locally Jaqui, Judith and Bill participated in Claremont's annual Point In Time Homeless

Count.

Juanito, organized and lead a very successful medical mission in different areas in the Philippines.

One day they served the residents of an orphanage and



the community around it. The orphanage is under the Sons of Divine Providence Congregation. One day they served the community served by the Carmelite Order. Juanito thought they were Franciscans because of their habit. For two days

they served the communities in Roxas City located on an island in the middle of the country hosted by the Beluso Foundation.

On March 2nd we will prepare bags for the Lenten food collection for the unhoused and for St. Madeline's Food Pantry. Two week later we will sort and store the food.

Chapter of elections And District Meeting

Bill and Randy attended the Regional Chapter of Elections. Two members of our Fraternity Maria Rodriguez, OFS and Amelia Sandaval, OFS are on the Regional Council. The chapter lasted a day and a half and was held at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center.

At the Chapter of elections, representatives from the three Fraternities (Holy Spirit, Immaculata, and St Padre Pio) in our District met and agreed on two joint events. The first will be a presentation of Br. Bill Short, OFM's on Re-imagining Francis followed by small group sharing and a discussion. We will be meeting in the OLA Auditorium. This will replace our April Meeting. The second was an agreement to bring back the annual district picnic in August. Padre Pio Fraternity is preparing a presentation/handout on the Stigmata of St Francis which we can distribute to the parishes.

Outreach Religious Educational Congress

One again the region will represent our entire order in Anaheim, It is the largest annual gathering of Catholics in the United States with roughly 40,000 people attending.

Treasurer's Report:

There is no Treasurer's report because the treasurer was on a medical mission. The common fund box will be available at the retreat this Saturday.