



“Share the Joy”

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



Newsletter

Listen, Discern, Go Forth!

Apr 2024

Minister’s Corner

A few of thoughts this month. Br. Kip Ledger, OFM, Cap. reminded those of us who are taking the Spiritual Assistance class that one of the things we have to ensure is that Franciscans, particularly Seculars need to follow the Franciscan Charism to be peacemakers and bridge builders. As we approach this election cycle this will be harder than ever. I’ve seen the emails, from both sides designed to strengthen and ‘motivate’ their voters by painting their opponents as fundamentally dangerous which has, as Br. Kip reminds us has the effect of closing off dialog and assume ‘we’ have all the answers. This makes both bridge building and even learning impossible.

Next, we need to ask are we spending our time preparing for what will happen after we die or are we building a more Fraternal and Evangelical World *now*? Are we following Francis’ example of trying to imitate Christ who reached out to the marginalized, out cast and the unwanted in His time.

Finally, I read a reminder that we need to adopt more ‘Cathedral Thinking’. When they build the great cathedrals, most who worked on them knew they would never see their completing but were willing to start work to make things better even if they would never see the results. Are we working for the future, isn’t that part of building the world which honors all of God’s creation, both the people and vestiges of God (to quote St. Bonaventure) found throughout all of creation.

Your servant.
Bill Mussatto, OFS

Calendar of Events:

- Apr 14th 11:00 ~ noon Mass with Renewal of Profession at OLA
- Apr 14th noon ~ 4:00pm Joint Fraternity Meeting OLA Auditorium
- Apr 15th 6:30 ~ 8:30pm Initial Formation @ OLA Classroom
- Apr 20th 10:00-noon Spiritual Assistant Class (ZOOM)
- Apr 20th 1:00~3:00pm Council Meeting 1st floor OLA Convent (bldg C-5)
- May 11th 10:00-noon Spiritual Assistant Class (ZOOM)
- May 19th 12:30 ~ 1:30pm Setup for Marian Celebration
- May 19th 1:30 ~ 4:30pm Marian Celebration, OLA 1st floor C-5 (old convent)
- May 24th - 26th Regional Retreat, Serra Retreat Malibu

Thoughts of Francis and Friends:

The truth of our humility is that apart from God, we are

nothing. He wants to be part of the trivia that makes up our waking hours.

Bl Angela of Foligno, OFS

Joint Fraternity Meeting Plus

On April 14th we will begin our meeting by attending the **11 am Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church** during which we will have a Renewal of Profession just before the Offertory. After the Mass we will walk across the patio and have lunch in the Auditorium. After the meal we will view Br. Bill Short’s presentation on Re-imagining Francis for our time. Following the presentation we will break into small groups to discuss the presentation and how it should impact how we live our vocation. When we re-gather we will share our thoughts.

In addition to members of our Fraternity, members from Padre Pio Fraternity will join us (its going to be their Fraternity meeting as well). We may also be joined by visitors from other Fraternities.

Please arrive early since parking can be tight at that Mass. We will try to have reserve seats at the front of the church. The renewal of Profession will involve us standing in place rather than going to the foot of the altar. However, it will give us much greater visibility than the evening Mass where renewal normally occurs. We are doing this in April rather than October because the parish has a Fiesta in October. While the meeting after Mass is is not a formal ‘Come and See’ if any people choose the join us please make them feel welcome.

Marian Celebration:

The meeting in May will be on May 19th instead of the 12th, because of Mother’s Day. We will be having our annual Marian Celebration and this is open to families and Franciscan spirited guests. After the Prayers to Our Lady we will have a pot luck meal. There will be a sign up sheet at the April meeting so we know about how many will be coming.

Regional Retreat:

The annual Regional Retreat will be held on May 24th thru 26 at the Serra Retreat Center in Malibu. Br. Kip will conduct the retreat. We will be returning to learning retreats as we had in the past. The title is A Journey into God: Walking the Pathway to Peace using Bonaventure's Itinerarium. Br. Kip is both the Capuchin Novice Master and the member of the Spiritual Assistants Training Class who is leading us into a deeper understanding of Franciscan Spirituality. This retreat is geared to professed Seculars who want to grow in their understanding of what it means to be a Franciscan.

Your council has agreed to extend a scholarship for ½ the price of a single room in exchange for the commitment to provide a short presentation to the Fraternity on what was learned at the retreat. The presentation can be either by an individual or several scholarship recipients. A copy of the registration form is available on the regional website (or attached for those who get a hard copy of the newsletter.).

Palm Sunday Bake Sale

The Palm Sunday Bake Sale was a great success. Even the credit card reader worked. As always the success was done to everyone working together and doing their bit. Looking back over the years we have had new people step up and learn how to prepare items which other member had made in the past. This shows me the renewal as well as continuity we have in this Fraternity. This picture shows some of the people who made it happen. Most of the plants behind them were donated by a member of this parish. Sales were a bit light after the Saturday evening Mass, but we hope to do better with better signs and a wider selection. At the post sale meeting the idea of working in small groups seems to be popular.



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, Amelias' sister, Amelia, 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, Rachel Rodriguez, OFS. She would welcome your phone calls or visits.

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 in a classroom at OLA. Please see Jaqui, our Formation Director to sign up to attend a class.

Council Ongoing Formation: Bill led the formation in March on the purpose and rules for Fraternal and Pastoral Visits.

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

Lenten Food Drive:

The food drive was a great success. The members of the parish delivered the food in bags at Mass or dropped them off before going in. Members of the Fraternity separated the food destined for the unhoused from the

food for the food pantry. Parishioners will still dropping food off the following week. It also helps us be known throughout the parish.

