



St. Padre Pio Press

April, 2024

Change in April Meeting/Location

On Sunday, April 14 we will go to Claremont to join with Holy Spirit Fraternity for 11:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church. During this Mass, we will renew our profession promises. After the Mass, we will adjourn to the hall to view a video of Br. Bill Short speaking on "Reimagining Francis: Franciscan Spirituality." If you need a ride, please gather at Jane's home by 9:30 so that we can leave by 9:45. It can take about 50 minutes to get there from Moreno Valley depending on traffic. Parking is sometimes crowded during mass.

Directions

The address of the church is:
435 N. Berkeley Ave.
Claremont, CA 91711
Phone: 909-626-3596

Claremont is off of the 10 freeway. From Moreno Valley, take CA 60W toward Barstow to the I-15N. Stay on the right two lanes to merge to the I-10 toward Los Angeles. You will keep to the left on the overpass. Continue on the I-10 to exit 47, Indian Hill Blvd. Turn right. Continue on South Indian Hill Blvd to N. Berkeley. Turn left. The church will be 1.2 miles down Berkeley on your right. To locate parking, turn right in front of the church and the gate will be on your left. Some prefer to park on the street and walk back. For those from the Palm Springs area, you can simply follow the 10W where it meets the 60. This is our regular meeting. Please join us.

May Meeting Date Change

Our May meeting will occur on Sunday, May 5th due to Mother's Day occurring on our regular meeting day. We will go to the statue of Mary to honor her and will pray the Crown Rosary. Rosaries will be provided for any who need one.

Upcoming Events

- June 9th Pastoral Visit at 11:30 AM at St. Christopher meeting place. All need to be there. A spiritual assistant from the Region will visit us.
- August 11th District Picnic Time/Place TBA
- August 18th Regional Gathering TBA

Letter to My Brothers and Sisters



Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Happy and Blessed Easter! Lent is such a special time to grow closer to God. I hope your Lent was fruitful. During Lent, I tried to read meditations daily from a Franciscan saint or blessed. I use the Franciscan Daily Companion. It was given to me a few years ago. What enlightenment I have received from it. I would like to share one of them with you. The statement comes from St. Francis of Assisi.

"Blessed the religious who is always willing to be corrected."

We Are Not Always Right

Reflection: We easily can become defensive when others try to correct us. It is possible that what they are saying is wrong, or it could be partially right.

Despite what people say, we should be able to accept correction humbly. We can consider what they have pointed out during our examination of conscience.

Letter (From page 1)

Prayer: May I humbly accept correction, O Lord, and learn from what others say to me.

Please accept these words from St. Francis. Let me explain they were not met for anyone in particular. I just thought in this day and age we see a lot of people not willing to see another side of a comment and humility seems a rare commodity. Bless all of you for your prayers for Joe. Prayer does create miracles from God. Happy Easter Season!

Your Servant Leader,
Denise

Ongoing Formation

At our February meeting, we covered Franciscan Climb to God beginning with page 21. We discussed prayer. First we need to keep our focus on God. We maintain a prayer life by creating Holy Silence around ourselves. We live in the world, but we have to maintain an attitude of living constantly in the presence of God.

Handling irritating people can be difficult. Pray for them. In Romans 20: 14-21 it tells us, "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay says the Lord.' No, if your enemies are hungry feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." It was suggested that we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for those who wrong us.

When we live in the presence of God, we grow in holiness. We should establish a regular prayer routine and make a daily sacrifice.

St. Pio said, "Kneel down and render the tribute of your presence and devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Confide all your needs to him, along with those of others. Speak to him with filial abandonment, and give free rein to your heart, and give him complete freedom to work in you as he thinks best."

We then moved on to chapter six. We need to tune out negativity and strive to not be "busy bodies." We should not try to be people pleasers. The world will tell us that many things are alright, but we are not to go along with the mistakes that the world makes. We should strive to please the Lord and not those who promote the ways of the world. The Beatitudes tell us, "Blessed are you when men revile you, and persecute you, and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven." This is perfect joy because it brings us closer to the Lord.

We need to keep custody of our eyes. There is no need to see everything. We should avoid looking at useless and dangerous things. We must focus on the divine truth and see the beauty all around us.

We need to control our tongues. We should observe silence freely. We should spend time in Holy Silence. If you control your tongue, you will be master of your thoughts.

Assignment: You are the temple of God.

1. What disturbs the peace in your temple?
2. How do you keep balance in your temple?
3. What do you need to remove from your temple?

Go within yourself to find these answers. We will discuss them in May, and we will cover chapter 7 in Franciscan Climb to God.



St. Zita of Lucca



St. Zita of Lucca was a member of the Third Order of St. Francis known today as the Secular Franciscans. She was a servant girl.

Zita came into the world in the village of Monte Segrati in 1218 at the time that St. Francis was beginning his ministry. When she was twelve, she went to Lucca to become a servant for the Fatinelli family who had a wool and silk weaving business. She remained with them until she died forty-eight years later.

Her work was a part of her religious life. She said, "A servant girl is not pious if she is not industrious; work shy piety is sham piety."

Her life was prayerful and penitential. She rose nightly for prayer and attended Mass each day. She gave the good food she received to the poor and lived on scraps or she fasted. She only wore the poorest clothes and never wore shoes, even in winter.

Her fellow servants despised her way of life and insulted her often. Her employers were biased against her for a time and treated her like a drudge. She bore these trials without complaint and did not lose her temper or peace of mind.

During a local famine, Zita gave away beans from her master's supply to the poor. He did not know she was doing this and decided to sell the beans for a great profit. Zita feared her

master's anger and prayed to God for help. The master checked the beans and found that the supply had not diminished.

Her patience was rewarded and she gradually overcame all of the opposition. She became the friend and advisor for the entire household, including the servants. Her master and mistress realized what a treasure she was and made her chief-housekeeper and their children's nurse. She was embarrassed by this, but performed her duties so well that everyone benefited from her efforts.

She once stayed so long in church that she fell behind in her work. It was baking day, but when she entered the kitchen, she found the bread placed in neat rows ready to be baked. All she had to do was place it in the ovens.

From 1231 to 1234 Lucca lay under an interdict. Zita would go on foot to the Pisan territory to receive Holy Communion. The trips were dangerous, but mysterious strangers befriended Zita on the way, and she was never bothered. During the later years of her life, she was relieved of much of her domestic work. She took the opportunity to visit and help the poor, the sick, and the prisoners as often and she could.

On April 27, 1278 at the age of sixty, Zita passed away while absorbed in prayer with her hands crossed across her breast. At this time a brilliant star shone above her attic room. She is the patron saint of domestic workers. She is an incorruptible. Feast day is March 27th.

April Calendar of Saints

3	St. Benedict the Black
16	Bl. Marie Bernarde Soubirous
17	St. Benedict Joseph Labare
21	St. Conrad of Parzham
23	Bl. Giles of Assisi
24	St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen
28	Bl. Luchesio

April Birthdays



4/13 Janette Laulainen

April Anniversaries of Profession



4/2/22 Janette Laulainen

4/10/05 Denise Leslie

4/19/09 Rocky Burge

Please Pray



Barbara Turkowski-healing from stroke

Tom Turkowski-healing

Barbara, Jr.-Comfort and strength

Julie Bash-healing

Joe Leslie-healing

Marcie Marshall-guidance

Aaron Cowley-repose of soul

Gilbert Williams-repose of soul

Yolonda Williams-strength and comfort

Rock DeSpain-hospice

Jan DeSpain-Comfort and strength

Those suffering from natural disasters

End to abortion

End to war and for the victims of war

Those who died in the bridge accident

Thanksgiving for Jesus, for His sacrifices, and for our salvation

Thanksgiving for all our blessings

Wisdom of the Aging

In the early church there was an order of widows. St. Paul writes about it in 1 Timothy 5:3-16) He says, "Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband; and she must be well attested for her good deeds, as one who has brought up children, shown hospitality, washed the feet of saints, relieved the afflicted, and devoted herself to doing good in every way. But refuse to enroll younger widows; for when they grow wanton against Christ, they desire to

marry, and so they incur condemnation for having violated their first pledge. Besides that, they learn to be idlers, gadding about from house to house, and not only idlers, but gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not. So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, rule their households, and give the enemy no occasion to revile us. For some have already strayed after Satan. If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her assist them; let the Church not be burdened, so that it may assist those who are real widows." Paul is telling Timothy about the conditions, rights, and duties of those accepted into this order.

The widow has no family members to support her. If she had family, the family should support her and not burden the Church. This allowed the Church to help those most in need.

The idea that she should be at least sixty and have had only one husband. Younger widows of child-bearing age were encouraged to marry, to have children, and so to be of good repute to prevent the enemy from reproaching them or the Church.

The widows were expected to carry out good works and to perhaps give instruction to younger women. They were highly honored because of their work in the Church. They had a special place in the front of the Church and received communion after the deacons.

St. Ambrose of Milan wrote on widows in which he commented on the text of St. Paul. St. Ambrose went so far as to say that the profession of widowhood is close to virginity and is to be esteemed above marriage. He extorted widows to practice the virtues of chastity, temperance, detachment from goods, and service to the poor. By the fourth century, the order of widows seems to have died out.