



If Necessary Use Words ...

**Newsletter of the St. Francis & St. Clare
Fraternity – Secular Franciscan Order**

**Minister:
James Harr, OFS**

**Volume 3 – Issue 8
August 2016**

Minister's Message:

Greetings of Peace to all who read this!

A number of our Fraternity members (myself included) have expressed an interest in meditating on the various meanings and usages of words. We have discussed this at monthly Fraternity Gatherings in various contexts, including Formation.

A word I have been thinking about recently is “passion,” and the broad range of so-called “positives” and “negatives” it encompasses. For all of you who continue to meditate on the usage of words as an aid to daily conversion, may your hearts be opened wide to the Trinity.

On a somewhat related topic, depending on your definition, we are rapidly approaching the time to appoint a person to chair our Fraternity Election Committee for elections currently scheduled for January 2017. Our goal is to have this sister or brother appointed (as a volunteer and not a conscript) no later than the September Fraternity Gathering. We plan to discuss this topic at our Fraternity Gathering on August 28th.

I believe that our Spiritual Assistant, Bill Mussatto, will be present on August 28th, since he plans to participate in the interviews of our Candidates, David and John, during Initial Formation (following the gathering). Some of you may remember Gerri Merchant, of blessed memory, who headed the Election Committee for our last election.

The Regional Council has asked us to inform them, no later than December 2016, whether we will have enough sisters and brothers willing and/or able to make themselves available to serve on our Council, so that our Fraternity can continue. **God's Will be done.**

Finally, I want to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve in a number of positions on the Council since our last election. I can't honestly say it has all been “fun.” I'm actually getting a little tired. Having said that, the experiences I have been part of with each one of you, and with others on behalf of our Fraternity, have made me thankful to be your brother.

Hope to see you at the Fraternity Gathering August 28th. **Jim Harr, OFS**

IN THIS ISSUE:

- | | |
|--------------------|----|
| Minister's Message | 1. |
| Formation | 2. |
| JPIC | 3. |

IMPORTANT DATES:

Aug 5: Council Meeting

Aug 15: Valley Restart
Shelter, 200 E. Menlo
Ave., Hemet 6:00 PM

Aug 28: Fraternity
Gathering 12:30 PM

Sept 9: Council meeting

Sept 19: Valley Restart
Shelter, 200 E. Menlo
Ave., Hemet 6:00 PM

Sept 25: Fraternity
Gathering 12:30 PM

St. Francis and St. Clare Secular Franciscan Fraternity Gathering:

4th Sunday of the month
12:30 PM, Knights of
Columbus Hall at Holy
Spirit Church, 26340
Soboba St., Hemet, CA
92544.

Contacts: Jim Harr, OFS,
Minister (951)282-3354,
(951) 282-8277 (cell).
Jan DeSpain, OFS,
Formation Director,
(951) 288-6037 (cell)

FORMATION

ONGOING FORMATION:

Development of
JPIC and CST in
Papal Encyclicals
Presenter: John Dillon

Justice, Peace and the
Integrity of Creation
(JPIC) in Action
Presenter: David I'Anson

INITIAL FORMATION

Mid-Candidacy Interview
with Fraternity Council
Members - following the
Fraternity gathering

SPECIAL NOTICE

Fest of the Stigmata

Basilica of San Juan
Capistrano, **Sept 17th**
Holy Door entrance at
9:30 AM, then Mass with
Fr. Steve Gross, OFM
Conv. Putluck lunch.
Contact Jan DeSpain.

Profession/Anniversary

None will be celebrated
during summer months

Prayer Requests

Julie Bash
Eileen Cloutier
Sylvia Lujan
Mickie Pecoraro
Ara Sagherian
Guadalupe Serros
Tom Turkowski

Formation

Jan DeSpain, OFS, Formation Director

August 28th Formation: **Ongoing** – Presentations by John Dillon and
David I'Anson. Subject: JPIC

Initial - Mid-Candidacy interviews with Council
Members (after Fraternity Gathering).

I'm back trying to adjust my head, heart and body from a truly blessed trip to Italy and World Youth Day in Poland. I am composing this article on the Feast of St. Clare. Rock and I attended Mass at 8:15 am, then delivered our food to Valley Restart for Monday's dinner (Aug 15th).

This Year of Mercy has been so timely in my life. I have tried to reflect on how Our Lord is calling me to enter more deeply into conversion and live more mercifully. Sometimes I feel my efforts have often been too superficial, but this year has been especially challenging.

What St. Clare said to Agnes in her second letter speaks to my heart: "...may you go forward securely, joyfully and swiftly on the path of prudent happiness, believing nothing that would dissuade you from this commitment..."

Commitment is not usually easy. Commitment often requires that we do things we might not want to do, or feel qualified to do. When I think back on commitments I've made, rarely have I ever felt ready or qualified. Now we are at a time in our community that will require your commitment if we are to continue as a fraternity.

Jim has called for a nominating committee to see if we have a slate (list of candidates) for the upcoming election. I encourage anyone eligible to consider running. Whatever the outcome, I will be totally at peace with it. Nothing will "dissuade me from my commitment," as St. Clare said to Agnes. I am only in control of myself and my actions. I hold the image of Divine Mercy before me... **Jesus, I trust in you.**

Concerning my recent trip, I want to share with you that the most edifying part was forming new relationships with pilgrims and our Polish brothers and sisters. Relationship is truly key and the foundation of faith, family and fraternity. There is only one way to form and build good relationships, and that is by PRESENCE. I am looking forward to seeing you all soon at our August 28th Fraternity gathering. I value all my Franciscan brothers and sisters in your commitment to our monthly gathering.

Another moment from my trip made me remember all of you. In Auschwitz I held my hand against the brick of Cell Block 11, where St. Maximillian Kolbe was martyred. August 14, 2016, is the 75th anniversary of his death. His sacrifice is a statement of his mercy and commitment to his faith in following Christ. He is not only revered in Poland, but around the world. I thought of how little are my sacrifices and inconveniences – my death to self – compared to his.

Formation continued:

Jan DeSpain, OFS, Formation Director

So now I offer you a small invitation to sacrifice for our community. I am asking if anyone would like to offer to facilitate our Ongoing Formation using **The Holy Year of Mercy, A Faith-Sharing Guide** (2015). We should be on Session 5, *Compassion: The Touch of Mercy*, page 62. All it requires is a short reflection (10 min) to get us focused on the topic, and how it might connect with our lives as Secular Franciscans. Questions in the text can be used, or you could propose other questions, possibly in connection with our **Rule**. Small group discussion would follow. We will proceed with this, beginning with the September 25th Fraternity Gathering.

I want to give you a heads up on another opportunity to gather with other Franciscans. Saturday, September 17th, is the **Feast of the Stigmata**. We are invited to join other Franciscans at the **Mission Basilica of San Juan Capistrano**, 31520 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675, (949) 234-1360, missionbasilicaparish@missionparish.org. If you have not had the opportunity to walk through a Holy Door, this Year of Mercy, here's your chance. We will walk through it as a group at 9:30 AM, and then Fr. Steve Gross, OFM Conv., will celebrate Mass. After the Mass, we will have a pot luck lunch. Anyone wanting to get a ride, contact me or another council member. **n.b.**, I am so totally blessed that this will be the sixth Holy Door that I have passed through. This probably means that I really need to change for the better ☺.

In closing, may God's **mercy** comfort you, His **wisdom** guide you, His **joy** sustain you and His **light** enlighten your path until we meet again.

Jan DeSpain, OFS

JPIC NEWS:

Virginia Haddad, OFS

"All You Add is Popcorn"

Amazon Prime gives you a knockout deal on expedited shipping of their merchandise. However, it also entitles you to stream hundreds of films for free or just a very small charge. These include what seems to be all the great classic Catholic/Christian films we grew up with and most modern films – both the major and many, many four and five star awarded indies – with faith themes or biographies on Mother Teresa, Pope Francis and many other heroes of faith in our own lifetime.

A great film can be very instructive and so inspiring. So if you're an Amazon "Primey," check this out. If you are not, you can still stream videos at low cost, though I would wager NetFlicks has more. If you have a smart phone or tablet, you can download the Amazon Video app and watch a moving film just about anywhere!

Virginia Haddad, OFS

