



“Share the Joy”



Holy Spirit Fraternity of the Secular Franciscans of Claremont

Newsletter

Hearts on Fire for the Lord

March, 2011

Minister’s Corner

Its almost Lent, so its also time to start finishing up any craft items for the Palm Sunday Bake Sale. This is our major fund raiser for the year. Our promise is that everything will be home made. We will have the “Hearts on Fire for the Lord” banner out (our Regions theme) so if you can think of something to relate to that, even better. Please see the note below on Cookie and Cake decorating days leading up to the event. We try to make it an all Fraternity event. Everyone can make, build or do something. Later in this newsletter is the outline of the Fraternity’s Budget for the coming year. If you have questions, please contact a member of the council. Finally at the meeting next week we will have a brief welcoming ceremony for Jeanine Kraybill as she enters into the first stage of formation.

Treasurer’s Report

For January, the ending balance was \$5,398.13. Of that amount, \$2,418.13 is available after required reserves. Note, the available balance includes the funds which we can still allocate to charity. On page 2 is the annual budget for the fraternity. *Please remember the full treasurer’s reports are available, in a binder, at each general meeting. Ask any council member if you have questions about it.*

Thoughts from Francis and Friends:

Let your love lead your steps ... to Jesus wounded, to Jesus crowned with thorns, to Jesus fastened upon the gibbet of the cross.

St. Bonaventure, OFM

Schedule:

Mar 6 th noon	Initial Formation at OLA Convent Chapel
Mar 13 th 2-4pm	Monthly Fraternity meeting OLA Convent 1 st floor.
Mar 16 th 7-9pm	Monthly Council meeting at the

Mussatto’s

Mar 16 th 7-8:30pm	Bible Education, OLA room 5
Apr 9 th 10am-3pm	Cookie Day at the Mussatto’s
Apr 16 th 10am-2pm	Cake decorating at the Mussatto’s
Apr 16 th 3:30pm - 6:45pm	Pre-sale outside on the OLA patio.
Apr 16 th 7-9pm	Setup auditorium for the bake sale.
Apr 17 th 7am- 2:30pm	Palm Sunday Bake/Craft sale followed by short Fraternity Meeting.

Please remember in your prayers:

1. Claudia Good’s mother who is in hospice.
2. Eddie, Myrna’s brother who is ill.
3. Tom who is ill. Please email him at Tom Lewis <tml.dad2@verizon.net>.
4. Jackie Foley whose declining health will limit her attendance at meetings, she can be contacted at Jackieazusaf@aol.com. Please drop her a note.
5. Ted’s mother, mother-in-law and father who are all very ill. And for Ted and his family who are dealing with the stress of helping them.
6. Anthony Hung Lee, SFO (former Regional Lay Spiritual Assistant) who is in declining health.
7. Edison Marshall (Dixie’s husband). Dixie’s mother.
8. George Hermann (Theresa’s brother in law) who died on Feb. 25 and his family who is morning his loss.
9. Those suffering from the current financial crisis.
10. To be thankful for our many blessings.

Scholarship Paper:

Attached is one more of the papers which were written by OLA students for our annual scholarship contest. We asked them to reflect on how they can follow the example of St Francis and/or St Claire in their lives today.

On the lighter side:

A pastor was walking down the street when he noticed a boy trying to press a doorbell on a house across the street.

But the boy was small, and the doorbell was too high to reach.

After watching the boy try repeatedly, the pastor went across the street, walked up behind the boy and, placing his hand on the boy's shoulder leaned over and gave the doorbell a solid right.

Crouching down to the boy's level, the pastor smiled and asked, "And now what, my little man?"

The boy replied, "Now we run!"

Annual Budget

Category	'10 Budget	'10 Actual	'11 Budget
Bake Sale income	\$1,200	\$1,315.00	\$1,200
Common Fund	\$1,650	\$2033.64	\$1,800
Misc Income.	\$200	\$2,753.63	\$200
Total Income	\$3,050	\$6,102.27	\$3,200
Bake Sale Costs	\$200	\$.00	\$50.00
Total Charity	\$600	\$4,367.49	\$400
Total Formation	\$1,170	\$372.07	\$895
Fair Share	\$855	\$855.00	\$990
Misc. Costs	\$225	\$50.00	\$325
Total Expenses	\$3,050	\$5,644.56	\$2,660
Net Difference	\$0.00	\$457.71	\$540

Miscellaneous cost is the change needed for the bake sale, supplies for the bake sale publication costs and a reserve of \$25 for unexpected expenses. Misc. income is the return of the change for the bake sale. The budgeted amount for charity is based on the required 1/3 of the gross bake sale income. In practice, you council expects to spend additional money on various charities. The complete budget detail is available in the treasurer's folder which is brought to each meeting. If you have any questions please contact a member of your council.

Franciscan Cruise:

This November the Region will sponsor a week Cruise from Galveston Texas, to Cozumel, Georgetown on the Grand Caymans, Falmouth Jamaica and return to Galvesto. Per person cost will be \$621 to \$921 depending on accommodations. Fr Steve Gross OFM, Conv. Will accompany us. The cruise will begin on the afternoon of Nov. 27th (the Sunday after Thanksgivings). There will be daily Mass. Flyers will be available at the meeting. Invite your friends and family.

In addition to being a fun event, the proceeds (the travel agent is waiving his fees) will go to support the Region.

District Day Away:

All the members of the Inland Empire District (we are the westernmost Fraternity) are invited to attend a Lenten Presentation by Br John (the Spiritual Assistant to Padre Pio Fraternity). It will be from 10 am to 2 pm on March

12th, at Holy Spirit Church in Hemet. This is the day before our Fraternity Meeting. The last talk I attended from Br. John was very interesting and thought provoking.

Bake/Craft Sale:

Well its almost time. Hopefully you have been working on your various craft projects. Judith and I have been playing in clay this year (look up the Japanese esthetic Wabi-sabi if you want to know why our pots aren't "perfect") Its actually very Franciscan if you think about it, hopefully our visitors will like it. What are you planning to bring?

We have two "community" events leading up to the Palm Sunday Bake sale: cookie day and cake decorating day. It's a chance to sit around with our brothers and sisters and talk while we share a simple activity together. Even if you have never decorated a cookie you will fit right in. On cookie day we prepare plates of sugar cookies for sale, decorating them, baking them and then wrapping them. As they are being packaged we start making the "polvorones". Lunch is provided.

On cake decorating day, we frost cupcakes and cakes that the members have baked. It a chance to get creative. Again, you can start our just putting on the base frosting or cover the cakes with pre-made flowers. Ever wonder how a cake can be made to look like a lamb? Drop by and see.

If you have a specialty, make it and bring it. Bar cookies and brownies are always a hit.

Know your Bible?

On page 12 of The Tidings, October 8, 2010, there was an article by Patricia Zapor entitled 'Don't know much about...' Sub-title: Religion survey shows knowledge gaps among Catholics and all Christians on core teachings.

The article stated that Catholics did not do well on the seven questions about the Bible which were in the Religious Knowledge Survey by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. Catholics averaged 3.8 correct. Would the members of Holy Spirit Fraternity have been able to raise that average?

Article #5 of our Rule states that: "Secular Franciscans, therefore should seek to encounter the living and active person of Christ ... in Sacred Scripture."

We have an opportunity to become more familiar with the Bible through Bible Education.

Four Wednesdays at Our Lady of the Assumption, Claremont, from 7- 8:30 p.m. March 16, 23, 30 and April 13.

Register now through the Faith Formation Center at 909-624-1630 or email Faith Formation Director Elena Cardena at mecardena@olaclaremont.org.

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Eight hundred years ago St. Francis of Assisi came up with a new idea. He wrote his new idea in a prayer. His idea was that in giving to others we receive something greater. St. Francis thought we should be kind to every living thing. He thought each person had the power to help others and make the world better. St. Francis gave up all his wealth to help the poor and the sick. He spent a lot of time praying so he could be closer to God. St. Francis' love of people, nature, and God are an example of how we should live our lives today.

St. Francis loved all people. He nursed lepers and other very sick people. St. Francis was born into a wealthy family. When he grew up he gave his money and his time to help the poor and the sick. Other people saw how he helped the sick and how close he was to God so they joined him. They felt it was their duty to God to help people in need. In today's world everyone is worried about how much money they have. They have forgotten to help those in need. St. Francis reminds us to give more to those people in need. You don't have to have the newest toys, games, or clothes. There are people that have more basic needs than we do like food, shelter, and medicine. His prayer reminds us to try to understand and love everyone.

St. Francis loved animals and nature. St. Francis created all the beauty of nature. It is our duty to take care of what God created. This is important today because there are many people who do not take care of our world. We need to love our earth that God created. We need to protect all animals, especially endangered animals, because they are God's creatures too. Every day we need to do something to help save our earth, even if it is just recycling. His prayer reminds us that there is hope for our environment.

St. Francis dedicated his life to God. He wanted to sacrifice like Jesus did. To do this he lived a life of poverty. He spent a lot of time praying to God. He traveled and spread his love, kindness, and teachings. He wrote the prayer of St. Francis to remind us to take action, spread our faith, and change the world. The people that followed him became the Order of the Franciscans. They helped him to spread his message. His prayer reminds us that we need to use our talents that God gave us to help improve and protect the world.

Our world is not perfect. It is made up of good and bad. Even though St. Francis lived 800 years ago, his teachings are still relevant today. His prayer inspires us and reminds us to be people of action. We can donate to an animal shelter, volunteer at a soup kitchen, and donate to disaster relief. St. Francis loved people, nature, and God. We should all be working to make this world a better place by living as St. Francis taught us to do. I am going to use the talent God gave me to study hard and get a good job and then give back to the world. Today I can be a good example for my little brother and sister. I can donate my clothes to a shelter. We all have the power to be instruments of peace.