



“Share the Joy”

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



News letter	Renewed & Confirmed: Live the Treasure	Dec 2017
--------------------	---	-----------------

Minister’s Corner:

Here we are again at the end of another Liturgical Year. It gives us an opportunity to reflect on this past year and assess how we fulfilled our Franciscan Vocation and Spirituality. We are told by Jesus to strive to be perfect as our Heavenly Father. Unfortunately, too often we fall short. Happily for us, He came to us in humility as a helpless infant to show us the way. We Secular Franciscans have chosen to strive to follow Him in that way of simplicity and humility through our commitment to Him made at our profession. Our Seraphic Father Francis, it has been said, based much of his approach to poverty and simplicity upon the way in which our Creator chose to enter into His life on earth. St. Francis obviously felt a strong connection to the baby Jesus and demonstrated this through the recreation of the Nativity. I imagine him embracing Jesus with great wonder and amazement as through the eyes of a loving child. It is something for us to ponder as we also look with anticipation to the coming of our Lord and Savior in the Blessed Christmas season. This year brought changes in our Fraternity membership. We added a newly professed member, Amelia Sandoval, and we lost a beloved member who was born to eternal life, Richard Wilde. Life is full of beginnings and endings, opportunities sometimes taken and sometimes lost. Recently, our new associate pastor, Father Ron Clark told a story of a warehouse in heaven. When St. Peter was asked by a new arrival at the pearly gates what was in the warehouse, he was told that it contained a box for everyone ever born. In his curiosity, the man went into the building to find the box with his name on it. St. Peter suggested that he might not want to open it. In spite of the warning, he hastily opened the box to find that it was full of all of the missed opportunities for Grace during his life. Let us pray that our boxes will be empty when

we meet Jesus at the end of this journey.

Peace and All Good,

Randy

Calendar of Events:

- Dec 10th 1:00 ~ 4:00 pm Monthly Fraternity Meeting at 1st floor Convent at OLA Claremont
- Dec 11th 6:30 ~ 8:30pm Initial Formation, Classroom Berkly Building OLA Claremont
- Jan 8th 6:30 ~ 8:30pm Initial Formation, Classroom Berkly Building OLA Claremont
- Jan 12th 4pm ~ 14th noon Regional Chapter. Ontario Ca
- Jan 14th 2:00 ~ 4:30pm Epiphany Party at 1st floor Convent at OLA Claremont
- Jan 20th 7:00 ~ 9:00pm Set-up for Meeting with Muslims St Margaret Mary Auditorium, Chino
- Jan 21st 6:30 ~ 9:00 pm Meal with Muslims, St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, Chino
- Jan 26th 6:30 ~9:00pm Monthly Council Meeting at the Mussatto’s

Thoughts of Francis and Friends:

Let them pay attention to what they must desire above all else: to have the Spirit of the Lord and its holy activity, to pray always to Him with a pure heart, to have humility and patience in persecution and infirmity.

St Francis of Assisi

Adopt-A-Family:

Bring non-perishable food to the Fraternity meeting **this Sunday** (Dec. 10th). We will prepare food baskets to distribute to four large families who have been selected to participate in the annual parish Adopt-A-Family program. The Fraternity council will add gift cards for both the children of the families as well as for food. We will also prepare two additional food baskets for the families of two Fraternity members as well We will pack the baskets

during the social time at the meeting. Remember to bring the food at the meeting this Sunday. We will also need pairs of volunteers to deliver the food to the families.

Breaking bread with Muslims

Mark your calendar for the meeting and meal with the Almadeyya Muslim Community of Chino. At the 2016 Regional Gathering, presenter Rt. Rev. Alexei Smith challenged us to begin a dialog with our Muslim brothers and sisters. The community has opened their Mosque to the wider community on several occasions. Together with Fr. Michael Miller and parishioners of St. Margaret Mary Parish we will have a meal in honor of the meeting of ST .Francis of Assisi and Sultan Melaka-Malim. In addition to the meal, we will view two short videos: on the meeting of Francis and the Sultan and an explanation of the Ahmadeyya branch of Islam.

We will have a sign up sheet at this Sunday's meeting for those who wish to help set up on Saturday, 20th January and to attend the event on Sunday 21st at 6:30 pm.

Epiphany Party:

Our annual Epiphany party will be a bit more intimate this year as we will hold it on the 1st floor of the convent. This means we will be limited to Fraternity members and their immediate family. This will also be the day when the Regional Chapter ends so we will start our meeting an hour later at **2 pm**. It will be the usual pot luck meal. Maria is coordinating the celebration assisted by Diana and Dolores.



Thanksgivings Day meal:

We had a great Thanksgivings Meal. We were able to serve over 180 seated guests along with over 96 takeout/take home meals. Our new associate pastor Fr Ron, was amazed at the turnout, but everyone doing their part it went off smoothly (well we did have to handle the usual undercooked turkey, but we are used to it). Bringing the food in paltrers to the table worked well

and this year we had a team serve seconds at the tables which speeded up the process and ensured everyone had plenty of food. This year, Gloria Cangahuale, a member of the OLA music ministry provided live music for the meal.

Ongoing Formation:

We will continue to study Pope Francis' Encyclical letter, Laudato Sí. Please study the 2nd half of chapter one before the meeting. Claudia will lead the formation using the 4th of Fr Dan Horan's videos on the subject. Fr. Daniel P. Horan, OFM explores the second half of Chapter One: Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor. The three subheadings of Chapter One examined here include the themes of:(A) Decline in the Quality of Human Life; (B) Global Inequality; and (C) Weak Responses.

Regional Chapter:

Members of the Fraternity should have already received the forms to sign up to attend the Saturday session of the Chapter. It will be a chapter of election this year, and representatives for NAFRA will conduct the elections. Two members of our Fraternity, Judith and Randy, have accepted nominations for positions on the Regional Executive Council. Because the council meets briefly after Chapter ends on Sunday we are delaying the beginning of Epiphany party to 2 pm so that if elected they can still attend the party.

Visiting a member:

On Saturday, December 2nd, nine members of our Fraternity attended Mass with Theresa Cullen, OFS and her family in memory of Bob Cullen who passed away in November. We gathered with the family after Mass to visit and enjoy a meal. Theresa will not be regularly attending Fraternity meetings because of distance.

Please remember in your prayers:

- Jackie Foley, OFS, Patricia (Randy's mother), Julie Bash, OFS, Barbara Trkowski, OFS, and Bob Eagleton, OFS, Edison Marshal who are in need of healing.
- Members of our Fraternity: Ann, Theresa and all Secular Franciscans who are, for whatever reason, unable to attend Fraternity meetings.
- That people listen to Pope Francis's call for dialog rather than absolutism.
- For peace, patience, strength and understanding throughout the world.
- To be thankful for our many blessings.