



“Share the Joy”

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



News letter

Learning to Live the Joy of the Gospel

Jul 2017

Minister’s Corner:

On July 15th we celebrate one of our best known and beloved Saints, Bonaventure. Baptized John di Fidensa, he grew up in the small Italian town of Bagnoregio, Italy. It seems he was cured of a likely fatal illness through the prayers of his mother who had made a vow to St. Francis. He later wrote “I was saved from the jaws of death by Francis’ intercession.” He attended school at the local Franciscan friary and he was considered brilliant. This was followed by higher education at the University of Paris where he was noticed not only for his brilliance, but also for his great humility. While he was at the University, a famous Englishman, Alexander of Hales, joined the Franciscan Order and this resulted in the establishment of the Order officially as part of the University. However, it was also reason for widening the gap within the Order between those wanting simplicity and those who desired to add intellectual pursuits. In 1243 John joined the order. He chose the name Bonaventure, from the Italian expression “Bona Ventura” (Happy Voyage). After 5 years of study, he was licensed to teach there, and he also began to produce writings on deep theological issues. These writings filled 9 volumes which to this day are studied and valued. Due to his humility and great sense of piety, he was highly respected and was often called on to arbitrate arguments. In 1254 he achieved the honor of Master of Theology and was assigned the leadership of the Franciscan School in Paris. Three years later due to serious disputes within the Order, Pope Alexander IV secretly ordered the resignation of the Minister General, who recommended Bonaventure as a replacement. At 40 years of age, he was officially confirmed Minister

General at the Chapter meeting in Rome. In an effort to reunite the Order, Bonaventure wrote a new constitution which was adopted in 1260. He also wrote a new biography of Francis which was adopted as the official biography (and all others were destroyed). He was also considered the second founder of the Order. In 1273 he was appointed a Cardinal by Pope Gregory X. He was called upon to assist the Pope in preparations for the Second Council of Lyon and died suddenly on July 15, 1274 at age 53, while the council was still in session. Bonaventure was canonized on April 14, 1482. Finally, he was declared a Doctor of the Universal Church by Pope Sixtus V who gave him the title “Seraphic Doctor”.

St. Bonaventure Pray for us!

Peace and All Good,

Randy

Thoughts of Francis and Friends:

Prayer is to our soul what rain is to the soil. Fertilize the soil ever so richly, it will remain barren unless fed by frequent rains..

St John Vianney, OFS

Calendar of Events:

- Jul 9th 1:00 ~ 4:00 pm Monthly Fraternity Meeting @ 1st Floor Convent at OLA
- Jul 24th 6:30 ~ 9:00pm Initial Formation at OLA Classroom*
- Jul 28th 6:30 9:00pm Council Meeting @ the Mussatto’s
- Aug 13th 3:00 -4:30 pm District Planning meeting @ the Mussatto’s
- Aug 13th 5:00 ~ 7:00 pm District Picnic @ the Mussatto’s
- Aug 14th 6:30 ~ 9:00pm Initial Formation at OLA Classroom*
- Aug 25th 6:30 9:00pm Council Meeting @ the Mussatto’s

Aug 28th 6:30 ~ 9:00pm Initial Formation at the Mussatto's*

Sep 10th 1:00 ~4:00pm Pastoral Visit at OLA Convent

* These locations are subject to the approval of the schedule currently pending approval by OLA staff.

Ongoing Formation:

We will continue to studying Pope Francis' Encyclical letter, *Laudato Si'*. We will be using Fr. Dan Horan, OFM's online talks followed by group discussions. If you are currently attending Fraternity meetings and are receiving hard copies of this newsletter contact the editor for a hard copy of the Encyclical. We provided a study guide at the last meeting. Please read the introduction and the corresponding section of the study guide before the meeting.

District Picnic:

It's nearly time for our annual district picnic. First please note the meeting will start at 5:00pm to avoid the heat of the day. The Fraternity will be providing the meat and you, and the other Fraternities in our District will be asked to bring side dishes (more at the meeting). It is also an excellent time to invite friends and family as well as anyone who might be interested in the order. Because of the District Planning Meeting we ask you



not to arrive before 4:45pm. If you can, bring a chair. We will provide re-usable flatware and dishes.

Pastoral Visit:

Every three years a representative of the Friars visits our Fraternity to assist and assess how we are following the

Franciscan Charism. It is important that all members of the Fraternity, including those in initial formation attend this meeting. Our visit will be at the September meeting. Because of a shortage of suitably prepared Friars, the visitor will probably be a specially trained Secular Franciscan.

Please remember in your prayers:

- Jennifer Vieyra (sister of Anthony Vieyra, an associate of this Fraternity) and those who will miss her.
- Jackie Foley, OFS, Patricia (Randy's mother), Anne Tighe, OFS (former member of this Fraternity), Julie Bash, OFS, Barbara Trkowski, OFS, Herbelin Family, and Ana Bolaños (Amelia's sister) who are in need of healing.
- Members of our Fraternity: Ann, Mary Pat, Bob, Barbara, 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.

Open to Visit:

Members, if you can, please call and/or visit Jackie Foley and Richard Wild. They can't get out much but spending time with them would be appreciated. Of course all first.

On the lighter side:

A church in a rural area was badly in need of repairs, and parishioners met to discuss what could be done to raise the necessary funds. One of the wealthiest - and stingiest - of the members rose and said he would give \$500, then sat down. Suddenly a large chunk of plastering fell from the ceiling and hit him on the head. He jumped up looking confused, and said, "Did I say \$500? I meant \$5,000!" Then he sat down again. After a moment a voice said from the back, "Hit him again, Lord!"