



“Share the Joy”

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



News letter	Renewed & Confirmed: Live the Treasure	Feb 2018
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Minister’s Corner:

CHANGE

“Do not be afraid” as Catholics we know that line when St. John Paul 2nd became Pope that was the first thing he said to us on that balcony so long ago. As sure as the sun rises and sets change is inevitable and that goes for the Secular Franciscans as well, Randy Rohrer our Minister for the last 5 years has been voted to a councilor position for the region. We are proud of him and pray for his success in this new endeavor he is taking on. The next change is I am now your Minister, I look forward to the new challenge this presents to me and I pray and hope to do my very best in serving you my fraternity my family.

Someone we are also very proud of is our own Judith Mussatto who has been re-elected as the Minister of the Region. Judith is not only a natural born leader but a true Franciscan through and through and we look forward to her leading our Region forward in change and growth.

This year promises to be full of activities, learning, growing and sharing with one another. We need to feed off of one another and help one another on our journey not only spiritually but also as family. Change can be scary but it also can be great if we open our minds and hearts and enjoy the ride.

May God Bless you and keep you.

Claudia T., OFS
Minister Holy Spirit Fraternity

Calendar of Events:

- Feb 3rd 8:15am ~ 4:00pm Fraternity Council Planning Retreat, Our Lady of the Assumption Church
- Feb 10th 3:00pm Profession San Louie Rey, Oceanside Ca. Meal to follow
- Feb 11th 1:00pm ~ 4:00pm Fraternity Meeting, 1st Floor Convent at OLA

- Feb 12th 6:30 ~ 9:00 pm Initial Formation, Classroom Berkeley Building OLA Claremont
- Feb 19th 6:30 ~ 9:00pm Initial Formation, Classroom Berkeley Building OLA Claremont
- Feb 22th 6:30 ~9:00pm Monthly Council Meeting at the Mussatto’s on **Thursday**
- Mar 3rd 10:00~4:00pm Cookie Day at the Rohrer’s
- Mar 24th 10:00am-3:00pm Cake Decorating Day at the Mussatto’s
- Mar 25th 7:30am ~ 2:00pm Palm Sunday Bake & Craft Sale

Thoughts of Francis and Friends:

What could I be if ever I could flly trust and let Him work in me?

Robert A. Carmen, OFS

Council Planning Retreat:

The retreat will begin with a Mass at OLA. Your council will meet to plan for the next year. Part of this will be incorporating the information from our last Pastoral Visit. Please pray for your council while we meet.

Palm Sunday Bake Sale:

Remember Easter comes early this year. This means that the bake/craft sale also comes early. Please put Cookie Day and Cake Decorating Day on your calendar. Remember, we can train anyone. Its fun and a great way to spend time getting to know each other. Also, start your crafts and plan your plants.

Breaking bread with Muslims

With the words, ”In the name of God the Merciful, in the name of God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of the Prophet Mohammed, the God of our Christian Lord Jesus Christ, I declare all are welcome here. This gathering honors a kind, temperate and humane conversation between St. Francis of Assisi and Sultan Malik Al-Kamil, two religious visionaries who are bigger than the religious bigotry of their times.” Fr. Michael, welcomed the members of the Almadeyya Muslim

Community of Chino as well as members of his parish and Secular Franciscans from our Fraternity, our District and our Region. This was the culmination of work by several members of the Fraternity working with Fr. Michael over many months. The evening began with the Muslims saying their evening prayer, led by their Imam, followed by the Christians praying a decade of the rosary. We watched a short documentary on the 1219 meeting between St Francis and the Sultan Malic al-Kamil where they discovered that as persons of faith they had much in common. This was followed a video describing the worldwide charitable work of the Almadeyya Muslims. We then shared a meal during which we were encouraged to share our thoughts about the videos. The vice president of the mosque also showed a picture of the original letter from Muhammad to the Cappadocian Monks which declared that all Muslims should care for Christians and their places of worship. Evening concluded with a singing of "Let there be peace on earth ..." and an invitation to find someone we did not know and greet them with "Peace" to which they responded "and all good". The room was filled with people seeking out strangers with whom to exchange the greeting/response. Everyone pronounced the evening a success and several people expressed interest in joint activities in the future.



Epiphany Party:

At the last Fraternity meeting Maria, Dolores and Diana arranged for an intimate Epiphany Party in the Convent. Attendance was light because of illness and family obligations. Gifts were exchanged and everyone received a person to pray for as well as quotation from the Bible.



Regional Chapter:

Several Fraternity members attended the Region's Chapter of Elections this year as observers on Saturday. Claudia filled in for Randy who was called away because of illness in the family. Judith was re-elected as Regional Minister and Randy was elected Regional Councilor (he accepted by phone). Bill attended as District Liaison. Members of the three Fraternities met and planned the District Events for the this year.

Emeritus members:

This status is for members who because of illness, age or distance are unable to attend meetings of the Fraternity. Your council has decided that Jackie Foley, Robert and Cyl Herbelen will be Fraternity members but in Emeritus status. Robert and Cyl were previously members of St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity in Hemet. They moved out of the area, to a place where there is no local fraternity and want to remain connected with the Region. You may have seen them at our annual picnics.

Please remember in your prayers:

- Susan Hamm, mother of Kristen Rohrer who has died.
- Jaqui Bradley, Jackie Foley, OFS, Patricia (Randy's mother), Julie Bash, OFS, Bob Eagleton, OFS, Jo-Ann Hardwick, OFS and Edison Marshal (Dixie's husband) who are in need of healing.
- In thanksgivings for the birth of Myrna's grandson.
- 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.

Ongoing Formation:

We will continue to study Pope Francis' Encyclical letter, Laudato Sí in February. Please study the 1st half of chapter two before the meeting. Fr. Daniel P. Horan, OFM The three subheadings of Chapter Two examined here include the themes of: (A) The light offered by faith; (B) The wisdom of the Biblical accounts; and (C) The mystery of the universe.

6th Grade Scholarship Results:

Each year we offer two scholarships to two 6th graders who write essays on how the examples of St Francis and/or St Clare influenced them. The first of these is attached to this newsletter.

St. Francis - How is he relevant to me today

“Start by doing what is necessary, then do what is possible and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” St. Francis’ words are words that make people think about the importance of trying, trying is important because when people try to do something it is the first step to achieving. St. Francis of Assisi abandoned a life of luxury for a life devoted to Christianity and service after hearing the voice of God within him. St. Francis is not only a man of good words, but actions. Eight hundred years ago, he had a new idea which started the Franciscan order. I have always respected people like St. Francis because his actions reflect his good word. I remember going to Assisi Italy and visiting the church of St. Francis. I noticed many men wearing what they call “Habit”. Some of the values Saint Francis strongly believed in inspire me. All of these values are symbolized in this piece of clothing and are values that are relevant to me today. These values include, humility, cooperation, and giving which is hidden in a piece of clothing called the “habit”.

“The deeds you do may be the only sermons some persons will hear today” is a quote by St. Francis that describes the importance of positive behavior, which according to St. Francis should include humility. The Habit is a perfect example of humility because it is a simple brown piece of clothing. It is simple because there is very little decoration on it and it is not made of any expensive material, so it reveals the humility people should have. Although, I do not wear the Franciscan Habit, I hope that I can show humility like St. Francis. Having humility is important because it means that you put others before yourself.

A quote by St. Francis which clearly means to be loving to those around us is “while proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it more fully in your heart. I think that members of the Franciscan Order cooperate constantly with each other to preach the word of God. They all wear the

same clothes which is the Habit just like a team of basketball players wear the same jerseys to show that they cooperate just like the Franciscans wear the Habit and all have one goal which is to preach the word of God just like how a basketball players all have one goal which is you get the ball into the hoop.

“Let us therefor have clarity and humility and give alms because it washes the stains of our sins for our clothes” clearly means it is important to be a giving person because this type of love is what makes us and others whole again in connection with Christ. It is know that the Habit is tied at the waist by a white cord and three knots which symbolize God being the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Although my clothing do not have great meaning, my behavior does and should reveal the goodness giving brings to people. I have very recently made bags consisting of the following: Sandwiches, Chips, Water and a wooden Cross for me and my church to give to the poor of Los Angeles. I have also very recently volunteered for the Angel Tree at Our Lady of The Assumptions School which is an arrangement to buy presents on Christmas for children whose parents are in prison.

In conclusion, St Francis's values of humility, cooperation, and giving are alive within a loving spirit. Hopefully others can be inspired by Saint Francis just like how I am inspired by Saint Francis. His good works and humility has taught me so much about true kindness to others. I use his teaching in my daily life in simple things such as being kind to the people around me by offering simple help which leads me to do greater things. Saint Francis will always be a great example that will catch my and other's attention just like the Habit caught my attention on a hot summer day in Assisi, Italy.