



“Share the Joy”

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



News letter	Learning to Live the Joy of the Gospel	Jun 2017
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Minister’s Corner:

The past couple of weeks have provided wonderful opportunities to explore and delve more deeply into our Franciscan charism and heritage. Last week, we not only spent the day learning about St. Bonaventure, but we also were able to present the movie “Francesco” in the OLA auditorium. It was a long but fruitful day. And that weekend was followed by our annual retreat at Malibu, where we were treated to an in depth look at the life of St. Clare, presented by Sister Joanne Schatzlein, a Third Order Regular Sister. In this minister’s corner, I will focus on something from our presentation on Bonaventure. This class was given by the team of Sylvia Paoli, OFS, our Regional Spiritual Assistant and Margie Rodriguez, OFS, our Region Secretary. I’m sure we are all aware of the strong connection between nature and Franciscan spirituality, and this was emphasized to us in a marvelous exercise. We were asked to go outside and find some small item from nature and to bring it in and contemplate the item with relation to God and what the item tells us about Him. Sylvia explained to us that this contemplation of nature and God is very basic to our Franciscan Charism and very much of who we are! I know for me, I enjoy making this connection to God. The wonders of God’s Creation are all around us if we but only look. Even the ground itself, as was pointed out in discussion, provides us the very basis of life and our own existence –ashes to ashes (dirt to dirt). Although I personally don’t see dirt as beautiful, I think maybe a farmer who makes his living from that earth and depends on it does indeed see beauty in that very dirt. Cut open certain rocks and polish them and they can provide something of incredible beauty. Now as I contemplate

this idea, the very fact that we have the ability to see this beauty at all is an innate gift in itself. I think we have this gift because we were made in the image of God. In our soul, we are able to see and find God through His Creation. As Psalm 19 tells us, “The Heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims His handiwork...Through all the earth their voice resounds, and to the ends of the world, their message.” May we all seek and find God in the beauty of Creation, and maybe even in the things that initially may look ugly to us, but upon further gazing show God’s amazing plan for us.

Peace and All Good,

Randy

Thoughts of Francis and Friends:

This heart of mine is yours ... my Jesus so make this heart of mine, fill it with your love and the order meto do whatever you wish.

St Pio of Pietrelcina, OFM. Cap

Calendar of Events:

- Jun 11th 1:00 ~ 4:00 pm Monthly Fraternity Meeting @ 1st Floor Convent at OLA
- Jun 12th 6:30 ~ 9:00 pm Initial Formation:@ OLA Classroom 17
- Jun 23 5pm ~25 1 pm Leadership Training Class Pro Sanctity Center, Fullerton CA
- Jun 30th 6:30 ~ 9:00 pm Fraternity Council meeting @ the Mussatto’s
- Jun 26th 6:30 ~ 9:00 pm Initial Formation: OLA Classroom 17
- Jul 9th 1:00 ~ 4:00 pm Monthly Fraternity Meeting @ 1st Floor Convent at OLA

Aug 13th 3:00 -4:30 pm District Planning meeting @ the Mussatto's

Aug 13th 5:0 ~ 7:00 pm District Picnic @ the Mussatto's

Ongoing Formation:

We will be studying Pope Francis' encyclical letter, *Laudato si'*. We will be using Fr. Dan Horan, OFM's online talks followed by group discussions. We will provide copies of the letter at the June meeting if you need one. This powerful Encyclical integrates care for the environment with Catholic Social Teaching and challenges all of us to truly live the Gospel.

Regional Retreat in Malibu:

Sr. Joanne Schatzlein, OSF lead the annual Regional Retreat. The topic was St. Clare of Assisi, in which she presented a time line of St. Clare's life, something about the time in which she lived and explained the privilege of poverty and why it was so hard to obtain and why St. Clare wanted this privilege. Sr. Joanne even offered an alternative explanation for why the Saracens left the unprotected monastery alone. Was it that they were Moslems and recognized the devout followers of the God of Abraham?. Seven members of



may view the DVDs of the talk on several of our special ongoing formation meetings in the future.

District Picnic:

Mark your calendars and invite your family, friends and anyone who might be interested in our Order, to the annual District Picnic in August. Please remember that this will begin at 5:00pm and take the place of the monthly Fraternity meeting.

Busy Weekend:

The weekend of May 20th was rather busy. It started out with the Regional seminar on St Bonaventure Journey into God, which we hosted for the District led by Sylvia Paoli, OFS and Margie. Rodriguez, OFS. That evening about twenty people accepted our invitation to view *Francesco*, the film, a more modern telling of the story of St. Francis of Assisi. The next day we had our annual Marian Celebration which began with the Franciscan Crown Rosary and was followed by a fun meal.

Please remember in your prayers:

- Patrick Mendes, OFS (former national minister), Evelyn, OFS (member Padre Pio Fraternity) and those who will miss them
- Patricia (Randy's mother), Anne Tighe, OFS (former member of this Fraternity), Julie Bash, OFS, Barbara Trkowski, OFS, Herbelin's Family, and Ana Bolaños (Amelia's sister) who are in need of healing.



our Fraternity were able to attend. The Fraternity

- Members of our Fraternity: Jackie, 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.