

**Immaculata Fraternity Mission Statement:**

*As members of the Secular Franciscan Order we seek to live the Gospel so as to inspire others to share love in Jesus in the spirit of St. Francis.*

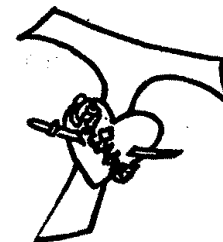
*(Ratified at our Council Meeting on Sept. 11, 2017)*

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**Immaculata Vision ~ ~ April, 2018**

**Immaculata Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order**

Riverside, CA / Editor: Lisa M. Boebinger, OFS ~ ~ lisa.sfo@att.net



**Calendar of Events for April, 2018:**

- 1 – Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
- 6 – First Friday Adoration, Queen of Angels small church, 6:00 pm.
- 8 – Divine Mercy Sunday
- 9 – The Annunciation of the Lord

**9 (2nd Mon.) – Council Meeting @ Lorraine’s @ 2:00 pm (our council meetings are now at 2:00 pm beginning with April 9th)**

- 17 – Tax Day
- 19 (3rd Thurs.) – Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich Brigade, 4:00 pm @ St. Thomas’ KDC.**
- 22 – Earth Day

**28 (4th Sat.) – Fraternity Gathering @ 9:30 am @ St. Thomas’s KDC**

**Looking Ahead to May, 2018...**

- 4 – First Friday Adoration, Queen of Angels small church, 6:00 pm.
- 13 – The Ascension of the Lord
- 13 – Mother’s Day
- 14 (2nd Mon.) – Council Meeting @ Lorraine’s @ 2:00 pm**
- 17 (3rd Thurs.) – Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich Brigade, 4:00 pm @ St. Thomas’ KDC.**

**19 (3rd Sat.) – Fraternity Gathering @ 9:30 am @ St. Thomas’s KDC (3rd Sat. due to 4th Sat. being a holiday weekend for Memorial Day)**

- 20 – Pentecost Sunday
- 25-27 – Annual Region Retreat @ Serra Retreat in Malibu
- 27 – The Most Holy Trinity Sunday
- 28 – Memorial Day – Holiday
- 31 – The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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**Birthdays & Profession Anniversaries:**

- April Birthdays: -- 5th -- Lisa Boebinger  
27th – Bruce McAdams
- April Profession Anniv : -- Aarne Lozano, 1991
- May Birthdays: -- 2nd – Gloria Torres  
5th – Jim Neuffell
- May Profession Anniv: -- Raul Bosque, 2003

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**For Our March 24th Fraternity Gathering  
On-going Formation  
from: Bob Murray, OFS  
Topic: The State of the Order**

- Bob’s Discussion Questions:**
1. What do I think my fraternity will look like in 10 years?
  2. How might the meaning of fraternity change in 10 years?
  3. Why is the decline occurring?
  4. What would I do without my fraternity?
  5. What can I do in 2018 to change 2026?

**Agenda of our Fraternity Gathering:**  
**At: St. Thomas’ KDC @ 9:30 am on March 24th**  
**Opening Prayer:** Liturgy of the Hours  
**Ongoing Formation:** by Bob Murray, OFS  
**Break:** Fellowship & Refreshments by (whoever wants to bring something to share)  
**After Break:** Sharing on our recent Lenten Retreat with Fr. Johannes Freyer, OFM  
**Closing Prayer:** by Bob Murray, OFS

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**Something New (well, sort of):  
Emeritus Members**

They are distinguished members of the fraternity, but cannot attend due to infirmity, distance, or age-related conditions.  
Article 39 of the Regional Governance Norms:

**39.** St. Francis Region recognizes Fraternity Councils, in an abundance of loving pastoral concern, might not want to lapse Professed Secular Franciscan members who, for reasons of infirmity, distance, or age-related conditions, can no longer attend Fraternity meetings and/or events. For this reason, a Fraternity Council may (by majority vote) move a Professed member into “**Emeritus**” status. Secular Franciscans in “**Emeritus**” status are still considered active members of the Fraternity. It is the responsibility of the Fraternity, whenever possible, to remain in loving, prayerful contact with these “**Emeritus**” brothers and sisters. Include them in the prayer life of the Fraternity, invite them to

important events when possible (e.g. Professions, anniversary celebrations, etc.), and keep them Informed of Fraternity activities, such as through email, phone calls or newsletters. **“Emeritus”** members are not eligible for nomination to any of the O.F.S Constitutional offices, nor can they serve on a Fraternity Council. They are not included in any O.F.S Constitutional quorum determination. An **“Emeritus”** Secular Franciscan may not vote during a Fraternity election; if they do attend a Fraternity election, their role is only as an observer. The Fraternity continues to have an annual Fair Share responsibility for **“Emeritus”** members, but at 50% of the prevailing Fair Share rate established by the Regional Fraternity. **“Emeritus”** members will continue to receive the Tau newsletter and any other national/regional mailings.

**Our 1st Class of Emeritus Members are:**

- Velma Chromity, OFS
- Jo-Ann Hardwick, OFS
- George Molchan, OFS
- Ken Wilde, OFS

*(Please continue to keep them in your prayers)*

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**From the Formation desk of Ray Hardwick, OFS**  
**TRANSFORMATION**

Where Is God? The Sufi tell stories that say all I think I'll ever know about finding God.

The first story is a disarming and compelling one. It is also, I think, a troublesome one, a fascinating one, a chastening one: “Help us to find God,” the seeker begged the Elder. “No one can help you there,” the Elder answered. “But why not?” the seeker insisted. “For the same reason that no one can help a fish to find the ocean.” The answer is clear: There is no one who can help us find what we already have.

The second story is even more challenging. “Once upon a time,” the Sufi say, “a seeker ran through the streets shouting over and over again, ‘We must put God into our lives. We must put God into our lives.’” “Ah, poor soul,” an Elder smiled wanly. “If only we realized the truth: God is always in our lives. The spiritual task is simply to recognize that.”

As a Franciscan, a disciple of an order historically devoted to the ordinary, I know how disappointing, how exhilarating that kind of advice can be. The neophyte seeks to pass the test of spiritual heroics; the wise seek to accomplish only the testimony of integrity. The young think the task is to buy God by their good efforts; the insightful know that the task is to want God beyond the lure of lesser ends, including even the trappings of spirituality.

God is not in the whirlwind, not in blustering and show, Scripture teaches us. God is in the breeze, in the very atmosphere around us, in the little things that shape our lives. God is in the contradictions that assail us, in the circumstances that challenge us, in the attitudes that impel us, in the motives that drive us, in the life goals that demonstrate our real aspirations, in the burdens that wear us down, in the actions that give witness to the values in our hearts. God is in the stuff of life, not in the airy-fairy of fertile imaginations bent on the pursuit of the preternatural. God is where we are, including in the very weaknesses that vie for our souls.

God is not a mystery to be sought in strange places and arcane ways. God is a mystery to be discovered within us and around us. And savored!!! ~~ Peace and all Good, Ray

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**Spiritual Assistant’s Letter**  
From the Desk of **Bob Murray, OFS**  
**Easter and the Future of our Order**  
**March 16, 2018**

Tempis Fugit! (Latin: time flies). Lent is nearly over. Tomorrow is Palm Sunday. This week the Church will experience, once again, the blessing of Holy Oils and our clergy will renew their vows of Ordination. The liturgical action known as the *Triduum* will begin on Holy Thursday evening and we will quickly be led to the Feast of the Lord’s Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

To reflect on the **ALL** the readings for the week in this small space would be a fool’s errand so I choose to only consider the gospel that will be read on Easter this year, Mk 16: 1-7.

Mark’s was the first gospel to be written and it is the shortest; his message is direct and to the point thereby leaving out many details that can be found in the other gospels. Essentially, we are told that there had not been enough time to properly prepare Jesus’ body for burial late Friday afternoon, so three women set out for the tomb with spices to anoint Jesus’ body as prescribed on the first day of the week. To their surprise they discovered that the stone, meant to cover the tomb’s entrance, was rolled back. They entered the tomb and found a young man sitting there who told them that Jesus had been raised; that he was alive, and he has gone to Galilee. He also asked them to tell the disciples to meet Jesus in Galilee.

So what do we learn from this reading? (1) Time is short; taking care of essential things in a timely manner is not always possible (i.e. to prepare the body for burial before sundown) and we may have to re-double our efforts in earnest to complete the task at hand... even if it takes longer than expected. (2) Life is full of unexpected surprises (i.e. the stone was rolled back). We, too, experience unexpected surprises that can have major consequences in life. (Jesus is alive!) Due to Jesus salvific act we have the promise of everlasting life. Not only that, the Church exists because Jesus was raised from the dead! Without the resurrection Jesus would have just been another convicted man doomed to die on a Roman cross. (3) The women are given a mission to fulfill (go tell the disciples that Jesus has gone to Galilee). What is our mission to complete? Franciscans today have taken on our founder’s mission, the one Jesus gave Francis at San Domiano: “Go, repair my house as it is falling apart.”

During our ongoing formation session today we heard about the State of our Order. Were you surprised to learn that the number of fraternities has been declining? That the number of active professed members is declining? Why should these numbers concern us? Why is this happening? Has this fraternity been diligent about projecting the Order into the future? Have this fraternity’s members been diligent about keeping our Order alive and well? Will this fraternity be in existence in ten years-time? If not, why not? What have **you** done to help grow the Order, to help grow this fraternity? What can be done to stem the tide of decline and reverse the projections we heard today? The answer depends on **YOU** and **ME**.

The founder of the California Missions during the late 1700’s, St. Junipero Serra, OFM, had a motto that perhaps we should acquire: “Semper Adelante!” **Always forward.** With all this in mind please realize that time is short.

**Tempis fugit.**

~~ Bob Murray, OFS

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**New Sub-Committee Group:**  
**Corona Franciscan Spirituality Study Group**

Ray Hardwick, Bruce Mc Adams, Camille Page and David Burrola.

**Book they're using:** "*Following Francis and Clare*" by Fr. Lester Bach

They meet on the 1st Monday of each month from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside, CA  
Lunch at The Pit Restaurant

Interested in joining? check with Bruce or Ray.

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**New Time for our Council Meetings:**

**2:00 PM @ Lorraine's, still on the 2nd Monday of each month, beginning with April 9th.**

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**Set aside your formal prayers today and bring before God the deepest desires and fears that you hold close in your heart. Talk to God the way you would talk to your closest friend. And then take time to sit in silence with God. Let yourself be held in God's love, listening to the divine heartbeat in the world around you and in the depths of your own heart.**

—from the book *The Hope of Lent: Daily Reflections from Pope Francis* by Diane M. Houdek

(Submitted by Ray Hardwick, OFS)

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**Living in the second half of life, I no longer have to prove that I or my group is the best, that my ethnicity is superior, that my religion is the only one that God loves, or that my role and place in society deserve superior treatment. I am not preoccupied with collecting more goods and services; quite simply, my desire and effort—every day—is to pay back, to give back to the world a bit of what I have received. I now realize that I have been gratuitously given to—from the universe, from society, and from God. I try now, as Elizabeth Seton said, "to live simply so that others can simply live."**

—from the book *Yes, And...: Daily Meditations* by Richard Rohr

(Submitted by Ray Hardwick, OFS)

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**(From the Word Among Us Catholic Magazine – Daily Meditations for Lent, 2018)**

**5th Week of Lent - Saturday, March 24, 2018**

**Ezekiel 36:21-28**

*Never again shall they be divided. (Ezekiel 37:22)*

Time for a short history lesson. In the ninth century BC, the nation of Israel split into two kingdoms: Judah in the south with Jerusalem as its capital, and Israel in the north with Shechem as its capital. In 721 BC, the northern kingdom of Israel fell to the Assyrian army, and the people were sent into exile. Judah survived until 586 BC, when Nebuchadnezzar's army overran Jerusalem and force marched most of its people back to his home in Babylon. A prophet named Ezekiel was among those captured.

The last third of Ezekiel's prophecies come from that period in captivity. God promises the restoration of a united Israel. That's where today's reading comes from. Ezekiel foresaw a time when Israel and Judah would return to their land. He saw all the tribes living as one, being at peace. That had been God's desire for his people all along.

Don't miss that point: God's desire is always for unity. He loves to restore what is broken and put it back together. Imagine: if the Lord can envision a reunited Israel, even after

centuries of division, exile, and acrimony, think about the time when Jesus will reunite all of us in heaven. The reconciliation he promised through Ezekiel is still his desire for his people now!

What does this unity look like? Ezekiel's words give us a clue. Unity means return, being brought back. It means being restored to God as we turn away from what divides us and put him first in our lives. It also means living side-by-side with each other in the "land" that God gave us, a place where he lives among us. The change wrought by this unity will be so powerful that everyone will be able to see the difference.

A big component to the reunion God desires is reconciliation between people. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of God's best tools to bring about that unity, starting in each person's heart. It's where he forgives us, reunites us to himself, and gives us new grace to rebuild our relationships. If you haven't already gone to Confession this Lent, do your best to make it this week. You can get a glimpse of the awesome vision of unity that God has for all his people.

**"Father, make us one!"**

- (Psalm) Jeremiah 31:10-13
- John 11:45-56

**Sunday, March 25, 2018**

**Philippians 2:6-11**

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

*Not . . . something to be grasped. (Philippians 2:6)*

Today is one of the most important days of the year. It's a day to fix our eyes on Jesus and watch him empty himself on a cross—for us and for our salvation. It's a day to honor the One whose entire life was one of giving, not grasping, one of healing and restoration, not division and rivalry. It's a day to praise Jesus for overcoming sin and death through his act of pure, sacrificial love.

By his humility and obedience, Jesus has undone Adam's prideful attempt to become God—and every attempt that all of Adam's children have made ever since. He has shown that the way to heaven is not by grasping for ourselves and striving against one another. It's not something we earn, and it's not a kingdom we conquer. No, Jesus' death on the cross proves that the way to heaven is one of receiving graciously instead of possessing selfishly.

This can sound so grandiose and heroic that we might think it's out of our reach. But nothing can be further from the truth. God sees every act of self-sacrifice, every decision to put someone else's needs ahead of ours, every decision to empty ourselves. When we give up time to help our child with yet another math problem, God sees it. When we listen carefully to a spouse who tells us about her difficult day at work, even if ours was no better, God sees it. When we put down our car window and offer some food or money to a homeless person, God sees it. He sees them all, and he rewards them.

Every single act of self-giving is a reflection of the cross. And because of that, every act of self-giving warms our Father's heart and moves him to raise us up a little bit more—just as he did for Jesus.

So, fix your eyes on Jesus today, and let his self-giving love move you to be more like him.

**"Thank you, Jesus, for your cross! Lord, teach me to follow your path of love."**

- Mark 11:1-10
- Isaiah 50:4-7
- Psalm 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24
- Mark 14:1-15:47

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**From Fr. Bob Warren, a Franciscan Friar of the Atonement: A Meditation:**

Some of us become overwhelmed by life's contradictions. The pain and injustice that they see on every side causes them to lose all faith in God and in life. That could have happened to Jesus. No one ever felt the world's great agony more keenly than He did. When people were cold or hungry or sick or in pain, He experienced their pain as if it was His very own. And no one was ever treated more unfairly than He was.

You want to talk about injustice, look at Calvary. You want to talk about human suffering, look at Calvary. You want to see religious hypocrisy and political corruption at their very worst, look at Calvary. You want to wonder where God is, and why He does not do something, look at Calvary.

If ever there was a person who had the right to doubt God, and to despair of the human race, and to become cynical about life, that person was Jesus. But listen to Him as He says to God, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." Through all of His injustice and all of the pain, His faith did not fail. He kept on believing in God, unlike many of us, He kept on believing in people, He kept believing in life. At Calvary, faith won. (Submitted by Ray Hardwick, OFS)

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**A FRANCISCAN VIEW OF GOD**

**By Father Bob Warren, SA (Friars of the Atonement)**

One fact rings loud and clear from Calvary: where God's love is concerned, we mortals are ignorant and very uncomprehending. We often experience what men and women will do for love. We find it strange to think that way about God, perhaps, because we think of God as the stern judge, impassive, unmoving and hard as a rock.

If that is the way we see our God, then we do not know Him. We have not grasped the truth that St. John tells us when he says, "This is love -not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the sacrifice for our sins."

You see, God was not content with some sort of legal redemption or a calm and cool formal pardon for the sins of the world. He wanted to experience what we experience and live out our human condition. He wanted to learn as we learn. He wanted to love as we love, often surrounded by hate and lust. He wanted to experience firsthand what it feels like to grow and to hurt, to laugh and to cry, to grow angry and to be afraid. He was sinless, but he wanted to be where sin is. He wanted to know what makes us do the things we do. He wanted not only to heal you, but to lay hands of compassion on the scarred, lonely and unloved. He wanted to feel the kind of pain that we feel. He wanted to feel what it is like to die.

God's Son wanted to be one of us, and one with us. For Him, love was stronger than death. Greater love than this no one has, that He would lay down His life for you. He did not simply die.... He died for you. If He loves you that much, you must be quite extraordinary and very special. The least you can do -no, I should say, the best you can do-in return is to not simply live.... Live for Him! Then you will experience a joyful Lent. (Submitted by Ray Hardwick, OFS)

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**Secular Franciscan Saint/Blessed of the Month Club:**  
*(Catholic saints are holy people and human people who lived extraordinary lives. Each saint the Church honors*

*responded to God's invitation to use his or her unique gifts. God calls each one of us to be a saint.)*

**Saint Zita of Lucca**



**Feastday:** April 27

**Saint Zita of Lucca's Story – From Franciscan Media:**

Zita is a good saint for those of us who sometimes lose a chance to do some good by waiting to do something better.

Saint Francis of Assisi was still living when Zita was born to poor, devout Italian parents. From the age of 12 until her death, she worked as a servant for the Fatinelli family in Lucca. She was a hard worker, pious and generous. Although that dedication provoked jealousy on the part of some other servants, Zita won them over by her patience.

As the years passed, she became famous for helping the sick, the poor and the imprisoned. She was regarded locally as a saint soon after her death; that title was officially given to her in 1696. Zita is the patroness of domestic workers.

**Reflection**

"You can't take it with you," we say. Yet, often, people are afraid to perform the corporal works of mercy because they fear depleting their resources—time, money or energy. Zita is honored as a saint largely because of her charity. She might have compared herself with others having greater resources and excused herself from aiding Christ's poor. She lived out Jesus's story about the widow's mite (see Luke 21:1-4).

**Saint Zita of Lucca is the Patron Saint of:**

- Domestic Workers
- Maids
- Servants

**From Wikipedia:**

**Saint Zita** (c. 1212 – 27 April 1272; also known as **Sitha** or **Citha**) is an Italian saint, the patron saint of maids and domestic servants. She is often appealed to in order to help find lost keys.

<b>Born</b>	1212 Monsagrati or Monte Sagrati, near Lucca, Italy
<b>Died</b>	27 April 1272 (aged 59-60) Lucca, Italy
<b>Venerated in</b>	Roman Catholic Church
<b>Canonized</b>	1696
<b>Major shrine</b>	Basilica di San Frediano, Lucca
<b>Attributes</b>	depicted with a bag, keys
<b>Patronage</b>	Domestic servants, homemakers, lost keys, people ridiculed for their piety, rape victims, single laywomen, waiters, waitresses, Italian City of Lucca

Saint Zita was born in Tuscany in the village of Monsagrati, not far from Lucca where, at the age of 12, she became a servant in the Fatinelli household. For a long time, she was unjustly despised, overburdened, reviled, and often beaten by her employers and fellow servants for her hard work and obvious goodness. The incessant ill-usage, however, was powerless to

deprive her of her inward peace, her love of those who wronged her, and her respect for her employers. By this meek and humble self-restraint, Zita at last succeeded in overcoming the malice of her fellow-servants and her employers, so much so that she was placed in charge of all the affairs of the house. Her faith had enabled her to persevere against their abuse, and her constant piety gradually moved the family to a religious awakening.

Zita often said to others that devotion is false if slothful. She considered her work as an employment assigned to her by God, and as part of her penance, and obeyed her master and mistress in all things as being placed over her by God. She always rose several hours before the rest of the family and employed in prayer a considerable part of the time which others gave to sleep. She took care to hear mass every morning with great devotion before she was called upon by the duties of her station, in which she employed the whole day, with such diligence and fidelity that she seemed to be carried to them on wings and studied when possible to anticipate them.

One anecdote relates a story of Zita giving her own food or that of her master to the poor. On one morning, Zita left her chore of baking bread to tend to someone in need. Some of the other servants made sure the Fatinelli family was aware of what happened; when they went to investigate, they claimed to have found angels in the Fatinelli kitchen, baking the bread for her.

#### **Death and canonization**



*The body of Saint Zita, found to be incorrupt by the Catholic Church*

St. Benita Zita died peacefully in the Fatinelli house on April 27, 1272. It is said that a star appeared above the attic where she slept at the moment of her death. She was 60 years old, and had served and edified the family for 48 years. By her death, she was practically venerated by the family. After one hundred and fifty miracles wrought in the behalf of such as had recourse to her intercession were juridically proven, she was canonized in 1696.

Her body was exhumed in 1580, discovered to be incorrupt, but has since become mummified. St. Zita's body is currently on display for public veneration in the Basilica di San Frediano in Lucca.

Her feast day in the Roman Catholic Church is April 27. To this day, families bake a loaf of bread in celebration of St. Zita's feast day.

#### **Veneration**

Soon after Zita's death a popular cult grew up around her, centering on the church of St Frigidian in Lucca. This was also joined by prominent members of the city. Pope Leo X sanctioned a liturgical cult within the church in the early 16th century, which was confirmed upon her canonization. In 1748, Pope Benedict XIV added her name to the Roman Martyrology.

During the late medieval era, her popular cult had grown throughout Europe. In England she was known under the name Sitha, and was popularly invoked by maidservants and housewives, particularly in event of having lost one's keys, or when crossing rivers or bridges. Images of St. Zita may be seen in churches across the south of England. The church of St Benet Sherehog in London had a chapel dedicated to her, and was locally known as St. Sithes. However, despite her popularity at this time, the cult was not an official one.

#### **Please keep in your prayers:**

*(If you are in need of prayers, please email me at [lisa.sfo@att.net](mailto:lisa.sfo@att.net) and I'll add your intentions to our list below:)*  
**and please add to your Prayer List the following:**

**Please continue to pray for comfort, consolation and strength for Jim Neuffell.**

**Bob Murray's wife Diane is having leg problems, please pray for her health concerns. She is having surgery at the end of January, 2018.**

**Please pray for the health of my husband Bob Boebinger, he has a lot of pain and several health issues. We're hoping he can go back to work soon. Thank you kindly! (Lisa)**

**Update 12/17/17 on Brenda's son Joseph, who was in a pretty bad motorcycle accident on Sept 2nd 2017: "My son Joseph is doing much better. He is still unable to go back to work though. His leg is in a brace still, he has an MRI next week to see if his ACL tendon is broke. We already know the PCL is blown. Good possibility of surgery. The accident happened September 2nd. It has been a long and difficult recovery. He was pretty mangled. I was his nurse! Ha! Thanks for the prayers. See you soon."**

**Please continue to pray for Georgia Zeppek's Mom Ruthie King who is still not doing very well with dementia. Please keep the family in your prayers.**

**Please add Tiffany Maskew to our prayer list. She is only thirty years old and she had a stroke.**

**Thanks, Carol**

**Please continue to pray for Ken Wilde for emotional reasons and migraines and pneumonia. Ken also had surgery on his right hand. (Ken is very lonely! He would like his fraternity brothers and sisters to call him, or come by to visit if they can, but please call him first.)**

**Please continue to keep Jo-Ann Hardwick in your prayers. She is now home from the hospital. And Ray who has a lot of pain in his knees, lower back and hip and also has the flu.**

**Updated Jan. 13th, 2018: Donna Baylor's daughter Beth is in need of prayers, she suffers from intermittent anxiety. She's fine most of the time but every now and then it pops up.**

**Please also keep Donna in your prayers. She has skin cancer on her ear. Has had a couple of surgeries. It has spread to her lungs, which is very common with skin cancer. Donna says that it's very common for it to spread to the lungs first and that's what happened when she had a persistent cough, which was diagnosed as pneumonia, caused directly by the skin cancer.**

**Please pray for Sekoia Spencer's sons Darius and Jason. Please continue to pray for David Burrola and Aarne Lozano.**

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Please continue to pray for Lorraine's beau Edward Watkins, still recovering from pneumonia. Edward also had an auto accident and is home recuperating. Please continue to pray for Stella Pacifica Caywood's sons Mark and Paul.

And please continue to pray for George & Barbara Molchan. Update 12/27/17: I (Lisa) just got a call from Lorraine, she left a message and told me that our brother George Molchan is at Community Hospital, going into ICU to put a pacemaker in and to put him back on a feeding tube. Please pray for him.

Please pray for all those unemployed in our fraternity who are looking for a job, along with those who have lost their healthcare coverage. And who are in great financial problems due to being unemployed or other problems.

And please continue to keep your Fraternity brothers and sisters in your prayers along with their intentions. AND ... Have you hugged & prayed for your Franciscan Prayer Partner lately?

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**Your Monthly Pearls of Wisdom:**

We cannot change the cards we are dealt, just how we play the hand. ~ ~ Randy Pausch

The things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind.

~ ~ Henry James

Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep. ~ ~ Scott Adams

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**The Daily Extras:**

Unscramble the following letters to reveal this April word. **grimepints**

**Wacky Weather:** Did you know that tornadoes have occurred in every U.S. state and on every continent except Antarctica?

**Riddle:** It is weightless, but it can be seen. Put it in a bucket, and the bucket will be lighter. What is it?

**Anagram:** Rearrange the letters in the phrase to discover the related words or phrase: **payment received**

**World Traveler:** More than 580 million people travel to Europe each year. France, Spain, and Italy top the list of destinations.

**First Time:** Did you know that Jacqueline Kennedy was the first U.S. first lady who was born in a hospital?

**Green Clean:** To help purify the air, keep houseplants in your home.

**Spelling Bee:** Choose the correct spelling of this frequently misspelled word: necessary necessary necessary

**25 Years Ago on This Date . . . April 30, 1993:**

The World Wide Web was born when the European Organization for Nuclear Research (known by its French acronym CERN) announced it was placing the technology behind the Internet into the public domain, ensuring a free system to connect computers around the world.

(Answer to scrambled word: springtime)

(Answer to Riddle: a hole)

(Answer to Anagram: every cent paid me)

(Answer to Spelling Bee: necessary)

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**Good vs. Evil:**

"Everyone has his own idea of good and evil and must choose to follow the good and fight the evil as he conceives them. That would be enough to make the world a better place."

**He is Always With Us:**

"Joy is born from knowing that with Him we are never alone, even at difficult moments."

**Fighting the New World Order:**

"In this day and age, unless Christians are revolutionaries, they are not Christians. They must be revolutionaries through grace!"

**Judge Not . . .**

"If one who is different from me is of good will and is in search of God, I am no one to judge."

**Let the Good Seed Grow:**

"Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God."

~ ~ Pope Francis

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**Cool Fact:** The basenji is the only breed of dog that can't bark, but it can yodel.

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**Annual Region Retreat**

**Secular Franciscan Order Retreat**

**May 25 – 27, 2018**

**Serra Retreat House, Malibu, CA**

Title: **A Lover's Quarrel with the World:**

The Mission of the First Franciscans -- and Ours

Retreat Master: **Sr. Margaret Carney, OSF**

Beginning: **Friday, May 25, 2018 5:00 PM – 10:30 PM**  
(Please bring food/drinks to share for the evening socials.)

What was the "worldly" spirituality that characterized the early Franciscan movement. What aspects of the witness of Francis and his companions spoke so dramatically to the citizens of Italy—and beyond—as the friars pursued their evangelizing mission? What relationship to emerging political, economic and technological changes characterized the way in which the Franciscans communicated their convictions about Christian life? In other words, what was the principal means of attracting large segments of a society to a profound conversion of life that inspired both the messengers and those hearing their message? What does this history allow us to discern about our own times and tasks as messengers of the Good News?

Retreat Master **Sr. Margaret Carney** has been in leadership roles in various Franciscan and Catholic settings for five decades. She has worked with contemporary Franciscan scholars in the USA and beyond as an academic executive at St. Bonaventure University. She frequently contributed to the growth of the Third Order tradition as a teacher and resource expert. This included her membership on the team that revised the TOR Rule and Life approved by St. John Paul II in 1982. She was honored for her contributions to Catholic education with the Monika Hellwig Award of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities in 2017 and the Pro Ecclesia et Pontefice Award from Pope Francis in 2016.

**Please note a \$50 non-refundable deposit is required for registration. Checks can be made to Serra Retreat. Full balance is due 2 weeks prior to retreat. Specific rooms are not guaranteed. Check-in at 3pm on Friday.**

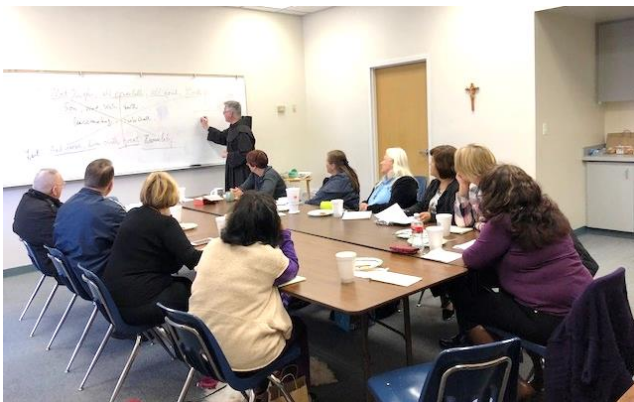
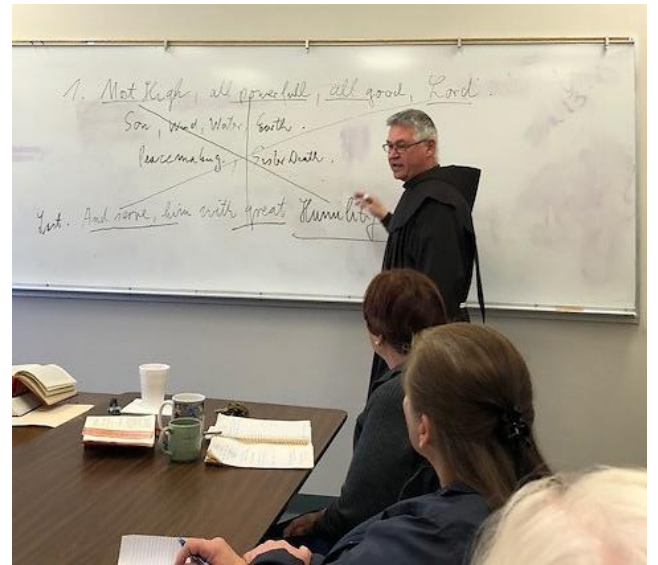
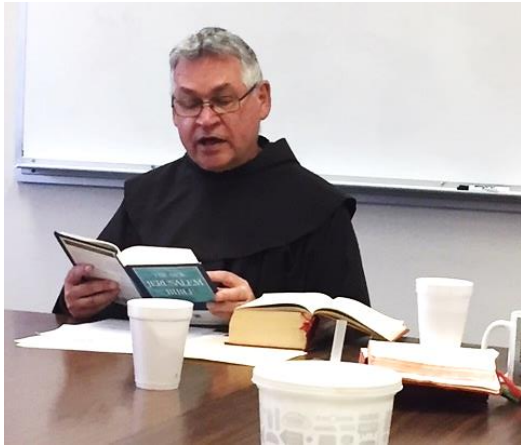
Help us go green: Please print email address clearly.  
 Confirmations are sent via email. 3401 Serra Rd, P.O. Box 127,  
 Malibu, CA. 90265  
 (310) 456-6631 or Fax (310) 456-9417 office@serraretreat.com

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**Pictures from our Lenten Retreat with Fr. Johannes Freyer, OFM**



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***Feel free to use the rest of this  
page for your notes from the  
Fraternity Gathering ...***