

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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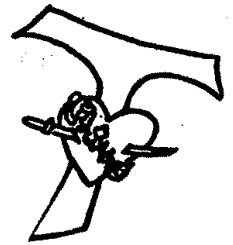
Our Goal for 2018: To visit those who are excused and homebound on a regular basis.

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Immaculata Vision ~ ~ August, 2018

Immaculata Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order

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



June 24th 2018: The 40th Anniversary of our OFS Rule! – party is in the planning stages!

Calendar of Events for August, 2018:

- 3 – First Friday Adoration, Queen of Angels small church, 6 pm.
- 6 – The Transfiguration of the Lord
- 11 – The Feast Day of St. Clare ~ Mini Retreat and Day of Reflection with Potluck after Mass *(please see the info in this newsletter – Page 6)*
- 13 (2nd Mon.) – Council Meeting @ Lorraine’s @ 2 pm**
- 14 – St. Maximilian Kolbe
- 15 – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 16 (3rd Thurs.) – Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich Brigade, 4 pm @ St. Thomas’ KDC.**
- 22 – Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

25 (4th Sat.) – Fraternity Gathering @ 9:30 am @ Lorraine’s home.

Looking Ahead to September, 2018...

- 3 – Labor Day – Holiday
- 7 – First Friday Adoration, Queen of Angels small church, 6 pm.
- 8 – The Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary
- 8 – Regional Gathering, San Diego, 9am – 3pm
- 9 – Grandparents’ Day
- 10 (2nd Mon.) – Council Meeting @ 2 pm**
- 12 – The Most Holy Name of Mary
- 13 (2nd Thurs.) – Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich Brigade, 4 pm @ St. Thomas’ KDC.**
- 14 – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- 17 – The Feast day of the Stigmata of St. Francis of Assisi

22 (4th Sat.) – Fraternity Gathering @ 9:30 am @ St. Thomas’ KDC Center.

- 22 – First Day of Autumn
- 29 – Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels

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Birthdays & Profession Anniversaries:

- August Birthdays: -- 1st – Sekoiya Spencer
- 12th – Raul Bosque’
- 16th – Georgia Zepok
- 17th – Donna Baylor
- 19th – Ken Wilde
- 20th – Camille Page
- August Profession Anniv : -- 2nd – Donna Baylor, 2010
- 2nd – Brenda Rogers, 2010
- September Birthday: -- 24th – Carol Bryant

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From the Formation desk of Ray Hardwick, OFS TRANSFORMATION

What is your primary identity? It’s not Catholic, it’s not Franciscan, it not even Christian, nor is it human being. Our primary identity is God’s child, and until we begin to live our lives with this identity permanently fixed in our hearts and our minds we will not achieve the peace of mind that will allow us to realize that the Gospel we profess to follow is a Gospel of failure not success.

Success is what our American culture teaches, but what is the image of our Christian faith? It is a cross of wood with a naked man nailed to it, a naked bleeding man who died a horrible, humiliating death. Now we believe him to be God. Is this an image of success or failure?

What does this bleeding, crucified God promise us? Worldly protection—NO! Wealth—NO! Respectability—NO! Privilege—NO! Physical, emotional or material security—NO! Marriages that never fail—NO! Employment that lasts—NO! Air Conditioners that never break down—NO! Membership in the only true religion—NO! NO! NO! What does he promise us? Unconditional love, his ever present grace and acceptance of us as we are. When Francis discovered this crucified God who accepted him as his child, he gave away everything including his possessions, his clothes, and his family, in joyful abandonment in response to God’s love and grace.

One of my favorite theologians, James Allison, O.P., puts it this way, “We are so used to describing Jesus’ cross and resurrection as a victory that we easily forget that what that victory looked like was a failure. So great is the power behind Jesus’ teaching and self-giving that he was able to fail, thus showing once and for all that ‘having to win,’ the grasping on to meaning, success, reputation, life and so on is of no consequence at all.”

It seems we have been **worshipping** Jesus’ journey instead of **doing** Jesus’ journey. The first feels very religious, the second just feels human and not glorious and successful at all.

The great and merciful surprise is that we come to God by not doing it right, but by doing it wrong. Read the Gospels and see if that’s not what happens to the Prodigal son, Zacchaeus, Peter and others.

Only when we rest in God can we find the safety, the spaciousness to be who we are, God’s child, and the scary freedom to get it wrong, and to know that the only perfection available to us is the honest acceptance of our imperfections.

Peace and all Good, Ray Hardwick, OFS

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Spiritual Assistant's Letter

From the Desk of **Bob Murray, OFS**

A Renewed Vision

July 24, 2018

Yes! You were there! I was there! We were all there! Fantastic! In fact, near as I can recall, every active member of this fraternity was on hand for your tri-annual Fraternal Visit by a member of the Region's Executive Council as required by our General Constitutions. Congratulations for your wonderful turnout and your participation!

In last month's newsletter I noted in my article that a close family member would be visiting your fraternity and you soon discovered who that visitor would be... Judith Mussatto, OFS, our Region's Minister. On a Saturday morning, our sister Judith Mussatto, OFS, traveled to visit you out of an act of love. She could have stayed home to enjoy her day but she came to offer encouragement and suggestions that might help this fraternity become more active and vibrant, and for us individually to become even more Franciscan in our daily lives.

You welcomed her with open loving arms. She could sense and come to understand your ongoing needs because you were open and honest about your feelings, your assessment of fraternity life. You freely told Judith of your experience in this fraternity... your joys, your frustrations, and everything in between. Great! That's what it should be all about. That is exactly the experience hoped for during visitations at all levels... visitations conducted by the council of the next higher level for local, regional and national fraternities. (You thought you were singled out? Nope.) How else can someone from 'outside the fraternity' be of assistance? A friend/neighbor/relative must listen if he or she is to be a source of affirmation and hope. You allowed Judith to listen. You let her be a servant-leader for you and you became a source of joy for her. You rose to the moment. Thank you.

And you know what? Your presence and honesty, was exactly what was needed and you will soon be seeing the fruits of your 'day in the sun'. In fact, your council has already taken action with some of Judith's suggestions that we hope will enhance and energize this fraternity... and the council expects to continue exploring the issues our Region's Minister brought to light.

For example, during its monthly meeting over the past many years, the Council created an agenda for the upcoming fraternity meeting and decided what to present for your Ongoing Formation. One of Judith's recommendations was that the council should hold a planning meeting to schedule meeting dates, events, and formation sessions a for a whole year. The council members took her recommendation seriously and, Monday of this past week, the council gathered at St Matthew's Church in Corona for a day of planning! What a concept!

We met at 9:30, took an hour for lunch, and resumed until 3:30 PM! We now have a general plan for the year. Additionally, we discovered some issues that will need attention in the near future and, at the end of a very warm day, everyone was happy and enthusiastic with what had been accomplished. So, considering everything that has happened over the last 30 days or so, the message from your council is:

WE LOVE YOU

and we look forward to seeing each of you on this Saturday the 28th

at St. Matthew's Church in Corona at 9:30 AM.

Be there or be square.

Peace and all Good, Bob Murray, OFS

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Race matters to a young woman's sense of self when she states her hometown, and then is pressed, "No, where are you really from?", regardless of how many generations her family has been in the country. Race matters to a young person addressed by a stranger in a foreign language, which he does not understand because only English was spoken at home. Race matters because of the slights, the snickers, the silent judgments that reinforce that most crippling of thoughts: "I do not belong here."

- Sonia Sotomayor

Creator God, you have created each of our lives to be so wonderfully intricate and vibrant. May we celebrate the beauty and unity in which you have so intentionally woven this beautiful tapestry. Amen

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We are all one, and if we don't know it, we will learn it the hard way. ~ ~ Bayard Rustin

Therefore, you have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others; for in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things. (Romans 2:1)

These conversations are always so tense, so painful. People are defensive. We want to believe we are good. To face the racisms and prejudices we carry forces us to recognize the ways in which we are imperfect. We have to be willing to accept our imperfections of others. Is that possible on the scale required for change?

Lord, break us down into humility and transform us into your people who walk in love and grace. As we accept the reality of our imperfections, may we know also the truth that by grace through faith, you have saved us and have broken every chain.

Amen

(Submitted by Ray Hardwick, OFS)

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Pray The Rule

by Liam McCarthy, OFM

(This year we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, approved by Pope Blessed Paul VI on June 24th 1978. For this occasion Our General Minister, Tibor Kausser, has declared a Jubilee Year to be celebrated between June 24, 2018 and June 23, 2019. May this prayer become part of your daily prayers, especially during this Year of Jubilee. ~ ~ Bob Murray, OFS)

O Lord, our God, we intend to make present the charism of our Seraphic Father Francis in the life and mission of the Church, in various ways and forms but in life-giving union with one another. By our profession, we pledge ourselves to live the Gospel in the manner of St Francis by means of our Rule approved by the Church (Arts. 1-3). Help us, we pray, so that daily we may:

- observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of St Francis, going from gospel to life and from life to the gospel (Art. 4);
- seek to encounter the living and active person of Jesus Christ in our brothers and sisters, in sacred scripture, in the Church and in the Eucharist (Art. 5);
- go forth as witnesses and instruments of the Church's mission among people, proclaiming Christ by our life and words (Art. 6);

- conform our thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by the radical interior change which the Gospel calls "conversion", making use of the sacrament of reconciliation on the way to renewal (Art. 7);
 - let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all we are and do (Art. 8);
 - imitate the Virgin Mary's complete self-giving in her openness to your every word and call (Art. 9);
 - faithfully fulfill the duties proper to our various circumstances in life (Art. 10);
 - seek the proper spirit of detachment and purify our hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power (Art. 11);
 - acquire the purity of heart needed to set ourselves free to love God and our brothers and sisters (Art. 12);
 - accept all people as your gift, Lord, and an image of Christ (Art. 13);
 - exercise our responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of service (Art. 14);
 - be in the forefront of promoting justice by the testimony of our human lives and by courageous initiatives (Art. 15);
 - esteem work both as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption and service of the human community (Art. 16);
 - cultivate the Franciscan spirit of peace, fidelity and respect for life in our families, striving to make it a sign of a world already renewed in Christ (Art. 17);
 - respect all creatures, animate and inanimate "as bearing the imprint of the Most High" (Art. 18);
 - be bearers of peace and messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, as immersed in the resurrection of Christ, we serenely tend towards Sister Death and our ultimate encounter with you, our Father (Art 19).
- All this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Brother.
Amen.

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**Your task in this life and in the life to come
(Jesus speaks to St. Faustina)**

When the clock struck twelve, my soul immersed itself more deeply in recollection, and I heard a voice in my soul, "Do not fear, My little child, you are not alone. Fight bravely, because My arm is supporting you; fight for the salvation of souls, exhorting them to trust in My mercy, as that is your task in this life and in the life to come". After these words, I received a deeper understanding of divine mercy. Only that soul who wants it will be damned, for God condemns no one.

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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 Joachima de Vedruna
Saint Joachima de Vedruna de
Mas
(Saint Joachima de Vedruna)
Widow, Third Order**

(16 April 1783 – 28 August 1854)

Born in Barcelona, Spain, in 1783, Joachima was the fifth of the eight children of the aristocratic Vedruna family. When she was

twelve she wanted to be a cloistered Carmelite nun; but at sixteen she married a young lawyer, Theodore de Mas, who had been thinking of becoming a Franciscan. Both joined the Third Order Secular of St Francis. During the seventeen years of her married life, Joachima was a beloved wife and the devoted mother of eight children, the last of who was born in 1815.

When Napoleon invaded Spain, Theodore served in the Spanish army, after he had moved his family to Vich. When the French troops arrived there, Joachima had to flee with her children; but after the war she returned to that city, the birthplace of her husband.

Joachima and Theodore were both members of the Third Order fraternity at the Capuchin church in Vich. She was only thirty-three when Theodore died in 1816 at the age of forty-two. Though her old desire to enter a religious community was still strong in her, Saint Joachima de Vedruna had duties to perform towards her children; and so, for the first seven years of her widowhood she took care of her children. At the same time, she led an austere life, wearing the Tertiary habit as her ordinary dress, spending much time in prayers, and waiting on the sick in the hospital at Vich.

One day in 1820, as Saint Joachima de Vedruna was passing the Capuchin church, her mount refused to go farther. She went into the church and entered the confessional of Father Stephen of Olot, a noted preacher and director of souls. He told her that she was not to join an existing religious order but to found a new community which would devote itself to teaching in schools and to nursing the sick.

In 1823, two of her children married and one of them took the two remaining girls into their home. Joachima was now free to carry out her plans. Father Stephen assisted her in laying the foundations for a Franciscan sisterhood of the Third Order Regular and drafted the constitutions. The new sisterhood was formally established in 1826 in Joachima's home with six members, but not as a Franciscan community. Bishop Paul Corcuera of Vich, a Carmelite, made it a congregation of the Carmelite Third Order Regular and called it the Carmelite Sisters of Charity. Later St Anthony Mary Claret revised their rule and constitutions. In 1850 these received the approval of the bishop and in 1880 the approbation of the Holy See.

Though a hospital was opened at Tarrega a few months after its founding in 1826, the new sisterhood had to contend with many difficulties during the first years. During the Carlist Wars, Mother Joachima was put in a prison for five days in 1837; and she, with some of her sisters, was an exile in Perpignan, France, for three years until the fall of 1843. Converts with schools and hospitals were then established all over Catalonia.

Sickness compelled Mother Joachima to resign the superiorship in 1851; and during the last four years of her life, a gradual slow paralysis caused her to die by inches. Saint Joachima de Vedruna was seventy-one when she died in 1854. In 1940, the Carmelite Sisters of Charity had 2,000 members in 150 convents, of which 135 were in Spain and 10 in Spanish America. Mother Joachima, who attained a high degree of prayer, trust in God, and selfless charity, was enrolled in the ranks of the Blessed in 1940.



**from The Franciscan Book of Saints, Marion Habig, OFM*

St. Joachima is buried at the mother-house in Vic, with her body being found incorrupt by the Catholic Church.

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

Saturday, July 28, 2018

Jeremiah 7:1-11

Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Reform your ways and your deeds. (Jeremiah 7:3)

Picture someone crying out, “Repent!” at the door of the local Catholic church. It isn’t Lent, you might think; why is this stranger telling me to change my life? And who is he to tell me what to do anyway?

Jewish people entering the Temple in Jerusalem probably felt equally disturbed when the prophet Jeremiah stood in front of the Temple and told them to repent and change. They probably felt even more disturbed when they heard Jeremiah predict that if they didn’t change, God’s presence would depart from the Temple and leave the people exposed to destruction and invasion.

Jeremiah’s message was twofold: “Reform your deeds” and “Reform your ways.”

Yes, our behavior—our deeds—matters. What we do, how we speak to our family, and whether we love our neighbor—all these things draw us closer or divide us, both from one another and from God.

But if we were to examine our behavior, something even more important would happen—we would see our ways. We would learn what was going on inside our hearts. God wants to address this “heart level” as well. We may try to stop doing the wrong things, but unless we change our hearts, true change will remain elusive. We will find it harder to sense God’s presence in us; the barrier of our sins will grow only stronger.

That’s where repentance and the Sacrament of Reconciliation come in. When you examine your conscience, God asks you to examine your actions and your motivations and desires. You might see that your motivation is good, but that your “action” was not a good reflection of what you intended. Or you might realize that your motivation isn’t as pure as you thought. Either way, as you confess, his grace is there to heal you and change you. Instead of leaving you, he’ll come into your heart even more deeply!

So turn to the Lord. Ask him to help you examine your heart. He knows which motives in your heart need to be renewed, and he is ready to help you make that happen.

Remember, repentance and reform take time. God is infinitely patient. If you work with him, both your deeds and your ways will change!

“Thank you, Lord, for your patience and your love for me!”

- Psalm 84:3-6, 8, 11
- Matthew 13:24-30

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Do you know what our Region’s website is?

<http://www.stfrancisregion.org/>

Check it out sometime!

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Please keep in your prayers:

(If you are in need of prayers, please email me at 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 keep Jo-Ann Hardwick in your prayers. From Ray’s email to me on July 14th: Jo-Ann is in Kaiser, Fontana after a heart procedure yesterday to insert a stent in one of her arteries as she had a heart

attack on Thursday afternoon and was admitted to Kaiser Riverside. After tests were done it was determined to send her to Fontana to do an angiogram which found three blocked arteries, one 70%, one 80% and one 90%. They did the 90% one but due to her extreme discomfort due to her bad hip they stopped there. Please send this out to the Fraternity for their prayers. Thanks. And Ray who has a lot of pain in his knees, lower back and hip.

Prayer from Joice & Romy, July 14th: Dear Franciscan Brothers and Sisters,

We are united with you all in praying for Jo Ann. Please Lord, in the name of Jesus our Savior we place Jo Ann in your loving care. Lord Jesus, cover Jo Ann with your most precious blood and let your healing grace flow throughout her body, especially all affected organs. We trust in your mercy. Please help her recover, we pray in your powerful name Jesus, with the loving intercession of Holy Mother Mary, Amen. Please be with Ray and all family members and fill them with strength and all graces needed to cope during this trying time. Thank you, Lord Jesus.

Thank you for the update dear Lisa.

**Peace and love,
Romy and Joice**

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. Update 4/19/18: “Finally heard today the tumor is benign but they will schedule surgery to remove it anyway. Once done my wife can decide if to have back surgery. Thanks for asking. Peace, Bob”

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

Update 4/18/18 on Brenda’s son Joseph who was in a pretty bad motorcycle accident on Sept 2nd 2017: Hi Lisa, Joseph is still recovering but doing well. His PCL, one of the ligaments that connects the femur to the tibia was severed. The doctor says he will always have pain and trouble with that leg. A thorn in the flesh you might say. He has been back to working full time since January and has recently started going to the gym. Thank you all for your prayers and concern. God is good! Peace and all good, brenda

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 also.

Please continue to pray for Ken Wilde for emotional reasons and migraines and pneumonia. (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.)

Updated 1/13/18: 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.

Updated 4/21/18: Please also keep Donna in your prayers. She is still sick, she had a pneumonia from

hell – really bad, had to take special, really strong pills from scar tissue on her lungs. Has skin cancer on her ear and had surgery to take off part of her ear. It finally stopped bleeding, weeping, scabbing – going through that cycle. Getting better now.

Please pray for Sekoia Spencer’s sons Darius and Jason. Please continue to pray for David Burrola and Arne Lozano.

Please continue to pray for Lorraine’s beau Edward Watkins, he was hospitalized at Riverside Community with double-pneumonia.

Please continue to pray for Stella Pacifica Caywood’s sons Mark and Paul.

And please continue to pray for George & Barbara Molchan. Got a call from Lorraine, she left a message saying that our brother George Molchan is back on a feeding tube and has a new pacemaker.

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 and 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:

Believe you can, and you’re halfway there.

~~ Theodore Roosevelt

One of the great things about travel is that you find out how many good, kind people there are.

~~ Edith Wharton

It ain’t what they call you, it’s what you answer to.

~~ W. C. Fields

Half the fun of travel is the esthetic of lostness.

~~ Ray Bradbury

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The Daily Extras:

Unscramble the following letters to reveal this August word.
smorasloc

By the Number: 3: The number of actual poles at the South Pole: the ceremonial pole, the geographical pole, and the magnetic pole.

Riddle: What has holes all over it but still holds water?

Green Clean: To clean countertops, add 4 tablespoons (60 ml) baking soda to 1 quart (946 ml) warm water. Scrub countertops with this solution and rinse with fresh water.

125 Years Ago on This Date . . . August 14, 1893: The “Department of Motor Vehicles” (DMV) was born when the first car registration ordinance went into effect in Paris, France.

Anagram: Rearrange the letters in the phrase to discover the related words or phrase: **I’m a dot in place**

10 Years Ago on This Date . . . August 17, 2008: Swimmer Michael Phelps won a gold medal in the 400-meter medley relay, becoming the first athlete to win eight gold medals in a single Olympic Games.

First Time: Chuck Cooper became the first African-American drafted into the NBA when he was selected by the Boston Celtics in 1950.

By the Number: 1 in 12,000: the odds of making a hole in one during a game of golf.

Spelling Bee: Choose the correct spelling of this frequently misspelled word: **vaccum vacumn vacuum**

Name that ‘toon: Can you identify this comic strip character?: “I have a pet spider that helps me cheat on tests.”

By the Number: 64,000: Bytes (64 kilobytes) of memory available in the “typical system for home and school” offered in IBM’s 1981 press release announcing the personal computer.

The system retailed for \$3,005.

Act Your Age? Nah : Future *Li’l Abner* cartoonist Al Capp was twenty-three when he became the youngest syndicated cartoonist in the United States.

55 Years Ago on This Date . . . August 28, 1963: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech to 250,000 people in Washington, D.C. “Even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. . . .”

World Traveler: Although famous for its ancient pyramids, Egypt actually trails Sudan in number. Sudan has more than 200 pyramids – twice as many as Egypt.

By the Number: 106 million: Albums sold in the United States by The Beatles, as certified by the Recording Industry Association of America.

(Answer to unscramble: classroom)

(Answer to Riddle: a sponge)

(Answer to Anagram: a decimal point)

(Answer to Spelling Bee: vacuum)

(Answer to Name that ‘toon: Lio’)

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The Perils of Gossip:

“Gossip can also kill because it kills the reputation of the person! It is also terrible to gossip! At first it may seem like a nice thing, even amusing, like enjoying a candy. But in the end, it fills the heart with bitterness, and even poisons us.”

Condemnation & Mercy:

“Never condemn. If you feel like condemning, condemn yourself, there’s got to be something there...a little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just.”

New Roads of Faith:

“Instead of being just a church that welcomes and receives by keeping the doors open, let us try, also, to be a church that finds new roads, that is able to step outside itself and go to those who do not attend Mass, to those who have quit or are indifferent.”

The Reality of Evil:

“This generation and many others have been led to believe that the devil is a myth, a figure, an idea, the idea of evil...but the devil exists and we must fight against him.”

Denouncing Hatred:

“We are obliged to denounce all violations against human dignity and human rights. Any violence which seeks religious justification warrants the strongest objection because the omnipotent is the God of life and peace.”

~~ Pope Francis

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Around St. Francis Region:

August 11, 2018: The Feast Day of Saint Clare Mini Retreat and Day of Reflection with Potluck after Mass!

Speakers and discussion about the life of Saint Clare.

Mass in the Historic Serra Chapel with celebrant Fr. Steve Gross, OFM, Conv. assisted by Deacon Joe Halka and Deacon David Sire.

We are blessed to have a Relic of Saint Clare

Date & Time: August 11, 2018, 9am – 2pm

Address: 3520 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Mass: 12pm

by San Juan Capistrano and Maximilian Kolbe fraternities.

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**September 8, 2018: Regional Gathering, @ St. Gregory the Great Parish, 11451 Blue Cypress Dr., San Diego, CA 92131
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

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A Prayer to Pray Every Morning ~ ~

Good Morning Jesus!

I give You permission today to spoil me with Your Love. I say yes to all that is expected of me today and yes to all that's unexpected.

I expect You to permeate my day with signs of Your Presence.

Thank You!

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(Whatever happens at each of these levels, affects me.)

Levels of the Secular Franciscan Order:

Local Fraternity is made up of members with a Council.

Regional Fraternity is made up of local fraternity ministers with a Council. e.g. St. Francis Region which has about 650 members ~ 25 fraternities in the Region.

National Fraternity is made up of Regional Ministers with a Council. There are 30 Regions in the USA. In 2016 we were over 12,000.

International Fraternity is made up of National Ministers with a Council. 75 countries were represented at the International Chapter, Rome 2017

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Franciscan Crown of the Rosary of the Seven Joys of the Blessed Virgin

The Franciscan Crown, called also the Rosary of the Seven Joys of the Bl. Virgin, dates back to the year 1422. The famous Franciscan historian, Fr. Luke Wadding, relates that a very pious young man, who had been admitted to the Franciscan

Order in that year, had, previous to his reception, been accustomed to adorn a statue of the Bl. Virgin with a wreath of fresh and beautiful flowers as a mark of his piety and devotion.

Not being able to continue this practice in the novitiate, he repined very much, and finally decided to quit the cloister and return to the world.

Our Lady then appeared to him and prevented him from carrying out his purpose. "Do not be sad and cast down, my son," she said sweetly, "because you are no longer permitted to place wreaths of flowers on my statue.

"I shall teach you to change this pious practice into one that will be far more pleasing to me and far more meritorious to your soul. In place of the flowers that soon with and can not always be found, you can weave for me a crown from the flowers of your prayers that will always remain fresh and can always be had.

"Recite one Our Father and ten Hail Marys in honor of the joy I experienced when the angel announced to me the Incarnation of the Son of God. Repeat these same prayers in honor of the joy I felt on visiting my Cousin Elizabeth. Say them again in honor of the supreme happiness that filled my heart on giving birth to

Christ the Savior, without pain and without the loss of my virginity. Recite the same prayers a fourth time in honor of the joy I felt when presenting my Divine Son to the adoration of the Magi. Repeat them for the fifth time in honor of the joy that thrilled my soul when, after seeking Jesus with deep sorrow for three days, I found Him at last among the doctors in the Temple. Sixthly, recite the one Our Father and then ten Hail Marys in honor of the joy I experienced on beholding my Divine Son gloriously risen from the grave on Easter Sunday. Finally, for the seventh time, repeat these prayers in honor of my own most glorious and joyful Assumption into heaven, when I was crowned Queen of heaven and earth. If you recite these prayers as I have directed, rest assured, dear son, you will weave for me a most beautiful and acceptable crown and will merit for yourself innumerable graces."

When Our Lady had disappeared, the overjoyed novice at once began to recite the prayers in honor of her Seven Joys, as she had directed. While he was deeply engrossed in this devotion, the novice master happened to pass by and, behold! he saw an angel weaving a marvelous wreath of roses and after every tenth rose he inserted a golden lily. When the wreath was finished, the angel placed it on the head of the praying novice. The master then demanded under holy obedience that the youth tell him the meaning of the vision. Joyfully, yet fearfully the novice complied. The good priest was so impressed with what he had seen and heard, that he immediately made it known to his brethren. Thus the practice of reciting the Crown of the Seven Joys of the Bl. Virgin soon spread over the entire Franciscan Order and become one of the favorite devotions of the friars.

Later, it became customary to add two Hail Marys in honor of the seventy-two years that Our Lady is said to have lived on earth, and one Our Father and Hail Mary for the intention of the Pope to gain the indulgences.

List of Indulgences

Members of the Three Orders of St. Francis (including the Third Order Secular, Leo XIII, Sept. 11, 1901), gain a Plenary Indulgence each time they recite the Franciscan Crown. No beads are necessary. This Plenary Indulgence can be applied to the souls in purgatory.

The faithful in general as well as all Franciscans must have rosaries specially blessed for the purpose in order to gain the indulgences listed below, which were granted by Pius X, Sept. 15, 1905. In the public recitation of the Crown, however, in churches of the Three Orders, all who join in the prayers gain the Plenary Indulgence, whether they have blessed beads or not. Moreover, if two or more say this rosary in common (as, for instance, at family prayers), it suffices if the leader holds a blessed rosary (Pius X, Sept. 12, 1906).

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(He who sings well, prays twice! ~ ~ St. Augustine)

Prayer of St. Francis

by Sebastian Temple

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.
Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness only light,
And where there's sadness ever joy.
O Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled, as to console,
To be understood, as to understand,
To be loved, as to love, with all my soul.
Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

A ---- men.

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

