



“Share the Joy”

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



Newsletter

Journey Together in Love and Compassion

January 2021

Minister’s Corner:

Francis’ focus on Christmas as the Feast of Feasts and the manifestation of God’s love gave birth to a new understanding of the Incarnation. Most of us have learned that God sent his Son to be born as one like us to make right the first sin of Adam and Eve. So without sin there would have been no need for the Incarnation. Because of Francis, the Franciscans have developed an alternate interpretation. God’s plan for having his Son become one like us was part of God’s original design for all creation from the very beginning. It was not an afterthought on God’s part, something God decided to do to make up for original sin and human sinfulness. God longed for all eternity to become human, and God’s Son accomplished that through his birth at Bethlehem. The Incarnation of the Son of God is the means by which God shares most fully his life and love for humanity, and the means by which human beings can share in divine life.

This can dramatically alter our image of God and the way we celebrate Christmas.

We learn from the great Franciscan theologian John Duns Scotus that the whole purpose of creation on God’s part was to come to a point in time for the Incarnation of God’s Son to take place as the most resplendent creative act of God. When God decided to create, the Incarnation had to be first and foremost in God’s mind, and not dependent on any action of humans, especially sin. This was a natural outflow of love, and God, above all, wished to communicate to us the fullness of divine love. What better way than to send the Son.

Excerpt from book, *In The Footsteps of Francis and Clare*, by Fr. Rock Niemier, O.F.M., pgs. 150-151, published by Franciscan Media, 2006.

My dear HOLY SPIRIT FRATERNITY family,

As we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, we remember the revelation of the divinity of Jesus. With that I would like to still say, “Merry Christmas”!! A continual celebration of the Feast of Feasts!

All angels and Saints, especially our Mother Mary and St. Joseph, pray for us and accompany us as we begin a new

year of many challenges but everything endured by knowing, growing, and living in Faith, Hope, and Love!

Your Servant in Christ,
Maria

Calendar of Events:

- Jan 10th 1:00 ~ 4:00 pm Epiphany Party ZOOM *
 - Jan 30th 1:00 ~ 4:00 pm Council Meeting ZOOM
 - Feb 14th 1:00 ~ 4:00 pm Monthly Fraternity Meeting ZOOM*
 - Mondays 7:00 - 8:00 pm Lectio Divina w/Sister Carol via ZOOM
- * A recording of this ZOOM meeting will be available after the meeting for about a week, contact Bill (mussatto@acm.org) for the link. Because of space limits they will be deleted after that time.

Thoughts of Francis and Friends:

We must understand that the *Divine Seed* is indeed in each person that we encounter.

William Wicks, OFS

Please remember in your prayers:

- For the continued healing of Claudias’ son/brother, John, after his surgery to remove cancer on 6/15; for Cynthia’s uncertainty in plans due to her sponsors passing away; Janet Serros, OFS (COVID), Bruce McAdams, OFS (awaiting surgery), Tinh Le (COVID), Chris, his family, and all first responders.
- Fran Miller, OFS’s mother who passed away from COVID and her family who are suffering the loss.
- Members of our Fraternity: Ted, Alma, Ann, Rachel and all Secular Franciscans who are, for whatever reason, unable to attend Fraternity meetings.
- All those suffering from the effects of Covid-19 pandemic and those who are working, often at risk to themselves, to relieve their suffering.
- That people listen to Pope Francis’s call for dialogue rather than absolutism.
- For peace, patience, strength, understanding throughout the world and the willingness to listen to and learn from the *other*.
- To be thankful for our many blessings.



No kings giving out gifts this year

Annual Epiphany Party:

Our Epiphany Party is coming up on January 10th at 1 pm, virtually of course. The connection information is attached. It

will involve an exchange of gifts but they need to fit into an envelope which you will send out to the recipient. Make sure to write (DO NOT OPEN TILL THE PARTY) on it. Myrna and Diana will contact you with the name of the person you are sending the gift to along with the Franciscan Saint/Blessed, Bible quote and name of a deceased member for whom to pray for the entire year. Hand crafted gift is good. We are also asked to set a festive *real* background for the video call; they promise prizes for originality, plus have a festive beverage mug/drinking glass on hand.

Last Month:

While we couldn't give out food baskets, we did participate in the annual Adopt-A-Family Program. Uncommon Good was able to provide us with four high need families and the Fraternity obtained gift cards for groceries and department store so the family can buy gifts for the children as well as food for the family. Next year we hope to be able to give both the food boxes and the cards personally to the families.

Ongoing Fraternity Formation

At the December meeting, Sr. Maria Louise "was invited to share about their Felician Social Ministries. She focused on three of their many ministries: Hope for Home Shelter/Street Ministry; Human Trafficking Ministry; and Migrant Ministry.

I suggest deleting the next four sentences as they are a repeat of last month's newsletter.

The complete presentation is available on Dropbox at <https://www.dropbox.com/s/zam5hrzhi7josen/202012HSFmtgVideo.mp4?dl=0>. It will remain up until the January Meeting record is posted. We will resume our study of our Rule at the February meeting covering articles 15, 16, and 17.

Formation: (initial, post profession)

Chris had his initial formation classes on December 14th. Myrna, Randy and Bill make up the regular formation team. We welcome other members of the council to join us periodically. These classes covered the first part of Profession in the FUN manual. We plan to have to Initial Formation meetings in January. Contact Bill to obtain the meeting ID and password if you are interested in attending.

Post Profession Formation group will resume in January using *What it takes to be an OFS Franciscan*.

Gail and Henry have been accepted into Initial Formation. They will begin orientation in a few months. If you are interested in assisting in this please contact Bill or Maria.

Absent members:

Teresa Cullen, OFS, and Rachel Rodriguez, OFS would welcome your phone calls.

Informal Gathering:

The purpose of these meetings is to keep all of us, professed Franciscans and invited guests, in touch with each other with no formal agenda. We just get together to see how we are doing during these isolating times, to communicate to each other that we care and sometimes invite a guest to join.

The next Informal Gathering will be announced at the Fraternity meeting. It will be at 7pm. Come on over and invite people!!

How we will meet virtually:

We will meet virtually using ZOOM. Contact Bill Mussatto at 909-626-3777 or mussatto@acm.org for the access codes for the Initial Formation, Monthly Fraternity and Informal Gatherings. The meeting rooms will open about 10 minutes before the formal start of the meetings. If you want to provide anything to appear on screen at the meeting, please send it to Bill at least 24 hours in advance.

