



***“Share the Joy”***

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



**Newsletter**

**Listen, Discern, Go Forth!**

**May 2025**

### ***Minister's Corner***

This year is the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Francis' Canticle of the Creatures and this month is the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato si'*. I think it's fitting that we are reminded to care for God's gift to us, creation, by the 1<sup>st</sup> pope to take the name of the founder of our order. Apart from this, the encyclical didn't lay down a set of rules, but rather asked communities to work together to find ways to care for this gift in ways that work for them. To reach out in community to find solutions, unpopular as working together sometimes seems today.

Fr Richard Rohr reminded me that unlike many Christians today who limit God's providential care to humans, and very few of them at that, Jesus extended the divine generosity to even animals, (Luke 12:24, 27-28). God is not stingy. God's creative Presence exists in all things by their very nature, we can honor the indwelling Spirit as the inner Source of all dignity and worthiness by how we treat creation. But then Fr Rohr, is a Franciscan. I wonder how well I am actually honoring the memory of the Canticle in my daily life and dealing with others.

Your servant.

Bill Mussatto, OFS

### ***Palm Sunday Bake Sale:***

We had our bake and craft sale in the east side of the OLA Auditorium



on last Palm Sunday. Thanks to everyone's hard work it went off well. We made slightly less than last year, but we did sell out. We also used it as an opportunity to talk about our order with people who visited the table. Several people expressed interest and hopefully they will join us for future meetings. Your council suggests we set up a dedicated table to talk to potential members. As in the past we also sold donuts which gave us a chance to redirect people into the auditorium.

### ***Calendar of Events:***

**May 18th 12:30-1:30 pm**

**May 18th 1:30-4:00 pm**

May 23rd 4pm - 25th

May 31st 10:00 am ~noon

Jun 8<sup>th</sup> 1:00 ~ 4:00 pm

Jun 19<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am ~noon

Aug 10<sup>th</sup> 5:00 ~ 6:30 pm

Aug 30<sup>th</sup> 9:30 ~ 2:30 pm

We need two people to sign-up to bring the food for our light meals at each Fraternity meeting.

**Preparation for Marian Celebration**

**Marian Celebration and pot luck.**

Regional Retreat @ Serra Retreat Center in Malibu.

Council Meeting OLA 1st floor C-5 (old convent).

Monthly Fraternity Meeting: OLA 1st floor C-5 (old convent).

Council Meeting OLA 1st floor C-5 (old convent).

District Picnic

District Gathering

### ***Outreach:***

Your council approved the large tri-fold display board we used previously at OLA. If you have an opportunity to do an outreach at your parish you can use this board. Please reach out to your pastors if there are similar chances at your parish. We can customize flyers with your contact information which you can place in the back of your parish church. We now have them in both Spanish and English. Margie received permission recently to place it in her parish. Please also talk to your pastors about opportunities to either invite people to a local Come and See or participate in a parish ministry fair. Please do let your council know what opportunities exist in the parishes of which you are a member.

### ***Fraternity Election:***

We will be having the election of the Council you want to animate and guide our Fraternity, for the next three years, in September. Because of the National Chapter our meeting in September will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. Margie agreed to lead a formation on the duties of the various members of the council and how a council works at our June Fraternity meeting. Nominations can be submitted any time after the meeting. We have asked Frank to head the nomination committee. He will send out Nomination forms after the June meeting.

### ***Formation:***

Randy lead the council formation using Chapter 4 of *Care*

*for Creation.* The council reflected on how the Franciscan view of our place in creation differs from that of our society. Judith will lead next month's formation using Chapter 5 of *Care for Creation* by Keith Warner, OFM, Illia Delio, OFS and Pamela Wood.

There will be no ongoing Fraternity formation in May (Marian Celebration). Those who received scholarships from the Fraternity for the Regional Retreat at Serra will report at the July meeting. They will coordinate with each other on how they will provide their reports.

Your council has invited Andora to begin her formation journey. The plan is for the formation to happen in the evening at OLA. Please reach out to Jacqui if you would like to participate in her journey. Each of us has something unique to offer.

### ***Food for Food Pantry and Unhoused:***

We had our Lenten food drive on the March 29/30 weekend.

Parishioners brought food in the bags we provided to the altar with food for the unhoused and the food pantry at St. Magdalenes Parish in Pomona. Members of the Fraternity sorted the food for the unhoused and food pantry after each Mass. Gail took food for the unhoused as it arrived so it doesn't show up in the trailer at the end. On the day we collected food, people were picking up bags so they may drop off more food at the parish office.



### ***Council meeting:***

Your council met at 10:00 am on April 19<sup>th</sup>. We confirmed partial scholarships Serra Retreat (see article on Retreat). All members of the council were able to meet in person. Because the OLA Parish is closed for meetings on Holy Saturday and the following week, your Council met at the Mussatto's. The next council meeting will be on May 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00am on OLA in building C-5.

### ***Marian Celebration:***

Remember we will be meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in May, because of Mother's Day. We will be honoring our Blessed Mother with our annual Marian Celebration and pot luck. Myrna will be coordinating the details, but please call Bill (909-626-3777) with what you plan to bring and how many people will be coming. Please also bring fresh flowers (with vases) to be placed with the statue of Mary, if you have them. If you bring small statues of Mary we can place them on the tables. Remember, friends and family are welcome at 1:30pm but we will begin the setup at 12:30pm.

### ***Regional Retreat:***

The Region has announced that Fr. Albert Haase, OFM will conduct the annual Serra Retreat May 23-25. The Spirit of Prayer & Devotion will be the topic. He was one of the presenters at the last Los Angeles Religious Education Conference. Your Fraternity will offer partial scholarships to help offset the cost. Please contact a member of the council to apply. If you are interested in car pooling, please use the Fraternity Roster we sent out either by email or with this newsletter. If you didn't get one contact me (Bill) at 909-626-3777 and I'll see what I can do to help.

### ***Upcoming Events:***

This years regional gathering will be on August 30<sup>th</sup> at St. Thomas Korean Catholic Center. The topic will be the Canticle of the Creatures since it's the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its creation.

On August 10<sup>th</sup> we will host the District Picnic at Blaisdale Park in Claremont. It is a family event so plan ahead.

Its time to start planning for the 21st Quinquennial Congress which will be held July 29 - Aug 2 2026 in Lexington, KY. Quinquennials are both a great way to meet Franciscans from throughout the nations. This Quinquennial will feature Br. Bill Short, OFM, Fr. Wayne Hellmann, OFM Conv. and Darleen Pryds, PhD. For details p l e a s e v i s i t <https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/21st-quinquennial-congress-q2026>. While your Fraternity *may* be able to offer partial scholarships, the distance and costs are such that members will have to pay most of the costs so start saving your coin.

### ***Thoughts of Francis and Friends:***

We must not be wise and prudent accoring to the flesh; rather, we must be simple humble and pure.

St. Francis of Assisi

### ***Please remember in your prayers:***

Please pray for the repose of Pope Francis's soul and for the cardinals who will meet in conclave to select his successor.

Please pray for Zoila, Amelias' sister, and our members Amerila, Frank, Adele, Gail, Myrna and Myrna's grandchild. All Secular Franciscans who are, for whatever reason, unable to attend Fraternity meetings.

For refugees especially those suffering the effects of conflicts, and weather.

That we listen to St. Francis who reminds us we are called to be peacemakers, bridge builders and for the willingness to listen and learn from each other.

For peace and an end to suffering in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo and those places that do not make the news.

To be thankful for our many blessings.