

## **Immaculata Fraternity Mission Statement:**

***As members of the Secular Franciscan Order***

***we seek to live the Gospel with the vision Jesus gave St. Francis to rebuild the Church.***

*(Ratified at our Council Meeting on April 8, 2019)*

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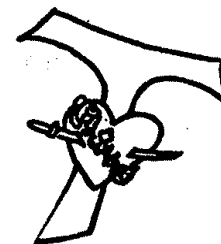
***Our Goal for 2025: To visit or call those who are excused and homebound on a regular basis.***

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## **Immaculata Vision ~ April 2025**

### **Immaculata Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order**

*Riverside, CA / Editor: Lisa M. Boebinger, OFS ~ [lisa.sfo@att.net](mailto:lisa.sfo@att.net)*



**2025 is the 800th Anniversary of *The Canticum of the Creatures***

#### **Calendar of Events for April 2025:**

- 5 – (1st Saturday) – **Lenten Retreat** with Br. Kip Ledger, OFM Cap. St. Matthews @ 9:30am ~ 3:00pm **w/bring your own lunch.**
- 6 – Fifth Sunday of Lent
- 13 – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
- 14~19 – Holy Week**
- 17 – Holy Thursday, Maundy Thursday
- 18 – Good Friday
- 19 – Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil
- 20 – **Easter Sunday** of the Resurrection of the Lord
- 22 – Earth Day
- 27 – Second Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy Sunday
- 28 – (the Last Monday) – Council Meeting @ 10am @ St. Matthews in Corona**

#### **Looking Ahead to May 2025...**

- 1 – St. Joseph the Worker
- 3 – (1st Saturday) – Our Fraternity Gathering/meeting at St. Matthews at 10am**
- 4 – Third Sunday of Easter
- 11 – Fourth Sunday of Easter
- 11 – Mother's Day
- 18 – Fifth Sunday of Easter
- 23~25 – SFO Retreat in Malibu/Memorial Day Weekend
- 25 – Sixth Sunday of Easter
- 26 – Memorial Day - holiday
- 28 – (the Last Wednesday, due to Monday being a holiday) – Council Meeting @ 10am @ St. Matthews in Corona**

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#### **Birthdays & Profession Anniversaries:**

- April Birthdays: 5<sup>th</sup> – Lisa Boebinger  
6<sup>th</sup> – Gilbert Ortiz  
27<sup>th</sup> – Bruce McAdams
- April Profession Ann.: 5<sup>th</sup> – Marilyn Gunnerson, 2024  
8<sup>th</sup> – Aarne Lozano, 1991  
23<sup>rd</sup> – Arsenio Benedicto, 2021
- May Birthdays: 2<sup>nd</sup> – Gloria Torres
- May Profession Anniversary: 4<sup>th</sup> – Raul Bosque, 2003

**Our Next Fraternity Gathering/Meeting will be on Saturday, May 3rd @ 10 am @ St. Matthews.**

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#### **Coming in May: Our SFO Retreat at Serra Retreat house in Malibu, CA.**

**May 23 ~ 25**

(Friday ~ Sunday of Memorial Weekend)

**Retreat Presenter: Fr. Albert Haase, OFM**

(Pronounced "Albair")

(Author of *Soul Training with the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis*, and *Living the Lord's Prayer: The Way of the Disciple*)

#### **Theme: The Spirit of Prayer & Devotion**

Both in the Rule of 1223 and his Letter to St. Anthony of Padua, Francis is adamant that nothing should "extinguish the Spirit of prayer and devotion." What did he mean by this? And how do we foster this Spirit of prayer and devotion? In four talks, Fr. Albert will explore practical ways of fostering this Spirit of prayer and devotion and keeping it alive in our daily lives.

(Please let me know if you need the Reservation form – Lisa)

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#### **Minister's Letter**

*From the Desk of Your Friendly Minister,*

**Lisa Boebinger, OFS**

Halloo, my Franciscan Brothers and Sisters in Christ!  
I found something I'd like to share with you from Minute Meditations ~ Franciscan Media. Enjoy:

#### **One Family**

Within Franciscan spirituality is the kinship of creation, the theological insight that we (all of God's creation) are all fellow creatures, each uniquely loved and valued by God. This means, of course, that we cannot treat any of our fellow creatures as if they exist without value. In spite of all the distinctions between us, we are family. The heart of ecological conversion is the invitation to see, feel, and act in this kinship of creation.

—from the book [\*Care for Creation: A Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth\*](#) by Ilia Delio, OSF, Keith Douglass Warner, OFM, and Pamela Wood

Prayerfully yours, Lisa B.

**From the Formation Desk of Arsenio Benedicto, OFS**  
**Your Friendly Neighborhood Formation Director:**  
**Formation Fridays**  
*(Formation Friday is the work product of the National Formation Commission of the Secular Franciscan Order-USA.)*

**Formation Friday: February 28, 2025**

At our National Chapter in October 2022, the National Fraternity Council decided that the priorities for 2022-2025 would be Vocations, Communications, and Relationships. For several weeks, Formation Friday has been exploring each of these priorities.

**The Cantic of the Creatures**

In 2025 we celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cantic of the Creatures. As we begin this year, we offer St. Francis's own words as they appear in the Cantic. Composed in 1225 during his last illness, St. Francis gives glory to God through all of creation in the first portion of the cantic. Ever the peacemaker, he added verses 10 and 11 at a time when the political and religious authorities of Assisi were in conflict. Then, right before his death, he added two verses praising God for "Sister Bodily Death," calling us to penance and conversion.

**The Cantic of the Creatures**

<sup>1</sup>Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,  
 Yours are the *praises, the glory, and the honor*, and  
 all  *blessing*, Rv 4:9 Rv 4:11

<sup>2</sup>To You alone, Most High, do they belong,  
 and no human is worthy to mention Your name.<sup>d</sup>

<sup>3</sup>Praised be You, my Lord, with all *Your creatures*, Tb 8:7  
 especially Sir Brother Sun,  
 Who is the day and through whom You give us light.<sup>e</sup>

<sup>4</sup>And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor;  
 and bears a likeness of You, Most High One.

<sup>5</sup>*Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars*, Ps 148:3  
 in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>6</sup>Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,  
 and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of  
 weather, through whom You give sustenance to Your creatures.

<sup>7</sup>*Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water*, Ps 148:4 Ps 148:5  
 who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

<sup>8</sup>*Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire*, Dn 3:66  
 through whom *You light the night*, Ps 78:14 [Vulgate, Ps 77:14]  
 and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

<sup>9</sup>*Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth*, Dn 3:74  
 who sustains and governs us,  
 and who produces various *fruit* with colored flowers and *herbs*. Ps 104:13 [Vulgate, Ps 103:13] Ps 104:14 [Vulgate, Ps 103:14]

<sup>10</sup>Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give pardon for  
 Your love, Mt 6:12  
 and bear infirmity and tribulation

<sup>11</sup>Blessed are those who endure in peace  
 for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned.

<sup>12</sup>Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death,  
 from whom no one living can escape.<sup>c</sup>

<sup>13</sup>Woe to those who die in mortal sin.  
 Blessed are those whom death will find in Your most holy will,  
 for the *second death* Rv 2:11 Rv 20:6 shall do them no harm.<sup>d</sup>

<sup>14</sup>*Praise and bless my Lord* Dn 3:85 and give Him thanks  
 and serve Him with great humility.  
[https://digitalcollections.franciscantradition.org/document/bx4700-f6f722-1999/francis\\_of\\_assisi\\_early\\_documents\\_-\\_the\\_saint/1999-00-00?pageNo=113](https://digitalcollections.franciscantradition.org/document/bx4700-f6f722-1999/francis_of_assisi_early_documents_-_the_saint/1999-00-00?pageNo=113)

**After reading the Cantic**, go back and look at the Scripture sources indicated—read the passages—see how Francis was influenced by his intimate knowledge of Scripture.

+What part does Scripture play in your daily life? What does "going from Gospel to life and life to the Gospel" (Article 4 of our Rule) mean to you?

**The Cantic speaks of St. Francis's love for all of creation.**

+Using St. Clare's advice to "Gaze, Contemplate, Meditate, and Imitate, think about your relationship to God's creation.

+How does your relationship with creation affect your relationship with God and your brothers and sisters?

**Reread verses 10 and 11 of the Cantic.**

+How do you serve as a peacemaker in your family, job, or community?

+In what ways is it difficult for you to "forgive" those who don't agree with you?

+Verse 10 calls to mind the story of Perfect Joy. What is Francis telling us in that story and in this cantic?

**Verses 12 and 13 talk about the end of life and how we are to prepare.**

+Give some thought to the qualities it takes to accept our eventual death or the death of someone we love.

+Reread the Prologue to the Rule of 1978, especially "Concerning Those Who Do Not Do Penance." Why are penance and conversion so important to us?

**Formation Friday: March 7, 2025**

At our National Chapter in October 2022, the National Fraternity Council decided that the priorities for 2022-2025 would be Vocations, Communications, and Relationships. For several weeks, Formation Friday has been exploring each of these priorities.

**Communion (Fraternity) and Mission (Apostolate) in the Second Vatican Council Documents: *Lumen Gentium* and *Gaudium et Spes***

Thank you to Anne Mulqueen, OFS, National Formation Commission

The Second Vatican Council was a pivotal event in the history of the Roman Catholic Church. During the Council, two significant areas of Christian living—communion and mission—were addressed, resulting in a renewed interpretation of the ecclesiology of the Church and the role of the laity in the Church.

*Lumen Gentium* and *Gaudium et Spes* address communion and mission in detail. How many of us are familiar with these two key Council documents? We can learn so much by reading and reflecting on them. You'll notice that many Articles of our Rule came from these two documents. Read them with our Rule in mind and see if you can find comparable passages.

The Second Vatican Council, convened by Pope John XXIII and continued under Pope Paul VI, produced several documents that have significantly shaped the Catholic Church today. *Lumen Gentium* and *Gaudium et Spes* stand out for their insights into the nature of the Church and its mission in the world. For this article, I will focus on these two points: (1) our communion (relationship) with God and others and (2) our mission (apostolate).

*Lumen Gentium*, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, presents a vision of the Church's identity and structure. Central to this vision is the concept of communion. The document emphasizes that the Church is a "sacrament," a sign and instrument of communion with God and unity among all people.

*Gaudium et Spes*, the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, complements *Lumen Gentium* by addressing

the Church's relationship with society. The theme of communion is central to our engagement with the world.

Communion in *Lumen Gentium* is rooted in the Trinity. The Church is described as a people brought into unity from the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Trinity is the source and the model for the Church's communion. We are called to participate in the divine life and reflect the unity and love of the Trinity in our relationships with God and each other.

*Lumen Gentium* also introduces the concept of the Church as the "People of God," a community of believers bound together by faith. This inclusive vision emphasizes the dignity and equality of all baptized people, regardless of their roles within the Church. The document emphasizes that all members are called to holiness and mission.

The Church is a mystical body that finds unity in a community of believers, the People of God, united in faith.

In Part II, we will reflect on the call to mission as it appears in these two Council documents.

If you are interested in reading these documents, you can do so on the Vatican website:

#### **Lumen**

**Gentium:** [https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_const\\_19641121\\_lumen-gentium\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19641121_lumen-gentium_en.html)

#### **Gaudium et**

**Spes:** [https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_const\\_19651207\\_gaudium-et-spes\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html)

For discussion with your fraternity or a small group:  
+Read the above documents individually or as a group.  
+List the articles of the Rule that were influenced by both documents. Explain your choices to your group.  
+How are we as Secular Franciscans called to holiness?

#### **Formation Friday: March 14, 2025**

At our National Chapter in October 2022, the National Fraternity Council decided that the priorities for 2022-2025 would be Vocations, Communications, and Relationships. For several weeks, Formation Friday has been exploring each of these priorities.

Communion (Fraternity) and Mission (Apostolate) in the Second Vatican Council Documents: **Lumen**

#### **Gentium and Gaudium et Spes**

Thank you to Anne Mulqueen, OFS, National Formation Commission

Communion and mission are inseparable.

**Communion** provides the love and support necessary for the **mission** of evangelization. An example of the complementary nature of communion and mission can be found in the Gospel of Matthew. The disciples, as a united body, were **commissioned** to... go and *make disciples of all nations*. (Matthew 28:19)

A careful reading of these documents will show that communion and mission go hand in hand.

Mission is a vital aspect of the Church's identity. *Lumen Gentium* emphasizes that the Church exists to evangelize and witness to the Gospel, while *Gaudium et Spes* asserts that the Church should be a transformative presence in the world. These documents encourage us to participate in apostolic activities and spread the Gospel in all areas of life, including family, work, and society. They emphasize the Church's deep concern for all people, their joys, hopes, and anxieties, especially the poor and afflicted. Mission is rooted in the conviction that we are all created in God's image and share a common destiny. Therefore, the Church, the People of God, is called to be a sign of unity and a promoter of human dignity and justice.

Communion and mission are two sides of the same coin. The gospel's transformative teachings demand that we be actively involved in our secular circumstances and obey Christ's call to serve. However, if we become so deeply involved in mission that we neglect communion (fraternity), we may experience burnout

and discouragement. Communion provides the love and support necessary to fulfill the Church's mission in the world.

If you decide to read and study these documents, I suggest you pay particular attention to these elements. The Church as a sacrament, a sign of communion with God and others

- The People of God
- The Laity
- The Universal Call to Holiness
- Mary and a Pilgrim Church
- Zeal for evangelization
- Dialogue between the Church and the World
- Human Dignity
- The Role of the Family
- Social Justice
- The Role of the Church in the Modern World

As members of the Church and the Secular Franciscan Order, we continue to live and work in the modern world. The insights of these Vatican II documents are relevant and guide our efforts to build a more just and compassionate society. We strive to build a fraternal and evangelical world and bring about the Kingdom of God (Paraphrase of Article 14, OFS Rule).

If you are interested in reading these documents, you can do so on the Vatican website:

Lumen

Gentium: [https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_const\\_19641121\\_lumen-gentium\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19641121_lumen-gentium_en.html)

#### **Gaudium et**

Spes: [https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_const\\_19651207\\_gaudium-et-spes\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html)

**For discussion:** In light of these two documents and our Rule, how can you and your fraternity promote a more fraternal and evangelical world?

#### **Formation Friday: March 21, 2025**

##### **Focus on the Admonitions (#10)**

##### **[X. Castigating the Body]**

<sup>1</sup>There are many people who, when they sin or are injured, frequently blame the enemy or their neighbor. <sup>Gn 3:12</sup> <sup>Gn 3:13</sup> <sup>2</sup>But it is not so, because each one has the enemy in his power, that is his body through which he sins.

<sup>3</sup>*Blessed is the servant*, <sup>Mt 24:46</sup> then, who always holds captive the enemy delivered into his power and wisely safeguards himself from him; <sup>4</sup>because, as long as he does this, no other enemy visible or invisible will be able to harm him.

##### **From the Prologue to our Rule**

<sup>1</sup>All those men and women who are not living in penance, <sup>2</sup>who do not receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>3</sup>who practice vice and sin and walk after the evil concupiscence and the evil desires of their flesh, <sup>4</sup>who do not observe what they have promised to the Lord, <sup>5</sup>and who in their body serve the world and the cares of this life: <sup>6</sup>They are held captive by the devil, whose children they are, and whose works they do (<sup>Jn 8:41</sup>) <sup>7</sup>They are blind because they do not see the true light, our Lord Jesus Christ."

See you blind ones, deceived by your enemies: the flesh, the world and the devil, because it is sweet for the body to sin and it is bitter to serve God, <sup>12</sup>for every vice and sin flow and *proceed from the human heart* (<sup>Mt 15:19</sup>, <sup>Mk 7:21</sup>) as the Lord says in the gospel. <sup>13</sup>And you have nothing in this world or in that to come. <sup>14</sup>And you think you will possess this world's vanities for a long time, but you are deceived because a day and hour will come of which you give no thought, which you do not know, and of which you are unaware when the body becomes weak, death approaches, and it dies a bitter death."

As you read **Admonition X** and the two paragraphs from the **Prologue to our Rule** (Concerning Those Who Do Not Do Penance), please consider the following questions. Record your



thoughts in your journal or share them in a small group with other fraternity members.

+Blaming others has become the answer many in today's society use when explaining why they have done something wrong. They say, "Yes, but..." Or "That's how I was raised." Or "No one told me/taught me." Or "That's just the way I am."

--Explain the advice that St. Francis gives us on this topic in Admonition 10.

--How does he speak to us in the Prologue to our Rule to follow up on this advice?

--How often are we tempted to blame others for the wrongs we commit? Can you think of an example?

--Which Franciscan virtues can help us to avoid the temptation to blame others?

--What do I want to change about myself when it comes to blaming others?

+Conclude this meditation by praying the Litany of Humility: <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/litany-of-humility?srsId=AfmBOoq33XBUGsGwIET7ejMoj9GN6RrdnAALNDpYYvJabNPHcTW2jPP->

### **Formation Friday: March 28, 2025**

#### **True and Perfect Joy: Franciscans and Suffering**

Even in suffering, Francis experienced confidence and joy from:

- + the experience of the fatherhood of God;
  - + the invincible faith of rising with Christ to eternal life;
  - + the experience of being able to meet and praise the Creator in the universal fraternity of all creatures.
- (From the FUN Manual "Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order"-Theresa Baker, OFS)

#### **TRUE AND PERFECT JOY**

<https://franciscantradition.org/francis-of-assisi-early-documents/the-saint/writings-of-francis/the-undated-writings/true-and-perfect-joy/182-fa-ed-1-page-166> You may need to sign in.

One day at Saint Mary [of the Angels] blessed Francis called Brother Leo and said: "Brother Leo, write." <sup>2</sup>He responded: "Look, I'm ready!" <sup>3</sup>"Write," he said, "what true joy is."

<sup>4</sup>"A messenger arrives and says that all the Masters of Paris have entered the Order. Write: this isn't true joy! <sup>5</sup>Or, that all the prelates, archbishops and bishops beyond the mountains, as well as the King of France and the King of England [have entered the Order]. Write: this isn't true joy!"

<sup>6</sup>Again, that my brothers have gone to the non-believers and converted all of them to the faith; again, that I have so much grace from God that I heal the sick and perform many miracles. I tell you true joy doesn't consist in any of these things."

<sup>7</sup>"Then what is true joy?"

<sup>8</sup>"I return from Perugia and arrive here in the dead of night. It's winter time, muddy, and so cold that icicles have formed on the edges of my habit and keep striking my legs and blood flows from such wounds. <sup>9</sup>Freezing, covered with mud and ice, I come to the gate and, after I've knocked and called for some time, a brother comes and asks: 'Who are you?' 'Brother Francis,' I answer. <sup>10</sup>'Go away!' he says. 'This is not a decent hour to be wandering about! You may not come in!' <sup>11</sup>When I insist, he replies: 'Go away! You are simple and stupid! Don't come back to us again! There are many of us here like you—we don't need you!'"

<sup>12</sup>I stand again at the door and say: 'For the love of God, take me in tonight!' <sup>13</sup>And he replies: 'I will not!' <sup>14</sup>Go to the Crosiers' place and ask there!' <sup>15</sup>"I tell you this: If I had patience and did not become upset, true joy, as well as true virtue and the salvation of my soul, would consist in this."

#### **Questions to Ponder (for discussion)**

+What were some of the sufferings St. Francis endured in his lifetime? What can we learn from his sufferings?

+Would you know how to explain "Perfect Joy?" (Read again the passage above about "Perfect Joy" or visit the link above.)

+What role does suffering play in our lives?

+How do you view suffering?

+Is suffering a punishment or an opportunity to enter into the sufferings of Christ?

**Lenten challenge:** Pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary focusing especially on what Christ's sufferings mean to you.

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*Submitted by Your Friendly Neighborhood Formation Director,  
Arsenio B.*

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#### **From the JPIC Desk of Patricia Grace, OFS Regional JPIC Article for April Monthly JPIC Letter**

#### ***Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation April 2025***

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As Spring is upon us, it invites a feeling of newness and hope. We see and enjoy new flowers starting to bloom. We hear the songs of birds returning to their homes. We smell the earth, wet from the winter, and welcoming new seeds for growth.

Then our attention is drawn to the turmoil in the world. We may remember that this month commemorates the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, probably the best-known leader of the civil rights movement in our country. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968. Dr. King taught and led non-violent resistance and advocacy for non-discriminatory laws, practices, and policies in employment, schooling, health care, housing, voting, and labor. In short, for equality for all in our social sphere. He may be best known for his 1963 speech, "I Have a Dream," delivered on the grounds in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. The speech inspired many over the years to reexamine our country's treatment of people of all races and traditions. The national conversation on equality and inclusion continues to this day. It is interesting and somewhat sad to note that Dr. King made that speech one hundred and two days after the official end of the Civil War.

But let us not feel sadness. Instead, let us hope. We are children of a loving and merciful God, our Lord of Love and Light. Dr. King taught that "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that". This quote appears in his 1963 book *Strength to Love*. So, sisters and brothers, let us join in our Franciscan circle of love, pray and act in light and love.

#### **Compassionate Action**

Let us commit to reading one book this month, in whole or in part, or see one documentary on the history of equality for all in this country. Perhaps we may choose to discuss our learning with our prayer partner or other members of our fraternity.



#### **Let Us Pray**

Our Lord God, we pray for all people knowing You are our Father and the Father and Creator of All. May the light of our Lord, Jesus Christ, burn in us and create a heart for justice and peace.



#### **Let Us Sing**

**"Walk in the Light"**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCTRoWXZjwk&pp=ygUydz2FsavBpbiBoaGUgbGlnaHQgdGhlIGJlYXVoaWZ1bCBsaWdodCBjaGFybGVzIHVvcGU%3D>

Peace and Hope, Patricia Grace, OFS  
JPIC Animator, St. Francis region.

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May the Lord Give You Peace.

Below find a reflection for LENT in support of our work for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation.

Can you kindly forward this email to all members of your fraternity. Thank you very much. Deep gratitude.

Peace and Hope, Patricia Grace, OFS  
JPIC Animator, St. Francis Region

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### “The Seven Weeks of Easter: The Call to Discipleship”

This is the time Brothers & Sisters!

As we begin our journey to the joy of Lent, now is the time to pause for a moment and reflect.

When we sat down this year and decided from what we would abstain, where better we could serve and how much more we could pray, I am certain in our Franciscan hearts we pondered long and carefully.

... but here's a bit of a challenge for all of us as we process through these coming days - look to the end of this journey and let's ask ourselves some simple questions...

When we sit in this year's Easter Service and once again sing the Alleluia which has been missing from our lives throughout Lent, HOW WILL WE BE CHANGED ?

Will the extra masses, rosaries, and prayers continue as part of our gospel way of living?

Will we continue to reach out and aid the poor, the homeless, disenfranchised, lonely and fearful?

Will continue to purge the unnecessary distractions of our culture to live more simply and more prudently?

Will we continue to erase hate from our daily conversations?

Will we continue to be responders instead reactors?

As we observe our Lenten promises, may we also continue to look deep into our hearts for the real and substantive changes that we will bring with us into our Easter being.

Will we truly and profoundly be changed, or will we just give up chocolate?

Pace e Bene,

Barbara Courtois, OFS

In Support of the JPIC Animators

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### Centenary Celebrations

This will be the 3rd year of the four-year celebration of milestones in the life of St. Francis. The entire Franciscan family is celebrating the following events:

**2025: The Canticle of the Creatures**

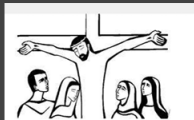
**2026: The Easter of St. Francis**

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### WALK WITH THE SUFFERING

GOOD FRIDAY  
STATIONS OF THE CROSS

April 18, 2025  
8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.



A two-and-one-half hour walk in downtown San Diego commemorating Jesus' Journey to Calvary and His solidarity with the suffering today. You can walk as much as you wish.

Please join us at the San Diego Rescue Mission, 120 Elm Street at the corner of Second and Elm in downtown San Diego where the walk will begin and end. Free parking is available there.

The event is sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of San Diego.

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### 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:

**Feb. 23, 2025:** Please pray for the **repose of the soul of Ray Hardwick** and to keep his family in your prayers for peace and consolation.

**February 2025:** And please keep in your prayers Lorraine Cardin, who is not doing too well at this time.

**February 2025: Sekoiya Spencer** continues to need prayers for dizziness. She has gotten a blood test for cancer. She is diagnosed with monoclonal gammopathy. Monoclonal gammopathy is a condition where an abnormal protein (called a monoclonal protein or M protein) is found in the blood.

**Jan. 27, 2025: Arsenio Benedicto's wife Christine** needs prayers for the Lord to guide the surgeon's hands for a successful surgery and full recovery. Surgery within the next 2 days. Neurovascular surgery near her eye. **Update on Christine:** Surgery was a SUCCESS! Praise God! **Update:** Christine had the other eye done and it was also a success. Now she needs prayers for her eyesight to get better after the 2 surgeries.

**Oct. 7, 2024: Please pray for Bob Murray** and his wife **Diane**, both are having multiple health issues.

**May 23, 2024: Bruce McAdams** needs prayers for his back and feet pain, and his diabetes.

**July 2024,** Please continue to keep in your prayers **Brenda Rogers and her family. Hopefully Brenda can come back to our Fraternity Gatherings again soon.**

**Sept. 2024,** please pray for **David Burrola**, who is in the process of transferring to the Padre Pio Fraternity in Moreno Valley, which is where he has moved to.

**March 2023 ~** Please continue to pray for **Jim Rogers (who has dementia)**, and **Mickie Rogers** as his care giver.

**Jan. 13, 2023, ~** Please pray for **Camille Page's son, Joseph**, who is facing serious incarceration time.

**May 2023: Our Sister Gloria Torres' Intentions:** For all my family and grandchildren, peace in the world, for all our SFO members, for my brother Mario and my sister Bertha, that just died this past week, for the end of Ukraine's war by Russia. Come Lord Jesus come, for without you we perish. Amen

Please pray for our **Brother Raul Bosque', OFS**. He is having health issues and is working with the doctors to find out what they are. Hopefully, he can come back to our Fraternity Gatherings, since we're gathering at St. Matthews in Corona.

Please pray for **Sekoiya Spencer's sons** Darius and Jason. **And please continue to keep your Fraternity brothers and sisters** in your prayers along with their intentions.

**AND ... Have you prayed for your Franciscan Prayer Partner lately?**

\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*



**DO I SEE MYSELF AS A SON OR DAUGHTER OF  
GOD? HOW CAN I REMIND SOMEONE ELSE OF  
THEIR ETERNAL WORTH TODAY?**

**I am the son/daughter of a Great King.**

\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

**And now, a list of some of our up-coming Events for  
2025. Please take a moment to peruse this list and  
see what topic you have signed up to present at our  
Fraternity Gatherings:**

**Our Ongoing Formation Book and the Chapter  
Presenter Assignments:**

**For our Fraternity Gatherings, from the book:**

***A Knight and A Lady* by Bret Thoman, OFS:**

**Apr. 5th, Lenten (District) Retreat with Br. Kip  
Ledger OFM Cap.**

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Chapter 13: Peace and Peacemaking: Marilyn  
Gunnerson, OFS**

**June 7th, Chapter 14: Evangelization: Joice Quinsaatt,  
OFS**

**July 5th, Epilogue: That we might follow His footprints:  
Lisa B., OFS**

**(The next book we're considering for our Fraternity  
Ongoing Formation at our Gatherings is:**

***"Franciscan Prayer – Awakening to oneness with God"*  
by Ilia Delio, OSF, beginning Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

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***May you never forget what is worth  
remembering nor ever remember what is  
best forgotten.***

\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

**~ Holy Months ~**

**April: The Holy Eucharist – Holy Church is the  
guardian of the Holy Eucharist. For two thousand  
years, she has guarded this treasure, administering it  
to the faithful and proclaiming that it is nothing less  
than Jesus himself.**

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**Joke O' the Day**

A painter always had plenty of work  
because he thinned his paint with  
water, so he was always the lowest  
bidder on jobs. One day a church  
invited bids for the exter of the church  
to be repainted. Again, he was the  
low bidder and won the job. As he  
was about to finish, it suddenly started  
raining. It rained so hard it washed all  
the new paint off the church. As the  
painter looked at the puddles of rain-  
paint mixture, there was an enormous  
clasp of thunder and a huge flash of  
lightning. Afraid God was admonish-  
ing him for his cheating, he prayed,  
"Lord, I know I have sinned. Please tell  
me what I need to do to gain forgive-  
ness." A loud voice from heaven  
replied, "Repaint! Repaint and thin  
no more!"

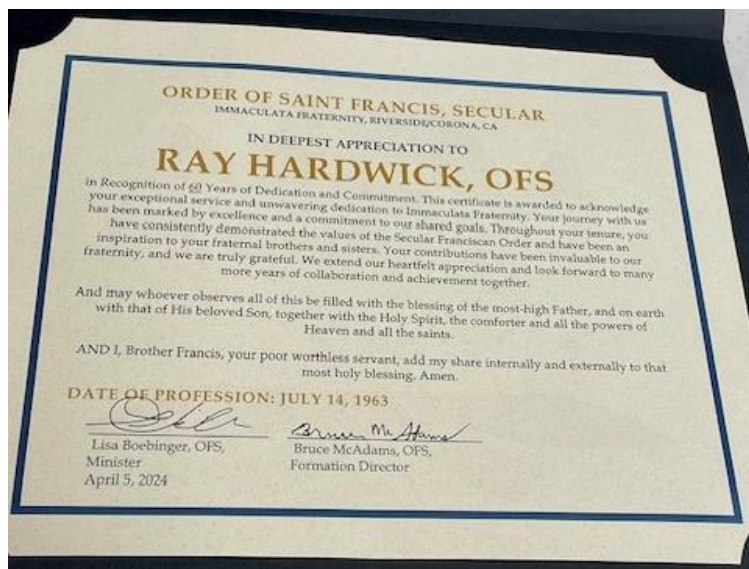
*(This is in honor of  
our Brother Ray,  
who would've loved  
this joke. He loved  
puns)*

\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

**Our Franciscan  
Family and  
Immaculata  
Fraternity has just  
lost a great  
Franciscan, our  
brother  
Ray Hardwick, OFS  
October 22, 1932, ~  
February 23, 2025  
Professed July 14, 1963**



**Ray joined  
Immaculata Fraternity on December 28, 2001  
Ray was on the  
NATIONAL COMMISSION: PEACE AND JUSTICE.**



**~Group picture of all Franciscans who attended Ray's  
Funeral Mass~**





(Good ol' Ray)





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### **Wounded and Worthy of Repair**

#### **Reflect**

Who doesn't feel like their wounds cannot heal? Emotional, spiritual, and physical injury can create a chasm between us and God. Have you ever been in that place?

#### **Pray**

*God of hope,  
I come to you covered in wounds the world cannot see.  
But I know that you can.  
Gather the pieces of me  
that are scattered and put me together again.  
Make me whole and healed and hopeful again  
so that I may offer the same grace to other  
broken people.  
Amen.*

#### **Act**

Know somebody who's wounded? Share this prayer and let that person know that no wound is beyond God's ability to heal.

*Today's Pause+Pray was written by Christopher Heffron.*

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***Next time you're in a Catholic church, take a moment to appreciate the beauty around you and let it remind you of an even more beautiful reality: **That Jesus is there, truly present in the church with you.*****

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***Stay safe and be healthy.  
Hope to see you next Month!  
God Bless you, always.***

\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*