

**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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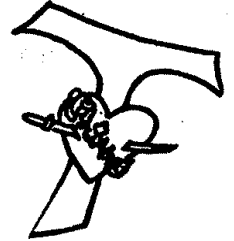
***Our Goal for 2020: To visit those who are excused and homebound on a regular basis.***

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**Immaculata Vision ~ January, 2021**

**Immaculata Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order**

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



**June 24th 1978 ~ 2018: The 40th Anniversary of our OFS Rule!**

**Calendar of Events for January, 2021:**

- 1 – Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God - Holyday
- 1 – New Year’s Day
- 1 – 1st Fri. Adoration, Queen of Angels small church 6pm

**2 – (1st Sat.) -- Virtual Fraternity Gathering @ 9:30 am (via Zoom)**

- 3 – Epiphany Sunday (no Epiphany Celebration)
- 10 – The Baptism of Our Lord
- 11 (2nd Mon.) – Council Meeting 1pm (via Zoom)
- 16 – Ministers Meeting on Zoom – Lisa to attend for Bruce on Zoom
- 18 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Holiday
- 22 – Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

**Looking Ahead to February, 2021...**

- 2 – The Presentation of Our Lord
- 2 – Groundhog Day
- 5 – 1st Fri. Adoration, Queen of Angels small church 6pm

**6 – (1st Sat.) -- Virtual Fraternity Gathering @ 9:30 am (via Zoom)**

- 8 (2nd Mon.) – Council Meeting 1pm (via Zoom)
- 14 – St. Valentine’s Day
- 15 – President’s Day (Holiday)
- 17 – **Ash Wednesday** ~ Fast & Abstinence
- 21 – First Sunday of Lent
- 28 – Second Sunday of Lent

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**Birthdays & Profession Anniversaries:**

January Birthdays: 3rd – Romy Quinsaas  
February Birthdays: 12th – Terri Vaughn

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**Our Next Virtual Fraternity Gathering** will be on Zoom on **Saturday, February 6th @ 9:00 am**. This is the time to sign on so that everyone is there by the 9:30 am gathering start time. You will be sent the invitation to join the Zoom gathering before then in an email.

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**Minister’s Letter January, 2021**

*From the Desk of Your Friendly Minister,  
Bruce McAdams, OFS*

*(Please continue to keep Our Friendly Minister Bruce in your prayers. He is still awaiting surgery to correct the problem. No Ministers Letter for January 😞)*

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**We Welcome Nik Peterson as he leaves Orientation and becomes an Inquirer**

Let’s meet and welcome Nik ~ he is in the square on the lower left of the picture, joining us from the “Portiuncula”



in “Assisi”. If he looks familiar, it’s because he is a parishioner of St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Riverside.



*(From our Last Fraternity Gathering on Jan. 2nd 2021. Pictured here is Bob Murray, Lisa Boebinger, Lorraine Cardin, Bob Dak, Velma Chromity, Ray Hardwick, Joice & Romy Quinsaas, Arne Lozano, Nik, Mickie Rogers, Carol Bryant, Arsenio Benedicto, and David Burrola joining us by phone.)*

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**By the way: This year's Epiphany Celebration was not held due to the infamous Coronavirus Pandemic.**

Instead, because you all are really special, I'll put names in a hat and draw a prayer partner's name for you for 2021, then I'll email that name along with your Saint, Deceased and Scripture extraction to you. If you don't have email, I'll be mailing it to you with your January newsletter.

Howz that sound? Thank you all bunches! Lisa

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

What is the significance of the feast of the Epiphany, besides being the first revelation of Jesus to the Gentiles in the form of the Magi? There are other revelations related to the Incarnation also. There was the angel to Zachary, the angel to Mary, the angel to Joseph and the multitude of angels to the shepherds who I personally believe sang the praises of God when he announced the Savior's birth, no matter what anyone else says.

The feast of Epiphany is special to us because we are Gentiles too. Even though our spiritual roots are Semitic giving us kinship with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, our family heritage is Gentile.

Each of us might respond to the feast we are celebrating Sunday, the third, by asking how God continues to reveal Jesus in our daily lives. Through the Scriptures and the sacraments, surely, but where else?

As Franciscans might I suggest we look in the faces of the poor, the starving, the oppressed, and those suffering from mental illness, alcoholism, and various addictions. Jesus comes to us under many distressing disguises, to quote Mother Teresa. It would be a shame to miss him if all we see is ugliness and need. It would be a shame to miss him in those that are not of our faith, the person whose color is different from ours, the homosexual, the immigrant, or the condemned criminal. When he comes to us in beauty, we celebrate. When he comes to us in those we would choose to ignore or separate, can we accept the challenge as Francis did?

May your new year be brighter and healthier and filled with a loving trust of Jesus and our Blessed Mother. Peace, Ray

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**Spiritual Assistant's Letter**

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

**Hope for A New Year, January 2, 2021**

To say the least 2020 was a year to remember. During the first few months we celebrated New Year's, watched the Rose Parade, and celebrated Valentine's Day. We held fraternity meetings and went to Sunday Mass – indoors! Men and boys went to the barber shop while many women had their nails and hair done at a salon. Perhaps we went to the gym, or the snow, or had family gatherings. We ate at our favorite restaurants. Life was normal. All this we took for granted.

Then, in March, we were told of Covid-19, a deadly virus that was spreading rapidly across the globe.

Unfortunately, there was no concerted national effort to confront this threat. Each of our 50 states was left to deal with this epidemic individually even though the virus did not respect state or national boundaries. There were, and are, those who claimed this was just another flu or fake news and refused to take the precautions strongly recommended by the medical professionals. Many claimed they had personal rights to do whatever they desired, not following the guidelines, without considering rights come with responsibilities. As the virus spread around the world it soon grew into a pandemic.

We were, and still are, in the grip of this pandemic. 1 out of 1,000 Americans have been infected with this disease. Hospitals are overwhelmed, nearly to the breaking point. ICU bed availability in Southern California has dropped to zero. Hospital stays range from a few days to 8 months or more. We are told that 70% of those who survive will suffer long term medical issues such as shortness of breath (due to damaged lungs), fatigue, inability to walk unaided, and blood clots that can lead to death. To date, globally, this virus has infected more than 80,000,000 people while 700,000 have died. According to John Hopkins University the US surpassed 19 million cases and more than 332,000 deaths before year's end. Here in Riverside County alone we have counted more than 150,000 cases with 30,700+ deaths. Refrigerated trailers have been delivered to hospitals to be used as additional morgues. Mortuaries and cemeteries have been inundated; family members have been prohibited from attending funeral services. Not only that, a new strain of Covid-19 has emerged in Europe and Africa.

A national effort was eventually undertaken to search for a vaccine to ward off this disease. Since that time, two vaccines have been developed and are beginning to be administered across the nation and around the world. Still, others are under development or being tested. However, it will be many months before a large percentage of the population will have been vaccinated.

So, yes, we now have some hope. We have hope for the new year of 2021, but we are not out of the woods. As we recently saw on the news millions of Americans traveled over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays resulting in a huge surge of infected patients. Hospitals are stretched beyond imagination; doctors, nurses and support staff are experiencing near total exhaustion; medical equipment and supplies are in short supply. How long will hospitals be able to withstand the crush of patients? How long will doctors and nurses be able to withstand the physical and emotional stress associated with the high demand for their services?

Do we think we can overcome this pandemic on our own? Our true hope is in the Lord, not ventilators, men or horses. According to Psalm 33:16-18: "A king is not saved by a great army, nor a warrior delivered by great strength. Useless is the horse for safety; despite its great strength, it cannot be saved. Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon those who fear him, upon those who count on his mercy."

As I was praying the morning prayer on Tuesday of Week III in the Book of Christian Prayer (pg. 887), I found myself reflecting on the first reding - Psalm 85. I invite you

to do the same. Let us pray this Psalm together in spirit, if not in person, and let it speak to our hearts:

*“You once favored, LORD, your land, restored the captives of Jacob. You forgave the guilt of your people, pardoned all their sins. You averted your wrath, you calmed the heat of your burning anger. Revive us now, God our helper! Put an end to your grievance against us. Will you be angry with us forever, will your anger never cease? Will you not restore again our life, that your people may rejoice in you? Let us see, O LORD, your mercy and grant us your saving help”... your deliverance from this dreadful disease. (Ps. 33:2-8).*

In the meantime, everyone is urged to take precautionary measures to avoid succumbing to the virus or spreading it to others. Wear a mask in public, avoid gatherings, wash your hands frequently, use hand sanitizer. As Catholics, as Secular Franciscans, we are the Lord’s eyes, hands and feet in the world today. We must do our part to protect others and ourselves. As Franciscans will we be the example the nation needs to follow? Will we work with the Lord or follow our own desires? *“Listen for what God, the LORD, has to say; surely he will speak of peace to his people and to his faithful. May they not turn to foolishness! Near indeed is his salvation for those who fear him; glory will dwell in our land” (Ps. 85:9-10).*

Let’s make this a Happy New Year full with hope, hope that leads to success. Peace, Bob

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### **Virtual worship is still embodied liturgy, says this Yale liturgist. Praise can reach beyond human bodies and church buildings.**

#### A U.S. CATHOLIC INTERVIEW

As the novel coronavirus pandemic closed churches and moved Mass and other religious celebrations online, conversations started happening among Catholics about how to encounter God in virtual Masses. Is there a “correct” way to participate in digital Masses? Is it OK to celebrate with our dog or cat on our lap and a cup of coffee in hand? Is God just as present through our computer and TV screens as in Mass at a parish?

Teresa Berger, a professor of liturgical studies and Catholic theology at Yale Divinity School, says that “God is omnipresent. God doesn’t have any greater trouble encountering us in the digital social space than in a hospital room, a refugee camp, a middle-class parish in Connecticut, or in my own kitchen or garden.”

For Berger, the main question the pandemic brought up wasn’t how to enter more deeply into digital ways of praying—people have been doing that for as long as the internet has existed, she says. In fact, she wrote a book on the subject, *@ Worship: Liturgical Practices in Digital Worlds* (Routledge, 2018). The pandemic and the shelter-in-place orders just made us more aware of it.

Instead, says Berger, for her the inability to attend Mass was “above all else, a call to enter into communion with all created things.” It was a reminder that liturgy isn’t something that only happens for an hour on a Sunday morning, but rather is a practice that involves both our bodies and souls and allows us “to join in a praise that isn’t confined to church

buildings but is there before I even open my eyes in the morning.”

### **What does it mean to say that liturgy is embodied?**

None of us can enter into God’s presence as pure spirit, at least not on this side of the veil between this world and eternity. We all stand before God, and therefore celebrate liturgy, as embodied human beings. People do not leave behind their markers of difference when they enter a church door. I am not magically transformed into a person who is not racialized as white or who is not gendered at 9:59 when I enter church for 10 a.m. Mass.

This has a million ramifications for how we think about liturgy. Some liturgists have begun to claim, somewhat daringly, that the basic liturgical text and the basic tool of worship—before we sing an opening hymn, before the priest opens his mouth or grabs a liturgical book—is the human body.

We all stand before God, and therefore celebrate liturgy, as embodied human beings.

### **Is virtual worship still embodied?**

Yes, of course it is. Although some may argue that worship in digital spaces or digitally mediated liturgical practices are bad because they are disembodied, I think that’s too glib an argument. In fact, none of us can enter a digital social space without bodies. To be in a digital conversation with you right now, I need my eyes. I need my fingers to log in to Zoom, the space in which we’ve chosen to meet. There is no digital worship without bodies being present and involved.

What is different, however, is that the bodily practices and proprieties are different from when we gather in a brick-and-mortar sanctuary. For example, over Zoom I might have the luxury of participating without shoes or in sweatpants. That’s a different way of being bodily present than in a brick-and-mortar sanctuary, but that doesn’t mean we’re not engaging in an embodied practice.

Some bodily practices that are possible only over digital worship can be forms of enriching the liturgy. My local parish still has no in-person Masses; everything is online. So, during the livestream Masses, I’ve gotten used to dancing during the Gloria. If I did that in the brick-and-mortar space, someone would probably call a number I don’t want to be called on me. But in the digital social space, there are freedoms of embodiment.

That’s not to say that digital worship is better than in-person worship. It’s just not disembodied. It’s differently embodied. I think of worship and praise of God as something that extends way beyond humans gathering in a sanctuary.

### **Do you have any suggestions for how people can enthusiastically participate in virtual liturgy as embodied beings?**

I certainly don’t have an answer that works for everybody. I think the answer comes from each person’s specific way of being in the world. It depends on your context: If you have seven children at home, you’re probably not going to get everyone silently, reverently kneeling for any amount of time. (You wouldn’t have it that easy in a brick-and-mortar sanctuary either.)

People have varying attention spans and strategies for how to keep focused. Everyone I know is struggling with this right

now, and it's not only in worship. I'm teaching my classes online this semester, and during the midsemester evaluation many of my students said that they wished they could find better ways of staying present in the digital space.

During the livestream Masses, I've gotten used to dancing during the Gloria.

Through trial and error, I have found that I can be present at virtual Masses best if I have something to do with my hands at the same time. I try to find things that are complementary to what is going on at Mass. My favorite example is that I try to water the multitude of plants that surround me: to do something that nurtures life.

I don't do so well when I give myself a stern lecture about having to stay in place, focus on the screen for an hour, and try to enter into deep reverence. For me, that breaks down at some point. I do, however, try and follow the bodily postures of the liturgy. I stand when the gospel is read. I dance when the Gloria is sung. I extend the sign of peace in embodied ways too: I turn to the east to send peace to my son in Europe and north to send peace to a friend.

What I'm trying to say is that it is necessary to rethink practices that for many of us have been routine for many years. We sometimes think we can easily translate these practices into the digital social space, but life isn't as easy as that.

### **Do you think the pandemic will change how we experience the church as the body of Christ?**

I think the lockdown has opened up worlds for the Catholic faithful. A neighbor of mine who has lived in Connecticut basically all of her life has recently started celebrating Mass each week with parishes around the world: in Toronto and Washington, D.C. I celebrated Mass with Pope Francis at the Tomb of St. Francis on the Saturday morning when he signed his new encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti* (On Fraternity and Social Friendship). That was deeply meaningful. And there was nothing I could point to and say, "This is great digitally mediated worship." It was just a camera pointed at the pope.

I was in a Mass last weekend that took place in the Ivory Coast and was live-streamed on Facebook, during which a friend of mine took his final vows as a Jesuit. Again, nothing about it was the height of technological achievement, but the joy of being able to "be there" and see him take his final vows transcended any of the quite basic technology.

On Sunday morning, we are entering into something that has been sounding since the beginning of time.

Catholics have a strong global perspective in our ecclesial DNA: We are not a congregationalist-only community of faith. But this has come even more to the foreground during the pandemic. Think of Pope Francis' deeply moving *Urbi et Orbi* blessing: the image of him standing alone in St. Peter's Square with the host lifted over his head while the rain came down. Millions of Catholics across the globe were present with him there in digital mediation.

There are blessings in moments like this: when it is hard to meet with your local Catholic parish but when you can easily join a friend in Africa or the pope in Assisi or Rome.

### **Does the necessity of virtual worship and changing understandings of embodied worship affect how we**

### **think of the incarnation—the idea that God became embodied?**

When churches first went into lockdown and we transitioned very quickly into digitally mediated worship, I read a number of people who said that virtual worship was antithetical to Catholic liturgy because it's disembodied, because it does not reflect the truth of the incarnation.

But I keep thinking that you could make the opposite argument. The incarnation is all about God rendering Godself present in the midst of creation and all its facets. And that includes the messes we create: global war, digital media, you name it. The incarnation can be interpreted to mean that God is precisely present where traditional categories suggest that God could not be present. Before Jesus' birth, the idea that God would incarnate in human flesh was beyond all categories.

For the past couple of years, I have been thinking more deeply about what theologically can be called deep incarnation. This is the idea that God, in taking on human flesh, takes on not only human beings but everything created. One snappy way of thinking about this is that human beings contain stardust, a quarter of our genetic material is shared with trees, and we are hosts to a gazillion microbes. So when God becomes human, that must also mean that God becomes stardust and the genetic material of trees and microbes. God is not only human flesh like me or you but embraces all created reality from the stardust to the microbes. I have found that really earthshaking.

When I first came across this idea, I thought, "This is really alien to much of our tradition." But over time I discovered that no, it's not alien at all. Everyone knows about St. Francis asking Brother Sun and Sister Moon to join in praise of God, but there are so many more elements in the tradition that say a similar thing. For example, Psalm 148 imagines an antiphonal choir where everything created sings together in praise. Eucharistic Prayer 3 begins with the words "You are indeed holy, O Lord" and continues "And all you have created rightly gives you praise." It doesn't say "All human beings that you've created give you praise," but "all you have created."

I am not worried about us not being able to encounter God on Christmas 2020. God will be there.

I started thinking of worship not as something that begins at 10 a.m. on a Sunday but as something that began, as the Book of Job says, when the morning stars began to sing. When God created at the beginning of time and the morning stars began to sing—that's the beginning of worship. On Sunday morning, we are entering into something that has been sounding since the beginning of time.

This doesn't have anything to do with digital worlds necessarily, but it does have implications for how we move into and think about God in these digital social spaces.

### **Do you think the pandemic will change how we understand God's presence in the sacraments?**

Obviously, there have been vast constraints on sacramental participation and different constraints for different sacraments. I think the one that almost every Catholic has experienced is abstinence from eucharistic sharing.

I grew up in a home where both parents lived through two world wars. I grew up never taking anything for granted, whether it was access to food, freedoms, you name it. I have a Syrian friend whose family is currently in a refugee camp; before that they lived in a predominantly Muslim village in Syria. They didn't have access to the Eucharist whenever they wanted.

As soon as the pandemic hit and life became constrained, I heard people around me say, "I have never lived through anything like this!" And I thought, "You must have grown up in very privileged contexts, because there are so many people around the world who do not have easy access to the sacraments."

The ability to pop over to the parish church and receive the Eucharist is not how God has become present in bread and wine for much of human history.

After 2,000 years of thinking about how grace is mediated through the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, the church has very rich ways of theorizing how God encounters us in the Eucharist. The church has always maintained that there can be an encounter with Jesus, the eucharistic Lord, even if you cannot receive the sacrament as physical bread and wine.

When I attend virtual Mass, I usually say a prayer for spiritual communion at the moment the priest consumes the consecrated bread and wine on-screen. I know colleagues of mine, scholars of liturgy, who have anxieties around this renewed embrace of spiritual communion. I'm not anxious about that; instead I find the lure of wanting to encounter the eucharistic Lord and the embracing vision of spiritual communion compelling.

I know some of my colleagues are very worried—and this is a concern I understand and share—that something like a shared cup will not be convincing for a long time to come, because people will connect it too much with danger. But ultimately this is a minor issue. The question is really how this changes or affects how we encounter God in liturgical signs and symbols. I don't know the answer to that.

### **Do you have any reassurance for people who are mourning the lack of in-person liturgy this year, especially around Advent and Christmas?**

I want to acknowledge and live with the pain of losing beloved moments in the liturgical year. But I also want to acknowledge that whatever cultural warm and fuzzy feelings we have around Christmas, God becoming human and being born among animals was not a pretty sight. This Christmas I want to enter more deeply into that: into the communion of animals and angels who were there, but also into communion with all the beings who are outside the stable.

How to hold those two things in tension, I'm not sure. Maybe we'll know more on December 26. But one thing I know: God is still entering into our lives and into this world. I am not worried about us not being able to encounter God on Christmas 2020. God will be there. God will meet us in our needs. What we can bring is our own searching for the spaces in which God, once again, comes to us.

*(From an email sent around by Ray Hardwick)*

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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.) Sometimes I use another saint for the month. I might include some ALLEGEDLY Secular Franciscans whom you may not know were Secular Franciscans! Let's see, who shall we look at next? ~ Lisa*



**Blessed Jacopone da Todi  
(c. 1230 – December 25, 1306)**

### **Blessed Jacopone da Todi's Story**

Jacomo or James, was born a noble member of the Benedetti family in the northern Italian city of Todi. He became a successful lawyer and married a pious, generous lady named Vanna.

His young wife took it upon herself to do penance for the worldly excesses of her husband. One day Vanna, at the insistence of Giacomo, attended a public tournament. She was sitting in the stands with the other noble ladies when the stands collapsed. Vanna was killed. Her shaken husband was even more disturbed when he realized that the penitential girdle she wore was for his sinfulness. On the spot, he vowed to radically change his life.

Jacomo divided his possessions among the poor and entered the **Secular Franciscan Order**. Often dressed in penitential rags, he was mocked as a fool and called Jacopone, or "Crazy Jim," by his former associates. The name became dear to him.

After 10 years of such humiliation, Jacopone asked to be received into the Order of Friars Minor. Because of his reputation, his request was initially refused. He composed a beautiful poem on the vanities of the world, an act that eventually led to his admission into the Order in 1278. He continued to lead a life of strict penance, declining to be ordained a priest. Meanwhile, he was writing popular hymns in the vernacular.

Jacopone suddenly found himself a leader in a disturbing religious movement among the Franciscans. The Spirituals, as they were called, wanted a return to the strict poverty of Francis. They had on their side two cardinals of the Church and Pope Celestine V. These two cardinals though, opposed Celestine's successor, Boniface VIII. At the age of 68, Jacopone was excommunicated and imprisoned. Although he acknowledged his mistake, Jacopone was not absolved and released until Benedict XI became pope five years later. He had accepted his imprisonment as penance. He spent the

final three years of his life more spiritual than ever, weeping “because Love is not loved.” During this time, he wrote the famous Latin hymn, *Stabat Mater*.

On Christmas Eve in 1306 Jacopone felt that his end was near. He was in a convent of the Poor Clares with his friend, Blessed John of La Verna. Like Francis, Jacopone welcomed “Sister Death” with one of his favorite songs. It is said that he finished the song and died as the priest intoned the “Gloria” from the midnight Mass at Christmas. From the time of his death, Brother Jacopone has been venerated as a saint.

### Reflection

His contemporaries called Jacopone, “Crazy Jim.” We might well echo their taunt, for what else can you say about a man who broke into song in the midst of all his troubles? We still sing Jacopone’s saddest song, the *Stabat Mater*, but we Christians claim another song as our own, even when the daily headlines resound with discordant notes. Jacopone’s whole life rang out our song: “Alleluia!” May he inspire us to keep singing.

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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:

- ✚ Please keep in your prayers our Associate Franciscan Fraternity member Terri Vaughn, who is fighting the coronavirus since mid-December.
- ✚ Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ted Spencer ~ Sekoiya Spencer’s ex-husband ~ who passed away on January 1st on the Solemnity of Mary Feastday.
- ✚ Please also keep in your prayers our Fraternity Treasurer Carol Bryant, going through a lot of trials right now.
- ✚ My sister-in-law, Susanne, is asking for our prayers: Susanne: “My niece and her husband were in a horrible accident in Florida my niece unfortunately loss her husband Glen, My Niece is in critical condition. They were hit twice! My niece Christy’s rib Went through her heart so they did open heart surgery, yesterday They were planning on doing surgery on her arm and legs both were severely broken but she had a stroke last night, I’m asking for prayers please.” Thank you all ~ Lisa
- ✚ **Update on Bruce (12/4):** Bruce **still** needs to have surgery to correct the problem ~ haven’t heard when the surgery is scheduled. Please continue to pray for him. He is in a lot of pain and will be incapacitated for a few weeks (9/23).
- ✚ **Update on Georgia (12/4):** Georgia now has a blood clot in her other leg (the one that didn’t have surgery). Please keep them prayers going.
- ✚ From Aarne Lozano: Sept 5th 2020 @ 8:05 pm: My brother Mel is in the ER in Hemet right now. His arm was feeling numb. Can I ask for prayers for him? Thank you. Peace and all good, Aarne

- ✚ UPDATE from Aarne: Sept 6th 2020 @ 10:44 am: Thanks for all your prayers. After a few hours at Hemet Valley ER Mel was discharged after being given a series of tests plus CT scan. They diagnosed “nerve entrapment” for his arm and they found an arachnoid cyst in his frontal lobe. He was told to see a neurologist for further explanation. For the most part unless he gets further acute symptoms it sounds like Mel doesn’t require surgery or further treatment.
- ✚ **Update on Ray’s daughter Linda:** This past Sunday (10/11) the paramedics took Linda to Corona Regional with shortness of breath and chest pains. Her cardiologist is checking her heart today. Ray says it’s not COVID-19). From Ray Hardwick....LISA, PLEASE EMAIL THE FRATERNITY FOR PRAYERS FOR MY DAUGHTER LINDA WHO IS IN CORONA REGIONAL HOSPITAL WITH COPD PROBLEMS AND FOR MY GRANDSON DANA WHO GOES IN FOR THYROID CANCER SURGERY ON SEPTEMBER 14, THE SURGERY LASTS FOR 6 HOURS. THANKS.
- ✚ Pray for World Peace, more Love in the World. I enjoy the monthly Immaculata Vision, received monthly. Keep me in prayer, I am having back pain, so days are better than others. Keeping everyone in Prayer. Yours in Christ, Velma Chromity, OFS
- ✚ Our brother Arsenio sent these prayer intentions along with his tithe: For God to spare the world of the pandemic. For the speedy recovery for those ailing, due to the pandemic. For those who lost their lives, due to this pandemic. May God welcome them in his kingdom.
- ✚ Prayers for Camille Page and faithful living of her profession.
- ✚ For Ray Hardwick’s health ~ he is now (9/23) flat on his back with pain.
- ✚ For Gloria Torres’ intentions: For all needs of the fraternity, our Church, families, youth, homeless, displaced people in the world, souls in purgatory, lonely, those in prisons, all politicians that they bow their knees to the Holy Cross of Jesus. Amen!
- ✚ Please keep in your prayers, Bob Murray’s brother Richard Murray who has Parkinson’s. And for Bob’s son Andrew.
- ✚ Please pray for our Brother Raul Bosque’. He is having health issues and is working with the doctors to find out what they are.
- ✚ Please pray for the health of my husband Bob Boebinger, he has a lot of pain, tiredness, weakness, anxiety and other health issues. He feels he’s getting worse and can barely walk or stand. We’re also having financial issues. Thank you kindly! (Lisa)
- ✚ Please continue to pray for Donna Baylor’s daughter Beth, she suffers from intermittent anxiety.
- ✚ Please pray for Sekoiya Spencer’s sons Darius and Jason.
- ✚ Please continue to pray for David Burrola and Aarne Lozano.

- ✚ Please continue to pray for Lorraine's beau Edward Watkins, having health issues.
  - ✚ Please continue to pray for Stella Pacifica Caywood's sons Mark and Paul.
  - ✚ Please continue to pray for George & Barbara Molchan. **Update on George & Barbara (12/7):** George has been in the hospital since Dec. 3rd. with severe lightheadedness, but coming home today (Dec 7th). His doctors thought they may have to put in stents, but decided not to. His kidneys are a little worse than they were last year. Barbara is doing fine ~ praise God!
  - ✚ 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?**

**Let us pray:**

*Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick and for all who are in need. May they find consolation in your healing presence. Show your mercy as you close wounds, cure illness and free downcast spirits. May these special people find lasting health and deliverance, and so join us in thanking you for all your gifts. We ask this through the Lord Jesus who healed those who believed. Amen.*

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**Your Monthly Pearl of Wisdom:**

*Many years ago, I resolved never to bother with New Year's resolutions, and I've stuck with it ever since. ~ Dave Beard*

*Little January  
Tapped at my door today  
And said, "Put on your winter wraps,  
And come outdoors to play."  
Little January  
Is always full of fun;  
Today we coasted down the hill,  
Until the set of sun.  
Little January  
Will stay a month with me  
And we will have such jolly times –*

*Just come along and see. ~ Winifred C. Marshall  
Whenever two people meet, there are really six people present. There is each man as he sees himself, each man as the other person sees him, and each man as he really is. ~*

**William James, born on Jan. 11, 1842**

*True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice. ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.  
What makes old age hard to bear is not the failing of one's faculties, mental and physical, but the burden of one's memories. ~ W. Somerset Maugham, born on Jan. 25,*

**1874**

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**The Daily Extras:**

**Cool Fact:** Austin, Minnesota, is home to the Hormel Foods Corporation. It's also known as Spamtown, USA.

**Wondering why we eat fruitcake at Christmas?** It became popular for special occasions during the 18th century because so many of its ingredients were considered rare and expensive.

**It's the first day of Winter!** Did you know that the ancient Romans and Egyptians celebrated the Winter Solstice with evergreen trees as a reminder that spring would return? Eventually people started decorating their trees in the late 1840s.

**When life gives you a Monday,**  
dip it in glitter and sparkle all day!

🍷 **Fun New Years Fact!** 🍷 Over 4,000 years ago, Julius Caesar was the first person to declare January 1st a national holiday. He named January after the Roman god, Janus, who had two faces: one looking forward and one look backwards, which he found very fitting for the month that starts a new year.

**Joke of the Week:** An outdoorsman was sitting in his kayak when it started to get cold. He decided to light a fire in the craft, but, naturally, it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it, too.

**Today's Fact:** The comic strip *Blondie*, launched by Chic Young in 1930, eventually appeared in more than 2,000 newspapers around the world and spawned twenty-eight film adaptations between 1938 and 1950. Young was born on this date (January 9th) 1901.

**Joke of the Week:** Did you hear about the two antennas that got married? The wedding was just ok, but the *reception* was great!

**Today's History: Jan. 19th:** In 1977, snow fell in Miami, Florida, for the only time in recorded history.

**Joke of the Week:** "Well, here is your problem," the doctor says to the first-time father. "It seems that this child needs a diaper change." The new father replies, "That can't be! The package said it was good for 8-10 pounds."

**Joke of the Week:** A lady walks into a building and announces to the clerk, "I'd like a cheeseburger, a drink, and fries." The clerk says, "This is a library." So the lady whispers, "Sorry, I'd like a cheeseburger, a drink, and fries."

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**NEW YEAR PRAYER:**

Thank You Lord for giving me  
The brand new year ahead.  
Help me live the way I should  
As each new day I tread.  
Give me gentle wisdom  
That I might help a friend,  
Give me strength and courage  
So a shoulder I might lend.  
The year ahead is empty,  
Help me fill it with good things  
Each new day filled with joy  
And happiness it brings.  
Amen.

*(From somewhere on Facebook)*

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**Not so Good News: Arsenio Benedicto's Profession**  
will be postponed again. We hope to have it held at St.  
Matthew's in Corona ~ outside. Date & time will be  
announced next month 🙄.

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*If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that  
we belong to each other.  
Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your  
strength lies.  
In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do  
small things with great love.  
Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to  
you without leaving happier.  
If you judge people, you'll have no time to love them.  
~~ **Saint Teresa of Calcutta***

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**Our Fraternity Elections** have now been postponed to  
the beginning of next year (2021) depending on  
coronavirus restrictions. Hopefully everyone nominated  
to the Council will not change their minds concerning  
their calling to the Secular Franciscan Order.

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**Our Prayers that We Pray at each Fraternity  
Gathering:**

**For our Excused Members:** O God Our Father, look with  
favor on our excused members, Donna, Raul, Jim, Velma,  
George and Gloria. Bless them Lord with an awareness of  
Your Presence, and give us the willingness to call them or  
visit them on a regular basis that they will know of our love  
for them. In the Name of Our Brother Jesus. Amen.

**For our Deceased Members:** Almighty Father, source of  
forgiveness and salvation, grant that our sisters and  
brothers who have passed from this life may, through the  
intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints,  
come to share Your Eternal Happiness through Christ Our  
Lord. Amen. Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord. And let  
perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.  
Amen.

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**(He who sings well, prays twice! ~ St. Augustine)**  
**We Are Many Parts**  
by Marty Haugen

**Refrain:** We are many parts, we are all one body,  
and the gifts we have we are given to share.  
May the Spirit of love make us one indeed;  
one, the love that we share,  
one, our hope in despair,  
one, the cross that we bear.

**Verse 1:** God of all, we look to you,  
we would be your servants true,  
let us be your love to all the world.

**Refrain:** We are many parts, we are all one body,  
and the gifts we have we are given to share.  
May the Spirit of love make us one indeed;

one, the love that we share,  
one, our hope in despair,  
one, the cross that we bear.  
**Verse 2:** So my pain is pain for you,  
in your joy is my joy, too;  
all is brought together in the Lord.

**Refrain:** We are many parts, we are all one body,  
and the gifts we have we are given to share.  
May the Spirit of love make us one indeed;  
one, the love that we share,  
one, our hope in despair,  
one, the cross that we bear.

**Verse 3:** All you seekers great and small,  
see the greatest gift of all;  
if you love, then you will know the Lord.

**Refrain:** We are many parts, we are all one body,  
and the gifts we have we are given to share.  
May the Spirit of love make us one indeed;  
one, the love that we share,  
one, our hope in despair,  
one, the cross that we bear.

*Text: Based on 1 Corinthians 12, 13. Text and music © 1980, 1986, GIA  
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**The Art of Keeping Christmas**

How can we keep Christmas? How can we best defeat the  
little bit of Scrooge in all of us and experience the glory of the  
Great Day?

By sinking the shafts of our spirits deep beneath the sparkling  
tinsel of the surface of Christmas and renewing within us the  
radiance of the inner meaning of the season.

By following the Star on an inward journey to Bethlehem to  
stand again in awe and wonder before the Babe in a Manger.  
By discovering the faith and simplicity of a little child, for of  
such is the Kingdom of Heaven.

By being still and listening to the angels sing within our  
hearts.

By quietly evaluating our lives according to the Master's  
standards as set forth in the Sermon on the Mount.

By reaffirming the supremacy of the spirit in man's conquest  
of himself.

By rededicating ourselves to the Master's ideals of Peace,  
Brotherhood and Good Will.

By resolving to give ourselves away to others in love, joy and  
devotion.

By using the light of Christmas to guide us through the  
darkness of the coming year, refusing to go back to the dim  
kerosene lamps of the spirit when the brilliant electricity of  
Christmas is available to show us the way.

THE NEW BOOK OF THE ART OF LIVING

by Wilferd A. Peterson

(Submitted by Lorraine Cardin, ofs)

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**Stay safe  
and be healthy**