

Bearing good fruit with Franciscan JOY!

Dando buenos frutos con ALEGRIA Franciscana

Joy of Francis

프란치스칸 기쁨의 좋은 열매 맺기

Nảy sinh hoa trái tốt lành với niềm vui Phan Sinh!

*Secular Franciscan Order — St. Francis Region #52 — Southern California
Summer Edition — 2022*

St. Francis Region News!

Minister's Message

Many people ask the question: “What can one person do to make a real difference in the world?” Unfortunately, the most evident examples of making a difference are those of crimes against humanity by people like Adolf Hitler of Germany, Pol Pot of Cambodia, Bashar al-Assad of Syria, and Vladimir Putin of Russia. But what can one person do to make the world a better place? Interestingly, when one Googles that question there are almost 15 billion results! One that I looked at listed people who have had major positive impacts on the world including Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thomas Edison, and Mother Teresa. I would add to that list and include St. Pope John Paul II along with quite a few other saints, including many members of our Franciscan family.

Other articles list qualities to develop in oneself and actions to take to make a difference in the world. We may think that we need to do something spectacular and epic to make a difference. But that isn't true. Most of the articles I looked at mentioned that just doing something simple can have a ripple effect and have a positive impact we may never see. Some of the articles mentioned putting others needs before our own and doing good deeds for the sake of others - not to feed one's own ego. Our own St. Francis lived this after his conversion. He did everything in praise and out of love of our Lord and His people. And he did it with great humility.

It's easy to look at the world as it is today and think we need a savior to fix it all. But we must remember that we have a savior in Jesus Christ, and that God continues to work, as He always has, through those who believe in Him. We are disciples of the Lord Jesus, and as Christians, as Catholics, and as Franciscans, we are called to make a difference in the world. We do this by being loving and kind, sharing our time, talent, and treasure with those around us, and at the same time caring for ourselves as temples of the Living God. For if we don't take care of ourselves, we cannot effectively care for others. And as Franciscans, we are called to do it all with Franciscan JOY!

Peace and JOY!

Caroline

Minister's Message Translations

Mensaje del Ministro

Muchas personas preguntan: "¿Qué puede hacer una persona para realizar una diferencia notable en el mundo?" Desafortunadamente, los ejemplos más evidentes de hacer una diferencia son los crímenes en contra de la humanidad por personas como Adolfo Hitler de Alemania, Pol Pot de Camboya, Bashar al-Assad de Siria, y Vladimir Putin de Rusia. Pero ¿qué puede hacer una persona para hacer del mundo un lugar mejor? Curiosamente, cuando uno hace Google esa pregunta hay casi 15 billones de respuestas! Una que ví contenía una lista de personas que han tenido importantes impactos positivos en el mundo incluyendo Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thomas Edison, y Madre Teresa. Yo agregaría a ésta lista e incluyera al Papa San Juan Pablo II así como otros santos más, incluyendo muchos miembros de nuestra familia Franciscana.

Otros artículos mencionan cualidades que podemos cultivar en nosotros mismos y acciones a tomar para hacer una diferencia en el mundo. Nosotros podemos creer que necesitamos hacer algo espectacular y épico para hacer la diferencia. Pero eso no es cierto. La mayoría de artículos que ví mencionaban que algo simple puede tener un efecto profundo y un impacto positivo nunca visto. Algunos artículos mencionaban poner las necesidades de los demás antes que las nuestras y hacer buenas obras para el bien de otros - no alimentar nuestro egoísmo. Nuestro propio San Francisco lo vivió después de su conversión. El lo hizo todo en alabanza y por amor a Dios y a Su pueblo. Y lo hizo con gran humildad.

Es fácil ver al mundo de ahora y pensar que necesitamos un salvador que repare todo. Pero debemos recordar que tenemos un salvador en Jesucristo, y que Dios continúa su obra, como siempre lo ha hecho, a través de los que creen en El. Nosotros somos discípulos de Jesús, y como Cristianos, como Católicos, y como Franciscanos, estamos llamados a hacer la diferencia en el mundo. Hacemos esto siendo afectuosos y amables, compartiendo nuestro tiempo, talento, y riqueza con los que nos rodean, y al mismo tiempo cuidando de nosotros mismos como templos del Dios Vivo. Porque si nosotros no cuidamos de nosotros mismos, no podremos cuidar de los demás efectivamente. Y como Franciscanos, estamos llamados a hacerlo todo con GOZO Franciscano!

Paz y GOZO

Caroline

Thư Ngỏ của Trương Phục Vụ

Rất nhiều người đặt câu hỏi: "Một người làm sao có thể thực sự biến đổi được thế giới?" Tiếc thay, những thí dụ điển hình nhất về việc biến đổi là những tội ác hủy hoại loài người của những nhân vật như Adolf Hitler của Đức, Pol Pot của Cam Bốt, Bashar al-Assad của Xy-ri và Vladimir Putin của Nga. Nhưng một mình, ta có thể làm gì để biến đổi thế giới trở nên tốt đẹp hơn? Kỳ lạ thay, khi một ai đặt câu hỏi này với Google, thì kết quả có đến gần 15 tỷ câu trả lời! Một câu tôi đã tìm thấy nêu lên những người được cho là có ảnh hưởng sâu đậm trên thế giới bao gồm Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thomas Edison và Mẹ Têrêsa. Tôi cũng xin thêm vào danh sách đó thánh giáo hoàng Gio-an Phao-lô II và một số vị thánh khác, trong đó gồm nhiều thành viên trong gia đình Phan Sinh của chúng ta.

Các bài báo khác liệt kê những đức tính cần phát triển nơi bản thân và những hành động cần thực hiện để tạo nên sự khác biệt trên thế giới. Chúng ta có thể nghĩ rằng mình cần phải làm một việc gì lạ kỳ và vĩ đại mới tạo nên được sự khác biệt. Nhưng điều đó không xác thực. Hầu hết các bài báo tôi đã xem qua đều cho rằng chỉ cần làm một việc đơn giản thôi cũng có thể tạo ra tác động gọn sóng và ảnh hưởng tích cực mà chúng ta có thể không bao giờ thấy. Một vài bài báo nói đến việc đặt nhu cầu của người khác lên trên nhu cầu của riêng ta và làm những việc tốt đẹp vì lợi ích của người khác – chứ không phải để thoả phòng cái tôi của chính mình. Thánh Phanxicô của chúng ta đã từng thực thi điều này sau khi được ơn hoán cải. Thánh nhân đã làm mọi việc với sự khiêm tốn tột mực để mến yêu, chúc tụng Chúa chúng ta và dân riêng của Ngài.

Nhìn vào thế giới hiện nay, thật dễ mà nghĩ rằng chúng ta cần một vị cứu tinh để sửa chữa tất cả. Nhưng chúng ta phải nhớ rằng chúng ta có một vị cứu tinh là Chúa Giê-su Ki-tô, và Chúa luôn tiếp tục hoạt động qua những người tín thác nơi Ngài. Chúng ta là môn đệ của Chúa Giê-su, là Ki-tô hữu, là người Công Giáo, và là người Phan Sinh Tại Thế, chúng ta được mời gọi để tạo nên sự khác biệt trên thế giới. Chúng ta thực hiện việc này qua sự yêu thương và lòng nhân hậu, chia sẻ thời giờ, khả năng và phúc lộc của mình với những người xung quanh, đồng thời quan tâm đến bản thân mình như đền thờ của Chúa Trời Hằng Sống. Vì nếu chúng ta không chăm sóc chính bản thân mình, chúng ta cũng chẳng thể nào chăm sóc người khác một cách chu đáo được. Và với tư cách là người Phan Sinh Tại Thế, chúng ta được mời gọi làm tất cả mọi việc với NIỀM VUI Phan Sinh!

Vui Tươi và An Bình!

Caroline

지구회장 메시지

많은 사람들이 다음과 같이 질문합니다. “한 사람이 세상을 진정으로 변화시키기 위해 무엇을 할 수 있습니까?” 불행하게도 변화를 가져온 가장 명백한 사례는 독일의 아돌프 히틀러, 캄보디아의 폴 포트, 시리아의 바샤르 알 아사드, 러시아의 블라디미르 푸틴과 같은 사람들이 저지른 반인도적 범죄입니다. 그러나 한 사람이 세상을 더 나은 곳으로 만들기 위해 무엇을 할 수 있습니까? 흥미롭게도 Google에 해당 질문을 하면 거의 150억 개의 결과가 검색됩니다! 마하트마 간디, 넬슨 만델라, 마틴 루터 킹 주니어, 토마스 에디슨, 테레사 수녀를 포함하여 세상에 긍정적인 영향을 미친 사람들을 목록을 생각해 보았습니다. 나는 성 교황 요한 바오로 2세와 우리 프란치스칸 가족의 많은 구성원을 포함한 많은 다른 성인들을 그목록에 추가시키고자 합니다.

다른 기사에는 자신을 발전시킬 자질과 세상을 변화시키기 위해 취해야 할 행동 목록이 나와 있습니다. 우리는 변화를 만들기 위해 거창하거나 장엄한 일을 해야 한다고 생각할 수도 있습니다. 그러나 그것은 사실이 아닙니다. 내가 본 대부분의 기사에는 단순한 일을 하는 것만으로도 과급 효과가 있을 수 있고, 전혀 없는 긍정적인 영향을 미칠 수 있다고 언급되어 있습니다. 일부 기사에는 타인을 먼저 배려하고 선행을 하는 것이라고 언급되어 있습니다. 우리 성 프란치스코는 회심한 후 이러한 삶을 살았습니다. 그는 주님과 주님 백성에 대한 찬양과 사랑하는 마음을 가지고 모든 일을 했습니다. 그리고 그는 지극히 겸손한 자세로 그것을 행했습니다.

오늘날의 세상이 돌아가는 것을 보고 이 모든 것을 해결할 구원자가 필요하다고 생각하기 쉽습니다. 그러나 우리는 예수 그리스도께서 세상의 구원자이심과 하나님께서는 언제나 그러하셨듯 당신을 믿는 사람들을 통해 계속 역사하신다는 것을 기억해야 합니다. 우리는 주 예수의 제자이며 그리스도인으로서, 가톨릭 신자로서, 프란치스칸으로서 세상을 변화시키도록 부름 받았습니다. 우리는 사랑과 친절을 베풀고, 우리의 시간, 재능, 재화들을 주변 사람들과 나누며, 동시에 살아 계신 하나님의 성전으로서 우리 자신을 돌봄으로써 이 사명을 수행합니다. 우리 자신을 돌보지 않으면 다른 사람들을 효과적으로 돌볼 수 없기 때문입니다. 그리고

프란치스칸으로서, 우리는 프란치스칸의 기쁨과 함께 모든 것을 수행하도록 부름
받았습니다!

평화와 기쁨!

캐롤라인 안텔, 지구회장



Regional Retreat



Regional Picnic

AUGUST 20, 2022

10 am to 2 pm

FAMILY MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

MASON REGIONAL PARK

18712 University Drive

Irvine, CA 92612

\$5.00 Entrance Fee Per Car

(Carpool, if possible)

Picnic Shelter #6

BRING FOOD TO SHARE!

The REC will supply plates, napkins, cups & utensils.

Volleyball Court, Horse Shoe Toss Area,
and a Play area for kids.

We hope to see you all there!

St. Francis Region

Bearing good fruit with Franciscan JOY!

Conference of Regional Spiritual Assistants

There were two farmers working in a field when a tourist comes walking down the road. The tourist asks "Habla Español?" The two farmers don't understand and shake their heads. Then the tourist asks "Sprechen Sie Deutsch?" Again the two farmers don't understand and shrug. Finally the tourist asks, "한국어 하세요?". They don't understand and the tourist continues sadly on his way. After a while, one farmer says to the other, "Maybe we should learn another language." He answers, "I don't know. That guy spoke three, and it didn't do him any good."

Pentecost, as the name suggests, is 50 days after Easter. There are 40 days of Lent, so why 50 days after Easter do we celebrate Pentecost? While 40 is a number of completeness (Noah was on the boat for 40 days, Moses led Israel Forty years in the desert, Jesus fasted forty days), where do we find the number 50 in the history of Israel? It is the day after seven weeks prescribed in Leviticus 23 to separate the big pilgrimage festivals of Passover, Shavot (a harvest festival), and Purim (the festival of booths). It is fifty days (or so) since Passover, so the disciples were together to celebrate the first fruits. What they received instead was the Holy Spirit! So now we celebrate Pentecost 50 days after Easter to celebrate the Holy Spirit in our lives.

I hear in Italy it was customary to scatter rose petals from the ceiling of the churches to recall the miracle of the fiery tongues. In France it was customary to blow trumpets during Divine service, to recall the sound of the mighty wind which accompanied the Descent of the Holy Spirit.

The festival spirit is not as pronounced as it once was, but I hope we can at least feel the warmth of God's love as we reflect on how God has loved us. He forgives us, heals us, he invites us to work with him to bring the good news we have heard.

Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, famous for her work on the stages of dying, has written: "Love is the flame that warms our soul, energizes our spirit and supplies passion to our lives. It's our connection to God and to one another."

We all have different ministries. Many of you are married and have ministries to each other and ministries to your children. There are different works, but the same God who accomplishes all of them. A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each who receives it for the common good. We have many members of the Secular Franciscans, each of them different, but there is only one Body of Christ.

Your profession as a Franciscan is based upon your Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation. You received the Holy Spirit, and that has blossomed into your Franciscan vocation. If you have ever been to an ordination, you will hear the words:

*"Receive the Gospel of Christ whose herald you have become.
Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach."*

These words are not just for ordained folks. They are for everyone who has received the Holy Spirit. Everyone you meet, every day of your life, sees something familiar. Yet you are also a Temple of the Holy Spirit. In your presence, others will sense that the presence of something different is among them.

Everyone deserves to hear the Gospel in a familiar language. The Holy Spirit makes you into a Holy Book for other people discover the good news. I heard of one enthusiastic preacher who said, "You are so full of the Holy Spirit that if a mosquito bites you, he's gonna fly away singing!"

Don't worry about whether you are good enough. "You don't have to get good to get God, you have to get God to get good." God comes to us. Remember how you came to believe? Remember how we came feel that God truly is our advocate. God could condemn us, yet chooses to heal us. It is like we were falling, and suddenly found ourselves being swept into a protective embrace. It doesn't stop there. God decided to work through us.

Receive the Holy Spirit, whose temple you have become. Believe the power you received, and act on what you believe. He will teach you and remind you of all that Jesus told us. He gives you the power to help others believe that they are forgiven. He gives you the power to connect very different people into the one Body of Christ.

Let us trust the Holy Spirit and become everything he wants us to be. Let us discover a whole new language of love. It is uniquely your language and yet it is universally understood. By being fully the person God calls you to be, you are a part of the body of Christ and have become fully the agent of God's plan in the world!

Christopher Thiel, OFM Cap
Regional Spiritual Assistant

Celebrating Sixty Years of Profession

It was the great pleasure of the San Luis Rey Fraternity to celebrate Sr Madeline Fitzgerald's sixty years of profession in the Order of St Clare. Sr Madeline is a treasure to us as our Spiritual Assistant.

Our Fraternity gathering was on Palm Sunday. We asked Sr Madeline to stand at the front of the room and one by one, each of us blessed her in a short statement saying what her presence means to us personally. After we each spoke our blessing, Sister gave us a blessed palm as a symbol of the palm that the Bishop of Assisi gave to St Clare. This was beautiful and touching.

We ended this celebration in good Franciscan form by having a party with cake and ice cream!



JUSTICE, PEACE, AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION

Regional J.P.I.C. Animator Patricia Grace, OFS

JPIC: Love the Lord, Love His Kingdom, Love the Earth Here I am, Lord. Send me!

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Not so very long ago I was taking my daily walk. Up ahead of me, close enough to see but too far away to be certain of any details, I saw a person fall off of a bike. Within a second, I saw no fewer than twelve people running toward him from all directions. And, within seconds, he was on his feet, and one could hear the distant sound of the paramedics racing to him.

As I got closer, I could see that he was a young man. But none of the twelve helpers around him could have known that when they ran to him. They did not know if he was male or female, young or old, white, black, Asian, North American, Spanish speaking, English, French, Korean speaking, or any of the many languages we hear around us every day. He was a human down and needing help. They responded. Praise Be to God, he was fine and graciously thanking his helpers all around him. I wept and weep still as I am telling you this story.

God builds this in us, sisters and brothers, I am certain. We see someone in distress, it awakens our hearts, our awakened hearts awaken compassion, and compassion animates us. We act. Sometimes it is a person in distress, sometimes an animal. It is alive to us and reveals the trace or vestige or image of God to us and we act. Is this not the definition of mercy?

Of course, there are characteristics within us that may inhibit this response: responsible self-preservation, physical limitations, or social pressures. It reminds us of the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Some scholars have offered that the priest and the Levite would have been made ritually unclean and therefore unable to perform their religious duties if they had touched the man by the side of the road and he were dead. Others have suggested that they may have just been in a hurry! It reminded me of another story in which seminarians at a School of Theology were being tested on homiletics. The text was the Parable of the Good Samaritan and they were told if they were late for class they would fail. They did not know they were part of a social experiment and that the fallen person on the side of the path to their classroom was a researcher who later reported that the majority of Seminarians did not stop, despite the almost duplicate facts to the Parable upon which they were about to preach. They told the researcher they did not want to fail their class!

We all have “reasons” for not acting sisters and brothers. But let us be sure our reasons will satisfy our Lord who has sent us to be his disciples. Let us remember the words of our Beloved Saint Francis – “for up to now we have done very little.”

Here I am, Lord. Send me.

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

FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF FORMATION

LUCY IBARRA

Hello my Brothers and Sisters,

What connects us?

As a member of the REC I am visiting fraternities in our region.

This past weekend I went to one of our Spanish speaking fraternities. Why send me? I do not know a word of Spanish. As I sat there with an interpreter it was amazing the joy I felt and made me think of what connects us.

The rule and life of the Secular Franciscans is this: to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people.

What does it mean when Francis made Christ the inspiration and center of his life? I can only speak for myself. IT MEANS EVERYTHING. When I wake up in the morning Christ is on my mind, when I end my day Christ is on my mind. There are times I remember when He was not on my mind, oh what a lost time in my life.

Christ connects us, as Franciscans we live a gospel life. If you don't know what path to take in any situation please go to the gospels, all our answers are there. In the gospels do you read that Jesus was alone? He did this work with his 12 friends who encouraged him and gave him strength. How can we do this alone, we can't. Covid has taught me how we need our Fraternities, we need our brothers and sisters in our life we can't do this alone.

As Franciscans we are connected to go out and do God's work. It is not always easy, but it ends up being joyful and, for me, a learning process.

I went to this visit full of doubt. Oh Lucy of little faith. It was the best time I have had during a visitation. My Spirit reached out to their Spirit. Words are just words, love and respect are what builds our soul. Thank you, Lord, for the lesson taught.

Love,

Lucy Ibarra, Formation Director



News from our Fraternities

Holy Spirit Fraternity

We had planned on an in-person Epiphany Party; however, COVID forced the parish to close for all group meetings again. We did exchange the customary Franciscan Saints, a fun Bible verse and a deceased member to pray for.



In March we had a combined Fraternal and Pastoral visit. We received useful guidance from the visitors on how to better animate the Fraternity and run Initial Formation which we are beginning to implement. After a 2-year hiatus due to COVID shutdowns, in April, we had our typically annual Palm Sunday Bake and Craft Sale. The money raised was sent Franciscan Missions to help in Ukraine.

In May had an outreach to the parish to explain Franciscans and the Blessed Mother including sharing the Crown Rosary.

Fraternal and Pastoral Visitation



Members of Holy Spirit Fraternity with Caroline Yandell, Fraternal Visitor and Frank Miller, Pastoral Visitor.



The Holy Spirit Fraternity Council with Visitors, Caroline Yandell and Frank Miller.

Immaculate Conception

Fraternal and Pastoral Visit

On April 10, Immaculate Conception Fraternity received Fraternal Visitor Tinh Van Le, OFS, Pastoral Visitor Anthony Tuan Cao, OFS, and Peter Song, OFS, who observed the proceedings.



Regional visitors meeting with the ICF Council.



Fraternity Members with Visitors in the St. Paul Room located at Our Mother of Confidence Church

San Juan Capistrano Fraternity

On April 30, Cyndie Dunkerson, Minister of San Juan Capistrano Fraternity, married Ryan Williams, a Candidate preparing for Profession. The wedding took place at the San Juan Capistrano Mission Basilica, celebrated by Fr. Steven Gross, OFM Conv., and assisted by Deacons Joe Halka and David Sire - both members of the San Juan Capistrano Fraternity.



*Congratulations to our newest
Franciscan couple!*

Important Announcements

Scully Fund Requirements

The Scully Fund has been set up to encourage fraternities in the St. Francis Region to participate in charitable activities.

When members of a fraternity take an active role in an apostolic activity and use fraternity funds to purchase materials or supplies for the activity, the fraternity may request to be reimbursed by the Scully Fund for half of those expenses by supplying the following:

- A letter detailing the activity, the date it occurred, the number of fraternity members involved, and the amount of expenses incurred.
- Receipts for the purchases or a copy of the check(s) used to pay for the items.
- A request for reimbursement of half of the expenses.

Send the above information to either the Minister or Treasurer of the St. Francis Region.



THE ADDRESS OF ST. FRANCIS REGION IS:
10185 Pinetree Dr.
San Diego, CA 92131-1218



Last Will and Testament

Each of us can play a vital role in preserving and extending our Secular Franciscan way of life, in our own fraternity, and at the regional level.

This can be accomplished in many ways, including a bequest in your will.

Suggested beneficiaries:

- Your FRATERNITY
- Your REGION

Suggested wording for your bequests:

1. A BEQUEST FOR GENERAL PURPOSES:

"I give and bequeath the sum of \$_____ (or _____% of my disposable estate) to: (name and address of fraternity, or region).

2. A RESIDUARY BEQUEST OF INDEFINITE AMOUNT:

"After payment of expenses, debts and specific bequests, I direct that the residue of my estate be given to: (name and address)

or

"I bequeath to (name and address) any part of my estate that other beneficiaries are unable to receive because of death or other reasons."