



*“Share the Joy”*

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



**Newsletter**

**Listen, Discern, Go Forth!**

**May 2024**

***Minister's Corner***

Does the noise of the world or our concerns about it keep us from hearing the promptings of God? How can we calm our selves to listen and try to understand what God is telling us? St. Francis spent time away to learn to better listen. St Boneventure also went away, both to La Verna, to 're-center' himself to better hear God. In Bonaventure's part this resulted in his writing 'Soul's Journey into God'. In St. Francis' case, he asked the Lord to have him feel what Christ felt when he underwent his passion for the redemption of our souls, and as Fr. Marek Stybor, OFM, Conv. reminded us, he received that blessing in the form of the Stigmata. Br. Kip Ledger, OFM, Cap. will probably address this more at the Regional Retreat at the end of the month. I find I need to remove time wasters that keep me from having enough time to develop this separation particularly when I can't physically find solitude.

Another impediment can be the training we have received to equate acquiring things with happiness. Its sort of built into our society and I was trained that way from at an early age. 'Living simply so that others can simply live' or 'being poor in spirit' are nice phrases, but I find I have to continuously work to understand their implications and actually live those values. It is not on a conscious level, but in a life time of society's training that I must strive against. Br. Bill Short, OFS provided examples of both St. Francis and Pope Francis acting this out in their lives. For the Pope, this started with getting his own bags from the hotel, on the bus with the other cardinals through living in a regular apartment and eating with others in the cafeteria. Trying to move the church to be a poor church for the poor rather than a royal household.

I pray that the Lord will help me in my journey to listen better and live more like a Franciscan.

We are having two fellowship meetings in a row. The gathering last month saw us join with Padre Pio Fraternity after a couple of years apart. For me it felt like a family gathering as well as a learning experience, thanks to Br. Bill Short's video. Dixie, who used to be our minister,

said it felt like coming home. This month's meeting combines honoring Mother Mary with a community meal.

Your servant.  
Bill Mussatto, OFS

***Calendar of Events:***

- May 11<sup>th</sup> 10:00-noon Spiritual Assistant Class (ZOOM)
- May 11<sup>th</sup> 1:00 ~ 3:00 pm Council Meeting, OLA 1<sup>st</sup> floor C-5 (old convent)
- May 19<sup>th</sup> 12:30 ~ 1:30pm Setup for Marian Celebration
- May 19<sup>th</sup> 1:30 ~ 4:30pm Marian Celebration, OLA 1<sup>st</sup> floor C-5 (old convent)
- May 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> Regional Retreat, Serra Retreat Malibu
- Jun 9<sup>th</sup> 1:00 ~ 4:00 pm Monthly Fraternity Meeting OLA 1<sup>st</sup> floor C-5 (old convent)
- Jun 15<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am ~ noon Initial Formation @ OLA Classroom
- Jun 15<sup>th</sup> 1:00~3:00pm Council Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> floor OLA Convent (bldg C-5)
- Jun 20<sup>th</sup> 10:00-noon Spiritual Assistant Class (ZOOM)

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

I need correction rather than praise. I know what I'm good at. What I need to know is what I'm not good at... Love your neighbor as your self all else is just talk.

Aide Longhi, OFS

***Marian Celebration:***

Remember, the meeting in May will be on May 19<sup>th</sup> instead of the 12<sup>th</sup>, because of Mother's Day. We will be having our annual Marian Celebration and this is open to families and Franciscan spirited guests.



Please bring flowers to decorate the Altar where the statue of the Blessed Mother will be displayed. We will begin with the Franciscan Crown Rosary. This will be followed by a pot luck meal. The Fraternity will provide the main course and drinks so please bring sides or desserts to share. The setup will begin at 12:30pm. We plan to start the prayers at 1:30pm to allow time to complete the setup. Remember St. Francis named Our Lady as the Patron of the Order.

Please let Judith know how many guest/family you plan to bring so we set enough places.

### ***Joint Fraternity Meeting Plus***

On April 14<sup>th</sup> both Holy Spirit and Padre Pio professed members had a Renewal of Profession at the 11 am Mass. This is the most well attended of the Sunday Masses. We had reserved seats near the front of the church so when we stood we were visible to the entire congregation. The visitors from Padre Pio Fraternity were quite impressed by our pastor and how he made us all feel welcome. After the Mass we had lunch in the Auditorium. Because of the rain we had half the auditorium, but it was a joyful time. We were able to view Br. Bill Short's presentation on Re-imagining Francis for Our Time. We then broke into small groups to discuss the presentation and how it should impact how we live our vocation.

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

Sign up **now** for the annual Regional Retreat which will be held on May 24<sup>th</sup> thru 26 at the Serra Retreat Center in Malibu. Your council has agreed to extend a scholarship for ½ the price of a double room in exchange for the commitment to provide a short presentation to the Fraternity on what was learned at the retreat.

Br. Kip will conduct the retreat. We will be returning to learning retreats as we had in the past. The title is A Journey into God: Walking the Pathway to Peace using Bonaventure's Itinerarium. Br. Kip is both the Capuchin Novice Master and one of the trainers of the Spiritual Assistants Training Class who is leading us into a deeper understanding of Franciscan Spirituality. This retreat is geared to candidates and professed Seculars who want to grow in their understanding of what it means to be a Franciscan.

Remember the presentation can be either by an individual or several scholarship recipients.

### ***Emergency Contact forms:***

If you haven't updated your emergency contact form please update your form and return it either to Judith or bring it to the next Fraternity meeting. We know the list we currently have is out of date. If something happens to you while at our gatherings, we need to know who to contact in an emergency.

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

Maria Ester Martinez, OFS, for her continued healing; Cynthia Hewitt (Ted's wife); Zoila, Amelias' sister, Amelia, Mary Macleod who is in remission; Rachel who is in hospice, All Secular Franciscans who are, for whatever reason, unable to attend Fraternity meetings.

For refugees especially those suffering the effects of both long and short term natural disasters, conflicts, weather related food shortages and those who minister to them.

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

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

To be thankful for our many blessings.

### ***Absent Members:***

Remember, Rachel Rodriguez, OFS. She would welcome your phone calls or visits.

### ***Formation:***

Initial Formation: Gail continues her classes. Juanito has agreed to be her sponsor and some members are starting to attend the sessions in the Convent. Currently we are bringing readings to share and discuss at the session. The next class will be in a classroom at OLA. Please see Jaqui, our Formation Director to sign up to attend a class.

Council Ongoing Formation: Bill led the formation in April on the purpose and rules for Fraternal and Pastoral Visits.

On-going Formation: will resume in June with how to pray the office lead by Randy.

