

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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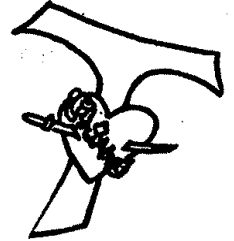
Our Goal for 2024: To visit or call those who are excused and homebound on a regular basis.

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Immaculata Vision ~ ~ May 2024

Immaculata Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order

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2024 is the 800th Anniversary of *The Gift of the Stigmata.*

National Fraternity (NAFRA) Centenary Celebration via Zoom (Date and time to be determined)

Calendar of Events for May 2024:

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- 1 – Saint Joseph the Worker
- 4 – (1st Sat.) – Fraternity Gathering @ 10:00 am @ St. Matthew in Corona.**
- 9 – Ascension of the Lord (Observed in Ecclesiastical Provinces)
- 12 – Mother’s Day/Ascension of the Lord
- 13 – Our Lady of Fatima
- 19 – Pentecost Sunday
- 20 – The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church
- 24-26 – OFS Regional Retreat at Serra Retreat house in Malibu (see info at right)**
- 26 – The Most Holy Trinity
- 27 – Memorial Day - Holiday
- 27 – (the Last Mon.) – Council Meeting 10am @ St. Matthew in Corona**
- 31 – The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Looking Ahead to June 2024...

- 1 – (1st Sat.) – Fraternity Gathering @ 10:00 am @ St. Matthew in Corona.**
- 2 – The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Corpus Christi
- 7 – The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 8 – The Immaculate Heart of The Blessed Virgin Mary
- 13 – St. Anthony of Padua feast day
- 16 – Father’s Day Sunday
- 19 – Juneteenth – holiday?
- 24 – The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist
- 24 – (the Last Mon.) – Council Meeting 10am @ St. Matthew in Corona**

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Birthdays & Profession Anniversaries:

- May Birthdays: 2nd – Gloria Torres
5th – Jim Neufell
- May Profession Anniversary: 4th – Raul Bosque, 2003
- June Birthdays: 30th – Arsenio Benedicto
- June Profession Anniversaries: 22nd – Lorraine Cardin, 1978
27th – Robert Dak, 1999

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Our Next Fraternity Gathering/Meeting will be on Saturday, June 1st @ 10:00 am @ St. Matthew.

The OFS Regional Retreat is coming up!

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Annual Regional Retreat at Serra in Malibu. Please pass it on to all of your members. This year the presenter is our own Br. Kip Ledger, OFM Cap. He has given some retreats and presentations to councils and fraternities in our region, and the feedback has all been very positive. I especially encourage those who haven't attended a Regional Retreat in the past to consider attending. Serra Retreat Center is an exceptionally beautiful location. We are fortunate to have it in our region.

I understand that those who are not fluent English speakers may not benefit from this retreat, but we want everyone to know they are invited. I hope to see a lot of you there this year. *(I have the Retreat Registration Form, please let me know if you'd like one ~ Lisa B.)*

Peace & JOY! Caroline

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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:

A Vision of Shalom

Those who follow the spirit of the Lord’s Prayer become mystical activists seeking to incarnate God’s realm “on earth as it is in heaven.” Following the vision of shalom, in which everyone has enough bread and enemies are reconciled, moves us from apathy to empathy and passivity to empowerment, so that the whole earth will reflect God’s vision. For Francis and Clare, this meant living simply and welcoming all in the spirit of Jesus. For us, following God’s vision of shalom on earth may mean prayer and protest, activism, and alternative economic values.

Francis and Clare experienced the Holy in the encounters of everyday life. What is discovered in mystical experience—direct encounters with the Living, Loving God—inspires

mission outreach to heal a broken world and gives birth to day-to-day acts of hospitality, inclusion, and loving kindness. —from the book *Simplicity, Spirituality, Service: The Timeless Wisdom of Francis, Clare, and Bonaventure* by Bruce G. Epperly
Prayerfully yours, Lisa B.

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**From the Formation Desk of Bruce McAdams, OFS
 Your Friendly Neighborhood Formation Director
 Formation Directors Letter for May 4, 2024,
 Fraternity Gathering
 Go And Repair God's House**

Francis himself in that gesture of reaching out to those removed to the margins of society, became Saint Francis, the mirror of the compassionate Christ, who is mirrored in his own parable in the good Samaritan. The compassion of Saint Francis was extraordinary, and few there are who can follow him in his heroic charity. But anyone can offer practical help and sustained assistance to the poor and outcast peoples of the world. At least one can do that in the smaller circle of the world he or she lives in. Even a small gesture toward breaking one's own selfish circle to reach out and love those less fortunate begins to expand one's heart and soul.

That is the Franciscan challenge in our own time: contemplative seeing, affective response, practical help, and sustained assistance as the way of as the way of restoring God's house which is falling into ruins. It is Jesus own prescription for learning to love. In contemplative prayer we learn to love God who created all things and made them our brothers and sisters. And when we begin to see others for what they are in God's eyes, we are moved to compassion. And when we then reach out to those of our brothers and sisters in distress, the love of God becomes, the love of others, all of whom are beloved by God.

So, repairing God's house is not about stones and mortar as Francis once thought when he heard the voice of Christ. It's about changing our hearts, or rather, letting God change our hearts, a process of which we become fruitful vessels of grace. For it is only repaired hearts that repair the house of God. It is only then that we can fruitfully "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Your friendly Formation Director, B."

***National Prayer for Vocations to the
 Secular Franciscan Order***

O, Good and Gracious God, God of mercy, compassion, generosity, and love, we live our lives today in the model of St. Francis, choosing daily to live the Gospel life. Help us to encourage others to live out their vocations. Help us to help others to hear Your call, and to recognize their vocation to the Secular Franciscan Order that You have already planted in their heart. Help us, so that together, we all may work to bring the Gospel to life. Amen.

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***WE ARE a religious order of secular people.
 ~ Ray Hardwick, OFS***

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Let's Get to Know the Saints

(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.

APRIL 20 | MIRACLES

***Saint Agnes of
 Montepulciano
 A.D. 1268–1317***



You are surrounded by miracles.

As we read the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we are constantly witnessing Jesus' miracles: turning water into wine, feeding thousands with scraps, raising people from the dead, and walking on water, to name but a few.

It is easy to fall into the trap of placing these miracles in a far-off place with people you never knew. But they are also here and now. It's a miracle that Jesus forgives our sins even though he knows we will sin again. Would you forgive someone if you knew he or she was going to do it again?

Right now, at this moment, there are miracles happening all around us. For some saints, like Agnes of Montepulciano, they just happened to be more obvious.

Here are some of the many miracles recorded in Agnes' life: She received Communion from an angel, the sick and dying were healed in her presence, she multiplied a few loaves of bread into many, she received visions from Mother Mary, she levitated in prayer, and her body was found to be incorrupt.

Through all of these miracles, however, Saint Agnes of Montepulciano never found any to be greater than the miracle of God's love, and the miracle of bringing his love to others.

If we would just learn to recognize people's needs and pain, there are so many prayers that God wants to use us to answer. Too many go unanswered because ordinary people like you and me don't allow the Holy Spirit to guide us.

Every time we recognize the needs of others and bring God's love to them, it is a miracle.

Open your heart, open your mind, and open your soul to the miracles God wants to work in and through you. WHO IN MY LIFE NEEDS GOD'S LOVE? HOW CAN I BRING THEM THAT LOVE TODAY?

God wants to work miracles through me.

Patron Saint of: Siena, Italy
 Symbols: Lily and a Lamb
 Feast Day Shared By: Saint Anicetus
 Canonized: 1726
 Canonized By: Pope Benedict XIII

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Prayer must be your lifestyle, not just your emergency contact.

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Centenary Celebrations

This is the 2nd year of the four-year celebration of milestones in the life of St. Francis. The entire Franciscan family is celebrating the following events:

2024: The Gift of the Stigmata

2025: The Canticle of the Creatures

2026: The Easter of St. Francis

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Please keep in your prayers:

(If you are in need of prayers, please email me at lisa.sfo@att.net and I'll add your intentions to our list below:)

and please add to your Prayer List the following:

Feb. 25, 2024: Please keep **Joice & Romy Quinsa** in your prayers. They made it home safely from their 3 months visit to the Philippines, but they now are sick with pneumonia and is antibiotics. They are now feeling better!

Feb. 8, 2024: GOOD NEWS! **Bruce's son Brad McAdams** had his surgery to remove the rest of the tumor in his stomach and was very successful! Praise God! Now we have to pray for the Aneurism in his heart!

Jan. 31, 2024: Please continue to keep **Ray Hardwick** in your prayers. His health issues don't seem to be getting any better. Hoping to see him at Marilyn's Profession.

Jan. 6, 2024: Please pray for **Lorraine Cardin's beau Adam Anhalt**. And also pray for **Anthony Basum**.

Jan. 16, 2024: Update on our Sister Brenda Rogers and her family: Hi Lisa, lots has happened since I last emailed. My granddaughter Ash had her baby at the end of November. She was born with a form of dwarfism called campo melic. Her main problem was her lungs. She was on a ventilator from the beginning at Irvine Medical Center and stayed there. Many ups and downs. She was named **Athena Rose** ♀ She struggled but was a fighter. Sadly, Athena passed away last Wednesday night, January 10th (Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Athena Rose and for Brenda and her family.**)

My mom continues with worsening dementia, lots more care, on and off hospice, lots of medical appointments. Peace and good, Brenda.

June 29, 2023: Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Brenda's husband Dave** and continue to pray for peace and consolation for Brenda and her family.

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

Feb. 1, 2023, from Joice: Kindly add **Deacon Jim**. He's a little under the weather after assisting at last Sunday's Mass at Queen of Angels. Thanks again and God bless all. Peace, Joice and Intercessory Prayer Team

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

May 2023: 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 keep in your prayers, **Bob Murray's brother Richard Murray** who has Parkinson's.

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.

Please pray for **Sekoia 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?

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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And now, a list of all our up-coming Events for 2024. Please take a moment to peruse this list and see what topic you are assigned 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:

- May 4th, Chapter 5: Penance: **Lorraine Cardin, OFS**
- June 1st, Chapter 6: The Cross: **Bruce McAdams, OFS**
- July 6th, Chapter 7: Leprosy: **Velma Chromity, OFS**
- Aug. 3rd, Chapter 8: Fraternity: **Arsenio Benedicto, OFS**
- Sept. 7th, Chapter 9: Catholicism: **Arsenio Benedicto, OFS**
- Oct 5th, Chapter 10: St. Francis and Nonbelievers: **Nik Peterson, OFS**
- Nov. 2nd, Chapter 11: Creation: **Gilbert Ortiz, OFS**
- Dec. 7th, Chapter 12: Franciscan Prayer: **Sekoia Spencer, OFS**
- 2025** Jan. 4th, Chapter 13: Peace and Peacemaking: **David Burrola, OFS**
- Feb. 1st, Chapter 14: Evangelization: **Joice Quinsa, OFS**
- Mar. 1st, Epilogue: That we might follow His footprints: **Lisa B., OFS**

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**Pause and Pray
Stay Connected**

Reflect ~ Our brothers and sisters can be some of the greatest blessings in our life but can also cause pain. Whichever reality we are experiencing right now, God desires to listen and be present to our needs, hopes, hurts, and concerns for our siblings.

Pray ~ *Dear God, I know you love my siblings even more than I do, and you are active in their lives.*

I pray that you will comfort and strengthen them in precisely the way they need it today.

Keep them from feeling alone or abandoned and let them experience your nearness in a healing way.

Help me to support and love them in ways they can best receive.

Help me stay true to myself while caring for this person I love deeply.

Show me what their needs are, and how I can be Christ to them today.

Amen.

Act ~ Reach out to your sibling(s) through a phone call, email, or letter, simply to let them know that you love and care for them.

Today's *Pause+Pray* was written by Shannon K. Evans.

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And now, Photos from our Elite Newsletter Photographer, Joice Quinsaatt, OFS:

Marilyn Gunnerson's Profession pictures ~ April 5th, 2024, at St. Matthew Church, Corona



Marilyn and her son brought up the Gifts for Communion, to Fr. Joseph and Bruce.

The Fraternity side of the Congregation



Group photo of our humble little Fraternity



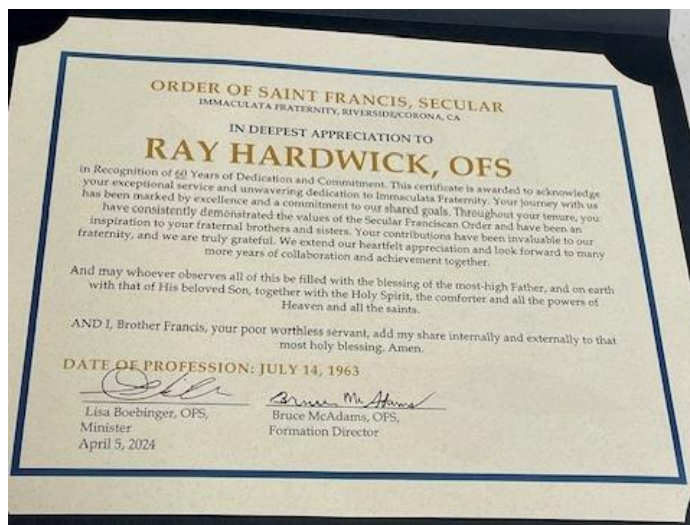
The Choir for the day.



Marilyn's Family



The Cake! Yum!



A Recognition Document for our Ray Hardwick, OFS



for 60 Years of fine service to the Secular Franciscan Order



Ray's Appreciation ceremony



Gifts from Marilyn



Gifts for Marilyn

An Email from Marilyn dated April 24th, 2024.

*Good morning brothers and sisters,
Thank you to all of you for making my profession day so special. A lot of love, prayers and hard work by the whole fraternity made this happen. Thank you for the many presents I received, but even more for your presence at the ceremony. It was a great turnout.*

Yesterday morning I got a text from my son who teaches at Oak Hills High School. They were on a code red lockdown because there was a student on campus with a loaded gun. The student was arrested with no shots being fired. What a reminder of how fragile life is and how little control we have. Yesterday I was fearful and afraid, today I am just sad that there is so much hatred and violence in our young people.

Let us pray to Our Lord and Saint Francis. Where there is hatred let us sow love.

Your sister in Christ and St Francis. Marilyn

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**C. S. Lewis observed, "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less."
I will think less about myself and more about others.**

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**Feel free to use the rest of this page and the next for your notes from the Gathering.
Stay safe and be healthy.
God Bless you, always.**