

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
Fall Edition — 2023*

St. Francis Region News!

Minister's Message

Elections for a new Regional Executive Council (REC) are going to take place in January, and the Nominations Committee has sent out nomination forms to all the fraternity Ministers to pass on to their members. It is the privilege of all active, professed members to make nominations for the election, and to prayerfully consider accepting if they are nominated.

There is a daily devotional called “Living Faith” that included the following paragraph, written by Deborah A. Meister, in the January – March 2022 issue:

Everything we have is a gift from God, starting with our lives and including all our stuff. As we strive to develop a deeper relationship with Christ, we all must choose how to spend our time, money and talent. Wealth, intelligence and even good health can become the center of our lives, displacing the desire to love and serve others. *The desire to serve is the one thing that matters in making the best use of our gifts.*

I have read and reread that paragraph many times over the past year and a half, dwelling most on the last sentence. It always makes me think of our calling as Secular Franciscans. We hear much about “servant leadership,” and some find that to be an oxymoron. But you only have to take a good look at our Rule to see that leadership in our Order is all about serving others.

Article 21 states:

On various levels, each fraternity is animated and guided by a council and minister who are elected by the professed according to the constitutions.

Their service, which lasts for a definite period, is marked by a ready and willing spirit and is a duty of responsibility to each member and to the community.

Article 14 states in part:

Let them exercise their responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of service.

There is also a scripture reading that specifies the importance of service.

1 Peter 4: 10-11a

As generous distributors of God's manifold grace, put your gifts at the service of one another, each in the measure he has received. The one who speaks is to deliver God's message. The one who serves is to do it with the strength provided by God. Thus, in all of you God is to be glorified through Jesus Christ.

So my request is that every active, professed member of our region prayerfully consider who to nominate for the offices on the REC, and fill out the forms provided by the Nominations Committee. And to those who are nominated, remember well the following:

God doesn't call the qualified. . . God qualifies the called. (Moses and Jonah are just two of the many examples of this.)

The desire to serve your Franciscan brothers and sisters along with the manifold graces of the Holy Spirit are all that are needed to say "Yes" as we all did at our profession ceremonies.

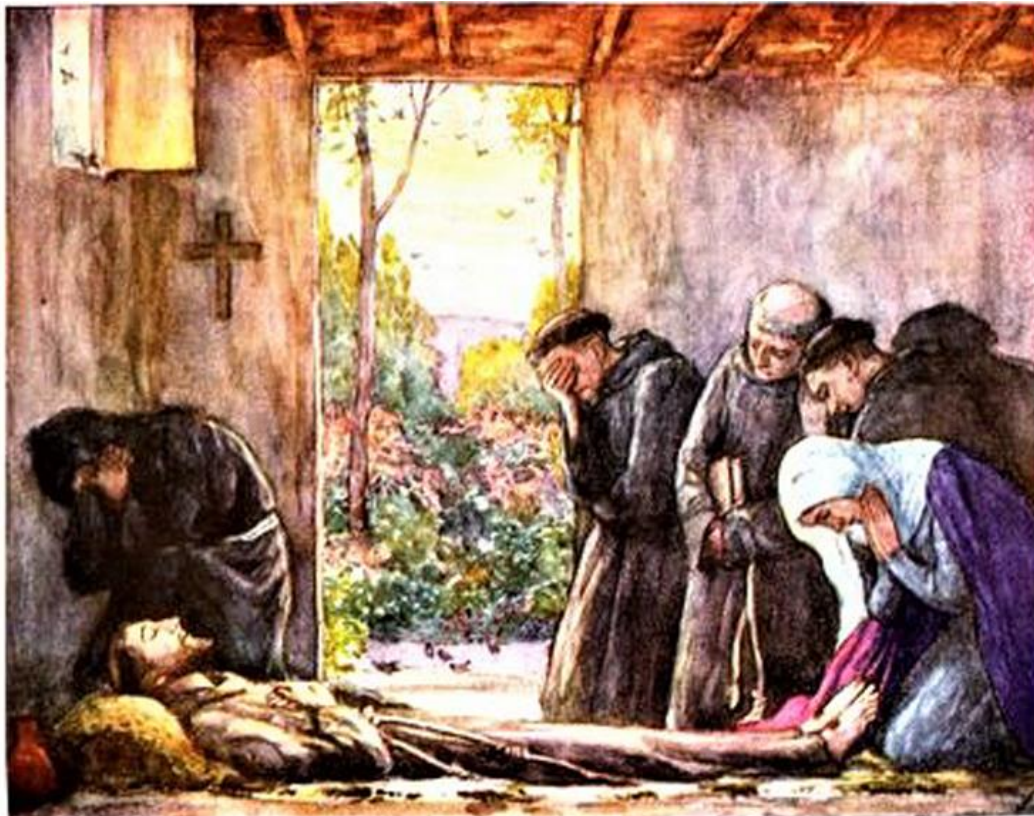
And finally, to paraphrase a famous quote from President Kennedy:

Ask not what your fraternity/region/Order can do for you, but what you can do for your fraternity/region/Order.

Blessings to you all, and I hope to see many of you at the Regional Picnic on Sept. 9.

Peace & JOY!

Caroline



Minister's Message Translations

지구회장 메시지

2024년 1월 새로운 지구 평의회 (REC) 선거가 진행될 예정입니다. 추천 위원회는 모든 형제회 회장님들에게 추천서 양식을 보내어, 형제회원들에게 전달하도록 형제회 회장님들께 부탁 드렸습니다. 활동 중인 모든 서약 회원들은 지구평의원 후보를 추천할 자격이 있으며, 만약 추천을 받으시면 기도를 통해 심사숙고 하시어 수락 여부를 결정하여 주시기 바랍니다 .

"살아있는 믿음(Living Faith)"이라는 매일 묵상문에는 다음과 같은 글이 포함되어 있습니다. 이 글은 Deborah A. Meister 가 2022년 1월부터 3월까지의 지구 소식지에 게재한 것입니다:

"우리의 생명을 포함하여 우리가 가진 모든 것은 하느님의 선물입니다. 우리는 그리스도와 더 깊은 관계를 발전시키기 위해 시간, 돈 및 재능을 어떻게 사용할지 선택해야 합니다. 재산, 지식, 심지어 건강까지도 타인을 사랑하고 섬기는데 희생코자 열망하는 것이 우리 삶의 중심이 되어야 합니다. 섬기고자 하는 열망은 하느님으로 부터 받은 선물을 최선으로 사용하는 데 중요한 것입니다."

저는 지난 1년 반 동안 이 글을 여러 번 읽었으며, 특히 마지막 문장에 많은 관심을 가졌습니다. 이 문장은 항상 저를 재속 프란치스코인으로 부르심을 생각나게 합니다. 우리는 "섬기는 지도자"에 대해 많이 이야기 듣습니다. 그러나 우리의 회칙을 보면 재속프란치스코회 지도자는 모두 타인을 섬기는 것에 관한 것임을 알 수 있습니다.

회칙 21 조에는 다음과 같이 명시되어 있습니다:

"각 등급의 모든 형제회는 회헌에 따라, 서약한 회원이 선출한 평의회와 회장(또는 의장)에 의해 촉진되고 이끌어진다, 이들의 봉사는 기한부이며, 모든 회원과 공동체에 대하여 준비되어 있고 책임이 따르는 직무이다".

회칙 14 조에는 부분적으로 다음과 같이 명시되어 있습니다:

“크리스찬의 봉사 정신으로 자신의 책임을 힘껏 완수해야한다.”

또한 섬김의 중요성을 강조하고 있는 성경 구절도 있습니다.

베드로의 첫째 서간 4:10-11a

"저마다 받은 은사에 따라, 하느님의 다양한 은총의 훌륭한 관리자로서 서로를 위하여 봉사하십시오. 말하는 이는 하느님의 말씀을 전하고, 봉사하는 이는 하느님께서 주신 힘으로 봉사해야 합니다. 그리하면 하느님께서 무슨 일에서든지 예수 그리스도를 통하여 영광을 받으실 것입니다."

그래서 저의 바람은 우리 지구의 모든 활동 중인 서약 회원들이 기도를 통해 지구 평화회의 여러 직책 후보를 누구로 지명할지 심사숙고 하시고, 추천위원회에서 제공하는 양식에 따라 작성해 주시기 부탁드립니다. 그리고 추천받으신 분들께서는 다음을 기억해 주시기 바랍니다: 하느님께서 능력 있는 사람들을 부르시 않습니다... 하느님께서 부르신 분들을 능력 있게 만드십니다. (모세와 요나는 이를 증명하는 많은 사례 중 두가지입니다.)

성령의 다양한 은혜들과 함께 여러분의 프란치스칸 형제 자매들을 섬기고자 하는 열망은 우리가 서약식에서 "예"라고 대답한 것처럼 순명하는 자세면 충분합니다.

마지막으로, 케네디 대통령의 유명한 연설중 일부를 인용하면:

여러분의 단위/지구 형제회가 여러분을 위해 무엇을 해줄 수 있는지 묻지 말고, 여러분이 단위/지구 형제회를 위해 무엇을 할 수 있는지 생각해 보시기 바랍니다.

여러분 모두에게 축복이 가득하시길 기원드리며, 9 월 9 일 지구 피크닉에서 많은 분들을 만나 뵙길 바랍니다. 평화와 기쁨이 함께하시길!

캐롤라인 드림

Caroline

Thư Ngỏ của Trường Phục Vụ

Cuộc bầu cử Hội Đồng Phục Vụ Miền mới (REC) sẽ được diễn ra vào tháng Giêng. Ủy Ban Bầu Cử đã gửi các mẫu đơn đề cử đến tất cả các Trường Phục Vụ huynh đệ đoàn để chuyển tới các thành viên của họ. Tất cả các khán viên hoạt động đều có quyền được đề cử trong cuộc bầu cử, và nếu ai được đề cử, hãy thành tâm cân nhắc việc chấp nhận lời đề cử này.

Một kinh nguyện hàng ngày có tên là “Đức Tin Sống Động” bao gồm đoạn văn sau đây, do Deborah A. Meister viết, trong số tháng 1-3 năm 2022:

Mọi điều chúng ta có đều là ân huệ từ Thiên Chúa, trước tiên là sự sống của ta, và nó bao gồm tất cả những gì thuộc về chúng ta. Khi ta cố gắng phát triển mối liên hệ mật thiết hơn với Đức Ki-tô, chúng ta phải chọn lựa cách sử dụng thời gian, tiền bạc, và tài năng của mình. Sự giàu có, trí thông minh, và ngay cả sức khỏe có thể trở nên trọng tâm đời sống của chúng ta, thay vì sự ước mong yêu thương và phục vụ người khác. Lòng ước muốn phục vụ là một điều tối quan trọng trong việc sử dụng những ân huệ của mình.

Tôi đã đọc đi đọc lại đoạn văn trên nhiều lần trong hơn một năm qua, điều tâm đắc nhất là ở câu cuối cùng. Nó luôn khiến tôi nghĩ đến ơn gọi của chúng ta là những người Phan Sinh Tại Thế. Chúng ta nghe nhiều về “lãnh đạo phục vụ”, và một số người cho rằng đó là một nghịch lý. Nhưng ta chỉ cần xem kỹ Luật Dòng của chúng ta để thấy rằng sự lãnh đạo trong Dòng của chúng ta là việc phục vụ người khác.

Điều 21 quy định:

Ở các cấp khác nhau, mỗi huynh đệ đoàn được một Hội Đồng và một anh/chị Phục Vụ linh hoạt và điều khiển. Những người này được bầu chọn theo Hiến Chương bởi các thành viên đã tuyên khấn.

Việc phục vụ của họ có thời hạn. Việc phục vụ này phát xuất từ sự sẵn sàng dẫn thân và ý thức trách nhiệm đối với mọi người và đối với tập thể.

Điều 14 quy định:

... anh chị em có thể thi hành đúng đắn trách nhiệm của mình trong tinh thần sẵn sàng phục vụ của Kitô giáo.

Ngoài ra còn có một bài thánh thư nêu rõ tầm quan trọng của sự phục vụ.

Phê-rô 1 4:10-11a

Ơn riêng Thiên Chúa đã ban, mỗi người trong anh em phải dùng mà phục vụ kẻ khác. Như vậy, anh em mới là những người khéo quản lý ân huệ thiên hình vạn trạng của Thiên Chúa. Ai có nói, thì nói lời Thiên Chúa; ai phục vụ, thì phục vụ bằng sức mạnh Thiên Chúa ban. Như thế, trong mọi việc, chúng ta tôn vinh Thiên Chúa nhờ Đức Giê-su Ki-tô.

Vì vậy, tôi yêu cầu mọi khẩn viên hoạt động trong Miền của chúng ta hãy thành tâm cân nhắc xem ai mình sẽ đề cử vào các chức vụ trong Hội Đồng Phục Vụ Miền (REC), và điền vào các phiếu đề cử mà Ủy Ban Đề Cử đã cung cấp. Đối với những người được đề cử, xin hãy nhớ kỹ những điều sau:

Chúa không gọi những người có đủ khả năng. . . Chúa ban đủ khả năng cho những người được gọi. (Môi-sê và Giô-na chỉ là hai trong số nhiều ví dụ về điều này.)

Sự mong muốn được phục vụ các anh chị em Phan Sinh của mình cùng với những ân sủng đa dạng của Chúa Thánh Thần là tất cả những gì cần thiết để nói lời “xin vâng” như tất cả chúng ta đã hứa trong buổi lễ tuyên khấn.

Và sau hết, để diễn giải một câu nói nổi tiếng của Tổng Thống Kennedy:

Đừng hỏi huynh đệ đoàn/Miền/Dòng của mình có thể làm gì cho ta, mà hãy hỏi ta có thể làm gì cho huynh đệ đoàn/Miền/Dòng của mình.

Xin chúc tất cả các anh chị luôn an lành, và tôi hy vọng sẽ gặp mọi người trong buổi du ngoại Miền vào ngày 9 tháng 9.

Vui Tươi và An bình!

Caroline

Mensaje del Ministro

Las elecciones para el nuevo Consejo Ejecutivo Regional (REC) se llevarán a cabo en enero, el Comité de Nominaciones ha enviado formularios de nominación a los Ministros de todas las fraternidades para que los distribuyan a sus miembros. Es un privilegio para todos los miembros activos y profesos el participar en la nominación para las elecciones, así como también en oración, considerar y aceptar si fuesen nominados.

Existe un devocionario diario titulado “Fe Viva” que incluye el siguiente párrafo, escrito por Deborah A. Meister, In la publicación de Enero – Marzo 2022:

Todo lo que tenemos es un regalo de Dios, comenzando con nuestras vidas e incluyendo todo lo que poseemos. Conforme nos esforzamos para desarrollar una relación más profunda con Cristo, debemos elegir como emplear nuestro tiempo, dinero y talento. La riqueza, la inteligencia e incluso la buena salud pueden convertirse en el centro de nuestra vida, apartándonos del deseo de amar y servir a los demás. *El deseo de servir es lo más importante para hacer el mejor uso de nuestros dones.*

He leído y releído este párrafo muchas veces durante el último año y medio, reflexionando más en la última oración. Siempre me hace pensar en nuestro llamado como Franciscanos Seglares.

Escuchamos mucho acerca de “liderazgo de servicio”, y algunos creen que esto es un oxímoron. Pero solamente tienes que dar un buen vistazo a nuestra Regla para descubrir que el liderazgo en nuestra Orden se trata del servicio a los demás.

El artículo 21 establece:

En varios niveles, cada fraternidad está animada y dirigida por un consejo y un ministro, quienes han sido elegidos por miembros profesos de conformidad con las constituciones.

Su servicio, que dura un tiempo determinado, está marcado por un espíritu listo y dispuesto y es un deber de responsabilidad para con cada miembro y para la comunidad.

El artículo 14 establece en parte:

Que ejerciten sus responsabilidades con competencia en el espíritu de servicio Cristiano.

También hay una lectura de la escritura que especifica la importancia del servicio.

1 Pedro 4: 10-11a

Como distribuidores generosos de la gracia inmensurable de Dios, poned vuestros dones al servicio de los demás, cada uno en la medida que ha recibido. El que habla sea para proclamar el mensaje de Dios. El que sirve que lo haga con la fortaleza de Dios. Así, en todos vosotros Dios debe ser glorificado por medio de Jesucristo.

Así que mi súplica es que cada miembro activo y profeso de nuestra región considere en oración a quién nominar para las posiciones en el REC, y llene los formularios provistos por el Comité de Nominaciones. A quienes estén nominados, recuerden bien lo siguiente:

Dios no llama a los calificados. . . Dios califica a los que llama. (Moisés y Jonás son solo dos de los muchos ejemplos.)

El deseo de servir a vuestros hermanos y hermanas Franciscanos unido con las múltiples gracias del Espíritu Santo es todo lo que se necesita para decir “Sí” así como lo hicimos en nuestra ceremonia de profesión.

Finalmente, parafraseando una famosa cita del Presidente Kennedy:

No preguntes que puede hacer tu fraternidad/región/Orden por ti, sino qué puedes hacer tú por tu fraternidad/región/Orden.

Bendiciones para todos, espero verlos en el Picnic Regional el 9 de Septiembre.

Paz & GOZO!

Caroline

**The St. Francis Region
will gather for a PICNIC**

on

SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

FAMILY MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

MASON REGIONAL PARK

18712 University Drive, Irvine, 92612

Picnic Shelter #6

**\$5.00 Entrance Fee Per Car
(Carpooling is recommended.)**

BRING:

Food to share

Your plate and utensils

Your name tag (if you have one)

**The new polo shirts and water bottles
will be available!**

**Financial donations will be accepted for the
Franciscan Friars in Ukraine.**

**Plastic caps of all sizes will be collected for
medical expenses for children in Mexico.**

**We hope that every fraternity will be
represented this year.**

Conference of Regional Spiritual Assistants

To Be Totally Infatuated with Christ!

Francis was totally and emphatically infatuated with Christ! He didn't *want* to become an "alto Christi" ("another Christ"), he just wanted to become one with the One whom he loved. The "Gospel" was his Rule, the "Life of Christ" was his Rule. If Christ did it, Francis did it! If Christ said it, Francis said it! When the Church said that it already had enough Rules and that new communities should follow one of the Rules that were already written, all of those other Rules were written in light of the first Christian community taken from the "Acts of the Apostles" (Vita Apostolica) (Acts 2:42-47)

However, Francis' Rule was taken from the Gospels (Vita Evangelica) in light of the "Life of our Lord, Jesus Christ". In looking at the "Testament of St. Francis", why did he have such faith in Churches? Because the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ was in all the tabernacles of all the churches in the whole world. Interestingly enough he never used the term Eucharist. In all of his writings about the Eucharist he always used "the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ". Maybe something to think about during this year of the Eucharistic Renewal.

Why did Francis have such faith in priests? Because he discerned the Son of God in them and they alone administered the Body and Blood to us. Even if a piece of paper had the name of Jesus on it or anything about God on it and he found it laying around, he would put it in an honorable place.

Why was Francis so focused on "simplicity and humility"? Because Jesus was simple and humble. Why did the Lord give Francis brothers? Because first, Christ existed in fraternity in the Trinity, and second, He formed fraternity with the Apostles before He began His ministry. Why did Francis desire to work with his hands? Because Jesus worked with His hands. Why did Francis wish everyone "peace"? Because Jesus wished us "peace". Why did Francis want to be a "pilgrim and a stranger"? Because Jesus was a pilgrim and a stranger and had no place to lay His head.

And why did Francis put so much emphasis on "obedience"? Because Christ was obedient throughout His whole life; He was obedient to God through the Incarnation, He was obedient to His parents Mary and Joseph, and He was obedient to His Father "*even to death*".

To be truly Franciscan is to follow Christ, not St Francis. At Francis' death he said, "*I have done what is mine, may Christ teach you what is yours*" (LMj ch. 14:3b) Francis merely showed us a path, a way to live the Gospel; a way to live Christ. In the Capuchin Constitutions it says, "For Christ Himself is our life, our prayer, and our activity. Therefore, we carry on a filial conversation with the Father when we *live Christ* and pray in His Spirit, Who cries out in our hearts: "Abba, Father!" (Cap Const. 45:4-5)

To be truly Franciscan is to live the simplicity of St. Francis. Why do we live a penitential life, a life as gift to the other? Because Christ did! Why do we live our lives in fraternity? Because Christ did! Why do we live a life of simplicity and humility? Because Christ did! And why do we live a life in obedience to those in leadership, to our Church and to the Father? Because Christ did, *even to death!* And so why should we be totally and emphatically infatuated with Christ? Because Francis was? No, in response to God's love; for us!

Bro Kip

Centenary Celebrations

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

2023: The Rule; Christmas at Greccio

2024: The Gift of the Stigmata

2025: The Canticle of the Creatures

2026: The Easter of St. Francis

Franciscans in all three Orders are encouraged to celebrate these centenaries. And within the Secular Franciscan Order, all fraternity levels – local, regional, and national – are encouraged to plan special events, with members of the other Orders whenever possible. An activity on the Rule took place at the National Chapter last week, and there will be a Zoom event put on by the National Centenary Task Force on Sunday, November 19th. Information about the Zoom event was sent to all fraternity Ministers, and registration information will be sent out soon.

Greccio Celebrations

In the San Diego district, several OFS members along with three friars and a Franciscan nun are planning two events that will take place in November. The first is being planned for the evening of Thursday, Nov. 16th at Immaculate Conception Parish in Old Town. The second is to be at Mission San Luis Rey on Saturday, Nov. 18th. The committee is still working on the details, including the starting times, and plans to extend the invitations to the whole diocese, making these events opportunities to share who we are.

When all the arrangements are made, information will be sent to all fraternity Ministers. All are welcome!

JUSTICE, PEACE, AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION

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

Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation: Love the Lord, Love His Kingdom

The Season of Creation: 2023
“Let Justice and Peace Flow”

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ and in St. Francis,

This newsletter will reach you just as we begin the Season of Creation in our Holy Catholic Church. The season spans 34 days, beginning on September 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and concludes on October 4, the feast day of our Beloved Saint Francis, patron saint of ecology. The theme for this year’s ecumenical Season of Creation is “Let Justice and Peace Flow.” The symbol for the season is a mighty river flowing.

I have been reflecting prayerfully on how I intend to honor this beautiful season. As I started to do some research, I found that there are so many great ideas on the Catholic Climate Covenant website, <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/>, on Earthbeat from the National Catholic Reporter, <https://www.ncronline.org/earthbeat>, on the Season of Creation website, <https://seasonofcreation.org/>, among others, that I became overwhelmed. So I paused and prayed, trusting that the Lord will reveal what is mine to do in His Holy time. And, as He does, I will follow.

For now, I share with you, sisters and brothers, that I plan to focus each of the five weeks on one aspect of creation. In week one, I will honor and practice ecological spirituality, touching the earth and putting my prayers into each step. Week two will be devoted to learning more about the effects of climate disruption on the poor, who are disproportionately affected. In week three I intend to pay extra attention to my lifestyle choices to bring them even more into harmony with my deepest beliefs about our common home. Week four will focus on the animal kingdom and what we can do as a human family to provide needed safeguards for their existence. Finally, in week five I will seek God’s guidance on how to serve Him as a worthy witness and energetic servant as we move through this year.

I invite you, sisters and brothers, to join me on this journey. May we open our eyes to the beauty of all of creation. May we awaken and nurture in our hearts, awareness of the sacredness in all things. May we attune our ears to hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. May we join our collective Franciscan voices to pray for our earth and all of creation. May we join our compassionate actions with others around the world and do our part to safeguard and protect our Common Home. May we remember the words of the prophet Amos who inspired the title of this year's Season of Creation, “Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream.” Amos (5:24).

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



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

Our Pilgrimage for Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation

An Update with Pictures

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ and in St. Francis,

May the Lord Give You Peace. We have completed two parts of our three-part pilgrimage in the St. Francis region. I wanted to update you, send you some photographs, and invite you to the third stop on our journey on **October 14** at Border Field, on the U.S./Mexico border.

On June 17 we met at the Santa Barbara Museum and Mission to visit the Sistine Chapel Exhibition. Our plan was to **Gaze and Contemplate** the beautiful works of Michelangelo, originally and still located on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican. Following the method of contemplation of St. Clare, we sought to gaze, that is to fix our attention on the paintings and invite the image to still us and hear the voice of our Loving Lord. St. Clare suggested a deeper contemplation on the object of our attention, to be present to God, as God is present to us. Many of us have visited the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican and have marveled at the paintings. At this exhibit, the paintings were there, right before us, and one could linger as long as we were called to linger, silently open to hear God's voice. Barbara Courtois and I traveled to Santa Barbara and were met by members of the fraternity there for a time of joyful camaraderie. Here are some pictures.



On August 17, nine of us representing three fraternities met at the second stop on our pilgrimage, at Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, to **Consider** how God is working in the world and calling us to follow.



We were met by Carlos, one of the members of the Homeboy's staff, who spent an hour and a half with us showing us the workings of that Homeboy location, and talking to us about Father Greg Boyle, founder and leader of the Homeboy Industries. Barbara Courtois, a member of the St. Francis of Assisi fraternity in Los Angeles, writes:

"While I loved the entire experience, two things stand out for me.

- The genuine sense of joy I felt each time I was greeted or had an interaction with anyone. I believe it is a natural spillover from the love and support that is the heart and core of the Homeboy program.

- I was especially moved by the time we had with the doctors we met who discussed tattoo removal. That is where I really felt that sense of new beginnings, rebirth if you will. I was very touched by the fact that the doctor who spoke to us the majority of the time (I never did catch his name) invited Dr. Nava in to meet us and held her hand all the time that they were talking to us. The love, caring and bonds are infectious.

Most of us live in a world of second chances and do not even realize it, or we take it for granted. We know our God is loving and forgiving and he will always welcome us back. We believe that even when we cannot see it. It is awe inspiring to see that leap of faith in everyone in the program when every experience they have had tells them that once you screw up, you might just as well give up.

"An absolutely amazing day - thank you for putting it together." (By Barbara Courtois)



What a joy it was "to consider" how Father Greg heard the call of God and responded by devoting his ministry to those caught in a web of gangs and crime, telling them God loved them and wanted them safe. Carlos, our guide, told us how he and so many others were now different. I think I am quoting him correctly when I share his words with you:

"When you receive the kind of love we received from Father G, you are so filled with it you want to live well, be kind and loving, and let it flow to others."

Join us, sisters and brothers, on **October 14, 2023**. Using the words of St. Clare, we intend to **Imitate** our Lord who “went out” to the borders to pray and encounter the places and peoples marginalized by the dominant culture. We will gather at Border Field in San Diego, the border between the United States and Mexico, to pray, walk, and be a presence to those caught in the border struggles of our times. We will gather at the Border Field entrance, 1250 Monument Road, San Diego, at 11:00 a.m.



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Note: For more about Gaze, Consider, Contemplate, Imitate, see *Contemplative Vision*, Author unnamed, *Meditating on Lectionary Art*, St. Clare of Assisi’s Method of Contemplation, last viewed August 24, 2023, [(<https://contemplativevision.wordpress.com/>)]

Peace and All Good,

Patricia Grace, OFS

Fraternity News



On Saturday, 8/5/2023, 140 members of the **7 Secular Franciscan Fraternities** had a one-day retreat with Father Paul Ko, OFM, who visited Southern California from Korea, with a mass on the theme of 'Caro'.

Holy Spirit Fraternity



Five members of our Fraternity attended the Regional Retreat at the Serra Retreat Center this year. It was the first year for our Candidate Gail Klien. She just entered candidacy this quarter. Gail is the 2nd from the right in this picture.

We had our annual picnic but it was held indoors because of the heat. As part of this we listened to “*Global Cultures in Encounter*”, by Dr. Lihn Hoang, OFM. This presentation was one of the talks at the Reimaging Francis

Conference presented by Franciscan School of Theology. Since this presentation talked about food as culture and the impact on climate, we reflected on the origins of the food we were sharing at the Fraternity Picnic.

Immaculate Conception Fraternity



Part of the August gathering included the reading of St. Clare’s *Transitus* in both English and Spanish.



Mary Leeds, OFS presents the Reflection in Spanish. Immaculate Conception Fraternity is accompanying *Nuestra Señora de los Angeles* Spanish-speaking Fraternity. Our gatherings are bi-lingually conducted.

St. Maximilian Kolbe & St. Joseph Fraternities

We are happy to announce our newly professed members!

Maria Hamdi and Jesus Alvarez from St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity; and Joselito Turdanes from St. Joseph fraternity were professed during mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Los Angeles, CA on August 26, 2023.

Our Deacon, John Davies opened the mass with a prayer.

The Celebrant was Fr. Christopher Thiel, OFM Cap

A beautiful reception was held after mass on the church patio. After the profession, the celebration continued with lots of time to enjoy a delicious array of food, warm conversations, and catching up with our fellow Franciscans.



Activities of the Secular Franciscan Order 2023



Let's start serving, let's do our best, what we have done so far is little and nothing.



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."