

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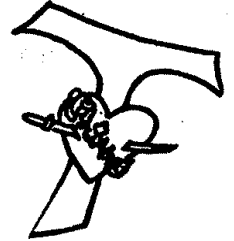
Our Goal for 2024: To visit or call those who are excused and homebound on a regular basis.

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Immaculata Vision ~ August 2024

Immaculata Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order

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



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

Zoom Event: Sunday, October 6, 2024, Noon PST. See Ad in this newsletter.

Calendar of Events for August 2024:

- 2 – Feast Day of the Portiuncula
- 3 – (1st Sat.) – Fraternity Gathering @ 10:00 am @ St. Matthew in Corona.**
- 6 – The Transfiguration of the Lord
- 11 – Feast Day of St. Clare of Assisi
- 11 – Annual District Picnic in Claremont**
- 14 – Feast Day of St. Maximilian Kolbe
- 15 – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 17 – Annual Regional Gathering in Los Alamitos**
- 22 – The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 26 – (the Last Mon.) – Council Meeting 10am @ St. Matthew in Corona**
- 29 – The Passion of St. John the Baptist

Looking Ahead to September 2024...

- 2 – Labor Day Holiday
- 7 – (1st Sat.) – Fraternity Gathering @ 10:00 am @ St. Matthew in Corona.**
- 8 – Grandparents Day Sunday
- 12 – The Most Holy Name of Mary
- 14 – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- 17 – Feast Day of Stigmata of St. Francis
- 23 – St. Pius of Pietrelcina Feast Day
- 30 – (the Last Mon.) – Council Meeting 10am @ St. Matthew in Corona**

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Birthdays & Profession Anniversaries:

- August Birthdays: 1st – Sekoiya Spencer
- 12th – Raul Bosque
- 16th – Georgia Zepek
- 17th – Donna Baylor
- August Profession Anniversaries: 2nd – Donna Baylor, 2010
- 2nd – Brenda Rogers, 2010
- September Birthdays: 24th – Carol Bryant
- September Profession Anniversary: 17th – Sekoiya Spencer, 2018

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Our Next Fraternity Gathering/Meeting will be on Saturday, September 7th @ 10:00 am @ St. Matthews.

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Heads Up! The Annual District Picnic will be August 11th, 2024, at Blaisdell Park, 440 S College Ave, Claremont, CA 91711 at 4pm. Is anyone going?

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**2024 Annual Regional Gathering
In celebration of the Eighth Centenary
Of the Stigmata of St. Francis**

**Saturday, August 17th
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

**St. Hedwig's Parish
11482 Los Alamitos Blvd.
Los Alamitos, CA 90720**

Presenter in English: Fr. Joseph Chinnici
Presenter in Korean: Fr. Yongho Francis Lee, OFM
Each fraternity is asked to bring a light breakfast item (fruit, pastries, or yogurt, etc.) for 10-12 people and food for the potluck lunch.
To help save our planet, we request that attendees bring their own plate, utensils and cup/mug.

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Prayer for Civility

From Mary Frances Charsky, OFS
International Councilor, OFS-USA
Email Dated Sunday, July 14, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May the Lord give you peace.

Please read and share this **Prayer for Civility** with your fraternity brothers and sisters. Our Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church included this prayer in our bulletin. It is most appropriate in these difficult and polarized times.

Prayer for Civility

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where uncivil words prevail, show me how to model love.
Help me remember the God-given dignity of all and invite others to do the same.
Show me how to build bridges and not walls and see first what unites us rather than how we diverge.
Let me seek to understand before asking to be understood.**

Give me a listening heart filled with empathy and compassion.

May I be clear in sharing my own position and respectful and civil in describing those of others.

Let me never tolerate hateful ideas. My I invite all to charity and love.

Lord, help me to imitate your compassion and mercy. Make me an instrument of your peace.

Amen.

Pope Francis challenges us in *Fratelli Tutti*, no. 154, and the United State Conference of Catholic Bishops encourages us to follow the example of the Good Samaritan as in *Fratelli Tutti*, no. 80. The **Prayer for Civility** is also attached. (See above)

Thank you all.

Hope, peace and all good.

Mary Frances Charsky, OFS

International Councilor, OFS-USA

mfcharsky@gmail.com

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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:

The Voice of God

Among all the voices that surround and beckon us, we need to discern the unique cadence of God's voice. And we have a number of principles that come to us from Jesus, from Scripture, and from the deep wells of our Christian tradition that can help us discern God's voice among the multitude of voices that beckon us:

- The voice of God is recognized both in whispers, and in thunder and in storm.
- The voice of God is recognized in the call to what's higher and invites us to holiness, even as it is recognized in the call to humility.
- The voice of God is the one that most challenges and stretches us, even as it is the only voice that ultimately soothes and comforts us.
- The voice of God always invites us to live beyond all fear, even as it inspires holy fear.
- The voice of God is always heard wherever there is genuine enjoyment and gratitude, even as it asks us to deny ourselves and die to ourselves.

—from the book *Prayer: Our Deepest Longing*,

by Ronald Rolheiser

Prayerfully yours, Lisa B.

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**From the Formation Desk of Arsenio Benedicto, OFS
Your Friendly Neighborhood Formation Director
25 Franciscan Martyrs in China: Caught in the
Crossfire of Political Currents**

By Dominic Monti, OFM Published July 08, 2021

On July 8, the Franciscan family honors the memory of a group of 25 Franciscans, both European missionary friars and sisters and native Secular Franciscans, who were martyred in Shanxi province, China, this day in 1900 during the Boxer Rebellion.

Martyred during the 1900 Boxer Rebellion in China

As has often been the case, Western missionaries who had come to a foreign country to bring the Gospel to native

peoples became caught in the crossfire of wider political currents. In 1898 several European governments exacted significant financial and territorial concessions from the Chinese Empire, capping a process that had been going on since the 1840s. The imperial government also promulgated some liberal "reforms" bringing significant Western perspectives into the Chinese educational system.

Goal to eliminate all foreign influence in China

In reaction, a strong militant populist movement, the "Righteous and Harmonious Fists" (Yihequan), known to Westerners as "Boxers," began forming with the goal of eliminating all foreign influence in the country. The conservative Empress Dowager Cixi seized control of the government with the support of the "Boxers" and in June 1900 declared war on the Western powers and Japan.

Franciscans expand their presence

Italian Franciscan friar missionaries had begun working in Shanxi province in the 18th century, but with greater toleration of Christianity since the 1840s, they had expanded their presence greatly. The friars had maintained a mission around the city of Taiyuan for over 30 years. The Bishop of Northern Shanxi, Gregory Grassi, OFM, was based in the city, where the friars conducted a seminary to train a native Chinese clergy. There was also an orphanage, staffed by seven young Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, who had arrived only the year before, headed by Sr. Marie-Hermine de Jésus.

Pressure rises against Christians

When war was declared in June 1900, pressure rose against Christians. On July 1, the governor of Shanxi, Yuxian, issued a harsh edict calling on Chinese Christians to apostatize. On the afternoon of July 5, Boxer mobs raided the Taiyuan mission and apprehended 5 friars, the 7 sisters, as well as 11 Chinese Secular Franciscans, of whom 6 were seminarians, the others lay employees at the mission, as well as 3 other lay employees. They all were brutally executed several days later.

Christianity cannot be crushed

A number of Protestant missionaries and their families, including children, were also massacred at the same time. Also, three other Italian friar missionaries were killed in Hunan province several days earlier. Over the course of the summer, well over 2,000 Chinese Christians were killed in the province of Shanxi. But Christianity could not be crushed—and 25 years later several hundred Franciscan missionaries were working actively in China with great effect.

Church canonizes large group of Chinese martyrs

This group of Franciscans was beatified in 1946 and canonized as saints in 2000 with a large group of other Chinese martyrs. There is a good link on the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary at:

<https://fmm.org/saints-and-blessed/>

Submitted by Your Friendly Neighborhood Formation Director, Arsenio B.

Formation Friday July 12, 2024

Formation Friday is the work product of the National Formation Commission of the Secular Franciscan Order-USA. Please keep all citations and references intact.

St. Francis and the Eucharist

(Please share with your local fraternity)

Since July is the month of the Precious Blood, and we are also celebrating the three-year Eucharistic Revival, we repeat some of our previous posts on the Eucharist this month.

St. Francis centered his life and spirituality on the Incarnation, the humanity of Christ. He was in awe that God "bent down" to be with us through his birth; through his suffering and death on the cross; and through the Eucharist by which he remains with us for all time.

“26 Let everyone be struck with fear, let the whole world tremble, and let the heavens exult when Christ, the Son of the living God, is present on the altar in the hands of a priest. 27 O wonderful loftiness and stupendous dignity! O sublime humility! O humble sublimity! The Lord of the universe, God and the Son of God, so humbles Himself that for our salvation He hides Himself under an ordinary piece of bread!

28 Brothers, look at the humility of God, and pour out your hearts before Him! Ps 62:9 [Vulgate, Ps 61:9] Humble yourselves that you may be exalted by Him! 1 Pt 5:6 Jas 4:10 29 Hold back nothing of yourselves for yourselves, that He Who gives Himself totally to you may receive you totally!” (A Letter to the Entire Order: FA:ED, vol. 1, p. 118)

“10 And I act in this way because, in this world, I see nothing corporally of the most high Son of God except His most holy Body and Blood which they receive and they alone administer to others. 11 I want to have these most holy mysteries honored and venerated above all things and I want to reserve them in precious places.” (The Testament: FA:ED, vol. 1, p. 125)

“2 With all that is in me and more I beg you that, when it is fitting and you judge it expedient, you humbly beg the clergy to revere above all else the most holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ...” (The First Letter to the Custodians (1220): FA:ED, vol. 1, p. 56)

“I implore all of you brothers to show all possible reverence and honor to the most holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ 13 in Whom that which is in heaven and on earth has been brought to peace and reconciled to almighty God.” Col 1:20

(A Letter to the Entire Order: FA:ED, vol. 1, p. 117)

“This is my Body and the Blood of my new covenant [which will be shed for many] ;{snippet Mk 14:22} 11 and Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life. {snippet Mk 14:24} 12 It is the Spirit of the Lord, {snippet Jn 6:55} therefore, That lives in Its faithful, That receives the Body and Blood of the Lord. 13 All others who do not share in this same Spirit and presume to receive Him eat and drink judgment on themselves. {snippet 1 Cor 11:29}” (The Admonitions: FA:ED, vol. 1, p. 129)

“We must, of course, confess all our sins to a priest and receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ from him. b 23 Whoever does not eat His flesh and drink His blood cannot enter the kingdom of God. {snippet Jn 6:54} {snippet J... (Later Admonition and Exhortation: FA:ED, vol. 1, p. 47)

“Francis speaks most often about the Eucharist, even more than about poverty. For him, the Eucharist is not only a mystery, a sacrament, it is a living person: it is Christ completely given into the hands of a man, fragile and defenseless, just as he was in Bethlehem. From this come his tender feelings for everything to do with the Sacrament of the altar, and his preoccupation with the dignity and cleanliness of the church and sacred vessels.” (Raniero Cantalamessa, O.F.M. Cap “It Is Not Good For Man to Be Alone”: Clare and Francis: CA:ED, p. 11)

A good video by Bishop Barron on the Eucharist:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sgv_TFeIyiM&t=126s (Real Presence)

Visit the Eucharistic Revival

website: <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/>

Questions for discussion or to answer in your journal.

Read and think about the quotes above. As you think about what St. Francis said (and what was said about his devotion to the Eucharist) consider your own feelings about the Eucharist.

+ Why is the Eucharist important to you as a Catholic? As a Franciscan?

+ How do you prepare to receive the Body and Blood of Christ?

+ How is the Eucharist tied to our Franciscan spirituality?

+ Where is the Eucharist mentioned in the OFS Rule? (Also refer to the Prologue)

Submitted by Your Friendly Neighborhood Formation Director, Arsenio B.

Formation Friday August 2, 2024

Formation Friday is the work product of the National Formation Commission of the Secular Franciscan Order-USA. Please keep all citations and references intact.

The Pardon of Assisi – The Porziuncola Indulgence— Celebrated on August 2. Please share with your local fraternity

+ The sixteenth century Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels envelops the tiny chapel known as the Porziuncola.

+ This chapel was one of the churches restored by St. Francis.

+ This is the spot where, while listening to the Gospel, Francis understood what he was called by God to do.

+ Here he founded the Order in 1209.

+ St. Clare received her religious habit from the hands of Francis here in 1211.

+ In 1216 as Francis prayed that everyone could be brought to heaven, he obtained from Jesus in a vision the PARDON OF ASSISI—a plenary indulgence, which was later ratified by Pope Honorius III.

+ This is where the friars’ early general chapters were held—the Chapter of Mats of 1221 was attended by 5,000 friars.

+ Here, on October 3, 1226, St. Francis welcomed Sister Death lying naked on the ground just outside the chapel.

“See to it, my sons, that you never abandon this place. If you are driven out from one side, go back in at the other. For this place is truly holy and is the dwelling place of God. Here, when we were but a few, the Most High gave us increase; here he enlightened the hearts of his poor ones by the light of his wisdom; here he set our wills on fire with the flame of his love. Here he who prays with a devout heart will obtain what he prays for and he who offends will be punished more severely. Wherefore, my sons, consider this dwelling place of God to be worthy of all honour, and with all your, with voice of joy, and praise, give glory to the Lord in this place.” (Words of the dying St. Francis, Celano 1, n. 106)

The Conditions for Receiving the Pardon

+ Each year from vespers on August 1 through August 2 (Feast of Our Lady of the Angels) you should visit either a Franciscan church or your own church. (At first the indulgence was only given for the Porziuncola, but it has been widened over the years.)

+ You may obtain the indulgence any day of the year upon visiting the Porziuncola itself.

CONDITIONS TO OBTAIN THE PARDON OF ASSISI Plenary Indulgence--(for oneself or for a departed soul)

- Sacramental Confession to be in God’s sanctifying grace *(to be received within eight days before or after initiate “appeal” for the Plenary Indulgence);

- *Participation in the Holy Mass with reception of the Holy Eucharist.

- Visit to a Catholic Church, followed by the Profession of FAITH (Nicene Creed or Apostles Creed),

- Recite the OUR FATHER, in order to reaffirm and give witness to one’s Christian dignity, as a child of God, that one received in Baptism;

• Pray for the Pope's intentions: as Vicar of Christ, Shepherd of the Universal Church, and visible sign of unity among the Faithful

Excellent reference on this

topic: <http://www.shrinesf.org/pardon-of-assisi.html>

Also, if you are able to read Spanish, the link below has a very interesting article about the Porziuncola.

For discussion and reflection

- + Read Matthew 10: 9-15. This is the gospel that Francis heard read at the Porziuncola. Reflect on its meaning to all Franciscans and to us as Secular Franciscans.
- + On August 1-2, visit a Franciscan or other church and follow the conditions to receive the indulgence.
- + While you are there, spend time with the Blessed Sacrament. Consider your vocation and what God is asking of you.

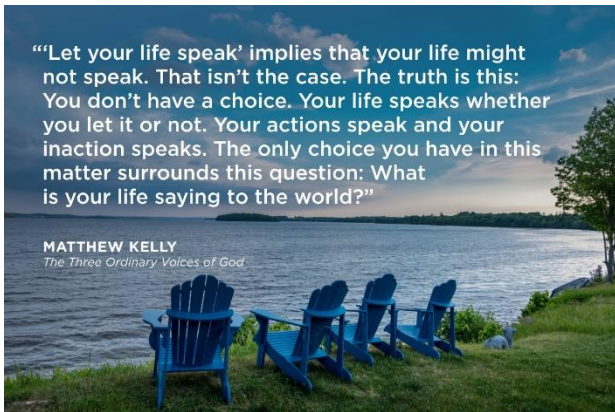
Submitted by Your Friendly Neighborhood Formation Director, Arsenio B.

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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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Secular Franciscan Order — St. Francis Region #52 Southern California Summer Edition — 2024 St. Francis Regional News!

Minister’s Message: New Theme for the Region

During the past term of the Regional Executive Council (REC), we had the theme: “Bearing good fruit with Franciscan JOY!” In other words, to make a positive difference in our daily living – to do and be for others someone who gives hope and love with a generous spirit, and with the same joy exhibited by St. Francis. Sometimes that can be as simple as a smile and a kind word or compliment. Or it can be cancelling one’s plans to help someone in need. Whether it is a small act or a big sacrifice, to do it with Franciscan joy makes it an even greater gift.

The new REC has chosen a new theme for the current term: “This is what I want!” All professed members should recognize this statement since we all said it three times

following our “Yes” during our professions into the Order. We may remember saying it, but do we remember the three questions that it answered? In this Joy of Francis issue, we’ll consider the first of the three questions, which is: “Do you wish to embrace the gospel way of life by following the example and words of St. Francis of Assisi, which are at the heart of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order?”

What does it mean to “embrace the gospel way of life”? It doesn’t mean just reading the Gospels or studying Franciscan writings or the Rule. Embracing means to enthusiastically accept something – in this case, gospel living. More specifically, to live knowing that God loves us more deeply than we can imagine, and that our response should be to love others with grace and humility.

To “follow the example and words of St. Francis” means, as Francis said, doing what is ours to do. It is not what the world directs us to do, but what the Lord wishes us to do, with St. Francis and Jesus as our models. And this takes us back to scripture and Franciscan writings to learn about Francis and Jesus, and to understand how we are to live the gospel way of life. From Gospel to life, and life to Gospel.

Each night, as we consider what we’ve done during the day, it is good to ask ourselves how we’ve “embraced the gospel way of life” and “followed the example and words of St. Francis.” It is a good Franciscan examination of conscience. Peace & JOY! Caroline

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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.



Feast of Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula August 2nd. August 2nd, is a special day for all Franciscans,

as we celebrate The Feast of Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula.

When St. Francis was discerning his vocation, he heard the Lord tell him, "Go and build my church". Francis taking what he heard literally,

went and repaired chapels that were deteriorating. The Portiuncula or the “Little Portion,” dedicated to St. Mary of the Angels was one of the three chapels he repaired. The chapel and the land belongs to the Benedictines for it was given to St. Benedict in the 6th century. However, the friars came to live at the Portiuncula in early 1211. It became the “motherhouse” of the Franciscans. It is now enclosed in a basilica in Assisi and the original structure of the Portiuncula

is preserved. St. Francis of Assisi persuaded Pope Honorius III to grant a plenary indulgence to all those who visited the Portiuncula on August 2 and confessed their sins. This indulgence has been extended to all churches, especially those held by Franciscans, throughout the world.

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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, Sunday, October 6**
(see below)
2025: The Canticle of the Creatures
2026: The Easter of St. Francis

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SAVE THE DATE!

Zoom Event for the Centenary of the Stigmata
The Secular Franciscan Order will celebrate the 800th anniversary of St. Francis' receiving the Stigmata at a national Zoom webinar this fall.

Mark your calendars now:

Date: Sunday, October 6, 2024

Time: Noon Pacific Time

Duration: 75 minutes

Our plans include a talk on the Stigmata by Dr. Darlene Pryds, Associate Professor of Christian Spirituality and History at the Franciscan School of Theology, and a panel discussion featuring members of our national leadership. This will provide us with multiple perspectives on how Francis' experience connects to our lives as Secular Franciscans today. The invitation to register for the Zoom event will be sent out about a month beforehand via our regional ministers and regional formation directors. If you would like the registration information to be sent directly to you, please go to groups.google.com and request to be added to: "NAFRACentenaryContacts." We hope to see you there!

Vickie Klick, OFS Chair, Centenary Task Force

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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:

- May 30, 2024: Sekoiya Spencer** needs prayers for the pain and rash of shingles.
- May 23, 2024: Bruce** needs prayers for all the pain he's in.
- May 22, 2024:** Please continue to keep **Joice & Romy** in your prayers due to a lingering cough.
- Jan. 31, 2024:** Please continue to keep **Ray Hardwick** in your prayers. His health issues don't seem to be getting any better. And he can no longer attend our Fraternity Gatherings.
- July, 2024** Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Brenda Roger's mother**, who passed away on July 2nd. Please continue to keep in your prayers **Brenda Rogers and her family**. **Hopefully Brenda can come back to our Fraternity Gatherings again soon.**
- March, 2023** ~ Please pray for **Jim Rogers (who has dementia)**, and **Mickie Rogers** as Jim's care giver.

Feb. 1, 2023, from Joice: Kindly continue to pray for **Deacon Jim**. 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. Hopefully, he can come back to our Fraternity Gatherings, since we're gathering at St. Matthews in Corona.

Please pray for **Sekoiya 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 2024-25. 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:

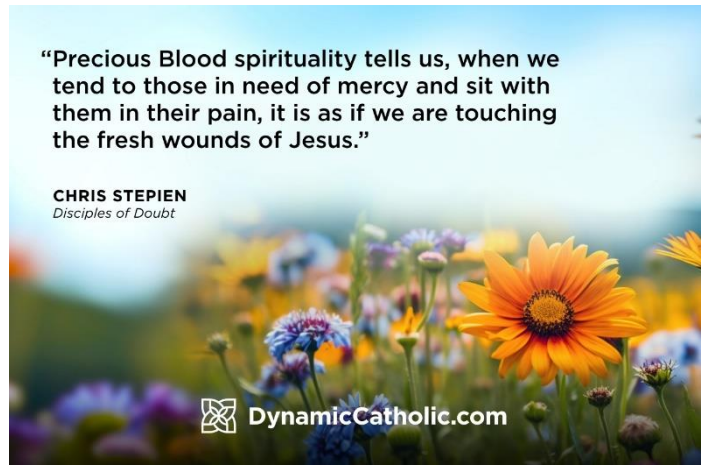
- Aug 3rd, Chapter 7: Leprosy: **Velma Chromity, OFS**
- Sept. 7th, Chapter 8: Fraternity: **Lisa Boebinger, OFS**
- Oct. 5th, Chapter 9: Catholicism: **Arsenio Benedicto, OFS**
- Nov. 2nd, Chapter 10: St. Francis and Nonbelievers: **Nik Peterson, OFS**
- Dec. 7th, Chapter 11: Creation: **Gilbert Ortiz, OFS**
- 2025**, Jan. 4th, Chapter 12: Franciscan Prayer: **Sekoiya Spencer, OFS**
- Feb. 1st, Chapter 13: Peace and Peacemaking: **David Burrola, OFS?**
- Mar. 1st, Chapter 14: Evangelization: **Joice Quinsaas, OFS**
- Apr. 5th, Epilogue: That we might follow His footprints: **Lisa B., OFS**

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“God goes to heroic lengths to guide, warn, coach, and direct his children. Not just in the past, but here and now, today.”

MATTHEW KELLY
The Three Ordinary Voices of God



“Precious Blood spirituality tells us, when we tend to those in need of mercy and sit with them in their pain, it is as if we are touching the fresh wounds of Jesus.”

CHRIS STEPIEN
Disciples of Doubt

 DynamicCatholic.com

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Pause + Pray

Firstfruits

Reflect

Today, reflect on this passage where the word *firstfruits* appears: “But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Cor 15:20). What images, thoughts, and feelings arise pondering Christ as the firstfruit?

Pray

God, I thank you for the bounty of all you have given me, especially how your words reveal the beauty and mystery of Christ.

There’s abundance—infinite abundance—in all you offer. Even with one single word, like fruit, you can fill me.

Act

As you go through your day, notice what words of comfort and faith you are drawn to. “Steadfast,” “mercy,” “Magnificat.” There are so many—a windfall that keeps nourishing us.

(Today’s Pause+Pray was written by Maureen O’Brien.)

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“Sacrificial love brings meaning to our lives in a culture of meaninglessness. It binds us together in a world intent on tearing everyone apart. It provides healing in a culture overwhelmed with wounds.”

MATTHEW KELLY
33 Days to Eucharistic Glory for Kids

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Important Notice
for Fraternity Ministers and Spiritual Assistants
The 2025 Chapter will be on the **first weekend** in January, Saturday the 4th to Sunday the 5th at Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center in Sierra Madre

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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.

