

St. Padre Pio Press

March, 2017

April Meetings

Our fraternity meeting will occur on Sunday, April 9th at 12:30 PM in St. Patrick House which is located up the hill behind the church. Parking at the top of the hill is limited. You may park at the bottom and come up the stairs if you are able. It is Palm Sunday, so come a bit early for easier parking. Remember to bring something to share for the potluck which always follows the meeting. Our council meeting will be held on Saturday, April 8th at the Serros' home in Moreno Valley.

Las Cartas



Reflection—Draw near to God

We as Franciscans are followers of Jesus and we are called to listen to the words of Jesus. "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you of two minds." (James 4:8) We are called not to just hear the words of God but to live it. In other words, we are called to do His holy will. We may, at times, have difficulties, afflictions, and challenges. We may say that these burdens are too difficult to carry and that they weigh us down. But Jesus says, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." (Matthew 16:24) Our Lord is ever present to help us carry our burdens. Our pride and selfishness draw us away from our Lord. Carry the words of Jesus in your hearts. Our Lord is ever merciful, compassionate, and loving. Our

Lord sees our goodness and forgives our sins, if we but keep Him close.

Peace and All Good, Janet

Words of Padre Pio



Let us adhere to the will of God.

Let us be the star on which we rest our gaze throughout this navigation, because, in that way, we cannot but reach the right port.

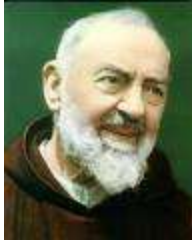


I would like to thank my Franciscan brothers and sisters for their love offered during the loss of my mother Guadalupe. I thank you on behalf of the entire Serros family. The rosary done by the Secular Franciscans was just beautiful. Thank you for the many condolence cards and Mass cards. I would like to thank Dixie and Jane for being there prior to my mother's passing. To all my Franciscan family, you honored my mom with your presence during her services. My love and prayers for all of you. *Janet*

Words of Faith for Difficult Times



If God brings me to it, God will see me through it.



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Day Away with Father Steve



Father Steve Gross, OFM, Conv.

Fraternities from the Riverside/San Bernardino District met at St. Matthew Catholic Church for a daylong Lenten retreat with father Steve Gross on Saturday, March 11, 2017. Several members of the St. Padre Pio Fraternity were in attendance.

Father Steve spoke on Lent. Lent is a time of purification. You must desire Christ who will transform you. In the Eastern Catholic church, the community begins lent at Sunday Vespers with forgiveness.

On Eden: We are called back to our roots of what we once had, what we were given, and what we lost. Each year, we are called back to God to be closer to Him.

In everlasting life, we are incorporated into the God who made us. Earthly things will cease to exist for us. There is a period of purification; a time of readjustment. We allow this because of our faith. God will never violate our freedom to make choices. We are always given the opportunity to start over again. Lent is a time for this new beginning.

Fasting is a chastisement of the body. All of the addictions we have are things we cannot let go of. These things get in the way of us as good and holy people.

Ongoing conversation is a call to a way of life. We are happily involved with this way of life. We must take care of ourselves and the growth that this way of life brings with it.

On reconciliation, Father Steve says that where forgiveness needs to be given, we must give it. Where forgiveness needs to be received, we need to be open to receive it. We know we are called to more, and we need to be about it together in a Christian way.

Moving forward can be scary, and staying in one place feels safe. God is calling us apart to be of service to the larger community. Often, we don't want to let go and do what God calls us to do.

Profession is a public consecration. Our human formation needs to be in good order. It must fit with Christian Catholic formation and Franciscan formation.

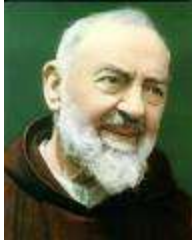
These are questions we must ask ourselves. "Who do you love? Who loves you? Are you happy?" Be humbly aware of who God is in your life. Ask yourself, "Who are the gods you worship?"

We need to be childlike. This is not the same as childish. Instead, it is a delightful simplicity that we embrace. Life is a sense of "Wow!"

Enlightenment is a part of divine nature. Every movement that is attempted by the enemy is thwarted. The original sin was taking knowledge when they wanted it and not waiting for God's time and will. God's will is not always apparent to us. We must trust and wait in faith. All of us receive God's gifts in His own time. We must ask ourselves what we will do with these gifts and use them to inspire others.



How do you use your gifts to inspire others?



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Saints' Corner

St. Bernadette Soubirous



St. Bernadette was born in Lourdes, France on January 7, 1844. She was born to a poor family and was the eldest of nine children. While a toddler, she contracted cholera and suffered from asthma. She was to suffer from poor health for the rest of her life.

On February 11, 1858 at the age of fourteen, Bernadette was sent with her younger sister and their friend to gather firewood. A beautiful lady appeared to Bernadette above a rose bush.

The woman, dressed in blue and white, smiled at Bernadette before making the sign of the cross with an ivory and gold rosary. Bernadette fell to her knees and began to pray the Rosary. She would later say that the woman was a small young lady. Even though her sister and friend could not see the lady, Bernadette knew that she was real.

Three days later, the girls returned to the grotto where Bernadette knelt saying she could see the lady again. She fell into a trance and one girl threw holy water at the niche. Another threw a rock that shattered on the ground and the vision disappeared.

On February 18th, Bernadette said the lady had asked her to return to the grotto each

day for two weeks. She saw the vision of the Virgin Mary daily during the "holy fortnight." Her parents were embarrassed and attempted to stop her, but could not. On February 25th, Bernadette had a life changing vision.

The vision told her to drink of the water of the spring, to wash in it, and to eat the herb that grew there as an act of penance. The next day, the muddy water cleared and the spring flowed clear.

On March 2nd, Bernadette was told that a chapel should be built and a procession formed. During the sixteenth vision, Bernadette said that after asking the lady her name four times, the woman said, "I am the Immaculate Conception."

Many townspeople believed she had seen the Holy Virgin. Others believed she was mentally ill. Still others felt she needed to pray for penance.

Church authorities and the French government interviewed the girl, and by 1862, confirmed that she spoke the truth. Since Bernadette caused the spring to produce clean water, many cures have been verified by the Lourdes Medical Bureau. These cures could not be explained. The only thing that was determined was that the water contained a high mineral content. Bernadette believed it was faith and prayer that caused the cures.

Bernadette asked the local priest to build a chapel at the site of her visions. The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes is today a pilgrimage site. She is the patron of illness people who are ridiculed for their faith, shepherds and shepherdesses, and Lourdes, France. Her feast day is April 16th.

From Catholic Online



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March, 2017

April Calendar of Saints

- 3 St. Benedict the Black
- 16 St. Bernadette Soubirous
- 17 St. Benedict Joseph Labre
- 21 St. Conrad of Parzham
- 23 Bl. Giles of Assisi
- 24 St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen
- 28 Bl. Luchesius

Change for Charity



Our Change for Charity fund is beginning a new year. We send donations to three charities at the beginning of each year. Please remember to add any spare change or bigger bills if you have been blessed. God will bless you and those in need will bless you as well.



Pray for all who suffer because of terrorism and war throughout the world. Please Pray

- Julie Bash
- Sanctity of marriage
- Janet Serros and family
- Guadalupe Serros-Repouse of soul
- Anne Hurst (health of her eyes)
- Robbie Ward
- Barbara and Tom Turkowski
- Health and wellbeing of Betty Sonderman and her friends and family especially her daughter
- The end of human trafficking
- The end of domestic violence
- Gerald Borne, Jr.
- Discernment for all of those who are in formation
- Baby Nova Martensen-cure of her cancer

Franciscan School of Theology

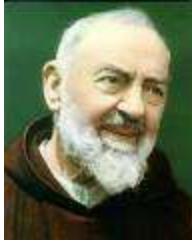
The Franciscan School of Theology is now located at Mission San Luis Rey. According to an email from region, Secular Franciscans will receive a discount on tuition. Phone numbers are (760) 547-1800 or toll free (855) 355-1550.



Pray for our military and all first responders

Obligations for the Professed of the Secular Franciscan Order

- To join in Liturgical prayer in one of the forms proposed by the Church, preferably the Liturgy of the Hours
- To wear the Secular Franciscan habit (Tau Cross)
- To examine one's conscience daily
- To contribute to the Fraternity's common fund according to one's means
- To observe the commandments of God and the precepts of the Holy Mother Church
- To attend monthly meetings for on-going formation and community building
- To observe moderation of dress, recreation, food, and manner of life.
- To give good example, avoid disputes, and minister to the needs of others, especially the poor.
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SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER RETREAT MAY 26 – 28, 2017

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI: FRANCISCAN WOMAN, LEADER, HEALER AND FRIEND

Considered to be the "First Franciscan Woman", Clare is true to her name, which means *Light*. We will explore the times in which she lived, her life as a follower of Francis, her feminine approach to leading her Sisters, her relationship within and beyond the Franciscan Order, and her miraculous healing which led to her canonization as a Saint.



RETREAT MASTER: SR. JOANNE SCHATZLEIN, OSF

Joanne Schatzlein is a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, whose Motherhouse is in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She is a native of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and entered her Congregation in 1965. She received her BSN in Nursing from Marquette University, and holds a Masters Degree in Franciscan Studies from St. Bonaventure University. She is currently the director of the Office of Corporate Ministries for her congregation and continues to serve as a staff member for Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs based in Franklin, WI.

Registration form for Secular Franciscan Order Retreat

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number: _____ *Email: _____

Parish _____ City _____

Single Room (\$280) Double Room (\$220) Roommate Name: _____

DO YOU NEED A 1st FLOOR ROOM FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES? Please circle Y or N

Credit Card Information:

#: ____/____/____/____ Exp: ____/____ CVV # ____ Billing Zip Code ____

Please note a \$50 non-refundable deposit is required for registration. Checks can be made to Serra Retreat. Full balance is due 2 weeks prior to retreat. Specific rooms are not guaranteed.

Check-in at 3pm on Friday

Help us go green: Please print email address clearly. Confirmations are sent via email.
3401 Serra Rd, P.O. Box 127, Malibu, CA. 90265 (310) 456-6631 or Fax (310) 456-9417
www.serraretreat.com