



St. Padre Pio Press

April, 2018

April Meetings

Our April meeting will occur on Sunday, April 8th at 12:30 PM at St. Patrick House. Jon will speak on the book he read on St. Francis of Assisi for ongoing formation. We will then break into discussion groups and come back together to share. Please bring something to share for our potluck during social hour. The council will meet at St. Patrick House after the district meeting is over. Our minister, vice-minister, and formation director will attend the district meeting. Other council members should arrive around 12:30.

New Candidates Received



Left to right: Monica Jackson, Jon Jackson, and Charles Howard were received as candidates during a ceremony at our meeting.

Serra Retreat



View from the Point

Just a reminder that the annual Secular Franciscan Retreat will take place on Memorial Day weekend, May 25-27, at Serra Retreat Center in Malibu. Sr. Margaret Carney, OSF will be the retreat master. The theme is A Lover's Quarrel with the World: The Mission of the First Franciscans—and Ours. The Flyer will be

attached separately to this newsletter. If you have never been to Serra, you will fall in love. There will be time given to meditate quietly and to enjoy the beautiful natural setting. Social time will occur each evening. Please consider attending this wonderful retreat with your Franciscan brothers and sisters.

A New Kind of Fool

From the writing of Murray Bodo, OFM
Meditations on the Words of St. Francis

Words of St. Francis: The Lord has called me to the simple and humble way and has indeed made this way known through me and through all those who choose to believe me and follow me. God told me I am to be a new kind of fool in this world.

Fr. Bodo points out that Francis, though he was born the son of a rich merchant, chose the Gospel over wealth. Many people made fun of him and called him a fool and a madman. Other people believed that his "foolishness" was actually wisdom.

People began to see that Francis brought love to what the world considered to be unlovable. He dwelt among the lepers. Soon he had amassed a large family. Father Bodo says, "Love begins where we decide to bring love."

Meditation/Action: Where is there little love in my life and how can I make a difference? Take time to meditate on this and take action. Come ready to share with your brothers and sisters on Sunday.





Saints' Corner

Feast Day: April 16

Patron: illness, people ridiculed for their piety, poverty, shepherds, shepherdesses, and Lourdes, France



The first of nine children, St. Bernadette was born into poverty in Lourdes, France on January 7, 1844. As a toddler, she contracted cholera and asthma. This caused her to live the rest of her life in poor health.

At the age of 14, on February 11, 1858, Bernadette and her sister went with a friend to gather firewood. A beautiful lady appeared to her above a rosebush in a grotto called Massabielle.

The woman wore blue and white and made the sign of the cross with a rosary made of ivory and gold. Bernadette fell to her knees, took out her own rosary, and began to pray. She saw the small young lady, but her sister and friend could not see her. She saw the lady again three days later.

On February 18, Bernadette reported that the vision wanted her to return to the grotto each day for two weeks. Each day she returned, Bernadette saw the Virgin Mary.

Her embarrassed parents attempted to stop her, but could not do so. On February 25, Bernadette claimed to have had a life-changing vision.

The Lady had told her "to drink 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 grotto's muddy waters cleared and fresh water flowed.

On March 2, the thirteenth of the apparitions, Bernadette told her family that "a chapel should be built and a procession formed."

When Bernadette asked the woman her name during the sixteenth vision, the lady only smiled, but finally said, "I am the Immaculate Conception."

Many people in the town believed she had been seeing the Virgin Mary, but other thought she was suffering from mental illness. Still others thought she needed to pray for penance.

The Church and the French government interviewed the girl and by 1862 determined she had spoken the truth. Many cures have been verified by the Lourdes Medical Bureau. No one was able to explain what had caused the cures.

In July of 1866, Bernadette took the habit of a postulant and joined the Sisters of Charity at their motherhouse in Nevers. She was named Marie-Bernarde. She spent the rest of her life working as an infirmiry assistant and a sacristan. People admired her for her humility and spiritual sacrifice. When asked if she was tempted to be prideful because the Blessed Mother favored her, she answered, "How can I? The Blessed Virgin chose me only because I was the most ignorant."

Diagnosed with tuberculosis of the bone in her knee, she was unable to take part in convent life. She died in Saint Croix Infirmary of the Convent of Saint-Gildard at the age of 35 while praying the rosary. She was exhumed thirty years later and was found to be incorrupt. In 1925, it was found that the body was mummified with some patches of mildew, but that most of the skin was present. Relics were sent to Rome and an imprint of her face was molded which was used to create a wax mask to be placed on her body. Imprints were also

made of her hands. Her body was placed in a gold and crystal reliquary in the Chapel of Saint Bernadette at the mother house in Nevers. A doctor who viewed the body in 1928, said that the body was amazingly preserved.

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

April Birthdays



- 6 Gilbert Ortiz

Anniversary of Profession



- 4/10/05 Denise Leslie

Change for Charity



Our Change for Charity fund is continuing. 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
- End to abortion
- Sanctity of marriage
- Gilbert Serros
- Anne Hurst (health of her eyes)
- Barbara Turkowski
- Health and wellbeing of Betty Sonderman and her friends and family
- The end of human trafficking
- The end of domestic violence
- Gerald Borne, Jr.
- Discernment for all of those who are in formation
- Gilbert Williams--health
- Agatha Borne
- Agatha's daughter Panchita and granddaughter Erika
- Ted Hewitt
- Edison Marshall
- George Wurzel
- Charles Hale
- Christine

Franciscan School of Theology

The Franciscan School of Theology is now located at Mission San Luis Rey. Phone numbers are (760) 547-1800 or toll free (855) 355-1550.



Pray for travel mercies for Jane and Stephanie.