



# St. Padre Pio Press

January, 2018

## Epiphany Party at January 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting



We will have our annual celebration of Epiphany at our January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. For those of you who have never experienced this, you are in for a treat. Everyone will receive a small gift to help with spiritual growth, a personal Bible verse to guide you, a prayer partner, a deceased brother or sister to pray for, and a Franciscan saint to guide you by example. We will hear from candidate David I'Anson about his pilgrimage, and we will talk about forgiveness in order to prepare for Lent. Please remember to bring a little something for the potluck. We will see you there.

### Las Cartas



#### Reflection—Perseverance

We are called to persevere with Christ, even though we have difficulties and barriers that block our peace. We are to take a step forward with Jesus and not a step backward. God sustains us with His love and presence. Despite our weaknesses and imperfections, God loves us, and we are able to move forward in our ongoing conversion.

Jesus and His gospel are the heart of our Franciscan way of life. Our commitment to our Rule is made and lived in our community (the Fraternity). One of the reasons we emphasize that attending Fraternity meetings is essential, is because it is the way we contribute to our community and to one another. Our way of life calls us to leave our pride, self-importance, and lace of humility behind. So, I encourage you as we begin this New Year to

recall what our Rule states in part, “Let them also follow the poor crucified Christ, witness to Him even in difficulties and persecutions.”

Peace and All Good, Janet

### See you later, Dear Brother



John Dillon

Our dear brother, John Dillon, went home to the Lord on January 5, 2018. He had been ill and in care for some time before his death. John was to have been professed on February 10, 2018. He wished for nothing more than to be able to attend his profession. He told his formation team that he knew that he would never be able to be a leader, but that all he wanted was to be the best Franciscan he could be for the time God gave him.

John was the eldest of five children and was a pharmacist. He cared for his mother in her later years.

John was a fine example of dedication to the Franciscan community and way of life as well. When there was an event such as the gathering or when one of our community suffered a loss, John would take a room in the area where the event or the funeral was to be held so that he could be present. Travel was difficult for him, but he so wanted to be a good Franciscan and to support his community that he made the extra effort. We could all learn from his example.

John’s sponsor, Jim Harr, described him as “a very caring and interesting person. He was very intelligent...loved to read...loved to analyze and reflect on the Rule and the FUN Manual. He attended daily Mass when he

(Continued on page 2)

**John** (Continued from page 1)

could. He set the standard for attending fraternity and regional gatherings, even with his failing health. When he committed to doing something, he gave it 100%--especially when it came to the Franciscans. John was a good Franciscan, whether professed or not. He really tried to live the Rule. I will miss John."

When we first met John, we did not know him, but, as we came to know him, we did, in the words of the late Francis Wicks, "learn to love him." We won't say goodbye to our little brother because we know we will see him again. Instead, we will say, "See you later." His goal was to be the best Franciscan he could be. He achieved his goal. He has done what was his to do. We will look forward to meeting him again. There will be a memorial service for John at Sacred Heart Church in Palm Desert at 11:00 AM on February 5<sup>th</sup>.



John, center, with Denise and Mark at San Luis Rey Mission Profession



*Please join us for the profession of Maureen Smith and David I'Anson in the St. Clare Chapel at Mission San Luis Rey on February 10, 2018 at 3:00 PM. Reception to follow at Fratelli's Italian Kitchen in Oceanside.*

**February Meeting**

Our February meeting will be cancelled so that we may attend the profession on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

**August Picnic**

The annual August picnic will be on August 11<sup>th</sup>, the feast day of St. Clare. We will attend the picnic in lieu of our meeting.

**Serra Retreat**

The Secular Franciscan Order Retreat will be held on May 25-27, 2018 at Serra Retreat Center in Malibu. Sr. Margaret Carney, OSF will speak. You may call 310-456-6631 if you are interested.

**Calendar of Saints for January**

- 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- 3 Holy name of Jesus
- 7 Bl. Angela of Foligno
- 12 St. Bernard of Corleone
- 14 Sts. Berard and companions
- 24 St. Francis de Sales
- 27 St. Angela Merici
- 30 St. Hyacinth of Mariscotti
- 31 St. John Bosco



**Saints' Corner**

**Sts. Berard and Companions**



Father Francis sent six of his brethren, to the Moslems in the west. They were Vitalis, Berard, Peter, Accursius, Adjutus, and Otho. Vitalis, the Superior, fell sick and sent the others on while he remained behind. Berard was placed in charge of the group.

At that time, Seville was occupied by Moslems. St. Berard and his companions preached fearlessly in the mosque. They taught that salvation could only be found in the Faith of Christ. (Continued on page 3)

## Saints (Continued from page 2)

This enraged the Moslem ruler who ordered their heads to be cut off. His son calmed his father who then allowed the brothers to proceed to Morocco.

Coming upon a group of Moslem people, Berard, who spoke Arabic, began to preach the Faith of Christ to them.

One day, the king appeared and Berard preached the doctrine of Christ. The king gave orders that the brothers be expelled from the country, but they escaped from their guards and returned a second and a third time.

On their way through the desert, St. Berard came upon the royal army which was not find water and was dying for lack of it. Berard prayed and struck his staff upon the ground. At once a spring bubbled forth which saved the entire army.

Because of this miracle, the king ordered the brothers to appear in his presence. He promised them wealth and positions of honor if they would convert to his faith. The brothers told him, "We despise all those things for the sake of Christ."

They were beaten and tortured and the king, himself, cut off the heads of the brothers. They, thus, became martyrs. Pope Sixtus IV canonized them in 1481 after many miracles had occurred through their intercession.

For Reflection: How would you answer if your faith were to be put to the test?



## 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 and Tom 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  
Yolonda Williams—health  
Agatha Borne  
Agatha's daughter Panchita and granddaughter Erika  
Eileen Cloutier—repose of soul  
Ted Hewitt  
John Dillon—repose of soul  
Edison Marshall  
Yvonne Marshall Rhines—repose of soul

### **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.

**December Anniversaries of Profession**



12/15/91 Hermie Quevedo

**January Anniversaries of Profession**

None

**December Birthdays**



12/9 Julie Bash

12/10 Denise Leslie

12/13 Jane Wurzel

**January Birthdays**

None

**Thank You**

A special thank you to all of my brothers and sisters who keep Edison and me in prayer. He is improving, but has had a few bumps in the road. I know that your prayers and support have helped us along the way. I don't know what I would do without all of you. With love, Dixie