



## THE CORD

San Luis Rey Fraternity of the  
Secular Franciscan Order  
Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside, CA.

[www.slr-ofs.org](http://www.slr-ofs.org)



**Mass in the Serra Center at 10:00 A**  
**Community Prayer in the St. Clare Chapel after Mass**  
**Lunch in the O'Keefe Lounge from ~12:00-12:50 PM**  
**General Meeting in the Luiseño Room from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

### Upcoming Gathering on March 4, 2018

#### Future Meetings:

April 8, 2018, May 6, 2018, June 3, 2018, dates subject to change.

### *Mar 9 - St. Frances of Rome 1384-1440*



Born in 1384, Frances belonged to a noble Roman family, and at the age of 12 she married another Roman noble, Lorenzo Ponziani. She would have preferred to become a nun, but obeyed her father and became an exemplary wife and the mother of three children. Soon after her marriage she fell seriously ill. Her husband called a man in who dabbled in magic, but Frances drove him out of the house in no uncertain terms. St. Alexis then appeared to her and cured her. From that time she began to be conscious of the presence and assistance of her guardian angel. He would give her a little nudge when she fell into any fault.

The Ponziani palace was in the Trastevere section of Rome, and just around the corner was the little church of San Francesco a Ripa. This church had been given in 1212 to St. Francis by the Roman lady Giacoma di Settesoli (Brother Jacoba), who in 1226 was present at the death of the Poverello. By 1414 at least, the adjoining friary was one of 34 belonging to the Observant reform movement in the First Order of St. Francis, which was begun in 1368 by Brother Paul or Paoluccio of Trinci and in the following century was promoted by such saints as St. Bernardin and St. John Capistran. It was at San Francesco a Ripa that Frances Ponziani was received into the Third Order of St. Francis; and one of the priests there, Father Bartholomew Bondi, became her spiritual director.

Living at the Ponziani palace with Frances was Vanozza, the wife of her oldest brother. She too had entertained thoughts of entering a convent before her marriage, and she joined Frances in her works of piety and charity. Together they spent hours of prayer in a disused attic or an old summer cottage in the garden. At seventeen Frances gave birth to her first son, John Baptist; and shortly afterwards her mother-in-law died. Frances was then placed in charge of the household; and she carried out her duties, not only efficiently, but also in a genuinely Christian manner. During a famine she gave away corn and wine to the poor so lavishly that her husband began to object; but when he found an empty granary miraculously filled with forty measures of wheat and an empty cask filled with wine, he allowed his wife full freedom.

Rome was invaded in 1410; and during the civil war which followed, a series of calamities befell the Ponziani family. Lorenzo, who fought with the papal troops, was wounded; and after Frances had nursed him to health, he went back to the war. John Baptist, the oldest son, was taken hostage, and did not return until peace was restored. A plague followed in the wake of the war, and Frances' second son and a daughter died of the disease. The peasants from the wasted Ponziani farm came to Frances, begging for food. Frances heroically devoted herself to the care of the sick, the starving, and the dying, and organized a group of Roman ladies to assist her in this work. For a time she too was stricken by the plague, but after she was suddenly cured she at once resumed her works of charity. After his death, Frances' second son appeared to her and brought her an archangel to take the place of her guardian angel. The archangel's light was visible to her so that she could read by it. When she committed a slight fault, the archangel would hide himself, and his light would not shine again until she had made an act of contrition.

Shortly after his return, John Baptist married a flighty young lady, who took a strong dislike to Frances. But in the midst of one of her tempers, she was afflicted with a strange illness; and after Frances' hand calmed and cured her, she became a changed person. Frances placed the household in her care, and devoted herself henceforth entirely to works of charity in the city. In 1425, she and a half dozen other Roman ladies, her companions, were clothed as oblates of St. Benedict. This apparently did not cancel her membership in the Third Order; for, at this time she and Vanozza made a pilgrimage to Assisi, walking the one hundred miles from Rome to the city of St. Francis. Near Assisi St. Francis himself appeared to them, and provided the hungry and thirsty pilgrims with fresh, juicy pears by striking a wild pear tree with his stick.

In 1433, after Lorenzo's death Frances and her companions founded a religious community of Oblates. There they worked and prayed for the Holy Father and the peace of Rome, for the city was once more in turmoil. Returning to this convent after a visit to her sick son, Frances suddenly became ill and was taken back to the Ponziani palace. There she died after seven days, on March 9, 1440. Pope Paul V canonized her in 1608. Her tomb is beneath the high altar in the crypt of the Roman church which is now called Santa Francesca Romana in her honor.

She is honored as the principal patron of all Benedictine oblates, but she is also one of the greatest saints who wore the habit of the Third Order of St. Francis.

## ON VALUING ETERNAL POSSESSIONS

1. Consider how well St. Frances acted when she used her ample wealth, not to provide a life of luxury for herself, but in doing good to others and thereby accumulating heavenly treasures. Even in this life she enjoyed many nobler pleasures, and now the heavenly treasures which she acquired constitute her bliss in eternity. Our Lord exhorts us also to direct our attention more to these imperishable possessions than to perishable ones. "Lay not up to yourselves treasures on earth where the rust and moth consume, and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up to yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither the rust nor moth consumes, and where thieves do not break through nor steal" (Matt 6:19). -- Which kind of treasures have you been intent on acquiring?

2. Consider that the possession of temporal goods cannot make us happy. Of course, people who do not possess them consider the possessors very fortunate. "They have called the people happy who have these things" (Ps 143:15). But he who possesses them and enjoys them is ill at ease. Solomon reveled in temporal goods, in a life of luxury, nevertheless he said, "And therefore I was weary of my life when I saw that all things under the sun are evil, and all vanity and vexation of spirit (Eccles 2:17). It is quite different with heavenly treasures. Once we possess them, they set our hearts at rest. "I shall be satisfied when Thy glory shall appear (Ps 16:15). Even the expectation of them gives the true servant of God such a delightful foretaste, that amid temporal wants he is happy and content. Hence Tobias could say to his family: "We lead indeed a poor life, but we shall have many good things if we fear God and depart from all sin, and do that which is good" (Tob 4:23). -- Should you not aim to acquire such happiness?

3. Consider that most people do not put the proper value on heavenly possessions. Day and night they are busy planning how to acquire temporal possessions, and perhaps weeks go by without one thought about heavenly treasures. They hasten to obtain temporal possessions and expend all their strength in acquiring them, but they put forth no effort to obtain the treasures of heaven. They will even relinquish their rights to heaven because of some momentary pleasure. Is it not to be feared that our Lord's words to the wicked will apply to them: "I have sworn in My wrath: they shall not enter into My rest" (Heb 3:11). -- But there is still time. Implore God's mercy.

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O Lord, who didst honor Thy servant Frances with the friendly companionship of an angel, among other gifts, grant, we beseech Thee, that by the aid of her intercession we may deserve to be admitted to the company of the angels. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

from *THE FRANCISCAN BOOK OF SAINTS*

edited by Marion Habig, OFM

Copyright 1959 Franciscan Herald Press

Used (on this mailing list) with written permission from the publisher If you aren't a subscriber to TAU-DAILY, email: "Kathleen White OFS" [kdwofs@comcast.net](mailto:kdwofs@comcast.net) and ask her to add you to her "Mailing List"

**Note:**

It appears that she is wearing a religious habit, but remember that the habits of the various orders were based on the daily garb of the common people of their era... thus St. Frances is dressed as a common person would have been dressed with the addition of the cross appliqued to the bodice of her dress and the Franciscan Cord about her waist. Editor.

This article was published by TAU-DAILY in March of 2016.



No Meeting on April 1, can you guess why? Well in about 6 weeks on April fool's day, we will find out just who the fools are as we are going to leave this special day to Jesus, as it is the feast of his Resurrection.

I just couldn't resist this photo of the courtyard and pavilion with the golden glow of the "Golden Hour" as photographers and painters know it. I don't know about other artists, but when I see the golden glow in the hour before sunset, and the early morning just after sunrise it makes me think of just how our "Awesome God" is watching over us and our families. In this case he brought it to one of our council members that April 1 is Easter Sunday,

**We will be gathering on the "Feast of His Mercy," the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Easter, or April 8<sup>th</sup>.**

## Notes from our minister

Donna says, don't forget to open the attachments included in this electronic edition of our CORD NEWSLETTER.

You will find 5 attachments to include:

1. A beautiful Lenten Calendar from our bishops at the USCCB



2. The Lenten letter from our JPIC animator, Carolyn D. Townes, OFS
3. Fast for Creation by, Fiona Murdoch, Eco-Congregation Ireland
4. Carbon Fast for Lent



5. Lenten Season of peace, by Carolyn D. Towns, OFS

As you can see, the calendars print out, with the help of your computer's printer, beautifully. I printed them, the font is a little small, but readable.

Submitted by the Editor...



## Pope Francis' Lenten Message

# Lent is time to become aware of false prophets, cold hearts, pope says [Catholic News Service](#) [OSV Newsweekly](#)

2/6/2018



Pope Francis is shown leading his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Jan. 31. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Catholics should use the season of Lent to look for signs and symptoms of being under the spell of false prophets and of living with cold, selfish and hateful hearts, Pope Francis said.

Together with "the often bitter medicine of the truth," the church -- as mother and teacher -- offers people "the soothing remedy of prayer, almsgiving and fasting," the pope said in his message for Lent, which begins Feb. 14 for Latin-rite Catholics.

The pope also invited all non-Catholics who are disturbed by the increasing injustice, inertia and indifference in the world, to "join us then in raising our plea to God in fasting and in offering whatever you can to our brothers and sisters in need."

The pope's Lenten message, which was released at the Vatican Feb. 6, looked at Jesus' apocalyptic discourse to the disciples on the Mount of Olives, warning them of the many signs and calamities that will signal the end of time and the coming of the son of man.

Titled, "Because of the increase of evil-doing, the love of many will grow cold" (Mt. 24:12), the papal message echoes Jesus' caution against the external enemies of false prophets and deceit, and the internal dangers of selfishness, greed and a lack of love.

Today's false prophets, the pope wrote, "can appear as 'snake charmers,' who manipulate human emotions in order to enslave others and lead them where they would have them go."

So many of God's children, he wrote, are: "mesmerized by momentary pleasures, mistaking them for true happiness"; enchanted by money's illusion, "which only makes them slaves to profit and petty interests"; and convinced they are autonomous and "sufficient unto themselves, and end up entrapped by loneliness!"

"False prophets can also be 'charlatans,' who offer easy and immediate solutions to suffering that soon prove utterly useless," he wrote. People can be trapped by the allure of drugs, "disposable relationships," easy, but dishonest gains as well as "virtual," but ultimately meaningless relationships, he wrote.

"These swindlers, in peddling things that have no real value, rob people of all that is most precious: dignity, freedom and the ability to love," the message said.

The pope asked people to examine their heart to see "if we are falling prey to the lies of these false prophets" and to learn to look at things more closely, "beneath the surface," and recognize that what comes from God is life-giving and leaves "a good and lasting mark on our hearts."

Christians also need to look for any signs that their love for God and others has started to dim or grow cold, the pope said.

Greed for money is a major red flag, he wrote, because it is the "root of all evil" and soon leads to a rejection of God and his peace.

"All this leads to violence against anyone we think is a threat to our own 'certainties': the unborn child, the elderly and infirm, the migrant, the foreigner among us, or our neighbor who does not live up to our expectations," the pope wrote.

Another sign of love turned cold is the problem of pollution, he said, which causes creation to become poisoned by waste, "discarded out of carelessness or selfishness."

The polluted oceans unfortunately also become a burial ground for countless victims of forced migration and "the heavens, which in God's plan, were created to sing his praises," are slashed by machinery that rain down instruments of death, he wrote.

Whole communities, he said, also can show signs of a cold lack of love wherever there is selfish sloth, sterile pessimism, the temptation to become isolated, constant internal fighting and a "worldly mentality that makes us concerned only for appearances, and thus lessens our missionary zeal."

The remedy for these ills can be strengthened during Lent with prayer, almsgiving and fasting, he wrote.

Praying more enables "our hearts to root out our secret lies and forms of self-deception, and then to find the consolation God offers," he said in his message.

"Almsgiving sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbor as a brother or sister," it said.

Urging people to make charitable giving and assistance a genuine part of their everyday life, he asked that people look at every request for help as a request from God himself. Look at almsgiving as being part of God's generous and providential plan, and helping his children in need.

Finally, "fasting weakens our tendency to violence; it disarms us and becomes an important opportunity for growth," he said, while also letting people feel what it must be like for those who struggle to survive.

It also "expresses our own spiritual hunger and thirst for life in God. Fasting wakes us up. It makes us more attentive to God and our neighbor," he wrote, and "revives our desire to obey God, who alone is capable of satisfying our hunger."

The pope also reminded people to take part in the "24 Hours for the Lord" initiative March 9-10 in which many dioceses will have at least one church open for 24 hours, offering eucharistic adoration and the sacrament of reconciliation.

-----

The text of the pope's message in English is online at:

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/lent/documents/papa-francesco\\_20171101\\_messaggio-quaresima2018.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/lent/documents/papa-francesco_20171101_messaggio-quaresima2018.html)

## Formation Reminders from our Formation Director



Classes are held the Saturday before the meeting, Please call Sandy at for more information

God Bless,  
Sandy Baden, OFS  
Director of Formation

## Anniversaries of Profession



Mar. 8, 2009 David Y.  
Mar. 8, 2015 Dorothy M.  
Mar. 9, 1997 Mary B.  
Mar. 9, 1997 Patricia D.  
Mar. 20, 1994 Marjo G.

## Memorials



March 2, 1995 Amanda Martineau  
March 9, 2012 Thomas F.M. Siersma  
March 15, 1995 Robert Wells  
March 16, 1989 Gertrude Brown  
March 28, 2001 Katherine Kunding

## Birthdays



March 9 Edna P.  
March 26 Karron E.

## Let us Pray for our brothers and sisters, especially:



- For the safety of Donna our Minister in various travels.
- For Pope Francis, Bishop Robert McElroy, Bishop Dolan his assistant, and all Diocesan Bishops, our pastors, priests, deacons consecrated religious, including those in lay orders and institutes, as well as all the lay faithful.
- For the victims of war, terrorism, and genocide throughout the world.
- For all of our brothers and sisters served by our fraternity's outreach program.
- All of our Fraternity members, especially: our council, our brothers and sisters who are in formation, our elderly and or homebound who aren't able come to our fraternity gatherings. Members of all three Orders of the Franciscan Family, who have asked for prayers.



Laura Chun at Papal Audience.MOV

To 'play' video double click your mouse, then click 'yes' when "open package contents" window opens. Laura shot the video, so we can't actually see her, just her awesome video of His Holiness.



## The GUBBIO PROJECT

The next monthly gathering for the San Luis Rey Fraternity will be Sunday, March 4, 2018. At our gathering, we will welcome [Doug Pierce](#), Chairperson of the [Gubbio Project](#) in San Francisco. [St. Boniface Parish](#), where [Fr. Franklin Fong, OFM](#) is Pastor, is one of the churches participating in this sacred ministry. Read more about extreme poverty in America and the Gubbio Project in a recent [United Nations Report](#) and in [US Catholic](#).

Ctrl left click, on one of the blue links to learn more about the fate of the homeless poor right here in our own nation. One of the wealthiest countries on Planet Earth, where many people have more than enough to live on, where we shouldn't have this problem



DOUGLAS PIERCE, CHAIRMAN

Doug joined the board in Feb 2014 and since Feb 2016. He has approximately working directly with homeless and on the streets. Doug has a MDiv and a masters degree in philosophy from He most recently worked with Shelter LifeMoves) in San Mateo County as Services and is currently semi-retired children with his wife in San Francisco.

Submitted by Laura C., and Carol I., OFS



(Left) St. Boniface Church, San Francisco, giving shelter to those in need of a place to lay their heads. Based on, Matt. 8: 18. "What so ever you do for these, the least of my brethren, that you do unto me." Jesus at, (Matthew 25:40)



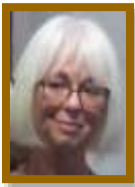
has served as chair 20 years experience individuals in shelters from Boston College Fordham University. Network (now Manager of Housing raising two young



Oh, last but definitely not least, remember your donation envelope for the Common Fund. The box will be waiting for you.

Or mail to: Eileen C.

*San Luis Rey - Fraternity Council*



**Minister**  
Donna Foley, OFS



**Secretary**  
Newsletter Editor,  
Carol Imhoff, OFS



**Vice Minister**  
Karron Esmonde, OFS



**Treasurer**  
Eileen Costa, OFS



**Formation Director**  
Sandy Baden, OFS



**Councilor,**  
Webmaster  
Laura Chun, OFS



**Spiritual Assistant**  
  
Sr. Madeline  
Fitzgerald, OSC



**Councilor**  
Dorothy Mann, OFS

**Pace e Bene!**