
The Canticle

St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity, Los Alamitos, California

Anne Killian, ofs, editor

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SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
ORDO FRANCISCANUS SÆCULARIS OFS

December 2017

Fraternity Information

DECEMBER MEETINGS:

Monthly Fraternity Meeting: Sunday, Dec. 10 – at St. Hedwig's, in the Parish Lounge - Formation at 2pm, snacks at 3pm and Meeting at 3:15pm

Sat. Dec.16 - 7:00 pm Pro Life Holy Hour at St Hedwig



Fraternity's Pastoral Visit with Fr. Steve

Your Council

Minister – Tina Gath, ofs - (562) 598-5202 tinagath@yahoo.com

Vice Minister – Anne Killian, ofs - (714) 468-9814 annkillian@yahoo.com

Secretary – Terrie Moore, ofs - (909) 658-5852 terriemooreofs@gmail.com

Treasurer – Lina Daukas, ofs - linadaukas@yahoo.com (562) 494-4402

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Councilors - Diane Halal, ofs - (562) 596-3162 dhalal@juno.com

Gwen Murphy, ofs - (562) 260-5814 dmurphy004@socal.rr.com

Jeanette Barrera, ofs - 562-240-5422 jabsfo3@gmail.com

Please feel free to contact any of us for information or concerns.

Franciscan websites of interest

St. Francis Regional website:

www.stfrancisregion.org

National Fraternity of USA

www.nafra-sfo.org/

Tau USA, newsletter

http://www.nafra-sfo.org/tau-usa/tau_newarticles.html

International Fraternity

www.ciofs.org/

YouFra, International Youth

<http://www.ciofs.org/youfra/index.php?lang=en>

Franciscans International

www.franciscansinternational.org/

Franciscan Action Network (FAN)

www.franciscanaction.org

Liturgy of the Hours

<http://www.ebreviary.com> or <http://divineoffice.org/> or <http://www.universalis.com/>

National JPIC Website

<https://sites.google.com/site/jpic4ofs/home>

Catechism of the Catholic Church

[http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catechism/catechism-of-the-](http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catechism/catechism-of-the-catholic-church/epub/index.cfm)

[catholic-church/epub/index.cfm](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM) or http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM

Minister's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Why do you suppose that one of the most popular religious Christmas songs is Silent Night? Is there something special about the silence?

Mother Theresa said, "In the silence of the heart, God speaks. If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you. Then you will know that you are nothing. It is only when you realize your nothingness, your emptiness, that God can fill you with Himself.

Souls of prayer are souls of great silence."

In the silence of that holy night God came into the world, a tiny humble babe to show us the importance of silence and emptying ourselves.

Our father, Francis also showed us the importance of silence as he went off by himself for several days at a time to pray in silence. It was in those times of silence that he heard God speak to him, where he had his mystical experience and grew in his imitation of Jesus.

My prayer for each of us is that in this busy Advent Season, we will take time for silent prayer and by doing so, we will hear the Infant Christ speak to our hearts words of hope, love and joy.

Blessings at Christmas and always,

Tina Gath, ofs



Prayer Intentions, Health and Healing

We pray for those devastated by the California fires, so close to home, may our Lord deliver all to safety. We pray for our infirm and ill, especially Rita and Mark; that our Lord will bring them comfort and healing. We pray for those who struggle, that God may heal family relationships, provide for the unemployed and underemployed, comfort all in our afflictions, bring resolution to trials and comfort to each and every one of us.

We pray for the success of the Minister's retreat for our region, that God and the Holy Spirit guide our regional leaders and fraternities in the new year.

We pray for our country, our leaders especially President Trump and all who lead.

We pray for all who have endured disasters around our world, may God restore all who have suffered.

Upcoming Fraternity Events for December

All are invited to attend any of these events

Sun Dec 10 - Formation at 2pm, Meeting at 3:15pm

Sat. Dec.16 - 7:00pm Pro Life Holy Hour at St Hedwig

Looking ahead:

Sun Jan 7-Council Day of Recollection and Annual Planning meeting.

Jan 12-14- Minister's Chapter meeting

Sun Jan 14 Celebrate! Epiphany Party at our meeting

Tue Jan 16 - 7:00pm Pro Life Holy Hour at St Hedwig

Save the Date:

Sat Feb. 10-Special 20th anniversary of our Fraternity event, a Lenten retreat at St Hedwig!

Starts with 8:30am mass



St. Francis keeps Christmas in the year 1921.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions For December

The Elderly

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

Area Happenings

Every Wednesday – Centering Prayer at St. Irenaeus Church in Cypress at 7:30pm.

1st and 3rd Saturday of the month - food and clothing distribution to the poor by H.O.P.E. at St. Irenaeus Church in Cypress, 8:30 to 10:00am.

Local Needs

Catholic Worker, Santa Ana – Good used clothing and blankets, coffee, powdered drink mix, canned meat, and paper goods. Please contact Dwight and Leia Smith at (714) 835-6304

Meeting notice: Please remember to bring your cup or mug to our meetings. St. Francis would approve.



December Birthdays

Dec. 5 John

Dec 15 Sr. Miriam Joseph

Dec 17 Pope Francis

Dec 19 Tom Prisk and Bill Armstrong

Dec 30 Katherine

December Franciscan Calendar of Saints

Month of the Immaculate Conception

1. Bl. Marie-Angele Astorch, Virgin, Capuchin religious, d. 1665
2. Bl. Raphael Chylinski, Priest, I Order, d. 1741
3. St. Francis Xavier, Priest, , Martyr, 1623
4. Bl. Francois Galves, Priest, I Order, Martyr 1623
5. Bl. Peter of Siena, Confessor, III Order Secular, d. 1289
- 6 St Nicholas
6. Bl. Elisabeth la Bonne, Virgin, III Order Secular, d. 1420
7. Bl. Louis Beltrame Quattrocchi, Confessor, I Order, d. 1951
8. **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**, Patroness of the Seraphic Order, Holy Day of Obligation
9. Bl. Delphine de Glandeves, Virgin, III Order Secular, d. 1360
10. Bl. Conrad of Offida, Priest, I Order, d. 1306
- 10 Bl. Peter Tecelano, III Order
11. Bl. Hugolinus Magalotti, Confessor, III Order, d. 1373
12. Discovery of the tomb of St. Francis 1820
- 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe Patron and Queen of the Americas. Memorial in the U.S.
13. Bl. Pius Bartosik, Priest, Conventual religious, Martyr 1941
- 13 St Lucy
14. Bl. Barthole Buonpedini, Priest, III Order Secular, d. 1300
15. Mary Queen of the Seraphic Order
16. Bl. Honorat de Biala, Priest, Capuchin religious, d. 1916
17. Bl. Francois Bell, Priest, I Order, Martyr 1643
18. Bl. Mary Francis Schervier, Virgin, religious III Order, d. 1876
19. Bl. Jean Discalceat, Priest, I Order , d. 1349
20. Bl. Antoine Galvao, Priest, I Order, d. 1822
21. St. Raphael Kalinowski, Priest, had been a tertiary, d. 1907
22. St. Francis Xavier Cabrini, Virgin, was a tertiary, d. 1917
23. Bl. Nicolas Factor, Priest, I Order, d. 1583
24. Bl. Bentivolio of Bonio, Priest, I Order, d. 1231
25. **Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**, Holy Day of Obligation
26. St. Albert Chmielowski, Confessor, religious III Order Secular, d. 1916
27. Bl. Matthia Nazzarei, Virgin, II Order Secular; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1320
28. **Feast of the Holy Innocents**
29. Bl Gerard Cagnoli, lay brother, I Order, d. 1342
30. Bl. Margaret Colonna, Virgin, II Order Secular; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1280
31. St. Gaspard Buffalo, Priest, III Order Secular, d. 1836; Plenary Indulgence (Chant the Te Deum in public)



How St. Francis invented the first Nativity scene

Philip Kosloski | Dec 02, 2017

After visiting Bethlehem, Francis wanted to imitate the humble setting of Christ's birth.

In 1221, St. Francis had a novel idea. To celebrate the birth of Jesus, Francis wanted to recreate the experience of the first Christmas. He did this not with statues inside a church, but with animals in a humble hilltop grove.

Francis' inspiration came after traveling to the Holy Land and seeing the exact site of Christ's birth. The poverty of it all deeply impacted Francis and was a particular element that he wanted to celebrate on Christmas.

Franciscan friar Thomas of Celano narrates the rest of the story.

[A]bout 15 days before the Nativity of the Lord, [Francis] said to [a friend in Greccio], "... For I would make memorial of that Child who was born in Bethlehem, and in some sort behold with bodily eyes His infant hardships; how He lay in a manger on the hay, with the ox and the ass standing by."

There Simplicity was honored, Poverty exalted, Humility commended; and of Greccio there was made as it were a new Bethlehem. The night was lit up as the day, and was delightful to men and beasts ... [Francis] stood before the manger, full of sighs, overcome with tenderness and filled with wondrous joy. The solemnities of Mass were celebrated over the manger, and the priest enjoyed a new consolation.

According to St. Bonaventure, a miracle also occurred on that night and someone noticed St. Francis holding the Christ Child.

A certain valiant and veracious soldier ... affirmed that he beheld an Infant marvelously beautiful, sleeping in the manger, Whom the blessed Father Francis embraced with both his arms, as if he would awake Him from sleep.

The scene was powerful for all present and emphasized the poverty into which Christ was born. It was truly "Franciscan" in every sense of the word.

The idea caught on quickly. and in 1291 the first Franciscan pope (Nicholas IV) commissioned statues to create the first permanent Nativity scene in the Roman Basilica of St. Mary Major. Ever since, Nativity scenes in all shapes and sizes have been created throughout the world and they are one of the most popular Christmas traditions.

<https://aleteia.org/2017/12/02/how-st-francis-invented-the-first-nativity-scene/>



OUR BOOK NOOK

A Franciscan Christmas

By Kathleen M. Carroll

The true meaning of Christmas isn't found in the glitter and gifts. It's not on the tree or tucked under it. It won't be served with the cookies and eggnog. But it can be found in a place of honor in most Christian homes: the Christmas crèche. Francis of Assisi first recreated the scene of the Nativity nearly eight hundred years ago, but it has endured as a favorite holiday tradition. Small crèches grace humble homes and ornate versions appear in grander homes--even the White House. Families flock to life-size manger scenes with rustic timbers and live animals. Most feature elements from the gospel stories, and some add their own creative touch. Each piece of the Nativity has its own story and meaning in Franciscan history and Christian spirituality. Take a closer look at the crèche and learn why Christmas is central to Franciscan spirituality and how you can find a deeper meaning in the simplest of seasonal decorations.



“In the beginning was the Word....

The Word became flesh
and dwelt among us....”

(John 1: 1.14).

“Francis used to recall with regular meditation
the words of Christ
and recollect His deeds with most
attentive perception.

Indeed, so thoroughly did the humility of the
Incarnation and the charity
of the Passion occupy his memory that he
scarcely wanted to think of anything else.”

(1 Cel, XXX).

Franciscans and the Christmas Message

In his Christmas reflection, Fr. Michael Perry, OFM, General Minister of the world-wide Order of Friars Minor, shares his thoughts on Christ's birth and calls Franciscans — and all people — to model their lives and ministries ever more closely to the examples set by St. Francis and, more recently, Pope Francis.

Read more at: <http://www.beafranciscan.org/franciscans-and-the-christmas-message/>

