

This is what I want!

¡Esto es lo que quiero!

Joy of Francis

이것은 내가 원하는 것입니다

Đây là điều tôi muốn!

*Secular Franciscan Order — St. Francis Region #52 — Southern California
Summer Edition — 2024*

St. Francis Regional News!

Minister's Message: New Theme for the Region

During the past term of the Regional Executive Council (REC), we had the theme: “Bearing good fruit with Franciscan JOY!” In other words, to make a positive difference in our daily living – to do and be for others someone who gives hope and love with a generous spirit, and with the same joy exhibited by St. Francis. Sometimes that can be as simple as a smile and a kind word or compliment. Or it can be cancelling one’s plans to help someone in need. Whether it is a small act or a big sacrifice, to do it with Franciscan joy makes it an even greater gift.

The new REC has chosen a new theme for the current term: **“This is what I want!”** All professed members should recognize this statement since we all said it three times following our “Yes” during our professions into the Order. We may remember saying it, but do we remember the three questions that it answered? In this *Joy of Francis* issue, we’ll consider the first of the three questions, which is: “Do you wish to embrace the gospel way of life by following the example and words of St. Francis of Assisi, which are at the heart of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order?”

What does it mean to “embrace the gospel way of life”? It doesn’t mean just reading the Gospels or studying Franciscan writings or the Rule. Embracing means to enthusiastically accept something – in this case, gospel living. More specifically, to live knowing that God loves us more deeply than we can imagine, and that our response should be to love others with grace and humility.

To “follow the example and words of St. Francis” means, as Francis said, doing what is ours to do. It is not what the world directs us to do, but what the Lord wishes us to do, with St. Francis and Jesus as our models. And this takes us back to scripture and Franciscan writings to learn about Francis and Jesus, and to understand how we are to live the gospel way of life. From Gospel to life, and life to Gospel.

Each night, as we consider what we’ve done during the day, it is good to ask ourselves how we’ve “embraced the gospel way of life” and “followed the example and words of St. Francis.” It is a good Franciscan examination of conscience.

Peace & JOY!
Caroline

Minister's Message Translations

Mensaje del Ministro: Nuevo lema para la Región

Durante el pasado período del Consejo Ejecutivo Regional (REC), tuvimos el lema: "¡Dar buenos frutos con GOZO franciscano!". En otras palabras, hacer una diferencia positiva en nuestra vida diaria - hacer y ser para otros alguien que da esperanza y amor con un espíritu generoso, y con la misma alegría como lo hizo San Francisco. A veces eso puede ser tan sencillo como una sonrisa y una palabra amable o un elogio. O puede ser cancelar los propios planes para ayudar a alguien que lo necesita. Ya sea que se trate de un acto insignificante o de un gran sacrificio, hacerlo con alegría franciscana lo convierte en un regalo aún mayor.

El nuevo REC ha elegido un nuevo lema para el período actual: "¡**Esto es lo que quiero!**". Todos los miembros profesos deberían reconocer esta afirmación, ya que todos la dijimos tres veces después de nuestro "Sí" durante nuestras profesiones en la Orden. Puede que recordemos haberla dicho, pero ¿recordamos las tres preguntas a las que respondía? En esta publicación de la Alegría de Francisco, consideraremos la primera de las tres preguntas, que es: "¿Deseas abrazar el estilo de vida evangélico siguiendo el ejemplo y las palabras de San Francisco de Asís, que están en el corazón de la Regla de la Orden Franciscana Seglar?"

¿Qué significa "abrazar el estilo de vida evangélico"? No significa solamente leer los Evangelios o estudiar los escritos franciscanos o la Regla. Abrazar significa aceptar con entusiasmo algo - en este caso, la vida evangélica. Más concretamente, vivir sabiendo que Dios nos ama más profundamente de lo que podemos imaginar, y que nuestra respuesta debe ser amar a los demás con bondad y humildad.

El "seguir el ejemplo y las palabras de San Francisco" significa, como lo dijo Francisco, hacer lo que a nosotros corresponde. No lo que el mundo nos dirige a hacer, sino lo que el Señor quiere y nos invita a hacer, con San Francisco y Jesús como nuestros modelos. Esto nos retorna a las Escrituras y a los escritos franciscanos para aprender sobre Francisco y Jesús, y para entender cómo debemos vivir el estilo de vida evangélico. Del Evangelio a la vida, y de la vida al Evangelio.

Cada noche, al reflexionar sobre lo que hemos hecho durante el día, preguntémonos cómo hemos "abrazado el estilo de vida evangélico" y "seguido el ejemplo y palabras de San Francisco". Es un buen examen de conciencia franciscano.

¡Paz y GOZO!
Caroline

회장 메세지

올해 재의 수요일과 발레타인 데이가 같은 날입니다. 이 두 날이 어울리지 않다고 생각할 수도 있지만, 발레타인 데이의 원 의미와 의도를 고려해보면 금식과 금욕을 통해 사랑을 나누며 바른 방향으로 사순 시기를 시작할 수 있는 날로 이해할 수도 있습니다. 사랑이 사순 시기의 길잡이가 될 수 있습니다.

두 기념일을 묶어 생각하면서 세상을 떠난 형제회 회원 한 명의 삶이 떠올랐습니다. 게이브는 주위의 모든이와 기꺼이 나누는 신심 깊은 형제였습니다. 직장일로 출장을 많이 다니면서 그리스도교를 받아들이지 않은 여러 나라를 방문했다고 합니다. 무슬림, 불교, 무신자 등 다른 신앙을 가진 이들과 자신의 신앙을 편안하게 나누었다고 합니다.

저에게 가장 큰 감명을 준 것은 게이브의 결혼 생활이었습니다. 부인인 게이브가 요양 시설에 들어간 이후 게이브는 게이를 매일, 어떤 날은 두번씩 방문하였습니다. 게이브와 함께 몇 번 게이를 방문하였는데, 게이는 이미 남편을 알아보지 못하는 상태였습니다. 알아보지도 못하는 부인을 왜 매일 방문하냐는 요양 시설 직원들의 질문을 받았을 때, “나의 아내인 게이브가 살아있는 한 나는 게이를 계속 사랑하기로 선택하였다”고 답했다고 합니다. 선택한 사랑 - 참으로 놀라운 생각입니다.

하트와 꽃으로 표현되는 낭만적 감정적 열정적인 사랑이 아닌 성경에 묘사된 발레타인 성인이 삶으로 보여준 자신을 희생하는 무조건적인 아가페적 사랑입니다. 하느님의 우리에게 대한 아버지적 사랑과 그에 응답하는 하느님께 대한 우리의 사랑입니다. 게이브가 게이브가 세상을 떠날 때까지 매일 부인을 방문하면서 보여준 희생의 사랑입니다.

하느님이 사랑하시는 것처럼 사랑하라고 우리는 불림 받았습니다. 이것은 우리의 선택입니다. 사랑은 희생의 선택입니다. 그렇기에 발레타인 데이에 사순 시기를 시작하는 것은 지극히 적절합니다. 이번 사순 시기 동안 사랑을 길잡이로 선택합시다. 사랑을 선택합시다.

평화, 기쁨, 사랑

캐롤라인

Thư Ngỏ Của Trường Phục Vụ

Chủ Đề Mới Của Miền

Trong nhiệm kỳ vừa qua của Hội Đồng Phục Vụ Miền (REC), chúng tôi đã có chủ đề: “Nảy sinh hoa trái tốt với NIỀM VUI Phan Sinh!” Nói cách khác, để tạo nên sự khác biệt tích cực trong cuộc sống hàng ngày của chúng ta – hành động và trở nên người mang lại niềm hy vọng và tình yêu cho người khác với tấm lòng quảng đại, và với niềm vui như Thánh Phanxicô đã thể hiện. Đôi khi việc ấy có thể chỉ đơn giản như một nụ cười, một lời nói tử tế hay là một lời khen. Hoặc có thể là bỏ đi những dự định của mình để giúp đỡ một người đang gặp khó khăn. Dù đó là một hành động nhỏ bé hay một sự hy sinh lớn lao, nhưng thực hiện với niềm vui Phan Sinh sẽ khiến nó trở nên một món quà quý giá hơn.

Hội Đồng Phục Vụ Miền (REC) mới đã chọn một chủ đề mới cho nhiệm kỳ hiện tại: “Đây là điều tôi muốn!” Tất cả các thành viên đã tuyên khẩn phải nhận biết lời tuyên bố này vì tất cả chúng ta đều đã nói lên điều đó ba lần sau khi chúng ta nói “Thưa có” trong nghi thức tuyên khẩn vào Dòng. Chúng ta có thể nhớ rằng đã nói điều này, nhưng chúng ta có nhớ ba câu hỏi mà mình đã trả lời không? Trong số báo Niềm Vui của Phanxicô này, chúng ta sẽ chú ý đến câu hỏi thứ nhất trong ba câu hỏi ấy, đó là: “Anh/chị có ước ao ôm ấp lối sống Phúc Âm mà Thánh Phanxicô Assisi đã nêu gương, đã dạy, và đó là trọng tâm của Luật Dòng Phan Sinh Tại Thế không?”

“Ôm ấp lối sống Phúc Âm” có nghĩa gì? Nó không có nghĩa là chỉ đọc Tin Mừng hay nghiên cứu các tài liệu của Dòng Phanxicô hay Luật Dòng. Ôm ấp có nghĩa là nhiệt tình chấp nhận điều gì đó – trong trường hợp này là sống theo Phúc Âm. Cụ thể hơn, là sống với nhận thức rằng Thiên Chúa yêu thương chúng ta sâu đậm hơn là ta có thể tưởng tượng, và sự đáp ứng của chúng ta phải là yêu thương mọi người với lòng khoan dung và khiêm tốn.

Để “noi gương và lời dạy của Thánh Phanxicô” Như Thánh Phanxicô đã nói nghĩa là làm những việc của chúng ta phải làm. Đó không phải là điều thế gian chỉ dẫn chúng ta làm, nhưng là điều Chúa muốn chúng ta làm, với Thánh Phanxicô và Chúa Giêsu là mẫu mực của chúng ta. Và điều này dẫn chúng ta trở về với Thánh Kinh và các văn kiện của dòng Phan Sinh để học hỏi về Thánh Phanxicô và Chúa Giêsu, cũng như để hiểu chúng ta phải sống lối sống Phúc Âm thế nào. Từ Phúc Âm đến cuộc sống, và cuộc sống đến Phúc Âm.

Mỗi đêm, khi chúng ta nghĩ lại những gì chúng ta đã làm trong ngày, ta nên tự hỏi rằng mình đã “Ôm ấp lối sống Phúc Âm” cũng như “noi gương và lời dạy của Thánh Phanxicô” ra sao. Đây chính là cách xét mình hữu hiệu của người Phan Sinh.

Vui tươi & An bình

Caroline

Formation

One Step at a Time

By John Kwon

I have been a Franciscan for one-third of my life, and this realization took me by surprise. My encounter with the Franciscans started with a family friend who began her journey as a Secular Franciscan. Being a male and an engineer, I'm more of a head person than a heart person, and hence, things need to make sense rather than feel right. Imagine the difficulties I had with Francis' strange ideas and actions, which are so radically different from the ideals and values of the world we live in. He was full of contradictions that simply didn't add up. Rather than giving up, I went through the initial formation. *The Life of St. Francis of Assisi* by Thomas Celano was the main formation book used during my initial formation, and it was the most boring book I had ever read, full of things that made little sense.

I consider persistence to be one of my family traits, so I marched on and made my profession. Being a logical head person, I didn't expect much of the Profession Rite and hence was not prepared for what was to come. When my turn came, I was overwhelmed with uncontrollable emotion and barely managed to make my promise through my sobbing. Thus, my life as a Secular Franciscan began.

As a freshly minted Franciscan, I was more sure of who I should be and what I should do as a Franciscan than I am now. What was right or wrong in Franciscan context seemed quite clear. However, as time went on, my Franciscan confidence waned, and I became less certain about who I am—not because of doubts about Franciscanism, but because of a better understanding of his teachings and our way of life brought uncertainty. I wasn't sure whether I was living up to the ideals of Francis or whether my words and actions were worthy of being considered Franciscan. His embrace of poverty slowly started to make sense to me, but it conflicted with my priorities.

However, I can confidently say that I became a better Catholic because of my Franciscan formation. I would never have known Jesus as I know Him now, who is personal and closer, rather than righteous yet distant. I would never have seen His love when looking Him on the Cross. The Christmas Nativity would never have meant anything more than a pretty seasonal decoration. A new understanding of His Incarnation—that it was His original plan to show His love, and not the result of our sins—lifted guilt from my conscience and made me realize that He is fine with me as I am.

We live in a world of instant gratification where everything is immediate and an age of information where vast amounts of knowledge are at our fingertips. Perhaps my expectation was that I would become a full Franciscan in my words and actions after my profession, but I was not seeing that transformation. I take great comfort in our Rule, Article 7, which states, "Human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily." I know that I will never be a perfect Franciscan. Perhaps none of us will. However, our Rule clearly tells us what is expected from us Secular Franciscans—not to be perfect, but to change steadily daily, walking the path that Francis showed us toward Jesus, one step at a time.

Conference of Regional Spiritual Assistants

The Stigmata, One of the Most Eloquent Signs of the Lord

By Margie Rodriguez

St. Francis's conversion began with his prayer at the cross in the San Damiano chapel and culminated in his receiving the stigmata on Mount La Verna two years before his death.

This year we celebrate the eighth centenary of the Stigmata of St. Francis. This is a good opportunity for all Franciscans to reflect on the trajectory of our initial conversion and, of course, our ongoing conversion as his followers who profess to follow our Rule of life.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, recently addressed the communities of the Friars Minor of La Verna and the Tuscan Province in light of this special 800th anniversary. His words were worth reflecting on for all of us.

The Holy Father said that St. Francis's stigmata wounds are an "eloquent sign" of both the suffering and victory over his death for us. He continues, "It is precisely through His wounds that the mercy of the Crucified and Risen Christ, like through channels, flows toward us."

Pope Francis reminds us of the meaning of the stigmata in the life of the Christian and in the life of the Franciscan.

He tells us that the disciples of Jesus do not belong to a group but to a living body, the Body of Christ, the Church. Through our Baptism, Christians are marked with the "Pasch of the Lord." We are then sent to address the "stigmatized" we encounter, those "marked" in life bearing the scars of suffering, injustices or mistakes they have made.

St. Francis is a companion who accompanies and supports us all on that journey, especially when we encounter difficulties. Francis did this with the leper and his brothers.

Pope Francis then says, "If you want to know the suffering of Christ well, look for a Franciscan." He reminds us Franciscans: "Your founder saint offers you a powerful call to unity among yourselves and in your history."

The image of Christ in the crucifix that appears to him in La Verna is the same as the one that had impressed itself on his heart at the beginning of his conversion and indicated his mission "repairing His house".

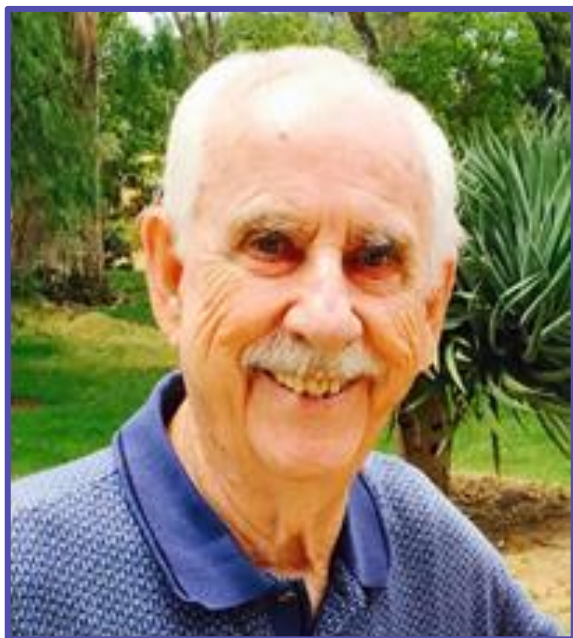
The stigmata for the Franciscan is a "seal of the essentials." We are called to return to the essentials, in our apostolic activities, in our presence among the people, to be "forgiven bearers of forgiveness," "healed bearers of healing," joyful and simple in fraternity; with the strength of the love that flows from the side of Christ, nourished in our personal encounter with Him, renewed

every day with a “seraphic ardor” that burns our hearts. Like Francis this intimacy with Christ will make us more humbled, more united, more joyful, lovers of the cross caring for the poor and witnesses of peace and prophets of hope in this time when it is difficult to recognize the presence of the Lord.

He closes with a long but beautiful prayer entrusting us to St. Francis and asking us to remember him in our prayers. If you have not read it yet, I encourage you to spend some time with it.

Pope Francis gives us much to pray with and reflect on in this speech and the prayer is one that we can cherish and use for many years to come.

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2024/april/documents/20240405-frati-minori.html>



Rock DeSpain, OFS, with whom many of us have interacted with over the years, passed on to eternal life on April 5th. Rock was our Regional Minister for multiple terms, and then became a Regional Spiritual Assistant. Originally from the St Francis and St Clare fraternity in Hemet, he and his wife, Jan, transferred to San Luis Rey Fraternity where they were active members until Rock’s health declined and he entered into hospice care. The Funeral Mass was held at Holy Spirit Parish in Hemet on May 25th. A Memorial Mass will be held on Tuesday, June 18th, at Mission San Luis Rey at 1:30 PM, followed by interment and a reception. **If you plan to attend the reception, please inform your fraternity Minister by Wednesday, June 5th**, which is the due date for Ministers to send their headcount to Caroline.

2024 Regional Gathering

**In celebration of the Eighth Centenary
of the Stigmata of St. Francis**

Saturday, August 17th

10:00 AM—2:00 PM

St. Hedwig's Parish

11482 Los Alamitos Blvd.

Los Alamitos, CA 90720

Presenter in English:

Fr. Joseph Chinnici

Presenter in Korean:

Fr. Yongho Francis Lee, OFM

**Each fraternity is asked to bring a light breakfast item
(fruit, pastries, or yogurt, etc.) for 10-12 people
and food for the potluck lunch.**

**To help save our planet, we request that attendees bring
their own plate, utensils and cup/mug.**



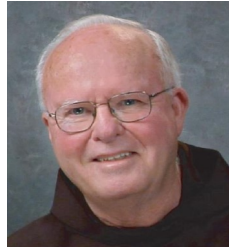
Summer 2024 Continuing Education

The Franciscan Spiritual and Social Vision - On-Line Courses

June 24–28 JOSEPH CHINNICI, OFM

The Lives of Francis and Clare: A Hall of Mirrors

Examining the lives of Francis and Clare often produces an historical Rorschach test. So multi-faceted is their spiritual experience, that from the very beginning multiple perspectives have been offered, ones that monasticize them, others submitting them to ecclesiastical needs, others projecting onto their experience contemporary demands of empathy (Max Scheler), a means of grounding the mystical experience (Evelyn Underhill) or critiquing capitalism (Vida Dutton Scudder). Pope Francis has articulated a view of the Franciscan experience related to the ecological demands of the 21st century. Using new insights into the relationship between Francis and the desert fathers and mothers and the relationship between Francis and Clare and the social disruption and violence marking their society, this course will first review a few basic interpretations of their spiritual heritage. Longer units will then examine particular Franciscan responses pertinent to our contemporary challenges: for examples, the quest for a spiritual anthropology, the development of purity of heart, the necessity of praxis, mourning, and the embrace of human fragility. The whole will be an exploration reinterpreting the Franciscan heritage for life in the 21st century.



July 1-5 BILL SHORT, OFM

St. Francis of Assisi: Writings and Charism

Francis of Assisi has left us a remarkable collection of writings, ranging from meditations on the words of Christ to norms for organizing life in a small community. This course will examine the full range of those texts, some 30 in all, from the saint's autographs (those that survive in his own handwriting) to fragments of his "lost" writings contained in the writings of Clare of Assisi and others. Over the course of an intense week, we will study his *Letters, Rules, Prayers and Admonitions*, learning about their medieval historical context, and reflecting on their insights about living according to the Gospel then and now.



***Due to the July 4 holiday, this course will take place on July 1, 2, 3, and 5.**

LOCATION AND SCHEDULE

All courses will be delivered online synchronously from Monday through Friday, 9:15am-12:30pm (PDT).

REGISTRATION

Registration opens on **April 10, 2024**.

Registration Deadline is **10 days** before the start of each course. However, we may close registration earlier if all seats are filled.

Courses must have a minimum of 10 students.

Visit [website](#) for more information.

COST

\$250 per course (one-week session).

Each course earns one Continuing Education Unit (1 CEU).

Payment may be made online using your debit/credit card or by check/money order.

CANCELLATIONS

90% refund up to June 7, 2024
70% refund up to June 14, 2024
No refunds 10 days before the course

CONTACT

Brady Young
ContinuingStudents@fst.edu
(619) 574-5823

www.FST.edu

Fraternity News

St. Louis the King fraternity

At their election on May 4, 2024 at Old Mission Santa Barbara, with much gratitude, the members of St. Louis the King fraternity acknowledged their outgoing officers with flowers and a celebratory meal.

Outgoing officers were: Sandy Hornick, Minister; Aida Cordero, Vice Minister; Linda Whitman, Formation Director; Kim McCarthy, Secretary; Carole Kenzel, Treasurer; Maria Keagan and Borgia Izard, Councilors



St. Louis the King fraternity members welcomed their new council members (with Laura Chun and Brother Kipp): Aida Cordero, Minister; Linda Whitman, Vice Minister; Kim McCarthy, Formation Director; Matt Najera, Secretary; Carole Kenzel, Treasurer; Michele Hoffman and Ginny Petrini, Councilors



Immaculate Conception Fraternity

On April 14, 2024, Immaculate Conception Fraternity, San Diego, held their fraternal elections. Maria Rodriguez, St. Francis Region Councilor, served as the Presider, while Tuan Cao served as Church Witness.



Newly elected Immaculate Conception Fraternity Fraternal Council, from left to right: Becky Taylor, Formation Director; Peggy Botte, Minister; Margo Raynes, Councilor; Sarah Langlois, Vice Minister; Leticia Gallego, Councilor; Mary Leeds, Councilor; Marisol Cesar, Secretary.
Not shown, Tom Stoddard, Treasurer.



Tuan Cao and Marie Huynh

St. Francis Korean Fraternity of Los Angeles



New Fraternity Council since May, 5 2024.

From the right to left: Formation director: Kim, Elizabeth Jung soon; Minister: Kim, Cecilia Sun sook;
Secretary: Moon, Rosalia; Treasurer: Lee, Martha Mi he; Councilor: Lee, Michaela Chung Ja;
Vice-Minister: Kim, Theresa Jung



2024 Regional Retreat Attendees



St. Francis Korean Fraternity of Anaheim

St. Francis Korean Fraternity in Anaheim held two events in May. First, fraternity members joined CoastKeeper to clean up the Huntington beach on May 11th. This was their first time joining the cleanup beach service. About 100 people joined for the clean-up on that day. There was a lot of tar on the beach from off-shore oil platforms - everyone's shoe bottoms were covered at the end of the day. Second, the fraternity had a barbeque picnic lunch on May 19th. They were joined by Fr. Macario Koh, their Spiritual Assistant, for Mass at the park at 10am. After that, barbeque and games followed.



San Luis Rey Fraternity

San Luis Rey Fraternity held their Chapter of Elections on March 10th, 2024.



Newly elected San Luis Rey Fraternity Council: Councilor Linda Gossett, Secretary Heidi Madden, Formation Director Corinne Helena, Minister Connie Collins, Vice Minister Kelly Farnum, Treasurer Carolyn Brock, and Councilor Liz Mavis.

Their Ceremony of Introduction and Welcoming was on April 12th, 2024.



San Luis Rey Fraternity Ceremony of Introduction and Welcoming: Formation Director Corinne Helena leads the Ceremony of Introduction and Welcoming for new Inquirers William Lopez, Maria La Barrie, Cathleen Sanchez, Mary Jo Strom, and Mark Strom.

Holy Spirit & Padre Pio Fraternities

On May 14th, St. Padre Pio Fraternity joined their brothers and sisters from Holy Spirit Fraternity at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Claremont to attend Mass together and renew their profession promises. Afterward, both fraternities joined together to share in ongoing formation with a video by Brother Bill Short, OFM and a potluck dinner.



Holy Spirit Fraternity

On January 23rd, three members of the Fraternity Participated in the annual homeless count in our city. On February 10th we were blessed to have Fr. Marek Stybor, OFM, Conv. lead the fraternity in an in person all day retreat. He reminded us that God answered St Francis' request to fully appreciate the suffering Christ underwent in His Passion with the Stigmata.

In Lent we organized a food drive at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish to benefit the unhoused and a local food pantry. After the Masses members of the Fraternity sorted and packed the food for the pantry and the street ministry.



On Palm Sunday the entire Fraternity participated in our annual Bake and Craft Sale to raise funds for various charities. Distribution of funds will be done when our treasurer returns from one of his annual medical missions to the Philippines.

Important Announcements



Scully Fund Requirements

The Scully Fund has been set up to encourage fraternities in the St. Francis Region to participate in charitable activities.

When members of a fraternity take an active role in an apostolic activity and use fraternity funds to purchase materials or supplies for the activity, the fraternity may request to be reimbursed by the Scully Fund for half of those expenses by supplying the following:

- A letter detailing the activity, the date it occurred, the number of fraternity members involved, and the amount of expenses incurred.
- Receipts for the purchases or a copy of the check(s) used to pay for the items.
- A request for reimbursement of half of the expenses.

Send the above information to either the Minister or Treasurer of the St. Francis Region.

THE ADDRESS OF ST. FRANCIS REGION IS:

10185 Pinetree Dr.
San Diego, CA 92131-1218

Important Notice for Fraternity Ministers and Spiritual Assistants

The 2025 Chapter will be on the **first weekend** in January

Saturday the 4th to Sunday the 5th

at Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center in Sierra Madre