

*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  
Spring Edition — 2025*

## *St. Francis Regional News!*

### *Minister's Message*

Two of the greatest blessings for me as regional minister are overseeing the organization and presentation of our annual Chapter and attending and participating at National Chapter. Both experiences demonstrate how the attendees come together and share the Franciscan charism with love and joy. It states in the Rule, Art. 19:

Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon.

Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others.

Unity and fraternal harmony – these are hopefully felt within our fraternities – including our regional fraternity, and something we strive to encourage at Chapter. And good communication is a major element to attain them.

We are all members of the Roman Catholic Church – with catholic meaning “universal.” And we are members of the Secular Franciscan Order, which is an international Order. As we seek ways of unity and fraternal harmony, we are to be inclusive, not excluding any of our Franciscan sisters and brothers in any way.

We are truly blessed in our region to have members from varying cultures and backgrounds. This blessing brings some challenges when it comes to regional gatherings - challenges that are worth addressing.

We have found at our last three regional picnics that language is no barrier to eating, playing and laughing together – especially with all the delicious international food that we share. And at last year's regional gathering, we were able to have presenters in both English and Korean. We are hoping to expand that for this year's gathering and have all four of our official languages included.

At the past four Regional Chapters translated notes have been provided to the Korean- Spanish- and Vietnamese-speakers in attendance so they are aware of what is being presented. We have also incorporated all four languages in our liturgies. All of this is done to be inclusive.

Our local fraternities, our region, our Order – cannot thrive unless we work toward unity and fraternal harmony, and bringing joy and hope to one another. To do this we need to be inclusive and meet the needs of all our members, including communication in a language they understand.

Peace & JOY!

Caroline

# *Minister's Message Translations*

## *Mensaje del Ministro*

Dos de las mas grandes bendiciones para mí como ministro regional son la supervisión de la organización y presentación de Nuestro Capítulo anual y el poder asistir y participar del Capítulo Nacional. Ambas experiencias demuestran como los asistentes se unen y comparten el carisma Franciscano con amor y alegría. Dice la Regla, Art. 19:

Como portadores de paz y conscientes de que la paz ha de construirse incesantemente, busquen caminos de unidad y concordia fraternal mediante el diálogo, confiando en la presencia del gérmen divino que está en todos y en la fuerza transformadora del amor y del perdón

Mensajeros de la perfecta alegría, esfuércense permanentemente en llevar a los demás el gozo y la esperanza.

Unidad y armonía fraternal - es de esperar que se sientan dentro de nuestras fraternidades, incluida nuestra fraternidad regional, y es algo que nos esforzamos por fomentar en el Capítulo. Y una buena comunicación es un elemento fundamental para lograrlas.

Todos somos miembros de la Iglesia Católica Romana - donde católico significa «universal». Y somos miembros de la Orden Franciscana Seglar, que es una Orden internacional. Al buscar caminos de unidad y armonía fraternal, debemos ser inclusivos, sin excluir de ninguna manera a ninguno de nuestros hermanos y hermanas franciscanos.

En nuestra región tenemos la bendición de contar con miembros de diversas culturas y orígenes. Esta bendición trae consigo algunos desafíos cuando se trata de reuniones regionales, desafíos que vale la pena abordar.

En nuestros últimos tres picnics regionales hemos descubierto que el idioma no es una barrera para comer, jugar y reír juntos, especialmente con toda la deliciosa comida internacional que compartimos. Y en la reunión regional del año pasado pudimos contar con presentadores tanto en inglés como en coreano. Esperamos poder ampliar esto para el encuentro de este año e incluir nuestros cuatro idiomas oficiales.

En los últimos cuatro Capítulos Regionales se han proporcionado notas traducidas a los hablantes de coreano, español y vietnamita presentes para que estén enterados de lo que se está presentando. También hemos incorporado los cuatro idiomas en nuestras liturgias. Todo esto se hace para ser inclusivo.

Nuestras fraternidades locales, nuestra región, nuestra Orden - no pueden prosperar a menos que trabajemos por la unidad y la armonía fraternal, y nos llevemos alegría y esperanza unos a otros. Para ello, debemos ser inclusivos y satisfacer las necesidades de todos nuestros miembros, incluida la comunicación en un idioma que entiendan.

Paz & GOZO!  
Caroline

## *Thư Ngỏ của Trường Phục Vụ*

Hai trong số những phước lành trọng đại nhất đối với tôi, một Trường Phục Vụ, là giám sát việc tổ chức và trình bày cho buổi Tu Nghị hàng năm và tham dự vào cuộc tu nghị Quốc gia. Cả hai trải nghiệm đều chứng tỏ rằng những tham dự viên đến với nhau để chia sẻ linh đạo Phan Sinh với tình yêu và niềm vui. Luật Dòng, Điều 19 có ghi:

Là những sứ giả bình an và với ý thức rằng sự bình an phải được xây dựng không ngừng, anh chị em hãy đối thoại để tìm kiếm những đường lối đưa đến hiệp nhất và hòa hợp huynh đệ. Anh chị em cứ tin tưởng vào mầm mống thần linh nơi con người, cũng như tin tưởng vào khả năng biến đổi của tình thương và lòng tha thứ.

Anh chị em là sứ giả của niềm vui trọn hảo trong mọi hoàn cảnh, anh chị em hãy ra sức mang niềm vui và niềm hy vọng đến cho người khác.

Sự hiệp nhất và hòa hợp huynh đệ – là những gì chúng ta hy vọng sẽ cảm nhận được trong các huynh đệ đoàn – kể cả huynh đệ đoàn Miền, và đây cũng là điều mà chúng ta nỗ lực khích lệ tại cuộc Tu Nghị. Thêm vào đó sự giao tiếp tốt là một yếu tố quan trọng để đạt được những điều ấy.

Chúng ta đều là thành viên của Giáo hội Công giáo Rôma – với từ "Công" có nghĩa là "toàn cầu". Và chúng ta là thành viên của Dòng Phan Sinh Tại Thế, một Dòng Quốc tế. Trong khi chúng ta kiếm tìm những phương thức để mang lại sự hiệp nhất và hòa hợp huynh đệ, chúng ta cần phải bao dung, và bằng mọi hình thức, không ngoại trừ bất kỳ một anh chị em Phan Sinh nào.

Miền của chúng ta thật là có phước vì được những thành viên từ các nền văn hóa và nguồn gốc khác nhau. Phước lành này cũng mang lại một số thách đố khi nói đến các buổi sinh hoạt Miền - những thách đố đáng được giải quyết.

Chúng tôi nhận thấy rằng tại ba buổi du ngoại Miền gần đây, ngôn ngữ không phải là một trở ngại cho việc cùng nhau ăn uống, vui chơi và cười đùa, đặc biệt là với những món ăn quốc tế rất ngon miệng mà chúng ta cùng chia sẻ. Và trong buổi sinh hoạt Miền năm ngoái, chúng ta đã có được những thuyết trình viên bằng cả tiếng Anh và tiếng Hàn. Chúng tôi hy vọng trong buổi sinh hoạt năm nay sẽ bao gồm cả bốn ngôn ngữ chính thức của chúng ta.

Trong bốn buổi Tu Nghị Miền trước đây, chúng tôi đã cung cấp các ghi chú được dịch cho những người tham dự nói tiếng Hàn, tiếng Tây Ban Nha và tiếng Việt để họ biết những gì đang được trình bày. Chúng tôi cũng đã kết hợp cả bốn ngôn ngữ vào các nghi thức phụng tự của chúng ta. Tất cả những việc này được thực hiện nhằm thể hiện tính bao gồm.

Các huynh đệ đoàn địa phương, huynh đệ đoàn Miền, và Dòng của chúng ta – không thể phát triển mạnh nếu chúng ta không cố gắng hướng tới sự hiệp nhất và hòa hợp huynh đệ, và mang lại niềm vui và hy vọng cho nhau. Để làm được điều này, chúng ta cần phải bao dung và đáp ứng nhu cầu của tất cả mọi thành viên, kể cả việc giao tiếp bằng ngôn ngữ mà họ có thể hiểu.

**Vui Tươi và An Bình!**

Caroline

## 회장 메세지

지구형제회 회장으로서 저에게 가장 큰 축복 중 두 가지는 년례 총회 준비과 발표를 감독하는 것과 국가 형제회 년례 총회에 참석하여 참여하는 것입니다. 이 두 경험 모두 참석자들이 한데 모여 사랑과 기쁨으로 프란치스칸 카리스마를 나누는 모습을 보여줍니다. 회칙 제 19 조는:

회원은 평화의 전달자로서 평화를 끊임없이 건설해야 함을 기억하여, 누구든지 신적 요소가 있으며 사랑과 용서로 사람을 변화시킬 힘이 있음을 신뢰하고, 대화를 통해서 일치와 형제적 화합의 방법을 모색해야 한다.

회원은 완전한 기쁨의 선포자이므로 어떤 처지에서든지 다른 이들에게 기쁨과 희망을 가져다 주도록 노력해야 한다.

일치와 형제적 조화 - 이것은 우리 지구 형제회를 포함한 모든 형제회에서 느껴지기를 바라는 것이며, 또한 총회에서 장려하고자 노력하는 부분입니다. 그리고 원활한 소통은 이를 이루기 위한 중요한 요소입니다.

우리는 모두 로마 가톨릭 교회의 구성원이며, "가톨릭"은 "보편적"이라는 의미를 갖고 있습니다. 또한 우리는 국제회인 재속 프란치스코회의 구성원입니다. 우리가 일치와 형제적 조화를 추구하는 과정에서, 어떤 방식으로든 프란치스칸 형제자매를 배제하지 않고 포용하는 자세를 가져야 합니다.

우리 지구는 다양한 문화와 배경을 가진 회원들이 함께 하는 큰 축복을 받았습니다. 이 축복에는 지구 모임 진행에 있어 몇 가지 어려움을 따르지만, 충분히 극복할 가치가 있는 어려움들입니다.

지난 세 번 지구 피크닉에서 우리는 함께 먹고, 놀고, 웃는 데 있어 언어가 장애물이 되지 않는다는 것을 확인하였습니다. 특히 우리가 나눈 세계 각국의 맛있는 음식 덕분에 더욱 그렇습니다. 그리고 작년 지구 모임에서는 영어와 한국어로 동시에 발표를 진행했습니다. 올해 모임에서는 더 나아가 우리 지구의 네 가지 언어로 진행할 수 있기를 희망합니다.

지난 네 번 지구 총회에서 한국어, 스페인어, 베트남어 참석자들에게 번역된 자료를 제공하여 발표 내용을 이해할 수 있도록 하였습니다. 또한, 우리의 전례에도 네 가지 언어를 모두 포함하였습니다. 모두를 포함하기 위한 노력이었습니다.

우리 단위 형제회, 지구, 우리회는 일치와 형제적 조화를 이루며 서로에게 기쁨과 희망을 전할 때 발전할 수 있습니다. 이를 위해 우리는 모든 회원을 받아들이고, 그들이 이해할 수 있는 언어로 소통하는 등 개개인의 필요를 충족시켜야 합니다.

평화와 기쁨!

캐롤라인

## *Conference of Regional Spiritual Assistants*

I've read that people who trap animals for zoos say that one of the hardest animals to catch is the ring-tailed monkey. The Zulus of Africa use a trap that is nothing more than a melon growing on a vine. The seeds of this melon are a favorite of the monkey. Knowing this, one simply cuts a hole in the melon. It should be just large enough for the monkey to get their hand into the melon. The monkey will stick his hand in, grab as many seeds as possible, but now the monkey's fist is larger than the hole. The monkey will pull and tug, screech and fight the melon for hours. Meanwhile, the Zulus sneak up and nab him.

But is the monkey really trapped? At any time the monkey can release himself by releasing the seeds. The poor ring-tailed monkey can choose to cling to the seeds. Maybe the monkey does not see the risk of staying, clinging to the seeds. Maybe the monkey is not capable of seeing other options.

We, too, can be trapped by refusing to let go of something. When we are fixated on someone who has wronged us, we may be like the intoxicated man who walked into a telephone pole, backed off, circled around, and then hit it again, then again. After four or five tries, he finally gave up thinking, "I'm trapped, surrounded by all these trees!"

A single obstacle can make it seem like we have no other path. We can be overwhelmed and even resentful of God, who seems not to care. Why would God care about sinners? Why should we not condemn them? Does God overlook our hurt? Why would God make demands of us that seem harsh? How could pain, suffering and sacrifice be in any way connected to something good?

God does love us. God is on our side. But there is a danger that our "righteous indignation" might lead us to get even, seeking justice. But who are we to think we can mete out the justice of God? While wrath can certainly energize us into action, it can also "short-circuit" our discernment of what really is God's will. God loves the victim, but God also loves the victimizer. God loves everyone.

Would it gladden God to see how the wrongdoing of one victimizer would lead the victim to become another victimizer?

Our Franciscan way informs us of how to notice Christ in all creation, especially in the humble things that are easily overlooked. So when we value ourselves and respect our own dignity, we work on becoming better people. We discover that God is patient with us. God isn't finished with us yet. Well it turns out that God is also patient with others, and is not finished with them yet either!

Jesus tells us: "Judge not, lest you be judged." Being a penitent like St Francis keeps us connected to the mercy of God. Imbued with God's mercy connects us to God and each other.

In English, the word "justice" sounds like the two words "Just - Us." If there is "just us," there is only "us." There can no longer be "us" against "them."

Jesus tells us: "Stop condemning, and you will not be condemned." Condemning an action is different from condemning a person. If we condemn someone, we separate ourselves from someone who Jesus loves. We need to realize we are all in the same family. This might take time.

We can start by making a sincere decision to change the way we intend to behave towards someone who has wronged us, even though we may still feel negatively towards that person. Eventually, there is a change in the way we feel toward this person. Letting go of what we think we are owed, gives way to empathy, than sympathy, then compassion, and eventually even love.

Saint Theresa of Calcutta said, "If we really want to love, we must learn how to forgive." It might have to start with forgiving ourselves. It is not uncommon in confession that someone would bring up an old sin from their youth which they have already confessed many times. God has already forgiven them, but they still haven't forgiven themselves. Some people find it easier to forgive someone else than themselves.

Making amends, or "paying it forward" and being charitable and helping a stranger can help convince ourselves that we have changed. When we can accept the love and mercy of the Lord, our shame melts away, and our heart grows. We let go, and we are truly free from the slavery of sin: our sins AND the sin of others.

We are freer than we think. We are not surrounded by a forest of trees. We need to be open to new directions. Our hand is not trapped. It is the fist that traps us. If we let go of the fist, we find our freedom. We cannot love if we are not free to choose to love.

Praise God who has gifted us with the example of St Francis. His life of penance led him to see God's forgiveness, discover the presence of God in all creation, enabled him to reconcile enemies, and celebrate with every ounce of his being the joy of Sharing our redemption with others.

Fr. Chris Thiel, OFM Cap  
Conference of Regional Spiritual Assistants

## *Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation*

### *Once They Encountered the Living Lord, The Wise Men Went Back by Another Way*

As a child, the wise men always fascinated me. They followed a star and may have walked hundreds of miles, keeping that star in sight, until they reached Bethlehem and found Jesus, lying in a manger. We learned that King Herod asked the wise men to return to him and tell him if they had found the one being proclaimed the “king.” But, the Gospel of Matthew tells us, “And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by *another way*.” (Matthew 2:12). How amazing it all seemed to me in my younger days. Following a star, and then a dream, the wise men were led to the baby Jesus and chose to ignore Herod’s directive and go home another way.

Now as an adult of considerable years, I continue to reflect upon the wisdom from those days many years ago. What was in the encounter with the baby Jesus in the manger that altered their lives? May we pause for a moment, sisters and brothers, to reflect upon that encounter. We know there were no words, for words were not yet possible. We know there were no activities, since activities were not yet possible. It may have taken me a lifetime to see, but this year, as I dimmed the lights in my home and lit the candles for evening prayer, I sat before the creche on my altar and saw the divine light from the baby Jesus enter the wise men. Indeed, they had encountered the Living Lord who is the light of the world. Jesus later says, “Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” John 8:12. The wise men encountered the Living Lord, received His divine light, and were changed. Yes, indeed, they went back by another way. We cannot know what route they took to arrive in Bethlehem and then return home. We are not even sure where “home” was. What we do know from scripture is that they were changed. Their way of life was changed. Amen and praise be to God.

Where then, sisters and brothers, do we encounter the Living Lord? Since He fills the whole universe with His Divine Presence, we can encounter Him everywhere. I will name four. We encounter Him in the Eucharist and then are sent out to take His message of love and light into the world. We encounter Him in His words: Feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, visit the prisoner, for the Lord tells us, “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25: 40. And as we go out and serve, we remember His words and encounter Him again in the suffering, the stranger, His people at the margins. And, finally, we encounter Him in nature, for we are called over and over throughout scripture to be good stewards of the earth, to care for it with love and thoughtfulness, that it has been entrusted to us by our Lord, and we honor that trust in love and respect for our Creator.

This is our work in our JPIC ministries, sisters and brothers. Our Beloved Saint Francis instructed us, Gospel to life, life to the Gospel and this is the Gospel. May we continue to encounter the Living Lord as Franciscans. May we join together and walk out in faith, knowing our work and ministries for Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation, are rooted in scripture, explained throughout our Church’s teachings, and nourished by the love and light of our Lord. May His Light fill us, change and embolden us to do His Holy work, and guide us on our path. Amen.

Peace and All Good,  
Patricia Grace, OFS  
JPIC Animator, St. Francis Region



# ***SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT FORMATION CERTIFICATION***

St. Francis Region is offering a 1-year program to complete Spiritual Assistant Formation Certification\*\* using the model:

*Gaze + Consider + Contemplate + Imitate*  
1 to 2 interactive 2-hour classes monthly via Zoom.

Topics to be covered through the formation program include:

*Introduction to Franciscan Spirituality*  
*Responsibilities of a Spiritual Assistant*  
*Franciscan Christology*  
*Franciscan Discernment*  
*Group Dynamics & Conflict Resolution*  
*Initial & Ongoing Formation*

Using various resources, we will examine this important role to represent the First Order in serving your brothers & sisters within the Secular Franciscan Order.

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We will meet for our first **in-person** gathering for prayer and an overview of the program on

Sunday, April 6, 2025 10am – 4pm

St Francis High School

200 Foothill Blvd \* La Canada Flintridge, CA. \* 91011

For questions, more information, or to register, please email: [frankmillerofs@gmail.com](mailto:frankmillerofs@gmail.com)

Registration will close on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Financial commitment for resources & classes is anticipated to be approximately \$150 per individual for the program.

**Please see class dates on back (subject to change).**

**\*\*IMPORTANT:** Successful attendance at this Spiritual Assistant Program will lead to certification of program completion; it does not imply nor guarantee an assignment as a Spiritual Assistant.



**Please note dates are subject to change.**

**All sessions will be in English.**

| <b>Date</b>          | <b>Time</b> | <b>Location</b> | <b>Notes</b>        |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Sun. April 6         | 10am – 4pm  | St Francis HS   | Attendance required |
| Sat. May 3           | 10am – Noon | Zoom            |                     |
| Sat. May 17          | 10am – Noon | Zoom            |                     |
| Sat. June 14         | 10am – Noon | Zoom            |                     |
| Sat. July 12         | 10am – Noon | Zoom            |                     |
| Sat. Aug 9           | 10am – Noon | Zoom            |                     |
| Sat. Aug. 23         | 10am – Noon | Zoom            |                     |
| Sat. Sept 20         | 10am – Noon | Zoom            |                     |
| Sat. Oct. 11         | 10am – Noon | Zoom            |                     |
| Sat. Nov. 8          | 10am – Noon | Zoom            |                     |
| Sat. Nov. 22         | 10am – Noon | Zoom            |                     |
| <i>Holiday Break</i> |             |                 |                     |
| Sat. Jan. 10         | 10am – Noon | Zoom            |                     |
| Sat. Feb. 14         | 10am – Noon | Zoom            |                     |
| Sat. Mar. 14         | 10am – Noon | Zoom            |                     |
| Sat. Mar. 28         | 10am – Noon | Zoom            |                     |
| Sat. Apr 11          | 10am – Noon | Zoom            |                     |
| Sat. May 9           | 10am – Noon | Zoom            |                     |

*Closing retreat and reflection:*

Fri. June 26 5pm through Sun. June 28 1pm, Attendance is required.

Serra Retreat Center (Malibu)

- ❖ Participants should be professed three years or more.
- ❖ There will be occasional reading assignments.
- ❖ Class participation is very important to the program.
- ❖ We understand that things may come up over the training program which might require someone to miss a session. No more than two Zoom sessions can be missed during the program.
- ❖ In-person attendance at the opening April 6<sup>th</sup> session and closing weekend retreat at Serra are mandatory to receive a certificate of program completion.
- ❖ Presentation speakers will include:
  - Br. Kip Ledger, OFM Cap; Fr. Chris Thiel, OFM Cap;
  - Margie Rodriguez, OFS; Frank Miller, OFS; and invited guest speakers.

# Secular Franciscan Order Retreat

May 23 -25,  
2025

## The Spirit of Prayer & Devotion

Both in the Rule of 1223 and his Letter to St. Anthony of Padua, Francis is adamant that nothing should "extinguish the Spirit of prayer and devotion." What did he mean by this? And how do we foster this Spirit of prayer and devotion? In four talks, Fr. Albert will explore practical ways of fostering this Spirit of prayer and devotion and keeping it alive in our daily lives.



### Retreat Presenter: Fr. Albert Haase, OFM

Ordained a Franciscan priest in 1983, Albert Haase, OFM, is a popular preacher, teacher, and spiritual director. A former missionary to mainland China for more than eleven years, he is the award-winning author of more than fifteen books on popular spirituality and the presenter on five best-selling streaming videos (Paraclete Press). He currently resides at San Miguel Friary in San Antonio TX.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Note: A \$50 per person non-refundable deposit is required for registration

Single Room \$320.

Double Room \$260 per person, Roommate Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\$50 Deposit Only

Please check if this is your first overnight retreat at Serra Retreat

Do you NEED a room on the first floor? Yes or No

First Floor rooms are very limited. Please let us know if you have any medical reasons that require you to be on the first floor: \_\_\_\_\_

Specific rooms are not guaranteed/ALL rooms have adjoining bathroom

Credit card information #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ CVV# \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Serra Retreat. :

3401 Serra Road, P.O. Box 127, Malibu, CA 90265 Attn: Isabel  
(310) 456-6631 ~ [communications@serraretreat.com](mailto:communications@serraretreat.com)



Help us go green: Please print email address clearly. Confirmations are sent via email.

# CHAPTER 2025

January 4-5



Morning Prayer



## Presentations



Caroline Yandell  
Regional Minister



John Kwon  
Regional Formation Director



Frank Miller  
Regional Vice Minister



Janet Serros  
Regional Councilor



Fr. Chris Thiel  
Regional Spiritual Assistant



Fr. Marek Stybor  
National Spiritual Assistant



Laura Chun, Regional Secretary, at work.



Break time for attendees



Enjoying great meals at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center



Area residents of the retreat center.





# LA Religious Ed Congress

February 21-23



Set up crew: Caroline Yandell with Judith and Bill Mussatto



Friday team: Elena Morales Olivo, Judith Mussatto, Margie Rodriguez, Janet Serros, and Jesús Olivo  
Check out our new Canticle Centenary banner.



Two special visitors: Sr. Madeline Fitzgerald, OSC, and Sr. Kathy Warren, OSF



Sunday team: Ivan Tapia, Gabriela Ramos, Alejandro Ramos, Caroline Yandell, Judith & Bill Mussatto

# *Fraternity News*

## *Holy Spirit Fraternity*

We began this period by sponsoring a Community Thanksgiving Day Meal. We did it in person this year after 2 years of drive throughs because of COVID. Guests particularly appreciate being in community since the meal is served family style with two people acting as hosts to encourage conversation among our guests.



In Advent we organized a Food Drive at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Claremont. The food drive supplies food for the food pantry at a St Madaline, a neighboring parish in Pomona, and food for local unhoused people.

The January meeting was our annual Epiphany Party. We also invited friends and relatives to join us. It began with carols, followed by a potluck meal and a gift exchange.



The final event of the quarter was the profession of our newest member Gail Klein, OFS on January 18<sup>th</sup>. We were joined by members of the St. Padre Pio Fraternity, sisters from three orders and members of parish organizations to which Gail belongs. The celebrant was Fr. Steve Gross, OFM, Conv., who established the fraternity many years ago. Gail's brother, Fr. John Janko, SDB was the concelebrate. The celebration continued with a light meal.



## *Come And See in Solvang*

On January 19, there was a Come and See at the Old Mission Santa Ines in Solvang. Br. Kip Ledger, OFM Cap., one of our Regional Spiritual Assistants, had been sharing with Mass attendees at both the novitiate, where he resides, and at the Mission church about the Secular Franciscan Order and had compiled a list of over 45 people who were interested in learning more. Approximately 35 people attended the Come and See, including a couple professed members whose fraternity had deactivated. Of those in attendance, 22 signed up to proceed. Some of those who were unable to attend the Come and See may also want to participate when the group starts meeting.

Br. David Hirt, OFM Cap. will be the Spiritual Assistant for the Newly Forming Group (NFG). St. Louis the King Fraternity in Santa Barbara will be the sponsoring fraternity, providing the initial formation sessions for the NFG. They will also be inviting the NFG members to their special events.

Please pray for the success of this Newly Forming Group. It will be wonderful to have a fraternity in the Solvang/Santa Ynez area again.



Br. Kip sharing Franciscan spirituality.



Caroline Yandell, OFS, Regional Minister, sharing information about the Secular Franciscan Order.



Aida Cordero, OFM, Minister of St. Louis the King Fraternity, attended and assisted in answering questions. (Sitting in the center of photo.)

# *Important Announcements*

## ***A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL CENTENARY TASK FORCE CHAIR***

Dear sisters and brothers,

As we celebrate the 800th anniversary of Francis' inspired writing of the Canticle of the Creatures, we want to involve YOU. We invite you to submit your own photos that illustrate the Canticle to [canticlecentenary@gmail.com](mailto:canticlecentenary@gmail.com) by **March 8, 2025**. We will create a PowerPoint with the Canticle and the photos we think best illustrate each stanza and release it on Earth Day, with attribution to the photographer and fraternity.

Anyone associated with a Secular Franciscan fraternity may submit a photo – members, those in formation, family members of fraternity members, “Friends of Francis”, and spiritual assistants at any level.

We look forward to seeing your contributions! If you have questions, please reach out to us at [nafracentenarytaskforce@googlegroups.com](mailto:nafracentenarytaskforce@googlegroups.com).

Vickie Klick, OFS  
Chair, NAFRA Centenary Task Force

### ***IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR FRATERNITY MINISTERS***

**Chapter 2026 will be on February 14 – 15 at  
Mary and Joseph Retreat Center  
5300 Crest Road  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275**

### ***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