

Junipero Serra of Carmel Secular Franciscan Fraternity



Footsteps

April 2012

CALENDAR

- Apr 8 Easter
- Apr 15 Fraternity Gathering
- Apr 16 Profession of Francis with Pope Innocent III
- Apr 23 Blessed Giles of Assisi
- May 16 Margaret of Cortona
- May 20 Ascension of the Lord
- May 20 Fraternity Gathering at Mission San Juan Bautista Teaching Ctr. 408 2nd St.
- May 24 Dedication of the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi
- May 27 Pentecost
- May 28 Mary Ann of Jesus, OSF



Fraternity Council

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Minister | Rosemary Apodaca |
| Vice Minister | Carol Greenwald |
| Secretary | Melva Simmons |
| Treasurer | Anne Peloquin |
| Formation Dir. | Brian Simmons |
| Counselor | David Lansford |
| Spiritual Assist. | Sr. Dolores Fenzel |



Catholic Climate Covenantsm
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

The Franciscan Action Network (FAN) has been highlighting the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishop's program, *Catholic Climate Covenant*. This month the focus is on water. The best and easiest first step to familiarize yourself with the features of the *Covenant* is to visit their website: catholicclimatecovenant.org where you can take the St. Francis pledge.

Before taking the pledge, ask yourself - How am I, as a Franciscan, responsible for what Francis called Sister Water? Before answering this question, reflectively pray the following:

We echo in our times the praise of God which St. Francis offered for the gift of Sister Water:

Creator of Water, help us who follow St. Francis to value your precious gift which nourishes, refreshes, invigorates and cleanses us.

Creator of Water, grant all of our brothers and sisters of the human family to respect this life-giving element and use it with gratitude.

Creator of Water, help those who suffer from drought and its consequences to receive aid from those of us who have water and good harvests in abundance.

Creator of Water, grant that the nations of the earth may see the oceans as a common heritage of human-kind and not alone for those powerful enough to exploit it.

Creator of Water, raise up prophets in the powerful nations who will speak against using the seas as potential battlegrounds and places of destruction.

Creator of Water, enlighten us American Franciscans to know what we can do to foster Justice in our country and our world so that Sister Water may again be a gift for all humankind. Amen.

Continued on Pg 5, under Integrity of Creation

Birthdays

- Apr 27 Annie Medina
May 1 Susie Saenz
May 9 Dee Ferris
May 11 Melva Simmons
May 14 Brandy Chavez



Professions

- Apr 11 Genevieve Edwards
Apr 20 David Lansford
Apr 20 Barbara Muck
May 22 Ed Sweeney

*I promise to live all the days of my life
-the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ-
in the Secular Franciscan Order
by observing its rule of life.*

Footsteps

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**Deadline for Submissions:
2nd Monday**

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE



By Rosemary Apodaca

Alleluia, Alleluia, He has risen. All praise to Our Lord for from Him all good things come. What a great feeling it is to celebrate after forty days of Lent - fasting, giving up things and giving of yourself to others. Now it is a time to celebrate, a time to sing, shout, dance and praise God with smiling faces. Why don't I do this more often?

Each year I learn something new during Lent (new to me any way), some pearl of wisdom that enlightens my mind, and this year is no exception. This year I realized that we don't have to wait for Lent to reflect on all God has done for us and on all we must do for each other. I can fast and offer up loving actions to God at anytime. I can also fast or repent for my sins anytime (and probably should do so more often). Maybe this isn't news to most of you, but then why is it that many of us wait until Lent to be good Catholics?

Maybe I should speak for myself. Why is it that I wait until Easter to joyfully sing God's praises? Maybe I should reflect on what Francis did. Ah ha! That is the question we Franciscans spend so much time contemplating - What would Francis do (WWFD)! I think Francis would realize that Easter is not just a day., but that we have many more weeks ahead of us this Easter season and beyond for rejoicing in the renewed hope of our Risen Lord.

I am so sorry I won't be with all of you this Sunday. I will be in Arizona with my oldest daughter and her family. So, even though I will miss all of you, I will be enjoying time with my "other family." My son in law, Danny, will be retiring from the Air National Guard. I am so proud of him, and I am looking forward to the celebration planned for him on the base. On a sad note, Danny's grandmother passed away last week, so for him this is a bitter sweet celebration.

We have one last chance to sign up for the Franciscan Family Gathering in San Francisco. Please, if you are interested, there is still time. See one of the council members or look for the notice in this month's Footsteps.

Let us all send good wishes and prayers with Carol as she travels to Italy later this month. Buon viaggio, Carol. Until May 20th when our Fraternity gathers at the Mission's Teaching Center, may God bless you and keep you all.

Paz y bien
Rosemary Apodaca, OSF



“Who Will Roll Away the Stone?” - Mark 16:3

Rule 1 of the Secular Franciscan Order boils things down nicely to the root of the whole rule: we are to “observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of St. Francis of Assisi.” Rule 7 calls upon us to “conform (our) thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel itself calls ‘conversion.’” (The rule also notes that due to our “human frailty,” daily conversion is necessary.) “Root” and “radical” are, of course, two words that mean the same thing. When it came to being a disciple of Jesus, Francis was a pretty radical guy.

This past weekend was, of course, Easter. At the Easter Vigil Mass, we heard the story of Christ’s resurrection from Mark’s gospel, which included the line cited above. Hearing it brought to mind an old (1994) book by the same title that is a reflection on Mark’s gospel. Ched Myers, the author, uses the same term we find in rule 7 in describing the focus of Mark’s work – he says it is a call to radical discipleship. We are called to live out Jesus’s vision of a life of love, peace, and justice.

As Franciscans, we have heard language like this since the first days of initial formation. Why is living such a life so hard? What, as Myers puts it, impedes us from “continuing the narrative of biblical radicalism”? Myers suggests that part of the problem is that the message of contemporary American culture is exactly the opposite of such an approach to life. Instead of embracing simplicity, peace, justice, and care for creation, our culture values consumerism, greed, domination over others, and radical individualism. Living in such a context not only makes living out gospel values a challenge, it makes even trying to do so very disheartening. It is simply easier to conform to the norms of the culture than to embrace radical discipleship. To continue the language of Easter, our culture (and the extent to which we embrace it) is the stone that keeps Jesus in the tomb.

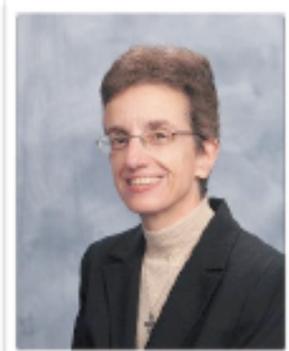
But as Easter people, we know that the story does not end with the stone. Indeed, we know from Mark 16:4 that the stone has been rolled away. Myers says, “It is a miraculous gift from the Presence outside the constraints of natural or civic law and order . . . All we need is the bifocal vision of apocalyptic grace to see that the tomb is open and empty.” The young man at the tomb in Mark’s gospel tells the women that Jesus “is going before you.” Myers ties this back to the very beginning of Mark’s gospel (1:2): “Behold, I send my messenger before you who will reconstruct the Way.” Myers says, “whenever we respond to the invitation to discipleship, we join Jesus where he already is – on the Way.”

The stone has indeed been rolled away. It is up to us, using the gift of God’s grace, to keep it rolled away, to keep Jesus from again being entombed. We do that by modeling a radical commitment to the gospel – joining Jesus on the Way – as did Francis. We aren’t going to do it perfectly. Fortunately, as the Rule tells us, we get a new chance every day.

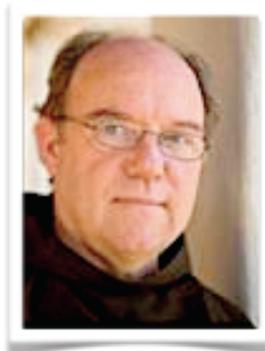
Jesus is risen from the dead. He goes before us. Let us rejoice!

Compassion: Living in the Spirit of St. Francis

**The Second
All Franciscan
Family Gathering
Please join us!**



Keynote speaker:
Ilia Delio, OSF



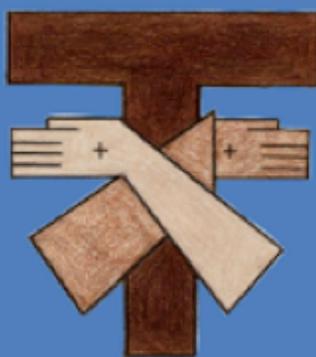
Keynote speaker:
William Short, OFM
Spanish Speakers

April 28, 2012
8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Hotel Whitcomb, San Francisco

To register, contact Donna Foley, donnamfoley@comcast.net

2012

Quinquennial



**Why
Francis?**



**Claim
the Gift**

Quinquennial Information and Registration

www.nafra-sfo.org/q2012.html

FRANCISCANS IN ACTION



JUSTICE

Abolish the Death Penalty

This month the state of Connecticut has replaced its death penalty with life without parole! But the impact of Connecticut's recent decision will be felt far beyond the state's own borders. Connecticut is now the fifth state to replace the death penalty in five years -- and many people are working to add California to that list!

SAFE California is sponsoring the California SAFE Act, an initiative on California's November Ballot that will replace California's death penalty with a sentence of life in prison with no chance of parole as the maximum punishment for murder. Learn more about the SAFE Act at SafeCalifornia.org.



PEACE

A Prophet of Peace

"We have pledged to use nonviolent methods in our efforts to achieve democracy and human rights. This is not because nonviolent methods are easy. It is because we would like to dispel the view that change in Burma can only be achieved through the use of arms and violence. It is also because we would like to establish the precedent that negotiations are the only way to resolve political issues. Once this practice has become established, problems arising from dissatisfaction among the rulers or the people can be resolved without bloodshed."

Aung San Suu Kyi, Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize 1991, and elected to the Burmese House of Parliament, April 1, 2012



INTEGRITY OF CREATION

Catholic Climate Covenant



Continued from Pg 1

After your prayer and reflection, you may be thinking that some personal and collective lifestyle changes could be in order. Consider the article found at eartheasy.com/live_water_saving.htm. It includes the sobering statement that 45 of 50 U.S. states now experience "water-stress" conditions.

What better time to start than this time of Christ's rising and the Spring season of rebirth?

- Adapted from a message from Kent Ferris (FAN)

PRAY + LEARN + ASSESS + ACT + ADVOCATE

EARTH DAY 2012



Nepenthe

"The human community and the natural world will go into the future as a single sacred community or we will both perish in the desert."

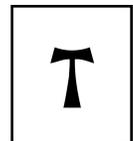
Thomas Berry

**Join the celebration at San Carlos Cathedral Hall, Monterey
on Earth Day, Sunday, April 22, at 1:30 P.M.**

Brother Keith Warner OFM, who teaches in the Environmental Studies Institute at Santa Clara University, will present an informative and inspiring presentation on:

Why Does It Matter Whether We Care for Creation?

Junipero Serra of Carmel Secular Franciscan Fraternity



"In our totality we are born of the Earth.
Our spirituality itself is earth-derived...
If there is no spirituality in the earth,
then there is no spirituality in ourselves"

- Thomas Berry