



# THE ST. ANTHONY FRATERNITY NEWSLETTER

Fraternity #101 Volume 22 Issue 06 June 2019

This issue is dedicated in honor of ST. ANTHONY on his FEAST DAY: JUNE 13

## ST. ANTHONY, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

**St. Anthony of Padua** is one of the most popular and beloved saints. It may be a surprise to some that the “finder of lost items” is also a Doctor of the Church, even given the title of Evangelical Doctor as proclaimed by Pope Pius XII in 1946. His South American devotees, who call him St. Anthony of Lisbon after his birthplace, **at first resisted his new title of doctor, fearing that it would disconnect him from the common folk.**

Having studied as an Augustinian in Spain and then transitioning to life as a Franciscan in Italy, many of his fellow Franciscans thought **washing dishes to be his greatest skill.** It was only when St. Anthony was asked to preach for a special gathering that his gifts were discovered. He was also entrusted by St. Francis with the **formation of the Franciscans.**

St. Anthony, the Evangelical Doctor, was steeped in the prayerful study of Scripture in light of the Church Fathers. His main interest was in **stirring hearts to the love of God** and his main tool was the **witness of his life**, which stood to support the **unique skill of his teaching and preaching.**

## ST. ANTHONY FEAST DAY PICNIC

The **June 23 Fraternity Gathering** will be our St. Anthony Feast Day picnic. **All members and their family and guests are welcomed.** Members bring side dishes to go with grilled meats (provided by Fraternity.) Member assignments are as follow: member last names **Armijo through MacMillan bring desserts and Martinez through Xuereb bring side dishes (salads, veggies, chips, etc.).** Burgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments and drinks will be provided.

## INSPIRING RITE OF ADMISSION



**(Guests from left to right):** Susan (daughter), Isaiah (grandson), Haylee (granddaughter), Rachel (daughter), Bill, Mary & Jim Benvenuti (friends), Msgr. Bennett Voorhies (Bill’s Pastor at Our Lady of the Annunciation).

Franciscan communities (and SAF is no exception) are urged to enrich their local celebrations to achieve what **St. Francis** desired for us: **“to have the spirit of God at work within them, while they pray to him unceasingly with a heart free from self-interest”** (from Forward to “Ritual of the SFO”).

The Rite of Admission celebration conducted on May 19 was not conducted just for **Bill Parras’** benefit, rather it successfully targeted, enriched and unified the spiritual life and joy of all SAF members and guests who attended, **Alleluia !**

Minister **Abraham Placencio**, OFS effectively led the ceremony with support from Spiritual Assistant **Br. Gordon Boykin**, OFM; and

Formation Director **Rena Xuereb**, OFS. What seemed the most inspiring part of this ritual was the parade of all attendees who exchanged their spiritual joy with Bill.



**Connie, Marilyn, and Tommie congratulate Bill.**

## PRE-CANDIDATE SPIRITUAL RETREAT RECAP



Bill & Lydia Parras

Although I was never a Boy Scout, one of their mottos is: “**BE PREPARED**” which means you are **always in a state of readiness in mind and body to do your DUTY.**

The spiritual retreat conducted May 11 on my behalf (**Bill Parras**) was a unique spiritual experience to learn what Christ wants of me and to **BE PREPARED** for admission to St. Anthony Secular Franciscan Fraternity Candidate Formation.

Ten SAF participants attended and blessed both this spiritual event and me by their presence. My beloved spouse for almost **50 years** – **Lydia** was by my side “supporting her man” on his Secular Franciscan journey.

I especially appreciated that **Ed Dzienis** and **Adrian Montoya** were among the participants. Ed invited me to start my SAF journey, and I invited Adrian (who is in Orientation formation) to start his SAF journey. **The spirit of evangelizing new aspirants to join us in our Secular Franciscan journey is a vital component of our Fraternity!**

The Spiritual Retreat was commenced with “**A Franciscan Lectio Divina**” (*St. Clare of Assisi and Her Gift to the Franciscan Family*):

**“Gaze upon Him,  
Consider Him,  
Contemplate Him,  
as you desire to *Imitate Him*”.**

(Clare’s second letter to Agnes)

A video by **Father Michael Crosby**, O.F.M. Cap. entitled “**The Message of St. Francis for Today**” was played and addressed his message that is still applicable in 2019. His first message was to develop the “**Idea of God**”. His early life was a prayerful search for determining who God

was versus who Francis was. Our initial and ongoing formation is also a search for God and our own identity which eventually leads to the question: **Why are we serving the servants (worldly people and possessions) when we should be serving the Lord?**

His second message was “**Vision of Community**”. In the turmoil of wars and religious discord during his early life, Francis was passionate about bringing peace to the whole world using the Holy Spirit. This required redefining the importance of relationships with each other. Francis’ view of relationships was that **we should treat everyone as equal. We are ALL brothers and sisters in community.** Francis promoted the highest value and respect for all creation such as **Sister Mother Earth** (referred to in the **Canticle of the Sun**) which is the only home we all must live and survive in.

The final message to attain peace throughout the world was “**Conversion or a Change of Heart to the Gospel**”. The process of conversion includes the steps: **SEEK, FIND, SELL, and BUY.**

**To come into the reign of God is to search and find that SINGLE PEARL that is so valuable that we will sell everything that gets in our way to buy it!**



As Secular Franciscans, when we turn our will and life over to God, we are buying into His Trust. Once you find love, you are willing to buy or give love in a new way of life. **We will never surrender unless we first embrace.** As we all pursue both formation and ongoing formation, we need to continue seeking, finding, selling and buying that “**Pearl of Grace**”.

**“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.”**

(Matthew 45, 46)

## POOR CLARES' FORM OF LIFE



Our Lord Jesus Christ gave to his Church the wonderful divine gift of the evangelical counsels which spring from his own life since they are founded on his words and example. Thus our religious state of life, which strives to imitate the form of life which the Son of God took upon himself and to make it clearly visible, belongs inseparably to the life and holiness of the Church. Our

Order is an institute of the contemplative life ordained in a special way for the praise and worship of God. It strives to give witness to Christ praying on the mountain and to share in the most universal way the hardships, miseries, and hopes of all humankind.

That we may enlarge our hearts for this vocation which corresponds so fully with the deepest aspirations of human nature, we ought to attend to the integral imitation of Christ by emphasizing those virtues which St. Clare lived in her characteristic way: the pursuit of the spirit of God and his holy operation, seraphic obedience and charity, a spirit of community, apostolic zeal poverty, humility, simplicity, penitence, and persevering joy of heart. Religious profession is an act of adoration of God which shows forth splendidly the Paschal mystery, impelling us to lose our life that we may find it. It draws its sacrificial strength from the sacrifice of Christ.

## SISTER MARY IMMACULATA'S JUBILEE

On Saturday, **June 22, 2019** eve of His Body and Blood, Jesus will renew His covenant of love with His Bride, Sister Mary Immaculata of the Eternal Father as she celebrates her silver jubilee (25 years) of religious profession as a Poor Clare nun. The Mass of Jubilee will start at **9:00 am**. SAF Members are invited to attend and it is recommended to be at the Monastery 20 minutes early, since the organist will play a prelude. The ordinary Mass will commence, with her renewal of vows after the homily. **Father John Riley** will be the principal celebrant. After the Mass, anyone who attends is welcome to go to the visiting parlor to greet **Sister Immaculata** and our **Mother Abbess, Mother Mary Angela**. There is no scheduled reception afterwards. Address: **809 East 19th St., Roswell, NM, 88201-7599**.

## "St. Francis of Assisi — Passion, Poverty and the Man Who Transformed the Catholic Church"

Following is an excerpt from the Forward by **Bishop Gregory Hartmayer, O.F.M. Conv.:**

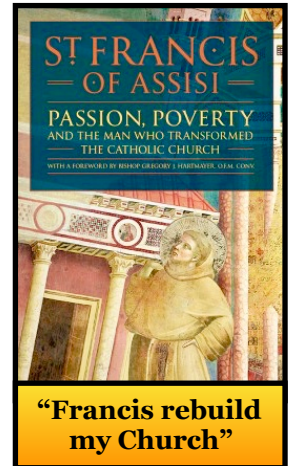
This may appear to be just another book about St. Francis. However, it soon becomes apparent that this is no ordinary biography about the "poor man of Assisi."

The author (**Bret Thomas, OFS**) takes you on a spiritual odyssey in the footsteps of Francis back in time to the 12th and 13th centuries, leading to a deeper understanding of the saint.

**Without realizing it, you will find yourself reviewing the discernment of your own commitment as a "missionary disciple."** You will reflect upon those times when you, too, heard the voice(s) that caused you to wrestle with your own decisions as to which road to travel down. **In the course of your reading, you, too will ask, "Lord, what do you want me to do?"**

The author reminds us that following the humble Christ on the road to peace is not an easy road to find or travel. We meet the melancholy Francis, who, during his discernment experienced debilitating depression, discouragement and lack of interest and enthusiasm. Yet in his loneliness and brokenness, Francis experienced a connection to the Man on the cross and felt drawn to the crucified for the gift of absolution and a clarity of mission. **His heart became alive with a burning love of Jesus and a desire to follow Him. Francis brings us with him.**

This book (**written by a brother Secular Franciscan**) is a journey well worth taking. **This work is well researched, easy to read, and presented with the affection of a true son of Francis.**



**"Francis rebuild my Church"**

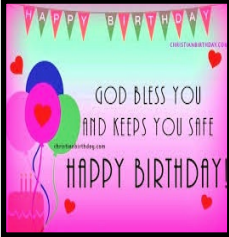


INITIAL FORMATION CLASSES (Orientation, Inquiry, Candidacy)		
DATE	TIME	PLACE
<b>JUNE SCHEDULE</b>		
<b>ORIENTATION (Adrian &amp; Felicie)</b>		
June 8	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Xuereb's Home
<b>CANDIDACY 2nd Yr (Frances &amp; Regina)</b>		
June 2	1:00 - 3:00 pm	Xuereb's Home
June 23	12:30 - 2:00 pm	ABP*
<b>CANDIDACY 1st Yr (Bill and Linda)</b>		
June 4	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Xuereb's Home
June 25	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Xuereb's Home

JULY SCHEDULE		
<b>ORIENTATION (Adrian &amp; Felicie)</b>		
July 13	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Xuereb's Home
<b>CANDIDACY 2nd Yr (Frances &amp; Regina)</b>		
July 7	1:00 - 3:00 pm	Xuereb's Home
July 28	12:30 - 2:00 pm	ABP*
<b>CANDIDACY 1st Yr (Bill and Linda)</b>		
July 9	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Xuereb's Home
July 30	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Xuereb's Home
ABP* means "A Becoming Place", 1350 Lake View SW		
Xuereb's Home address: 8409 Plymouth Rock NE		

GATHERING & COUNCIL MEETINGS			
June 8	Council Meeting	ABP*	9:00-12:00pm
June 23	ST. ANTHONY FEASTDAY PICNIC (ABP*) 2:00-5:00pm St. Martin Hopeworks		
June 29	Council Meeting	ABP*	9:00-12:00pm
July 28	ST. ANTHONY GATHERING (ABP*) 2:00-5:00pm CFR Pantry		

### BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS:

	Victor Xuereb	June 10
	Elizabeth Chavez	June 12
	Nancy Fishel	June 12
	Josephine Martinez	June 19

### WE PRAY FOR:

Jan Parker (National Minister), Vicka Earl (Regional Treasurer), Logan Rohrkemper (Gerry's niece), Tony DeCorte (Our Lady of Guadalupe Fraternity), Luz and Socorro Lopez (Sofia Villareal's mother and sister), Harry Chavez (Elizabeth's brother), Fred Bates, Isadore (Alcaria Valdez's son), Marilyn Migliarini, Marge Armijo, Maria Lucero and family (Frances' relatives), Ernestine Sedillo, Tommie Page and her daughters (Nanette and Stephanie), Jeannette Feldman, Connie Jo Martinez, Elizabeth Chavez, Barbara Heilman, Art and Erma Lente, Eva Bevington, John and Nancy Fishel, Derek Kolb, Cheryl Thomas (Br. Gordon's sister), Clare Domenici and Karen Fellner's sister.



### For the repose of the souls

**of:** Melissa and Kristelle Parras (Bill's daughter and granddaughter); Carlos A. Armijo (Marge Armijo's nephew), Fr. Emeric Nordmeyer, OFM; Pedro Padilla (Frances' nephew), Winifred Klimka, Cidro Gallegos (Rena's brother), Dorothy Swanson, Minnie Vasquez (Espiritu Santo), Wilfred Otero, Arturo Olivas, and Harry Martinez (Connie Jo's husband).

### Hospitality Assignments

June 23	3	Victor & Rena, Mary Lou, Connie, Frances
July 28	4	Marilyn, Israela, Luciana, Gerry, Laura, Tony
August 25	1	Ernestine, Connie Jo, Tommie, Gina Bill and Adrian

### SATURDAY MASS AVAILABLE AT FRIARY

All are invited to attend weekly Masses for living and deceased SAF members each Saturday in the Friary Chapel, 1350 Lakeview Dr. NW. Morning Prayer of Liturgy of Hours starts at 9:00 am followed by Mass. For **June**, the Mass dates are **1, 8, 15, 22, and 29!**



## ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA AND THE HOLY CHILD

(The following article was written by **Jack Wintz, O.F.M.**) If there is anything I've learned from visiting churches and Catholic missions throughout the world, it is that the **image of Anthony and the child Jesus is a favorite around the globe.** It can be found wherever Catholic missionaries have carried the Good News, even in the most remote regions of the world.

I have consistently found the image of Anthony with the child Jesus quite friendly and likable. Even as I encountered artists who smiled at it in patronizing ways and dismissed it as too sweet and sentimental, this did not keep me from finding the image appealing.

For a good part of my life, I did not look for a deeper meaning in this familiar image. In recent years, however, I've taken a wholly different viewpoint. I've concluded that this popular image has developed in the Franciscan tradition and in the Catholic consciousness for some profound reason. For me, it conveys something vitally important in the Franciscan and Catholic spirit.

Exploring this image is something like exploring a vivid dream we've had during the night. We wake up the next morning and wonder, "Now what was that all about?" We assume that this dream, emerging from our inner depths, may hold an important meaning for our lives. So, too, the images that rise from the inner life of the Church may well hold profound meanings for us.

**The image of Anthony holding the Divine Infant is a symbol and model for each of us.**

The image inspires us to go through life clinging to the wonderful mystery of the humble, self-emptying Christ, who accompanies us as a servant of our humanity and of the world's healing.

This is the image of Christ that Saint Paul sketches for us in his **Letter to the Philippians (2:5–8)**. Paul urges that we take on the attitude of "*Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of*

*a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross*".

**This passage from Philippians is a key building block of Franciscan spirituality.** And if the infant in Anthony's arms were to speak, Philippians 2:5–8 would be his first message and self-description.

**Just as Jesus' death on a cross reveals God's total self-giving love for us, so also does his Incarnation (symbolized in the Christ child).** The late Fr. Raymond Brown, eminent Scripture scholar, has affirmed that "**the divine self-giving**" revealed in Jesus' Incarnation is comparable to "**God's supreme act of love...embodied in Jesus' self-giving on the cross.**" Brown adds, "Indeed, some theologians have so appreciated the intensity of love in the Incarnation that they have wondered whether that alone might not have saved the world even if Jesus was never crucified." This is the kind of love that radiates from the Christ child so often pictured in Saint Anthony's arms.

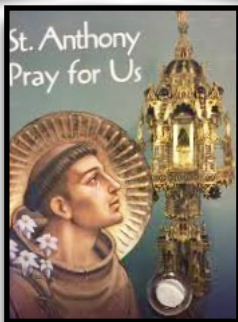
**Would it not be a good idea for all of us to go through life carrying an imaginary God-child in our arms—and holding him up to the world?** The child, however, is not really imaginary or fictitious. Two thousand years ago, thanks to the Virgin Mary's "Yes," the Son of God left behind his divine condition and came to dwell as a human child among us. Our faith tells us that he does accompany us each day like a humble servant—like a vulnerable child.

**Like Saint Anthony, we would do well to carry this image lovingly with us on our Secular Franciscan journey through life.**



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<b>A Becoming Place</b>	1350 Lakeview SW, Albuquerque 87105.	(Location of SAF Gatherings)	

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This St. Anthony Fraternity Newsletter is the **12th monthly newsletter** processed by **Mary Lou Narvaez**, OFS and prepared by **Bill Parras**, SAF Newsletter Editor. Please pray for our families and our continued SAF journey.

We are the *Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis*  
(The Secular Franciscan Order) in the  
United States of America.  
We live our vocation in  
our Lady of Guadalupe,  
Empress of the Americas Region.  
Our Franciscan Community is the St.  
Anthony Fraternity in Albuquerque, NM.

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:** We, the fraternity of St. Anthony, inspired by the vision of St. Francis, commit ourselves to the Gospel as our Way of Life: "Going from Gospel to Life and from Life to Gospel." We believe that we are called to fraternity to share a life of joy and peace as well as to draw our inspiration from the cross of Jesus as Francis did. We believe that we are called to be renewed continually through the celebration of the Eucharist and to go forth to rebuild the Church through our witness.