

# St Louis Fraternity

## Secular Franciscan Order

**Minister:** Nichole Paladie, SFO  
**Vice Minister:** Larry Price, SFO  
**Formation Director:** Greg Brunn, SFO  
**Treasurer:** Jerry Onkels, SFO  
**Secretary:** Margaret Schmid, SFO  
**Spiritual Assistant:** Sr. Rafael Tilton, OSF

**The Church of Saint John the Evangelist**  
**CHAPEL & O'Day Room**  
**Thursday, January 19, 2012**

### FRATERNITY GATHERING

**6:00 PM Chapel—Liturgy of the Hours—**Led by Nichole Paladie

**6:30 PM Opening Prayer:** Nichole

- Snacks, Fellowship
- Announcements and Handouts
- Ministry updates and Check-ins

**7:00 PM Prayer, Formation and Gospel Study:**

- **Review of SFO Rule 21** “From Gospel to Life” (Nichole)
- **Discussion next Sunday’s readings,**
- **Fully Mature with the Fullness of Christ (Benet Fonck, OFM):** Greg Brunn
  - Candidacy Session 1: “Called to Holiness Within The Church”; section 01

**7:45 PM Fraternal Franciscan Spiritual Direction –** Sr. Rafael Tilton

**8:00 PM Closing prayer –** Sr. Rafael

### MINISTER’S MESSAGE

Pax et bonum, my Fellow Franciscan Brothers and Sisters ~

There is a community preschool in our church, and upon meeting the group of 4 and 5 year olds in the hallway, I decided to teach them a little American Sign Language. Phrases like; Merry Christmas, Mary, Joseph and the Baby Jesus went to Bethlehem. They imitated the signs and were excited to show their teacher. They had their own questions too and asked me different things. “What does my shirt say?” one little boy asked. So I read to him, “X-Sports, BMX racing” and proceeded to explain what it was (since my brother was in BMX racing as a young boy). Just then, another little boy in the back, piped up and pointed at me and said, “You are almost like God.” And I fell speechless. The preschool teacher and I giggled and knowing it came out of the mouth of a babe, but I knew how far I really am from being like God.

As a Franciscan I want to be an imitator of Him and love others as Christ loves me. If I say I am a social–justice minded person, I need to continually ask myself... what is my role in an affluent society in relation to the liberation journeys of those who are impoverished and marginalized, not just only in my country, but in other parts of the world? After re-reading St. Francis and the Foolishness of God, I read of a new definition for the word, accompaniment. (an item that goes with something else according to the Webster dictionary) But I suggest tweaking it a bit for a Franciscan meaning... *To deviate from other pathways for a while, (and then forever) to walk with those on the margins, to be with them, to let go. Accompaniment is an idea so radical and difficult for us to comprehend that its power and significance reveal themselves to our Western and Northern minds only slowly and with great difficulty. Through this encounter with Christ at the margins, we, who with Francis once saw the poor only as the “other,” the feared one, the object of dread, then pity, then charity, can as individuals and societies, experience*

*a profound, ongoing, Spirit-led conversion of heart, soul, and mind.* I believe our role IS to walk with those who are impoverished, in all kinds of ways. Through prison ministry, feeding the poor, visiting the elderly and homebound, bringing people to appointments, working with children, whatever God has called you to, do it well. To Him be the glory! Amen!

Nichole

### For Fraternity Discussion:

**SFO Rule 21** On various levels, each fraternity is animated and guided by a council and minister who are elected by the professed according to the constitutions. Their service, which lasts for a definite period, is marked by a ready and willing spirit and is a duty of responsibility to each member and to the community. Within themselves the fraternities are structured in different ways according to the norm of the constitutions, according to the various needs of their members and their regions, and under the guidance of their respective council.

### COMMENTARY ON THE SFO RULE

This fraternity is bound together with the leadership of a president and a council who are ready and willing to serve, and it is expressed in diversified ways according to the needs of the area. Two implications ensue from the first part of this paragraph: the importance of choosing available and competent and willing leaders and, secondly, the responsibility of Secular Franciscans themselves to exercise complete control in administrative and temporal matters. The stress on diversified fraternity styles implies that the structure of the community must be tailored to the needs of those who form it.

Official Commentary from the National Spiritual Assistants’ Commission, Benet A. Fonck O.F.M., Coordinator.

## Readings for Sunday, January 22, 2012

Reading 1: [Jon 3:1-5, 10](#)

Responsorial Psalm: [Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9](#)

*Teach me your ways, O Lord.*

Reading 2: [1 Cor 7:29-31](#)

Gospel: [Mk 1:14-20](#)

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:

"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the **gospel**."

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.

He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.

## Reflections

### Christ Has No Body

Christ has no body but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours, Yours are the eyes with which he looks Compassion on this world, Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good, Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, Yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours, Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

-- *St. Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)*

## Saint of the Day

St. Fabian—*Feastday: January 20*

Fabian was a Roman layman who came into the city from his farm one day as clergy and people were preparing to elect a new pope. Eusebius, a Church historian, says a dove flew in and settled on the head of Fabian. This sign united the votes of clergy and laity, and he was chosen unanimously. He led the Church for 14 years and died a martyr's death during the persecution of Decius in 250 A.D.. St. Cyprian wrote to his successor that Fabian was an "incomparable" man whose glory in death matched the holiness and purity of his life.

In the catacombs of St. Callistus, the stone that covered Fabian's grave may still be seen, broken into four pieces, bearing the Greek words, "Fabian, bishop, martyr."

### Comment:

We can go confidently into the future and accept the change that growth demands only if we have firm roots in the past, in a living tradition. A few pieces of stone in Rome are a reminder to us that we are bearers of more than 20 centuries of a living tradition of faith and courage in living the life of Christ and showing it to the world. We have brothers and sisters who have "gone before us marked with the sign of faith," as the First Eucharistic Prayer puts it, to light the way for us.

### Quote:

"The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church" (Tertullian).

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### Coming Events:

- Thursday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM, St. John the Evangelist Church, Marian Service with Knights of Columbus
- Saturday, Feb. 4 : SFO prayer service at 10:00 AM in the chapel at St. John the Evangelist. Prayers for community intentions. Formation in O'Day room.
- Thursday, Feb. 16; SFO Evening prayer at 6:00 PM in the chapel at St. John the Evangelist. Meeting, potluck supper, discussion to follow in O'Day Room.

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