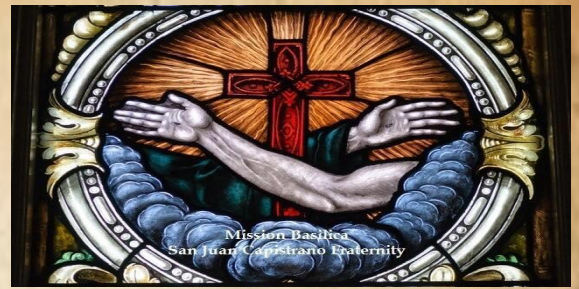


The Dove

San Juan Capistrano - S.F.O.



September 2025

Council

Minister

Cyndie Williams, OFS
cyndie4na@gmail.com
(949) 254-2727

Vice Minister

Christine Riley, OFS

Formation Director

Deacon David Sire, OFS
sfosire@gmail.com

Secretary

Marilyn DiNicola, OFS

Treasurer

Al DiNicola, OFS

Councilors:

Kim Cota, OFS
Joe Halka, OFS

Spiritual Assistant:

Fr. Marek Stybor, OFM, Conv.

Infirmarian

Joe Halka, OFS
(949) 249-2012

Web and Database Master:

Joan Fessenden, OFS

Newsletter Editor

Maureen Fitzpatrick
maureen@capoblue.com

Website:

www.missionfranciscans.org

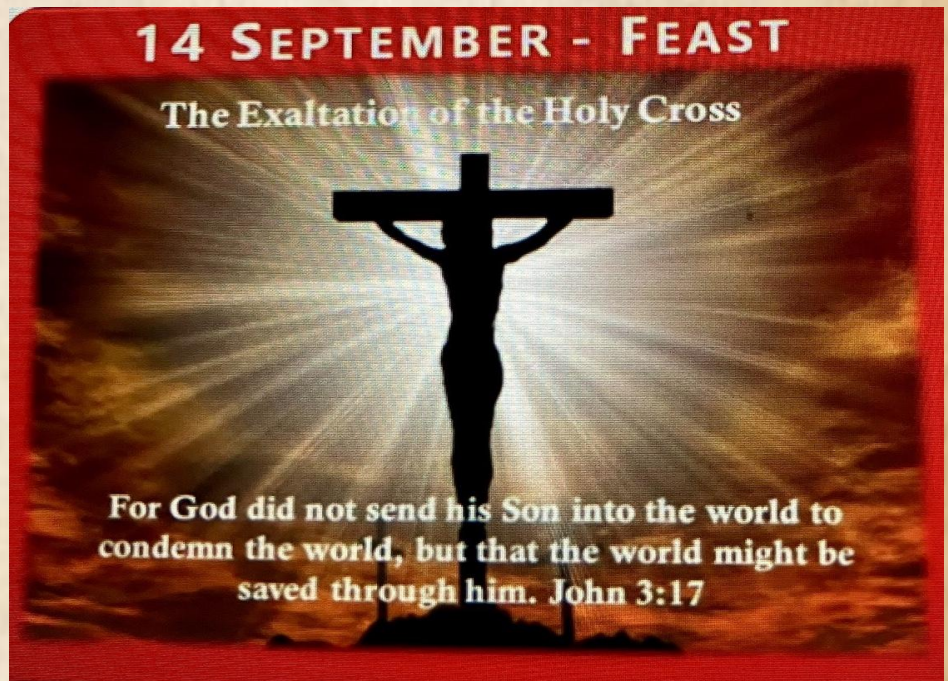
Common Fund Donation

Address:

Al DiNicola, OFS
247 Calle Aragon, Unit A
Laguna Woods, CA 92637

(949) 412-9115

Fraternity Meeting - September 13, 2025



Fraternity Meeting in Room A

Spend some time in prayer at the Tomb of Saint Francis

[Click Here](#)

What's in this edition:

2. Speaker Information -
2. Day of Reflection and Transitus of St. Francis
3. Birthdays
4. Exaltation of the Holy Cross
7. Meeting calendar

Read More on Our Website

Prayer for Vocations
 Oh, Good and Gracious God,
 God of mercy, compassion,
 generosity, and love,
 As we live our lives today
 in the model of St. Francis,
 choosing daily to live the Gospel life,
 Help us to help others hear Your call.
 Help us to help others to recognize
 their vocation as a Secular Franciscan
 that You have already planted
 in their heart.
 Help us, so that together we all may
 work
 to bring the Gospel to life.



Meeting News ~ September 2025

Orientation: Interviews for admission to candidacy

Fraternity: Rule 2 - Cyndie

*In these fraternities the brothers and sisters, led by the Spirit,
 strive for perfect charity in their own secular state.*

Day of Reflection: September 27

Day of Reflection & Transitus

September 27 at St. Edward Parish in Dana Point with
 Fr. Marek Stybor OFM Conv. in a joint meeting with
 fraternity from Los Alamitos 9:00-11:00, followed by
 Mass at 11:00.

October 3 Transitus of St. Francis at St. Timothy
 Parish, Laguna Niguel from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

2025

		JAN 11	FEB 8	MAR 8	APR 12	MAY 10	JUN 14	JUL 12	AUG 9	SEP 13	OCT 11	NOV 8	DEC 13
Saturdays 8-9:30 a.m. Serra Rm. or as designated otherwise	CANDIDATES										C-1	C-2	C-3
											AI	David	Marilyn
	INQUIRY	I-7	I-8	I-9		I-10			I-11	Interviews	Sacred Scripture - especially the Gospels	The Volterra Letter - Prologue to the Rule and Our Rule	SFO History and its Rule
		Marilyn	Kim	David	All	Christine	All	Fraternal Visit	Cyndie	ALL			
		Ritual of the SFO & SFO Organizational Structure (Franciscan Journey pg 8)	Franciscan Movement I/ Life of St. Francis (Spirituality of Francis) (FUN, Franciscan Journey pg 8)	Franciscan Movement II - Your Own Journey (FUN)	Journey discussion and share	"Charism of Founder & Mission in the Church Vocation & Discernment and Lay Spirituality as a Franciscan (Franciscan Journey Ch. 5, 8, 19, pg 113)"	Make Up Session		"Nature of the Secular Franciscan Order Our Identity as a Secular Franciscan"	Interviews before the Rite of Admission			
Saturdays 9:30 - Noon Room A	FRATERNITY	11	8	8	12	10	14	12	9	13	11	8	13
		ECUMENICAL EVENT	Admonitions										Christmas Party
			AI	Christine	Cyndie	David	Cyndie	Fraternal Visit	David	Cyndie	Marilyn	Kim	
			Admonition 24	Admonition 25	Admonition 26	Admonition 27	Admonition 28		Rule 1	Rite of Admission Rule 2	Rule 3	Rule 4	
Thursdays 6pm - 8pm Room G	COUNCIL	16	20	20	17	15	19	17	21	18	16	20	18
		Council Topic - Bonaventure - The Soul's Journey into God - The Tree of Life - The Life of St. Francis											
		AI	David	Cyndie	Marilyn	Christine	Joe	Kim	David	AI	Joe	Christine	Cyndie
		"Jesus of Nazareth The Transfiguration (pg24-35)	"Jesus of Nazareth The Transfiguration (pg36-45)	"Jesus of Nazareth The Transfiguration (pg46-56)	"Jesus of Nazareth The Transfiguration (pg56-63)	"Jesus of Nazareth The Transfiguration (pg64-75)	"Jesus of Nazareth The Transfiguration (pg76-86)	"Jesus of Nazareth The Transfiguration (pg87-99)	"Jesus of Nazareth The Transfiguration (pg99-112)	"Jesus of Nazareth The Transfiguration (pg112-127)	"Jesus of Nazareth The Transfiguration (pg128-135)	"Jesus of Nazareth The Transfiguration (pg136-145)	"Jesus of Nazareth The Transfiguration (pg146-157)



A Happy Birthday goes out to...

*Joan Fessenden, OFS
Trudy Weigel, OFS
Surya Anesi, OFS*

*Wishing you a Birthday
Rich in Blessings.....*

JANUARY

17 Dolly Rett, OFS

FEBRUARY

24 John Scruggs, OFS

MARCH

14 Deacon Halka, OFS
14 Marylyn Spomer, OFS
22 Maureen Fitzpatrick

APRIL

1 Marilyn DiNicola, OFS
1 Warren Kato, OFS
2 Cyndie Williams OFS
11 Tom Cooney, OFS
11 Norman Diaz

MAY

7 Dan, Abalos, OFS
18 Kady Dunleavey, OFS
24 Ryan Williams, OFS

JUNE

1 Rosa Lim, OFS
12 Kim Cota, OFS
19 Jim Iacometti

JULY

9 Deacon Sire, OFS
19 Paul Kelly, OFS

AUGUST

12 Bob Murray, OFS

SEPTEMBER

1 Joan Fessenden, OFS
8 Trudy Weigel, OFS
27 Surya Anesi, OFS

OCTOBER

5 Christina Huben, OFS
11 Gloria Abalos, OFS
27 Christine Riley, OFS

NOVEMBER

10 Michael Carranza, OFS
24 Al DiNicola, OFS

DECEMBER

18 Theresa Diaz
20 Patsy Lopez, OFS

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Exaltation of the True Cross: Anonymous Russian icon painter

On 13 September 335, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (also called the Church of the Resurrection) was dedicated. The following day, the cross that Empress Helena had discovered on 14 September 320, was venerated in a solemn ceremony. In 614, the Persian King, Chosroes II, waged war on the Romans. After conquering Jerusalem, he confiscated many treasures, among which was the Cross of Jesus. The Byzantine emperor Heraclius

initiated peace negotiations, but was rejected. He then waged war and won near Nineveh, asking for the restitution of the Cross, which then returned to Jerusalem. Today, the cruelty of the Cross is not what is exalted, but the Love that God manifested to humanity by accepting death on the Cross: “Who, though in the form of God, emptied himself, taking the form of a slave. This is the glory of the Cross of Jesus!” (Pope Francis)

Jesus said to Nicodemus: ‘No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.’ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him (Jn 3:13-17).

Stop turning in on ourselves

“Being Christian”, Pope Benedict XVI wrote, “is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event”. The Gospel the liturgy offers us on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross suggests that God wants to enter into a relationship of love with everyone. This is offered in His Son, Jesus, lifted up on the Cross.

Lifting up our gaze to God expresses a very important truth: we are invited to enter back into relationship with Him. We need to stop turning in on ourselves, uselessly nurturing a sense of guilt and forgetting that “in whatever our hearts condemn, God is greater than our hearts” (1 Jn 3:20). Let us lift up our eyes toward the stars (remember Abraham and the promise of many descendants), knowing how to cast every worry onto God.

Wonder and gratitude

Lifting up our gaze should not enkindle fear, but gratitude, because that elevation is the measure of the love with which God loves His children, in His Son. It is the Mercy of God, therefore, which, as is the case with Nicodemus, illuminates the darkness of our lives and allows us to continue on our journey.

There is no neutrality regarding the Cross

We cannot remain neutral regarding the Cross of Jesus. Either we are with Him or we are against Him. A choice is made before every action, for the actions of a Christian are none other than the testimony of how *“God has love us so much that he gave His only Son, Jesus.”*

Prayers

*Most High glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart.
Grant me an upright faith,
secure hope and perfect charity.
Fill me with understanding and knowledge
that I may fulfill your command. Amen.*

(prayer of Saint Francis before the Crucifix of San Damiano)

*We adore you,
Lord Jesus Christ,
here, and in all your churches
throughout the whole world,
and we bless you,
for by your holy cross you
have redeemed the world.*

(Saint Francis of Assisi)

2025

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				