

# The Caperone



## Prayer and Fraternal Life

*It is fitting* that this Sunday's Gospel calls us to "lay down one's life for one's friends" as we reflect on our lives in prayer and fraternity in this month's issue of The Caperone. This year has taught us through a deeper commitment to prayer and in turn a greater reliance on God that we can grow in love of our neighbors and particularly our brothers whom we live with. The past couple months we have had a full run at prayer (a week long silent retreat in March), liturgy planning (Easter Triduum at San Lorenzo), community (visits with the LA Diocesan seminarians, participation in the Relay For Life) and fraternity as we work together through it all. In this issue Brother Jordan reflects on the "sacredness" all these activities have on our lives as brothers. Brother Brenton shares his reflections on the identity of lay brotherhood within the Capuchin order. We also have included personal prayers written by the Novices which will be a theme for the next couple issues. Thank you for your continued prayers as we move forward in discerning the call to "lay down our lives" for each other. -Bro. David

### Novitiate Events

March 22-27  
**Santa Cruz Retreat**

April 28-29:  
**Day of Reflection**  
Bro. Mark Schenk

March 30-April 1:  
**Holy Week Set Up**  
Bro. Bob Herrick

May 3-6:  
**Church Documents on Social Justice**  
Bro. Frank Grinko

April 2-5:  
**Triduum, San Lorenzo**

April 13-15:  
**St. Bonaventure**  
Bro. Bobby Barbato

May 11-13:  
**Franciscan Ministry**  
Bro. Larry Webber

April 20-22:  
**Scripture Part I**  
Bro. Jerry Johnson

May 22-23:  
**Social Justice**  
Bro. Keith Warner

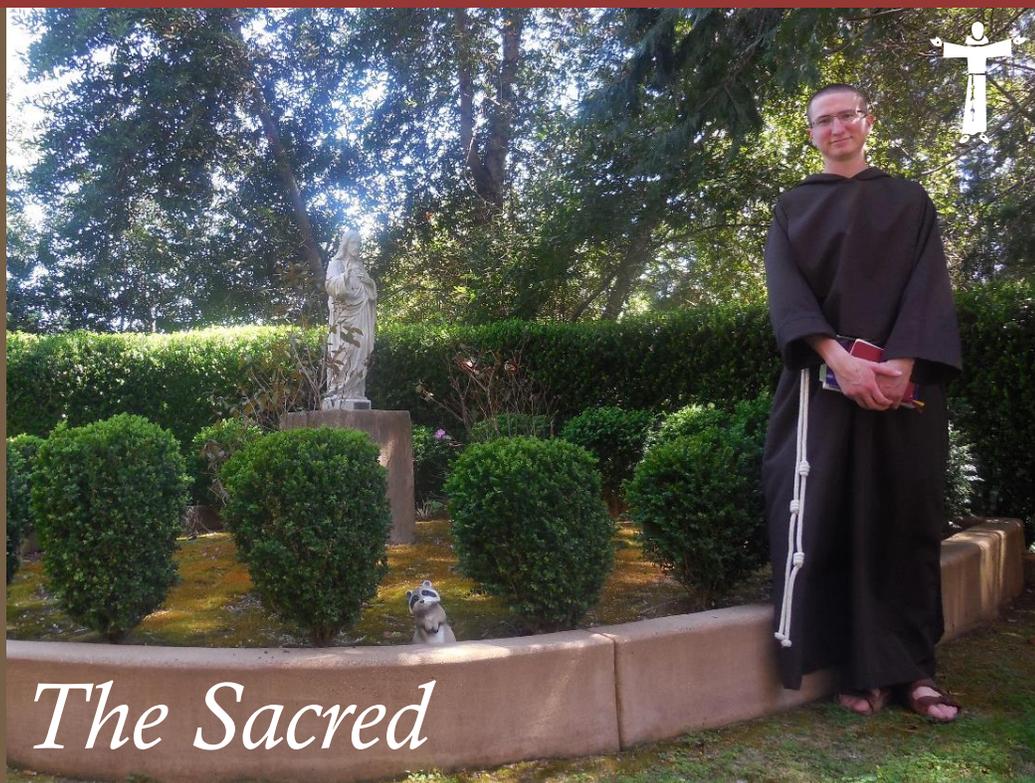
April 27-29:  
**Christology**  
Bro. Bob McCreary

May 26-27:  
**Day of Reflection**  
Bro. Jim Gavin

The culmination of the Christian life is summed up in the Paschal Mystery: the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We celebrated these most sacred days with beautiful liturgies—the Offices, Masses, Way of the Cross—ways to encounter the Divine, here at the novitiate. While these were really blessed liturgies, it was what was happening “behind the scenes” that was truly sacred to me. What was it that was sacred? We as brothers planning liturgies together. We as brothers roasting a hog, preparing side dishes, and table décor, together.

We as brothers being together, working together, recreating together, praying together was most sacred. I have come to believe that the most powerful example we have to offer this world as Capuchins is our Gospel Brotherhood. Our Capuchin Constitutions state, “...we love one another that the world may know we are Christ’s disciples.” Let this be our witness, as we continually make our brotherhood the core and foundation of our life. Our prayer, ministry, life of austerity and penance, are blossoms of our life as lesser brothers. To be a part of this fraternity is humbling, life-giving, and sacred. Together we are the novitiate class of 2014-15. Together we are encountering the Divine in and through one another. Together we are brothers on this journey. Together, we are sacred. This is our life, and I am so glad to be here with my sacred brothers.

-Bro. Jordan Schmeidler



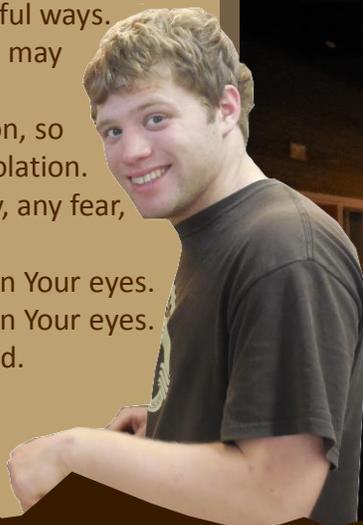
## *The Terrific Lord*

I love you, Lord, my strength,  
my rock, my fortress, my savior.  
My God is the rock where I take refuge;  
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.

The Lord is worthy of all praise:  
when I call I am saved from my foes.  
The waves of death rose about me;  
the torrents of death assailed me;  
the snares of the grave entangled me;  
the traps of death confronted me.  
In my anguish I called to the Lord;  
I cried to my God for help.  
From his temple he heard my voice;  
my cry came to his ears.  
The bed of the ocean was revealed;  
the foundations of the world were laid bare  
From on high he reached down and seized me;  
he drew me forth from the mighty waters.  
He snatched me from my powerful foe,  
from my enemies whose strength I could not  
match.  
They assailed me in the day of my  
misfortune,  
but the Lord was my support.  
He brought me forth into freedom,  
he saved me because he loved me.

My Lord, terrify me with Your Love.  
Spare not the rod my Lord, for I am Your  
Son.  
Shake up my life, so that I may take refuge in  
You.  
Love me in painful and powerful ways.  
Take away my comforts, that I may  
find comfort in You.  
Allow me to fall into desolation, so  
that I can rise with Your Consolation.  
Any want, any care, any worry, any fear,  
help me avoid.  
A Good in my eyes is a Curse in Your eyes.  
A Curse in my eyes is a Good in Your eyes.  
Curse me Lord, with Your Good.  
Amen.

-Bro. Nicholas Martinez



## *Easter Vigil*





## Consecrated Life Prayer



God of the Universe, Father most Wonderful.  
Creator of all Good things, and Source of all that is.  
With Your Son You wonderfully created us,  
and high above our understanding are Your designs.  
Through Your Son and our Lord Jesus Christ,  
You have even more wonderfully redeemed Your creation,  
who, through sin, had turned away from you.

In Perfect Poverty, He came down from Heaven,  
Was Born of the most Humble Virgin Mary,  
and became one like us.

In Perfect Obedience, He preached the Good News,  
Healed the sick, comforted the afflicted, suffered pain,  
and became one like us.

In Perfect Chastity, He loved all peoples,  
Resisted every kind of temptation,  
and became one like us in everything but sin.

Still, He who humbled Himself to share in our humanity,  
Calls us, though unworthy sinners, to imitate Him  
and share in His Divinity.

May we, who dare to take up the challenge of  
living this Gospel,  
Be strengthened in our resolve to follow in His  
footprints of Poverty, Obedience,  
and Chastity.

Protected by the Maternal intercession  
of our Most Loving Mother,  
the Humble and Virgin Mary,  
Guided by Your Most Holy Spirit,  
May we be drawn ever more  
close to You,  
Almighty and Humble God,  
Just and Merciful Lord,  
Living in Perfect Trinity,  
And Simple Unity,  
Forever and Ever, Amen.

-Bro. Augusto De Moura





*Easter Dinner*



*The Caperone*





# Lay Brotherhood



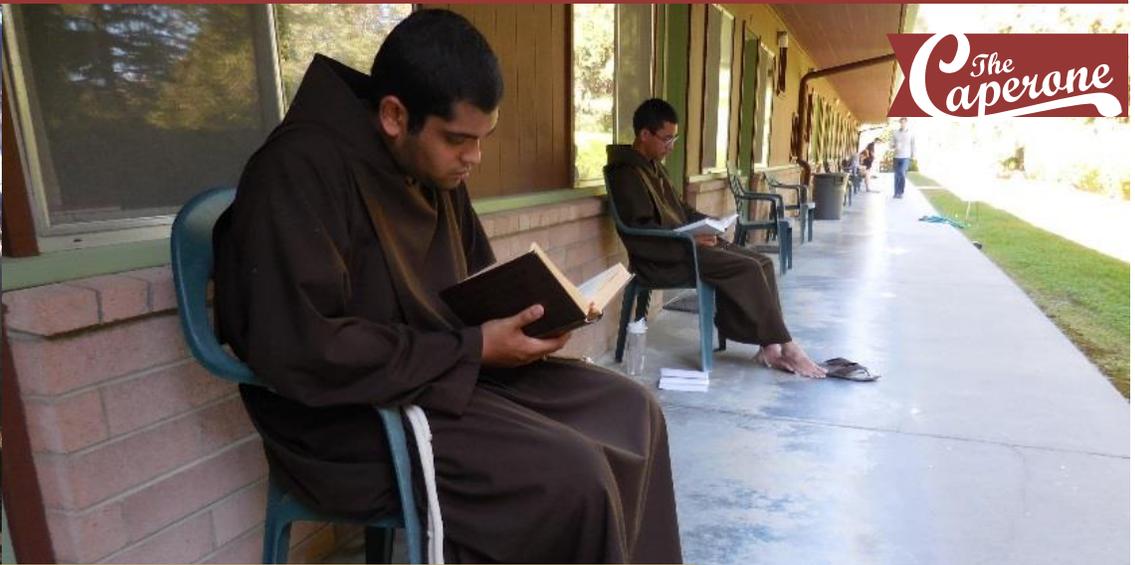
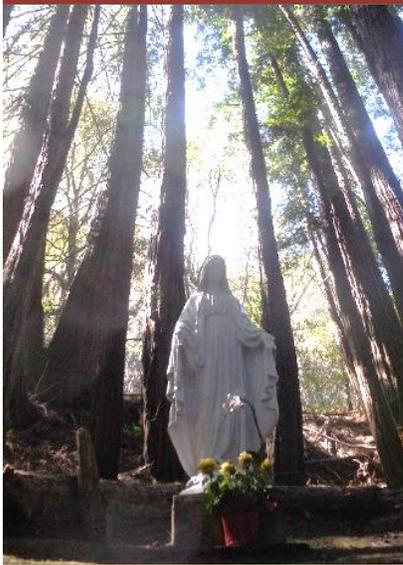
This year of Consecrated Life called by Pope Francis has given our Capuchin Order an excellent opportunity to discuss its fraternal charism which has led to a greater focus on the identity of the lay brother within the Order. In a letter written last month, entitled *The Indispensable Gift of Lay Brothers for our Order*, General Minister Br. Mauro explains that the Capuchin vocation is, ultimately, to brotherhood and if the lay brotherhood is undervalued there will be “pernicious consequences on the originality and integrity of our Capuchin Franciscan charism.” This is a reminder to the whole order that the Capuchin mission is building brotherhood as the brothers witness to the reign of God in their lives together.

Br. Mauro begins his letter by encouraging all friars to introduce themselves as “brother” so to elicit a response relating to fraternal relationships. This sort of introduction is to identify the brother as a consecrated person who points beyond profession, office, or ministry to a boarder horizon such as: a celibate, communal life-style or a place of belonging, which is the Capuchin fraternal order. When a

friar identifies himself as brother belonging to the order of *lesser brothers* he affirms the unique Franciscan sign of *minority*. A brother, as Br. Mauro states, is a person who “wishes to live authentic relationships with brothers and sisters.” Br. Mauro desires a stronger collective identity that witnesses to the evangelical fraternity whose mission is to nurture prayerful communities. He is saddened that the language to define lay brothers indicates “a relation of lack with regard to the ministerial priesthood.” He feels this is unfortunate because it will influence a diminishment of men called to the lay brotherhood. A consequence of silencing the voices of lay brothers could be a loss of the fraternal spirit and religious consecration. He fears that “we will progressively lose the sense of religious consecration, the vocation that manifests the desire to give one’s own life to God and all humanity in a total and exclusive way.”

It is easy to make distinctions for the sake of convenience and divide the brothers into certain roles within the Order but Capuchin life entails a full, complete commitment open to all the vowed members. All brothers who do not choose Holy Orders still experience the fullness of this Capuchin charism. Without the priority of sacramental ministry, religious brothers can offer their personal gifts in dynamic and creative ways that sacramental ministry may not always allow. Br. Mauro emphatically acknowledges the organic spirit to which the religious brothers witness when he gives his purpose for writing this letter, “I wanted to affirm the originality of our vocation, which the state of life our lay brothers witnesses to in an eminent way and is that which joins us together: the following of Jesus in the consecrated life.” For novices the directive is clear that the Capuchin mission isn’t reduced to a particular ministry but it is a way of life that is manifested in their fraternal relationships, as Br. Mauro says, “In initial and ongoing formation it is necessary to insist on the Religious Life as a fullness and realization of existence.”

-Bro. Brenton Ertel



### *Silent Retreat, Saint Clare Retreat Center, Soquel, CA*

We spent a week of quiet discernment in the beautiful Redwood forested Santa Cruz mountains. The Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows took great care of all our needs and provided us with many delicious meals to fuel our reflection and contemplation.





Wayne and Patti Natale Annual Easter Egg Hunt



Easter Sunrise Mass



L.A. Diocese Invitational Basketball Tournament and Picnic



YOU'RE A SHINING STAR, NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE!



By invitation of our sister Mel Hall the Novices got to participate on her team for this year's Relay for Life held at the Dunn School in Los Olivos. Six of the novices roused the participants karaoxing a *slightly* off key and unpracticed "Don't Stop Believin" by Journey. (if you look at the definition of 'rouse', it can mean excite or make angry)