

August 2024

# The Connection

A Publication from Mission San Luis Rey



## Gratitude

Albert Schweitzer once said **“At times, our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think and deep gratitude for those who have lighted the flame within us.”**

Practicing gratitude can be a game-changer: it has far reaching effects, from improving our mental health to boosting our relationships with others. Living your life with gratitude helps you notice the little wins—like the train showing up right on time, a stranger holding the door for you, or the sun shining through your window when you wake up in the morning.

Expressing gratitude can be contagious. By expressing your gratitude toward others, they in turn may pay that forward. Expressing gratitude can strengthen relationships. So, the next time someone does something you appreciate, make sure you let them know.

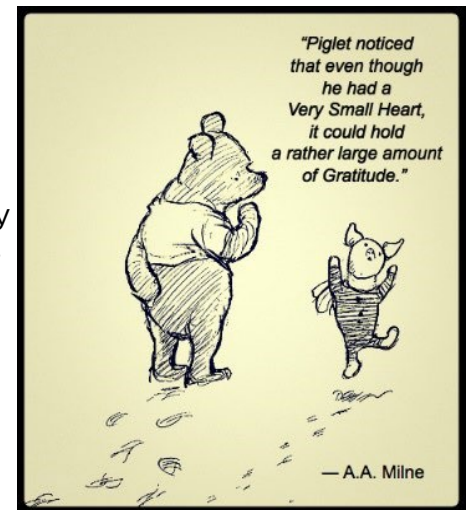
I have so much gratitude for the many gifts God has given me in my life; a family full of love and joy, my work at the Mission, working among thoughtful and generous people, and a culturally diverse community. I strive every day to affirm the good things I have received and acknowledge the role other people play in providing my life with goodness.

The gratitude from myself, the Friars, and our staff extends to everyone in our community who continues to support our beautiful Mission. It extends to those who generously donate to the Mission, to the

local schools who continue to visit with 4th graders learning about California history, to all of our retreat center groups who come year after year to experience the serenity of the Mission, to the families who entrust us with the eternal resting place of their loved ones. We are grateful that you see and appreciate the sacred space and beautiful grounds of Mission San Luis Rey. We are grateful you share our love of the Mission.

With Immense Gratitude,

*Gwyn Grimes*  
Executive Director



## Mission Events

• **August 17 | 10 am - 12 pm**  
**ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOP**  
A free 2-hour workshop to help you discover how creating an estate plan can help you.

• **August 29 | 6pm**  
**UNRECOGNIZED IN CALIFORNIA**  
A lecture by Olivia M. Chilcote, member of the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians, Luiseño

• **Every Weekend**  
**BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOURS**  
Saturdays at 11am and Sundays at 1pm. Visit our website for times and availability. **Reservations are highly recommended.**

# Living trust vs. will: What is the difference, and which one do you need?



Every adult should decide what happens to their estate after they pass away. In fact, clearly outlining your intentions for your property and finances is one of the kindest things you can do for your loved ones. It helps eliminate confusion and guesswork for the people you care about the most.

A living trust and a last will and testament are two estate planning documents you can use to outline your end-of-life wishes. But what's the difference between a will and a trust, and which is best for you?

## Living trust vs. will

A will, or last will and testament, is a legal document that specifies how your assets should be distributed after you die. This includes your physical property — like your house, car, and pets — and financial assets, like your bank and investment accounts. With a will, you can also name a legal guardian for your minor children.

A living trust is a legal arrangement where you choose a trustee to manage your assets for your beneficiaries (heirs). To do this, you transfer your assets into the trust, making the trust the owner while the trustee oversees them. Many people name themselves as the trustee, which allows them to use and control their property during their lifetime.

## What's the difference between a will and a trust?

Trusts and wills perform a similar function, but they have distinct differences in terms of structure, purpose, and functionality. Here are four key differences:

1. **Timing:** A will takes effect after you pass away, while a living trust takes effect as soon as you create and fund it.
2. **Probate:** Assets in a will must go through probate, which is the court-supervised legal process of distributing your estate after you pass away. Assets in a living trust skip probate, allowing your heirs to receive them faster.
3. **Privacy:** A will becomes public record during the probate process. Trusts remain private, which can be attractive to those who want to protect the identity of their heirs and the details of their property.
4. **Maintenance:** Living trusts require ongoing updates to include new assets. Any time you acquire a new asset — like a home or financial account — you should transfer that asset to your trust as soon as possible. If you have a will, estate attorneys recommend updating it every three to five years, or whenever you have a big life event, like getting married or having a child.

## Who needs a trust instead of a will?

A living trust may be right for you if you:

- Want to avoid probate.
- Own property in multiple states.
- Desire privacy.
- Are planning for incapacity.
- Have minor children.
- Have beneficiaries with special needs.
- Want control over asset distribution.
- Are part of a blended family.



## Do you need a will or trust?

So, is a trust better than a will? Not necessarily! It depends on your specific needs and goals. For many Americans with simple wishes and straightforward estates, a last will and testament is an effective way to plan for the future.

However, if you are part of a blended family, own property in multiple states, or have dependents with special needs, a living trust may be more beneficial for you.

Mission San Luis Rey has team-up with **FreeWill.com** to offer our community free wills or trust on-line. Whether a Last Will and Testament or Living Trust is right for you FreeWill can guide you through the process. Visit [www.FreeWill.com/sanluisreyparish](http://www.FreeWill.com/sanluisreyparish) to start the process today.

You're also invited to attend our Estate Planning Workshop on Saturday, August 17th at 10am in St. Francis Hall at the Mission San Luis Rey Parish. You can register on the Mission's website at [www.sanluisrey.org](http://www.sanluisrey.org).

Hope to see you there!

## Franciscan CORNER

### Meet Our New Pastor at Mission San Luis Rey



Fr. Edgardo Jara, OFM, better known as Fr. Lalo, was born in San Carlos, Costa Rica. He grew up in a faith-oriented family where his parents guided him to love God, others, and creation. Even in his youth he took his faith seriously and was evidenced by his being active in the youth choir and liturgy. His commitment was further manifested by his

participation in the Faith Formation Program as a catechist. He studied business administration before joining the Order of Friars Minor in 1997 in Mexico. For family reasons, he left the Franciscan Order and returned to his home country where he joined the diocesan seminary.

Following his Franciscan vocation, in 2012 he returned to the Franciscan way of life. Upon completion of his novitiate, in Burlington, WI, he was sent to the Franciscan School of Theology in California, where he earned a Master of Divinity before being ordained a priest in February 2017.

He has been an advisor to the Spanish Small Christian Communities (SCC) in the United States and a member of CEB Continental in the last 10 years. His interest in SCC is reflected in his doctoral dissertation at Fordham University, New York, where he completed a Doctor of Ministry degree.

In the last 10 years he has worked in the East Coast. First, at St. Camillus Parish, Silver Spring, MD, then at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Triangle, VA, and lastly in the Archdiocese of

Washington, again, but in the Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach, then as Director of the Office of Evangelization and Pastoral Planning.

Motivated by his concern for the evangelization and formation of the Hispanic brothers and sisters, Fr. Lalo hosted a Podcast with Juan Diego Network, Cafeteando con Padre Lalo (Drinking Coffee with Fr. Lalo) and as one of the National Eucharistic Preachers appointed by the USCCB during the National Eucharistic Revival Process, he has hosted a Podcast, "Fe + Coffee," to reflect deeper in the Eucharist. He has been a keynote speaker in different diocese congresses across the country such as, Diocese of Richmond, Diocese of Monterey, Diocese of Reno, Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, and preacher in several parish retreats and workshops as well.

In addition to his love for teaching, Fr. Lalo likes hiking, watching movies, getting to know different cultures and traditions, traveling, singing, taking a nap in a hammock and drinking a lot of coffee.

## Ways to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint Today

- **Conserve Energy at Home.** There are many ways to save energy throughout your home. Utilize natural light as much as possible. Turn off any appliances that are not in direct use. Starting at home, you can reduce your carbon footprint by up to 900 kilograms of greenhouse gasses per year. Start small – Avoid single use items like plastic silverware and cups – switch to compostable or the real thing.



- **Choose Active Mobility** like Walking and Cycling. Walking or riding a bike is an emission-free way of transportation that is both good for the planet and good for your health. It can also reduce your carbon footprint by up to 2 tons of greenhouse gasses per year compared to a vehicle dependent lifestyle. Start small – leave your car at home when you have to run errands close to home.
- **Adopt Sustainable Dietary Habits.** Pope Francis recently encouraged us to reduce our consumption of meat. In addition to being part of the long Catholic tradition of simple habits, eating more plant-based foods is an excellent way to avoid the greenhouse gasses associated with raising and feeding meat animals, particularly beef and pork. Switching to a vegetarian diet, and buying fruits and veggies from local farmers, can reduce

your carbon footprint by up to 500 kilograms of greenhouse gasses per year. Start small – eat vegetarian meals one day each week, or one meal of each day.

- **Reduce, Reuse, Repair, and Recycle.** The popular items we purchase, like electronics and clothes, cause carbon emissions at each point in production—every kilogram of textiles produced generates about 17 kilograms of greenhouse gasses. Repair items instead of buying new, shop second-hand, and recycle items whenever possible. Start small – check out your local thrift store – see what they have to offer, and bring a donation with you.

## Meet Our Retreat Center Staff

### **Kathryn De Anda** *(front, center)*

Kathryn grew up in Oceanside and has been a member of Mission San Luis Rey Parish her whole life. Kathryn has been the Retreat Center Director for the past eleven years, coming to the Mission with a background in hospitality and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of San Diego. Kathryn and her husband Hector were married in the historic church and have two beautiful young daughters - Sofia (6) and Olivia (2). As a family they enjoy the outdoors - going to the park, beach, movies, arts and crafts, and spending time with cousins and extended family.

Belonging to several parish ministries over the years, Kathryn grew up with a strong sense of service and love for our Franciscan Community. She states, "It is incredibly meaningful and fulfilling to be able to share our Franciscan values of love, compassion, humility and hospitality to all who visit us at the retreat center - being able to make those who visit us feel as though they 'belong' in the way that my family and I have been embraced by this community."

### **Graciela Mojarro** *(front, left)*

Graciela has worked at the Mission for three months now. She was born in Zacatecas, Mexico. In 1975, her family moved to Los Angeles where they lived for 10 years. In 1990, Graciela moved to Oceanside after she married her husband. They have four daughters, two grandsons, and one granddaughter, of whom they are very proud, thanks be to God. Graciela enjoys visiting family and spending time with them all.

### **Patricia Perez** *(front, right)*

Patricia has been working at the Mission for 2 months. She was born in Oaxaca, Mexico and moved to Oceanside in 1999. Patricia is a mother to three very beautiful children and a grandmother to two beautiful grandchildren. She likes to go on walks and being together with family or friends just enjoying different activities or gatherings. Patricia says, "I really enjoy working at the Mission because I feel comfortable and calm every day I am here."

### **Stephanie Lopez** *(back, left)*

Stephanie Lopez was born and raised in Oceanside, California. This Oceanside native is a mother of two beautiful boys and is currently the Guest Coordinator at Mission San Luis Rey Retreat Center. Although she has a hectic schedule, she still finds the time to devote her heart to the Lord. "Being able to bring my boys to the parish I grew up in is a true blessing. I am able to not only remember my experience of attending Mass and catechist classes with my family, I am now able to continue this tradition with my boys as they learn to love and appreciate God as their Father. The greatest experience about working for the Mission is the everyday connection with God through all of our guests, friars and coworkers. Through them, they give us a reminder to slow down and smell the roses."

### **Sandra Dominguez** *(back, middle left)*

Sandra is our new Director of Sponsored Retreats and Outreach. She has been involved in our parish since 2017, offering her gifts in music and catechetical ministry. One of her favorite things about working at the Retreat Center is the peaceful and contemplative pace of the Mission. The people, gardens, and even the little critters that we see on a daily basis reminds her of God's kindness. Her favorite pastime is singing, (you might catch her singing if you walk by



her office.) She is happily married and has three little boys. She is most proud of her two autistic boys and her eldest son, who loves his brothers unconditionally.

In the spirit of St. Francis, "A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows." - She loves to welcome everyone with a smile.

### **Maria del Rosario Rocha** *(back, middle)*

Maria was born in Guanajuato, Mexico. She has worked in housekeeping for over 8 years. Maria likes working at the Mission because all the staff are very friendly. She feels relaxed and at peace. I enjoy all the nature that surrounds me.

Maria is married and the mother of one daughter and two sons as well as a grandmother to three wonderful grandchildren. I like to watch movies, go to the beach, hiking with family and taking care of my grandchildren.

### **Shelly Vozza** *(back, right)*

Shelly is the Front Office Admin here at the retreat center. She's a native Californian, she's a new grandma and loves to bake and garden.

My gratitude is immeasurably being able to work in the Retreat Center at Mission San Luis Rey. I am able to interact with guests who are here on retreat. Listening to their stories, knowing that we all need to be comforted in different ways. The serenity here gives you a sense of inner peace. As St. Francis said "it is in giving that we receive." So it is gratifying to know we are able to offer a place of rest here at the Retreat Center.

# Retreats & Programs

- **August 11 - August 16**  
**Summer Retreat: With Open Hands** *(designed for those 45 years and over)*
- **August 17 | 10 am - noon**  
**Estate Planning Workshop**  
*A free workshop held at the parish, St. Francis Hall*
- **August 25 - September 1**  
**Reconnect with the Holy**  
*An 8-day silent women's retreat*
- **August 25 - August 27**  
**Reconnect with the Holy**  
*A 3-day silent women's retreat*
- **September 5 | 5 pm**  
**Twilight Retreat:**  
*The Book of Psalms as a Book*
- **September 13 - 15**  
**The Journey Beyond Combat**  
*For veterans and active duty service members*
- **September 13 - 15**  
**Your Spiritual Legacy**
- **Personal Retreats**  
*Spend time in solitude and personal spiritual reflection without participation in a formal program. Single day and overnight are available.*

**Visit our website for more information and to make reservations.**

[www.sanluisrey.org](http://www.sanluisrey.org)

## Museum

If you are a frequent visitor at Mission San Luis Rey or you attend a noon mass regularly, you've probably seen school buses parked outside the Mission often. If you ever wondered why so many schools visit missions, it is because 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in California, study mission history as part of California history. By visiting a mission on a field trip, they learn about the communities that inhabited them in the early 1800's.



For decades, Mission San Luis Rey has welcomed thousands of students every school year with museum and docent programs designed to help students and teachers experience our mission's unique history. Adults of all ages still remember their mission field trip fondly, and for many, this experience was the first time they ever visited one of the California Missions.

As a Franciscan community at Mission San Luis Rey, we offer discounted rates on field trips and activities for low income and Title 1 schools. Sadly, this

is not enough. Transportation is often the largest expense schools have when they plan for their field trip. Occasionally, some groups are forced to cancel their mission field trip due to the high cost of transportation.

In recent years we have helped dozens of schools by absorbing the cost of their buses through our School Bus Grant, but our funds are running low. If you'd like to help fund our School Bus Grant program please visit our website and click the Make a Donation button. In the comments section please indicate School Bus Grant. Thank you for your consideration.

Helena Hazleton, Mission San Luis Rey Museum Director.

