

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FRATERNITY

We had a very joyful, joy-filled December gathering! After our usual opening prayers, Mike informed us of several opportunities available. This included the vigil march to the death chamber in Huntsville which was sponsored by the Archdiocese of Galveston/Houston; also a mini-Franciscan pilgrimage to Nacogdoches supported by those seeking canonization of Venerable Antonio Margil de Jesus, OFM. We then proceeded to begin the packing of the Christmas boxes for the Seafarer's Center. Everyone brought different items for the boxes which we lined up on the tables and then happily, prayerfully, filled each box to its limit. We wrapped each one beautifully in Christmas paper. It is just such a blessing to work side-by-side with each other with nothing but good wishes for all!



O Come, Desire of
nations, bind

In one the hearts
of humankind;

O bid our sad di-
visions cease

And be for us our
King of Peace.

“Oh Come, Oh Come,
Emmanuel”

Karen gave us an update of the work being done at the Seafarer's Center and her growing responsibilities. She has been a Port Chaplain for 31 years, 24 years with the Galveston center.

We read from Tales of St. Francis, by Murray Bodo, the Christmas story of Francis and the first creche, as told by one of the townspeople of Greccio.

We very happily welcomed Fabiola as an Inquirer into our fraternity. We were also blessed to have four visitors interested in learning more about the Secular Franciscan Order.

PAX ET BONUM

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM MIKE

Oh Come Emmanuel

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means ‘God is with us’”.

Seasons Greetings, Good People! I hope this Advent season you have been blessed with the joy of knowing that, despite the horrific things happening in the world, Christ is King and we will be celebrating his coming into this world and showing us The Way to the Kingdom.

Matthew Kelly writes, “Advent is a time of expectation...when we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day; it is a season of hope, a time to nurture peace and experience joy in anticipation for the love that is made incarnate with the birth of Christ.”

As Catholics, we know He is with us, always, in the tabernacles in all our Churches, and when we receive the Blessed Sacrament, we, like our Blessed Mother Mary, have Christ within us. We say, “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof...” And He enters!

My prayer is that I continue my Advent journey through daily conversion and make a clean place in my heart and that I am always worthy to receive Christ and bring Him into this world.

Pope Francis devoted his December 21, 2016 general audience to Christ’s Nativity as the source of hope. He said: “Our catechesis on Christian hope leads us in these last days of Advent to contemplate the mystery of Christmas as the coming of hope into our world,”...”By fulfilling his promises and sending his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, God established his Kingdom on this earth and directed our hope to eternal life.”

“This hope is realistic and reliable; it is a hope that redeems and saves, for Christ, by coming in the flesh, has opened the way for us to ascend to the Father, “ the Pope continued. “In these days, as we prepare the Christmas crib in our homes and churches, let us be attentive to the message of hope it embodies.” Our beloved Pope continued: “the peace proclaimed by the angels was heard with joy by the shepherds. May we too open our hearts to the Good News of the Savior’s birth and renew our hope in the Kingdom of justice, peace and holiness that he came to bring.”

Let us let the Light of Christ shine through us and bring Hope to all we encounter and pray for as we strive to emulate the love that Christ so freely gave us and called us to share; and may we become Instruments of Peace.

Emmanuel is with us!

Peace, michael

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARY

Adele Brodgerski (1997)

David Schubert (1997)

Natalia Trahan (1999)

CONGRATULATIONS!**LET US CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR EACH OTHER DAILY.**

“Pray for one another that you may be saved.” (James. 5:16)

“Christ dwelt for nine months in the tabernacle of Mary’s womb. He dwells until the end of the ages in the tabernacle of the Church’s faith. He will dwell for ever in the knowledge and love of each faithful soul.”

-From a sermon by Blessed Isaac of Stella, abbot

On Christmas Day our hearts should expand with readiness to make sacrifices. We should pledge ourselves to carry out to the full the Christmas message, “Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to men of good will” (Lk 2:14). In other words, we should say to the Divine Child: “I will do all I can for Thee and Thy honor.” We should make Him the offering of our will. All that is implied in the term good will.—Pray that your good will may manifest itself in action. Say with our holy Father St. Francis: “Let us love the Babe of Bethlehem.”

-from Franciscan Book of Saints

A LITTLE LITANY TO SAINT FRANCIS

(By Philip Murray)

Saint Francis of the mountain cave and wattle hut,
Of the willow roofs and rush mats,
Of the rock and fountain,
Of the wheat field and the burning mountain,
Of the crossways and the lonely island,
Of the earthworm and the hungry robins,
Of the tame falcon that woke you for Matins,
Of the swallows of Alviano,
Of the sparrows of Bevagna,
Of the vineyards of Rieti,
TEACH US HUMILITY.

Saint Francis of the pheasant and turtle dove,
Of the cicada in the olive grove,
Of the wild rabbit Greccio,,
Of the fierce wolf at Gubbio,
Of the fireflies by the river,
Of the fishes in the lake,
Of poplar and pine,
Of cypress and oak,
Of bush and berry,
Of the honey bee,
TEACH US SIMPLICITY.

Saint Francis, poet and folk singer,
Of our Brother Sun, our Sister Moon,
Of our Sister Water, our Brother Fire,
Of our Brother Wind and all weather,
Of our Sister Earth, her fruits and flowers,
Of our Sister Death, and the larks at
Portiuncula singing when you died,
PRAY FOR US.

OUR NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 7

In the Outback House

**Council meets at 9:00AM / Inquirers & Candidates meet
Fraternity meeting begins at 10:00AM**

**(We are all encouraged to attend Mass together at 8:15AM in the St.
Jerome Day Chapel.)**

