


MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FRATERNITY



Eighteen of us, including Joe's and Allen's sons and Danny and Maria's granddaughter, participated in Caritas Day at the Co-Cathedral March 25 and we joyfully assembled 187 bags of bean soup. It was such a blessed day to be together enjoying ourselves while working to assist the poor and hungry in our area. What a surprise when Mike received a call that these bags would be given to us for St. Vincent de Paul Society here at St. Jerome's, our own fraternity apostolate!

Our April 1st fraternity meeting was focused primarily on Lent. We were pleased to welcome Dustin Greenwood, a professed secular Franciscan who has recently moved back to Texas from Colorado. We also welcomed Natalie, a young woman from St. Jerome's Church, who has been active in Life Teen.

After the Inquirers and Candidates discussed chapter 22 from The Franciscan Journey, we opened the meeting with prayer from the Ritual Book and read ch. one of the Prologue. Mike discussed the importance of building up the Kingdom of God through our service to others.

We then prayed together a Stations of the Cross by Fr. Jack Wintz, OFM. Some commented that this was the best Stations of the Cross they had ever prayed!

We followed the example of St. Clare and contemplated upon the Crucifix. "Gaze upon Him." From ch. 15 of the FUN Manual, we are challenged by Clare to become what we love, to become the image of Jesus. Clare asked her sisters to gaze upon the face of Jesus until you can begin to see your own face there. That is the start of the path that leads to true imitation of Christ.

Lastly, while still gazing on our crucifixes, Dora read the prayer given by St. Francis to St. Clare entitled "The Office of the Five Wounds of Christ."

Now go calmly
in peace, for
you have a good
escort. He who
created you has
sent the Holy
Spirit who
guards you as a
mother does
tenderly love
her child.
Amen.

-St. Clare of Assisi

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER

Like Lazarus I was bound, in darkness, and found new life in our Lord Jesus Christ. Throughout our Lenten journey we are shown so many instances of our personal darkness and collective sins against one another.

Easter brings us the Resurrection and new life. We are called to bring the Light of Christ into the darkness.

Like Lazarus, we have been called to new life.

Are we living this new life to build His Kingdom? How are we accomplishing this?

At the Vocations conference last month at St. Mary's Seminary, Daniel Cardinal DiNardo included in his homily how we, as the Church, must foster vocations. He challenged us to not only pray twice a week for vocations but to also let our children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews know when they are considering the path their life will take, that the priesthood or religious life is a viable option. There were a total of 5 couples who spoke on the vocations that came out of their homes. A commonality was they all prayed together and had family time together. With the pace of today's society that is a true challenge for us. As we strive in our respective parishes to foster vocations we are also strengthened by our brothers and sisters in our fraternity.

To be a Secular Franciscan is a vocation. We have been called and have responded, or will soon, to profess for life. We are to witness within our respective lives and workplaces to the Gospel.

Our Rule 17 addresses what we as Franciscans must do. It includes: "In their family they should cultivate the Franciscan spirit of peace, fidelity, and respect for life....by living the grace of matrimony, husbands and wives should joyfully accompany their children on the journey by providing a simple and open Christian education and being attentive to the vocation of each child.

It is so incredible that David remembers his mother going to Secular Franciscan meetings, and to hear Rachel speak of the Poor Clare's when she was growing up and the works her parents did for the marginalized in their community.

I ask myself...what will my son remember?

I was so happy to once again have Joe's 3 sons with us for Caritas Day, Allen's 2 sons, and Maria and Danny's granddaughter. What a Blessing!

In another instance of bringing light into the darkness (I won't get too political!), we traveled to the State Capitol in Austin for Catholic Faith in Action Advocacy Day sponsored by the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops. It was a truly memorable day as we showed up en masse wearing blue t-shirts as we furthered the issues our bishops had prioritized. Once again all of our Texas Bishops were present, and the Cardinal opened up the rally on the steps of the Capitol. This time around we even got to meet with our state representative who left a hearing on the floor to come meet with us and was given the packet put together by the Archdiocese.

Our fraternity was well represented by Alba, Consuelo, Father Mike, and myself. Not only did Father Mike use his one day off to accompany us on this bus trip, he started off our trip with a prayer, led a rosary in the rotunda, and was joyful in spite of the heat and lots and lots of walking in a building and grounds barely ADA accessible.

Let us continue to pray for ourselves and our families.

Peace, michael

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES
April 5—Sophia Lee (2008)

LET US CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR EACH OTHER DAILY.

June 3 will be an extra special day for our fraternity! We will come together to welcome our newest brothers and sisters in their profession to the Secular Franciscan Order. What a blessing and grace God has bestowed upon our fraternity! All four of our candidates approaching profession—Alba, Amy, Ryan and Joe—have their own unique gifts to share with us and lift us up on our journey toward heaven. Keep them in your prayers as they approach this life-altering commitment.

The Profession will take place at the 8:15AM Mass in St. Jerome's Day Chapel. Please make every effort to attend and be a part of this gift to our fraternity.

Afterwards, we will proceed to Bear Creek Park for our picnic/potluck luncheon. Everyone is invited, including all the area fraternities. Bring your family. It will be a joyous occasion to celebrate our newest members as well as the gift of each other!

Place your mind before the mirror of eternity! Place your soul in the brilliance of glory! Place your heart in the figure of the divine substance! And transform your whole being into the image of the Godhead Itself through contemplation. So that you too may feel what His friends feel as they taste the hidden sweetness which God Himself has reserved from the beginning for those who love Him.

Since you have cast aside all those things which, in this deceitful and turbulent world, ensnare their blind lovers, love Him totally Who gave himself totally for Your love. His beauty the sun and moon admire; and of His gifts there is no limit in abundance, preciousness, and magnitude. I am speaking of Him Who is the Son of the Most High, Whom the Virgin brought to birth and remained a virgin after her birth. Cling to His most sweet Mother who carried a Son Whom the heavens could not contain; and yet she carried Him in the little enclosure of her holy womb and held Him on her virginal lap.

-from St. Clare's Third Letter to Blessed Agnes of Prague

OUR NEXT MEETING: MAY 6

In the Outback House

9:00am to 12:00pm

All are encouraged to attend Morning Mass together prior to our meeting. Mass begins at 8:15AM in the St. Jerome Day Chapel.

