Secular Franciscan Order November 2020 Newsletter



***The Secular Franciscan Order was established by St. Francis of Assisi more than 800 years ago. Our purpose is to bring the Gospel to life where we live and where we work. We look for ways to embrace the Gospel in our lives and try to help others to do likewise.***

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**our Gathering**

***November 7th, 2020***

We began our Gathering by uniting our voices in praise and thanksgiving with a beautiful CD accompaniment of, “Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace”.

Eileen Ike Colleton prayed aloud Admonition XV on Peace from our Seraphic Father Francis. 1. *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God (Mt 5:9).* 2. The true peacemakers are those who preserve peace of mind and body for love of our Lord Jesus Christ, despite what they suffer in this world. We enjoyed a brief discussion following this.

Cindy Borgerding led the lighting of the 3 candles, calling all Franciscans, past, present and future to be present in Spirit, praying for the good of all.

We all participated in the Opening Prayer from our Ritual book, pg. 35.

For our opening prayer we used a prayer written by a Diocese of Austin Seminarian, Scott Fyall, from St. Martin de Porres Parish in Dripping Springs, TX. He is now studying in Rome. This was shared by one of our Franciscan sisters from St. Elizabeth of Hungary, our neighboring Korean Fraternity. You can reference the prayer in an email sent by Mike on 11-7-2020. Fraternity members shared their thoughts and feelings that came to mind after Dora read the prayer.

Our ongoing formation was beautifully presented by Dora Freeman on Peacemakers. With a topic as rich as this she incorporated multiple sources. In one particular phrase, she read, “out from behind the walls of his own making”. Francis began to see Christ in all of creation. Blessed John Duns Scotus,OFM, one of the most influential Franciscan Theologians who was a Scottish Catholic priest whose Feast Day is November 8th, was quoted: “Our fear of being ourselves is oppressing us”. Dora read Article 19 of our Rule book and declared these words are our marching orders. An interesting & heartfelt discussion followed. Many shared their thoughts and feelings. Karen Parsons shared a story of coming to evangelize, bringing Christ to others. When they realized Christ was already within those they were evangelizing, their ministry took a dramatic turn and flourished beautifully.

We were so happy to welcome two inquirers into our Order as candidates and the initial stage of formation as we conducted the Rite of Admission for Ladonna Hartman and Mary Pierson. We began with everyone singing, “Here I Am Lord”. We then followed along in our Ritual Book, pg. 11 and rejoiced in welcoming them both.

Mike introduced two guests, Gerardo Mendoza and Inosencio Vazquez. They are members of Fr. Hai Dang’s Parish. Recently Fabiola and Mike met with them and 4 others via Zoom. They are interested in starting their own Franciscan Fraternity for Spanish Speakers and have come to inquire & learn about the Secular Franciscan Order and our Fraternity. Welcome to you both! Hope you continue to join our Gatherings.

Mike Freeman asked us to make sure we read the documents sent via email on 11-7-20 from the Handbook for Franciscan Servant Leadership, Handbook revised 2010. Our elections are coming up and we need you to serve! The copied material to read is:

Willing Instruments – Based in Prayer pg. 9-10

Shared Leadership/Servant Leadership g. 13-14

Our Gathering ended with a Scripture Passage Col 3:9-17, found on page 56 of our Ritual and then our Closing Prayer from the Ritual, page 36-37.

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A close up of a piece of paper

Description automatically generated

2020 was a year

Greetings Good People

While most of us typically reflect on the past year and make resolutions, etc; for the New Year I am already doing it as our Liturgical calendar moves towards the last Sunday in Ordinary time. I am so ready for it!

This next week we will begin the Holy Season of Advent. Let us continue to draw strength from the Holy Family during these trying times as we celebrate the incarnation of Our Lord Jesus Christ. I do not know who first used the phrase” Hope has a name, and it is Jesus Christ“, as I’ve seen it in multiple places, but it is so true. We will get through this winter….look what we have already been through!

Some things will happen without a doubt…..we will have a new president, the Texans will not be in the Super Bowl, and we will begin preparing for Easter as Lent begins on Feb. 17, 2021. We should have elections in our Fraternity in February, and we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of our Canonical Establishment on March 4th, 2021!

Other unexpected things come our way. Dora, Jude and I tested positive for covid-19. It confirmed what we all thought; as we have all the textbook symptoms. As far as I know (brain fog is real) this caused me to miss my first Regional Council mtg. as your minister…. even driving to Baton Rouge when I had shingles for the last National Visitation. I was just needing to lie down. Even had to miss the following days with JPIC focus group on Mindful Dialogues. Just did not want any form of dialogue; although my dreams have been something else…

Anyway it was brought to council’s attention that perhaps this year we could purchase the Advent with Our Lady of Guadalupe Daily Reflections from Franciscan Media. Fr. Mike ordered this for us as a Christmas Present and fraternity purchased extra so there is plenty. They are in English and Spanish which is wonderful! I had hoped to get the copies from Fr. Mike and mail them out this week but sure did not want to risk exposing you all to something I would have had to handle a couple of times.

Do not fear though….an angel came by yesterday morning and brought Dora and me the Blessed Sacrament. Ike will be sending everyone a copy of the Advent Daily Reflections this week so you should get them in time.

I hope and pray you and yours stay safe and have a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving! God sure works in mysterious ways…..as I was getting ready to prepare for Advent I had glossed over and fast forwarded over Thanksgiving. Come Thursday I am going to spend all day with Dora and Jude, wishing that I had always been as appreciative of what is right before me…..and so thankful for prayers that are coming in from Franciscans all over the country.

Peace

michael

**3**

***Next Meeting: December 5th, 2020***

***10:00 a.m. via ZOOM***

***Candidates & Inquirers in Formation: check your emails for more information***

***Our Gathering will be via Zoom***

***Look for an email from Mike Freeman for log-in information.***

**PLEASE continue to Wear A Mask & Wash Your Hands!**

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**Ryan Efaw, OFS and his lovely bride Caitlyn are expecting a baby!!! Expected due date is May 24, 2021!**

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**Heartbeat heard @ 5 weeks old in the womb & 1 cm tall**

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**We are continuing the SUNDAY Meal Sign Up for Deacon Louis & Jean Horr.**

**See email on 11-19-20 from** [secretary.StMaxSFO@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.StMaxSFO@gmail.com)

Alba ordered some F.U.N. Manuals (For Up to Now – Foundational Topics for Initial Formation). They do not come with a binder. Purchase price is $13/ea.

***St. Elizabeth of Hungary is the Patron Saint of the Secular Franciscan Order***

$$$ **Continue to save *money for our contribution bag when next we meet in person.***

***Cash or checks made payable to: St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity.***

A Spanish version of the **TAU-USA** is now available and being mailed to Spanish speaking members upon request. Email your name, address, fraternity name & region name to:

Cindy Wesley OFS, [cw93444@gmail.cm](mailto:cw93444@gmail.cm)

Or mail request to:

Cindy Wesley OFS

846 Calimex Place

Nipomo, CA 93444

“My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place,when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”

Psalm 139:15-16 (NIV)

**Every Day for PRAYER!**

There are **LOTS** of ways to become involved.

Reference emails from Ryan @ [secretary.StMaxSFO@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.StMaxSFO@gmail.com) and emails from Michael @ [mbigfree@aol.com](mailto:mbigfree@aol.com) for specifics!



First Meeting of the New Year will be 1-2-2021



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Mary – 365 Days

When we talk about justice, we tend to limit our thinking to legal action in a court of law. We believe that justice is done when criminals are convicted, and crimes punished.

When we talk about charity, on the other hand, we generally refer to acts of kindness to the less fortunate. We think of charity as giving a donation to a worthy cause or a handout to a street person.

The Hebrew Scriptures take a radically different view of these two words. What we call charity, it calls justice.

Mary stands as a living example of this scriptural interpretation of justice. The woman who announced to her son, “They have no wine,” isn’t afraid to go boldly before the throne of God to say, “They have no food, no home, no job.” Completely absorbed by our human condition and human struggle, she prays now and always for our broken and confused world. But more than that, she devotes herself to praying for the forgiveness of sin. As an Orthodox Church prayer says, “O Mary the Virgin Theotokos, the holy and trusted intercessor of the human race, intercede for our sake before Christ, whom you bore, that He may grant us the forgiveness of our sins.”

As you go about your daily life, do you see people in need of food, clothing, shelter, and forgiveness? If so, don’t give them a token in the name of charity; give them all you can in the name of justice.

*In what ways do I promote justice in the world?*

*Could I do more than I’m doing?*

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I EXECUTE JUSTICE – AND I DO SO CHARITABLY!



**6**

**See and Flee**

***“Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”***

**Luke 21:36 (NIV)**

On the airport property near our home in Colorado Springs I often see pronghorns (aka American antelope). Smaller than deer, the pronghorn is known for being the second fastest land mammal after the cheetah. Their eyesight is keen because their peripheral vision reaches an impressive 320 degrees, making it almost impossible for predators to sneak up on them. When danger approaches, they are not built to fight, but for flight.

These animals model something important for my spiritual journey. I’m not always meant to stand and fight the enemy. Often, my best chance of survival is to run – right into the arms of Jesus.

When we are intentional about walking close to the Lord, our spiritual eyesight sharpens and our discernment increases. Together these abilities help us to see and flee the spiritual traps of our enemy. Praying, reading the Word, going to church, and surrounding ourselves with godly community – all help protect us from both temptation and our own sinful desires.

Like the pronghorn, we need to be on guard and be alert. I long to be like that – impossible for my predator to catch.

Father, help me watch and pray so that I won’t give in to temptation. My spirit is willing and longs to please You, but my flesh is so weak. Give me eyes to see and feet to flee to you. Amen.

**Author: Tez Brooks**

**Guideposts - All God’s Creatures**

**Daily Devotions for Animal Lovers**

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Remain in prayer for:

Healing prayers for Michael Freeman, OFS & his diagnosis of prostate cancer

Healing prayers for Dora, Michael & Jude Freeman who tested positive for COVID-19

Thanksgiving Prayers of healing for Alba Hernandez, OFS

Healing prayers for Consuelo Davis

Healing Prayers continue for Joan & Deacon Louis Horr

Fr. Mike requests prayers for all who have died due to COVID-19 and all who have been infected

Claire Dwyer: pray for her daughter Shannon, suffering from anxiety & depression.

Continued prayers for Alan Allen, OFS, his fellow coworkers & all seeking sustainable employment! Pray for peace, patience & renewed hope.

For continued prayers for our National Minister Jan Parker.

Continued success for Alan & Fabiola in their ministry of YouFra.

Prayers for Ike Colleton while she is on Retreat 12-4-20/12-6-20; may she receive all the Lord has in store for her & come away refreshed and ready to “Do Whatever He Tells Her”.

Prayers for a gentle, peaceful Transitus to Heaven for Sr. Mary Dennison, rc, a Cenacle sister who is in Hospice. Sr. Mary founded the Spiritual Direction Institute (SDI) over 35 yrs ago!

Ryan Efaw, OFS and his lovely bride Caitlyn are expecting a baby!!! Expected due date is May 24, 2021! Pray for good health for mother, child and of course, daddy!

Prayers for Kathy Kellen as she begins a new chapter in her life in Colorado Springs, CO

(maybe she’ll see some pronghorn antelope!)



Make sure you make room in The Rule for THE RULER!

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