

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FRATERNITY



It was a beautiful October morning as we gathered together in fraternity to celebrate the Transitus of our Seraphic father, St. Francis. This never gets old as we immerse ourselves in his final hours, praying the words he prayed, joining him in his vision of the life to come.

Afterwards we spent some time sharing what death means to each of us. We have all experienced the pain of loss and the joy of knowing our loved ones are now with Jesus. We recently witnessed our two beautiful sisters, Karin and Gertrude, as they grew closer to Sister Death. We prayed the Unconfirmed Rule of 1221 together from the Ritual Book. We read and discussed Rule #19 which includes “...since they are immersed in the resurrection of Christ, which gives true meaning to Sister Death, let them serenely tend toward the ultimate encounter with the Father.” Mike found copies of a form which allows us to make our arrangements now, such as do you wish a Franciscan wake service, funeral Mass, what music, which readings, do you wish to be buried in a burial shroud, etc.. This will enable our families to have peace during this difficult time. As Franciscans, we are peace-makers even in our death.

“I’m made of dust, but there is no reason to fear. God’s compassion is greater than my own imperfections.”

-St. Francis

NOT A GRADE B HALLOWEEN MOVIE

In a few short weeks this bad reality show that this election has become will be over, and the future of our country, for at least the next two decades, will be shaped.

As Catholics we are called to become faithful citizens, and our bishops have extensive resources on the U.S.C.C.B. site to assist us in the forming of our consciences and becoming faithful citizens.

It would be too easy to say, what does it matter, each of them are problematic, etc. I just won't vote. As Catholics and Franciscans this is not an answer. This is a major responsibility for us and one for which many have given their lives to defend, and for too long, too many were excluded from this right.

The following comes from the USCCB site: ***We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern.***

- Pope Francis, 9/16/13

Our action as Faithful Citizens should flow from prayer. When we pray, we experience God and we remember that he is in us and in all people, who are created in his image and have inherent dignity. If we want to truly be faithful citizens, we must know how to come to God in prayer, experience God in ourselves and others, and listen to the ways God is calling us to respond

In our Rule 15 we read: **"Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by their testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives.**

Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith .

Father Lester Bach OFM writes: "We are not bystanders anymore. Franciscans get involved.....doing nothing is no longer a choice for us." The Franciscan Journey, pg. 249

It follows then that to get involved requires participation. We must pray and utilize the many resources available to us as we cast our votes.

This is also found on the USCCB site: **The Catholic bishops of the United States are pleased to offer once again to the Catholic faithful *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, our teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics. This statement represents our guidance for Catholics in the exercise of their rights and duties as participants in our democracy. We urge our pastors, lay and religious faithful, and all people of good will to use this statement to help form their consciences; to teach those entrusted to their care; to contribute to civil and respectful public dialogue; and to shape political choices in the coming election in light of Catholic teaching.**

The statement lifts up our dual heritage as both faithful Catholics and American citizens with rights and duties as participants in the civil order. First and foremost, however, we remember that we relate to the civil order as citizens of the heavenly Kingdom, whose reign is not yet fully realized on earth but demands our unqualified allegiance. It is as citizens faithful to the Lord Jesus that we contribute most effectively to the civil order.

There is also a wonderful novena on this site...it is too long to put here, but the link is: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/novena-for-faithful-citizenship.cfm>

In conclusion let us Pray with this Prayer which is also found on the Bishops site:

Prayer Before an Election

Lord God, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our city/state/country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community.

We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one and equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty.

We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned, men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender. We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom.

We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace.

We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Peace, michael

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARY
Fr. Mike Van Cleve—October 6, 2002
CONGRATULATIONS, FR. MIKE!

LET US CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR EACH OTHER DAILY.

PRAY THE FRANCISCAN CHAPLET

Let's don't forget that St. Vincent de Paul is one of our Apostolic Ministries. We have agreed to bring in non-perishable food each month. With so much going on, it is sometimes hard to remember to bring some food items to the meeting. Though we may forget, those who are hungry and in need cannot forget the empty feeling in their stomachs. Please remember to make it a point to assist in this ministry. Perhaps place a paper bag in your kitchen and fill it throughout the month with a can of beans here, a box of cereal there...

“Welcome, Sister Death. I don't know why the world fears you so much, my dear kind sister. You are full of mercy and release us from life's burdens. What would those in despair, those imprisoned in the cells of sadness do without you? You free us from the body of sin, from perdition. You close the doors of life and open the doors of Life.”

-St. Francis, from Brother Francis of Assisi by Ignacio Larranaga

Every single thing we do during the day, which is according to the will of God, can be used to bring down grace on men. The more anything runs contrary to our own will, the more closely does it resemble the cross by which Christ redeemed men. By willingly accepting such a share of the cross when He sends it to us, we lighten His load, and bring down His grace on men. There are few works of fraternal charity so valuable as this. It has the further advantage that we do not see the good we do, and hence the temptation to vainglory is not so obvious. Our Lady of Fatima told the children, "Sacrifice yourselves for sinners. Say often, especially when you make sacrifices, 'Oh, Jesus, it is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.'"

-This Tremendous Lover by M. Eugene Boylan

OUR NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 5

Inquirers/Candidates meet at 9:00AM to begin their formation.

Fraternity meeting begins at 10:00AM

(All are encouraged to attend Mass together at 8:15AM at St. Jerome's Day Chapel.)

