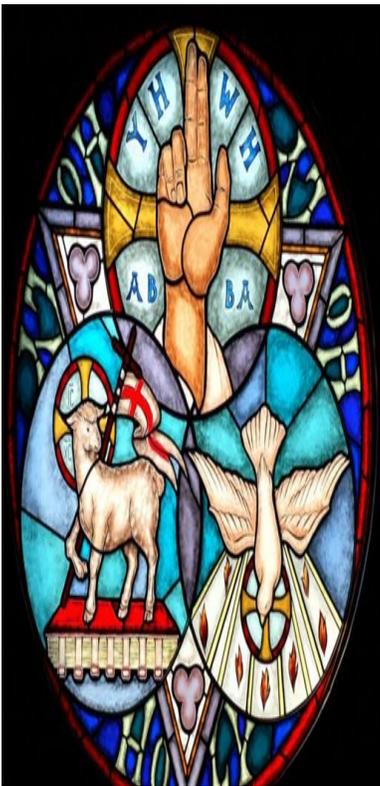


MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FRATERNITY



St. Francis loved the earth; he walked respectfully over the land as holy ground. When he walked over rocks, he would walk with fear and reverence out of love for Him who is called 'the Rock.' We too are called to tread lightly on our planet.

-Ilia Delio, OSF

We had a very special meeting this month. It was our Pastoral and Fraternal Visitation and we were blessed to have Cherryle Fruge, our Regional Minister, and Brother Juniper, our Regional Spiritual Assistant, join us. These visitations are mandated by our Constitution and Rules to ensure fidelity to our Franciscan charism. It is most welcome that they observe our meetings and offer guidance and encouragement. As Brother Juniper stated, they come to lift our spirits, as a journey alone is tedious. We will share their report when it is received.

We opened the meeting with prayers, as always, which included the lighting of candles for all Franciscans, an invocation of the Holy Spirit, and from the Ritual (pg. 50) Prayer for the Pastoral or Fraternal Visit. We also prayed together St. Francis' prayer inspired by the Our Father (pg.101). We continued our discussion of the Season of Caring for Creation and how Pope Francis has now made care for creation a corporal and spiritual work of mercy. Dora continued on this topic from a Franciscan perspective from a book by Benet A. Fonck, OFM entitled Called to Follow Christ.

Words of wisdom were offered by Cherryle and Bro. Juniper. Cherryle discussed how important Servant Leadership is within our Order. We are all blessed with gifts from God and if we hold onto them we are being selfish. Our gifts are to be used, shown for the glory of God.

Afterwards, Robert Trahan shared some exciting news about his upcoming ordination as a Permanent Deacon, which will be January 14. Danny Marquer spoke of his work with Bridges to Life, a restorative justice program, working with the incarcerated to help them reconcile with society before their release.

Joyfully, we welcomed four new Inquirers with the Rite of Introduction & Welcoming: Danny & Maria Marquer, Alan Allen, and Cindy Borgerding. Let us keep them in our prayers, as well as our Candidates, as they discern this way of life.

A WORD FROM OUR MINISTER: SIEMPRE ADALANTE

St. Junipero Serra has been quoted as saying “*Siempre adelante!* Keep moving forward!”

This past month I had to tell myself many times to keep moving forward. The beginning of the new school year brought me a new assignment of 8 middle schools that I knew nothing about, our Regional and Fraternal visitation, new responsibilities as a Knights of Columbus officer, the Amistad Movement awareness training of human trafficking that we Franciscans sponsored at St. Jerome’s, and in less than an hour our parish fall festival begins.

It was so nice to have our Regional Minister, Cherryle Fruge, and our Regional Spiritual Assistant, Brother Juniper, come from Lake Charles and Lafayette for our Fraternal and Pastoral Visitation. They were here early enough to attend the morning Mass with many of us, as we try to do before each of our meetings.

I received the Visitation Record, or report, of their visit two days ago. I will review this in its entirety at our next meeting. Those who have been through this know that the intent of the visitation is not to create anxiety; yet such an important thing will induce a bit of stress. I knew all of the Council were doing the best we could do; and I am so thankful for their commitment to serve our Fraternity as *its* Servant leaders. It’s like being a parent...had I known what I now know I am certain I would have been a better father and husband.

The report is good. We received some excellent recommendations, which we will incorporate into every meeting such as incorporating the Essential Documents including the Rules and General Constitution and their alignment with the formation book we are now using, The Franciscan Journey. They wrote that this will help those in candidacy realize and get a better understanding of their commitment. This is equally important for those in on-going formation...we professed for life to live by the Rule and all that entails. We have to keep moving forward.

Their specific recommendation to our Fraternity was they would like to see the Formation Director or a Delegate from the Formation team attend Regional workshops during the Regional Council Meeting. We will address this at our next Council meeting. The awareness presentation by the Amistad Movement was excellent. It was the consensus to arrange a more in-depth, full-day training in the future which we will do.

The intent of the U.S.C.C.B and their support of the Amistad Movement is to put the Church in the forefront against this insidious crime against the dignity of our Brothers and Sisters who are being trafficked as slaves; not only for sexual purposes but also for corrupt economic gains.

I am so happy there were so many of us there. We got there early to set up, our Fraternity provided the refreshments for the participant’s; and Delores even recruited a couple who run the coffee shop on Sunday mornings to provide coffee .

Thank you Brothers and Sisters.

Keep Moving Forward !

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

September 6—Martha Restrepo (2003)
September 10—Consuelo Davis (2011)

CONGRATULATIONS !! PRAISE GOD!!

LET US CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR EACH OTHER DAILY.
LET US REMEMBER TO OFFER OUR PRAYERS AT NOON FOR
OUR FRATERNITY.

PRAY THE FRANCISCAN CHAPLET.

“I have found God more in the trees and the brooks than in the books.”
- St. Bernard of Clairvaux

ANNUNCIATION FRATERNITY IS HAVING THEIR ANNUAL RETREAT ON
OCT. 7—OCT. 9 AT THE MOUNT CARMEL HOUSE OF PRAYER (9600 DEER
TRAIL DR., 77038). PRESENTER IS MSGR. GOLASINKSKI. ALL ARE INVITED
TO ATTEND.
CONTACT: BURGI BULLOCK AT 281-437-2231.

To love is to be in relation with another, creating a bond between the self and a part of the world, and so ultimately between self and all creation. If one person can love one other person, one unique animal, one flower, one special place on this earth, there is no reason in principle why that love cannot stretch out to embrace every single creature to the further reaches of space.

-Eric Doyle

Article 18 of the Secular Franciscan Rule states: “Moreover they should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which ‘bear the imprint of the Most High,’ and they should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship.” Can you envision any ways in which this article could have a real effect in your life? In the society in which you live?

Thomas of Celano writes: “Who would be able to narrate the sweetness he (Francis) enjoyed while contemplating in creatures the wisdom of their Creator, his power and his goodness?” Can you think of some of the ways in which Francis expressed this appreciation?

Consider what are some of the things we do that reflect that respect for creation? How do we perceive the imprint of God in His creation?

OUR NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 1

In the Outback House 10:00AM

We will observe the Transitus of St. Francis

-Social to follow-

(Council meeting & Initial Formation will meet afterwards)

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

