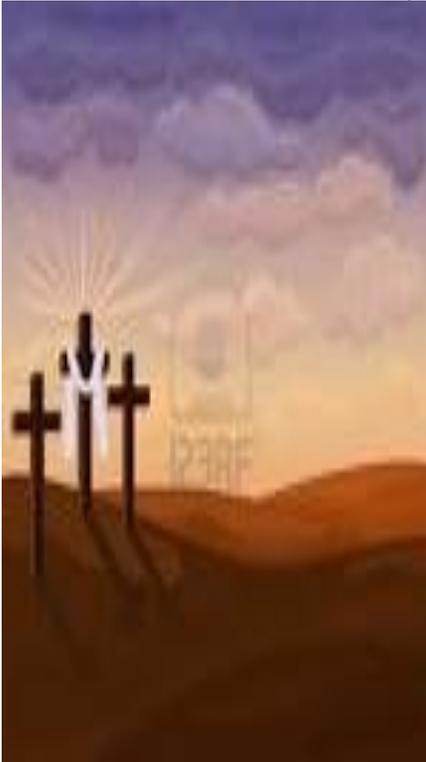


MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FRATERNITY



We were all saddened by the death of our Inquirer Larry Butler on March 20th. He was ready to enter the Candidacy phase, but God had other plans. Now he has entered into full communion with our Lord. We will have a Mass and Memorial Service for him on Saturday, April 30, at 10:00AM in the St. Jerome Day Chapel. Let's all attend and pray for his soul, as I'm sure he's praying for us now.

This month we changed our format for our meetings. In order for more of us to attend Mass together and also to more fully include our candidates in our fraternal life, we opted to have our Council Meeting after the full meeting. At 9:00AM the Candidates and Inquirers met with Delores and some of their sponsors for initial formation, studying chapter 14 of The Franciscan Journey. Chapter 10 of the FUN Manual is aligned to this chapter so at 10:00AM they remained with the full fraternity for on-going formation. Our lesson and discussion covered the vocation, charism and mission of Secular Franciscans. As we are called to rebuild the Church, there are no limits to the opportunities available to us. As Franciscans we seek to be actively involved in our parishes and communities as we strive to follow the Gospel in the footsteps of our seraphic Father Francis and apply our many gifts and graces we have received into rebuilding His church.

"As it is better to illuminate than merely to shine, so it is more perfect to give to others the fruits of our contemplation than merely to contemplate."

St. Thomas

Our next meeting, May 7, was scheduled to be at Bear Creek Park. Due to the rain and flooding, the park is closed,. So we will be back at the Outback as usual.

PAX ET BONUM

HIGHLIGHTED FRANCISCAN SAINT FOR APRIL

ST. FIDELIS OF SIGMARINGEN (APR. 24)

Born in 1577, St. Fidelis (named Mark at birth), was an exceptional student and very pious and virtuous. He became a lawyer and was very much in demand because of his ability. But when he noticed that many lawyers, corrupted by money, did violence to justice, and that an attempt was being made to lure him also into that course, he gave up his career.

He had an elder brother in the Capuchin Order, and he joined them in the year 1612. After his studies and receiving Holy Orders, he preached the word with great zeal. He insisted on a strict observance of holy poverty, tolerating no violation of it. Though strict with himself, he was charitable towards all others.

Fr. Fidelis was appointed to head a mission to Switzerland to check on the Calvinists and Zwinglians who were making headway through the region. For a long time he had been begging God daily at holy Mass to grant him the grace to shed his blood for the Faith; now his prayer was about to be heard. Due to the success of his mission, the rage of the heretics rose to great heights; his death was resolved upon. Fidelis was so convinced of it that on the morning of April 24 at Sevis he prepared himself for his last moments. Then he mounted the pulpit. During the sermon a band of armed heretics pressed into church. They dragged him down from the pulpit, and inflicted so many blows and cuts on him that he died at their hands.

Consider the means that will preserve us faithful unto death. It is firm and lively faith, and strong and fervent love of God. Faith enlightens us to acknowledge that everything else is as nothing compared with God and eternity; love strengthens us to suffer everything rather than displease our Lord and God. May the veneration and the intercession of St. Fidelis obtain for us an increase in both these virtues.

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

April 5—Sophia Lee (2008)

CONGRATULATIONS, SOPHIA !

LET US CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR EACH OTHER DAILY.

“No one ought to consider himself a true servant of God who is not tried by many temptations and trials.” - St. Francis

You are nearer to God, the lower you become in your own estimation and the farther removed from the world. Be humble, yet trustful. Be patient, yet energetic. Be insistent, yet resigned, always singling out for yourself the last place among God’s servants. Whatever good you have the chance to do, take it as something entrusted to you by God. In such a case, busy yourself hand and foot to achieve the aim, bending your unwilling mind to the task and embracing the cross of Christ with all your heart. The Franciscan Book of Saints

In prayer we talk to God and listen to him, and we walk with the angels. But in preaching, we have to descend to the human and live among others as one of them, thinking and seeing and hearing and speaking only on the human level. But, in favor of preaching, there is one argument which seems to count more than all the rest in God's eyes and it is this: the only-begotten Son of God, who is Infinite Wisdom, descended from the Father's embrace to save souls. He renewed the world by his own example, bringing the word of salvation to human beings. The price of this salvation was his precious Blood, which washes us clean, and is a fortifying drink. He kept nothing for himself, but generously gave his all for our salvation. We then are bound to act always according to the model which we see shining on him as on a high mountain. Therefore it seems more in accord with God's will that I leave the repose of contemplation and go out into the world to work." - St. Bonaventure, Major Life

OUR NEXT MEETING: MAY 7

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.

