


MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FRATERNITY



Praise God that 15 of us were able to gather together for our Fraternity meeting despite the raging flood waters throughout Houston!

After our opening prayer from the Ritual Book, we all prayed the Cantic of Brother Sun together. We then all shared news of how each other fared during the hurricane. Our sister, Rachel, seems to have experienced the worst, having to evacuate her home. Now, a month later, she is still living at her daughter's home awaiting all the necessary repairs/rebuilding of her home. Let us keep Rachel in our prayers during this upheaval to her life.

Joyously we presented the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Alan Allen. Alan has been with us since March of 2016 and it is a blessing to have him progressing forward in our fraternity.

We then had a very special presentation by David Schubert on a seminar and a retreat he had recently attended on mysticism and contemplation. We are all called to be mystics, to be continuously conscious of the Presence of God in our lives. This will lead us to transform our lives. Meditation is not talking to God, it is BEING with God; it is about being silent, and finding God in the silence. We then took 20 minutes to experience contemplative prayer. In light of the stressful time we were all going through with the hurricane, this was a blessing and well-needed moment.

We concluded our meeting with a recitation of the Holy Rosary for all those suffering and homeless due to Hurricane Harvey.

“A real joy pervades all Franciscan spirituality...Joy is the expression of the Franciscan concept of life.”

-Fr. Agostino Gemelli

PAX ET BONUM

A Word from Michael

What a month!

Our last fraternity meeting was such a blessing. I hesitated and considered canceling the meeting, yet just as it felt good to try and reestablish order out of chaos after the storm by cleaning up my property, I wanted our Franciscan family to be together. Harvey had just come through pouring 8 feet of water into Rachel's house; floodwaters reached the second story of Karen's house, Dustin and family with no electricity or water for about a week, Ryan's and Caitlin's wedding plans had to be changed, and many were unable to leave their neighborhoods due to high water. It was nice to have extended time for sharing.

Please keep in prayer all those who suffered, especially those who lost family members and friends including a friend of my son, Andrew Pasek, who died trying to save his sister's cat. Please remember and give thanks to all of the first responders and citizen volunteers who demonstrated that in spite of what is often portrayed in the media, we are all one family and the love and compassion that so many Good Samaritans provided was phenomenal. I am not sure as to the numbers, but the Cajun Navy, Cajun Army, and Cajun Special Forces were here in force providing support and rescues. Help came from everywhere! One day I assisted with unloading three truckloads of food and water that a group of young men had driven down from Baltimore! Let us continue the dialogue and prayer with others, as human suffering is not always the result of a natural disaster but often from our own design.

I firmly believe there is no such thing as a coincidence, and our formation topics for that day had been arranged two months prior. Father Mike would lead us in a discussion on The Season of Creation and David would provide an overview of a Contemplative Prayer workshop and retreat that he attended in August at University of St. Thomas which was led by Laurence Freeman, OSB. David began the meditation with Psalm 46, "Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am. Be still and know. Be still". It is such a powerful form of prayer and what better time than after a hurricane!

Elections are just around the corner. We will need those who are professed to step up and agree to serve this fraternity as its servant leaders. When each of us professed, we made a permanent commitment, during a Mass, and witnessed by a priest, as an ecclesial act which ratifies the profession in the name of the Church on behalf of the Church.

In the Franciscan Journey we read "Profession incorporates us into fraternity life with all the consequences it brings with it". Our elections require a Pastoral and Fraternal witnesses. Only professed members in good standing may vote and hold office, yet we need everyone to be present. If you are professed and have not been active (defined as participating regularly in the life of the fraternity and contributing to the common fund you would not be eligible.) PLEASE prayerfully discern how you can serve. All positions are open and they are for 3 years. Roles and Responsibilities will be discussed at the November meeting.

Peace,

michael

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

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

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR HOLY FATHER FRANCIS

Our Holy Father St. Francis can say to us all: “Be followers of me, as I also am of Christ”. He felt a strong attachment for the poor, because he saw in them the poor Christ. And because he always beheld Christ in poverty from the Crib to the Cross, he longed for the greatest poverty; he wanted to be deprived of everything material, that he might find God and call Him his own. He would cry out in holy rapture through entire nights: “My God and my all!” Consider how the poor and humble heart of our holy Father raised itself to God by means of the things of earth. He saw in created things whatever they possessed of goodness, usefulness, and beauty. But his heart did not cling to these things, rather, his thoughts mounted to the Author of all that is good, useful, and beautiful. Created things became for him the rungs of a ladder on which he climbed to the uncreated Source of all good. Burning with love, he then called upon all created things to join him in thanking and praising the Creator; thanking Him also for all suffering through which God accomplished His Holy will in order to continue it at the throne of God amid the choirs of the seraphim.

- May our holy Father intercede for us there today, that we may be enabled to follow in his footsteps.

Faith, our greatest treasure, is a free gift of God, which can be lost if we do not properly appreciate it and preserve and strengthen it in a pure and humble heart. To do this we must first of all form a philosophy of life which is in accordance with the truths of the faith, that is, with the Gospel as our divine Savior preached it and lived it. This is all the more necessary because we are living in an atmosphere which is hostile to the faith or at least cold and indifferent to it. The ideas of the world expounded in books and periodicals are opposed to the principles of faith. "See to it", St. Paul warns us, "that no one deceives you by philosophy and vain deceit...according to the elements of the world and not according to Christ" (Col. 2.8). - From the Francisca Book of Saints



The activity of the mind is lulled to rest; rapt in God, it can no longer find itself.

Being so deeply engulfed in that ocean, now it can find no place to begin.

Of itself it cannot think, nor can it say what it is like: because transformed, it has another garment.

All its perceptions have gone forth to gaze upon the Good, and contemplate Beauty which has no likeness.

-Jacopone da Todi



OUR NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 7th

Fraternity meeting begins at 10:00AM.

(Inquirers/Candidates formation at 9:00AM)

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