

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FRATERNITY

May, is the month devoted to our Blessed Mother, and all earthly mothers, as well. We had a wonderful meeting which paid tribute to both.

After opening our meeting with the prayers from the Ritual Book, we proceeded with a short business meeting. The “Q” will take place in St. Louis at the end of June and if you’re planning to go, do not hesitate to get your application in,.

Amy Le led us on a guided meditation which put us in the perfect mindset for the rest of the day.

Special to this day was the Rite of Admission for Barbara Landry. We are blessed as a fraternity in that God keeps sending us such wonderful people.

Karen Parsons gave us an update on her job and the plight of the seamen and fishermen. Pope Francis has directed that port chaplains now reach out to the fishing camps and minister to these people who are living on the margins and close to being outcasts.

We then prayed the Rosary together, letting different mothers lead each decade. We prayed for our mothers, living and deceased, and all mothers around the world. Afterwards, we took time and shared with each other stories about our own mothers, and the impact they had on our lives. We also prayed a powerful prayer from the JPIC handbook entitled “Pray the OFS Rule”.

Then we spent the remainder of our morning celebrating with a luncheon/social.

“Lay not up
to yourselves
treasures on
earth, where
the rust and
the moth con-
sume, and
where thieves
break through
and steal. .”

-Matthew 6:19

A THIRD ORDER: SECULAR FRANCISCANS by Rudolf Harvey OFM

Franciscanism was from the beginning a lay movement of the humble and the highborn within a class-conscious Church. Its inspiration and recruitment came from outside the clerical superstructure. In its mobility it avoided the monastic precedent that marked the classic and conventional form of religious vocation.

Poverty and evangelism were twin objectives through which these lay pioneers could invigorate society because their grass roots were not suffocated by churchly marble. ... Before his day, the rules of religious orders were a portfolio policy for a patterned sanctity. Francis' own free spirit prevented him from saddling and hindering the liberty of his followers. At a time and place in which feuds and vendettas were as common as olive trees and few men went abroad unarmed, his Secular Franciscans were forbidden to fight or carry weapons. They were to live within their means, shun vanities and luxuries, give their excess to the poor, and swear no oath, not even one of fealty. In forbidding arms and the fealty oath, Francis broke the back of feudalism.

In time the roll of Secular Franciscans would lengthen with names of the great and the humble: King Louis of France and Queen Elizabeth of Hungary; Novellone, the saintly shoemaker; Blessed Peter of Siena, the combmaker; Matt Talbot of Dublin, the day laborer. There would be artists such as Michelangelo, Rafaelo Sanzo, and Murillo; musicians such as Gounod and Palestrina, poets such as Jacopone da Todi, Metrach, and Francis Thompson; statesmen such as Windhorst and St. Thomas More; and scientists such as Ampere and Faraday.

Seven centuries before the Second Vatican Council pleaded for lay involvement, Francis had begun this movement, which in our own day prompts the Salvation Army to venerate him as patron and even Communists to muster their sparse reverence to salute "the liberator of the medieval proletariat."

Today's Secular Franciscan is an admired citizen, but when the Order began, its members automatically incurred the wrath of the public authorities. Their presence was a mute and mighty contradiction of state policy. Refusing military conscription in the aggressive wars of the times, they were regarded as subversive and subjected to special taxes and public harassment. Pope Honorius III ordered the Bishop of Rimini to protect them, and Gregory IX threatened their persecutors with canonical penalties.

HAPPY PROFESSION ANNIVERSARY
Rachel Persicano (1991)

LET US CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR EACH OTHER DAILY.

“When a person believes in God, there is no such thing as a mute piece of wood, or pain unaccompanied by exultation, or ordinary life without miracles.”

-St. Francis by Kazantzakis

How Much More Will the Father Give

- 1) Only for today, I will seek to live the lifelong day positively without wishing to solve the problems of my life all at once.
- 2) Only for today, I will take the greatest care of my appearance: I will dress modestly; I will not raise my voice; I will be courteous in my behavior; I will not criticize anyone; I will not claim to improve or to discipline anyone except myself.
- 3) Only for today, I will be happy in the certainty that I was created to be happy, not only in the other world, but also in this one.
- 4) Only for today, I will adapt to circumstances, without requiring all circumstances to be adapted to my own wishes.
- 5) Only for today, I will devote ten minutes of my time to some good reading, remembering that just as food is necessary to the life of the body, so good reading is necessary to the life of the soul.
- 6) Only for today, I will do one good deed and not tell anyone about it.
- 7) Only for today, I will do at least one thing I do not like doing; and if my feelings are hurt, I will make sure that no one notices.
- 8) Only for today, I will make a plan for myself: I may not follow it to the letter, but I will make it. And I will be on guard against two evils: hastiness and indecision.
- 9) Only for today, I will firmly believe, despite appearances, that the good Providence of God cares for me as no one else who exists in this world.
- 10) Only for today, I will have no fears. In particular, I will not be afraid to enjoy what is beautiful and to believe in goodness. Indeed for twelve hours I can certainly do what might cause me consternation were I to believe I had to do it all my life.

-St. John XXIII (Pope, Secular Franciscan)

“You, Francis, who brought Christ so close to your age, help us to bring Christ close to our age. Help us, St. Francis of Assisi, to bring Christ closer to the Church and to the world of today. You, who bore in your heart the vicissitudes of your contemporaries, help us, with our heart close to the Redeemer’s heart, to embrace the events of the men of our time. The difficult social, economic, and political problems, the problems of culture and contemporary civilization, all the suffering of persons of today, their doubts, their denials, their disorders, their tensions, their complexes, their worries. . . Help us to express all this in the simple and fruitful language of the Gospel.” - Pope John Paul II on his visit to Assisi

In your relations with one another, clothe yourselves with humility, because God “is stern with the arrogant but to the humble he shows kindness.” Bow humbly under God’s mighty hand, so that in due time he may lift you high. Cast all your cares on him because he cares for you.
-1 Peter 5:5-7

OUR NEXT MEETING: JUNE 4

In the Outback House

10:00am to 12:00pm

(Council meets at 9:00am until 10:00am)

(Candidates /Inquirers 9:00am –10:00am optional)

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

J.P.I.C.

We had a double blessing at our meeting as Martha is now able to participate as they have closed their business on Saturday's and Karen was able to participate as she was in town.

Karen spoke with us and gave us an update on the work she is doing as Chaplain for the port of Galveston and Texas City, and her additional responsibilities for the Apostleship of the Sea.

The Apostleship of the Sea is the Catholic Church's international ministry to the people of the sea. OFS (Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity) member Karen Parsons is the appointed port chaplain for the ports of Galveston and Texas City. She is also the Vatican appointed Regional Coordinator for the AOS in North America and the Caribbean. In the Gulf Coast Region there are AOS port chaplains in the ports of Corpus Christi, Port Isabel, Galveston, Texas City, Houston, Beaumont and Port Arthur, Lake Charles, New Orleans, Mobile, Pensacola, and Tampa. The Apostleship of the Sea reaches out to those who live and work at sea which includes seafarers, off shore platform workers, cruise ship employees, fishers and shrimpers, They also take care of those who work in the ports including dock workers, and truck drivers. The ministry has often focused on the cargo vessels and cruise ship crews with some work with fishers and shrimpers.

Recently, the Holy Father, in his outreach to the poor, has motivated the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People (under which the AOS falls in Rome) to urge port chaplains around the globe to focus more carefully on the fishers and shrimpers in our communities. Although the fishers and shrimpers live in our communities and go out on the Gulf to work bringing in all that wonderful seafood people on the Gulf love to eat, they can be among the poorest people in our communities. Having said that, they are also among the least trusting of outsiders. Karen has begun an initiative to reach out to the fishers and shrimpers in her area of her chaplaincy. She visits boats in San Leon, Texas City, Galveston, regularly giving them gifts of new tee-shirts, new socks and a fishing knife. Things she will be looking to collect to give out in the future are new and gently used blue jeans and shrimpers' boots. As you can imagine, clothes can get pretty "fishy" day after day out there.

The next time you sit down to enjoy a wonderful seafood dinner, please say a prayer for those who risk there lives daily to bring in the catch.