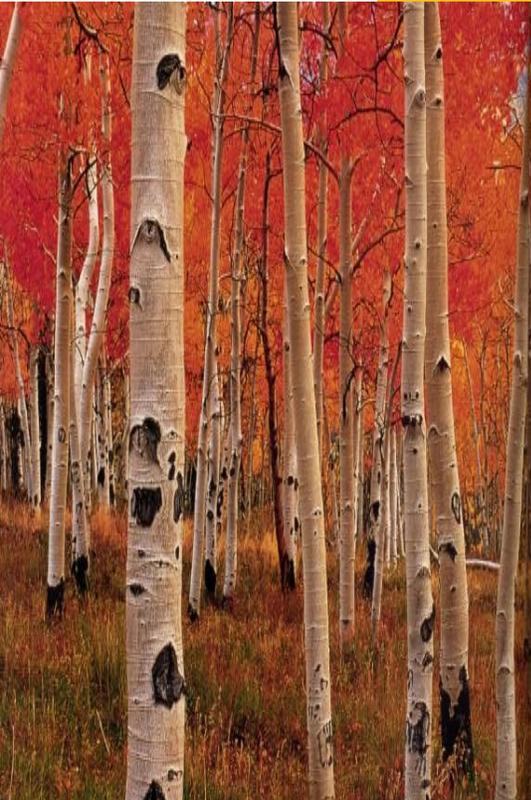


MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FRATERNITY



We were blessed to have another presentation at our November meeting by Veronica Aldana with “Free the Captives”. This organization works along with law enforcement officials and provides job programs, education, material goods, mentoring, support groups for teenaged human trafficking victims in Houston. This is a major problem in our city. In an effort to help, many of us have agreed to bake goods for their upcoming Star Wars Expo on Dec. 1-2. (See previous emails for information to assist). There are many other volunteer opportunities with this group, including a 5K run/walk in April. Let’s all pray on this and see how we can assist.

Then the meeting commenced with the lighting of the candles, prayers from the Ritual Book. Since November is the month our Church traditionally remembers the departed, we were asked to bring pictures of our deceased loved ones. We prayed for their souls and spent some time sharing memories and discussing their impact on our lives.

We also prayed together The Unconfirmed Rule of 1221 from the Ritual Book.

In October, nine of us were blessed to have attended the Fiesta Franciscana in the oldest mission in San Antonio. We shared our different experiences and what we learned. One thing of great interest was the fact that the friars and brothers have begun to pray the Admonitions along with their Liturgy of the Hours each day. We then took some time to study and discuss Admonition 1: God present in the Eucharist. We will take some time in the following months to carefully study and dissect the 28 Admonitions of St. Francis.

One thing that struck me from the San Antonio trip and the presentation by Fr. Hellmann, OFM Conv., was how he began his talks: We are all family here. The room was filled with Seculars, Friars in all stages of formation, brothers. This point was driven home this week when Mike received a phone call from the Regional Treasurer: our National and Regional brothers and sisters have taken up a collection to aid those members of our family who were impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Thus, five members of our fraternity who were severely impacted by the storm, are receiving gift cards to help them get back on their feet. What an unexpected blessing! God truly does take care of his little ones.

Blessed is that servant who would love brother or sister just as much when they are sick and cannot do anything in return, as when they are well and can.

-Admonition 24

PAX ET BONUM

It seems like hardly a day goes by when we are not reminded of the evil that is so present in this world. Our senses and sensibilities are in overload. It is so easy to become desensitized and deadened to it all. After all, this-and-that happened in Hollywood, so-and-so said this but he didn't really mean it, and so on. This party did this, that party did such-and-such.

It is more comfortable many times to not do or say anything; we'll just bury it.

Today's Gospel (11/19) from Matthew shares the parable of the Wealthy Master who has left three servants each a considerable amount to safeguard until His return. The first two are commended for the actions they had taken with what they had been entrusted with. The third servant is cast into darkness, cut off from the Light for not doing anything with his talent other than burying it.

Each of us will have a final accounting before our Lord and Master. At our last Regional meeting, Brother Juniper spoke about how our profession is much like our Baptismal promise. We are going to have a final judgement. How have we fulfilled our Baptismal promise? How have we fulfilled our promise made when we professed?

Each of us have been blessed with so much. What are we doing with our talents?

No one would freely choose to be cut off from the Light of Christ and cast into darkness. Let us be like Clare and be a light to lead ourselves and others out of the darkness. Let us go into the dark stable of this world and shine a light and prepare for the Birth of Christ the King. We must invite Him in.

I found the following reflection by Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF, on Advent and wanted to share it:

We are once again in the season of Advent—the time of waiting for Christ to come.

What does this waiting mean? What are we waiting *for*? Advent is God waiting for us to empty ourselves of all that hinders God's dwelling in us. God needs a place to call home in this world, He needs a heart open to love without demands or expectations. Jesus said, "Foxes have their dens and the birds of the air have their nests but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head," The medieval Dominican mystic, Meister Eckhart, captured the meaning of Advent when he wrote: "What good is it to me if this eternal birth of the divine Son takes place unceasingly but does not take place within myself? And, what good is it to me if Mary is full of grace and if I am not also full of grace? What good is it to me for the Creator to give birth to his/her Son if I do not also give birth to him in my time and my culture. This, then, is the fullness of time: When the Son of God is begotten in us"

May you be God's dwelling place so that Christ may be born anew.

Peace, michael

DECEMBER MEETING

Don't forget to bring your gifts for the Seafarer's boxes. We will have a great and blessed time assembling and wrapping the gifts.

Consider the powerful aids which are provided in the Third Order. In it people associate with others who have the same purpose in mind and publicly pledge themselves to that purpose. Their example encourages them mutually, their common association is a constant stimulus. The members say a common prayer, and God looks upon that common prayer of millions with favor. At the monthly meetings they receive useful instruction. They are joined in one spiritual family and in a certain communion of graces with all the children of St. Francis, even with their Seraphic Father and the numerous saints of his three orders who have already been glorified. With that confidence may the Tertiaries call upon their sainted forbears to assist them! Also, do not forget to recommend to their intercession the souls of the departed members of the order.

The Franciscan Book of Saints

**NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 2, 2017
IN THE OUTBACK HOUSE AT 10:00 A.M.**

(CANDIDATES & INQUIRERS FORMATION AT 9:00 A.M.)

**PLEASE JOIN TOGETHER IN HOLY MASS AT 8:15 A.M. IN
THE ST. JEROME'S DAY CHAPEL**

