

## MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FRATERNITY



Many new and exciting things are taking place within our Fraternity. For one thing, Council now meets on the 4th Saturday of the month, thereby giving us more time together in our Fraternity meeting. As such, our first hour from 9:00AM to 10:00AM, is now for initial formation. As the Holy Spirit is the principal agent of formation, we too are called to become agents of formation for all our brothers and sisters. All are invited to come share their journey; regular fraternity meeting begins at 10:00AM.

On February 25th we will hold our 2nd Potluck Dinner together, this time at Rachel's house. This strengthens our family bonds within our fraternity. On March 25th, beginning at 8:00AM, there will be a Mass at the Co-Cathedral and we will participate again this year in Caritas Day. Please see previous email for details.

Our Fraternity is blessed in that we have four Candidates who are fast approaching their Profession: Amy Le, Alba Hernandez, Ryan Efav and Joe Swonke. All four have proven to be true brothers and sisters in Christ and will continue to animate our gatherings with their loving spirits.

In light of this, we spent a great portion of our meeting going over "Profession and the Secular Franciscan" from the FUN Manual, ch. 16. We emphasized the significance and importance of profession in the Secular Franciscan Order, for those approaching profession and those already professed.

All are eligible to attend the annual Regional Retreat. Scholarships are available, as well as carpooling.

"We deliberately and prayerfully choose to influence our world with Gospel ideals and values. We also choose to interpret life and find meaning."

-Catch Me a Rainbow Too  
by Lester Bach

PAX ET BONUM

## **PAX ET BONUM**

**Greetings! As we move closer to the start of our Lenten journey, I pause and reflect on what this means to me as a Franciscan, and how the gift of our Franciscan Charism strengthens us as we strive to follow the gospel in the footsteps of Francis and Clare. Scripture tells us “God is Love” (1 John 4:16).**

**St. Francis knew this and his love for Jesus was so intense that he shared in the suffering of Christ as well, receiving the stigmata. We will stumble, we will be tempted, yet through our Faith we know that in Jesus’ name all things are possible and love will prevail. This love that became flesh in a stable, who suffered and died on a cross because he loved us so much, wants us all to be in His Kingdom. Our relationship is strengthened by exercising the charisms freely given to us, (if we don’t exercise them they will atrophy) by meeting Him in Adoration and prayer, and participating as frequently as possible in the Sacraments.**

**I am reminded of one of the incidents from the life of St. Clare. Her and her sisters in their monastery outside of Assisi were being threatened by Saracen troops planning to attack. At that time Clare was bedridden, but asked her sisters to take her to the door. She also asked that the Blessed Sacrament be brought to her. Clare prostrated herself before the Lord in prayer, and holding the Blessed Sacrament up high before the invaders, she begged the Lord to defend her sisters whom she could not defend. A voice was heard, “I will always defend you.” Clare continued her prayer, “My Lord, please protect this city which for Your love sustains us.”**

**The invaders turned away. Clare’s trust and devotion to the Holy Eucharist is why she is usually depicted with the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance.**

**In the book Calm for the Soul: A book of Simple Wisdom and Prayer by the Poor Clares, Galway, it is written:**

**“There is a story from our Franciscan tradition that one night St. Francis went through the forest weeping because ‘Love is not loved’. He was deeply aware that God is love and he found it heartbreaking that so many people ignored God. He offered his life as a response to that love. St. Clare’s response was ‘totally love Him who gave Himself totally for your love’. Our journey, too, is to reciprocate that love.”**

**This, then, will be my Lenten journey.**

**michael**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY FRATERNITY

Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity was canonically established on March 4, 2001 at the All Saints Roman Catholic Church in the Heights. The celebrant was Fr. John Bok. The prayer that was said that day was:

Let us pray, We give you praise and thanks, O Lord our God. As we gather here in your name, may our lives together in fraternity help us to experience the presence of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. And to proclaim that presence to the world by the power of your Holy Spirit, so that our joy in St. Francis may come to fulfillment. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### JOAN OF ARC REGION'S ANNUAL RETREAT LAKE CHARLES May 5-7, 2017

The retreat will be presented by Karen Parsons, OFS, and is entitled "St. Francis, Clare and Me".

RSVP to Patsy Burgess, OFS (2308 Jerlyn Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70726, 225-907-8248). Deadline for fees is April 15.

We discussed at our meeting the need to strip ourselves of being judgmental, especially when it comes to our views of the poor and marginalized, immigrants and those of other faiths. Those living “outside the norm” often have much wisdom to offer as they are not bound to the expected conduct that the rest of society conforms to. The following is from The Franciscan Book of Saints concerning our treatment of those of others faiths, and could be useful to spend time meditating upon:

Consider that non-Catholics are not to be cut off from our charity, as Christ Himself teaches in the beautiful parable of the Good Samaritan. We must assist them too, should they be in need. In our business and social dealings with them, we should be courteous and friendly, respect them as is proper, and avoid all bitterness toward them. In that way we shall give them the best possible idea of the true Faith. By the fruit they see in us, they will recognize it as a good tree.

**OUR NEXT MEETING: MARCH 4**  
**In the ACTS House**

**Candidates/Inquirers meet at 9:00AM**  
**Fraternity meeting begins at 10:00AM**

**(We are all encouraged to attend Mass together at 8:15AM in the St. Jerome Day Chapel.)**

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