

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FRATERNITY



We began our meeting with prayer, as usual, with Adele, our Vice Minister, standing in for Mike who is in St. Louis attending the “Q”. Adele led us in our prayers and then advised us of upcoming plans to have an Amistad presentation at St. Jerome’s in September. As well, the Transitus is fast-approaching in October and Delores and Dora have volunteered to spearhead this event; all ideas and volunteers appreciated.

We proceeded with a very special ceremony for the 25th Anniversary of Profession of Rachel Persicano to the Secular Franciscan Order. What a joy and blessing it is to have Rachel as a part of our family. She renewed her commitment to our way of life. Afterwards, she was congratulated by all!

Let us be
ashamed to be
caught up by
worthless
imaginings,
for at the
time of prayer
we speak to
the great
King.

-St. Francis

Delores then led the group in a discussion of our daily prayer lives. Many shared the different ways they pray and how they stay united with Christ throughout the work-day.

Dora followed up with a presentation on Franciscan Prayer from Sr. Ilia Deleo’s book. It is about participation in the mystical Body of Christ; it is centered on the person of Jesus Christ. As such, it is affective—prayer of the heart rather than the head. Franciscan prayer is Christ-centered, affective, contemplative, cosmic and evangelizing. As St. Clare said, “Gaze—Consider—Contemplate—Imitate”.

Adele then led us in prayer from “The Continuous Call to Conversion” by Joyce Rupp.

PAX ET BONUM

A WORD FROM MICHAEL

What a blessing it was to travel to St. Louis and participate in the “Q”. Words cannot express the power of the Holy Spirit and the joy manifested in our Franciscan family traveling from all over our country (and even the world, as our International Minister was a speaker and attendee) for this congress. Our brothers from the OFM and TOR in their talks emphasized repeatedly that we are all one family.

One of the keynote speakers, Daniel Horan, OFM, asked us not to call him Father, as we are his brothers and sisters. His address on Racism and Xenophobia struck home as we were just a little over 3 miles from Ferguson, MO. Just the day before I had made a trip to the St. Louis Cathedral. The church in St. Louis was the first Catholic church west of the Mississippi. In addition to the beautiful mosaics and mural of St. Louis receiving his habit of the Third Order Franciscans, there is a beautiful statue in the garden, the Angel of Racial Harmony. We certainly need all the Angels, Saints, and everyone to pray that this intrinsic evil that has hardened our hearts and allowed the past and recent atrocities to continue, be replaced by the Peace that Jesus wants us all to have. Let us begin today by praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 and everyday thereafter.

I would encourage everyone to go to the NAFRA website as there are summaries of each day and the complete powerpoints from the speakers. When the DVD is available, we will plan to use it for our ongoing formation.

The following was taken off the NAFRA site:

“We had such joy these past few days,” Father Chris noted in his homily. “When we gather, it bubbles forth. We took a journey with Dan (Horan) and now we’re back to the beginning – penance.” He said St. Francis had identified himself with Secular Franciscans – the original brothers and sisters of penance.

He noted that “prayer, poverty, humility, conversion” were the four values that Francis stood for, and that characterize Franciscan life today. In fact, the “charism of the order is conversion of life,” he said, and asked: How does this ongoing conversion have expression today?

The answer is “to act justly,” to have a “simple and uncluttered life,” “to help the poor, the homeless, the abused, the unemployed, the neglected, homosexuals, refugees – the list goes on and on.”

He added: “The pope tells us to get our feet dirty... Let us start walking in their shoes to feel what they experience.”

In other words, responding to others’ needs “means we are humble and attentive.”

After all, “in God’s plan there is room for everyone.”

The 19th Q concluded with a burst of Franciscan joy, as National Minister Jan Parker, OFS, left the audience cheering and laughing as she belted out a special rendition of Gloria Gaynor’s “I will survive” – except that her lyrics changed it to “We’ve been revived.”

Amen !

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

July 22—Robert Trahan (2006)

CONGRATULATIONS !LET US CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR EACH OTHER DAILY.

“Silence is a gift of God, to let us speak more intimately with God.” - St. Vincent Pallotti

Prayer transforms lives and all of the Franciscan saints were noted for their prayerfulness—prayers of petition, intercession, confession, praise, adoration and blessings, and thanksgiving, and offering their sufferings with Christ to God the Father. How powerful prayer is for God does hear what we ask especially with a thankful heart! God does change the lives of people by means of saintly people. They transform the world by their humility, care of the poor and sick, and their good example of virtue to others, their simplicity, fortitude, poverty, suffering, and purity. Otherwise, there would not have been so many who looked upon them as teachers of goodness. There would not have been thousands of members of the Third Order who would live the Franciscan spirit of following Jesus Christ, helping others by their actions.

The Stories of the Third Order Secular Franciscan Saints and Blesseds in History by Michael Koeberlein, OFS

For Francis, solitude and service were two sides of the same coin. His followers weren't detached from the world like island-dwelling monks, nor were they totally wrapped up in the world like full-service social workers. Francis and his friars were torn between being alone with God and being in the midst of the throngs. But it was clear to Francis that it was the time alone with God that made the periods of service meaningful and productive.

As important as those time of spiritual intimacy with God were to Francis, in the end the experience was impossible to describe, as one biographer wrote: "Francis was often suspended in such sweetness of contemplation that, caught up out of himself, he could not reveal what he had experienced because it went beyond all human comprehension."

-The Lessons of St. Francis by John Michael Talbot

OUR NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 6
In the Outback House at 10:00 A.M.

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

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

