

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FRATERNITY



Oh God, poured out
in all of creation,
enlighten us by the
splendor of created
things. Give elo-
quence to our dumb-
ness that we may
praise you. Open
our eyes and alert
the ears of our
spirit so that in
all creatures we may
see, hear, praise,
love, and worship
you.

-from St. Clare
Prayer Book

May was a bit different for us, as half of the Fraternity went to the Regional Retreat at the Lake Charles Retreat House, and half of us stayed in Houston and had a Fraternity meeting, as usual.

Speaking for those of us who went to the Retreat, I can say we had an awesome experience. We “met” St. Francis and St. Clare in a personal encounter, which was not only moving and meaningful, but very informative, as well. Karen Parsons did an excellent job as Retreat Master which included leading us through various levels of reflection and prayer.

I heard that the Houston meeting went well also. We are grateful to Delores and Rachel for leading the group. We also want to welcome our three new visitors and encourage them to return, if they are so-inclined.

Our June meeting is going to be extra special! We are so pleased to finally embrace in a permanent way four of our brothers and sisters into the Secular Franciscan Order: Amy Le, Alba Hernandez, Ryan Efaw and Joe Swonke. The profession will take place at the 8:15AM Mass at St. Jerome’s. Following, we will meet for a short time at the Ourback House, then we will continue our celebration at the picnic at Bear Creek Park. This is such a special occasion in the life of our Fraternity and all are encouraged to attend, even if schedules need to be altered.

God is so good to our Fraternity! We have a lot to celebrate and be thankful for—namely each other!

PAX ET BONUM

A MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL

If I were on trial for being a Catholic

At an event last night, the speaker challenged us: if we were to be tried for being a Catholic, would we be convicted? Are our lives representative of what our Church teaches? Do we allow people to criticize and make false statements about our Holy Father or our Priests?

As we approach Pentecost, I reflect on how I am often like the Apostles as they hid; huddled together, scared of the events that had transpired and what was happening all around them.

Yes, there is some circumstantial evidence that I am a Catholic. Yet, when I am in public, do I always pray prior to eating and begin with the Sign of the Cross?

At night when I reflect on my day, I see so many areas where I could possibly not be convicted of being a Catholic due to there being so much reasonable doubt.

Do I fail to see the dignity in everyone, including the person who just cut in front of me, causing my coffee to spill all over me and the work that I have spent hours putting together? Do I say hateful things about certain elected officials?

Do I laugh at inappropriate jokes? Do I say negative things about people and my job? There are millions of people without a job who pray for one, and yet I complain.

The list could go on and on.....

We will have 4 candidates making their permanent profession as Secular Franciscans the day before Pentecost. As I have been preparing for this joyous occasion, I am reminded of my own promise at Profession and I am so excited for them, their families, our worldwide family of Franciscans, our Church, and for all of us, that as the Holy Spirit comes, we can all be strengthened for the Great Commission and that my life reflects the Rule I professed to follow.

Peace.

HAPPY PROFESSION ANNIVERSARY
Rachel Persicano (1991)

LET US CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR EACH OTHER DAILY.

If we think of each other, one at a time, we can see where special prayers are needed. Take a special moment today and raise each one of us up to God for a particular intention.

Francis of Assisi had it very clear. He assimilated it in the meditation of the Gospel, but above all in the contemplation of Christ's face in the lepers and in the Crucifix of San Damiano, from which he received the mandate: "Francis, go, repair my house." Yes, as in Francis' time, the Church is always in need of being "repaired". She is holy, in fact, in the gifts she received from on high, but she is made up of sinners, and, therefore, is always in need of penance and renewal.

-Pope Francis in a letter to the Bishop of Assisi

This is how, servant of God, you will know that you have the spirit of the Lord: If when the Lord does something good through you, the flesh does not get puffed up (for the flesh is ever in opposition to what is good); but instead, you remain less in our own eyes, less than all other people.—Admonition 12

SURPRISE!

God knocks on the door of this sacred moment as it unfolds before us. Unfortunately, we are often unaware of that knock until we look back and reflect on an experience in hindsight. God's knock can be as soft as an intuition or a gut feeling; it can be as loud as a need to which only we can respond. Sometimes that knock surprises even the most spiritually attuned among us.

- This Sacred Moment by Albert Haase, OFM

OUR NEXT MEETING: JUNE 3

Professions for Alba, Amy, Joe, Ryan at the 8:15AM Mass at St. Jerome's Church.

Following there will be a short gathering in the Out-back House.

Then our picnic at Bear Creek Park.

