

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FRATERNITY



It is always exciting to start a new year. In God's goodness, He has allowed us another year to work on ourselves: pray deeper, serve more humbly, love more freely. As per our Rule #19, we are reminded that we are to be bearers of peace...to bring joy and hope to others.

In our meeting we had a discussion based on Albert Haase's book Instruments of Christ: Reflections on the Peace Prayer of St. Francis. We were encouraged to think of the positive qualities we have and discern how we are using them for others. Also, how are we still feeding our ego? How would serving others nourish us? We discussed various ideas of how we can accomplish being peacemakers in our lives. We are always a "work in progress", so let us rededicate ourselves this new year to routing out our old useless, and perhaps destructive, habits and put on the New Man. Let us begin anew to live our Franciscan journey with our entire heart, mind and soul.

"If you want to be a bridge, you must be willing to lay down and be walked on."

Matt Maher

On January 21st, we had our 1st Fraternity Potluck Dinner at Ryan's house. We hope to begin this as a monthly get-together to grow closer as a family and share our lives with each other. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship and bonding. Thank you, Ryan, for this great idea and hosting us. Who would like to have the next dinner at their home? Let us know.

Mark your calendars for March 25. This is Caritas Day at the Co-Cathedral. Just like last year, we will sign-up for a particular job (probably filling food bags). Will advise when more information is available.

A MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL

Peace and all good!

If you made any resolutions for this new year, I hope you are firm in your resolve! At this point in my life, I do not make resolutions per se, I just try to become a better version of Michael, of who I was called to be. I need to better develop the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity which were so freely given by the Grace of the Holy Spirit to me at my Baptism.

I have been trying to clear the dead and damaged plants from the freeze, and I am especially saddened with the loss of several cactus. I have cut them to the base with the anticipation and hope they will come back. I am hopeful for new growth.

Like the cactus, I am often too sharp and have been known to say pointed things that end up hurting others. I am hopeful for new growth.

I had one of those “Ah Hah” moments today. Our pastor, Msgr. Dan, spoke on the theological virtues and drew the analogy of people born with musical talent yet still have to practice all the time to develop it to its fullest. This is similar to the person born with athletic abilities. They still must train hard and eat healthy food to reach their potential.

We were made members of the People of God by our Baptism and strengthened in Confirmation by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes to us again at our profession as we profess to bind ourselves more closely to the Church and to work intently to rebuild the ecclesial community and fulfill its mission among all people. Our promise that we made , or will make, at profession is:

“I, N.N., by the grace of God, renew my baptismal promises and consecrate myself to the service of his kingdom.

Therefore, in my secular state, (or as a member of the diocesan clergy), I promise to live all the days of my life the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan order by observing its rule of life.

May the grace of the Holy Spirit, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and our holy father Saint Francis, and the fraternal bonds of community always be my help, so that I may reach the goal of perfect Christian love.”

I feel so Blessed to be a part of our Franciscan Community and I know if I make myself aware every day of my promise, I can better develop the virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity, which requires going into the vineyard every day and laboring.

Peace,
michael

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

Shelley Barger (2005)
GG LaFitte (2005)
Karen Parsons (2005)
Dora Freeman (2010)
Mike Freeman (2010)
Magdalene Moon (2010)

“Pray for one another that you may be saved.” (James. 5:16)

Please keep Rachel’s grandson, Jacob, in your prayers. Remember also David and his recovery from back surgery. Karen Parsons needs our prayers also for healing after an emergency appendectomy with complications.

The Idolatry of the “Eight P’s”

There are temptations, and there is Temptation. Little white lies. Apathy and indifference towards our brothers and sisters. Sexual temptations. They are all temptations with a small “t.” They are real. They occur every day of our lives. They tempt us to promote the logic of the false self through rationalization and justification. The more we respond to them, the more they become second nature to us

But there is also temptation with a capital “T”. It is the great temptation: the primordial temptation of Jews and Christians to worship a false god. This too is the “temptation” we pray not to be “led into” in the Lord’s Prayer.

Idolatry is so very seductive. Its trap is set very early in life and most of us get caught in it, though few of us are aware of having done so.

I fall prey to worshipping a false god because society, upbringing or friends tell me there is something missing or lacking in my life. Whatever it may be, I am told that “this missing thing will make you happy.” So I develop a taste for it. I crave it. I desire it with all my heart. I go after it. I become obsessed with getting it, having it, keeping it and accumulating more of it. My life revolves around it. When I have it, I tell myself that I am happy and that life is going well. When I don’t have it, I tell myself that I am unhappy. I am its slave.

Power, prestige, people, possessions, productivity, popularity, pleasure and position—these are the golden calves of the twentieth century.

- from Swimming in The Sun by Albert Haase, O.F.M.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE CO-CATHEDRAL

March 10, Friday evening, at 7:00PM: A screening of the new documentary film from Grassroots Films, "OUTCASTS". "The new project from Grassroots Films is a powerful and beautiful depiction of the work of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal with the impoverished and the desperate." The New documentary shows Franciscan friars among the world's 'outcasts'. The subject matter of this film may at times be depressing, but somehow the film is not. It is immensely uplifting, as well as beautiful to look at. Some of the cinematography is stunning.

March 13, 14 & 15: 7:00PM-8:00PM: "Revealing the Heart of God" Presented by Fr. Jerimiah Shyroch CFR (Franciscan Friars of the Renewal).

March 13: God's Love: The Good News we long to hear

March 14: God's Mercy: The Truth that sets us free

March 15: God's Healing: The Eucharist as God's medicine

Fr. Jerimiah will also be speaking at all the English Masses the weekend of March 11/12.

OUR NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 4

In the Outback 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.)

