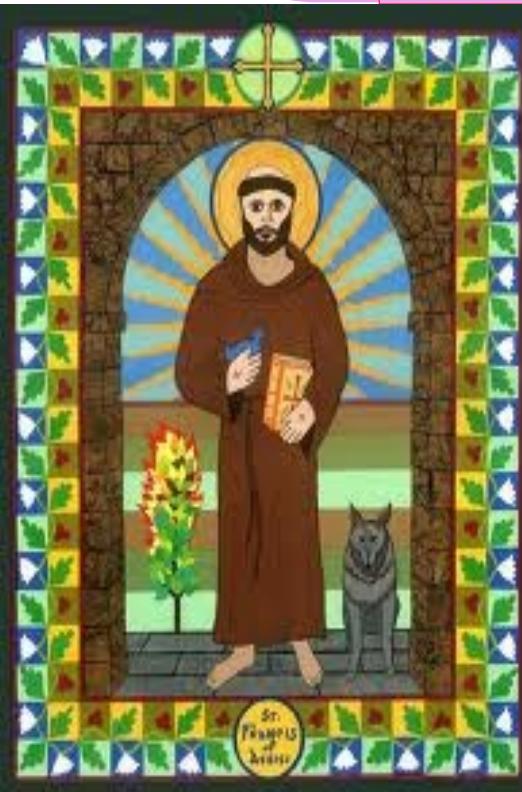


MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FRATERNITY



What a wonderful and blessed fraternity we have! We have been joyfully busy with many worthwhile activities. Just to mention a few: A handful of our members attended the recent Caritas Day. After attending Mass in the Co-Cathedral they spent the morning filling bags with food for the children in Africa. They prepared 10,000 meals. Joe, and his three sons, David, Sophia and Mike all agreed it was a wonderful day and we intend to do this again next year. Another group of us attended the Life Teen Group at St. Jerome's, with almost 300 kids, and presented a skit on the Wolf of Gubbio. It was a lot of fun! Rachel was the cutest St. Francis, and Mike the most hilarious wolf! Fr. Mike was our author and narrator. Mike also presented some information about the SFO to them. We also intend to have more interaction with the youth of the parish in the future.

Last month we had a special Day of Reflection. In preparation for Lent, Fr. Mike heard our confessions and did an awesome job having us reflect and meditate on the virtue of reverence.

At this month's meeting, we began a different format. Instead of council meeting from 9:00-10:00 before the fraternity meeting, we will allow this time for our Inquirers, Candidates, Mentors to meet for more formation time. They will still have an hour or so to meet within our allotted fraternity time. We are just so blessed at this time in our fraternity to have so many people coming to discern this way of life that more formation time is needed.

**"The whole life
of a Christian
should be one
continuous act
of penance."**

-Council of Trent

We also signed postcards addressed to Starkist and Costco, provided by the Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking, urging them to ensure that their supply chains are free of the taint of forced labor. Be vigilant this Lent as we eat more seafood. Eighty percent of the seafood eaten in the U.S. is imported and tens of thousands of people are exploited at every stage of harvesting and production.

HIGHLIGHTED FRANCISCAN SAINT FOR MARCH

MARCH 31—THE SERVANT OF GOD LOUIS OF CASORIA, Confessor, First Order

Louis has been called a newly risen St. Francis, especially because of his touching charity and his invincible trust in God. Casoria, near Naples, was the place where he was born in the year 1814. As a traveling cabinetmaker, the eighteen-year old boy sought admission among the Franciscans. When he had completed his studies for holy orders, he was assigned to the task of teaching philosophy, physics, and mathematics to the young clerics. God, however, had chosen him to be an apostle of charity.

At first Father Louis opened a dispensary for the poor. Then he founded two colleges, for boys and girls who were ransomed in Africa, and were to be educated as missionaries to their countrymen. Besides these, he founded also a college for the children of the nobility, and a half-dozen other institutions, for orphans, the deaf and dumb, the blind, for old people and for travelers.

In order to secure capable helpers, he founded the “Grey Brothers” and the “Grey Sisters” from among the members of the Third Order. Wherever help was needed or any form of distress was to be alleviated, Father Louis was the first at hand to render aid.

To celebrate the seventh centenary of the birth of St. Francis in 1882, he invited five thousand poor persons to dine with him.

He considered himself not the originator of these projects, but rather the tool for carrying out the will of God in the measure in which God wished it and the manner in which God arranged it. While Louis needed enormous amounts of money, he was generally not in possession of a cent. Then he would say: “On the appointed day Christ will pay.”

A piece of property adjoining a church was to be sold at public auction to the highest bidder. Some sect was about to acquire it. Father Louis ordered his agent to buy it. “How high a price can we pay?” asked the agent. Father Louis answered unperturbed: “There is no limit. One soldo is worth as much to me as a million, for I possess neither. But God is very wealthy and you will see, He pays promptly.” And God paid!

Finally after a lingering illness of nine years, this Franciscan friend of mankind went home to his generous Lord. It was on March 30, 1885.

THE RIGHT WAY TO BE BENEVOLENT: “When you do an almsdeed, sound not a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be honored by men” (Mt.6.2.). To do good in a quiet and unpretentious way is the best way to proceed.—Adopt this way.

The Franciscan Book of Saints by Marion A. Habig O.F.M.

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARY
Coming up: SOPHIA LEE— April 5, 2008

LET US REMEMBER TO PRAY DAILY FOR OUR FRATERNITY.

Pray the Franciscan Chaplet daily.

Pray for Larry who is in intensive care with kidney failure and he is not conscious.

Also keep GG in our prayers. Keep Shelley in our prayers.

Pray for Valerie and Jeff, as each begin a new chapter of their lives in different cities.

Pray for Christians in the Holy Land.

HUMILITY

Humility is not a special gift one is born with. It is a gift of God. But humility is also acquired, so it can be learned. Remember the words of Jesus, "...learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart" (Mt 11:29). In fact, Jesus frequently gave lessons on humility throughout his ministry by making such direct and powerful statements as, "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted" (Lk 14:11).

We also know from The Imitation of Christ that bad habits are overcome through good habits. Remember that Paul encourages us to "associate with the lowly." Hence, we should repeatedly—even habitually—seek ways of conquering our pride through intentionally placing ourselves in the lowest place in each situation.

Simplicity by John Michael Talbot with Dan O'Neill

JOAN OF ARC REGIONAL ANNUAL RETREAT

APRIL 22–24, 2016

Check-in begins Friday at noon and the retreat goes through Sunday after lunch at the St. Charles Retreat Center in Lake Charles, LA

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 11. Forms were previously emailed. Contact Mike if you need another. Scholarship money is available for those needing financial assistance. Request must be made before our April meeting, so council can approve. Please contact Consuelo. Some may be driving up for Saturday only, so carpooling would be ideal. Gas money is also available for those who carpool. We will discuss further at our April meeting.

- **We can keep in touch with our sister, Valerie, as she settles into her new life in Austin. Her address is: Valerie Laubacher, 5217 Old Spicewood Springs Road, #1707, Austin, TX 78731. We will also say farewell to our brother, Jeff, as he relocates to Lafayette, LA. Both will be missed. Let's keep them in our prayers.**

OUR NEXT MEETING: APRIL 2

In the Outback House
10:00am to 12:00pm

(Candidates/Inquirers meet from 9:00am-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.

Greetings Good People,

Its hard to believe that we are getting so near to Holy Week. When I was a kid, Lent seemed to last forever as I would usually give up my favorite thing, barbecue Charles Chips. Now that I know that is not what its about, I cannot get enough of it. I am growing deeper in Love with Jesus. By the Grace of God, strengthened and guided by the Holy Spirit, I want to keep moving forward .

At the Holy Mass and canonization of Junipero Serra, Pope Francis spoke of a motto that shaped Father Serra's life and work: *siempre adelante!* Keep moving forward! Pope Francis continued, "For him, this was the way to continue experiencing the joy of the Gospel, to keep his heart from growing numb, from being anesthetized. He kept moving forward, because the Lord was waiting. He kept going because his brothers and sisters were waiting."

I could easily become numb, anesthetized, discouraged or radicalized by the horrors that exist in our own communities and world; yet I must keep moving forward. I see and have seen the Kingdom of God being built one person at a time.

I saw Cardinal DiNardo bring seven men into the Church at the Ellis unit of Texas Department of Corrections. The men were all so excited and thankful that the Cardinal was coming. They realized that this man, the Shepherd of the Galveston-Houston Archdiocese would take the time to travel on a round trip that takes close to 3.5 hours during this busy Lenten Season.

It sure made me think, and will continue to make me think, that before I use the excuse or rationalize that I do not have the time, I need to prioritize my time .

Like the rest of us, the Cardinal only has 24 hours in a day and yet he prioritized this within his schedule. When we professed, we made a commitment to walk our journey together. This became and remains a priority. I am strengthened by my Franciscan Brothers and Sisters, yet miss those who are not with us.

Some of these men may never leave the prison, yet they know the Mercy of our Loving Father and have found a new freedom. Within their prison community they have a vibrant Catholic Community including several men who had professed years ago into the Secular Franciscan Order.

I also saw over 700 people coming together at the Co-cathedral on Caritas Day to attend Holy Mass together and then perform Corporal Works of Mercy. When we did our little skit on the Wolf of Gubbio after the Life teen Mass I saw way over 200 youth ..when our parish started Life teen you would be lucky if 40 kids showed up.

Think about your own Lenten journey; and how you too are experiencing and witnessing the building of His Body on earth and of His Kingdom. What keeps you from becoming numb and anesthetized? Are you moving forward? Are you prioritizing your time ?

**Peace,
michael**