

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FRATERNITY



Our June meeting began as usual with the lighting of the 3 candles (for past, present and future members) and opening prayer from the Ritual Book.

As our candidates are studying Ch. 16 in The Franciscan Journey entitled “When you Pray”, we referred to Rule 8 which states “..let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all they are and do.” Thus, since it was the Feast Day of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we prayed the Liturgy of the Hours together. Afterwards, Mike led a brief presentation from Albert Haase, OFM.

Then Alba gave a very informative and eye-opening talk on the topic of human trafficking. This is a global issue, but Houston is the epicenter of activity due to our big port, international airport, and highway 59 coming up from the Valley, plus I-10 from both coasts. Alba had stories of encountering these victims in her job as IRS Agent, and has even worked with the FBI on a case. This is an alarming issue and is on the increase. Let us become more aware of what’s going on around us and see where we may be of assistance.

“If angels could be jealous of men, they would be so for one reason: Holy Communion.”

-St. Maximilian Kolbe

During Alba’s presentation, Fr. Mike and Delores did an initial interview with Alan Allen and Danny Marquer in order for them for the Rite of Welcoming.

Delores then spoke to us about the Mass and how it should be approached more reverently.

Our July meeting will continue our discussion on the topic of prayer.

REGIONAL INFORMATION FROM MIKE

I represented our fraternity at the Regional meeting in Baton Rouge on June 11, 2016. It was a wonderful meeting. I am certain everyone came away from it with many things to share with their local fraternities. Yet sadly, we could not vote on anything as we did not have a quorum. Many of the Regional Councilors are ministers of their local fraternity, so in that role they are not representing their fraternity, but the Region. I never thought about this before. If you are professed and would agree to be a delegate in case I am unable to attend a meeting for one reason or another, please let me know...

Brother Juniper, our Regional Spiritual Assistant, as usual shared with us some profound thoughts for our on-going formation. He reminded us that Jesus probably had about 72 disciples initially and from these he chose his 12 Apostles. We too have been called by our Baptism, and then again by our Profession. We are to become the earthen vessels that may be placed over and cover the light, yet it shines through us. He stated, that we, like Clare, which comes from the word meaning Light, are to bring the Light of Christ to all. Amen !

Council Duties and Responsibilities: There has been several elections and more coming up, so our Regional Formation Director Cindy presented a fantastic powerpoint presentation using our Essential Documents, F.U.N. manual, and other resources to highlight duties. I have sent this to all council members to review.....if you would like a copy just let me know and I can forward it to you.

St. Joan of Arc Regional Retreat: Please put it on your calendars and plan to attend our annual Regional Retreat. It will be held at the St. Charles Retreat Center outside of Lake Charles May 5-7, 2017. It is open to everyone. It's a pretty quick drive and it is such a wonderful thing to meet or see again our Brothers and Sisters from throughout the Region. Scholarships will again be available as well as reimbursement for gas if you carpool.

Our Regional Minister, Cherryle, is looking to form a 3 person team to assist with the planning of our retreat. If you are professed and feel called to do this please submit your name to Cherryle by July 1, 2016 and in what area you can provide support. Help is needed with logistical things such as registration, phone calls, as well as many other opportunities for service. The first class for those accepted into our Regional Spiritual Assistant program has begun. Please keep them all in your prayers....half of our Regional Fraternities do not have Spiritual Assistants!

The "Q": Excitement is building for the "Q" which will be in St. Louis June 29-July3. Please keep those who are traveling in your prayers as we have many from our Region going. I have turned in the request for our Regional Visitation. It will most likely be in September or October, 2016. We are canonically established, and within our constitution is the requirement that the minister, with consent of council, requests the pastoral and fraternal visit at least once every three years. We had our last elections in February of 2015, so we try and do it half way through the 3 year term of the Council. For those of us who have been through it, it does increase our anxiety level.

Next meeting: July 2, 2016: I will be at the "Q". Our vice minister Adele will be presiding. The topic will be a continuation of Franciscan prayer. Dora will assist her with ongoing formation and Delores will be facilitating initial formation.

LET US CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR EACH OTHER DAILY

PRAY THE FRANCISCAN CHAPLET.

St. Bonaventure offered these directives to the Poor Clare nuns, as to how we might enter into prayer by way of “descent”:

- **Return to yourself;**
- **Enter into your heart;**
- **Ponder what you were, are, should have been, called to be;**
- **What you are by nature;**
- **What you are through sin;**
- **What you should have been through effort;**
- **What you can still be through grace;**
- **Meditate in your heart;**
- **Let your spirit brood. (Are you resentful, angry, jealous?);**
- **Plow this field, work on yourself;**
- **Strive for freedom within, the freedom that leads to relationship with God, realizing that God will never force us to love him;**
- **Lack of self-knowledge and failure to appreciate one’s own worth make for faulty judgment in all other matters;**
- **If you are not able to understand (and accept) your own self, you will not be able to understand (or accept) what is beyond you.**

Friendship with Christ assures us that if we enter this strange and sorrowful path of the cross we will arrive at the peace and happiness of heaven....Friendship with Christ for both Francis and Clare shows itself in action. A love based on poverty and humility of love must be put into practice in daily life and in deeds. In his writings Francis provides many ways to live in crucified love. For example, he tells his followers that they are to rejoice in the good fortunes of others as well as their own; they are to love brothers and sisters even when they are sick and cannot repay them; they are to love brothers and sisters who have sinned; and to love their enemies, which is the summit of love. For Francis, to love one's enemies is the sign of the Spirit's "holy manner of working" within us which is the fruit of prayer. He claims that we truly love our enemies when we are not upset by the injury they inflict on us but are disturbed only by the evil which their sin inflicts on themselves.

Franciscan Prayer by Ilia Delio, OSF

OUR NEXT MEETING: JULY 2

In the Outback House

10:00am to 12:00pm

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

(Candidates meet at 9:00am until 10:00am)

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

