

## MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FRATERNITY



We are so Blessed to have Father Mike with us. Today he gave us an overview of the upcoming Season of Creation, which starts September 1, 2016 and runs until the feast day and Transitus of our Seraphic father St. Francis, October 4<sup>th</sup>. We will get more in depth with this at our September meeting.

Mike talked about the “Q” and how it really drove home how we as Secular Franciscans are united together not only with other Secular Franciscans but also the OFM and TOR. How amazing it was to meet and hear people who have written so extensively on Franciscanism, such as Father Murray Bodo OFM, Father Lester Bach OFM, and Daniel Horan (who asked we not call him Father as he sees himself as our brother!).

Mike also recommended we go to the NAFRA site as they have so much information from the “Q” including presentations and powerpoints. He briefly covered Daniel Horan’s presentation on Racism as well as a source that was included in that, Thomas Merton’s: “ Letter to a White Liberal“ which became the basis for Merton’s book Seeds of Change.

A discussion about our apostolates followed and how each of us are called to rebuild the church and God’s Kingdom. As a fraternity which is so diverse and only meets once a month, we want to take time and share with each other. This month David and Ryan shared just a part of what they are doing.

You may remember Ryan presented on his missionary trip to Central America last year after which he thought he would commit to doing a medical mission as a nurse. Today he spoke about his transition into full time spiritual ministry as a missionary with Adore Ministries, which is a group of lay Catholic missionaries. His discussion was not intended to raise money, yet, if you can do so it is a 501@3 non-profit ministry. He has given up his steady paycheck as a nurse to serve God’s people. If you want to help support his works you can go to <https://AdoreMinistries.SecureGive.com>, select the "campus" of Ryan Efaw or by mailing a check made out to Adore Ministries with "Ryan Efaw" in the memo line to P.O. Box 311016, Houston, TX 77231.

Mike asked David to discuss his work with Results after the incredible article David had written appeared in the Houston Chronicle which was sent out. Results is an international grassroots lobbying and advocacy group who has as their main goal the elimination of poverty, which touches upon eradication of hunger, diseases and education. Every year David travels to our nation’s capital where he meets with Congressman Kevin Brady. Through his dedication and persistence David now has the Congressman’s ear and he has gotten our government to earmark millions of dollars to support initiatives Results advocates for.

We cannot do everything and be involved in everything, but we are called to do something! Let us build the city of God!

**Oh, God of all,  
at this time of  
our gradual awak-  
ening to the dan-  
gers we are im-  
posing on our  
beautiful Earth,  
open the hearts  
and minds of all  
your children,  
that we may learn  
to nurture rather  
than destroy our  
planet. Amen.**

-Lorraine Schmitz

## ON CHRISTIAN THRIFT

Consider that thrift is truly a Christian virtue. This virtue of Christian thrift does not aim so much at using only a little and saving much, but rather, at providing that nothing superfluous is used and that nothing is wasted than can still be used. In this way Christian thrift protects us from wastefulness and intemperance, and places the true value on the gifts God has given us for our bodily support. Jesus Christ Himself gave us an example of this kind of thrift. Although He miraculously multiplied the few loaves so that thousands were fed, He nevertheless said to His disciples: “Gather up the fragments that remain, lest they be lost” (Jn 6,12). - Are you as careful that nothing goes to waste?

Consider that it is not thrift but rather greed that prompts us to use things sparingly so that we may be able to keep on heaping up and storing away goods. The virtue of thrift avoids only superfluous expenses, and seeks to make provision that the necessary things of life may be at hand in the time of need. That is the way Joseph stored away supplies in Egypt during the seven years of plenty, so that when the lean years arrived, the necessities of life would be on hand. “Remember poverty in the time of abundance, and the necessities of poverty in the days of riches” (Ecc 18,25).

Consider that the noblest sort of thrift is that which is mindful of others in their need, and avoids all superfluous expenses in order to support Christ’s poor. That is the exemplary way Christians practice it. Such thrift, joined to charity, will serve us in good stead in the great time of need which will befall each and every one of us—that is, when the last day of our life arrives and we appear before the judgment seat of God.

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

August 1—John Martinez (2009)

LET US CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR EACH OTHER DAILY.

**REMEMBER:** One of the apostolates which we share together in this Fraternity is assisting the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. Please try to bring a bag of groceries to each meeting. Canned goods, cereals, rice, beans are especially needed.

Poverty is an act of love and liberation. It has a redemptive value. If the ultimate cause of human exploitation and alienation is selfishness, the deepest reason for voluntary poverty is love of neighbor. Christian poverty has meaning only as a commitment of solidarity with the poor, with those who suffer misery and injustice. The commitment is to witness to the evil which has resulted from sin and is a breach of communion. It is not a question of idealizing poverty, but rather of taking it on as it is—an evil—to protest against it and to struggle to abolish it. As Ricouer says, you cannot really be with the poor unless you are struggling against poverty. Because of this solidarity—which one must manifest itself in specific action, a style of life, a break with one's social class—one can also help the poor and exploited to become aware of their exploitation and seek liberation from it.

-A Theology of Liberation by Gustavo Gutierrez

## **St. Maximilian Kolbe**

**We did not do it this year, but we typically devote a large part of our August meeting to the patron saint of our fraternity, St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe; who had his life cut short by those whose hearts were filled with hate.**

**His feast day was August 14<sup>th</sup>, and not only is he the patron saint of prisoners and addicts but also of the pro-life movement.**

**St. Maximilian chose to die so that another man could live. May we have the courage to courageously confront evil when we see and hear it, as to be silent is an affirmation. In his book Spirit and Life, Daniel Horan OFM writes this prayer:**

**Loving God, you have given us many great gifts; you have showered us with your love and mercy. Let us not be weighed down by our anxieties and insecurities.**

**As this week draws near a close, let us continue to use the gifts you have instilled within us. Give us the courage to speak with the voice of Christ and to serve with the hands of Christ. Because it is through this service that we become increasingly unified to our brothers and sisters. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.**

(pgs 44-45).

### **OUR NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 3**

**In the Outback House—10:00AM**

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

**(Candidates/Inquirers meet at 9:00)**

**(Morning Mass begins at 8:15AM in the St. Jerome Day Chapel.)**

