

JULY 2017

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FRATERNITY



We began the meeting, as people were arriving, by watching the film “Forming the Formators”. At 10:00 we proceeded with the lighting of the candles, and prayer from the Ritual Book.

We happily welcomed Phyllis Prince into the Inquiry stage of formation. The Rite of Admission to Candidacy was presented for Danny Marquer and Cindy Bordinger. Afterwards, the newly professed shared their thoughts and feelings on their profession last month. All agreed it was a happy, special day shared with family and friends which united them even more deeply with the Church. Truly we are being blessed!

Mike then filled us in on the last Regional meeting he attended. The importance of proper formation was emphasized. In addition, Mike spoke of the blessing that we received from a man who made a donation in memory of his mother who was a Secular Franciscan, and how we intend to give funds to our chosen apostolates, St. Vincent de Paul and the Seafarer’s Center. We will also donate some money to St. Jerome’s new building fund for their Activity Center. We will assist Regional with their cost of hosting the National Meeting. Other suggestions included Casa Juan Diego, and having our own quarterly projects of making bean soup or rice & beans for distribution to the needy in our area.

Holy and Blessed One, help the spring of radiant love that fills our hearts to gush forth. Jesus in our hearts, Jesus in our mouths, Jesus in our ears, Jesus in our eyes, Jesus in our hands, as we make our way in the world. Amen.

-Br. Thomas of Celano

We then spent some time praying the Liturgy of the Hours. Many are still a bit uncertain saying these prayers, so we will begin implementing them at the beginning of each meeting so we can all learn them properly.

PAX ET BONUM

A MESSAGE FROM MIKE

Greetings, Good People!

As I have been preparing for our next meeting which falls shortly before the feast day of our beloved Maximilian Kolbe, I found this prayer on a website called the Value of Sparrows. As Blessed Matthew Talbot, an Irish Secular Franciscan, once said, it is easier to talk ones' way out of hell than to get an alcoholic to give up his drink. Many of the marginalized we see on the streets are addicts, and most of us probably have issues in our own families. It is hard sometimes even with those in our families to show love as we are cautioned not to become enablers. I had so many ups and downs with my baby brother Jeffrey but he always knew I loved him. Those on the streets often do not have anyone to love them. They are like the lepers in Francis' day, or those who were dying from HIV/AIDS in Houston when the Friars began the Kolbe project which our fraternity came out of. Several of us are blessed to be involved in prison ministry, bringing the light of Christ into one of the darkest places on earth. This is one of our Apostolates, *and we need more volunteers!*

As Franciscans, we are called to love everyone and to show that love in concrete ways. Most of us will never be in the position that Maximilian Kolbe was and have to choose martyrdom, yet we all are called by the greatest commandment, and that is to love as Christ did, with unconditional love.

A PRAYER FOR THE INTERCESSION OF ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FOR THE GRACE TO BE FREED FROM ADDICTION

St. Maximilian Kolbe, your life of love and labor for souls was sacrificed amid the horrors of a concentration camp and hastened to its end by an injection of a deadly drug.

Look with compassion upon (NAME OF PERSON) who is now entrapped in addiction to drugs/alcohol and whom I now recommend to your powerful intercession. Having offered your own life to preserve that of a family man, I turn to you with trust, confident that you will understand and help.

Obtain for me the grace never to withhold my love and understanding, or to fail in persevering prayer that the enslaving bonds of addiction may be broken and that full health may be restored to him, whom I love.

I will never cease to be grateful to God who has helped me and heard your prayer for me.

Amen.

LET US CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR EACH OTHER DAILY.
**LET US REMEMBER TO OFFER OUR PRAYERS AT
NOON FOR OUR FRATERNITY.**

Strive to develop a deep life of prayer. Continue to set aside a period of time each day for prayer, both in praise of God and in intercession for your brothers and sisters. All of us are in need of the mercy of God.

Strive also to minister to your brothers and sisters, both in the fraternity, in your families and among your friends. The Lord calls us to be peacemakers, calling us to prayer to repair all the destruction which violence causes in the world. Reach out beyond yourself as Francis did. Reach out as Jesus did.

On the importance of the Liturgy of the Hours:

The Liturgy of the Hours is the prayer of the Church. It is not, therefore, a private prayer, even when said by one person. Like all liturgy, it is the prayer of Christ and his Body carried throughout the whole day.

- **To Live as Francis Lived** by L. Foley, J. Weigel, P. Normile

Christ has something in common with all creatures. With the stone he shares existence, with the plants he shares life, with the animals he shares sensation, and with the angels he shares intelligence. Thus all things are transformed in Christ since in the fullness of his nature he embraces some part of every creature. - Richard Rohr Eager to Love

BEGIN PRAYING NOW, BROTHERS & SISTERS:
HOW IS THE LORD CALLING YOU TO SERVE OUR FRATERNITY? HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT IN ONLY SIX SHORT MONTHS IT WILL BE TIME TO ELECT A NEW COUNCIL. WE HAVE ALL BEEN GIFTED BY GOD WITH VARIOUS TALENTS. HOW CAN YOU FULFILL YOUR COMMITMENT AND PROFESSION TO OUR FRATERNITY? WE ALL NEED EACH OTHER!

OUR NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 5
In the Outback House at 10:00 A.M.

Inquirers and Candidates meet at 9:00 A.M.

All are encouraged to attend Morning Mass together prior to our meeting. Mass begins at 8:15AM in the St. Jerome Day Chapel.

