

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FRATERNITY



“More than all graces and gifts of the Holy Ghost which God gives his friends, is to deny oneself and, for the sake of Christ’s love, to suffer pain, injury, disgrace, and distress. For, in the other gifts of God we cannot glory, because they are not our own but God’s, whereas in the cross of trial and suffering we can glory, for it is our own.”
St. Francis

Our day begin at 8:15AM with Mass, followed by formation at 9:00AM for the Candidates/Inquirers. At 10:00AM the entire fraternity came together. We opened with the prayers from the Ritual Book and the lighting of the candles. We then prayed the Liturgy of the Hours, led by Joe.

We then held the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Fabiola and Maria. It is so exciting to see our fraternity growing and the hand of God leading us. We now currently have 20 Professed members (17 of whom are actively participating). We have 5 Candidates and 2 Inquirers. We are blessed to have visitors come regularly to check out our way of life. May God lead each and every one on the path to holiness.

We spent some time catching up with each other. Fabiola told us about her trip to Assisi and how wonderful and blessed it was. Karen shared with us a powerpoint presentation of the Seafarer’s Gala which honored the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. It is Karen’s 25th anniversary of working with the Seafarer’s. Ryan invited us all to his pre-wedding party on August 12.

Alba spoke to us about her involvement in the Human Trafficking training program led by the Archdiocese. The training was to train others to become presenters.

Fr. Mike will be leading a dialogue via Facebook beginning Sept. 1 through Oct. 4 on the Season of Creation. Delores gave us an update on our St. Vincent de Paul apostolate—each day a hygiene kit is being given to 40 families, plus back-to-school supplies.

Plans are being made for those who are able to attend the 7th Fiesta Franciscana in San Antonio on Saturday, October 14. The presentation will take place at the Franciscan Mission of San Jose & Miguel with Fr. _____ presenting. So far, 7 of us have made arrangements to attend. There’s still time if anyone wants to join in.

We prayed Day 1 of a Novena to St. Maximilian Kolbe which will conclude on his feast day of August 14.

Afterwards, Dora gave a presentation on the Nature of the Secular Franciscan Order from our FUN Manual, chapter 9. She also spoke of being in a penitential order and what that entails. When we pick up our crosses and curb our desires for the love of God, we are sharing in His work of salvation. We deny ourselves only in order to find Him. And this principle way of denying ourselves is by humility. “God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble.” Take hope: our suffering bears great fruit. It satisfies for our own sins, it purifies the soul, it deepens and strengthens our character and personality. It gives us an insight and sympathy for our neighbor that can be acquired in no other way. As we discussed, in after-sight, most sufferings turn out to be a blessing in disguise!

May the peace of Christ reign in our lives!

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

Hardly a day goes by when I am not reminded of the darkness that permeates our world today. Rather than become caught up in the inflammatory rhetoric and the dissension that the evil one propagates, I find comfort in these words from Galatians, “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” Our catechism teaches us that Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian Life and the Gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. We know that the sacraments provide us with the Graces freely given to us by our merciful Father. Without these, I do not see any way to achieve Peace in this world. In Matthew 7:20 he tells us “So by their fruits you will know them.”

In the series found on the FORMED site entitled “The Wild Goose”, the following synopsis is written on The Fruits of the Holy Spirit:

By the way we live and how we treat people, our lives produce some type of fruit. The sort of fruit our lives produce has eternal consequences for us personally as well as a profound impact on those people we love. In fact, our fruit impacts all of our relationships, from the most casual to the most intimate. When we live animated by the Holy Spirit, our lives produce fruit that makes our own life more peaceful, patient, and loving but also influences those whom we encounter each and every day.

As Secular Franciscans we get this opportunity each and every day as we are not hermits but in this day-to-day world. We all know which of the works of the flesh causes us tension and which Fruits of the Holy Spirit we pray to strengthen. Let us remember to keep one another in prayer as we each strive to bring Love, Joy, and Peace to everyone we see today.

In conclusion I want to share a prayer taken off the Catholic Door site. St. Maximilian Kolbe experienced firsthand how mankind can become so full of hatred that human lives have no meaning and ideologies stoked by the devil prevail.

“LOVE ALONE CREATE’ PRAYER

St. Maximilian, amidst the hate and lonely misery of Auschwitz, you brought love into the lives of fellow captives, and sowed the seeds of hope amidst despair. You bore witness to the world by word and deed, that only “Love alone creates.”

Help me to become more like yourself. With you and Mary and the Church, may I proclaim that only “Love alone creates.” To the hungry and oppressed, the naked and homeless, the scorned and hated the lonely and despairing, may I proclaim the power of Christ’s love, which endures forever and ever. Amen.

Peace,
michael

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.

Humility does not consist mainly in **being small** - one can be small without being humble; nor does it consist principally in **feeling small**, because one can feel small when one actually is small, and that would be an objective statement, but not yet humility. To say nothing of the fact that feeling small and insignificant could stem from an inferiority complex and lead one to withdraw into oneself and to despair, rather than to humility. Therefore humility per se, in the most perfect degree, lies not in being small, nor in feeling small or proclaiming oneself small. It lies in **making** oneself small, not out of some necessity or personal advantage, but out of love in order to “raise up” others.

Thus was Jesus’ humility; He made himself so small, in fact, that he “emptied” himself for us.

Saint Francis made “Sister Water” the symbol of humility, describing it as “useful, humble, precious and chaste.” Water, in fact, never “elevates” itself, never “ascends,” but always “descends” until it has found the lowest point. Steam rises, and that is why it is the traditional symbol of pride and vanity; water descends and is, therefore, the symbol of humility.

-In Love with Christ, The Secret of St. Francis of Assisi by Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap.

Aroused by all things to the love of God,
he rejoiced in all the works of the Lord's hands
and from these joy-producing manifestations
he rose to their life-giving
principle and cause.

In beautiful things
he saw Beauty itself
and through his vestiges imprinted on creation
he followed his Beloved everywhere,
making from all things a ladder
by which he could climb up
and embrace him who is utterly desirable.

-Bonaventure's Life of Saint Francis

OUR NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 2

In the Outback House—10:00AM

(Candidates/Inquirers meet at 9:00)

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

