

Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity, SFO

Hampton Roads, Virginia

March, 2014

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Minister

Chris Wells

Vice Minister

Leo Wells

Secretary

Deanne Marshall

Treasurer

Ed Gerhard

Formation Director

Glen Davis

Spiritual Assistant

Sister Agnes Narocho, ISOFS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The harsh weather we have experienced this year certainly gives us a beautiful profile of Lent and Easter! The cold, gray of winter is slowly giving way to the warm days of spring just as the penance of Lent brings us to the beauty of Easter. God loves us so much and wants to be a part of us so much He gives us His Son to become one of us in the flesh experiencing all our weaknesses even death. What great love!

Lent is a time for us to meditate on that love and to grow in our own love for God and for each other. In the scriptures during Lent we will see all the foibles of humanity played out in the gospels. The Church forces us to ponder our humanity and sinfulness in the shadow of the Cross.

In the Sermon on the Mount, which has been the gospel for the past two Sundays, Christ splits the lesson in two. In the beginning he tells us that the Law says one thing but “I tell you this. Love God and love your neighbor as yourself” In the second stage Christ tells us to go beyond the Law and to give up all retaliation either in mind or spirit. Forgiveness—the hardest part of Christianity! He tells us to “be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.” A pretty tall order to be perfect as the Father is perfect! However, Christ is not exhorting us to divine perfection—something we cannot achieve in our humanity. He asks that we strive to mimic the perfection of the Father. To constantly be in conversion which is what we practice in our daily Franciscan life. To constantly see Christ in ourselves and in our neighbor. To constantly embrace with love the leper in our lives who represents our fears and our prejudices. When we embrace this leper with love as Francis did we see a change in our lives and we see Christ’s love for us more clearly.

As we begin the season of Lent we need to take stock of where we are now, where we may have slipped this past year and re-charge our spiritual batteries with penance and prayer. Remember, Lent is not just about giving up things but creating new paths of goodness in ourselves. In your prayer time take a moment to think about good habits you would like to see in yourself. Making time to go to Mass other than a Sunday, increasing your personal prayer time are ways to incorporate good habits. Don’t forget - the sacrament of Reconciliation is an excellent way to cement new habits and to get the spiritual boost to continue them!

May this season of Lent bring us ever closer to Christ and His overwhelming love for us.

Pax Bonum,

Chris Wells

Minister

March Meeting:

Our March meeting will be held on Sunday, March 16 at St. Michael's Place.

12:30 Inquirers and Candidates

1:30 Entire group

Agenda:

1:30 Prayer

Imitation of Christ

Reflection/Formation from Sr. Agnes

2:30 Break

2:45 Business meeting

3:15 Evening Prayer

Closing prayer

3:45 Fellowship

Council Meeting:

The Council will meet Saturday, March 8 at 10:30 at St. Michael's Place.

Morning of Spirituality:

Our fraternity will hold a morning of spirituality on Saturday, March 22 from 9:00 to noon at St. Bede's Church. Deacon Dominic Cerrato will be the presenter. Deacon Dom has studied at Franciscan University at Steubenville.

Thank you to Bea Sanford for setting this up for us.

Admission to Candidacy:

Remember to mark your calendars for Sunday, April 6 when the ceremony to admit our Inquirers to Candidacy will take place. The ceremony will be at St. Bede's parish at 4:00 pm and we will attend the 5:00 pm Mass at St. Bede's afterward to pray for our new candidates. **The April 6 meeting will be our April monthly meeting.**

More information as to where and what time we will start this meeting will be coming.

Happy Birthday!

Happy birthday to our March Franciscans:

March 6 Ani Kelly

March 22 Sandra Link

If you did not put your **birth**day (not year!) on the sheet last meeting, please make sure you give it to me at the next meeting so we can wish you a happy day!

Bring Your Change:

Please remember to bring your loose change for our collection to purchase items for the overseas mission.

Webcast:

The webcast of Father Richard Rohr speaking on the life of St. Paul on February 25 was most interesting. Thank you to Rosemarie Brennan for getting the information on the webcast and to Ed Gerhard our technician in residence!

Mathew Kelly at St. Bede's

Noted author and speaker Mathew Kelly will speak at St. Bede's on the topic Passion and Purpose Live on Friday, March 7 at 7:00 pm. Cost is \$39.00 per person. Tickets are needed and can be purchased at www.dynamiccatholic.com

Weekend of Recollection at St. Joan of Arc:

St. Joan of Arc Parish is hosting a weekend of spirituality on April 4 and 5. The guest speaker will be Ruanda who has also appeared on public television. For more information please contact St. Joan of Arc Parish.

Peninsula Pet Pantry:

The Peninsula Pet Pantry is a nonprofit organization providing temporary pet food, supplies, and veterinarian care to pet owners who are facing financial difficulties. Many of these pet owners are elderly or disabled and their pet is an emotional support to them. If you are interested in donating or volunteering, contact Carol Folsom carolfolsom@cox.net

Prayer List:

Joan Buehler, SFO

Marlin Massey and Massey family

PFC Joey recovering from serious injuries sustained in Afghanistan

Thanksgiving for Pastoral Visit

Father Timothy, TOR

All travelers

Our Fraternity

Our Anniversarians

Our Franciscan Family

Those who have no one to pray for them

The unspoken intentions of our hearts

March Dates To Remember:

2 Blessed Agnes of Prague

3 **Ash Wednesday**

7 Sts. Perpetua and Felicity

8 St. John of God

9 St. Francis of Rome

17 St. Patrick

19 St. Joseph

24 Blessed Didacus Joseph of Cadiz

25 Annuciation

Blessed is the servant who loves his brother as much when he is sick and useless as when he is well and can be of service to him. And blessed is he who loves his brother as well when he is afar off as when he is by his side, and who would say nothing behind his back he might not, in love, say before his face."

~St. Francis of Assisi~

