



Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity, SFO

Hampton Roads, Virginia

November, 2014

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www.olrsfo.weebly.com

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I read an article recently where the author referred to God as a “gentleman” because he never forces us to accept him or his teachings. He gives us constant choices to act upon. Life changes and we leave things behind as we move on but through those choices we also influence the people we have in our lives now. Do we take them for granted? It is easy to focus on their foibles and flaws. However, when we look at ourselves in the mirror do we like what we see or do we need some “gentlemanliness”?

Father Mike Ciski, TOR sums it up by referring to a recent Mass reading from Exodus 22:20-26. With Advent arriving in a few weeks this is an excellent meditation.

Although it was written some 2,500 plus years ago, I think that the reading from the Book of Exodus is appropriate for us to reflect on as we approach the Advent Season and our participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In the reading, God reminds the people in very direct language that they cannot look down on others or treat others unfairly. He asks them to recall the times others treated them unfairly so that they do not cause similar pain to others. I think we all (at some point in our lives) have been misunderstood, judged, bullied or in some way felt that others have taken advantage of us. Yet, I wonder how often we actually have shown compassion for those in similar circumstances. It seems in our humanity it is so easy to see the faults in others and to justify our actions; to point fingers at others, instead of trying to empathize or commiserate with them. We ask God to forgive us and he does, yet too often we withhold forgiveness or compassion from others. We treat others the way we've been treated, instead of treating them the way God treats us. May we listen (without justifying our words or actions) as God asks us to recall the pain of being treated unfairly so that when interacting with others our words or actions will not allow them to experience that same pain or injustice.

May the Holy Spirit lead all of us to be “gentlemen” and “gentlewomen”.

Pax et bonum

Chris Wells, Minister

November Meeting:

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

12:00 Candidates meet

1:30 Whole group meets

Opening prayers

1:45 Saint report - Glenda Hines

2:00 Reflection from Sister Agnes and ongoing formation

3:00 Break

3:15 Business meeting

3:45 Liturgy of the Hours Evening Prayer

Closing Prayers

4:00 Fellowship

Assignments:

Candidates: Up To Now - Session: Understanding Franciscan Theology, Tradition, and Spirituality by Robert L Fitzsimmons, SFO. Read pages 3 of 30 to page 24 of 30 - up to the Visual Meditation.

Whole Group: Meditate on a gospel passage and be prepared to discuss how it has impacted you. Finish chapter 8 in The Franciscan Journey.

Saint Report:

Glenda Hines will present the November saint report on Saint Elizabeth of Hungary. Thank you to Susan James for last month's saint report.

Council Meeting:

Our next Council meeting will be in January.

Morning of Spirituality:

Our fraternity will hold a morning of spirituality on Saturday, November 15 from 9:00 - 12:00 at More Hall located at 3435 John Tyler Highway, Williamsburg. Carolyn Lawrence will be the presenter and she has a strong Franciscan background. Her topic will be Advent. For those who are able to stay afterwards, we will have lunch at Sal's By Victor on Monticello Avenue. If you did not sign up to attend the morning at the last meeting, please let Chris know especially if you will be having lunch with us. Thank you to Bea Sanford for making the arrangements for Carolyn to present and for More Hall.

Christmas Gifts For Sister Agnes:

Please bring your gifts for Sister's clients to the December meeting. There is a list of who is bringing gifts in this email with your newsletter.

Catholic Women's Conference:

The Diocesan Catholic Women's Conference will be held in Richmond on Saturday, November 8. This is a wonderful opportunity to listen to dynamic speakers and to meet other Catholic women. Our fraternity will have a table at the conference. If you will be attending and can help at the table, please let Chris know.

Fraternity Website:

Don't forget to check the fraternity website during the month for SFO news. Rather than sending lots of email info to you, it will be posted on our website <www.olrsfo.weebly.com> However, things of immediate importance will continue to be emailed to you.

Franciscan Website:

Rick Churray has sent this website which has lots of Franciscan information on it.

<www.digitalfranciscans.com/the-big-list/> Another great website is <www.skitguys.com>

St. Olaf Food Pantry:

Thank you for your continued generosity to the St. Olaf Food Pantry. Last month lots of paper products were brought in which cannot be purchased with food stamps. Thank you again!

From His Hands:

Thank you for your generosity to the Pineapple Inn last month. They are deeply appreciative of our donations. This fall there will be families in residence with a combined population of 50 children. If you are able to donate an item for these children to eat as an after school snack please bring it to the November meeting. Pudding cups and juice boxes are popular snacks as well as fresh fruits. Cindy will take care of dropping the donations off at the Pineapple.

Amazon Project:

Please remember your change for the Amazon Relief and the Heifer International Project. Thank you, Carol Murphy for heading this up.

Peninsula Pet Pantry:

The Peninsula Pet Pantry is a nonprofit organization providing temporary pet food, supplies, and veterinarian care to 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>

November Happy Birthdays:

4 Deanne Marshall

19 Glenda Hines

21 Glenn Davis

Ken Holt

24 Sister Agnes

Belated September happy birthday to Joan Buehler (Sept. 28) and Frances Warren!

Prayer List:

Joan Buehler, SFO

Frances Warren, SFO

Sister of Glenn Davis, SFO

Greta Braswell and family

Michael Wilson

Carol Folsom's sister-in-law

Youth Ministry at St. Jerome

Our Anniversarians

Prayer List continued:

Persecuted people of faith in the Middle East

World peace especially in the Middle East

Victims of Ebola

Families at the Pineapple Inn and St. Olaf Pantry Ministry

Our Fraternity and our Franciscan Family

Those who have no one to pray for them

The unspoken intentions of our hearts

Deceased:

Marlin Massey - husband of Barbara Massey, SFO

Walter Tucker - father of Bea Sanford

Jack Wells - brother of Leo Wells, SFO

Wyn McPhee - fiancé of Annie Pepper, SFO

November Dates to Remember:

- 1 All Saints Day
- 2 All Souls Day
- 7 Didicas of Alcalá
- 14 Nicolas Tavelic
- 17 Elizabeth of Hungary, Patroness of the Order
- 18 Bl. Salome
- 19 Agnes of Assisi
- 21 Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 24 Commemoration of all the Deceased of the Seraphic Order
- 26 Leonard of Port Maurice
- 27 Bl. Francis Anthony Fasani
- Thanksgiving Day
- 26 James of the March
- 27 All the Saints of the Seraphic Order
- 28 First Sunday of Advent

He has sent you into the entire world for this reason: that in word and deed you may give witness to his voice and bring everyone to know that there is no one who is all-powerful except him.

~ St. Francis of Assisi ~



Happy Thanksgiving!