



MARCH 2018

MINISTERS MESSAGE

“All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.”

- Francis of Assisi,
*The Little
Flowers of
St. Francis
of Assisi.*



Darkness in the world - school shootings, the death of innocent children, the violent death of innocent men and women. The list goes on and on.

The light of a single candle: - prayer; prayer for all these intentions, prayer rises to heaven. Acts of kindness in our own little corner of the world. More prayer. Emotional support for those in our own little corner of the world. Trust in God. He will give comfort and peace to those in need. “Jesus, I Trust in You.”

Since we are in the season of Lent, at our March 11th meeting instead of bringing a goodie the Fraternity voted on bringing a canned good (or two), or possibly some cash for Mission Granbury.

Mission Granbury is involved in assisting a women’s shelter for abused women (including women from Tarrant County), provides court appointed special advocates (CASA) for children who go through the court system, provides emergency money to those in need, and has a food pantry, to name a few. We will have coffee at our March meeting.

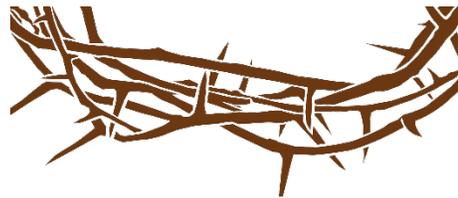
MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

April’s meeting will be on Saturday, April 7th, at 1 p.m.

We will be having our Fraternal and Pastoral visitation on April 7th. Fr. Ed McKenzie, ofm, will be our Pastoral visitor and Jorge Sosing, ofs, regional vice minister, will be our Fraternal visitor.

This visitation is very important for our Fraternity and we look forward to seeing you there.

Let’s keep each other in prayer!
Pax et bonum,
Sue



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**Regular Meetings - Second Sunday of the Month
Starting at 2 pm in the St Francis Village Chapel**

Please feel free to bring a snack – if you are not able – come anyway as there is always plenty.

Council Meetings – Second Sunday of the Month – Starting at 12:30 pm in the St Francis Village TV Room
Formation Meetings – Second & Third Saturdays of the Month – Starting at 10 am in St Francis Village Dining Room



MONTH OF ST. JOSEPH

The month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph. We don't know much about him except what is mentioned in the Gospels. Joseph was the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster-father of Jesus. Holy Scripture proclaims him as a "just man," and the Church has turned to Joseph for his patronage and protection.

Pope Leo XIII in his encyclical *Quamquam Pluries* (On the Devotion to St. Joseph) in 1889 explains why we place so much trust in this saint: "Thus in giving Joseph the Blessed Virgin as spouse, God appointed him to be not only her life's companion, the witness of her maidenhood, the protector of her honor, but also, by virtue of the conjugal tie, a participator in her sublime dignity. And Joseph shines among all mankind by the most august dignity, since by divine will, he was the guardian of the Son of God and reputed as His father among men. Hence it came about that the Word of God was humbly subject to Joseph, that He obeyed him, and that He rendered to him all those offices that children are bound to render to their parents. From this two-fold dignity flowed the obligation which nature lays upon the head of families, so that Joseph became the guardian, the administrator, and the legal defender of the divine house whose chief he was. And during the whole course of his life he fulfilled those charges and those duties. ...It is, then, natural and worthy that as the Blessed Joseph ministered to all the needs of the family at Nazareth and girt it about with his protection, he should now cover with the cloak of his heavenly patronage and defend the Church of Jesus Christ."



One hundred years later John Paul II echoes his predecessor in his 1989 Apostolic Exhortation *Redemptoris Custos* (Guardian of the Redeemer), hoping "that all may grow in devotion to the Patron of the Universal Church and in love for the Savior whom he served in such an exemplary manner ... In this way the whole Christian people not only will turn to St. Joseph with greater fervor and invoke his patronage with trust, but also will always keep before their eyes his humble, mature way of serving and of "taking part" in the plan of salvation." St. Joseph is invoked as patron for many causes. He is the patron of the Universal Church. He is the patron of the dying because Jesus and Mary were at his death-bed. He is also the patron of fathers, of carpenters, and of social justice. Many religious orders and communities are placed under his patronage. — Jennifer Gregory Miller

EXCERPTS FROM https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/03_1.cfm



JOSEPH THE JUST MAN

The Church encourages us to be devoted to Joseph because he was a model in the heroic practice of all the virtues. The example of virtuous living that he gave in the exact fulfillment of the duties of his state of life is worthy of our reflection. Read the gospel and you will see his faith, hope and charity practiced under trying circumstances. He was prudent in caring for his wife and the child; he showed great leadership in protecting them and assisting them. He was religious in every sense, with that delicacy and sincerity of conscience that is proper to the saints of God.

He was just in his dealings with God and man. He was conspicuous for his fortitude and courage. He was truly outstanding in the practice of virginal chastity. More: he protected and defended Mary's virtue in the time of courtship and all during their life together.

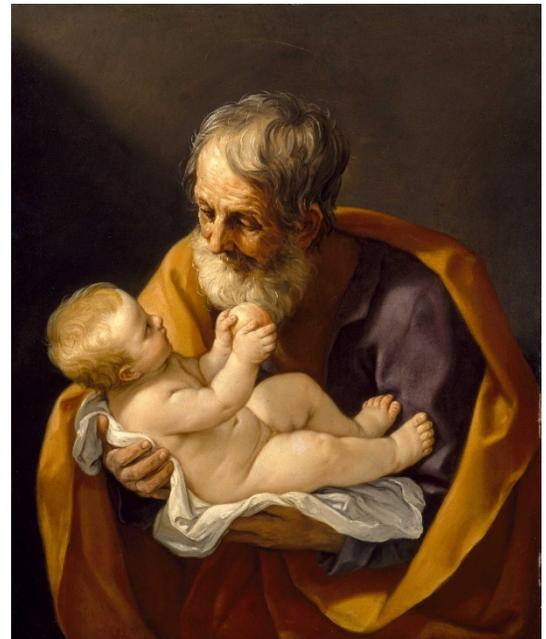
They had made a promise of chastity, and because they were resolved to live it for God they were blessed above all others. While Mary inspired him to practice this virtue perfectly, he, as a real man, understood the profound meaning of her inspiration and how it came from a heart that was steeped in the love of God. Time and again the Church has made it clear that Joseph is not a saint for only a certain number of souls, but that he can help all men.

Excerpted from *St. Joseph: a Theological Introduction* by Michael D. Griffin, O.C.D.

ST. JOSEPH – MODEL OF FATHERS

In the litany of St. Joseph, we say, “St. Joseph, Head of the Holy Family, pray for us.” There is more hidden behind this invocation than meets the eye. We know, of course, that Mary is the Virgin Mother of Jesus Christ. We know that the Savior was not conceived of a human father. Yet the Church has never tired insisting on the fatherhood of St. Joseph in the Holy Family. It is crucially important to understand that there are two levels to fatherhood. There is the physical level of providing for the conception of a human body. In this sense, Christ did not have a human father. But a father is not only to cooperate with his wife in generating a child. He is also to cooperate with her in rearing the offspring which his spouse brings into the world. From all eternity, Joseph was destined to be the spouse of the Blessed Virgin. They were truly married. Joseph was Mary's husband, and she was his wife. Marriage is the most intimate of all unions between two human beings. It imparts a community of gifts between those joined together in matrimony. Consequently, in giving Joseph the Blessed Virgin as his spouse, God appointed him to be not only her life's companion, but also the witness of her virginity, the protector of her honor. No, by reason of his conjugal tie to Mary, he participated in her sublime dignity. We cannot exaggerate the importance of seeing St. Joseph as the true spouse of Mary. Under God, he was to share in her unique role as Mother of the Word made flesh who dwelt among us. St. Luke tells us that, on returning to Nazareth after Mary and Joseph found the young Christ in the temple, “Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and grace before God and men (Luke 2:52)”. What are we being told? We are being told that the Christ child constantly manifested greater wisdom as he grew in age. In God's mysterious providence, both Mary and Joseph contributed to this manifestation of greater wisdom in Jesus.

— Father John Hardon.



EXCERPTS FROM https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/03_1.cfm



Franciscan Calendar – March

- 01. Saint David of Wales
- 02. Saint Agnes of Bohemia
- 03. Saint Katherine Drexel
- 04. Saint Casmir
- 05. Saints John Joseph of the Cross
- 06. Saint Mary Ann of Jesus of Paredes
- 07. Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity
- 08. Saint John of God
- 09. Saint Frances of Rome
- 10. Saint Dominic Savio



Formation Meeting – Dining Room @ 10 am

- 11. Saint John Ogilvie

Council Meeting – TV Room @ 11:30 am

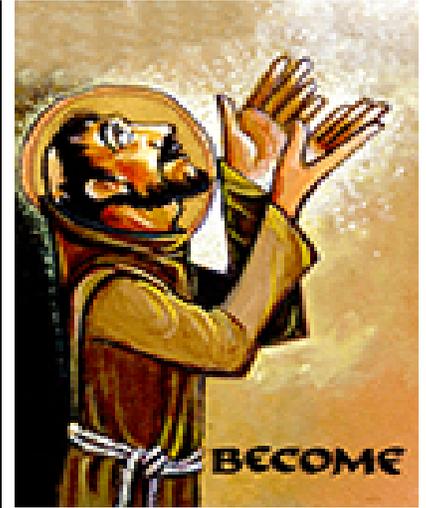
Fraternity Meeting – Chapel @ 2 pm

Rite of Admission – Chapel @ 2 pm

- 12. Blessed Angela Salawa
- 13. Saint Leander of Seville
- 14. Saint Maximilian
- 15. Saint Louise de Marillac
- 16. Saint Clement Mary Hofbauer
- 17. Saint Patrick

Formation Meeting – Dining Room @ 10 am

- 18. Saint Cyril of Jerusalem
- 19. Saint Joseph, Husband of Mary
- 20. Saint Salvator of Horta
- 21. Blessed John of Parma
- 22. Saint Nicholas Owen
- 23. Saint Turbius of Mogrovejo
- 24. Blessed Oscar Arnulfo Romero
- 25. Annunciation of the Lord
- 26. Saint Catherine of Genoa
- 27. Lazarus
- 28. Saint Catherine of Bologna
- 29. Saint Ludovico of Casoria
- 30. Saint Peter Regalado
- 31. Saint Stephen of Mar Saba

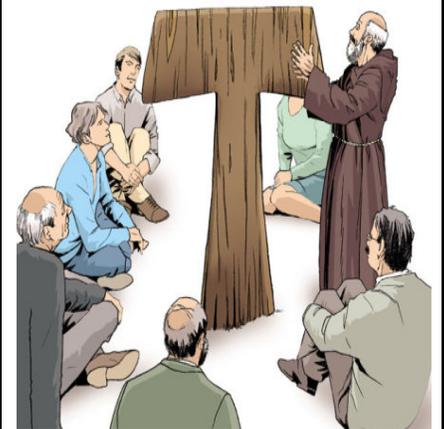


INQUIRERS

The Inquirers class will be Sat March 10, at 10 AM in the dining room. Chapter 9 of the Franciscan Journey page 98 Vatican II-OFS rule and Constitutions.

CANDIDATES

The Candidates next formation class will be Sat March 17, at 10 AM in the dining room. The lesson is Chapter 22 page 236 Foundations for the Kingdom.



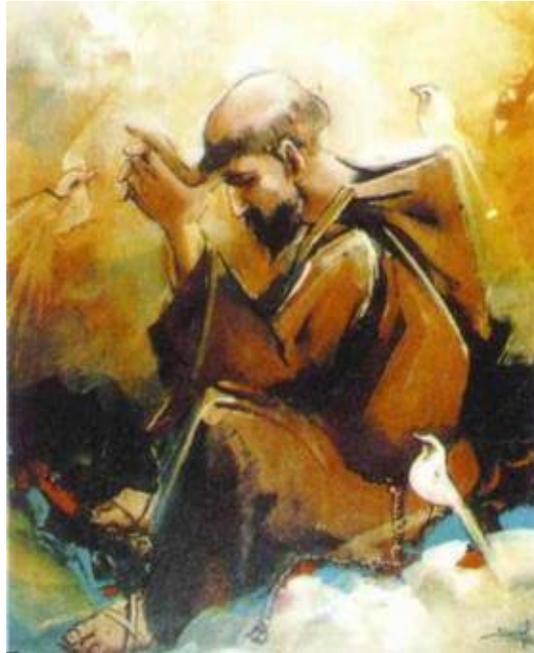
PRAYERS FOR THE MONTH

Please remember all of our fraternity members in your prayers; for all those that are sick; for all those are in need; for all those that are traveling for a safe journey there and back; for all those that may be conversing with Sister Death; for all those that are dealing with crisis and suffering in their lives; for all of the intentions we hold deep within our hearts; for all our loved ones and for all the souls in purgatory; for our communities; country and our world – may we add these to our prayers throughout the month.

The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of March 2018

Formation in Spiritual Discernment:

That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.



Go to Joseph “This patronage must be invoked as ever necessary for the Church, not only as a defense against all dangers, but also, and indeed primarily, as an impetus for her renewed commitment to evangelization in the world and to reevangelization,” wrote St. John Paul II in *Redemptoris Custos* (Guardian of the Redeemer).

John Paul II further said, “Because St. Joseph is the protector of the Church, he is the guardian of the Eucharist and the Christian family. Therefore, we must turn to St. Joseph today to ward off attacks upon the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist and upon the family. We must plead with St. Joseph to guard the Eucharistic Lord and the Christian family during this time of peril.”

Excerpt:

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/03.cfm>

THE ADMONITIONS OF ST. FRANCIS

"Blessed (is) that servant" (Mt 24:46), who does not exalt himself more because of the good, which the Lord says and works through him, 35 than that which He says and works through another. · A man sins, who wants rather to receive from his neighbor, what he does not want to give of himself to the Lord God.



Blessed (is) the servant, who when he speaks, does not manifest all his own (thoughts) in view of (some) wage and is not swift to speak (cf. Prov. 29:20), but wisely provides, what he ought to speak and answer. · Woe to that religious, who does not retain in his heart (Lk 2:19.51) the good things, which the Lord shows him, and does not show them to others through work, but who in view of (some) wage desires rather to show them to men with words. · He himself receives "his wage" (cf. Mt 6:2; 6:16) and (his) hearers bring back little fruit.



Pace e Bene!

Francis greeted everyone "May the Lord give you peace." The peace he wished came from his own inner peace and his deep reverence for all of God's creatures. He allowed Christ's presence within to bring peace to those he met. He urged the friars to be gentle, peaceful, unassuming, courteous and humble in their dealings with others.

Francis was able to challenge and confront injustice, but he did it non-violently, respecting all those involved. He negotiated peace between the people of Gubbio and the wolf who was terrorizing them and between the bishop and mayor of Assisi. The Sultan of Egypt treated him kindly because he was seen as a man of peace.



"Pace e Bene!" (Peace and Good!) is a greeting used on all continents by millions of Franciscan men and women since the time of Francis. It has grown to be an unofficial motto of the Franciscan family. Intuitively and simply, "Peace and Good" expresses the Franciscan approach to life. Faith in the crucified and risen Lord strengthens us to work for the peace and good of all, even in a violent and unjust world.

We believe that peace is built on the recognition of the unity and goodness of created existence, the oneness of humanity, and the dignity of every person. Peace is difference in unity. It requires both respect for the uniqueness of others and acknowledgement of a common humanity. We advocate a peace that builds on freedom and responsibility, encourages compassion, and embraces justice and care of the earth. If you want peace work for justice!

We know that we 'must not kill' – but we can do violence by hand, heart, or word, by signs or gestures, or by aiding and abetting. Violence begins in the human heart and spills out into our words and actions. Words have real power; they can harm or heal, tear down or build up. Speak words of peace, live in a spirit of peace, build a culture of peace.

Excerpt: http://www.franciscans.ie/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/The_Lord_Give_You_Peace.pdf

Franciscan Connections

NATIONAL FRATERNITY SFO

<https://www.nafra-sfo.org/>

LOS TRES CAMPAÑEROS REGIONAL

<http://lostrescompaneros.org/>

INTERNATIONAL FRATERNITY

<http://www.ciofs.org/>

FRANCISCAN RULE

<https://www.nafra-sfo.org/OFSrule.html>

GENERAL CONSTITUTIONS

<https://www.nafra-sfo.org/GC2000.doc>

NAFRA STATUTES

https://www.nafra-sfo.org/OFS_National_Statutes_FINAL_07_24_13_OFS_withSignatures.pdf

NAFRA GUIDELINES

<https://www.nafra-sfo.org/NationalOFSGuidelines/>

TAU – USA (FALL/WINTER 2017)

http://www.nafra-sfo.org/tau-usa/articles/fall17/Issue_Num_93_fal_17.pdf

VOX – INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

http://www.ciofs.org/portal/images/Circ_PDF/VoxFranciscana/EN_Vox_Franciscana_2_-_Spring_2017.pdf

THE FRANCISCAN ARCHIVE

<https://franciscan-archive.org/index2.html>

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