



APRIL 2020

ST CLARE FRATERNITY

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NOTE: – NO FRATERNITY CLASSES OR ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS THREAT AND FOR PROTECTION OF ALL OUR MEMBERS

MINISTER'S MESSAGE (PART 1)

Brother's and Sisters, as we continue our journey during Lent culminating with Easter and our proclamation "HE IS RISEN", I thought it appropriate to reflect on the following article from Jack Wintz, OFM which appeared in St. Anthony Messenger and published by Franciscan Media.

St. Francis: Inspired by the Cross **~ Jack Wintz, OFM**

Francis of Assisi's "Prayer Before the Crucifix" does not start with "Woe is me" or some dark misery of the heart. Rather, it focuses on the glory and sublime beauty of God.

"Most High, glorious God": Just by saying the words in a spirit of praise, my heart grows lighter. I feel as though I'm swept up into the glorious presence of God! The prayer starts—as all prayer does well to start—with words of adoration.

Adoration has a way of lifting me out of my self-absorption and anxiety. Adoration itself helps enlighten the darkness of my heart.

I'm pleased that Francis uses the word *heart* rather than *mind* when he prays: "Enlighten the darkness of my heart." The word *mind* takes me too much into my head. And that is not the real Saint Francis. *Heart* is very much Saint Francis. *Heart* suggests the complexities of human love and the mystery of one's innermost yearning—with all its related joys and sorrows.



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 – First Saturday of the Month – Starting at 10 am in St Francis Village Dining Room
Formation Meetings – First Tuesday of the Month – Starting at 6:30 pm at St Frances Cabrini Parish

MINISTER'S MESSAGE (PART 2)

~ A Vision of Christ's Burning Love

Francis, of course, had a heart very much attuned to the mystery of God's overflowing love. Once, while praying in a solitary place, Francis had a vision of Christ looking at him from the cross with such intense and burning love that "his soul melted," according to his biographer, Saint Bonaventure (1221-1274). One can only believe that, after this soul-melting event, every time Francis prayed before a crucifix, he experienced a similar outpouring of God's incredible love.

And when Francis asks in his prayer, "Give me right faith," this right faith would somehow entail—or encapsulate—this same heart-transforming vision of God's overflowing love, a love whereby God holds nothing back from us! That's the kind of right faith that Francis—as well as you and I—requests in this prayer. And does not this right faith, which is the glorious core of God's self-revelation, enlighten the darkness of our hearts?

Next, we pray with Francis for the "sure hope" that flows from "right faith." And where is there a better place to find this sure hope than in the resurrection of Jesus? The disciples literally witnessed sure hope when the risen Christ appeared to them on that first Easter Sunday. I think especially of the Apostle Thomas in this regard. The risen Jesus so illumined this apostle's doubt-darkened heart that Thomas, in adoration, proclaimed without hesitation: "My Lord and my God!" (see John 20:28).

This enables Francis to respond to God's love with the same kind of total generosity. Francis further asks Christ to "fill me with understanding and knowledge that I may fulfill your command." This "command" is really God's glorious plan that all God's children persevere in the love of Christ and someday rise with Christ into God's loving embrace.

The San Damiano Cross

Franciscan documents of the 13th century indicate that the crucifix before which Saint Francis prayed this prayer was none other than the famous crucifix in the little chapel of San Damiano, near Assisi. This beloved crucifix, familiar to followers of Saint Francis worldwide, is known as the San Damiano Cross.

The body of Christ, as painted on this cross, is not bloody or twisted in anguish. Rather, his body is quite luminous, as if it were already risen, radiating the fullness of God. Instead of a crown of thorns, this image of Christ has a glorious halo. And his body with outstretched arms appears to be ascending to heaven. In short, the image clearly suggests the risen Jesus.

If, indeed, this was the image of Christ upon which Saint Francis was gazing as this prayer arose in his heart, it makes perfectly good sense that Francis would address Jesus as

*"Most High, glorious God!"
O glorious God of overflowing love,
enlighten the darkness of my heart!
Francis' Prayer Before the Crucifix
Most High, glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart;
Give me right faith, sure hope, and perfect charity.
Fill me with understanding and knowledge,
that I may fulfill your command.*

Happy Easter! – Pax et Bonum,
Carmine

Franciscan Connections

NATIONAL FRATERNITY SFO

<https://secularfranciscansusa.org/>

LOS TRES CAMPAÑEROS REGIONAL

<http://lostrescompaneros.org/>

INTERNATIONAL FRATERNITY

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

FRANCISCAN RULE

<https://secularfranciscansusa.org/the-rule-of-the-secular-franciscan-order/>

GENERAL CONSTITUTIONS

<https://secularfranciscansusa.org/the-general-constitutions-of-the-secular-franciscan-order-2000/>

NAFRA STATUTES

https://secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/OFS_National_Statutes_FINAL_07_24_13_OFS_withSignatures.pdf

NAFRA GUIDELINES

<https://secularfranciscansusa.org/guidelines-forms-other-resources/>

TAU – USA (WINTER 2019)

https://secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Tau_USA_099_win_19.pdf

RITUAL OF THE SECULAR

FRANCISCAN ORDER

http://secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Ritual_of_the_Secular_Franciscan_Order.pdf

THE FRANCISCAN ARCHIVE

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





MONTH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The month of April (Overview - Calendar) is dedicated to the Holy Spirit. To believe in the Holy Spirit is to profess that the Holy Spirit is one of the persons of the Holy Trinity, consubstantial with the Father and the Son: "with the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified." (Catechism of the Catholic Church)

The Holy Spirit is the Person of Love in the life of God. He is also like a breath, an aspiration of infinite Love, from which we draw the breath of life.

On the day of Pentecost the Divine Spirit communicated such an abundance of life to the whole Church that to symbolize it "there came a sound from heaven, as of a violent wind coming, and it filled the whole house where they (the Apostles) were sitting."

But it is also for us that the Holy Spirit has come, for the group in the Cenacle represented the whole Church. The Holy Spirit came to remain with the Church forever. This is the promise of Jesus Himself. He dwells in the Church permanently and unfailingly, performing in it without ceasing His action of life-giving and sanctification. He establishes the Church infallibly in the truth. It is He Who makes the Church blossom forth with a marvelous supernatural fruitfulness, for He brings to life and full fruition in Virgins, Martyrs, and Confessors those heroic virtues which are one of the marks of true sanctity.

(The Mysteries of the Rosary, Dom Columba Marmion, O.S.B.)

EXCERPTS FROM https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/04_1.cfm

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

- Wisdom
- Understanding
- Counsel
- Fortitude
- Knowledge
- Piety
- Fear of the Lord

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,
that my thoughts may all be holy.

Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.

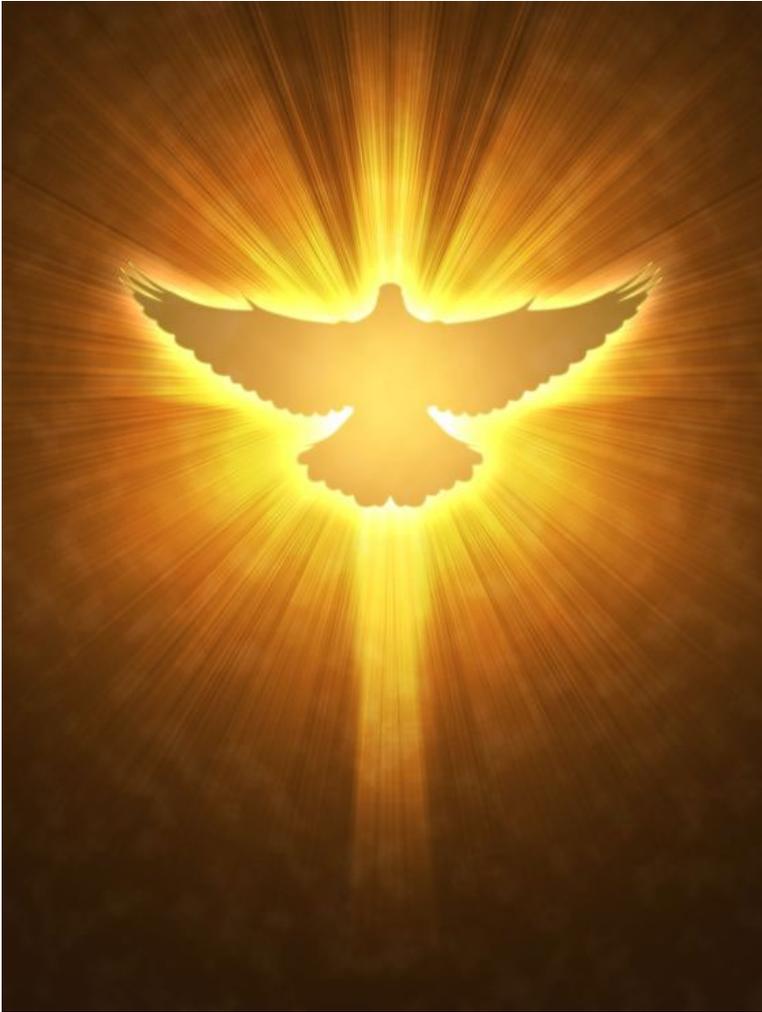
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy.

Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.

Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy.

Amen. (St. Augustine)

- Charity
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Generosity
- Gentleness
- Faithfulness
- Modesty
- Self-Control
- Chastity



The Proper Name of the Holy Spirit

"Holy Spirit" is the proper name of the one whom we adore and glorify with the Father and the Son. The Church has received this name from the Lord and professes it in the Baptism of her new children.

The term "Spirit" translates the Hebrew word *ruah*, which in its primary sense, means breath, air, wind. Jesus indeed uses the sensory image of the wind to suggest to Nicodemus the transcendent newness of him who is personally God's breath, the divine Spirit. On the other hand, "Spirit" and "Holy" are divine attributes common to the three divine persons. By joining the two terms, Scripture, liturgy, and theological language designate the inexpressible person of the Holy Spirit, without any possible equivocation with other uses of the terms "spirit" and "holy."

Titles of the Holy Spirit

When he proclaims and promises the coming of the Holy Spirit, Jesus calls him the "Paraclete," literally, "he who is called to one's side," *ad-vocatus*. "Paraclete" is commonly translated by "consoler," and Jesus is the first consoler. The Lord also called the Holy Spirit "the Spirit of truth."

Besides the proper name of "Holy Spirit," which is most frequently used in the Acts of the Apostles and in the Epistles, we also find in St. Paul the titles: the Spirit of the promise, the Spirit of adoption, the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of the Lord, and the Spirit of God — and, in St. Peter, the Spirit of glory.

Excerpted from the Catechism of the Catholic Church

EXCERPTS FROM https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/04_1.cfm



USCCB RESPONSE TO THE CORONA VIRUS

Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has issued the following regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19):

With the worldwide outbreak of the coronavirus, we are confronted once more with the fragility of our lives, and again we are reminded of our common humanity; that the peoples of this world are our brothers and sisters, that we are all one family under God.

God does not abandon us, he goes with us even now in this time of trial and testing. In this moment, it is important for us to anchor our hearts in the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Now is the time to intensify our prayers and sacrifices for the love of God and the love of our neighbor. Let us draw closer to one another in our love for him, and rediscover the things that truly matter in our lives.

United with our Holy Father Pope Francis, let us pray in solidarity for our brothers and sisters here and around the world who are sick. Let us pray for those who have lost loved ones to this virus. May God console them and grant them peace. We pray also for doctors, nurses, and caregivers, for public health officials and all civic leaders. May God grant them courage and prudence as they seek to respond to this emergency with compassion and in service to the common good.

In this time of need, I invite all the faithful to seek together the maternal intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and I share this prayer with you:

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,

Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.

We fly to you today as your beloved children.

We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.

Amen.



Franciscan Calendar – April – Month of the Holy Spirit

01. Saint Hugh of Grenoble
02. Saint Francis of Paola
03. Saint Benedict the African
04. Saint Isidore of Seville

Formation Meeting – Assignments to be given - no live class.

05. Palm Sunday

Saint Vincent Ferrer

06. Saint Crescentia Hoess
07. Saint John Baptist de la Salle

Formation Meeting – Assignments to be given - no live class.

08. Saint Julie Billiart
09. Saint Casilda
10. Saint Magdalen of Canossa
11. Saint Stanislaus

12. Easter Sunday

Saint Teresa of Los Andes

13. Saint Martin I
14. Blessed Peter Gonzalez
15. Blessed Caesar de Bus
16. Saint Bernadette Soubirous
17. Saint Benedict Joseph Labre
18. Blessed James Oldo

19. Divine Mercy Sunday

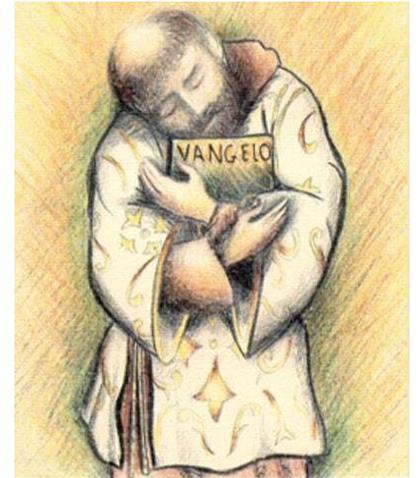
OFS Profession – Postponed to a later date - TBD

Saint Gianna Beretta Molla

20. Saint Conrad of Parham
21. Saint Anselm
22. Saint Adalbert of Prague
23. Saint George
24. Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen
25. Saint Mark
26. Saint Pedro de San José Betancur
27. Saint Louis Grignion de Montfort
28. Saint Peter Chanel
29. Saint Catherine of Siena
30. Saint Pius V

NOTE: THERE ARE NO FRATERNITY CLASSES, ACTIVITIES OR MEETINGS THIS MONTH TO KEEP WITH SAFE DISTANCING FOR THE PROTECTION OF ALL MEMBERS FROM THE CORONA VIRUS.

GOD BLESS EVERYONE – PLEASE STAY SAFE & HEALTHY



INQUIRERS - SFV

The Inquirers next formation class will be assigned either for homework or if possible, we may have an online class on Sat April 04. The online class is TBD. The assignment is Chapter 07 in the Journey book.

CANDIDATES- SFC

The Candidates have been sent their assignment for this month as no class to be held.

