

The Good News



The Salutation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Hail, O Lady, Holy Queen,
 Mary, holy Mother of God:
 you are the virgin made church
 and the one chosen by the most holy Father in
 heaven whom He consecrated
 with His most holy beloved Son
 and with the Holy Spirit the Paraclete,
 in whom there was and is
 all the fullness of grace and every good.

Hail, His Palace!

Hail, His Tabernacle!

Hail, His Home!

Hail, His Robe!

Hail, His Servant!

Hail, His Mother!

And, hail all you holy virtues
 which through the grace and light of the Holy
 Spirit are poured into the hearts of the faithful
 so that from their faithless state
 you may make them faithful to God.

*Newsletter of the
 St. Padre Pio
 Secular Franciscan
 Fraternity
 May 2023*

Monthly gatherings are on the 1st
 Saturday of the month at
 St. Helen Catholic Church
 St. Rita Center
 Georgetown, Texas

7:45 am LOTH
 8:00 am Opening Prayer/Welcoming
 8:45 am Fellowship
 9:00 am Ongoing Formation
 10:00 am Fellowship
 10:15 am Business Meeting
 11:00 am Initial Formation
 11:55 am Closing Prayer
 12:05 pm Mass

Next Gathering June 3, 2023

Website: stpadrepioofs.com



Praying the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

OUR GOALS AND PREDISPOSITIONS: ENCOUNTERING THE PERSON OF JESUS

READ:

Secular Franciscans, therefore, should seek to encounter the living and active person of Christ in their brothers and sisters, in Sacred Scripture, in the Church and in liturgical activity. The faith of St. Francis, who often said, *"I see nothing bodily of the Most High Son of God in this world except His Most Holy Body and Blood,"* should be the inspiration and pattern of their Eucharistic life.

REFLECTION:

Here the rule clearly emphasizes our aim: "to encounter the living and active person of Christ". That's not just a pious thought! Our Jesus is a real person; though he died once for sin, resurrected He now lives forever and is personally working in my life through the Sacred Mysteries. This is how He exercises His Lordship in my life now. And this rule shows me explicitly how I am to make personal contact with Him. The epitome of my contact with Him has to be in my daily reception of Holy Communion; in those precious moments above all others, I'm in His special presence. By faith I know that He's really there for me; I can personally "see by faith" my Most High Lord, even though my senses perceive what appears to be "bread" and "wine". But, alas, those moments of real communion are fleeting. What about those hours in between this morning and tomorrow? There is always a beautiful practice of Spiritual Communion with my Lord! In fact, any prayerful communication with Him places me in His presence and such opportunities abound throughout the day: be it in the Church's liturgy or by interaction with other people.

RESPOND:

Father, I want to know Jesus in a deeper, more personal way. I need Him to be Lord in my life. As You know, I don't make out so well when I take control of my own affairs. Jesus, from the bottom of my heart, I ask you to become ever more real to me. Alone I can do nothing, but I can do all things in You who strengthen me. Holy Spirit, rouse Your power within me and show me the countless opportunities to encounter Jesus often in my daily life. I especially look forward to those precious few moments when I receive You daily in Holy Communion. But there are many chances to meet with You in my brothers and sisters.

RECEIVE:

REV 22:20 *"Come, Lord Jesus."*

Source: Luke Amato, *Praying the Secular Franciscan Rule*

Prayer Intentions: We pray for...

- Rick who suffers from a severe weight problem and is being considered for barbaric surgery. Let us pray that this surgery will be approved.;
- Steven to continue to get well after his recent hospitalization for Covid related sepsis;
- Dick Grubb 91 years old who was diagnosed with Pancreatic cancer
- all Bonnie's children to return to the Catholic faith. Christine, Cathleen, Gregory. All her grandchildren Taylor, Tyler, Ty, Taryn. Wayne's (her husbands) grand children especially one grandchild who is severely autistic and very difficult for the parents to handle Layla;
- Meg, Greg, and Lauran, Lord grant them Your peace, safety and mercy;
- eternal rest grant unto Joann, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace;
- the repose of the soul of Stephen Hanna. We ask God's healing and peace for his parents, brothers and sister;
- Peter's son, Nick, during a very stressful time for him;
- for Jessica's cure from her cancer;
- Leonard as he starts good role at a profitable company in spite of the catastrophic, 200,000+ layoffs in IT over the past few months; and, more importantly, for the work the Lord has done in his heart to free him from his attachment to work that he does only to support my family;
- Joe Benante who is suffering from severe headaches. We also pray that the medical staff determine the cause of his headaches, Lord grant him peace and comfort during this time of healing;
- for the repose of the soul of George Frederick, let perpetual light shine upon him. We ask God's healing and peace for his sons and family;
- Clarissa as she sets to start her new job on May 15th;
- our brothers and sisters not able to attend our fraternity gatherings;
- our family and friends suffering from mental illness;
- For Lynn Freeman, Virginia Livesay, Chris Moses, Baltazar and Dolores Catarroja, as they celebrate the anniversary of their profession in the month of May;

Lord hear our prayers.



Mother Mary knows each voice singularly. She hears the call, perceives the need, and rushes to her child's side. This sweet Mother of mercy and grace will be there for her children in all dangers, difficulties, needs, doubts, and fears.

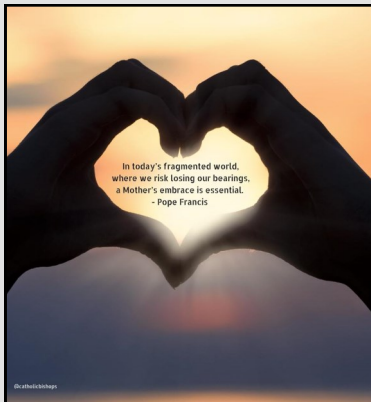
Mary knows your voice. She will hear your call, she will perceive your need, and then she will rush to your side. Call her now. She is waiting to hear your voice above all the others.

— from the book [*Forgiving Mother: A Marian Novena of Healing and Peace*](#) by Marge Steinlage Fenelon

Reflections on Mothers by Pope Francis

The Church too needs to renew her amazement at being the dwelling place of the living God, the Bride of the Lord, a Mother who gives birth to her children. Otherwise, she risks turning into a beautiful museum of the past. A “Church museum”. Our Lady instead gives the Church the feel of a home, a home in which the God of newness dwells. Let us receive with amazement the mystery of the Mother of God, as the inhabitants of Ephesus did at the time of the Council. Like them, let us acclaim her “Holy Mother of God”. From her, *let us allow ourselves to be gazed upon, to be embraced, to be taken by the hand.*

Let us allow ourselves to be gazed upon. Especially in times of need, when we are entangled in life’s knots, we rightly lift our eyes to Our Lady, to Our Mother. Yet first, we should let ourselves be gazed upon by Our Lady. When she gazes upon us, she does not see sinners but children. It is said that the eyes are the mirror of the soul; the eyes of Mary, *full of grace*, reflect the beauty of God, they show us a reflection of heaven. Jesus himself said that the eye is “the lamp of the body” (Mt 6:22): the eyes of Our Lady are able to bring light to every dark corner; everywhere they rekindle hope. As she gazes upon us, she says: “Take heart, dear children; here I am, your Mother!”



This maternal gaze, which instils confidence and trust, helps us to grow in faith. Faith is a bond with God that engages the whole person; to be preserved, it needs the Mother of God. Her maternal gaze helps us see ourselves as beloved children in God’s faithful people, and to love one another regardless of our individual limitations and approaches. Our Lady keeps us rooted in the Church, where unity counts more than diversity; she encourages us to care for one another. Mary’s gaze reminds us that faith demands a tenderness that can save us from becoming lukewarm. Tenderness: the Church of tenderness. Tenderness is a word that today many want to remove from the dictionary. When faith makes a place for the Mother of God, we never

lose sight of the centre: the Lord, for Mary never points to herself but to Jesus; and our brothers and sisters, for Mary is mother.

The gaze of the Mother, and the gaze of every mother. A world that looks to the future without a mother’s gaze is shortsighted. It may well increase its profits, but it will no longer see others as children. It will make money, but not for everyone. We will all dwell in the same house, but not as brothers and sisters. The human family is built upon mothers. A world in which maternal tenderness is dismissed as mere sentiment may be rich materially, but poor where the future is concerned. Mother of God, teach us to see life as you do. Turn your gaze upon us, upon our misery, our poverty. *Turn to us thine eyes of mercy.*

Let us allow ourselves to be embraced. From Mary’s gaze, we now turn to her heart, in which, as today’s Gospel recounts, she “treasured all these things and pondered them” (Lk 2:19). Our Lady, in other words, took everything to heart; she embraced everything, events both good and bad. And she pondered all these things; she brought them before God. This was her secret. In the same way, she now takes to heart the life of each of us: she wants to embrace our every situation and to present it to God.

Save the Date:

LTC Chapter Meeting

June 9-11, 2023

Register Online: lostrescompaneros.org



Franciscan Way of Life

Gospel → Life
Life → Gospel



Be God's Friend
= Share Your Lives
= Share Your Perceptions
= Share Your Hearts
= Be Transformed to Love more like God
(Sharing is two-way
— You share with God
— God shares with You)



Love Always
(Love God, Self, and All Others)



Pray Always
(Involve God in all your thoughts and actions)



Offer your Sufferings & Hardships to God for the Good of Others.



Know, Obey, Live & Love God's Laws



Discover, Develop, & Use in Love Your Particular Gifts from God.



In the World NOT "Of the World" Stewards of Creation



Unite with the Church in Prayer

Live Simply Love Abundantly



Live in Peace and Joy

How to become Better at Each Every Day

- Actively Work on It
- Ask God daily to help you get better.
- Receive the Sacraments
- Let God Transform you.

By Thomas A. Stobie, ofs — 21 Feb. 2022 — Permission granted to copy, share, and distribute.



Living the Way of the Tau

A monthly look at some aspect of Franciscanism

Vol. 1 No. 1 - December 2022 == Editor: Thomas A. Stobie, ofs

Theme: **Introduction to Living the Way of the Tau**

Living the Way of the Tau is a monthly periodical Quickie (a colorful image fitting on the screen or page containing text & images) discussing Franciscan Living. Different aspects will be addressed each month.

It is intended to be general, usable by the First, Second, & Third Order Franciscans, those living in community, isolated, or secular, as well as anyone who desires to live a Franciscan Way of Life. It may be useful in instructing others in Franciscanism.

I hope many can benefit from it, growing deeper in the Love & Service of God & their fellow man and improving their relationship with God & each other.

Design: It is being designed for web viewing in color, sharing on the internet, and being printed out & shared on paper as well.

Recommended Use: == Read Slowly. == Meditate on its contents.

== Ask Yourself "How does this relate to how I live or want to live?,"

== Ponder it. == Talk to God about it. == Discuss with fellow Franciscans.

Dedication: These Periodical Quickies are a gift to God the Father, God the Son, & God the Holy Spirit, done with their guidance & Love, and dedicated to all who strive to Live the Franciscan Way of Life, living & deceased.

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PADRE PIO

HOMELESS APOSTOLATE

Lots of need in the streets of Austin — our homeless apostolate was very popular this month!

Please continue to participate in the fraternity apostolate, you can purchase items from our wish list! **OFS Apostolate Wish List**

Link: www.tinyurl.com/487wvetb

You are also welcomed to join us on the third Saturday of every month. We meet at 9:30 am in the HEB parking lot at I-35 and Wells Branch (1434 WELLS BRANCH PKWY PFLUGERVILLE) We usually gather in front of the car wash.

Thank you for your generosity!

