

The Little Portion

May 2020

Next Fraternity Gathering

Tuesday May 26, 2020

Agenda

7:30 Opening Prayer

Silent Prayer with Guided

Meditation by Br. Emmanuel

Ongoing Formation:

We will resume our discussion from Chapter 3 of *Discovering the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition*. Be prepared to discuss questions 11, 12 and 13

based on the reading of pages 61 (Joy and Gratitude)

Facilitator: Br. Emmanuel

Closing Prayer

Prayer Intentions

The Simmons Family

Ron Teller

Jeffrey Teller Jr.

Wes Wise

Roland Willard

Mary Rose Scelsi

Baby Ava (Donna's Grand Niece)

Catherine Fischer and her sister Mary Ann

For all those in our Book of Intentions.

Br. Emmanuel's brothers

Jude and Abe who lost their jobs due to the pandemic



St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina Fraternity

Ordo Saecularis Franciscanus

St. Margaret of Cortona Region



Our Challenge as Secular Franciscans: Show that Living the Gospel is Possible

- Fraternity is the perfect workshop for testing ourselves
- Poverty, humility, meekness... In fraternity we hone our...
- Willingness to yield to others
- Willingness to see that those who are different than we are have value
- Call to be "poor enough" to be generous
- Call to make ourselves available to bring others to God
- In the "Workshop" of the Fraternity we find that:
 - "The identity of the Secular Franciscan is expressed in a triple dimension
 - Personal (the inner life),
 - Fraternal (co-responsibility)
 - Universal (the mission)."

• Fraternity is the perfect workshop to prepare us for our Mission

- We are strengthened in our efforts
- Through prayer
- Through study of the Scriptures
- Through study of our Rule
- Through our service to the fraternity

*Diane F. Menditto, OFS
Chair, National Formation
Commission*

May Professions



GingerBahr

5/18/13



Margart Wise 5/24/04

"Beloved, don't believe every spirit- test the spirits to see if they're from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

1 John 4:1

May the Month of Mary

Francis had a deep love of Mary. Thomas of Celano describes the love of St. Francis for Mary in his Second Life of St.

Francis, 198 as

“inexpressible” for it was she who made the Lord of majesty our brother.” “In his *The Salutation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, St. Francis clearly perceives and presents the Virgin Mary as the model for every Christian who responds to the virtuous presence of God in his life”.

Francis and Clare: The Complete Works. Trans. Regis. J. Armstrong O.F.M. Cap. and Ignatius C. Brady, O.F.M. page 149.

This is a beautiful prayer, simple though conveying the majesty and dignity of Our Blessed Mother. It is a wonderful prayer to meditate on while praying it slowly. One can imagine the great joy and love that filled and overflowed from Francis’ heart when he composed and prayed these words.

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.**



Prayer To Our Lady

O clement, O loving, O sweet Mother Mary, We, your children of every nation, turn to you in this pandemic. Our troubles are numerous; our fears are great. Grant that we might deposit them at your feet, take refuge in your Immaculate Heart, and obtain peace, healing, rescue, and timely help in all our needs. You are our Mother, Pray for us to your Son. Amen.

One Perspective about the Coronavirus from Across the World

The following is written by a Japanese Secular Franciscan brother/friend of mine living in Tokyo. He wrote this to his fraternity in April and granted my request to put it in this newsletter.

DISPOSABLE PIECES

The novel coronavirus is not a true enemy of ours. It is just a disposable piece that Satan has set out to destroy God's love and enslave us under its feet. Its infection will surely come to an end sooner or later but the world thereafter will be much different from the one before the pandemic. Even today human relations are superficial in urban areas. I seldom see my neighbors, whom I greeted only once when I moved to my present condominium more than 5 years ago. Now authorities are telling us to minimize the number of people we meet a day to two or three and to reduce human contact by 80% to prevent the overshoot of infection. As a result, in the world after the pandemic our traditional manner of life and human relations may not be restored. This is the true purpose of Satan, for which though lethal it is, the virus is just a disposable piece to achieve its evil end. Even with the success in suppressing the pandemic, if we allow despotism and dictatorship like some other countries by willingly accepting their heavy-handed rules in exchange for our life, it will exactly be another enslavement of ours in Egypt and Satan's joy and victory.

In my high-school days, my English teacher, who was a Quaker, gave us the following excerpt from a poem of Robert Browning in her last lecture commemorating her retirement to all students in the auditorium.

*One who never turned his back but marched breast forward,
Never doubted clouds would break,
Never dreamed, though right were worsted, wrong would triumph,
Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better,
Sleep to wake.*
(Epilogue to 'Asolando')

As Pope Francis said on August 15, 2014, "The Spirit of Jesus ... transforms every situation, even those situations that seem to be hopeless. ... Jesus returned from the dead (so that) he has 'the words of eternal life' (Jn 6:68)." May God bless you and help you all!

Joseph K. Yamada, O.F.S

When Padre Pio was asked if the Blessed Virgin is present during Holy Mass He replied:

"Yes, she places herself at a side, but I can see her, what a joy. She is always present. How can it be that the Mother of Jesus, present in Calvary at the foot of the Cross, who offered her Son as a victim for the salvation of our souls, not be present in the mystical Calvary of the altar?" (Ave Maria Radio.com, Kresta in Afternoon)

Franciscan Life: Living In Faithfulness to the Eucharist

Mary, Mother of the Eucharist

Wherever you find a love for, and a devotion to, the Virgin Mother of God, invariably you will find a more fervent response to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. We could never speak in terms of eating the flesh and drinking the blood of the Son of God had it not been for Mary who channeled that human body and human soul to Him for us to eat and to drink. Some would say that Mary's union with her Divine Son in Holy Communion from the hand of St. John the Apostle was more intimate, even closer, than when the Son of God was wrapped for nine months in her own immaculate flesh. The fully human consciousness of Jesus is present in the Risen Lord of the Holy Eucharist.

Mary is the Mediatrix of All Grace, especially the greatest grace and gift of them all: Her Divine Son in the Sacrament of His Love. She it was who stood so bravely beside Him at the foot of His Cross during his first Mass as He hung there dying, making available to us until the end of time His most Precious Body and Blood. A Father of the Church went so far as to say that Mary would have been willing to slay Her Divine Son with her own hands, if that were God's will, just as Abraham was prepared to slay his son Isaac at the request of God. The only measure of Mary's love is always to be without measure, just as with Jesus on the Cross and on the Altar.

Isn't it true: we do well the things we prepare well for? When God the Father sent God the Son into this world, He was not too particular about His Son's food or clothing or lodging; but He was most particular about the appointments of His mother. She had to be perfect; and she was in virtue of her Immaculate Conception. Mary can teach us too to ready the homes of our hearts for Jesus' coming in Holy Communion. Listen to her! Imitate her readiness: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done unto me according to Thy Word." That was Mary's "Fiat." The priest echoes Mary's "Fiat" over the bread and wine at Holy Mass: "This is My Body. This is My Blood."

Mary's shrines throughout the world are the refuge of sinners where countless numbers repent to be prepared for the Holy Eucharist, perhaps after many years of wandering about in the midst. No doubt it was Mary who dried the tears of St. Peter after he had denied Jesus three times so that he might return to the Altar. Mary is the Mother of the Good Shepherd who will still feed us with His Body and Blood, his Truth and His Love so that we will not faint on the way. Pray for us sinners, Mary, at the hour of our death, too, that we might receive Holy Viaticum, our food for our trip into Eternity.

from: Franciscan Missionaries of the Eternal Word

<https://franciscanmissionaries.com/mary-mother-of-the-eucharist/-->

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Message from the Minister

Tuesday at our Fraternity Gathering via Zoom Meeting, we will complete the book, *Discovering the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition*. In keeping with our Theme for the Year, *Franciscan Life: Living in Faithfulness to the Eucharist*, the Council has chosen *7Secrets of the Eucharist*, by Vinny Flynn for our next read.

Having been starved of the Eucharist for the past two months, we are eager to be reunited with Jesus's Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. Our longing has increased and we will not be satisfied until we "Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord". Having been deprived of Christ's physical presence how much deeper our Thanksgiving after Holy Communion will be.

During the past months of Stay at Home, I often imagined what it must have been like to live in a Communist controlled country where Mass was prohibited and there were no Sacraments available. Whatever else the pandemic caused, the greatest hardship was being unable to attend Mass in person and receive Communion. Yet, our greatest joy will be to attend Holy Mass in the coming weeks and receive our Lord again. Gratitude will fill our hearts!

It is the hope that this little book on the Eucharist will increase our understanding, gratitude and spiritual appetite for the Eucharist. Every commitment, every work, every ministry must draw its strength from the Eucharist.

Stan, Ginger or I will contact you and bring you the book. The cost is \$10. Please mail Stan a check. Please mail to: Stan Glodek, 1106 Macbeth Court, Bel Air, MD 21015. If there is anyone who has a financial hardship in purchasing the book, please let me know so the fraternity can assist.

At our May Meeting, the Council voted to accept Catherine Fischer as a member. Catherine and her sister Mary Ann moved from Delaware and Catherine has been visiting our fraternity for several months. Catherine had back surgery and is getting therapy. She does not have a computer or email so she is unable to participate in Zoom Meetings. Catherine receives the Newsletter by regular mail and we are sorry she will not be able to be with us at our virtual meetings. The fraternity welcomes Catherine and will keep her in our prayers for healing.

Bonnie Ng, O.F. S



WELCOME CATHERINE

To PADRE PIO FRATERNITY

WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU WITH US.

LOVE AND PRAYERS

YOU FRATERNITY BROTHERS AND SISTERS