

**THE ST. JOSEPH FRATERNITY OF
THE SECULAR FRANCISCANS**

**ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA REGION
"ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARI"**

THE FRANCISCAN SPIRIT NEWSLETTER

November 2021

**Next Meeting: November 6th at 10:00 am
At St. John the Baptist Library room after Mass**

St. Nicholas Tavelic and Companions– November 6th

Nicholas Tavelic was born in Šibenik, Croatia. He became a Franciscan friar in 1365 and was among 60 friars from various Franciscan provinces to establish missions in Bosnia. He spent 12 years serving there before beginning a new mission.

In 1384, Nicholas went to serve with other Franciscan friars in the Holy Land. There, with Deodatus Aribert, Peter of Narbonne, and Stephen of Cuneo, he lived in the Friary of Mount Zion, an ancient religious house the Franciscans maintained in Jerusalem. There, the four friars studied Arabic and served in the holy shrines associated with the life of Jesus.

Nicholas and companions decided to begin openly preaching Christianity among the largely Muslim community. In 1391, Nicholas, Deodat, Peter of Narbonne, and Stephen of Cuneo decided to take a direct approach to converting the Muslims. On November 11, they went to the huge Mosque of Omar in Jerusalem and asked to see the Qadix—Muslim official. Reading from a prepared statement, they said that all people must accept the gospel of Jesus. When they were ordered to retract their statement, they refused.

They were subsequently arrested and refused to deny their Christian Faith. After spending considerable time in prison, the four friars were martyred near the Jaffa Gate on November 14, 1391 - they were beheaded before a large crowd.

The four friars were canonized in 1970 and Saint Nicholas Tavelic is honored as the first Croatian saint. They are the only Franciscans martyred in the Holy Land to be canonized.

St. Francis presented two missionary approaches for his friars. Nicholas and his companions followed the first approach—live quietly and give witness to Christ—for several years. Then they felt called to take the second approach of preaching openly. Their Franciscan confrères in the Holy Land are still working by example to make Jesus better known.

For more than 800 years, Franciscan Friars have ministered to Christians and to those of all faiths in the Holy Land. This tradition of mission and service dates back to Saint Francis of Assisi himself. To learn more about the work of the Franciscans in the Holy Land, visit: <https://myfranciscan.org/holy-land/>



**St. Nicholas Tavelic
and Companions**

HAPPY AUTUMN!

Birthdays:

- John Fay (1st)
- James O'Shea (20th)
- Francis Von Wald (22th)

Prayer Intentions:

- Maggie & Her Family
- Lynn & Her Family
- Marge Butta
- Christine Heinrich
- Shelley Pokrivka & Her family
- Donna & Her family
- Sheila Krause

November Meeting: 9:00 am
Mass at St. John's & then
meeting in the Library

Formation: Please read Chapter
10 of the "Living of the
Incarnation" Book

*"Soul, art thou still downcast? Wilt thou never be at peace? Wait for God's help; I will not cease to cry out in thankfulness, My champion and my God."
(Psalm 43:5)*

From “The General Constitutions of The SFO” – Article 15-2

“Secular Franciscans, who must provide for their own families and serve society by means of their work and material goods, have a particular manner of living evangelical poverty. To understand and achieve it requires a strong personal commitment and the stimulation of the fraternity in prayer and dialogue, communal review of life, and attentiveness to the instructions of the Church, and the demands of society.”

10 Commandments of How NOT to Pray to God

By Father Pius – 40 Hours Lecturer @ St. John the Baptist on 9/8/21

1. Thou shall not command/force God when you pray – “Your Will be done”
2. Thou shall not accuse Satan for your sins – “Deliver us from evil”
3. Thou shall not forget the Father, the Son & the Holy Spirit when praying – “Our Father who is in Heaven”
4. Thou shall not forget our role & participation in prayer
5. Thou shall not harbor hatred in your heart when praying – “Forgive us, as we forgive others”
6. Thou shall not be selfish in your prayers “Our daily bread – not My daily bread”
7. Thou shall not be empty-minded when you pray – “Your kingdom come”
8. Thou shall not speak too much when praying – “The Lord’s prayer is a very short prayer”
9. Thou shall not act artificially – “Pray naturally as a child talks to his/her father”
10. Thou shall not boast of praying for someone /something – “for yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory”
 - God answers us when we pray – Yes, No, Wait.
 - God will not give us things that are not good for us.
 - A Christian who does not pray = a dead Christian

Jesus in Times Square: Priests & Nuns Lead Beautiful Eucharistic Procession on Streets of NYC

The Napa Institute led a Eucharistic procession through the streets of New York City on Oct. 12, the evening before the 104th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima’s Miracle of the Sun. Pictures and videos surfaced online of the beautiful event sponsored by the Catholic leadership organization during its Principled Entrepreneurship Conference in Manhattan. The social media posts depict several priests, sisters, and laity marching through New York City’s Times Square singing and praying the rosary before a Eucharistic procession. Fr. Duffy’s full post reads, “Yesterday evening was among the most powerful of my priesthood. We brought Jesus to the streets of NYC. People were fascinated, and many drawn to join us. The Lord was present to His people and in His people. It was a remarkable evening. Many hearts were touched. Mine included.”

FRANCISCAN TEACHINGS

“God Wants to Heal Us”

“ It is helpful to see sin, like addiction, as a disease, a very destructive disease, instead of merely something that was culpable, punishable, or made God “unhappy.” If sin indeed made God unhappy, it was because God desires nothing more than our happiness and wills the healing of our disease. The healing ministry of Jesus should have made that crystal clear. Healing was just about all that he did, with much of his teaching illustrating the healings— and vice versa.”

—from the book Breathing Under Water: Spirituality and the Twelve Steps by Richard Rohr

Prayer Tips from the Saints by Gloria Hutchinson

They all have something to teach us, something that draws us closer to our God and to our true selves. Because I so enjoy connecting with the saints. It's like being asked to spend time with my own family or dearest friends. Who could not find a favorite in the likes of Clare and Francis of Assisi, Thérèse of Lisieux and Ignatius of Loyola, Teresa of Avila, and John of the Cross? These six are among the Church's wisest of guides. And they were just waiting to be asked, as the unnamed disciple asked Jesus himself, "teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1).

Theoretically, we all want to pray more as soon as "time allows." Yet prayer tends to get preempted by things beyond our control, like the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. What we fail to see is that these events cannot hold a candle to the worthiness of prayer.

So, we count on God's willingness to wait, without complaint, for our promised attention down the road. I do not believe that anyone has ever put it better than Barbara Brown Taylor, in her book *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith*. She nails it when she observes, "To say I love God but I do not pray much is like saying I love life but I do not breathe much."

I was led to pray with Francis on Mount La Verna as he begged God for the privilege of sharing Christ's suffering on the cross. His prayer was so fervent that it generated the stigmata for Francis, and a more mature appreciation of suffering for me. Years later, when my only son took his own life, I came to understand what it meant to bear the wounds of Christ in my heart, my mind, my memory.

I was led to pray with Clare at her bare-bones enclosure in San Damiano where she planted her soul in silence and praised God in the Liturgy of the Hours. Her example encouraged me to create my own monastic cell in a corner of whatever home our oft-transplanted family occupied.

I was led to pray with Ignatius as he imaginatively applied his physical senses to recreating the Upper Room where the Lord Jesus hosted his Last Supper with his friends. And the saint and I were among them, hearing Jesus's voice as he blessed the bread and wine, tasting his Body and Blood, feeling our hearts grow heavy with the threat of his arrest.

I was led to pray with Thérèse at the Carmel of Lisieux where she lived her Little Way of self-conquest and simple conversation with the Lord. She and I consoled each other when Jesus appeared not to hear a word we uttered.

I was led to offer the Lord's Prayer with Teresa at St. Joseph's Chapel in Avila, where La Madre taught me to enter into this familiar prayer's inner meaning. With her help, I was able to turn an often-empty vocal prayer into a meditation on filial love, trust, and ever-willing forgiveness. I was led to pray with John of the Cross as he, in contemplation, ascended Mount Carmel, emptying himself of all concerns and anxieties along the arduous way. I followed behind him, hoping to be filled at the bubbling mountain spring of God's surpassing love, wisdom, and delight.

For decades, the saints have been my mentors in prayer, faith companions whom the centuries cannot separate, beloved friends bound by Wisdom who "in every generation...passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God, and prophets" (Wisdom 7:27). Our saints await us, gathered under the Spirit of Wisdom's bright wings. Let's pray.

APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON THE CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD

"It is not healthy to love silence while fleeing interaction with others, to want peace and quiet while avoiding activity, to seek prayer while disdaining service. Everything can be accepted and integrated into our life in this world, and become a part of our path to holiness. We are called to be contemplatives even in the midst of action, and to grow in holiness by responsibly and generously carrying out our proper mission."