

ST MARY OF THE ANGELS FRATERNITY
ORDER OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN
THE ANGELUS * FEBRUARY 20, 2022



February
month of the
Holy Family



Minister: Susan Jamison
Vice-Minister: Sonia Bernardo
Spiritual Assistant: Michael Huether
Formation Director: Tom McGrath
Secretary: Portia - Treasurer: Carmencita Fiesta
Counselors: Lilian Soriano, Mary Badjo & Irma Jean-Baptiste
The Angelus: Mary Badjo

Our February Meeting Will Be IN PERSON (& By ZOOM too)

Social Time 12:30, Meeting begins 1 PM

Introductory Prayers

Announcements:

Our Monthly Mass For Our Living and Deceased Members Is Now Being Offered on the 3rd Sunday of every Month at the 11:00 Mass At Our Lady of Grace Church, Leisure World

This month the Mass is on February 20, at 11 AM.

Thank you to those who participated in our PRO LIFE Spiritual Bouquet Requests for prayers?

Mention them to members of our Daily Prayer Group

Your Birthday Year is Needed by National

**Presentation by Ingrid Roberts on
Reflection 22, Live Like Francis**

Christian Prayer Led By Tom

**Presentation on the
KEEPING YOUR EYES ON GOD
By Mark Weist via ZOOM**

Closing Prayers

**Genie's Announcements: Happy Birthday to
Michael Oliver, February 10 and Joyce Routh, February 28.
Please Continue your prayers for Marilyn and Jim.**

WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, HOPE

This is the sixth of my articles on the Peace Prayer of St. Francis, based on “Instruments of Christ: Reflections on the Peace Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi” by Albert Haase, OFM. This month, we will review the fifth line of the prayer listed above.

Life can be filled with present moments that are difficult to accept: the death of a loved one, especially one you depended upon; a catastrophic event where you lost just about everything you own; or a persistent illness you can't find a cure for. Hope is the emotion meant to literally save us from these moments. It is our opportunity to look beyond the tragedy or disappointment to tomorrow, next month or next year and see a “new dawn” or more familiarly, a “light at the end of the tunnel”. We most recently experienced this with the COVID-19 pandemic: the vaccines are the “new dawn” (or new normal as we have been calling it) for most of us.

Hope can give the seriously ill the endurance of the painful operation to achieve the cure; the unjustly imprisoned to look beyond the bars for the right of a retrial; and gives refugees and exiles the ability to tolerate strange customs while keeping alive the vision of their homelands. It brings about a new opportunity to achieve an existing goal. When a crisis causes despair, discouragement or disillusionment, hope causes it to open new doors not previously recognized or as we again more familiarly say: “that turn out to be blessings in disguise”.

Hope is also a theological virtue and not just a saving emotion. It is a grace from God that helps one to trust that there is life and healing beyond the impact of the crisis. It can strike at the crisis like a bolt of lightning even during our prayerful moments giving us the strength to walk through the fiery furnace with confidence we thought we never had. It can also slowly come about through the words, actions or just presence of others who wish to help us through the crisis. As a virtue, hope moves us from ourselves to God reminding us that He does not abandon creation but protects and reaches out to redeem and save. As Christians and Franciscans, we know persecution, suffering, and death may have ended the chapter, but the story went way beyond Calvary: it was hope that kept the story going. Peter referred to this as a “living hope”: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1: 3). This living hope transforms every peril or crisis into another opportunity for the power of God to be revealed.

For the ancient Christians in Rome, Paul made Abraham a model of hope (Romans 4:18 – 21). He pointed out to them that Abraham believed he would become “the father of many nations” and realize that “so numerous shall your descendants be” in spite of his age of nearly one hundred and his wife, Sarah’s barrenness. Abraham was “convinced that God was able to do what He had promised”. We’re all here now because God did not disappoint Abraham and Sarah. The Peace Prayer tells peacemakers to bring on hope that is based upon the power, providence, and protection of God to anyone who is precariously holding on to the edge.

How often have each of us relied on someone we consider close to God and asked him/her to intercede on our behalf? By doing so, we find a way of consolation, peace, and ultimately hope? Prayers of intercession always can bring about hope. Intercession helps the despondent feel less alone in their desperation and feel more closely to God when they possibly do not have the words, strength, or stamina to pray. We also can bring on living hope by words of encouragement, confidence, and reassurance. Such words like this, however, are more effective when based on an experience of God as the source of our hope and salvation. We find in the psalms:

For God alone my soul waits in silence,
For my hope is from Him.
He alone is my rock and my salvation,
My fortress; I shall not be shaken.
On God rests my deliverance and my honor;
My mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

(Psalm 62: 5 – 7)

Without real-life experience as a backup, words of encouragement can seem superficial and hollow.

Sometimes, however, no-hope situations demand even more. Those in danger of having no hope: the poor, alienated, disenfranchised, and marginalized who have no voice in society, must rely upon our actions for their dreams to come about. Because of our efforts on behalf of peace and justice, they will have the confidence in what tomorrow holds for them.

No matter what form our witness for others takes on, the hope that results assures them that God will indeed come through. We recall Paul’s words to the Corinthians which tell us that in the end, there are three things that last: one of them is hope (I Corinthians 13:13).

**Peace,
Mike**

Family Prayer

God made us a family.
We need one another.
We love one another.
We forgive one another.
We work together.
We play together.
We worship together.
Together we learn God's
Word.
Together we grow in Christ.
Together we love all people.
Together we serve our God.
Together we hope for Heaven.
These are our hopes.
Help us obtain them, Father,
through Jesus your Son,
Our Lord. Amen.

"A partial indulgence is granted to the faithful who ... raise their mind with humble confidence to God."



Minister's Message

Thank you so much to all those who participated in the Regional Pro Life Spiritual Bouquet. 7 Fraternities participated with a strong showing of prayer and sacrifice to end abortion in the USA. Next year we will try to have an even greater participation from other fraternities.

Leadership at all levels is so very important. By this I mean we should take the lead where ever we can to bring God's presence and love into the lives of those around us. Witnessing to God's power and love and to the identity of Jesus Christ as our loving Savior and Lord-God at every opportunity by thought, word and deed is truly what we are called to do. Make friends where you can and bring those folks to the Lord.

One way I like to do this is by sending get well cards, thank you cards and sympathy cards which speak of God's plan and presence. I remember being very sick for many weeks and in a great deal of pain. This happened when I was in my forties. The Fraternity sent me a Get Well card which the members had signed. I was so helpless to change my situation but I looked at the care and was consoled by the hope that perhaps I was not forgotten and that some people were actually really praying for me. It was a glimmer of hope.

St. Josephine Bakhita, whose feast day is this month, said:

"I am definitely loved and whatever happens to me-I am awaited by this Love. And so my life is good."

Honestly I am not even sure one has to add the last part that "And so my life is good." Just knowing one is awaited by Love is a powerful message that brings hope.

That sounds like a wonderful quote to add to your signature on such cards. Maybe you can think of another one you like even more.

Happy Valentine's Day!

LETS REALLY CELEBRATE THESE AMAZING FEBRUARY FEAST DAYS!

Saint Josephine Bakhita— February 8

As a sister, Josephine was sent to live in Schio, in Northern Italy. Here she had several jobs including sewing, cooking, embroidering, and answering the door. She was very gentle, had a calming voice, and always smiled. The people of Schio loved her humility and kindness. The Sisters in her community appreciated her sweet nature, her goodness, and her great desire to tell others about God. At the end of her life, she became ill and suffered greatly. But through it all, she remained cheerful and kept her smile. Josephine Bakhita lived a very simple and humble life. One of her greatest gifts was her smile. Even when she was suffering, Josephine continued to share the gift of her smile with others. Josephine considered each stage of her life as part of God's special plan for her and she accepted each willingly. Josephine Bakhita is the patron saint of the Sudan and holds a special meaning to those who suffer and are oppressed in any way. She has been adopted as the patron saint of Sudan and human trafficking survivors.



Blessed Noel Pinot— February 21

The people leading this revolt wanted to separate the Church of France from the pope. Noel had been a pastor for two years when this law was passed. Noel believed that breaking off from the pope was wrong. He refused to take the oath supporting the new law and was exiled from his church. He was not even allowed to come within eight miles of it.

During his exile, Noel continued to help his parishioners in secret. He knew he was putting his life in danger, but he continued to celebrate Mass for his parishioners anyway. He also encouraged other priests to stay true to the pope and not take the oath. Unfortunately, one of Noel's parishioners betrayed him. The person told the police how Noel was disobeying the government. When Noel was about to say Mass one Sunday, the police came and arrested him. They held him in prison for a week and tortured him, trying to get him to take the oath. When the police realized that Noel would not give in to their wishes, he was sentenced to death. However, his faith remained strong. Even while he was led to his death, he repeated the beginning lines of Mass: "I will go in to the altar of God, to God who gives joy to my youth." The life of Blessed Noel Pinot is a reminder of the importance of staying true to our beliefs even when it is hard to do so.



**Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in You we contemplate
the splendour of true love,
to You we turn with trust.**

**Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too
may be places of communion
and prayer,
authentic schools
of the Gospel
and small
domestic Churches.**

**Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again
experience violence,
rejection and division,
may all who have been hurt
or scandalised
find ready comfort
and healing.**

**Holy Family of Nazareth,
may we be made
once more mindful
of the sacredness
and inviolability
of the family,
and its beauty
in God's plan.**

**Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
graciously hear our prayer**



Prayer to the Holy Family