

ST MARY OF THE ANGELS FRATERNITY
ORDER OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN
THE ANGELUS * MAY 15, 2022

Mary
Mother of God



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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our meeting will be devoted to sharing and discussing. Please take your time and thoughtfully and prayerfully answer these questions with an eye to sharing with the Fraternity.

1. If you had to exhort yourself to be a better Secular Franciscan, what would you tell yourself?
2. If Jesus were to compliment you on being a good Secular Franciscan, what do you think He would say?
3. Please share something you do when you pray which helps you focus or inspires you.
4. Please share something about something or someone that or who recently inspired you. Can be an app, a homily, a conversation, a book etc etc.
5. Please share something about something or someone that or who recently inspired you or daily inspires you. This can be an app, a homily, a conversation, a book, a new habit or a person.
- 6.. What were the top three most memorable talks/discussions/presentations you can remember from one of our meetings?
7. What makes you feel connected to St. Francis? Which Franciscan Saint do you find most personally relatable and how does that person inspires you?

Please pray for Mary's family with covid, for Mike's recovery from Pneumonia, and for Marilyn and Jim, Genie, Joyce's husband Jim, Susan's husband Bob, and for all of our Fraternity members.

Happy Birthday to Connie on May 24th!

Minister's Message

Since last month, we have had good and bad news.

The bad news is easy to see. Covid is rising again. Russia's war against the Ukraine is barbaric and terrible in so many ways and is threatening to encompass the world in a disastrous way. China seems poised to take over Taiwan. The USA has been and is still spending billions of dollars that it does not have and no one seems to have any idea about where this will end us up. As the wife of a large-scale grain farmer, I can attest that the price of farm fertilizer is four times what it used to be last year (and it was high last year) and the commodity prices for wheat and corn etc are going through the roof. The fertilizer prices went up several months before the war in the Ukraine and while there is no doubt the war did not help, it is also clear that the war did not prompt this. Only a handful of global companies mine the natural fertilizer components. While this is impacting farmers across the globe, a handful of states in the USA are investigating whether these companies have acted in concert to raise prices in such a way as to commit one or more anti-trust violations. Whatever happens, it looks like food prices will soon skyrocket and this will be hard on humanity. Very hard on the poor. My husband shales his head about this on a daily basis.

All the news is not bad. A leaked Supreme Court opinion shows the overruling of Roe v. Wade. We can only pray that that opinion becomes finalized and published before one of our conservative Justices passes to the next world. Please pray for their protection and long life. Please pray that the decision is made final. Of course, our own state, Maryland, is one of the worst abortion offenders in our Nation. As you know, Maryland allows late term abortion of babies if the pregnancy so much as causes the mother depression. This just does not seem to be the urgent and continuing prayer need that it should be.

Please give the Lord your gift of prayer as much as you possibly can.
The good news: God is listening.

SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT'S MESSAGE

May, 2022

GRANT THAT I MAY NOT SO MUCH SEEK

TO BE CONSOLED AS TO CONSOLE;

TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS TO UNDERSTAND;

TO BE LOVED AS TO LOVE

This is the ninth of my articles on the Peace Prayer of St. Francis, based on the book, “Instruments of Christ: Reflections on the Peace Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi” by Albert Haase, OFM. This month, we will review the eighth to eleventh lines of the prayer.

In at least our part of the world—Americans especially—tend to be excessively accommodating of our own personal desires. We find ourselves living in self-centered worlds or worlds that revolve around ourselves. We become obsessed with satisfying our appetites to be consoled, understood, and loved and think others were born to cater to our needs.

That familiar parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15: 11-32) depicts two brothers who were both wrapped up in themselves. As the story goes, the younger son demands of his father the monetary share of the family property much sooner than planned, leaves home and spends all of the inheritance on lavish comforts only to end up totally broke and working in a pigpen. The older brother was just as bad: his self-pity and need to be appreciated drove him to stay away from family celebration his father threw for his younger returning brother. He was unwilling to accept his father's cause for joy for his younger brother. These two members of the same family in Jesus' parable clearly depict how self-centeredness eventually leads to loneliness, isolation, frustration, then finally division within the family. So, how do we break this human tendency? It requires of us a change of behavior, a revolutionary conversion or “radical interior change” as our Rule puts it in our effort to concentrate on serving others and not ourselves.

SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT'S MESSAGE

May 2022

Jesus' ministry is based upon selfless service and surrender to others. It is outlined as we pray in the Peace Prayer: "grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console: to be understood as to understand: to be loved as to love" and in His own words: "For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). Healings, fellowship with sinners and outcasts, and maintaining of the Father's will all indicated His centering upon others.

The dreaded disease of leprosy was virtually a death sentence during Jesus's time. The symptoms severely disfigured a person unfit for public life and unclean for public worship. To come in contact with a leper deemed oneself ritually impure and in serious danger of contracting the disease. A leper challenged these religious and social norms one day and approached Jesus (Mark 1: 40-45). In light of his situation, he begged Jesus to heal him. But, unlike other people, Jesus was not repulsed but instead clearly understood the leper's suffering being moved with pity for him. Jesus matched the leper's bold challenge by risking His own ritual impurity and contraction of the disease when He extended His hand and touched the leper. It was not only a healing touch, but one of consolation, understanding, and love. It healed him societally as well as physically: a more meaningful need. Jesus emphasized to his followers this attitude of selfless giving of oneself in solicitous service to others. Those who need this service from us are looking for someone to share their sorrows with and upon whom they can lean. All they need is receptive, listening ears and strong shoulders.

Of course, we also have to understand where the needful person is coming from, so we have to put ourselves in his shoes: we identify with his past and present situation as well as his hopes and dreams just like Jesus did with the leper. We spend and share the love, understanding, and consolation we acquire from our similar life experiences and apply it to our selfless service to others.

Peace and all Good,
Mike

