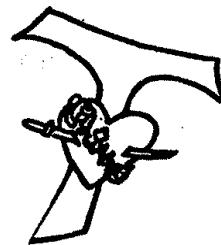


Immaculata Vision ~ ~ August, 2017

Immaculata Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order

Riverside, CA / Editor: Lisa M. Boebinger, OFS ~ ~ lisa.sfo@att.net



Denouncing Hatred:

“We are obliged to denounce all violations against human dignity and human rights. Any violence which seeks religious justification warrants the strongest objection because the omnipotent is the God of life and peace.”

~ ~ **Pope Francis**

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Calendar of Events for August, 2017:

- 4 – First Friday Adoration, Queen of Angels old Church, all day. Liturgy of the Hours and Benediction at 5 pm
- 6 – The Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday
- 10 (2nd Thursday) – Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich Brigade, 4:00 pm @ St. Thomas’ KDC.**
- 11 – St. Clare’s Feast day
- 14– (2nd Mon.) – Council Meeting @ 4:00 pm @ Lorraine’s.**
- 15 – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 22 – The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

26 (Fourth Saturday) – Fraternity Meeting/ Gathering @ 9:30 am @ Lorraine’s.

29 – The Passion of St. John the Baptist

Looking Ahead to September...

- 1 – First Friday Adoration, Queen of Angels old Church, all day. Liturgy of the Hours and Benediction at 5 pm
- 4 – Labor Day -- Holiday
- 7 (1st Thursday) – Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich Brigade, 4:00 pm @ St. Thomas’ KDC.**
- 8 – The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 11– (2nd Mon.) – Council Meeting @ 4:00 pm @ Lorraine’s.**
- 12 – The Most Holy Name of Mary
- 14 – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- 15 – Our Lady of Sorrows
- 22 – Fall Equinox

23 (Fourth Saturday) – Fraternity Meeting/ Gathering @ 9:30 am @ St. Thomas KDC.

29 – Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

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Birthdays & Profession Anniversaries:

- August Birthdays: 1st – Sekoiya Spencer
- 12th – Raul Bosque’
- 16th – Georgia Zepok
- 17th – Donna Baylor
- 19th – Ken Wilde
- 20th – Camille Page
- August Profession Anniv.: – 2nd – Donna Baylor, 2010
- 2nd – Brenda Rogers, 2010
- September Birthdays: 24th – Carol Bryant

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Minister’s Letter

From the Desk of
Lorraine Cardin, OFS

Dear Franciscan brothers and sisters,

We are ready and eager to start a new Franciscan journey with the energy and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and a somewhat new council. We know that it takes the whole Fraternity to be committed and active. But it does take the Council to direct and motivate the Fraternity. We need to keep the Council members in prayer and we need to come up with ideas for activities, retreats, and personal spiritual growth. If you have any thoughts of what to do and are not on the Council, please bring it up to a Council member so they can promote it. We will only be as good as each Fraternity member is active and dedicated. There is always room for improvement.

Love, Lorraine

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Our July 22nd Fraternity Gathering **On-going Formation Questions** **from: Bruce McAdams, OFS-QM**

Topic:

Our Ongoing Formation will be on Where does the Secular Franciscan Order belong in the Franciscan family, a presentation from the FUN (*For Uptil Now*) formation Manual.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where does the Secular Franciscan Order belong in the Franciscan family?
2. Do Seculars belong to a true religious order?
3. What are the three characteristics of the Secular Franciscan Order?

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From the Formation desk of Ray Hardwick, OFS **TRANSFORMATION**

As Franciscan Christians, we profess to follow in the footsteps of Jesus the Christ. To follow someone, we need to be called and then understand that call. We need to know what Jesus teaches/commands his followers to do. We need to know him by conversing with him, listening, really listening to his desire for us and the world. A lot of what he shares with us is paradoxical. If you want to receive, you must give; we must die to live; if you want to be first, you must be last; if you want to lead, you must serve. Given that, as Franciscans we should be the least (read foot washers).

Another command of Jesus is, “If you want to be my disciple, deny yourself, take up YOUR cross, and follow me.” Most of us are willing to take up our cross and follow Jesus and that leads us to Golgotha. Are we willing to go the extra mile with Jesus and mount the cross with its crown of thorns and nails in our flesh—right next to Jesus? We can when we take the unpopular position of speaking truth to power, to our families, to our friends and neighbors. When we speak out not only against abortion, but all

life issues, the death penalty, war, euthanasia, poverty and hunger—no matter the cost to us personally. As Daniel Berrigan, S.J. said from experience, “If you want to be true followers of Jesus Christ, you had better look good on wood.”

Brothers and sisters, Jesus calls us to trust him, to follow where he leads, even “into the valley of the shadow of death.” And not to fear, for he is with us. In this journey of life with Jesus, are we going to be participants or observers? The answer is up to us. Remember he said, “I didn’t say it would be easy, I said it would be worth it.” ~ ~ Peace and all Good, Ray

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Spiritual Assistant’s Letter

From the Desk of **Bob Murray, OFS**

A Renewed Fraternity -- July, 2017

Congratulations!

With the election of a new council your fraternity now has new life!

Have you ever wondered why a fraternity ceases to exist for a time during elections? Each fraternity (at all levels) must have a council in order to exist. When the Minister (or his/her delegate) of the next higher fraternity arrives to preside over an election the previous council is dissolved thus making way for a new council. Subsequently, since the council has been dissolved, the fraternity no longer exists... at least temporarily... until a new council has been elected... at which point the fraternity then roars back to life. In a sense, the fraternity has become a new fraternity – a renewed fraternity - with a new identity (a new council). Yes! The fraternity will have new life!

Each member of the council has been charged with certain responsibilities as they strive to lead the fraternity into the future. The Minister, Vice-Minister, Formation Director, Secretary and Treasurer each have designated responsibilities as found in our Constitutions (Art. 31, 51-52). This fraternity has also elected additional councilors. Those councilors will work in concert with the rest of the council and take on responsibilities as needed. Should one of the five named positions become vacant a councilor will move into one of the named council positions. As the councilors are elected members of the council they have voice, meaning they can vote on council business. However, should it become necessary to *appoint* a fraternity member to the council, he or she will not have voice as that person had not been elected to the council.

But wait! There is more to the story.

The Church entrusted the friars with the responsibility to ensure that all Secular Franciscan fraternities remain true to their Rule, their governing documents and the Church’s teaching. Consequently, and in concurrence with Article 26 of our Rule, the friars are to supply a Spiritual Assistant to every fraternity and, by right under the Church’s directive, that friar shall hold a seat on a council with voice (except in matters of finance and elections). However, since there is a shortage of friars, the Minister Generals of those First Orders and Third Order Regulars have appointed me (through this Region’s Conference of Spiritual Assistants) to represent them as your Spiritual Assistant. I do not wear a friar’s habit but I sit on the Council as though I were a friar entrusted with this responsibility.

Now the council is complete. One thing more remains and it is of utmost importance. Pray for this council that it will be successful in developing and leading this fraternity into a collaborative, vibrant and animated life as evidenced by Franciscan Joy and your apostolic endeavors.

Peace and Joy to each of you. Bob

~ ~ Bob Murray, OFS

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Council Meeting Notes for July 17th (abbreviated to include a pizza party celebrating the new council members and the old council members)

- **Council Formation:** by Ray: For our new council formation each month, we will be studying a book on servant leadership called “*Leading Like Francis, Building God’s House*” by Carl Koch. It is advised for each of the council members to purchase a copy.
- **Plan our next Fraternity Meeting/ Gathering:**
At: Mickie’s house @ 9:30 am on July 22nd
Opening Prayer: by Ray Hardwick
Ongoing Formation: by Bruce McAdams: Chapter on *The Nature of the SFO, from the FUN (For Uptil Now) formation manual.*
Break: Fellowship & Refreshments by (whoever wants to bring something to share.)
After Break: Sharing of what we can do as a Fraternity Apostolate.
Closing Prayer: by Bob Murray
- **Ray’s Book Recommendations:** “*Franciscan Prayer*” by Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF. And “*Why Stay Catholic*” by Michael Leach.
- **Next Fraternity Meeting/Gathering** in July 22nd – not on July 29th.
- **Next PB&J Brigade** is Thursday, August 10th @ 4:00 pm @ St. Thomas’ KDC.
- **Next Council Meeting** is Monday, August 14th at 4:00 pm at Lorraine’s.
- **Retreat Master** for the 2018 Serra Retreat: Sr. Margaret Carney, O.S.F., S.T.D.! Start saving your \$.
- **Immaculate Heart Radio, AM 1000.**
volunteers@ihradio.org

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A letter mailed to our treasurer Carol Bryant:

From: Mary’s Mercy Center, Inc.

Mary’s Table ~ Veronica’s Home of Mercy

www.marysmercycenter.org

June 12, 2017

Immaculata Fraternity Secular Franciscan Order

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your donation dated 5/4/2017, via check # 756 in the amount of \$107.65, to be used for Mary’s Mercy Center Inc/Mary’s Table (No goods or services rendered.) This letter may be used for your Tax Deduction.

June is a summer month and as such things change. There are more guests at Mary’s Table. Children are out of school and they come for lunch. The donations decrease because people think that we don’t need the money. As a matter of fact, we need donations desperately. So, hang with us through these months. You do make a difference. I am thankful to God for you. The scripture comes to mind “Well done good and faithful servant because you have been faithful to the least of my brothers, you did it to Me”.

Sincerely,

Father Michael Barry, SS.CC

President and Chairman of the Board

“...Go and find out the meaning of mercy” Mt. 9:13.

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A heresy of the times by Sr. Joan Chittiser

Today prophets of pietism tell us to “pray for peace” and “pray that God’s will be done.” And this is certainly important. But they do not demand that we ourselves do something to ensure either. Instead, the professional pietist in us acts as if the Book of Genesis, with its emphasis on personal responsibility, had never been written. We fool ourselves into believing that we are supposed to live in this world as if we were living in the next. We create a devil’s den of complacency and call it the spiritual life. We make quietism the ideal of the age.

Every era manufactures a heresy proper to the times. Quietism is ours. We call it “separation of church and state” now, but the effects are basically the same. Rather than defend the original meaning of the proposition that no single religion shall be our state religion, we misuse the concept to silence ourselves in the name of spirituality. We ignore the public arena and call ourselves “spiritual” for doing so. We silence ourselves in the name of spirituality. We remove ourselves from things that are “passing.” We aspire to “higher things” than civil justice or care for the oppressed. We forgive ourselves our disinterest in the questions of our age on the grounds that those things have nothing to do with being Christian. Only the laws and the customs have something to do with being Christian, we argue, not the gospel.

If there is a major problem in spirituality today, it may be that we do not do enough to form Christians for resistance to evil. We form them for patient endurance and for civil conformity. We form them to be “good” but not necessarily to be “holy.” In the doing of it, we make compliant Christians rather than courageous ones, as if bearing evil were more important than confronting it. We go on separating life into parts, one spiritual, one not.

This tension between what is profane and what is spiritual makes all the difference between a holy life and a pious life. The pious life seeks spiritual consolation, a kind of otherworldly disinterest in the secular city. The holy life, if Jesus is any model at all, understands that one without the other is bogus. To be holy on earth we must pursue spiritual fulfillment in the midst of the sacred secular. This awareness of the prophetic power of the spiritual brought me face-to-face with the need to come to grips with a spirituality of resistance. It is, I decided, the relationship between power and justice that makes all the difference between seeking the kingdom of God and seeking spiritual self-satisfaction.

(Submitted by Ray Hardwick, OFS)

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**Here are some really good quotes
Presented to you from Ray Hardwick OFS:**

Doris “Granny D” Haddock ~~

Most people are worth knowing, if you will take time to understand them. Unfamiliarity with other people, ignorance of other people, is what makes war possible and violence possible, and it drives all the social divisions in a school or in a town, nation, or world. When you understand people well enough, you can’t help but love them, even if you hate them too. If you think those are incompatible emotions, I remind you to think about your relationship with almost any close family member. Understanding people is indeed loving them...Hatred is what we feel when we do not understand. Are there some people so over the top with their evil deeds that they do not qualify for this sweeping statement? Some people may take more understanding than we are capable of possessing.

Mahatma Gandhi ~~

Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one’s weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart.

Christoph Friedrich Blumhardt ~~

Fallen human beings lie in the dirt – yet they are precious stones. A diamond that lies in the dirt cannot glitter. But because it is a jewel, it cannot be spoiled by the dirt. It can be picked up and polished again and sparkle as before. Therefore, when you encounter those who are lying in the dirt, don’t think that they are rotten. It is a crime against God’s love to think of anybody as being lost or bad. What God has created is never bad.

Flannery O’Connor ~~

When we get our spiritual houses in order, we’ll be dead. This goes on. You arrive at enough certainty to be able to make your way, but it is making it in darkness. Don’t expect faith to clear things up for you. It is trust, not certainty.

Unknown Author ~~

When you agree to live simply, you can understand what Francis meant when he said, “A brother has not given up all things if he holds onto the purse of his own opinions.” Most of us find out that this purse is far more dangerous and disguised than a money purse, and we seldom let go of.

Basil the Great ~~

When someone strips another of his clothes, he is called a thief. Should not someone who has the power to clothe the naked but does not do so be called the same? The bread in your larder belongs to the hungry. The cloak in your wardrobe belongs to the naked. The shoes you allow to rot belong to the barefoot. The money in your vaults belongs to the destitute. You do injustice to everyone who you could help but do not.

(All Submitted by Ray Hardwick, OFS)

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***(From the Word Among Us Catholic Magazine –
Daily Meditations for July/August, 2017)***

Monday, July 17

Matthew 10:34 – 11:1

Whoever receives you receives me (Matthew 10:40)

Stop a moment and let this one truth sink in: you are an ambassador for Christ. When someone meets you, they come into contact with Jesus.

As humbling as this truth can be, there is another, equally humbling truth connected to it: Jesus also comes to you in the people you meet every day—all of them. You may already expect him to break into your life through friends or family. But that’s not enough for him. He loves you so much that he reaches out to you through every interaction you have. He is there in the “everyday” people you encounter, like the cashier at the grocery store or the receptionist at your doctor’s office. He is there in the people you’ve never met before, like that new neighbor down the street or the person in the car behind you at the gas station. He is even there in the people you don’t get along with so well. So how will you receive them?

Welcoming Jesus doesn’t mean you have to invite every person you meet out for coffee or home for dinner. It just means paying attention. It means trying to be open and courteous to the people you encounter during the day. It means putting aside whatever first impressions you may have and listening carefully to what they have to say. And in the

case of someone who rubs you the wrong way, it means at least being willing to be willing to accept them.

One of the best places this can happen is at church. Even though we have a common faith, we don't all have common opinions. You may run into someone at Mass who doesn't share your political views. Or someone who never seems to smile at anyone. Or someone who dresses differently than you do. If you find yourself feeling uncomfortable around someone, take a deep breath and try to listen. Ask Jesus what he is saying to you through them. If you feel uncomfortable or awkward when you meet a new parishioner—especially someone who seems different from you—relax and let Jesus surprise you. Never forget that Jesus enjoys catching his people off guard and speaking to them through “unlikely” messengers.

“Jesus, I want to see you in the people I meet today. Open my heart so that I don't shut anyone out.”

- Exodus 1:8-14, 22
- Psalm 124:1-8

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(From the Word Among Us Catholic Magazine – Daily Meditations for July/August, 2017)

**Saturday, July 22
Saint Mary Magdalene (Feast)
John 20:1-2, 11-18**

I have seen the Lord. (John 20:18)

Mary Magdalene, whose feast we celebrate today, was a close follower of the Lord—and for good reason. Jesus had delivered her from not one, but seven, demons! In gratitude for her healing, she joined the band of women who helped provide for Jesus on his journey from Galilee to Jerusalem (Luke 8:2-3). Imagine how she must have felt seeing him perform miracles and hearing him preach every day. Imagine too the degree of loyalty it took for Mary to stand by his cross on Good Friday. Most of the other disciples had fled in fear at his arrest, but she stood by him, a true disciple to the end (John 19:25).

Mary's devotion continued even after Jesus died. While everyone else remained hidden, she went to the tomb to perform one last act of love: to anoint his body according to Jewish tradition. She was grief-stricken, but she wanted to honor the memory of all Jesus had done for her. Then her sorrow was turned into joy when she discovered, first, an empty tomb, and then, Jesus, risen from the dead!

Calling her by name, Jesus freed Mary again—this time from grief. He revived her with a single word, “Mary.” Her single-word reply, “Rabboni,” contained not only relief and joy but also a pledge of undying faith.

Jesus is full of surprises, isn't he? He first appeared, not to the rulers of Israel and not to the twelve apostles, but to a woman with a troubled past. He chose her as the first witness of the resurrection, the one who would have the honor of being the “apostle to the apostles.” He chose someone unexpected, someone many would have disregarded, for one of the greatest honors of history.

Whatever bondage Mary had suffered and whatever sins she may have committed, none of this disqualified her in Jesus' eyes. You aren't disqualified either, whether by your past sins or your current weaknesses. After all, this is why Jesus came: to free us from everything that binds us and to fill us with joy. He calls us each by name and seeks to fill us with hope so that we, too, can become his witnesses.

“Jesus, you are my hope! My heart rejoices at the sound of your voice. Make me a witness of your resurrection.”

- Exodus 12:37-42
- Psalm 136:1, 23-24, 10-15

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Secular Franciscan Saint/Blessed of the Month Club:

(Catholic saints are holy people and human people who lived extraordinary lives. Each saint the Church honors responded to God's invitation to use his or her unique gifts.

God calls each one of us to be a saint.)



**St Louis IX of France, king, confessor, 1270, Patron of the SFO
August 25th
Reign: 8 November 1226 – 25 August 1270
Coronation: 29 November 1226 in Reims Cathedral
Patronage: France, French monarchy, Third Order of St. Francis,
Archdiocese of New Orleans, Roman Catholic Diocese of**

Port-Louis, hairdressers, lace makers.

Louis IX (25 April 1214 – 25 August 1270), commonly known as **Saint Louis**, was King of France and a canonized saint. Louis was crowned in Reims at the age of 12, following the death of his father Louis VIII the Lion, although his mother, Blanche of Castile, ruled the kingdom until he reached maturity. During Louis's childhood, Blanche dealt with the opposition of rebellious vassals and put an end to the Albigensian crusade which had started 20 years earlier.

As an adult, Louis IX faced recurring conflicts with some of the most powerful nobles, such as Hugh X of Lusignan and Peter of Dreux. Simultaneously, Henry III of England tried to restore his continental possessions, but was defeated at the battle of Taillebourg. His reign saw the annexation of several provinces, notably Normandy, Maine and Provence.

Louis IX was a reformer and developed French royal justice, in which the king is the supreme judge to whom anyone is able to appeal to seek the amendment of a judgment. He banned trials by ordeal, tried to prevent the private wars that were plaguing the country and introduced the presumption of innocence in criminal procedure. To enforce the correct application of this new legal system, Louis IX created provosts and bailiffs.

According to his vow made after a serious illness, and confirmed after a miraculous cure, Louis IX took an active part in the Seventh and Eighth Crusade in which he died from dysentery. He was succeeded by his son Philip III.

Louis's actions were inspired by Christian values and Catholic devotion. He decided to punish blasphemy, gambling, interest-bearing loans and prostitution, and bought presumed relics of Christ for which he built the Sainte-Chapelle. He also expanded the scope of the Inquisition and ordered the burning of Talmuds. He is the only canonized king of France, and there are consequently many places named after him.

The perception of Louis IX as the exemplary Christian prince was reinforced by his religious zeal. Louis was a devout Catholic, and he built the *Sainte-Chapelle* ("Holy Chapel"),

located within the royal palace complex (now the Paris Hall of Justice), on the *Île de la Cité* in the centre of Paris. The *Sainte Chapelle*, a perfect example of the Rayonnant style of Gothic architecture, was erected as a shrine for what he believed to be the Crown of Thorns and a fragment of the True Cross, supposed precious relics of the Passion of Jesus. Louis purchased these in 1239–41 from Emperor Baldwin II of the Latin Empire of Constantinople, for the exorbitant sum of 135,000 livres (the construction of the chapel, for comparison, cost only 60,000 livres).

Louis IX took very seriously his mission as "lieutenant of God on Earth", with which he had been invested when he was crowned in Reims. To fulfill his duty, he conducted two crusades, and even though they were unsuccessful, they contributed to his prestige. Everything he did was for the glory of God and for the good of his people. He protected the poor and was never heard speak ill of anyone. He excelled in penance and had a great love for the Church. He was merciful even to rebels. When he was urged to put to death a prince who had followed his father in rebellion, he refused, saying:

"A son cannot refuse to obey his father."



(Hair shirt and scourge of Louis IX. Treasury of Notre-Dame de Paris.)

In 1230 the King forbade all forms of usury, defined at

the time as any taking of interest. Where the original Jewish and Lombard borrowers could not be found, Louis exacted from the lenders a contribution towards the crusade which Pope Gregory was then trying to launch. Louis also ordered, at the urging of Pope Gregory IX, the burning in Paris in 1243 of some 12,000 manuscript copies of the Talmud and other Jewish books. Eventually, the edict against the Talmud was overturned by Gregory IX's successor, Innocent IV.

In addition to Louis' legislation against usury, he expanded the scope of the Inquisition in France. The area most affected by this expansion was southern France where the Cathar heresy had been strongest. The rate of these confiscations reached its highest levels in the years before his first crusade, and slowed upon his return to France in 1254. In 1250, he headed a crusade, but was taken prisoner. During his captivity, he recited the Divine Office every day. After his release, he visited the Holy Land before returning to France. In all these deeds, Louis IX tried to fulfill the duty of France, which was seen as "the eldest daughter of the Church" (*la fille aînée de l'Église*), a tradition of protector of the Church going back to the Franks and Charlemagne, who had been crowned by the Pope Leo III in Rome in 800. Indeed, the official Latin title of the kings of France was *Rex Francorum*, i.e. "king of the Franks" (until Louis' grandfather's reign, Philip II whose seal reads *Rex Franciae*, i.e. "king of France"), and the kings of France were also known by the title "most Christian king" (*Rex Christianissimus*). The relationship between France and the papacy was at its peak in the 12th and 13th centuries, and most of the crusades were actually called by the popes from

French soil. Eventually, in 1309, Pope Clement V even left Rome and relocated to the French city of Avignon, beginning the era known as the Avignon Papacy (or, more disparagingly, the "Babylonian captivity").

He was renowned for his charity. Beggars were fed from his table, he ate their leavings, washed their feet, ministered to the wants of the lepers, and daily fed over one hundred poor. He founded many hospitals and houses: the House of the Filles-Dieu for reformed prostitutes; the Quinze-Vingt for 300 blind men (1254), hospitals at Pontoise, Vernon, Compiègne.

St. Louis installed a house of the Trinitarian Order in his château of Fontainebleau. He chose Trinitarians as his chaplains, and was accompanied by them on his crusades. In his spiritual testament, he wrote: "My dearest son, you should permit yourself to be tormented by every kind of martyrdom before you would allow yourself to commit a mortal sin."

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Please keep in your prayers:

(If you are in need of prayers, please email me at lisa.sfo@att.net and I'll add your intentions to our list below:)

and please add to your Prayer Tree List the following:

Georgia Zepek writes: My mom (Ruthie King) is not doing very well. We almost lost her last week due to dehydration at the convalescent home she is in. We are trying to move her to a better home. Ruthie has dementia. Georgia's father (Bill) is not doing very well either. Please continue to keep them in your prayers. God Bless You, Georgia

Bruce McAdams is due for back surgery beginning of August. Please pray for him.

Please add Tiffany Maskew to our prayer list. She is only thirty years old and she had a stroke.

Thanks, Carol

Please continue to pray for Ken Wilde for emotional reasons and migraines and pneumonia. (Ken is very lonely! He would like his fraternity brothers and sisters to call him or come by to visit if they can, but please call him first.

Please continue to keep Jo-Ann Hardwick in your prayers & Ray who has a lot of pain in his knees, lower back and hip.

Donna Baylor asked for prayers for her daughter Beth Baylor, who suffers from paranoia. And please keep Donna in your prayers also.

Please pray for Sekoiya Spencer's sons Darius and Jason.

Please continue to pray for Lorraine, who just had successful heart surgery and is home & Lorraine's beau Edward Watkins, still recovering from pneumonia, but is now home.

Please continue to pray for David Burrola and Aarne Lozano. Aarne's house went to auction May 18th.

Please continue to pray for MaryBelle Neufell. MaryBelle is very frail and weak, but she feels each and every prayer prayed for her.

Please continue to pray for Stella Pacifica Caywood's sons Mark and Paul. Mark has Cirrhosis of the liver stage 4.

And please continue to pray for George & Barbara Molchan.

Please pray for all those unemployed in our fraternity who are looking for a job, along with those who have lost their healthcare coverage. And who are in great financial problems due to being unemployed or other problems.

And please continue to keep your Fraternity brothers and sisters in your prayers along with their intentions.

AND ... Have you hugged & prayed for your Franciscan Prayer Partner lately?

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**Here is the schedule for our PB&J Brigade for 2017...
all are on Thursdays @ 4:00 pm....
Aug 10th, Sept 7th, Oct 5th, Nov 9th, Dec 7th.
(Yes! your calendar eagerly awaits this information!)**

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**Do you know what our Region's website is?
<http://www.stfrancisregion.org/>
Check it out sometime!**

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***(He who sings well, prays twice! ~ St. Augustine)
In honor of The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary:
Psalm 45: The Queen Stands***

Refrain: The queen stands at your right hand,
arrayed in gold.

Verse 1: The queen takes her place at your right hand
in gold of Ophir

Refrain: The queen stands at your right hand,
arrayed in gold.

Verse 2: Hear, O daughter and see; turn your ear,
forget your people and your father's house.

Refrain: The queen stands at your right hand,
arrayed in gold.

Verse 3: So shall the king desire your beauty;
for he is your lord.

Refrain: The queen stands at your right hand,
arrayed in gold.

Verse 4: They are borne in with gladness,
borne in with joy; they enter the palace of the king.

Refrain: The queen stands at your right hand,
arrayed in gold.

by Kevin Keil. Text: Psalm 45:10, 11, 12, 16. Refrain text © 1969, 1981, ICEL. All rights reserved. Music © 1993, Cooperative Music Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. Exclusive agent: OCP.

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***(From the Word Among Us Catholic Magazine –
Daily Meditations for July/August, 2017)
Saturday, July 15***

**Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
(Memorial)**

Matthew 10:24-33

You are worth more than many sparrows. (Matthew 10:31)

“God loves me.” That’s an easy thing for most of us to say. In fact, we probably say it or hear it so many times that it has lost some of its power. But the fact is that God treasures you. He enjoys you. He appreciates your unique personality, everything that makes you who you are. He even enjoys your quirks and idiosyncrasies. In other words, he likes you!

God has given you a unique set of gifts and talents, and he has fashioned a plan for your life that is designed to make the most of them. This means that you are not an afterthought. You matter, both to the people around you and even more so to the Lord. Or as Jesus put it, “You are worth more than many sparrows” (Matthew 10:31).

God never gets tired of being with you either. He enjoys hearing your concerns and sharing his words of wisdom, insight, and love with you. He never tires of telling you all the ways he is pleased with you—even if he has to correct you from time to time.

These are all very comforting statements, but even they can sound as theoretical as “God loves me.” So how can we make sure we can hear them in a fresh, new way?

Try this: take just three verses from today’s Gospel reading—Matthew 10:24-33—and read them slowly and prayerfully. Read them a few times so that the words sink in. If it helps, imagine Jesus sitting across from you and saying them directly to you. Linger on them, and see what senses you feel in your heart. See if any words bubble up in you—words of encouragement, affirmation, hope, and guidance. This could well be God speaking to you.

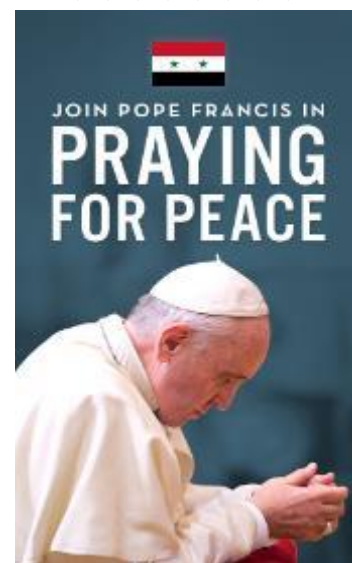
You are important to the Lord. He loves you—he likes you! Keep these truths in the forefront of your mind, and watch to see how they set you free from worry and anxiety. Almighty God treasures you and wants to speak to you. He has so much to tell you. Take the time to listen.

“Jesus, thank you for your friendship. I don’t want to miss a single word you have to say to me.”

➤ **Genesis 49:29-32; 50:15-26**

Psalm 105:1-4, 6-7

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