



Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis

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Fraternity Reflections

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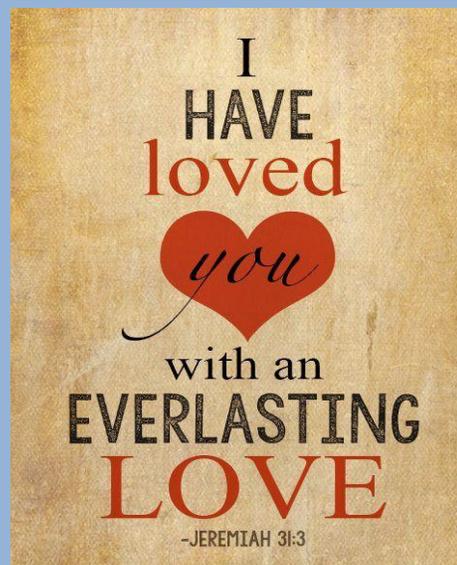
Fraternity meets first Sunday of the Month, 2:00pm to 4:00pm, Good Shepherd, 1000 Tinker Rd., Colleyville, Texas 76034
Inquirer/Candidate Formation class meets just before Fraternity meeting, 12:00pm to 1:30pm, at Good Shepherd

Immaculata Fraternity is a local fraternity of the Three Companions Region – www.lostrescompaneros.org

IMMACULATA FRATERNITY, OFS

February, 2019

VOL X ISSUE II



220 God’s love is “everlasting”:⁴¹ “For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you.”⁴² Through Jeremiah, God declares to his people, “I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.”⁴³

Catholic Catechism



1000 Tinker Rd
Colleyville, Texas 76034

FRATERNITY NEWS

At our January Meeting...

“Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon. Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others.” ~ Article 19 of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

Sunday, January 6 at the Regular Meeting of the Fraternity, Vice Minister Brad Toups and Jacqueline Chirunga, the Fraternity’s JPIC representative, led the Formation portion of the monthly meeting. They provided an in-depth discussion on the National Secular Franciscan commission on Justice, Peace and Integrity of Commission (JPIC).



They explained the mission of JPIC as being designed to assist the professed members of the organization with their ongoing conversion of living the gospels. “Who am I God and what do you think of me?”

Would you like to learn more about JPIC?

Come and see!

Secular Franciscan The way of Life



Immaculata Fraternity meets the [First Sunday](#) of every month at 2:00pm in the Saint Francis/Saint Clare room at Good Shepherd in Colleyville. We welcome you to come and join us for prayer, formation and fellowship!

Immaculata Fraternity

Come and see!

Every first Sunday, 2:00PM

Feb. 3

March 3

April 7

Good Shepherd Catholic Community
1000 Tinker Rd.
Colleyville, TX 76034



“Love goes beyond all else in expressing our gospel way of life”

By: Carol Lieser

February 2019 Immaculata OFS Minister's Letter to the Fraternity

Although the mid-February holiday of St. Valentine's Day celebrating love and lovers remains wildly popular, the confusion over its origins led the Catholic Church, in 1969, to drop Saint Valentine's Day from the Roman calendar of official, worldwide Catholic feasts. Still, many take time to share dinner, cards, flowers, candy and other gifts as symbols of our love on February 14. Such celebrations allow us a chance to acknowledge with action our love for another. But have we paused to consider, what is love and what type of love are we professing with such acts?

We know that the definition of love could fall into any of the four main themes of love found in the Bible: that is romantic love (*eros*), family love (*storge*) brotherly love (*philia*), and God's divine love (*Agape*). Indeed all of these forms of love are a part of the world, in which we Secular Franciscans live.

Are you able to define each of these types of love? *Eros love*, seen vividly in the Song of Solomon, refers to romantic and erotic love, intended in marriage between the married couple. *Storge love* describes family love, the affectionate bond that develops naturally between parents and children, and brothers and sisters. Many examples of family love are found in Scripture, such as the mutual protection among Noah and his wife, the love of Jacob for his sons, and the strong love the sisters Martha and Mary had for their brother Lazarus. *Philia love* is the most general type of love in Scripture, encompassing love for fellow humans, care, respect, and compassion for people in need. The concept of brotherly love that unites believers is unique to Christianity. Jesus said *philia* would be an identifier of his followers: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." *Agape love* is the highest of the four types of love in the Bible. This term defines God's immeasurable, incomparable love for humankind. It is the divine love that comes from God. *Agape love* is perfect, unconditional, sacrificial, and pure. Jesus demonstrated this kind of divine love to his Father and to all humanity in the way he lived

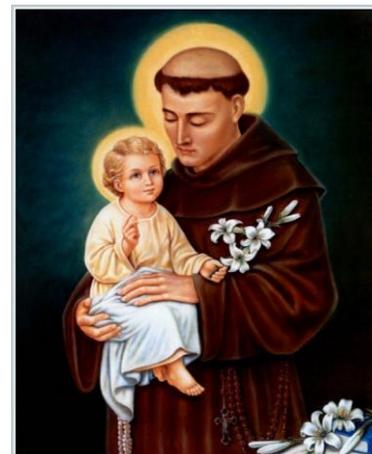
GOD IS LOVE

221 But St. John goes even further when he affirms that "God is love":⁴⁴ God's very being is love. By sending his only Son and the Spirit of Love in the fullness of time, God has revealed his innermost secret:⁴⁵ God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and he has destined us to share in that exchange.

and died. Following his resurrection, Jesus asked the apostle Peter if he loved him (*agape*). Peter replied three times that he did, but the word he used was *philia* or brotherly love. Peter had not yet received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost when Christ asked him this. At that time, he was incapable of *agape* love. But after Pentecost, Peter was so full of God's love that he spoke from his heart and 3,000 people were converted.

We are meant to experience each form of love, depending on our state in life. These types of love weave into our Franciscan vocations. Let us recall that Franciscan spirituality is simply to "observe the Gospel." The core of the gospel message is "to love one another as God has loved us." There is a spirituality intended for lay people, as contrasted with that of priests; a lay spirituality is properly more concerned with activities that come from our prayer

(continued next page)



“Love goes beyond all else...” continued)

life rather than performing the business of the church and liturgical rituals, as the priest is called to do. We are active-contemplatives by our profession into the Secular Franciscan Order. We are called to love one another and all of creation. Words are easy. Action is hard. But it's action, not intention, which writes the human story. Human history — is a record of the encounter between character and circumstance. Life is the crucible where we discover what we really believe: as opposed to what we *say* we believe. And the result is our story, our history. The Acts of the Apostles is our earliest history as a believing people. It's a record of the encounter between the character of men and women on fire with God, and the circumstances of an unbelieving world. It's a story of action. In fact, that's the only reason we have any story to tell. The Apostles acted on the life of Jesus Christ. They witnessed and taught His Gospel and they traveled all over the Mediterranean world to do it.

The point is, Christian love is an active verb. The believer is attentive to God, receptive to God — but never passive. One of the great sources of confusion in the world today, and even in the Church, is the way we so easily diminish love by mistaking it for a warm set of feelings. Those feelings are wonderful when they occur, but they're also unreliable. They can even be misleading. Real love is not something we consume like an entertainment or a drug. It's something we co-create with God. It involves the will. It involves choosing to do a right action — a selfless action — and then actually doing it. That's what changes human hearts. In the long run, people remember what we do, a lot more clearly than anything we say. The Apostles preached first with their lives, then with their words. People love well because of the Gospel...only then will people begin to listen to what we say about the Gospel.

Love is outwardly focused. We love for the sake of others. It's also radical — we don't consume it; love consumes us. Jesus was the most radical lover of all. He emptied Himself of His own life completely. And He tells us in the Gospel that we can't be fruitful unless we do the same. “Love one another as I have loved you.”

Love is also personal, because it is lived not primarily in ideas or programs or structures, but in the flesh-and-blood relationships of daily life, between God and creature, friend and friend. In other words, real love always has a face. It's never a theory. Endorsing the ethical message of

Christianity — or even this or that particular theology — doesn't make you a Christian. The Pharisee Christians in the Bible missed the whole point of the Gospel. Their faith was from the intellect — not from the heart or the soul — and so it became a kind of weapon, a tool to divide. Jesus, on the other hand, could teach so powerfully because He loved so deeply and so well. People met the person of Jesus Christ, and their lives changed. That's what being a Christian means. A Christian is a follower of Jesus Christ. And you only follow someone you've personally met. Someone you know and trust and love.

Love also has a cost. “Greater love has no man than this: that a man lay down his life for his friends.” Love always involves personal sacrifice. You may not be called upon to give your life for someone. But we're all called to live our lives for others. And of course dying to our pride, and to our desire to control others, can be just as intense as real, physical pain.

This year as we celebrate St. Valentine's Day, be sure to acknowledge the powerful meanings of love and what you intend your actions to convey to others. As we express love to others, let us remind ourselves that love is an excellent way of spreading the Gospel.

Lord,
I invite your Spirit to guide me into your way,
into your love.
I will try to follow you all the days of my life.
Amen.

Blessed Virgin Mary, pray for us!
St. Francis of Assisi, pray for us!

Peace and All Good,
Carol Lieser
Minister, Immaculata Fraternity, OFS

Excerpts/ideas for this letter came from Sacred Scriptures; The Admonitions of St. Francis of Assisi; Franciscan Media; Franciscan University; thoughtco.com; Fr. Murray Bodo, OFM; Leonard Foley, OFM; Jovian Weigle, OFM, and Dawn Nothwehr, OSF





Pope Francis'

MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTIONS

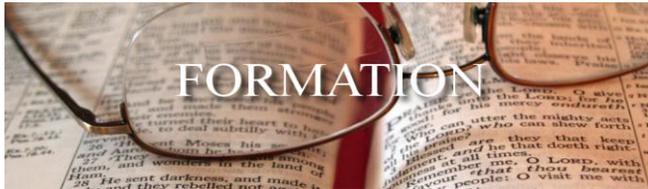
February

Human Trafficking

For a generous welcome of the victims of human trafficking, of enforced prostitution, and of violence.

We also pray for

Ann Falgout, OFS; Mary Jo McCoy, OFS; Judy Bonifort, Trenton Forrest Becan, Fr. Joe Janiszeski, T.O.R.; Catherine Khaled, OFS; Ann Falgout, OFS, Laura Lieser, Joseph, Joycelyn Rose Molidor, Spelile, and for all special intentions.



Lesson 2

Catechism of the Catholic Church

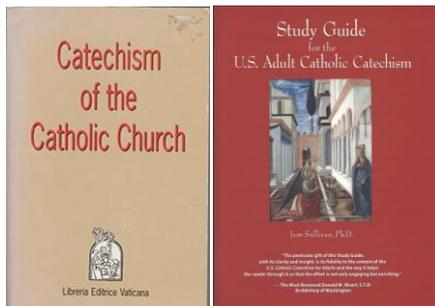
CCC 1728 - 2082

Man's Freedom (Morals)

Study Guide

pp. 67-69. Chapter 24

Life in Christ, Part Two



Fraternity Happenings

Down the Road!

Feb. 3 Fraternity Meeting

March 3 Fraternity Meeting

March 6 Ash Wednesday

April 7 Fraternity Meeting

February Feast Days

1. Saint Ansgar
2. Presentation of the Lord
3. Saint Blaise
4. Saint Joseph of Leonissa
5. Saint Agatha
6. Saint Paul Miki and Companions
7. Saint Colette
8. Saint Josephine Bakhita
9. Saint Jerome Emiliani
10. Saint Scholastica
11. Our Lady of Lourdes
12. Saint Apollonia
13. Saint Giles Mary of Saint Joseph
14. Saints Cyril and Methodius
15. Saint Claude de la Colombière
16. Saint Gilbert of Sempringham
17. Seven Founders of the Servite Order
18. Blessed John of Fiesole
19. Saint Conrad of Piacenza
20. Saints Jacinta and Francisco Marto
21. Saint Peter Damian
22. Chair of Saint Peter
23. Saint Polycarp
24. Blessed Luke Belludi
25. Blessed Sebastian of Aparicio
26. Saint Maria Bertilla Boscardin
27. Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows
28. Blessed Daniel Brottier

For those of you reading this addition of *Fraternity Reflections* on our webpage or through Facebook, and feel called to the Franciscan way, please contact us at: secularfranciscans@gsc.net and we'll be glad to direct you in the best possible way, rather it be in the Order of Secular Franciscans or in a Franciscan Religious Vocation. We'd also invite you to come to the Immaculata Fraternity meetings *Please Note: In discerning a life with us, you must be a member of the Catholic Church in good standing and in a spirit of unity.*

We look forward to meeting you!

The Canticle of Brother Sun

By Saint Francis of Assisi

Most high, all-powerful, all good, Lord!
All praise is yours, all glory, all honor
And all blessing.
To you alone, Most High, do they belong.
No mortal lips are worthy
To pronounce your name.
All praise be yours, my Lord, through all that you have made,
And first my lord Brother Sun,
Who brings the day; and light you give to us through him.
How beautiful is he, how radiant in all his splendor!
Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.
All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Moon and Stars;
In the heavens you have made them, bright
And precious and fair.
All praise be yours, My Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air,
And fair and stormy, all the weather's moods,
By which you cherish all that you have made.
All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Water,
So useful, lowly, precious and pure.
All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
Through whom you brighten up the night.
How beautiful is he, how gay! Full of power and strength.
All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Earth, our mother,
Who feeds us in her sovereignty and produces
Various fruits with colored flowers and herbs.
All praise be yours, my Lord, through those who grant pardon
For love of you; through those who endure
Sickness and trial.
Happy those who endure in peace,
By you, Most High, they will be crowned.
All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Death,
From whose embrace no mortal can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin!
Happy those She finds doing your will!
The second death can do no harm to them.
Praise and bless my Lord, and give him thanks,
And serve him with great humility.