



Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis

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Fraternity Reflections

Minister: Carol Lieser, OFS

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Treasurer: Charles "Chuck" Lieser, OFS

Vice Minister: Brad Toups, OFS

Secretary: Mary Dang, OFS

Spiritual Assistant: Fr. John Mark Klaus, T.O.R.

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

March, 2019

VOL X ISSUE III

Repentant
Reconciled
Renewed

“...return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord, your God.”

Joel 2:12

Immaculata
Fraternity OFS

1000 Tinker Rd
Colleyville, Texas 76034

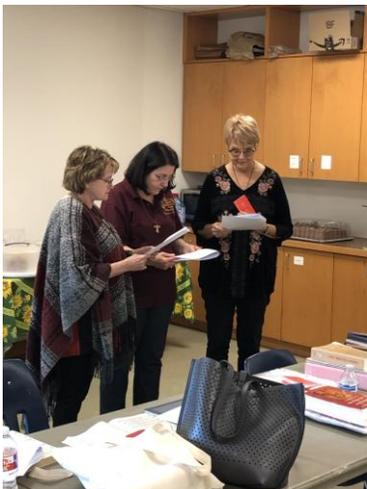
FRATERNITY NEWS

At our February Meeting...

Sunday, February 3, the Regular Meeting of the Immaculata Fraternity was called to order with 20 in attendance. The Council presented their reports and announcements were made about the upcoming Lent Retreat which will be held at Good Shepherd on Saturday, April 13 (9:30-2:00) and led by Deacon Craig McAlister (see attached flyer).

Teresa led the fraternity in Formation from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) on sections 1728-2082. We had a lively lesson on Venial and Mortal Sins

Our Evening Prayer consisted of the Rite of Admission for Maryann Sherman.



Congratulations Maryann!

The Rite of Admissions commemorates the second step of formation, the period of Candidacy, where she will continue learning and discerning her call into the Secular Franciscan Order for the next 18 to 36 months. At our March 3 meeting we will be welcoming Sabrina with her Rite of Admission also as a Candidate.

Would you like to learn more about Secular Franciscans?

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

March 3

April 7

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



**THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE
AND RECONCILIATION**

1422 “Those who approach the sacrament of Penance obtain pardon from God’s mercy for the offense committed against him, and are, at the same time, reconciled with the Church which they have wounded by their sins and which by charity, by example, and by prayer labors for their conversion.”⁴

**How to Make Your Lent
Commitment a Daily Habit:**

1. Write it down! Invest in a writing tablet/journal. Make a note each day of your Lent promise.
2. Set a time for your promise! Prayer, good works, Mass, set date for your commitment and stick with it!
3. Send yourself a reminder. Note or call from a friend, have something or someone to remind you of your Lent commitment.
4. Start small. Set yourself a minimum to meet each day. The Holy Spirit will guide you to do more.
5. Count it all joy! If you get bored reading Leviticus, skip it and move to psalms. Remember #2.
6. Lay out your gear. If possible, set up a designated area for prayer/reading. Invest in a Rosary to keep in your pocket or download the app to have your prayers readily accessible.
7. Just do it. Standing in line? Sitting in traffic? That’s a good time to say a quick Hail Mary or Glory Be.
8. Mix it up. The more you keep your commitment, the easier for the Holy Spirit to point you to service.
9. Remember to prepare for Easter!
10. Pax et bonum!

**WHAT COULD A
SECULAR FRANCISCAN
DO TO CELEBRATE
LENT?**

With Lent almost here, this is a good time for us to think about what Lent means to us as a member of the Immaculata fraternity. Every year we are in a different place in our faith, hopefully further along in holiness this year than last.

The staples of Lent are **Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving**. We could ask ourselves, how are we going to spiritually move further in these areas this Lent? It is good to set goals at the beginning of Lent in each of these areas to hold us accountable during these six weeks. Lent is not always about giving something up, but giving more of ourselves to grow closer to God.

The goals we set should be manageable. Perhaps the goals could be as simple as **praying** a little more, coming to daily Mass if possible, going to Friday Stations of the Cross, reading a spiritual book, going to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament or doing the Lenten OFS Retreat on April 13.

There are many ways of **fasting** that does not involve food, like fasting from criticism or negativity, gossip or fasting from a bad habit.

Almsgiving could be giving more generously of our time and talent in our parish or helping others.

Lent is a time for us Franciscans to strive for holiness. Let us use the three staples of Lent as our guide, to not only prepare ourselves for Easter, but in helping others and ourselves to feel God’s love and presence more fully through our Lenten sacrifices.

May you all have a Blessed and Happy Lent.

Fr. John Mark Klaus, T.O.R.

God loves us!

Ash Wednesday and the start of the Lenten season occur this month. I have always enjoyed the Lenten season for its call to an increase of prayer and reflection. For me, Lent is an oasis, in which I allow time to focus on my spiritual journey. As I try to put away the noise of many daily activities, this dedication to increased prayer and fasting are a blessing to me. I like the words of Richard Foster who wrote in his book, *Celebration of Discipline*: “More than any other discipline, fasting reveals the things that control us. This is a wonderful benefit to the true disciple who longs to be transformed into the image of Jesus Christ. as we see that we cover up what is inside of us with food and other things.” And in Psalms 63:4-5 we read: “I will praise you as long as I live, lifting up my hands to you in prayer. You satisfy me more than the richest feast.” Psalm 63:4-5

Reflecting on these ideas, we Franciscans need to recognize and to include our own specific spirituality in this liturgical season. We are known as people of joy and hope. Our joy and hope are rooted in how much God loves us and cares for us. Traditionally, our Church prays at the Easter Vigil mass the *Exaltet*. This beautiful proclamation sung only once a year in the Easter season, starts like this: “O happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam. which gained for us so great a Redeemer!” As beautiful as this is, recall that Franciscans have a different view of that original sin. As one OFM priest recently wrote to me: ‘the Franciscan tradition says the Incarnation would have happened even if Adam and Eve had not sinned – it happened because God fell head over heels in love with us’ (based on the philosophy of John Duns Scotus). God is a “fountain of fullness” (think geyser) of self-expressive love (Bonaventure). Even without that original sin, Christ would have come to earth. We must be overwhelmed with the powerful thought that Our heavenly Father has such great love for us that He desires and plans to be with us no matter what we do. He is ever present, ever caring and ever merciful out of the abundance of His love.

Seeking to purify ourselves and our relationship with God through prayer and fasting, we deepen our understanding of the gift of our

spirituality. Through this lens, we might see the divine mercy of God in a different light. The greatest hope of Lent is the discovery that it is not only about penance, deprivation, spiritual struggles, and rooting out sin in our lives. Those are often the things we do during Lent. The hope of Lent lies in what God does for us.

As St. Francis wrote in the Admonitions: “And those people are brought to life by the spirit of the divine letter who do not attribute all they know, or wish to know, to the body but, by word and example, return to the most high Lord God to Whom every good belongs” (Admonition VII). How Good is our God; how Good He created us to be. Let us rejoice in His care. Let us strive to increase our desire for Good. Let us increase our realization of that Good which He has provided to us and that Good we are capable of doing in response to His love for us.

Peace and All Good, Brothers and Sisters! May you have a blessed Lenten season!
St. Francis of Assisi, Pray for us.
Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us.

Carol Lieser OFS

Minister, Immaculata

Be Merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

A clean heart create for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.
Cast me not from our presence,
and your Holy Spirit take not from me.
Give me back the joy of your salvation,
and a willing spirit sustain in me.
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Psalms 51:12-13; 14 and 17





Pope Francis'

MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTIONS

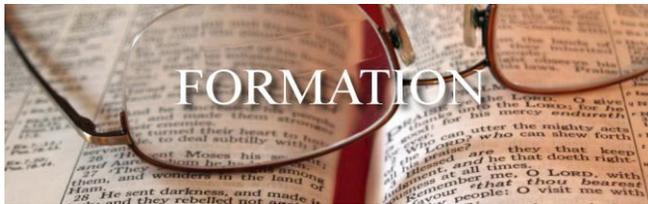
MARCH

Recognition of the Right of Christian Communities

That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

We also pray for

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



Lesson 3

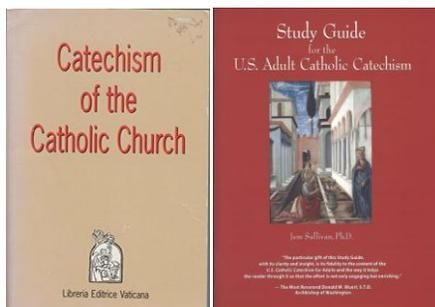
THE HUMAN COMMUNITY

Catechism of the Catholic Church

1877-2082

Study Guide

Pgs. 68-4; 69-5



Fraternity Happenings

Down the Road!

March 3 Fraternity Meeting

March 6 Ash Wednesday

April 7 Fraternity Meeting

April 13 Lent Retreat

March Feast Days

1. Saint David of Wales
2. Saint Agnes of Bohemia
3. Saint Katharine Drexel
4. Saint Casimir
5. Saint John Joseph of the Cross
6. Saint Mary Ann of Jesus of Paredes
7. Saints Perpetua and Felicity
8. Saint John of God
9. Saint Frances of Rome
10. Saint Dominic Savio
11. Saint John Ogilvie
12. Blessed Angela Salawa
13. Saint Leander of Seville
14. Saint Maximilian
15. Saint Louise de Marillac
16. Saint Clement Mary Hofbauer
17. Saint Patrick
18. Saint Cyril of Jerusalem
19. Saint Joseph, Husband of Mary
20. Saint Salvator of Horta
21. Blessed John of Parma
22. Saint Nicholas Owen
23. Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo
24. Saint Oscar Arnulfo Romero
25. Annunciation of the Lord
26. Saint Catherine of Genoa
27. Lazarus
28. Saint Catharine of Bologna
29. Saint Ludovico of Casoria
30. Saint Peter Regalado
31. Saint Stephen of Mar Saba

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: carol.lieser@gmail.com 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!



**Secular Franciscans
San Angelo Portion
Los Tres Compañeros Region**

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.” (1 Peter 5:6)

**Lenten Day of Retreat
Saturday, April 13, 2019**

Sponsored by Immaculata Fraternity

A Talk On: **Community/Fraternity**

Presented by Deacon Craig McAlister, OFS

Good Shepherd Catholic Church
1000 Tinker Road
Colleyville, TX
Room 2/3

Bring a crockpot of your favorite soup and drinks of your choice to share. We will pause for a simple lunch of soup and bread at noon.

If you have any questions, contact
Carol Lieser OFS or Mary Dang OFS
liesercarol@gmail.com or mkngoctran@yahoo.com

*No Registration fee but
Freewill Donations are gladly accepted*