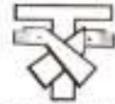




Fr. Noel Danielewicz
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Reflections and Update

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As we follow Jesus as Catholic Christians, you and I are marked by the sign of his CROSS as we try **to live** simply, **to love** generously, **to care** deeply and **to speak** kindly. As I take this time to heal and to reflect on being caught up in concern and worry over where we are at this time of the corona pandemic, I've discovered you and I are called to remain anchored in the Lord Jesus.

Since March, 2020, our lives have been altered by COVID-19. I would like to share how I was able to manage stress and anxiety as a COVID victim. Leaning on the power of prayer as a man of FAITH I had to believe in a miracle—working God. And secondly, I had to be open to the medical intervention of doctors and nurses and found the strength to weather the storm.

First, it was important for me **“to stay informed”** about the understanding of this deadly virus that was attacking the nations of the world with the United States being #1 with the greatest number of people infected and the highest rate of casualties. However, watching the news 24 hours a day is definitely not advisable. It would be akin to pouring gasoline of the fire.

Second, **don't isolate** yourself. As a people of Faith remain faithful to God, who has not abandoned us, but is present amid the storms of life. Be it calamities of hunger, unemployment, destitution, danger and death which are all a result of living in a broken and fractured world. Our God is near and our God is close at hand as He brings us **to raise our hands in prayer**.

Third, we need to simply **“breathe.”** While hospitalized with COVID, I acquired a heart condition called A-fib. As I now deal with a shortness of breath and a fluttering heart beat, I am brought back to being mindful of my breath. Being aware that I need both oxygen and it's spiritual parallel **PRAYER**.

Yes, I too needed to be at a deeper level of prayer and conversation with God and with you. Placing myself in the presence of God and becoming distraction free, it was just “God and me.” Because God is, I am. Leaving my own fears and anxieties, my human frailty and sinfulness at the Foot of the Cross, the Lord brought me through the sea as God delivered the Hebrew children onto dry land.

During my weeks of hospitalization at St. Francis hospital, the gift of sedation served as an erasure of the entire experience—save the entering and being discharged from the intensive care unit to Piedmont Rehabilitation.

Now, I'm learning from doctors, nurses and the friars all that was happening to me during this time of surrender to God's healing hand. My recommendation to you, when you become overwhelmed by it all—look to the Cross and in the prayer-style of St. Clare, gaze on the face of Jesus where you will find comfort and god's healing compassion.

I found that my simple and humble prayer would find support from the people of God. I was amazed at the response of family, fraternity, the Church, and total strangers who were storming the heavens for this son of Francis and Clare. And when you are my age from all those who have gone before me into glory. Yes, I'm talking about the Saints—our holy ancestors, my loving parents and grandparents, friars, sisters and parishioners. However, there was more—the friars placed an article on Facebook about a sick Franciscan Priest and 20,000 hit this article. There are two monasteries of Trappist Monks from Conyers, Georgia and Spencer, MA remembering me to the Lord. From the cloistered monasteries to the friaries, convents, and family homes are at prayer. Masses were celebrated from Assisi to the Vatican, Russia and throughout the U.S.. As the word got out and the people of God responded even to offering blood plasma for my healing. As a visual—person, I've been blessed to receive over 300 cards and notes of encouragement that help me to keep on keepin' on.

If I were a better man, I claim a second miracle from a loving and gentle god, who heard well the cry of the people and responded. I'm not a statistic to death, but spared to be a witness to life in the Risen Lord!

Join me, sisters and brothers, as you and I are on MISSION for the Lord. We are charged to make a difference in our world with the gifts of our life, ie, while on rehab, I seize the time and the opportunities for “evangelization.” Take time to pray, breathe and pray. Hearing the words of St. Francis: “while we have time, let us do good.” Tell someone about the love of our lives whose name is Jesus!
One grateful brother f. Noel

St. Benedict the Moor Church



Forgiveness is ...

Our Mission

St. Benedict the Moor is a Catholic Christian Community that celebrates its African-American heritage and welcomes cultural diversity. Join us at the Table of the Eucharist as sisters and brothers in the Lord. We are committed to grow and diversify the Church through the new evangelization, family, catechesis, young adult ministry and outreach to the poor. In the spirit of the prophet Joshua, we can say:

“As for me and my household; we will serve the Lord.”

September 13, 2020

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.”

St Benedict the Moor Parish

Sunday Mass: 10:30 am
Daily Masses: Mon.-Fri. 12:00 noon
Saturday: 8 am
Holy Days of Obligation:
Mass: 12 noon & 6:30 pm
(Exceptions will be posted)
Sacrament of Penance: Divine Mercy
Room Saturday 8:30-9:30am
or by Appointment

Emergencies:
call Fr.Noel: 410-818-8149
Office: 706- 323-8300

Communications
Address: St. Benedict the Moor
2935 9th Street
Columbus, Georgia 31906

Pastor

Fr. Noel Danielewicz, OFM Conv.
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410-818-8149

Staff

Administrative Assistant
Deborah Thompson

Director of Religious Education
Gail Buffong
706-536-8468

Director of Outreach
Beverly Casimier

Music Ministry
Mary Beth Kozee/Joe Saulsbury

Office Hours:
Pastor: Monday-Friday 10-11:30 am
1:00-3:00 pm

E-mail Address
stbenedict07@knology.net
Phone: 706- 323-8300
Fax: 706- 324-2641
Website
stbenedictthemoorcolumbus.org

Church
2930 Thomas Street
Columbus, GA 31906
Community Hall/Office
2935 9th St.
Columbus GA 31906

Altar Flowers



Flowers were donated in memory of
Augustine Ayinmide
on the anniversary of his birth

by Rachel, Tokunbo, Anthonia, Yetunde and
Ayokunle Ayinmide

In Memoriam

The community of St. Benedict the Moor would like to express our sympathies and offer our prayers for the soul of **Janice Meggs**, sister of Pamela King.

May your loved one rest now in God's peace. And may your heart find comfort in the care and concern of those around you.



The Sacrament of Confirmation

On Sunday, October 18th at the 10:30am Mass, Fr. Noel will be conferring the Sacrament of Confirmation upon **Mark Ngugi**. Confirmation completes the Sacraments of Christian Initiation as our confirmand is given the seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray as a church-family for our brother, who is preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Stewardship Report

Week of Sept. 6, 2020	
Offertory envelopes	\$2220.00
Online	2125.00
Utilities	100.00
Online	100.00
Kitchen Renovation	25.00
Altar Flowers	100.00
Poor Box	100.00

Transitus of St. Francis

On Saturday, October 3rd at 7:30pm at St. Anne we will be celebrating the passage of St. Francis from this life into glory. In a prayer service, we join the Franciscan Order world-wide as we continue to be a witness to the Resurrection.

There is plenty of space for social distancing from Church to Chapel.

If you are interested in the Secular Franciscans, formerly known as the Third Order, please leave your contact information on an index card and place it in the basket at Transitus.

Fr. James McCurry,
our Provincial Minister will preach.

Sunday, October 4th Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

The Friars have received permission from our local bishop to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis on Sunday, October 4, 2020. This offers up an opportunity to get to know FRANCIS—"Man of the Gospel", and learn how we too are called to help rebuild the Church today!

Daily Readings

Monday: THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1b-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11;
Jn 3:13-17

Tuesday: Our Lady of Sorrows 1 Cor 12:-14, 27-31a; Ps 100:1b-5; Jn 19:25-27

Wednesday: Saints Cornelius and Cyprian
1 Cor 12:31-13:13; Ps 33:2-5, 12, 22; Lk 7:31-35

Thursday: Saint Robert Bellarmine 1 Cor 15:1-11; Ps 118:1b-2, 16-17, 28; Lk 7:36-50

Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20; Ps 17:1b-d, 6-7, 8b, 15;
Lk 8:1-3

Saturday: Saint Januarius 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Ps 56:10c-12, 13-14; Lk 8:4-15

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READING 1 Sir 27:30-28:7

Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight. The vengeful will suffer the LORD's vengeance, for he remembers their sins in detail. Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the LORD? Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his own sins? If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins? Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin! Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor; remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults.

READING 2 Rom 14:7-9

Brothers and sisters:
None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

GOSPEL Mt 18:21-35

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe. Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt.

Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

Spiritual Communion

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

"Lord Jesus Christ, you promised to be with your church always, until the end of time. We long to experience your presence more deeply and more intimately even when we cannot gather in person as church to celebrate Eucharist. We believe that you are present when we gather to worship.

We believe that you are present in the ordained minister and in your sacred Word when the scriptures are proclaimed. And we believe that you are present when your sacred body and blood become our food and drink. Our relationship with you is truly grace. When I am not able to be physically present at the Eucharist with the community, help me to strengthen and deepen my relationship with you as I seek to encounter and serve you, not only in prayer but in all I meet, especially in the poor and needy of our world. Amen!

IN OUR PRAYERS

Our sick list is for parishioners, family and friends in need of prayer. Please keep our list current by calling the office to add or remove a name.

Fr. Noel Danielewicz	Ida Ruth Lane
Sr. Agnes, fsma	Mittie Lewis
Sr. Delores Anne, cssf	Sr. Maximiliana, PC
Helen Bell	Delores McLeod
Amanda Cole	Ruben Meinhofer & Fam.
Mik Cole	Denvey Nelson
Robert Cole	Sr. Norberta, fsma
Robert Dozier	Cordell Parker
Bertha Gibbs	Gwendolyn Parker
Yvonne Gilberti	Debra Pough
Elizabeth Grey	Evelyn Pough
Ginnette Hughes	Marcus Ransom
Clarence Johnson	Lydia Sliva
Donald Julien	Madeline Smith
Paul Julien	Dorothy Stewart
Earl King	Friar Jude Winkler
Elvia King	
Michael King	
Lenny Korona	