

# Good News

*St. Padre Pio Fraternity gathers regularly on the first Saturday of the month at St. Helen Catholic Church in Georgetown, Texas. Usually we begin with Morning Prayer at 8:30 AM followed by the Gathering at the St. Rita Center, Rm 223. However, due to the Covid virus, we are gathering via Zoom. For mor information, please see the website below.*

*Website: [stpadrepioofs.com](http://stpadrepioofs.com)*



## *Prayer Intentions:*

*For our Brother Leonard's continued healing and Peace.*

*For the continued healing of Jan Parker.*

*For our brother Mark G's Mother, Janet, that she recover from lymphoma.*

*For Erin's health and pregnancy to go according to God's will, and in his mercy.*

*For the health and well-being of Clarisa, and for her complete healing.*

*For all our Franciscan brothers and sisters, that we may empty ourselves and be open to his divine will.*

*For the health and safety of our brothers and sisters*

*That our nation's leaders will be led by the Holy Spirit.*

*For an assisted care facility in Round Rock named "Rose," where a covid case has caused in a lockdown.*

Mark W. asks that we please pray for Angel and Emily, two people whom Lydia knows through church.

In thanksgiving for Eric Puetz's successful surgery and ongoing recovery.

Also, in thanksgiving for a successful surgery for Mary Ann Walsh and her continued recovery



### Reminders for your Calender

1) Free Online Course! On *Laudato Si*, Please Click on the Link:

[https://laudatosi-school-77aa.thinkific.com/courses/laudato-si-and-integral-ecology?fbclid=IwAR3-gSZe3\\_JpNXvdhusJJxiGRHwboV3mynTVHkapjogsY9chXobb8ozyxJo](https://laudatosi-school-77aa.thinkific.com/courses/laudato-si-and-integral-ecology?fbclid=IwAR3-gSZe3_JpNXvdhusJJxiGRHwboV3mynTVHkapjogsY9chXobb8ozyxJo)

2) "Fratelli tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship" Link below :

<https://saintmargaretofcortona.org/>

If you have questions, contact : [carlcs3@gmail.com](mailto:carlcs3@gmail.com)

3) Mail monthly dues to : Mark Watson, 4300 Far West Blvd., Austin, Tx, 78731

Check payable to Padre Pio Fraternity

By PayPal : [PayPal.com](https://www.paypal.com), (Choose Friends and Family Option) Enter recipient's email : [sppofs.gtx@gmail.com](mailto:sppofs.gtx@gmail.com) If you make a donation via PayPal please also send me a quick email to: [mwatson@utesxas.edu](mailto:mwatson@utesxas.edu), to let him know.

4) First Saturday of the month @ 8:15 am > Link to St Helen Morning Mass :

<https://venue.streamspot.com/.video/fa7d1a056a>

5) To Donate to the Homeless : Link Below (You can add new items and buy them here)

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/lz/1147CT8F7TVKG/?ref\\_=lol\\_ov\\_le&filter=default&sort=default&viewType=list](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/lz/1147CT8F7TVKG/?ref_=lol_ov_le&filter=default&sort=default&viewType=list)

Send items to Gina Livesay's address unless you are attending the Apostolate. Thanks!

## *The Kingship that can be Resisted: Neither Love nor Truth are ever imposed*

Though he is closer than any other king, and no other king can follow him, still it is up to us to belong to his kingdom ....

How is it that someone becomes a king? In most cases, kings are born by birth. Sometimes kings are elected, perhaps from among groups of nobility. In most cases though royal duty passes from parent to child. Kings serve the nation by carrying on the family duties of administration, leading public ceremonies, and contributing to political discourse. Think of the roles of Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom, or Felipe VI, King of Spain. The title and responsibility of kingship are handed down.

Such is the case with Christ. The only begotten Son of the Father, he inherits the glory, the grandeur of our Heavenly Father. It is his by birth.

But Christ is not just another king. He receives his kingship from his Father. He reigns, teaches, judges, and loves like other kings. And yet his kingship is far grander. Christ is the lord of lords; he is the king of kings.

How is Christ's kingship different?

God had planned to rule his people as their king. When God first led Israel out of Egypt, he intended to govern Israel himself. The Lord told Moses, "If you obey me completely and keep my covenant, you will be my treasured possession among all peoples, though all the earth is mine. You will be to me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation. That is what you must tell the Israelites" (Exod. 19:5-6). While all things in heaven and under heaven belong to God, he had chosen Israel to belong to himself.

Some translations say the Lord had chosen Israel to be peculiarly his own. This is the first way that Christ's kingship is different. Unlike other sovereigns, Christ is not far from us. It is not difficult to get an audience with Christ. We need not wade through crowds to get a glimpse of him. Christ dwells near to us. He is our King and we belong peculiarly to him. We are closer to him than even other servants or palace workers. He is ours.

Another way Christ's kingship is different, is that there will not be another heir in his line. Christ, the only begotten and beloved Son of the Father, receives his kingship from his heavenly Father. He

will not, however, pass it down. There is no further successor to Christ's throne. There will be no other King after him. He is the chosen King. The entire line was established that he might one day reign. David, the second king of Israel, is an important type for Christ. By his successful wars, David established Jerusalem as the chief city of Israel. Jerusalem became a center of worship, when David brought the ark of the covenant there. David would be rewarded by God for his efforts to unite his people and for his piety.

But David did not accomplish everything. The task of building Israel's temple would fall to his heir, Solomon. Solomon's heirs would face the challenges of a divided kingdom and of foreign invasions.

Christ's line sees no decay, no future tasks. He has brought all things to fruition by ascending his heavenly throne. He is our great king, the one expected one, who was sought after for the ages.

Finally, Christ's kingship demands we recognize him as our sovereign in our way of life. Other kings simply demand taxes or tribute. The homage paid to the kings of this world is largely ceremonial. But Christ, our true king, offers an even greater promise of union. He does not ask that we show our allegiance merely by tithes and hymns of praise. He wants our hearts, our lives to be given over to him. To conform our lives, to be united with him is our goal as Christ's subjects.

But such kingship can be resisted. Pope Benedict XVI teaches,

The way to reach this goal is long and admits of no shortcuts: indeed, every person must freely accept the truth of God's love. He is Love and Truth, and neither Love nor Truth are ever imposed: they come knocking at the doors of the heart and the mind and where they can enter they bring peace and joy.

On this great solemnity the question we must ask ourselves is: Will I let Christ rule in my heart? The temptation to climb the barricades, to rebel against the love and will of Christ is very great. Today, on this solemn feast, let us declare our hearts territory ruled by divine love. Let us announce our loyalty to Jesus Christ, our Sovereign King.

Fr. Patrick Briscoe, OP  
Ateleia

## **New film explores St. Maximilian Kolbe's life before his martyrdom**

*Though he is known primarily for his death at Auschwitz, it's the heroic life of Maximilian Kolbe that is highlighted in the film 'Two Crowns.*

For what possible reason would a future saint require 400 gallons of milk every single day? No, that's not a set-up for a joke, it's an honest question. If you can't answer it, then you don't know everything there is to know about St. Maximilian Kolbe. Not to worry though; **the documentary *Two Crowns* is here to fill in any gaps that might exist in your knowledge of the patron saint of prisoners and the pro-life movement.** Yes, it even explains the milk.

To most of us Kolbe is known primarily for his noble death at Auschwitz, where he offered his life in exchange for that of another prisoner, but that's the very end of his earthly story. Using interviews and dramatic recreations, *Two Crowns* starts near the beginning in 1906, with a 12-year-old Maximilian detailing to his mother a vision he had the prior evening. In it, **the Virgin Mary offered the boy two crowns, a white one representing perseverance in purity, and a red one symbolizing martyrdom. When hesitantly asked by his stunned mother which of the two crowns he chose, Maximilian simply replied, "Both."**

It would be decades before Kolbe would be driven to don the red crown, however. Before that, he made ample use of the white one. As documented in the film, Kolbe entered the

seminary a mere year after his fateful vision, eventually making his way to the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. It was there in 1917 that Kolbe and a handful of fellow seminarians would form the Militia Immaculatae (Army of the Immaculate One), an evangelical movement whose goal was nothing less than the conversion of every single non-Catholic in the world through the intercession of Mary. Talk about “go big or go home.”

As part of Kolbe’s vision for the Militia, the group began self-publishing the Knight of the Immaculata, a monthly magazine comprised of devotionals and religious articles. Within 10 years its circulation would expand from just a few hundred issues to over 70,000. Such an endeavor obviously required many hands, so in 1927 the young priest founded a Conventual Franciscan monastery near the city of Warsaw to function as a publishing house. **Over 750 seminarians would eventually join and participate in the grueling schedule required to hand-produce the magazine.** Now, as one might imagine, a person could get awfully thirsty working such long days and nights. And what do you provide to 750 thirsty seminarians? 400 gallons of milk a day, apparently.

The film is full of such tidbits, which bring to life the lesser known aspects of the saint’s fascinating life story. It follows Kolbe on his missions to eastern Asia, where he would establish more monasteries and begin publishing a Japanese version of the Knight. He would also continue his work in Poland, where the Knight magazine continued to gain in popularity. At the publication’s peak, the Knight was reaching over 800,000 subscribers per month.

**Of course, with such success comes much attention, and for a Catholic priest in Poland when the Nazis came to power, that could be a dangerous thing.** While most of the other friars fled the country following the invasion by Germany, Kolbe and a few others remained behind. There at the monastery they provided health care to refugees, sheltered Jews from persecution, and continued to publish whatever they could, including a number of anti-Nazi tracts.

Needless to say, such efforts didn't go over well with Poland's new authorities. After multiple arrests failed to silence him, the now 47-year-old Kolbe was sent to Auschwitz. Kolbe's time at the death camp is well-documented, with the film providing numerous eyewitness accounts. It's interesting to note that while we mostly remember Kolbe's ultimate choice to offer his life so another prisoner could be spared, **those who were with the priest during those six months at Auschwitz focus more on his day-to-day acts of grace and charity**, be it giving his own meager portions of food to the sick or uplifting spirits through prayer and song.

Perhaps that's the larger point the documentary is getting at. Maximilian Kolbe's choice to accept the red crown of martyrdom at Auschwitz is rightly commemorated as a monumental act of charity, but his decades spent wearing the white crown evangelizing through words and deeds — those times are equally worthy of praise and emulation. After all, **most of us are unlikely to be offered our own red crown, but a white one? That offer stands every day.**

## Be Bold in Your Friendship with God

Prayer is about love, not insight. It is meant to establish friendship. Friendship, as we know, is not as much a question of having insight into each other’s lives as it is of mutually touching each other in affection and understanding. Friendship, as John of the Cross puts it, is a question of attaining “boldness with each other.” When we have touched each other’s lives deeply, we can be bold with each other. We can then ask each other for help, ask each other to be present without needing an excuse, or share our deepest feelings. Good friendship inspires boldness. The object of prayer is precisely to try to attain this kind of “boldness” with God, to try to reach a point where we are comfortable enough with God to ask for help, just as we would a trusted friend. But to reach this kind of trust we first must let God touch us in the heart, and not just in insight.

—from the book *Prayer: Our Deepest Longing*  
by Ronald Rolheiser

### **THE BEST OF ROOMS Music by Randall Thompson Poet, Robert Herrick (from Christ’s Part, 1647)**

Christ, He requires still, wheresoe’er he comes,  
To feed, or lodge, to have the best of rooms: Give Him the choice;  
grant Him the nobler part  
Of all the house: the best of all’s the heart.



Thankfulness is the Heart of Prayer.....Happy Thanksgiving to you all!!

Bob Pine, ofs, Minister

Peter Gruning, ofs, Formation Director

Lynn Freeman, ofs, Secretary

Gina Livesay, ofs, Vice-Minister

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Judy Puetz, ofs, Spiritual Assistant