



St. Padre Pio Press

October, 2017

October Meetings

Our October fraternity meeting will take place on Sunday, October 8th at 12:30 PM in St. Patrick House. We will have information on the gathering to be held in La Habra on October 14th. Those who went to Transitus will share with us.

The council meeting will be held on Saturday, October 7th at the Serros home at 1:00 PM.

Las Cartas



If you are a gardener, you know what is required to grow a plant from seed. Think of your own spiritual growth and reflect on how that spiritual seed has grown. Are you diligent in watering your spiritual plant through prayer, contemplation, scripture, or service? The word says, "Therefore, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters in anything, but only God who causes the growth." (1 Corinthians 3:7) Our Lord Jesus graces us with His presence in so many ways, do we respond to His presence, or are we easily distracted by the world?

Reflect on our Seraphic Father Francis and how God was the center of his life. Francis pray life says it all, "My God and My All."

Peace and All Good, Janet

Gathering

Our annual gathering will be held on October 14th in La Habra at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in the Colman Center from 8:30 to 4:00 PM. The address is 900 La Habra Avenue, La Habra, CA 90631. We will share photos and will have the chance to share with our brothers and sisters from all over our

region. A continental breakfast will be served. Bring food to share for the potluck. If you have special dietary needs, bring something that you know you can eat. This tradition was begun by St. Francis as a way for the brothers to come together from wherever they were at least once a year. Come and join us for this day of celebration and renewal. We will meet at Jane's home by 7:00 AM to carpool.



Happy Feast Day

Passing of a Dear Brother



Richard Wilde

Our dear brother, Richard Wilde, went home to Our Lord on September 16th. He was professed at St. Joseph's in Pomona in 1965 and transferred to Holy Spirit in September of 1990.

Richard was born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He used to tell us that he and his brother were called the "Wild Boys", a play on their name.

Richard joined a Franciscan order as a brother and remained there for 7 years. He left
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Richard (Continued from page 1)

before his final vows after discerning that it was not his calling. He used to go back to visit the brothers and would tell us that they still called him Brother Richard.

He then enrolled in college and earned a degree in teaching. His first job was in a one room school house where he taught grades 1 through 8. He later taught in Pomona at Sacred Heart School and taught for a short time at Our Lady of the Assumption in Claremont. He then went on to work in the office of a local paper company.

Richard lived his vocation for 52 years. In the 90s he served on the council as secretary. He was dear to all of us. When visiting his home, he would show us his prayer room, and at Christmas, he would display his tree which was covered with ornaments in the shape of playful mice decked out in their best Christmas finery.

Richard always put others before himself. At a time when others were living in fear of AIDs, Richard volunteered to work with those suffering this dread disease. He would give rides to those who were not able to drive or could not attend Mass. He was a talented musician who retained his ability for his entire life. He was a wonderful example to all of us of how a Franciscan/Christian life should be lived. Please remember this gentle soul in your prayers.

A rosary will be held at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church in Claremont on October 10th at 10:00 AM. The Rosary will be followed by a Memorial Mass at 10:30 AM.



A Lesson from the Past



These men put a face on the horrors of the concentration camp.

Julie Bash, member of the St. Padre Pio Fraternity, has recently returned from a trip to Europe to visit the Holocaust sites. The Holocaust was Hitler's attempt to wipe out an entire culture. Jewish people were rounded up and placed into cattle cars. They were transported to concentration camps where they were vetted to discern whether or not they were fit for work. All traces of dignity were stripped from them. They were made to undress, their heads were shaved, and they were marched into the area where they were evaluated. Those deemed too old, too young, or too weak were taken to the furnaces and killed. Jews were not the only people to fall victim to the Nazis. Catholics from certain parts of Russia were also rounded up as were Gypsies. The Aryan ideal was blue-eyed, blond, and fair skinned. German soldiers used women who fit the type. Babies born to these women were evaluated. If they fit the Aryan model, they were adopted by German couples. If not, the babies suffered the same fate of those who were determined to not be able to work. Beyond belief, is the fact that articles such as soap and lampshades were made from the bodies of those who had died. Unspeakable "medical research" was inflicted on young women.

Today, we need to keep these lessons in mind. If a government is vilifying one group for any reason and is belittling them, beware. This is how Hitler and his government began. Sadly,
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Lessons from the Past (Continued from page 2)
 there are people today, who see this part of our past as being untrue. We must remember so that we do not repeat the mistakes of the past. We must show, by our lives, that we embrace all of God’s children. We draw borders, God does not. We see colors, God does not. We are all children of the Living God. Jesus told us to “love one another.” By doing this and remembering that God did not put us on the judgement committee, we will bring God’s light to the world. Francis was called to rebuild the Church. He did what was his to do as a gentle and loving example. We now must do what is ours to do. As the song says, “They will know we are Christians by our love.” Let us show the world what it truly is to be Christian.



Julie in front of the reception area where Jews were registered.



Shoes belonging to those who came into the camps. A pair of feet for every pair of shoes.



A train station where Jews were gathered to be taken to Auschwitz.



Jewish prayer shawls—a man of faith for every shawl.



A mock-up of a rail car used to transport Jews. Note how they are packed in.



A plaque on Oskar Schindler’s factory says, “Whoever saves one life saves the world.”
Lord, make me a channel of Your Peace.



Saints' Corner

St. Mary Frances of the Five Wounds of Jesus



St. Mary Frances of the five wounds of Jesus was born in Naples on the 25th of March, 1715. She died in Naples on October 6th, 1791.

She was born into a middle class family. Her father, Francesco Gallo, was a severe, avaricious, and bad-tempered man. He subjected his daughter to much ill treatment and hard labor. This treatment was so bad that she was often at death's door.

Her mother, Barbara Basinsin, was gentle, pious, and patient when dealing with the brutality of her husband.

Both St. John Joseph of the Cross, OFM and St. Francis de Geronimo, SJ are believed to have predicted Mary's future sanctity before her birth. At the age of seven, she made her first Holy Communion and took Communion daily thereafter.

When Mary reached the age of sixteen, her father tried to force her to marry a rich young man, but she firmly refused. She asked, instead, to be allowed to enter the Third Order of St. Francis. Eventually, her request was granted through the influence of Father Theophilus, a Friar Minor.

At her reception among the Tertiaries of St. Peter of Alcantara on the eighth of September, 1731, she took the name of Mary Frances of the Five Wounds of Jesus because of her devotion to the Blessed Mother, St. Francis, and the Sacred Passion. She is said to have

been signed with the stigmata, but prayed there would be no outward sign of the stigmata. Her prayer was granted, but she felt the pains of the Passion in her body on Fridays, especially the Fridays of Lent.

She suffered much from bodily ills during her entire life and also mental pain from the persecution of her father, sisters, and other persons. Even her confessors tested her sanctity by the severity of their direction. Over and beyond these sufferings, were the sufferings she imposed on herself by voluntary penances, strict fasts, hair-shirts, and disciplines. Her prayers and advice saved many souls from danger. Priests, religious, and pious persons went to her for counsel. Her charity and compassion toward the afflicted and miserable was boundless.

Like St. Francis, Mary Frances had a devotion to the Infant Jesus, the Holy Eucharist, and the Blessed Virgin. The last thirty-eight years of her life were lived in the house of a pious priest, Giovanni Pessiri. She was buried in the church of the Alcantarines, Santa Lucia del Monte, at Naples. She was beatified by Pius IX on June 29, 1867. Her feast day is October 6th. She is said to be the patron of women who long for children.

October Calendar of Saints

- 4 Our Holy Father Francis
- 6 St. Mary Frances of the Five Wounds of Jesus
- 10 Sts. Daniel and Companions
- 12 St. Seraphin of Montegrano
- 20 Bl. James of Strepar
- 20 Bl. Contardo Ferrini
- 21 Bl. Josephine Leroux
- 22 St. Peter of Alcantara
- 23 St. John of Capistrano
- 26 Bl. Bonaventure of Potenza
- 30 Anniversary of Dedication in Consecrated Franciscan Churches

October Birthdays



10/12

Dixie Marshall

Anniversaries of Profession



10/3/97

Bill Mussatto

10/4/92

Dixie Marshall

10/15/95

Jane Wurzel

10/27/97

Stephanie Thieboux

Change for Charity



Our Change for Charity fund is continuing. We send donations to three charities at the beginning of each year. Please remember to add any spare change or bigger bills if you have been blessed. God will bless you and those in need will bless you as well.



Pray for all who suffer because of terrorism and war throughout the world.

Please Pray

Julie Bash

End to abortion

Sanctity of marriage

Janet Serros and Gilbert Serros

Anne Hurst (health of her eyes)

Barbara and Tom Turkowski

Health and wellbeing of Betty Sonderman and her friends and family

The end of human trafficking

The end of domestic violence

Gerald Borne, Jr.

Discernment for all of those who are in formation

Yolonda Williams—health

Agatha Borne

Agatha’s daughter Panchita and granddaughter Erika

Patrick Mendes-Repouse of soul

Evelyn Schiel –Repouse of soul

Ted Hewitt

Richard Wilde-Repouse of soul

Franciscan School of Theology



The Franciscan School of Theology is now located at Mission San Luis Rey. Phone numbers are (760) 547-1800 or toll free (855) 355-1550.



Pray for our military and all military and first responders.