June Fraternity Meeting
Change of Date

Our June Zoom meeting will be held on Sunday, June 7th at 12:30. We will continue our study of the Rule with Article 6. The topic will be the mission of Christ. It is appropriate at this time when the Church is beginning to reopen for Mass. Some of our traditions will not be the same. We must remember that we are the Church and strive to share Christ’s mission by our life and words. Please join us. If you cannot figure out Zoom or you do not have a computer, please join someone close or give a younger person a call to help you. If you cannot do that, please read the formation and reach out to a brother or sister to discuss the lesson.

Las Cartas

Reflection—Goodness and Mercy

Dear Brothers and Sister:

As I write this reflection, we are still physically separated from our church, family and friends due to COVID-19. But we are not separated from our Lord. I think it is safe to say that we have a ready heart and a great desire to encounter Jesus in the Eucharist. The Psalmist says in the word, “Indeed, goodness and mercy will pursue me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of the Lord for endless days.” (Psalm 23:6) Those are comforting words as we trust in God. When we are broken hearted and lonely, it says that God will take your hand and follow you and you are not alone. For those of you suffering from illness or the illness of a loved one, know that God is ever present. He alone knows that piercing of a heart full of sorrow, sadness, or isolation. God is there to take your heart and soothe you with His love and compassion. God takes you to His presence and provides you with a dwelling place and gives you security and assurances that you are not alone. The house we dwell in on earth is His Church, and, one day, by his mercy and grace will dwell in His Kingdom in Heaven. May the Lord Bless you and keep you and cause His face to shine upon you. Peace and All Good, Janet Serros, Minister.

Padre Pio Counsels

- “Do not tire yourself over things that cause anxiety, preoccupation, and worry. Only one thing is necessary: to lift up your spirit and love God.”
- “Walk cheerfully and with a sincere heart and open heart as much as you can, and when you cannot always maintain this holy joy, as least do not lose heart or your trust in God.”

As a gift from God, every human life is sacred from conception to natural death. The life and dignity of every person must be respected and protected at every stage and in every condition. The right to life is the first and most fundamental principle of human rights that leads Catholics to actively work for a world of greater respect for human life and a greater commitment to justice and peace. Pope Benedict XVI
Community Prayer
Litany of the Sacred Heart

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
God the Father of Heaven,
Have mercy on us.
(After each line, respond “Have Mercy on us.”)
God the Son, Redeemer of the World:
God the Holy Spirit:
Holy Trinity, one God:
Heart of Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father:
Heart of Jesus, formed by the Holy Spirit in the Virgin Mary’s womb:
Heart of Jesus, substantially united to the Word of God:
Heart of Jesus, of infinite majesty:
Heart of Jesus, holy temple of God:
Heart of Jesus, glowing furnace of charity:
Heart of Jesus, vessel of justice and love:
Heart of Jesus, full of goodness and love:
Heart of Jesus abyss of all virtues:
Heart of Jesus, King and center of all hearts:
Heart of Jesus, in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge:
Heart of Jesus in whom dwells all fullness of the Godhead:
Heart of Jesus, in whom the Father was well pleased:
Heart of Jesus, of whose fullness we have all received:
Heart of Jesus, desire of the everlasting hills:
Heart of Jesus, patient and rich in mercy:
Heart of Jesus, rich to all who call upon You:
Heart of Jesus, fount of life and holiness:
Heart of Jesus, propitiation for our offenses:
Heart of Jesus, overwhelmed with reproaches:
Heart of Jesus, bruised for our iniquities:
Heart of Jesus, obedient even unto death:
Heart of Jesus, pierced with a lance:
Heart of Jesus, source of all consolation:
Heart of Jesus, our life and resurrection:
Heart of Jesus, our peace and reconciliation:
Heart of Jesus, victim for our sins:
Heart of Jesus salvation of those who hope in You:
Heart of Jesus, hope of those who die in You:
Heart of Jesus delight of all saints:
Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world
Spare us O Lord
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world
Have mercy on us.
Jesus, meek and humble of Heart,
Make our hearts like unto Thine.

Let us pray: Almighty and eternal God, look upon the Heart of Thy most beloved Son and upon the praises and satisfaction which He offers Thee in the name of sinners; and to those who implore Thy mercy, in Thy great goodness, grant forgiveness in the name of the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who lives and reigns with Thee forever and ever. Amen.
Ongoing Formation

Article Six

Sharing Christ’s Mission

They have been made living members of the Church by being buried and raised with Christ in baptism: they have been united more intimately with the Church by profession. Therefore, they should go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words.

Called like Saint Francis to rebuild the Church and inspired by his example, let them devote themselves energetically to living in full communion with the pope, bishops, and priests, fostering an open and trusting dialogue of apostolic effectiveness and creativity.

Article 4 discusses knowing Christ intimately by going from gospel to life and from life to gospel. Article 5 speaks of finding Christ everywhere. Flowing from these comes the third aspect of Franciscan life. (Benet A. Fonck, OFM, Called to Proclaim Christ.) We need to share in the mission of Jesus Christ.

Of note here is the connection between our apostolates and obedience. St. Francis always brought his ideas to the Church leaders to whom he had pledged obedience. He reverenced them as a son reverences his father, and he saw them as a “revelation of God’s will.”

As the Scriptures and the traditions of the Church, we believe, are inspired by the Holy Spirit bring the revelation of God to us, keeping it always in our lives, we then must embrace the mission of Jesus in our own lives as we live out the commitment of our baptism and profession. (Benet Fonck, OFM, Called to Proclaim Christ) Benet Fonck, OFM suggests three ways in which we discover our mission. First we must be attentive to the Holy Spirit. St. Francis said, “Above all else, be about the Spirit of the Lord and his working within you.” Second, remain completely open to the Scriptures. Third, keep in harmony with the Church whose leaders “distill and define for us that mission today.” (Benet Fonck, Called to Proclaim Christ)

According to Pope John Paul II in Redemptor Homonis, Jesus Christ is the “center and fulfillment of life” so that the goal of the Church is to direct our lives toward Him so that we find Christ and enter into his life and unite with Him. The program outlined by the Holy Father to use the created world to achieve this goal is to “dislodge fear, to develop morals and ethics along with technology.” This makes sense as we see technology being misused in ways that do not promote our Catholic Christian values. Fear of the “other” or those who are unlike us is the basis of most conflicts. We need to remember that we are all God’s children and reach out. Knowing others and their customs often helps us find that we have more in common that we knew. This leads to us loving our neighbor as ourselves. Morals and ethics are taught from a young age by parents who should be the child’s first and best teachers. These should be modeled by all of us in the way we live our lives. The new technology presents challenges in that it works so quickly to spread whatever idea is presented. If the idea is against the mission of Christ, it can do great damage, and if we are truly in tune with our Lord, we will not spread such ideas and will our children to become caring and compassionate people.

We must insist on dignity for all of humanity. Father Fonck says, “Nurture the growth of social love. Instill into everyday life the primacy of persons over things. Turn around attitudes and practices of world

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Economy. Transform armament investments into a service for human needs. Stop human destruction and extermination. Respect the person’s inviolable rights. Restore religious freedom. In sum, share the prophetic and priestly and leadership roles of Christ.”

As Franciscans, we are called to obedience, but not a blind observance to words and rules, nor a cafeteria style attitude of choosing only what suits us, but instead a deep faith in the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Fr. Fonck sees this faith as bringing about a “wholesome loyalty and reverence for the leaders of the Church” a “firm will to understand and cooperate with the Church” in the revealing of Christ’s mission in our modern Church, “an open and trusting dialogue” to put into action our life to Gospel, Gospel to life way of living, and “a new and creative initiative” as we open our hearts and minds to new ways to bring Christ’s message to others. A point that Fr. Fonck makes here is that, though we are obedient to the hierarchy of the Church and show them the reverence they deserve, it is not blind obedience and that there is dialogue which indicates that there is a give and take of ideas between us and those to whom we owe obedience. He also points out that we need to be able to grow and to find new ways to let others know of Christ’s mission. One way to do this is to live our Gospel lives.

Living the Gospel life requires us to know Christ at a deep level, to seek out His presence in those around us and in all of creation, and to share in His life and mission. Reading the Gospel and meditating on the message is a beautiful way to spend a portion of each day. It will bring you close to the Lord when you read what He said to us. However, that is not enough. Each and every day, we must also exemplify Christ’s message in the way we live. We are not perfect and we will not always get it right. We must also so the love that we give to others to ourselves. We need to forgive ourselves and to get up and try again.

In order for us to fulfill these goals, the Church is essential. We, like Francis, share the mission of Christ, and follow it with the guidance of the Church.

“This is our faith, this is our life. We are proud to profess it. “ Fr. Benet Fonck, OFM

Fr. Fonck went to his eternal rest on December 23, 2016.

General Constitutions: Article 17: Rule 6 Called to work together in building up the Church as the sacrament of salvation for all and, through their baptism and profession, made “witnesses and instruments of her mission,” Secular Franciscans proclaim Christ by their life and words. Their preferred apostolate is personal witness in the environment in which they live and service for building up the Kingdom of God within the situations of this world.

For meditation and discussion: As we move forward in the world, relying on Scriptures and the Church for guidance, how will we be able to bring Christ’s mission to others?
Blessed Jolenta (Yolanda) of Poland was born the daughter of Bela, IV, King of Hungary around 1235. She was the sister of St. Kunigunde who was married to the Duke of Poland. When it was time for her to be educated, she was sent to her sister in Poland who was to supervise her education. Eventually, she married Boleslaus, the Duke of Greater Poland, and used her means to help the poor, the sick, widows and orphans. Her husband joined with her to build hospitals, convents, and churches. He earned the surname, “the Pious.”

After the death of her husband and the marriage of two of her daughters, Jolenta and her third daughter entered the convent of the Poor Clares. Because of a war, she was forced to move to another convent where, despite her reluctance, she became abbess.

She served her Franciscan sisters so well by word and example that her fame and good works spread beyond the cloister. Her favorite devotion was the Passion of Christ. Even to this day, many miracles are said to have occurred at her grave. She died on June 11, 1298. June 12 is her Memorial.

June Calendar of Saints
13  St. Anthony of Padua, priest and doctor of the 1st Order.  Feast.
22  St. Thomas More, martyr of the III Order, with St. John Fisher, Opt. Memorial
30  Bl. Raymond Lull, martyr of III Order, Opt. Memorial for III Order

Please Pray

Julie Bash
Maureen Smith
Edison Marshall
Betty Sonderman and family and friends
Our candidates
All in medical professions who are fighting the corona virus
All who suffer from the coronavirus and their families
The repose of the souls of those who have died in the pandemic
Joe Leslie
Gilbert Serros
First Responders
The end of abortion
The safety and protection of our military
The ability to safely reopen churches
Ja’Zier, age 11, for emotional and spiritual healing
June Birthdays

3  Margaret Palafox
26  Barbara Turkowski

June Anniversaries of Profession

None

Zooming into the Future

In this time of social distancing, the internet steps in to make certain our community can still reach out to each other. While we pray for the day when we can be together again, we can still come together through technology. We thank God for this opportunity. Community is central to our Franciscan way of life.

Christine has made the silver screen.

Denise listening to sharing

Taking roll is not the same when someone doesn’t speak up. I can’t see or hear you unless you speak.

Fun Project

Mary Garden

Everyone should have a quiet place to pray and come closer to God. One idea is the Mary Garden. First you will need a statue of Blessed Mother. This is Denise’s backyard.

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Mary Garden (Continued from page 6)
This could be a good project for those of you who have children who have cabin fever.

A Mary Garden is a garden filled with plants, flowers and trees named for Our Lady and Jesus. They are designed to remind us of our Lord and his mother. They allow us to experience God’s creation and invite us to prayer. Because Mary is a Bride, the garden should be enclosed if possible. This is based on Solomon’s Canticle of Canticles: My sister, my spouse, is a garden enclosed, a garden enclosed, a fountain sealed up.

However, if you cannot do this, it is fine to have potted flowers. St. Fiacre had a garden devoted to Mary in the 7th century.

Flowers were often named for pagan deities before the Age of Faith. After that, flowers were rededicated to Christian themes. For example, Spiderwort was named Our Lady’s gTears. Summer phlox was named Christ’s Cross Flower. Peonies were called either Pentecost Rose or Mary’s Rose. Morning glories were called Our Lady’s Mantle. Forget-Me-Nots are blue, a color associated with Our Lady. People sometimes though they represented her eyes. Maidenhair Fern was for her hair. Her veil was Baby’s Breath. It is also white for her purity. Violets were for her humility. Marigolds represent her glory. An old story says that when Mary washed Jesus’ clothes, she would lay them on beds of lavender and rosemary to dry so that they would smell good. For this reason, both are often included in the garden. It is fun to research the different flowers and their history. It would probably be more fun for kids than division. For those of us who have smaller apartments, have a mini garden either inside your home or on a patio or balcony if you have one. If you have a larger yard or some land, think about planting Plumbago. Its blue color reminds us of Mary and it will spread to make a pretty background. It does very well here. Roses are usually included. White roses are for Mary’s Purity, Red is for Mary’s Sorrow and the Blood of Christ. It also represents martyrdom. Yellow or Gold is Mary’s Glory and a red and white variegated rose stands for the visitation. Mary is known as the Mystical Rose. The Madonna Lily, also known as the Annunciation Lily, the Virgin Lily, or Mary’s Lily are included. Roses and lilies are said to have filled Mary’s tomb when it was opened. There are so many more. You can simply look them up online. When libraries open, I am sure you can find information there for this fun project. Have fun, and send me pictures if you decide to try it.