

FRANCISCAN CROWN

NEWSLETTER OF ST. FRANCIS FRATERNITY, PHOENIX, AZ *Secular Franciscan Order*



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Welcome to our Newsletter

Council's Column

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.” - (Matthew 5:14)

We are all beginning our Lenten journey and are called to be lights in the world. In a darkened room, the flame of a single candle is a beacon leading all to its light and warmth. Imagine the brightness of many candles! The power of good triumphs over evil, and the many candles of good people will overcome the darkness around us. In January, we were blessed with Mary Esther Stewart's visit from the Blessed Franz Jagerstatter fraternity in Flagstaff to give her presentation of “Embracing the Franciscan Vision” for our ongoing formation. It was a joy to have visitors from other fraternities join with us for Esther's presentation and it was a good preparation for the Lenten season. Esther is a bright shining candle and in February we rejoiced at her election as the new Formation Director for the St. Thomas More Region. Esther will bring new energy to that important position, and she will be able to share her vision with all the fraternities in the region.

Our holy father, St. Francis, was a light shining in the darkness during the troubled times of his generation. St. Bonaventure, one of Francis' early biographers (along with Thomas of Celano) writes of Francis' passing from this world to eternal joy in terms of light in The Life of St Francis:

“At last, when all of God's mysteries were fulfilled in him and his most holy soul was freed from his body to be absorbed in the abyss of the divine

light, the blessed man *fell asleep in the Lord* (Acts 7:60). One of his brothers and disciples saw his blessed soul under the appearance of a radiant star being carried aloft on a *shining cloud over many waters* (Apoc. 14:14; Ps. 28:3) on a direct path into heaven. It shone with the brightness of heavenly wisdom and grace by which the holy man had merited to enter the place of light and peace where forever he rests with Christ.” (The Life of St Francis, Chapter 14, On His Patience and His Passing in Death)

How can we be a light in the world, especially in the troubled times of our generation? As people of good will, living in our secular world, we can follow the example of another great saint and Doctor of the Church, St. Therese of Lieseux, and be inspired by her little acts of kindness. Perhaps a smile, or words of encouragement, or a cup of cold water, or even letting another car merge onto the freeway in front of you. We may never have the opportunity to do something heroic like some saints, such as Maximillian Kolbe, but our little acts of kindness, done in love for one another, are like individual drops of water that eventually fill a bucket. And those little acts of kindness, will “store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.” (Matthew 6:20-21)

So let us go forth and be lights in the world!
Your little acts of kindness
do make a difference.

-Paul



Alt+Pen+L&S



March Birthdays

Frances Kennedy 3/4

Kathleen Bau 3/5

Tom McNamara 3/21

Lloyd Tsugawa 3/25

Tom Raimundo 3/26

Hilda Cabanillas 3/30



***Saint Francis Fraternity
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VACANT

Upcoming Events

Nun Run and OFS Family Picnic 11:00 am

Saturday, March 3 Kiwanis Park, Tempe

Support of St. Joseph's Table (SVdP) 8:00 am

Sunday, March 18, St. Mary's Basilica

Second Year Candidate Retreat

Sat, May 19 8:30-3:00 St Theresa Church

Profession 2018

TBA

Feast Days for the month of March

March 2: Blessed Agnes of Prague, Virgin, II Order
Nuns

March 24: Blessed Didacus Joseph of Gadiz, priest,
I Order

Profession Anniversaries

No Profession Anniversaries this month



"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

-- St Francis of Assisi

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