The St. Anthony Fraternity Newsletter

Fraternity #101 Volume 20 Issue 4 April 2017

From The Minister

"Be it done to me according to thy word." (Luke 1:38)
"Not my will, but thy will be done." (Luke 22:42)

Mother and Son… They both answered "YES".

When thinking of our Blessed Mother at the foot of the cross, we might wonder: How was she able to endure such a heart wrenching event - Seeing her son dying before her very eyes? She didn't know that her "yes" would lead her to the top of that mountain. But I believe that, in her deep sorrow, she was remembering and repeating those same words she had said so many years ago: "Be it done to me according to thy word.".

When thinking of our Savior nailed to the cross, looking down at His mother, we might wonder: How was He able to endure such unbearable, excruciating pain? Not only physical pain – but the pain of seeing His mother in such agony. He was fulfilling His own words, spoken not even a day before: "Not my will, but thy will be done.".

When we profess our "yes", we do not really know exactly where that "yes" will lead us either. Yet, we should all follow the example of our Blessed Mother and her Son.

After all... where does their "yes" lead us? It leads us to salvation. Praised be God!

Happy Easter! Your sister, Israela

Spiritual Assistant's Message

Dear sisters and brothers in St. Francis--

HOLY WEEK--the most spectacular, extra-long weekend array of services to be nourished sacramentally.

Holy Thursday--an evening service that tells and shows us how to be of service and support to all others. For example: the "basin and towel" for washing and drying of the well-traveled feet of God's blessed. It is such a humble and profound witness to communal reconciliation that the Church once considered it to be a sacrament:
- the "bread and wine" from crushed grain and grapes into the body and blood of Jesus for our spiritual nourishment from the table of the Lord;
the "stripping of the altar" to remind us that all that is *not* of Christ in our lives must be stripped away, so that others may observe Christ in our lives—and, being attentive to the noticeable silence that concludes the service enhances that importance.

Good Friday--the *only* date in our Catholic faith that the Eucharistic Liturgy is not celebrated. It's also a special day to appreciate and reflect upon the beautiful gift of the San Damiano Cross. As St. Clare teaches us: gaze upon the face of "the Beloved." Even if you must work this day (at your job and/or in taking care of loved ones), it is important to find a few special moments to be with our Lord through contemplation. A wise person once said: "If you're to busy to pray, you're too busy*!*" If all else fails in finding a quick, quiet place to pray--the bath/restroom is perfect; if only time enough to breathe Francis' "Prayer Before A Crucifix."

Easter Vigil/Sunday--the day for which we've all been waiting. During the Easter Vigil, in front of the Paschal candle, a melodic phrase from the *Exultet* is heard: "O, happy fault . . ." Although we are eternally grateful that Jesus acquiesced to the will of his Father to redeem our sinful nature--as Franciscans, we recall theology of Bl. John Duns Scotus who taught that even if our world was without Original Sin, Jesus would have become incarnate *anyway*; because the true reason of his becoming human was to manifest the Father's love for us.

Once, again, Lent has showed us the way from Gospel to life. Now, renewed in that life, let us continue to be fed by the Word and Eucharist as we journey from life to Gospel. Have a joyous Easter Season*!*

~ Br. Gordon Boykin, O.F.M.

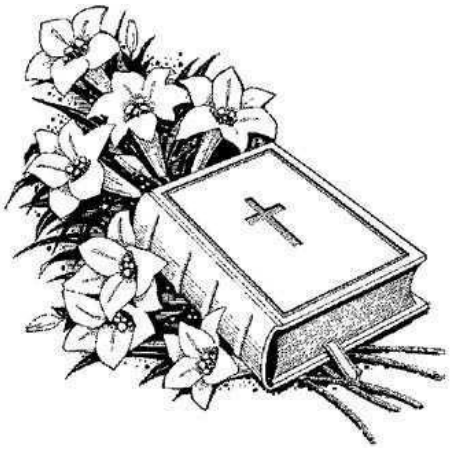
APRIL FRANCISCAN SAINTS

BLESSEDS LUCHESIUS AND BUONADONNA--
THE FIRST SECULAR FRANCISCANS

On April 28, we celebrate Blesseds Luchesius and Buonadonna. He was a successful merchant, whose life was completely changed with the deaths of his young children. Touched by grace, he turned from his unethical business practices. With Buonadonna, he sold all their possessions, except for one small piece of land to farm. When St. Francis visited Poggibonsi in 1221, he received the couple into the Third Order. Tradition is that they were the very first members. Buona appeared to struggle more than her husband, but they persevered. When Luchesius was near death in 1260, she prayed that she might die soon after. They both died on April 28, 1260.

LET US PRAY FOR...

- Health of all our members, especially: Consuelo, Deacon Charlie, Arturo, Barbara H., Helen, Art and Erma, Mary Lynn, Alcaria, Eva, John and Nancy Fishel, Linda, Winifred, Joann S., Marge, Tommie's daughter-Stephanie, Fred Bates, Ed and Carol, Rose Mary Garcia
- Help from St. Anthony in finding an editor for our St. Anthony Newsletter
- Vocations to the Franciscan Orders
- The safety of Immigrants and Refugees
- The ability to be instruments of peace in the Church and in the world
- **One Minute Blesssing for April: <u>We pray for family unity.</u>**



HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY!

The Archdiocese of Santa Fe, Office of Social Justice and Respect Life and the African American Catholic Community invite you to a special mass in celebration of their 25th AnniversaryThe mass will be celebrated by Guest Celebrant and Homilist: Rev. Monsignor Raymond G. East of St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church in Washington DC.

Location: St. Joseph on the Rio Grande Catholic Church
5901 St. Joseph Dr. N.W., Albuquerque
Time: 12:00 Noon
Date: April 30th

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR:		***March 2017***
BEGINNING BALANCE:		$1,690.19
INCOME:		---
Regular Contributions		$ 790.00
Endowment Interest		$ 147.25
Exceptional Income*		$ 121.00
EXPENSE		---
Spiritual Assistant		$ 50.00
Infirmarian		$ - 0 -
Council Admin. Supplies		$ 60.15
Newsletter Supplies		$ 15.12
Newsletter Postage		$ 39.20
Poor Clares		$ 75.00
Franciscan Friars		$ 50.00
Contingency Fund		$ 50.00
Formation		$ - 0 -
Exceptional Expenses	**	$ 814.23
ENDING BALANCE:		$1,594.74
CONTINGENCY FUND:		$1,359.00
NUMBER OF DONORS:		**22**

- Retreat Attendees
  Donations

**Fair Share to Regional - $650.00
Retreat Expenses - $164.23

LENTEN RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES

April 14-15: **"Retreat on the Triduum"** - How can we better understand the Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil services more fully so as to celebrate them fully. Single room $85.00, Shared room $75.00, Commuter $45.00 for this retreat. For more details and to make a reservation, call (575)524-3688 or email: programs@holycrossretreat.org

Prayers For Life

Join the prayer warriors on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month at 10:30am to pray for life and also for healing for those who have had an abortion. Meet in front of Planned Parenthood on San Mateo Blvd. N. of Marquette Ave. (The Project Defending Life office is located at: 625 San Mateo Blvd. NE)
Contact Marilyn for more information – (505)261-1555

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LAST GATHERING – by Gerry Rohrkemper

On March 26, we began by praying Evening Prayer for Sunday, Week Four of Lent.

Br. Gordon shared an insightful reflection on Laetare Sunday.

Rena, Gerry and Frances gave a brief update on their infirm "buddy."

Rex presented a brief overview of Articles 1, 2, and 3 of our Rule. He then distributed five challenging questions on the Rule. Each table each reflected on one question to share as a group. A person from each group then shared a short summary.

For Ongoing Formation, we took a break from the "Q" DVD's. Instead, Israela shared a lesson on "Servant Leadership" which was recently presented at the Regional Annual Meeting in Las Cruces. She emphasized the importance of engaging in true dialogue. Like Jesus, we need to listen effectively—relaxing our body, maintaining eye contact, and looking interested. To give us practice, we broke into couples. We took turns asking each other a series of questions—ranging from:

"What color are your eyes?"
"What is your favorite hobby and dish?"
"What is your profession/where do or did you work?", etc...

All the way to "Do you love God with your whole heart, soul, mind, strength and understanding?" It was fun and eye-opening—even those who had known each other for years learned something new!

We ended with fellowship and a good meal provided by Hospitality Group 3.

MONTHLY OFS-YOUFRA PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR APRIL

Universal: For young people, that they may know how to respond generously to their vocation, seriously considering the possibility of consecrating themselves to God in the priesthood or in consecrated life.

OFS: For the National Fraternity of Venezuela, the Philippines and for the fifth Asia-Oceania Congress.

Our Father...

MONTHLY OFS-YOUFRA PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MAY

For Evangelization: For Christians in Africa that they may give a prophetic witness of reconciliation, justice and peace in imitation of the merciful Jesus.

OFS: For the National Fraternities of Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Our Father...

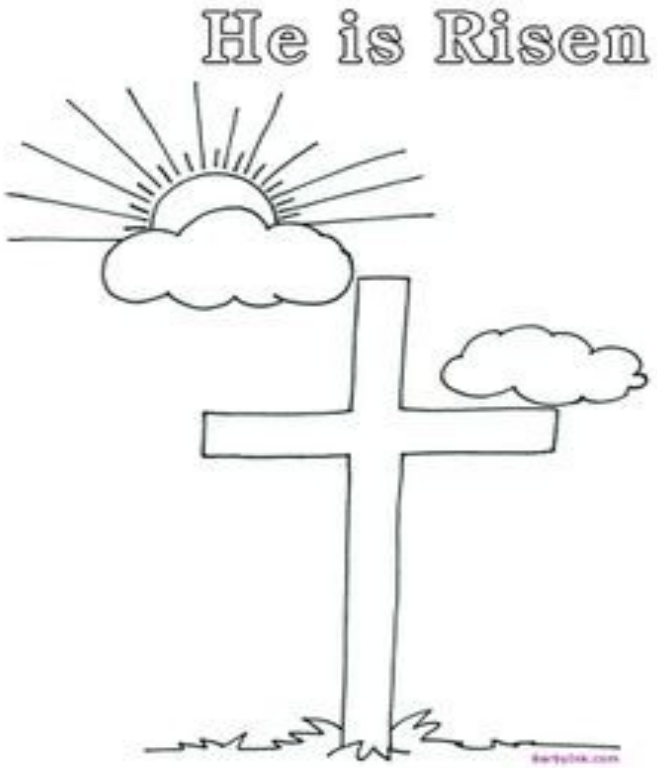
Remember: The Friars hold a Mass every Saturday at 9am.
The Mass Intention is for our fraternity members living and deceased.
All are invited to attend.

CALENDAR

April 11: Inquiry Class, Gina's House, 5-7pm
April 16: HAPPY EASTER!!
April 20: "The Sultan And The Saint" - Movie, Holy Family Church, 6pm
April 23: Candidacy Class, FF*, 12:30-2pm
Fraternity Gathering, FF*, 2pm
Ongoing Formation: 2016 Q Presentation
Hospitality Group 4: Joanne, Marilyn, Israela, Barbara G and Luciana
St. Anthony Bread: CFRs
Infirmarian Reports by: Gina, Rex and Ernestine

April 25: Inquiry Class, Gina's House, 5-7pm
April 28: Council Meeting, FF*, 9am
April 30: **25th Anniversary African American Catholic Community Mass, 12Noon, St. Joseph on the Rio Grande Catholic Church, 5901 St. Joseph Dr. NW**
May 9: Inquiry Class, Gina's House, 5-7pm
May 13: Candidacy Class, FF*, 10am-Noon
May 21: Candidacy Class, FF*, 12:30-2pm
Orientation Class, FF*, 12:30-2pm
Fraternity Gathering, FF*, 2pm
Ongoing Formation: 2016 Q Presentation
Hospitality Group 5: Gerry, Felis, Rex & Jeannette, Pat
St. Anthony Bread: St. Felix Pantry
Infirmarian Reports by: Felis, Mary Lou and Israela
May 23: Inquiry Class, Gina's House, 5-7pm
May 26: Council Meeting, FF, 9am

*** FF = Franciscan Facility, 1350 Lakeview SW, Albuquerque, 87105**



Birthday Blessings to Our Brothers and Sisters!

Wilfred Otero	4/8
Hazel Herrera	4/12
Joann Sanchez	4/14
Marge Armijo	4/16
Carol Dzienis	4/16
Pat Rocco	4/18
Mary Lynn Akey	4/20
Linda Sue Saavedra	4/25
Margarita Muniz – ES	4/30
Felis Armijo	5/3
Gloria Quesada	5/8
Tommie Page	5/12
Rena Xuereb	5/29

Please email gmrsfo@aol.com with corrections or additions.
Thank you!

FRATERNITY CONTACTS

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COUNCILOR #2:	Mary Lou Narvaez OFS	505-235-5772	malunarvaez44@gmail.com
SPIRITUAL ASST:	Br. Gordon Boykin OFM	505-249-5774	gordyboy45@gmail.com
INFIRMARIANS:	Tommie Page OFS and Margaret Martinez OFS		
NEWSLETTER:	Vacant – need a volunteer Email: saf.ofs.newsletter@gmail.com		
WEBSITE:	http://franciscansalbuquerque.sfousa.org		

St. Anthony Fraternity
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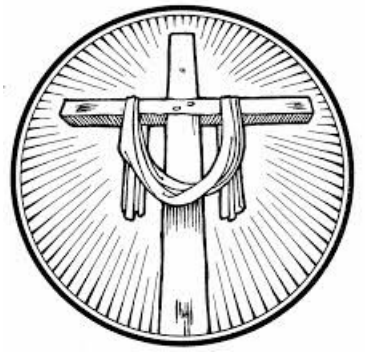

Our Mission Statement

We, the fraternity of St. Anthony, inspired by the vision of St. Francis, commit ourselves to the Gospel as our Way of Life: "Going from Gospel to Life and Life to the Gospel". We believe that we are called to Fraternity to share a life of joy and peace as well as to draw our inspiration from the cross of Jesus as Francis did. We believe we are called to be renewed continually through the celebration of the Eucharist and to go forth to rebuild the Church through our witness.

We are the Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis (The Secular Franciscan Order) in the United States of America.

We live our vocation in Our Lady of Guadalupe Empress of the Americas Regional
Our Franciscan Community is the St. Anthony Fraternity located in Albuquerque, New Mexico.