

# SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

The Newsletter and Bulletin of the Oratory of Saint Francis of Assisi

APRIL 2019 - LENTENTIDE

## LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

**A**t the Station keeping  
stood the mournful  
Mother weeping, close to  
Jesus to the last! – Stabat  
Mater Dolorosa

**O**UR LADY OF  
SORROWS, ever faithful  
to God, her Son, remains with  
Him even in the midst of His  
suffering and shame upon the  
Cross, the Tree of Woe. Like  
her, we must never shrink from  
the Cross of Christ, we must  
never flinch or look away from  
His visage. *Behold the wood of  
the Cross upon which hung the  
Saviour of the world!* Let us take  
her example to heart and follow  
her as she follows Him.

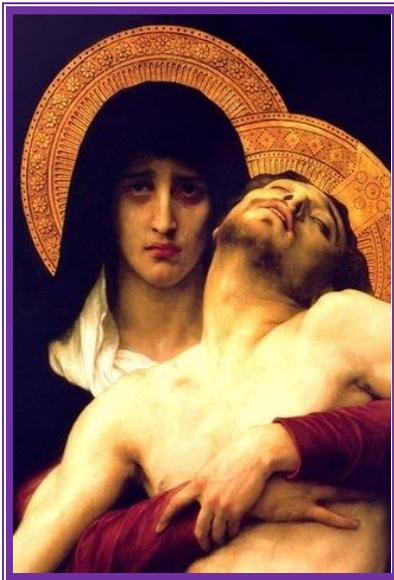
As we are in the midst of  
our Lenten Observance it is  
important that we keep our  
focus upon Our Lord and the  
mystery of our salvation  
wrought by His Passion; and so  
I offer for your consideration  
these three pious practices:

- ❖ Recitation of the  
Stations of the Cross
- ❖ Pious Works
- ❖ Spiritual Reading

One of the most ancient  
of meditations and prayers of  
the Holy Church, the **Stations  
of the Cross** allows us to  
meditate upon Our Lord's  
journey to Calvary. If one were  
to devoutly pray this beautiful  
exercise every Friday (or even  
daily) during Lent, especially  
close to 3:00 pm, he would find

himself closely united with the  
Saviour. The sharing of the  
suffering of Our Lord is an  
especially intimate and holy  
time, and will bring much grace  
and spiritual profit one's soul.

The performance of  
Pious Works, especially if the  
correspond to the **Corporal  
Acts of Mercy**, which are *feed  
the hungry, give drink to the  
thirsty, clothe the naked, harbour  
the harbourless, visit the sick,  
ransom the captive and bury the  
dead*. These are found in S.  
Matthew's Gospel (25:34 – 46)  
and the failure to perform these  
will lead on to eternal  
damnation (*ibid*)!



Daily **Spiritual Reading**,  
also known as the *Lectio Divina*,  
is a wonderful way through  
scriptural and spiritual reading,  
meditation and prayer to  
promote a greater union of  
one's soul with God. The saints  
have all employed this method  
or study, meditation and  
prayer. If one reads the  
scriptural accounts of Our  
Lord's Passion, or a

recommended pious reading,  
then contemplates what one  
has read and then makes a  
prayer to God predicated upon  
the subject of that reading the  
souls grows and grace  
multiplies. Some excellent  
books are **The Four Last  
Things: Death, Judgement,  
Hell, Heaven** by Fr. Martin Von  
Cochem, OSF, and **Lenten  
Hymns** by Fr. Adrian  
Fortescue.

These next few weeks  
affords us the opportunity to  
stand before the Cross and  
partake in His great suffering  
and sacrifice. Let us comfort  
Him and His Blessed Mother  
by remaining faithful to the  
end, for in bearing witness to  
His Passion we may join in the  
glory and power of His  
Resurrection. We must never  
turn away from the Lord, we  
must never fear loving Him and  
proclaiming Him in this time  
and place, for He warns us: *For  
he that shall be ashamed of Me,  
and of My words, in this  
adulterous and sinful generation:  
the Son of Man also will be  
ashamed of him, when He shall  
come in the glory of His Father  
with the holy angels* (S. Mark  
8:38).

As always, I am most  
grateful for your prayers and  
support. Be assured of my  
paternal benediction and  
prayers, especially at Holy Mass.  
I remain,

In Christ the King,

**Monsignor ✠ Thomas JF Sebastian**

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**Q:** Monsignor: I always thought that Our Lord's mother was one of the women going to anoint His body early on Sunday morning. But, I think you said that she was not one of the women mentioned. But, if she was not; why not?

*PJP, Tarzana, CA*

**A:** Thank you for your question; The Holy Scriptures are *quite* clear in this regard: S. Joseph of Arimathea petitions Pilate for the body of the Lord and when He is taken down from the Cross, with the help of S. Nicodemus, He is wrapped in "fine new linen and spices as was the custom of the Jews" and put into an unused tomb in a nearby garden (cf. S. Matthew 27:56 ff., S. Mark 15:46 ff., S. Luke 23:54 ff., and S. John 19:38 ff.) The women mentioned in attendance at the burial of Our Lord are S. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph (the *other* Mary) and Salome, except in the Gospel account of S. John where the women are not mentioned by name.

In the devotion of the *Via Crucis*, or Way of the Cross, we pray that Our Blessed Lady arranged her Son's body in the Sepulcher "with her own hands."

This was the *immediate* preparation for burial because it was the great Passover and at sundown ALL labour must cease, so the Lord's body was prepared with haste, albeit with great reverence.

The scriptural accounts of the return for even more reverence and additional preparation take place three days later, "on the first day of the week", i.e.: Sunday. In these accounts we read that the Marys' (Magdalene, mother of James and Joseph and Salome) return and find the tomb already empty (cf. S. Matthew 28 ff., S. Mark 16 ff., S. Luke 24 ff., S. John 20 ff.). They are simply returning to do more: and they are all, except the Magdalene, blood relatives of the Lord. The Blessed Mother already took care of her Son on the day of His Passion and Death.

*If you have a question, please feel free to e-mail:*

[info@stfrancisoratory.org](mailto:info@stfrancisoratory.org)



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Y**OUR continued prayers are requested for the sick, especially Mr. Gary Starr, Mr. Alfred Smith, Mrs. Betty Schiermeyer, Mr. John Owen, and Mrs. Maria Gomez. Please also remember in your prayers the souls of those who have died. *If you know of someone unable to attend Holy Mass due to sickness please be sure to let one of the priests know so they can arrange for a sick call.*

**HOLY WEEK**

Because we are in our "borrowed" chapel this year we will only be able to hold the **Stations of the Cross** and **Good Friday Liturgy** there on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of April at noon. Of course we will have a lovely Mass there on **Easter Sunday**, which will include solemn Baptisms.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

This past Sunday, Lætare Sunday, our own Mr. Peter Vogelsang, made his First Holy Communion, which brought extra joy and celebration for the day. Please keep him in your prayers.





**Sunday Mass Time:**  
9:00 am – Parochial Mass  
with Sermon

*Confessions one half of an hour before Holy Mass*

**Gates, Kingsley & Gates  
Praiswater Mortuary**, located  
at 6909 Canoga Ave, Canoga  
Park, CA 91303 (*between  
Sherman Way and Vanowen*).  
(818) 786-2540

e-mail:

[info@stfrancisoratory.org](mailto:info@stfrancisoratory.org)

Be sure to visit our web site at:

[www.stfrancisoratory.org](http://www.stfrancisoratory.org)

**N.B. : Our new Mailing  
Address is:  
Post Office Box 8469  
Van Nuys, CA 91409-8469**

✿ Saint Francis Chapel is staffed by the Priestly Society of Christ the King (SSCR); properly trained and ordained Roman Catholic Priests who are faithful to the teachings and disciplines of the Roman Catholic Church. Saint Francis is not affiliated with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Our Holy Fathers, the Popes, most especially Saint Pope Pius V in His infallible decree *Quo Primum*, have given their permission in perpetuity to offer the Traditional Latin Mass (*Missal of S. Pope Pius V* and rubrics of *S. Pope Pius X*).

## MASS GUILD

Holy Mass is offered on the First Saturday of every month for all Friends and benefactors of SAINT FRANCIS ORATORY CHAPEL. Your generous donation (one time *or* monthly) enables you to be remembered upon the Altars of the Society, where *only* the traditional Latin Mass is offered, as codified and canonized by His Holiness, Saint Pope Pius V, *perpetually* approved of.

We would like to remind those who send Mass requests to PLEASE include the name of the person and/or intention with your stipend. Mass Cards will be sent to concerned parties upon request. Thank you and God bless you!



## RECOMMENDED WEBSITES:

[www.traditio.com](http://www.traditio.com)

[www.traditioninaction.com](http://www.traditioninaction.com)

[www.remnantnewspaper.com](http://www.remnantnewspaper.com)

[www.traditionalmass.org](http://www.traditionalmass.org)

*N.B.: Recommendation of a website is for information, and does not constitute association with or full agreement of opinions or positions.*