

SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

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

CHRITMASTIDE 2016

LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

BUT I am appointed King by Him over Sion His holy mountain, preaching His commandment. The Lord hath said to Me: Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee.

– Psalm 2:6 –7

CHRISTMAS is usually such a joyful time of year, and while we are truly joyful for the birth of Our Lord and King JESUS CHRIST, we cannot but help feel a pang in our hearts at the loss of such a young Catholic husband and father, **Alfredo “Freddy” Cortes†** (see article inside). This is when we rely upon the supernatural virtue of HOPE. Hope, even during the most troublesome times, keeps us vivified in God’s grace. We must hold fast to the promise of Our Blessed Lord: *your sorrow shall be turned to joy* (cf. S. John 16:20)!

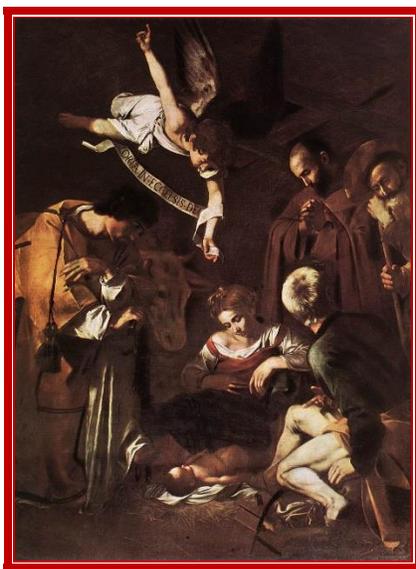
Christmastide is such a wonderful time of year because it reminds us of how God keeps His promises. He gave us a Saviour who redeems us and restores us to His grace and friendship, which we lost due to sin. So even in the midst of our suffering and sorrow we must never lose our hope in the promises of God: we shall live forever with Him *if we are faithful!*

I am asking that all faithful Catholics make heroic efforts for 2017, which is now

upon us. Here are some ways to be heroic:

- ❖ Make ALL 12 First Fridays in reparation for the offences and blasphemies daily made against the Kingship and Sacred Heart of JESUS!
- ❖ Make ALL 12 First Saturdays in honour of the 100th anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima, as well as to make reparation for sacrileges committed against her Immaculate Heart.
- ❖ Pray the Holy ROSARY every day.
- ❖ Pray for the Holy Souls every day.
- ❖ Build up the Kingdom of Christ by finding 25 – 100 new individuals or family to regularly attend Holy Mass at S. Francis.

These five simple actions would not only pour many graces upon all who participate, but will do much to help this poor world. Think of it as a gift to the Baby Jesus!



Lastly, I ask all who may read this to think, pray and act *generously*. Generosity is a sign of grace and Apostolic zeal – not just generously giving of

money, no, generosity of self – prayer, penance and sacrifice given freely and joyfully will transform the face of the earth, and stay the hand of God, who rightfully should strike this ungrateful, sinful and arrogant world; which has forgotten Him, or worse, has *rejected* Him.

If faithful Catholics would spend this year praying and *learning* about their Faith (the authentic Catholic Faith) to combat the errors of modernism: which has been called synthesis of all errors. We must reject all “teachings” that contradict Holy Scripture, Holy Tradition and the Catholic Doctrine and Dogma, as well as resist any so-called leader that tries to entice us with heresy and sin.

If we fail to convince and convert souls *this year*, I fear that we will face even greater sorrows than our forefathers who did not heed the warnings of Our Lady 100 years ago. We stand at the precipice of the most important decision of our lives: Heaven *or* Hell.

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: I do not understand why more people do not become traditional – how can they think that the NewChurch is the Catholic Church? They teach error and have changed *everything*, but S. Paul says the Faith cannot change (cf. Galatians 1:8 *ff.*) and that those who preach a “new” Gospel are damned. How do I make others understand they are in error?

To Jesus through Mary, Anonymous, CA.

A: It is a sad reality that most modern people reject that there is even is an ultimate truth, let alone accept that they are in error. S. Paul also teaches that the world shall turn against the soundness of true doctrine: “For there shall be a time, when they will not endure sound doctrine; but, according to their own desires, they will heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears: *And will indeed turn away their hearing from the truth, but will be turned unto fables* (II Timothy 4:3 – 4).” Alas, this is not new in the Church; in the 3rd and 4th century heretics taught error as concerns the nature of Our Lord JESUS CHRIST, and a majority of Catholics fell into this heresy, including *many* Priests and Bishops. The First Council of Nicaea was called in the year 325 to officially condemn the error.

There have been man errors and heresies that have infected the Holy Church over the years, and **Modernism** is the

latest. What makes it so pernicious is that it is the “Synthesis of all heresies” according to **S. Pope Pius X** in his monumental encyclical *Pascendi Dominici Gregis* of 8 September 1907.

To make others understand that they are in error we must first know the full truth ourselves, this means much study and prayer. Calling people names (like heretic) does not convince them: we must show them and teach them the truth. We do not shy from the truth and we do not try to make the truth “more gentle”: we tell it, like Our Blessed Lord, with fullness, gentleness and charity. That charity must be for the salvation of their soul; our love of their *soul* must be greater than our need for their affection. Learn your Faith and pray to God that he give you the grace and strength to defend His Holy Church, which is His Truth!

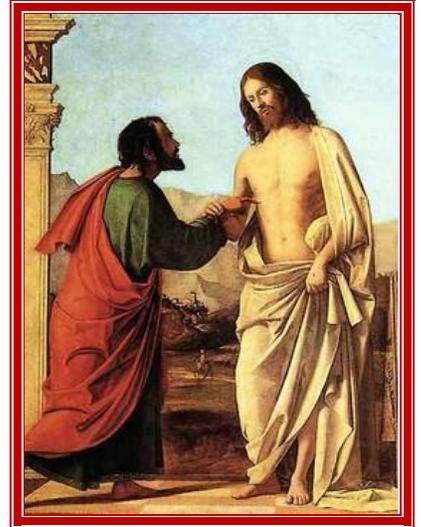


Our Lord teaching

If you have a question, please feel free to send them via mail or e-mail (info@stfrancisoratory.org).



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Saint Thomas the Apostle
(21st of December):

Pray for us!



PRAYER REQUESTS

YOUR continued prayers are requested for the sick, especially Mr. David Damits, Mrs. Dorothy Smith, Mrs. Antoinette Mangan, Mr. Joseph Bremmer, Mr. Frank Calderon, Mr. Alfred Smith, Mr. & Mrs. William Schiermeyer, Mrs. Denise Huizenga, Mr. John Owen, and Mrs. Maria Gomez. Please also remember in your prayers the souls of those who have died, especially for **Mr. Alfredo “Freddy” Cortes†**. *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.*





FIRST FRIDAY AND FIRST SATURDAY

OUR First Friday devotions will be on the 2nd of DECEMBER, and our First Saturday devotions will be on the 3rd of DECEMBER. First Friday Mass is at 7:00 p.m., followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament; First Saturday will be at 8:00 a.m., followed by the Devotions to the Immaculate Heart. For JANUARY it will be the 6th and 7th!

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



THURSDAY the 8th of December is the feast of the **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BVM: a Holy Day of Obligation**. Holy Mass will be offered at 7:00 pm.

A COMMENT ON CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING



You're a Mean One, Msgr. Grinch!

EVERY year I take a bit of "heat" because of my stand on Christmas gift-giving and it's rather un-Catholic consequences. If one reads the article on Christmas in the Catholic Encyclopedia there are some very important facts:

- 1) As the celebration of birthdays was something pagans did there was no celebration of the birth of Our Lord for the first few centuries of the Church's Liturgy.
- 2) When the Church finally allowed this celebration (it took a few centuries to become universal) it was a commemoration of the birth of JESUS, so no gifts were given to others.
- 3) The exchanging of gifts started *only* on the feast of the Epiphany, when the *Magi* gave the Christ Child gold, frankincense and myrrh. Traditional Catholic countries like Italy, Spain, Ireland and Mexico *still* exchange gifts on this holy day. However, the Victorian (i.e.: Protest-ant) custom of exchanging gifts on Christmas has completely overshadowed the true reason for Christmas, the BIRTH of

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Our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST, True God incarnate!

This Victorian "idea" of Christmas has taken such a stronghold on culture that Santas, Reindeer, Snowmen, Elves, et al, are more commonplace than the Crèche! Is there even a mention of the Birth of Christ in Dickens' *Christmas Carol*? Allusions to, yes, but specific mention?

Finally, the reason that we (the Clergy of S. Francis) ask that the faithful do not give us material "gifts" is because we do not "need" things...we *need* grace; so we ask for Spiritual Bouquets (Holy Masses offered, prayers and sacrifices for our intentions, etc.) or donations to our Building Fund.

I beg all who take their faith, and this Holy Day, seriously, to take this information into consideration. *And no, I do not "have garlic in my soul..."*

Which represents Christmas to you?

This...



Or this...





ALFREDO
"FREDDY"

CORTES†

2 December 1982 –

3 December 2016

Requiescat in Pace

From the Oration delivered *after* the Mass of Requiem.

MY DEAR and beloved Kristen; children of Freddy: Caden, Brenn, Shane, Ashlynn and Nathan; please accept the tremendous love, respect and profound sorrow from all of us here. My own soul is heavy with the sorrow of loss, and yet, I rejoice knowing that there is a soul that loved me and prays for me even now, as I continue to love and pray for him.

It is, alas, a sad necessity to mourn for those whom we love. It is also a tremendous sorrow to bury such a young and vibrant son, brother, husband and father: it is not normal for a parent to bury their child, but this is our reality. It is horrific for such young children to be deprived of their father. It is unimaginable for a young wife and mother to be robbed of her true love and co-parent.

When the natural bond of paternity is raised to the super-natural by the gift of Christianity, the parent has already give back to God the child that He has given to them. It is the duty of every Christian parent to dedicate and consecrate their child to God through the spiritual regeneration of Holy Baptism, which Freddy and Kristen surely did: it is in the giving of this Sacrament that the natural child becomes a super-natural son of God and heir to His Kingdom, as Saint Paul the Apostle teaches us:

But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent His Son, made of a woman, made under the law: That He might redeem them who were under the law: that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because you are sons, God hath sent the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying: Abba, Father. Therefore now he is not a servant, but a son. And if a son, an heir also through God. (Galatians 4:4-7 DRV)

This is the great gift that Freddy gave to his children; in this he valiantly fulfilled his obligation to God as a Christian father. And from this faithful gift he gave to God we have increased the Kingdom of Christ through his children; more Christians who must continue his commitment to *build up* the Mystical Body of Christ; the Church most Catholic.

One of the greatest lessons we can learn from this pious Catholic gentlemen is devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament and the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He

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made sure that his oldest son learned and understood how important it is to make a worthy confession *before* attempting to receive Our Blessed Lord JESUS in the Holy Eucharist, a habit I pray he will keep for the rest of his life. Freddy also made sure that the whole family prayed the Holy Rosary *together* as often as possible. On the day that they learned of their father's passing, these brave children *prayed* with their mother, her family and me the Our Father and the Hail Mary, many times over: the prayers they learned from their father became their comfort at such a great loss.

On the eve of his passing I heard Freddy's final confession: while I cannot tell you its content I can confirm the sincere, humble and trusting manner which he gave to God his true contrition for past sins: he was truly sorry for any and all offences against God and desired with his entire mind, body and soul, to repent and live in the grace of Jesus Christ, his Lord, Saviour and King. Knowing that this was truly his time I told Freddy something and I asked him something. I told him that I was a better Priest and Bishop because of him and his prayers, and so I thanked him for that: and then I asked him to please pray for me when he gets to heaven. He smiled and promised that he would. As anyone who knew him, knows for a fact: Freddy keeps his word – and I am counting on it!

Let us call to mind the liturgy of the Holy Church, which we have just prayed: *O God, whose property is ever have*

mercy and to spare, we humbly beseech Thee on behalf of the soul of Thy servant Alfredo, whom Thou hast this day called out of this world, that Thou wouldst not deliver him into the hands of the enemy, nor forget him forever, but command that he be taken up by Thy holy angels and borne to our home in paradise, that having put his hope and trust in Thee, he may not undergo the pains of hell, but may come to the possession of eternal joys.

It is in this same hope that we confidently hold on to, that allows us, nay, that commands us to see his soul safely in the bosom of Christ the Lord. Not because everyone goes to heaven" – no, let us not canonize Freddy yet, a grave error: but we pray for his soul every day; not in fear, but with the confidence of Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life (cf. S. John 14:6). The same Christ Whom suffered upon the Cross, Who offered His very own Body for him and for us, and Whom poured out His same-self Blood that he, and we, might be cleansed in the Blood of the Lamb. It is in *this* hope that we, being Baptised into Christ Jesus and His One True Church, and live in the grace of His Sacraments, might live forever with Him in that paradise. But should we stray from the safety of His Flock, for there is but One Fold and One Shepherd, we will not meet our beloved Freddy, nor anyone else we ever loved, but we will meet Christ the Judge, and our deserved and just punishment will be eternal damnation. Please do not be shocked that I say this, I say it not to shock but to warn. I say it to warn my own

self and not just any of you with ears to hear: be converted this day to Christ Jesus, Our Lord, Our God and Our King! Live in His grace today and ever more that you and I might share the bliss and complete joy of His mercy and love! Become saints today and remain in His grace forever – that we might reign with Him from on-high! Serve Him and rule with Him in heaven, or serve ourselves and our own selfish wants and desires, and suffer eternal torment in hell. Oh yes, there is a hell awaiting all of us should we fail to convert before we die. Freddy understood this and firmly believed this. God's loves us and wants us with Him: His love and mercy is greater than any hell fire: but we must choose Him. We *must* choose Him. He has already chosen us. He already *loves* us. He has already suffered for us and paid our ransom in His Precious Blood. The door is wide open, we need only accept Him and enter into the House of the Lord. *If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts!* (Psalm 94:8)



The Mass of Requiem at S. Michael's Mission (SSCR).

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Sunday Mass Time:
10:00 am – Parochial Mass
with Homily

Daily Mass Times:
Tuesday through Saturday
8:00 am

First Friday 7:00 pm
Confessions one half of an hour before Holy Mass

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Be sure to visit our web site at:

www.stfrancisoratory.org

☛ 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 INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY 2017

01 January 2017	FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION	10:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
02 January 2017	HOLY NAME OF JESUS	Private Mass	In Honour of the Holy Name	SSCR
03 January 2017	Octave of S. John	8:00 AM	Mrs. Bit Reed	Msgr. Sebastian
04 January 2017	Octave of the Holy Innocents	8:00 AM	Mrs. Cathy Steen	Msgr. Sebastian
05 January 2017	Vigil of the Epiphany	8:00 AM	Mrs. Debbie Savant	Msgr. Sebastian
06 January 2017	FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY	7:00 PM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
07 January 2017	Within the Octave	8:00 AM	Mr. & Mrs. Bradley & Jackie Reed	Msgr. Sebastian
08 January 2017	HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY	10:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
09 January 2017	Within the Octave	Private Mass	Private Intention	Anonymous
10 January 2017	Within the Octave	8:00 AM	Mr. Alfredo Cortes†	The Alfred Smith Family
11 January 2017	Within the Octave	8:00 AM	Mr. Alfredo Cortes†	The Huizenga Family
12 January 2017	Within the Octave	8:00 AM	The Cortes Family	The Huizenga Family
13 January 2017	Octave of the Epiphany	8:00 AM	Mr. Alfredo Cortes†	Msgr. Sebastian
14 January 2017	S. Hilary	8:00 AM	Mr. Alfredo Cortes†	Msgr. Sebastian
15 January 2017	Second Sunday after the Epiphany	10:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
16 January 2017	S. Marcellus I, Pope	Private Mass	Private Intention	Anonymous
17 January 2017	S. Anthony, Abbot	8:00 AM	Mr. Alfredo Cortes†	Msgr. Sebastian
18 January 2017	S. Peter's Chair in Rome	8:00 AM	Mr. Alfredo Cortes†	
19 January 2017	Ss. Marius & Companions	8:00 AM	Mr. Alfredo Cortes†	Msgr. Sebastian
20 January 2017	Ss. Fabian & Sebastian	8:00 AM	Mr. Alfredo Cortes†	Msgr. Sebastian
21 January 2017	S. Agnes	8:00 AM	Mr. Alfredo Cortes†	Msgr. Sebastian
22 January 2017	Third Sunday after the Epiphany	10:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
23 January 2017	S. Raymond Penafort	Private Mass	Private Intention	Anonymous
24 January 2017	S. Timothy	8:00 AM	Mr. Alfredo Cortes†	Msgr. Sebastian
25 January 2017	Conversion of S. Paul	8:00 AM	Mr. Alfredo Cortes†	Msgr. Sebastian
26 January 2025	S. Polycarp	8:00 AM	Mr. Alfredo Cortes†	Msgr. Sebastian
27 January 2017	S. John Chrysostom	8:00 AM	Mr. Alfredo Cortes†	Msgr. Sebastian
28 January 2017	S. Peter Nolasco	8:00 AM	Mr. Alfredo Cortes†	Msgr. Sebastian
29 January 2017	Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany	10:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
30 January 2017	S. Martina	Private Mass	Private Intention	Anonymous
31 January 2017	S. John Bosco	8:00 AM	In Thanksgiving	Msgr. Sebastian