

SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

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

DECEMBER 2020 – HOLY ADVENT

LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

TO THEE I have lifted up my soul: in Thee, O my God, I put my trust. – **Psalm 24:1**

THESE beautiful words of the twenty-fourth Psalm are prayed at the **Introit** of the first Mass of **Adventide**. Trust in God is absolutely necessary for spiritual and emotional peace. So many allow fear and despair to interrupt their peace, which is a sinful lack of faith in God's most holy providence, and will not solve anything...will not add anything (cf. S. Matthew 6:24 ff.).

Hope is so holy that it is elevated as one of the three **Theological Virtues** along with Faith and Charity (I Corinthians 13:13); in fact one cannot have Faith and Charity without Hope, they are intrinsically united, which S. Thomas Aquinas, the Angelic Doctor, calls the *Unity of the Virtues*. S. Augustine further teaches us that to these virtues we add the **Cardinal Virtues** of Prudence, Fortitude, Temperance and Justice, as given to us by Plato: *For these four virtues (would that all felt their influence in their minds as they have their names in their mouths!), I should have no hesitation in defining them: that temperance is love giving itself entirely to that which is loved; fortitude is love readily bearing all things for the sake of the loved object; justice is love serving only the loved object, and therefore ruling rightly; prudence is love*

distinguishing with sagacity between what hinders it and what helps it (De Moribus Ecclesiae Catholicae Chap. XV).

God's Chosen People kept Holy Hope alive while awaiting the Christ: *But they that hope in the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall take wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint* (Isaiah 40:31), and *For Thou art my patience, O Lord: my hope, O Lord, from my youth* (Psalm 70:5). It is the Apostle who sums us this Holy Hope for us when he writes: *Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing; that you may abound in hope, and in the power of the Holy Ghost* (Romans 15:13)!



At the first Advent mankind waited to the Saviour, Who came as a babe and was offered up as our Sacrifice, as the Baptist declares, *Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who taketh away the sin of the world* (S. John 1:29). But at this Adventide, and all others since the Nativity of Christ the King, we hope and wait for His *Second Coming*, when He shall in triumphant majesty, judging the living and the dead, and He shall reward the faithful and banish to hell the unfaithful (cf. S. Matthew 25:31 – 46)! This

return *must* be hoped for and believed because it is for the completion of His promise that He is the God of the Living and not of the dead (cf. S. Mark 12:27 & S. Luke 20:38), Who proclaims, *I am the Resurrection and the Life, he that believeth in Me, although he be dead, shall live* (S. John 11:25).

It is now this Holy Hope, the promise of eternal life, *not just spiritually but physically*, that must occupy our souls and minds.

Make this Adventide a truly holy season filled with hope and joy, share Christ the Awaited King with all by word and deed. Make a new beginning for yourself, take the chance with the **New Liturgical Year's** resolution: live in Holy Hope and share Holy Hope so that when you are before the Lord He will say, *Well done, good and faithful servant* (S. Matthew 25:21).

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: Dear Monsignor:

I know you have written about *Sede Vacantism* before, so I hope you can help me with this consideration: I understand that St. Athanasius stood up for the true Faith during the time of the Arian heresy, at a time when the Pope and most Bishops were heretics. St. Athanasius eventually saw the heresy defeated at the Council of Nicaea. Did St. Athanasius claim that the Arian Pope was no longer Pope, as he correctly judged him to be outside the Faith, and that the Holy See was therefore vacant? My guess is that he did not make that claim, but that he certainly knew that Arianism was heretical.

If this is true, how could we possibly doubt that Francis is Pope, because we observe him to be heretical? Even if it is obvious to us beyond a doubt that he acts in a non-Catholic way many times, could we be more certain than St. Athanasius was about the Pope during the Arian heresy? It seems as though the only way according to the Church that we could hold or even doubt that Francis was not the Pope, is if the Bishops voted and concluded he was not. That has not happened. Therefore, we must believe he is the Pope, if we are to follow Church teaching. To not clearly recognize him to be Pope, is the same as to have deposed him.

Thank you for always answering our questions

Anonymous

A: I hope I am able to further elucidate this for you and other readers...

1) S. Athanasius is not the sole defender of orthodoxy in this story, with him stand S. Nicholas of Smyrna (Santa Claus), S. Peter of Alexandria and S. Paul of Constantinople (to name just a few). There were several successive Popes during this period of struggle, but they were really not the main players: that role belonged to the Emperors, who called the Council of Nicaea. The weakness on the part of the Roman Popes was never considered formal heresy, so NO ONE ever believed they lost the Petrine Office. No *Sede Vacantism* here... so there is no comparison to our present situation.

2) At the time of the Arian Heresy Papal Infallibility was only a "theological opinion" and remained as such until it was formally proclaimed dogma by Pope Pius IX in 1871. All "opinions" remained as such, and were not heretical on either side until the formal definition...so there is no comparison to our present situation.

3) Now, to the recognition of a reigning Pontiff: there are two considerations, *i* - Canonical (legal) and *ii* - Theological. All sides agree that we are currently in a time of crisis and confusion when it comes to Francis-Bergoglio. Canonically we call this time "Common Error" and it allows for certain actions on the part of the Hierarchy of the Church, that during normal

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times would be considered "illicit" (illegal). This includes the Consecration of fully traditional Catholic Bishops in the traditional Rite, Ordaining fully traditional Catholic Priests in the traditional Rite; performing Sacramental Marriages and the hearing of Sacramental Confessions. In these cases Canon Law explicitly allows these actions for the good of souls (*suprema lex salus animarum*) and in these cases *Ecclesia Supplet* (the Church supplies any and all jurisdiction and permission [needed]). This legal considerations allows for those who "recognize yet resist" Francis as Pope of the Universal Church as well as those who hold that he does not have the necessary canonical requirements to hold that Office. S. Robert Bellarmine and Fr. Francisco Suarez (to name just two), eminent Catholic Theologians held that there was indeed a *possibility* that a Pope might fall into formal heresy (not just material heresy) and lose the Petrine Office. They also held that some men might be universally acclaimed as Pope, but due to heresy (or some other canonical defect) they were *never* actually Pope. In both cases, until a future Pope formally proclaims them as non-Popes one is obliged to act as if they are. As an aside, the Bishops of the Church have no power to "vote out" a Pope, and it is heresy to believe such. Even a Church Council cannot do such (the heresy of Conciliarism...the Council answers to the Pope, the Pope does not answer to a Council). However, these

theologians also held that those who rejected such "popes" in good faith, were neither heretics nor schismatics as long as they held such rejection as a private "Theological Opinion".

4) Any person, by means of educated and properly formed Catholic conscience, using Catholic Theology and Catholic Canonical Principles, who rejects Francis-Bergoglio as not being the Pope remains truly a member of the Church and in good standing. This rejection is not an act of "deposing" because that is a formal Canonical *and* Theological action: no inferior can depose a superior. None of us have the competence of deposing any Pope (or non-Pope), it will have to be left to a future Pope.

I think that you should leave such speculation to the future Church or to the (incompetent) "armchair theologians" - you and I can do nothing to change the situation save by prayer. And remember that during the Great Western Schism (1378 - 1417) there were *many* Popes and Anti-Popes, and great saints (S. Vincent Ferrer supported an anti-Pope) on both sides until the Council of Constance asked (not commanded) ALL claimants to resign and then elected Pope Martin V.

If you believe that Francis is Pope you *must* pray for him and for his conversion to true belief. If you believe that Francis is *not* Pope you *must* pray for him and for his conversion to true belief...
understand?

If you have a question, please feel free to e-mail:
info@stfrancisoratory.org



Diquel Pro, at his execution

SPECIAL ARTICLE: HOLY MEXICO

RECENTLY a young man approached me about how horrible and blood thirsty the ancient Aztec and Mayan people were, and to him, also being Irish, I replied: *our own people, the Celts, also performed ritual human sacrifice and savagely raped and murdered the tribes and clans of their own whom they vanquished.* Alas, the harsh treatment of one's fellow man began with the murder of **Abel the Just**, and one can even pray about it in the Psalms: *O daughter of Babylon, miserable: blessed shall he be who shall repay thee thy payment which thou hast paid us. Blessed be he that shall take and dash thy little ones against the rock* (Psalm 136:8 - 9). Like Ireland, the great and noble people of Mexico became examples of the Faith to the whole world; and like Ireland they were often unjustly oppressed and enslaved by other great powers of Christendom, a very sad fact that makes the true Christian blush with shame.

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The people of Mexico, champions of Christ the King, suffered much for the Faith and are truly of the *Land of Saints*; yes, there is the saintly **Juan Diego** to whom **Our Blessed Lady of Guadalupe** appeared, and yes, she was God's chosen instrument of the conversion of the people of Mexico, and truly all of the Americas; but there are others, not from heaven like Our Lady *but from Mexico itself*, who responded to her invitation to holiness and the True Faith, that may have escaped your notice:

S. Felipe de Jesús, Franciscan Missionary martyred in 1597 in Nagasaki, Japan and canonised by Pope Pius IX in 1862.

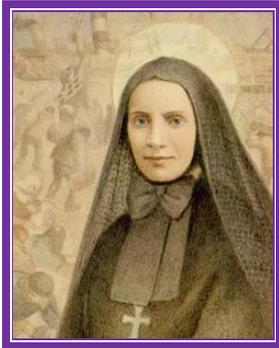
Madre Maria de Jesús en la Sagrado Sacramento (D. 1959) who founded a community of women who brought relief and comfort to the poor of Mexico.

The numerous Priests, Religious and zealous lay people, including children, who suffered martyrdom during the Mexican Revolution from 1916 - 1937, known as the **Cristeros**, were true champions of the Social Kingship of Jesus Christ and example of holy action.

José Ramón Miguel Augustin Pro-Juárez, SJ (d. 1927) who stood cruciform with his Rosary in his hand, and his last words before his viscous execution was the cry of the **Cristeros**: *¡Viva Cristo Rey!* Long live Christ the King!

The holy people of Mexico are much to be admired and respected for their Faith and tremendous culture of courtesy and customs of family loyalty and unity. Alas, like all lands that were once furnaces of love and devotion to God and His Holy Church they have been ravaged by poverty, oppression and internal conflict, and today have abandoned much of their glorious past for socialism and modernism, and, again like

Ireland, have lapsed into a mild *cultural* religion that now combines paganism and immorality. May they return to their former glory, and may the Saints and Martyrs of Mexico intercede on their behalf. ¡Viva México y viva Cristo Rey!



*S. Frances Xavier Cabrini (22nd of December) Italian Immigrant and First Canonised American:
Pray for us!*

PRAYER REQUESTS

YOUR prayers are requested for the sick, especially Mrs. Diane Powers, Mr. McCanna Anthony Sinise, Miss Lauren Howard, Mr. Paul Howard, Miss Rhonda Roeszler, Mr. John Owen, and Mrs. Maria Gomez. Please also remember in your prayers the souls of those who have died, especially Mr. Ronald Beeley†, Mr. Eugene G. Sullenberger†, Father Anthony Cekada†, Mr. Frank Calderon† and Mr. Alfred J. Smith†. *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.*



HOW TO DONATE AND SEND MASS STIPENDS

WE have had some recent inquiries on-line about how to donate or send Mass stipends. You can always send your donation to our Post Office Box:

St. Francis of Assisi
PO Box 8469
Van Nuys, CA 91409-8469

You can also donate on line with the **PayPal** link on our webpage:



The normal stipend for a Mass Intention is \$20.00. Please be sure to include the person's name (w/Mr., Mrs. or Miss) and if they are living or deceased. Also, be sure to indicate if you wish a Mass Card to be sent to that person or their family.

Your continued support is appreciated and quite needed to continue our mission of offer the true and traditional Latin Mass of the Holy Catholic Church. The true Mass and Faith are ours to protect, defend and support!

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION FOR 2020

8 December 2020 (Tuesday)
Immaculate Conception of the BVM

25 December 2020 (Friday)
Christmas

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EMBER DAYS OF ADVENT

PLEASE remember that we observe the **Ember Days of Advent** this month: Wednesday the 16th, Friday the 18th and Saturday the 19th. The Holy Church devotes these days to prayer, penance and sacrifice. On these three days the faithful are bound, under pain of mortal sin, to abstain from meat.

The current Laws of Fast and Abstinence (for the United States) are absolutely binding (unless lawfully excused or dispensed) for *all* the faithful. All baptized Catholics, seven years of age or older, are bound to **abstain**. The two types of abstinence are **complete** and **partial**. *Complete abstinence* forbids the eating of meat, and soup or gravy made with or from meat is required all Fridays throughout the year, *Partial Abstinence*, which permits meat, and soup or gravy made from meat, to be eaten *only* at the main meal, is required on Ember Wednesday and Ember Saturday.

The laws of **Fasting** are for all baptized Catholics, from ages 21 through 59, inclusive. On the days of fast only one full meal is allowed (with meat, except on Friday) with two smaller *meatless* meals, which together do not equal one full meal. The eating of food or snacks between meals is forbidden; however the drinking of liquids, including milk and juice, are allowed.

For reasons of health one may seek the reduction or even dispensation from the fast

from the Monsignor; one should never simply dispense one's self from these obligations; and should one be lawfully dispensed from these obligations, he should strive to find another type of *approved* penance that can be satisfactory to Almighty God.

Please also remember that Monday the 7th (*Vigil of the Immaculate Conception*) and Thursday the 24th (*Vigil of Christmas*) are also days of fast and total abstinence.

**SUNDAYS OF
DECEMBER:
THE CATHOLIC
HAND MISSAL**

In order to assist the faithful following Holy Mass with their hand missals here are the Sunday Masses for **December**:

6 December 2020:

Second Sunday in of Advent:

Commemoration of S. Nicholas at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

13 December 2020:

Third Sunday in of Advent:

Commemoration of S. Lucy and the Immaculate Conception at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

20 December 2020

Fourth Sunday in of Advent:

Commemoration of *the BVM* and *Against the Persecutors of the Church* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

27 December 2020

S. John, Apostle & Evangelist:

Commemoration of the Octave of Christmas at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

To correctly participate at Holy Mass one *silently* unites his prayers with those of the

Church through pious and attentive meditation of the prayers and reading of Holy Mass.

If you are unsure how to correctly set your hand missal arrive early for Holy Mass and ask the Monsignor to assist you. It is also important to become familiar with the *Ordinary of the Mass*, those parts that never change, i.e.: Kyrie, Gloria, Creed, Sanctus, Benedictus, and the Agnus Dei. And of course the Canon of the Mass, and the *Propers of the Mass*, those which vary according to the feasts of the day, i.e., Introit, Collect(s)(after the Gloria or Dominus Vobiscum), Epistle, Gradual, Alleluia, Tract or Sequence, Gospel, Secret, Communion Verse and Post Communion. On many feasts or days there are *Commemorations* (additional prayers) at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion. The careful attention to these prayers and readings will help one enter into a deeper spiritual relationship with the Holy Liturgy, the Saints and Mysteries of God.



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The Hiding Mass in Ireland



The Hiding Mass in Van Nuys

Sunday Mass Time:

(please call or email for current Mass time and location)

(818) 786-2540

e-mail: info@stfrancisoratory.org

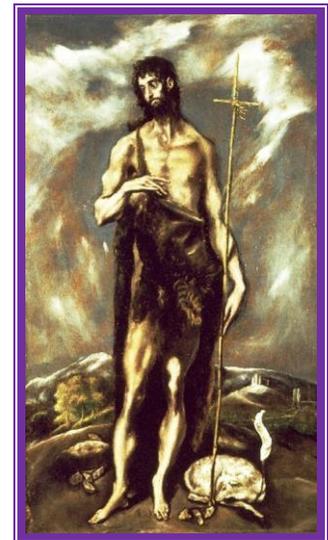
Be sure to visit our web site at:

www.stfrancisoratory.org

N.B. : Our Mailing Address is:

Post Office Box 8469

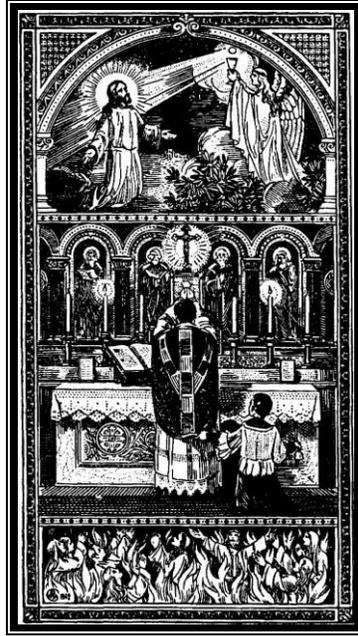
Van Nuys, CA 91409-8469



*S. John the Baptist, Precursor of
Christ the King:
Pray for us!*



✿ 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!

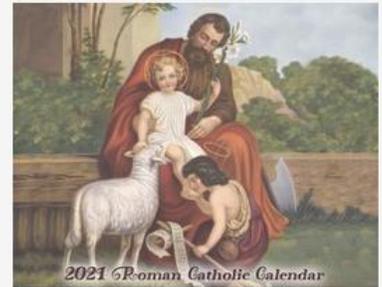
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RECOMMENDED WEBSITES:

www.traditio.com
www.traditioninaction.com
www.remnantnewspaper.com
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.

2021 Church Calendar



2021 LITURGICAL CALENDAR

We again recommend that ALL the faithful purchase their 2021 Liturgical Calendar directly from:

The Roman Catholic Calendar
 2200 Smelter Avenue
 Black Eagle, MT 59414
 (406) 452-9021
<https://www.ihm-church.org/publications/church-calendar.html>