

# SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

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

FEBRUARY 2017

## LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

**I** HAVE loved, O Lord,  
the beauty of Thy  
House; and the place  
where Thy glory  
dwelleth. — Psalm 25:8

**I**T is unbelievable to imagine but this fall will mark the 20th anniversary of the establishment of our little Oratory Chapel. On Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 1997, on the feast of S. Francis of Assisi, our first public Mass was offered for about a dozen faithful. We are blessed to still be in existence due to the will and grace of God. From our tiny House Chapel and the Mortuary Chapels to our current home (April of 2000) we have come quite a way. However, the real work has yet to begin: a permanent home is the only way to truly grow and expand this mission.

I do not foresee a large gothic cathedral or baroque basilica; those days have passed. What I see are small but well attended missions across the country. These missions need to be in the centre of large cities where there is less hope and greater despair – here is where the Word needs to be preached – here is where the Sacraments can give hope and joy.

Our Oratory Chapel dedicated to S. Francis must be like the first Oratory rebuilt by

that heroic saint: stone upon stone in what was considered too insignificant to restore by anyone else. But let us also remember the lesson learned by Holy Francis: the true stones to be built with are the “living stones” of zealous faithful souls vivified by the grace of God (cf. I S. Peter 2:5).



I have great confidence that we can accomplish these “little” goals and miracles. In the next five (5) years I see us building our missions across southern California. We already have several in their infant stages, but we need to help them grow.

We had to put **S. Joseph’s Mission** on hold, but I am sure that by Lent we will again be up for a monthly Mass in Apple Valley. The same for **Our Mother of Perpetual Help Mission** in Simi Valley. We also expect to hear, very soon,

about revisiting **S. Michael’s Mission** in Los Alamitos. Once we have these missions truly functioning we will be able to work on establishing missions in either the heart of Los Angeles or the Westside...we will leave that to God!

The love for God is manifest in our love for His Church: both in keeping sacred the Rites and Doctrines given to us by Him and in the preservation and upkeep of His physical houses of worship. The Catholic Church preserves not only the spiritual aspects of God but also His actual and true Presence in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Every Catholic Church that maintains and reposes the Blessed Sacrament as a dwelling place of the Most High God has the great responsibility of keeping such a place with great solemnity and dignity. Nothing profane should ever take place in such a holy place, which is why we should always make sure that we enter our churches with serious intention and attention.

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, like many at the Oratory I cannot help but feeling sad about the loss of Freddy Cortes†, especially because he leaves behind a large, young family. How do we get over such a sad situation?

*In Christ, Anonymous, C.A.*

**A.** HOPE is a supernatural virtue (one of the three Theological Virtues) and it is absolutely necessary to believe *with hope* the promises of Christ. When it comes to those we have lost we must stand firm with S. Paul:

*For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor might, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*  
- Romans 8:38 - 39

But I think the real topic of your question is not about the passing of a dear soul, but of the sadness of those who remain. When our loved ones die a holy and Catholic death, with must allow ourselves to comforted by the promises of Our Lord *and* do everything we can to live our own lives in grace and virtue, so that we may also, like Freddy Cortes†, be an example of not only how to live but also how to die. This also becomes a comfort to others, and reminds us of the words of Our Blessed Lord: *Blessed are they that mourn, for*

*they shall be comforted!* (S. Matthew 5:5)



*Our Lord teaching*

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



**Our Lady of Lourdes (11<sup>th</sup> of February):**

**Pray for us!**



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Y**OUR 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.

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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**

**O**UR First Friday devotions will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of FEBRUARY, and our First Saturday devotions will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> of FEBRUARY. 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.

N.B.: Since First Friday falls on the feast of S. Blaise the blessing of throats will take place after the First Friday Devotions.





## THE HOLY LEAGUE COMING TO S. FRANCIS

**I**N 1571 the great Saint and Pope, Pius V, established the HOLY LEAGUE, first as an organization of Catholic Princes who came together to fight the invading Turks; in later years it became part of normal Catholic Life in the average parish, along with the HOLY NAME SOCIETY, the ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY, and OUR LADY'S SODALITY (to name just a few).

As a means of *restoring all things in Christ* (cf. Ephesians 1:10), we will establish a Holy League here at S. Francis. The modern Holy League *firstly* promotes devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and then works to build up and sanctify our families. The Holy League is open

to men and boys of *all* ages who adore and pray before the Blessed Sacrament for the above mentioned activities.

Our first official meeting of the Holy League will be on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February (First Friday), and begin at 6:45 pm). All the men of S. Francis are *highly* encouraged to join and begin attending. Of course the ladies of the Oratory Chapel are invited to attend as "witnesses."



## CATHOLIC MARRIAGE

*There was a marriage made in Cana of Galilee: and the mother of JESUS was there. And JESUS also was called, and His Disciples to the marriage. - S. John 2:1 - 2*

**I**T is no small passing thing that Our Blessed Lord chose the Marriage at Cana to perform His first public miracle, at which S. John tells us, *He manifested His glory, and His Disciples believed in Him* (S. John 2:11). It is, given the current attacks on marriage, an

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opportune time to teach about the great and holy Sacrament of Matrimony.

First, let us speak of marriage in its natural sense: when God created man he gave him a counterpart. Man and woman complimented one another: *not completed one another*, for man was made in perfection (cf. Genesis 1:26 - 27, Ezekiel 28:12 - 15). This state of union was so blessed by God that He commanded them to *be fruitful and multiply* in order to become masters of the world (cf. Genesis 1:28).

So marriage was given to man by God to *compliment* and to *bring forth children*, that is, create society. As we learned on **Holy Family Sunday**, the family is a natural society formed for the good of mankind. The coming together of one man and one woman for their exclusive mutual benefit is a noble and wholly good thing for the propagation of human society, for it prevents distraction, selfishness and misuse of the conjugal act. When a husband and wife come together it must be respectful and thoughtful and in mutual consent - the actual definition of marital love - and elevated to a higher purpose. We understand this in its natural sense using the human faculty of reason. Aristotle teaches us in his *Ethics* that reason must be used for correct behaviour: *The good, whatever it is, is the good for man and therefore can be ascertained only by discovering what man is* (that is, by understanding what man's nature is).

*(continued on page x)*

So understanding what the proper nature of marriage is becomes necessary to make a well ordered use of marriage.

Therefore, the nature (that is, the proper manner of acting) of natural marriage, is to build up human society, and to give an *heroic* example to that same human society of marriage's proper and well-ordered use.

Now, let us proceed to speaking of marriage in its supernatural sense. A thing, in this case marriage, is perfected when it is moved by grace. When Our Lord upholds marriage as not only natural but supernatural through His explicit teaching on its indissolubility (cf. S. Matthew 19:3 – 10, S. Mark 10:2 – 12), He lends His grace to its confection. Natural marriage is *not* done away with, rather, it is elevated; as S. Thomas teaches: *grace does not destroy nature, it perfects it* (*Summa Theologica* Part I, 1:8). Those who now enter into a *Sacramental* Marriage, which is *only* possible in the Catholic Church, are called to a more perfect union, not only one man and one woman alone, but *with* God and *with* His grace. Marriage is now called to an higher operation, that is, its nature is now perfected. S. Thomas calls this *nature cooperating with grace* (*natura cum gratia cooperans*). The operation of a supernatural marriage is to create a *supernatural society*: which is a society that imitates *the* Perfect Society and Family: the Most Holy Trinity. To do so a husband and wife, united in the Sacrament of Matrimony,

come together with the express purpose of bringing forth new life (children). Children must be a reflection and a product of their perfect love, *not* the motivation for love – which would be disordered. All creation came into being *because* of the perfect love between the Three Persons of the Most Holy Trinity: God being the *agent* or *primary mover* of all created matter. Simply put, God does not love man *because* He made him, rather, He made him *because* He loves him.

If a husband and wife come together with the sole purpose of physical gratification and close themselves off to the creation of life through contraception, they engage in selfish, sinful and disordered behaviour; completely contrary to the purpose of marriage. They would be guilty of the purposeful *misuse* of their conjugal gift. This sin is doubled when a man and woman come together *outside* of marriage, again, without the possibility of bringing forth life: there is no love, not even for each other, simply self-gratification and the misuse of a natural act with a disordered intention. This is why S. Paul, echoing the Saviour, teaches: *Know you not that the un just shall not possess the kingdom of God? Do not err: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor the effeminate, nor liars with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor railers, nor extortioners, shall possess the kingdom of God* (I Corinthians 6:9 – 10).

So let us rejoice that God so loves us that He has

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blessed us with such a good and holy thing as marriage: all of human society and life comes from God's gift of marriage: it is truly the foundation for our continued natural existence. Let us protect and defend marriage, for it is a precious gift from God that gives grace and facilitates eternal life.



*If you have a Catholic topic that you are interested in learning more about, send your request to "info@stfrancisatoratory.org"*



# MASS INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 2017

01 February 2017	S. Ignatius of Antioch	8:00 AM	Increase in Membership	Msgr. Sebastian
02 February 2017	Purification of BVM	8:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
03 February 2017	S. Blaise	7:00 PM	In Honour of the Sacred Heart	Msgr. Sebastian
04 February 2017	S. Andrew Corsini	8:00 AM	S. Francis Mass Guild	
05 February 2017	Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany	10:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
06 February 2017	S. Titus	Private Mass	Private Intention	Anonymous
07 February 2017	S. Romauld, Abbot	8:00 AM	Tradition in Action	Msgr. Sebastian
08 February 2017	S. John of Matha	8:00 AM	Tradition in Action	Msgr. Sebastian
09 February 2017	S. Cyril of Alexandria	8:00 AM	Tradition in Action	Msgr. Sebastian
10 February 2017	S. Scholastica	Private Mass	Priory of the Immaculata	Msgr. Sebastian
11 February 2017	Our Lady of Lourdes	Private Mass	Special Intention	Msgr. Sebastian
12 February 2017	Septuagesima Sunday	10:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
13 February 2017	<i>feria</i>	Private Mass	Private Intention	Anonymous
14 February 2017	<i>Mass of Requiem</i>	8:00 AM	Doña Teresa Graves†	Msgr. Sebastian
15 February 2017	S. Faustina & Jovita	8:00 AM	Father Paul, S.S.Sp.	SSCR
16 February 2017	<i>feria</i>	8:00 AM	Father Paul, S.S.Sp.	SSCR
17 February 2017	<i>feria</i>	8:00 AM	Father Paul, S.S.Sp.	SSCR
18 February 2017	Our Lady's Saturday	8:00 AM	Father Paul, S.S.Sp.	SSCR
19 February 2017	Sexagesima Sunday	10:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
20 February 2017	<i>feria</i>	Private Mass	Private Intention	Anonymous
21 February 2017	<i>Mass of Requiem</i>	8:00 AM	Miss Kristie Tysdal†	Miss Jennifer Smith
22 February 2017	S. Peter's Chair in Antioch	8:00 AM	Mr. Antonio Rama†	Mrs. Cory Teodosio
23 February 2017	S. Peter Damian	8:00 AM	Mr. Antonio Rama†	Mrs. Cory Teodosio
24 February 2017	S. MATTHIAS, Ap	8:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
25 February 2017	Our Lady's Saturday	8:00 AM	Mr. Antonio Rama†	Mrs. Cory Teodosio
26 February 2017	Quinquagesima Sunday	10:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
27 February 2017	S. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin	Private Mass	Private Intention	Anonymous
28 February 2017	<i>Mass of Requiem</i>	8:00 AM	Mr. Antonio Rama†	Mrs. Cory Teodosio





**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*

**16826 Saticoy Street**

*Entrance and Parking around back*

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Be sure to visit our web site at:

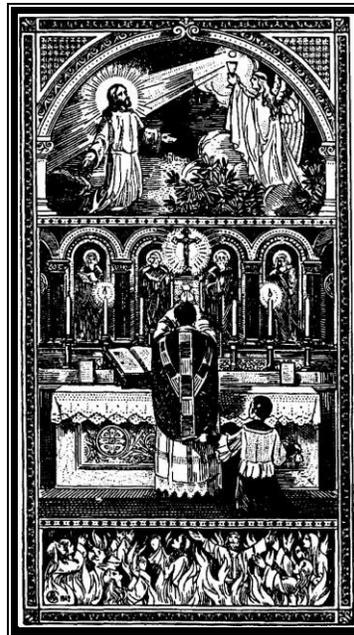
[www.stfrancisoratory.org](http://www.stfrancisoratory.org)

✿ 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 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.traditioninaction.com](http://www.traditioninaction.com)  
[www.traditio.com](http://www.traditio.com)  
[www.cfnews.org](http://www.cfnews.org)  
[www.remnantnewspaper.com](http://www.remnantnewspaper.com)

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