

# SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

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

FEBRUARY 2020 – SEPTUAGESIMATIDE

## LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

**T**HE sorrows of death surrounded me: and the torrents of iniquity troubled me. The sorrows of hell encompassed me: and the snares of death prevented me. In my affliction I called upon the Lord, and I cried to my God: And he heard my voice from his holy Temple – Psalm 17:5 – 7

**T**HE above referenced Psalm is used in the Introit from the Mass of Septuagesima Sunday (9 February), which is the beginning of the pre-Lenten season. While the Lenten Fast does not start, the Sacred Liturgy takes on a penitential nature with the Alleluia being removed from Holy Mass and the Holy Office, not to reappear until Holy Saturday; also, the organ will be silent at Holy Mass, no flowers on the Altar and the vestments will be purple on the Sundays and ferial days of the season.

This preparation should be taken seriously, with a recommitment to living a life of grace, adding extra prayers, weekly Confession and making a serious spiritual inventory to submit to your Spiritual Director or Confessor for prudent review. It would also be profitable to learn about some saints who took self-sacrifice to extraordinary

levels, specifically S. Perpetua and S. Felicity. S. Perpetua was a noble woman living in Carthage (North Africa) and S. Felicity was a slave of the same area. Fate brought these two very different women together when imprisoned for the Holy Faith and then martyred together on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 203. They encouraged one another and other condemned saints by prayer and witnessing the faith in Jesus Christ and to remind us that in Our Saviour there is no difference of race, nationality or position (cf. Galatians 3:28 and Colossians 3:11).



Some of the other things we can do is serve others: we will be registering ourselves, friends and family for donating at the Red Cross, collecting and distributing for those in need, and, of course, adding prayers for the strengthening and protecting the Holy Church.

The Christian serves God by serving others, as the Saviour teaches us: *And whosoever will be first among you,*

*shall be the servant of all* (S. Mark 10:44). We are also reminded by Our Lord: *Amen I say to you, as long as you did it to one of these My least brethren, you did it to Me* (S. Matthew 25:40). When you do good for others on account of Christ you show true charity and Apostolic zeal; but remember to keep such actions between you and God: *Therefore when thou dost an almsdeed, sound not a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be honoured by men. Amen I say to you, they have received their reward. But when thou dost alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doth. That thy alms may be in secret, and thy Father Who seeth in secret will repay thee* (S. Matthew 6:2 – 4). As the old adage tells us, *do good and disappear*. Keep in mind that it is better to give than to receive (cf. Acts 20:35)!

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



S. Lawrence giving alms to the poor.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q.** Monsignor,  
My question concerns the Angels: What is the Biblical tradition? How many choirs are there and what is their function and their nature? Are saints in heaven higher than the angles?

Viva Cristo Rey!

*SB, Portland, OR*

**A.** There are Nine distinctive types of angels in the three hierarchies of angels found in the Sacred Scriptures. The original Hebrew word *mal'akh* (מַלְאָךְ) means *messenger*, which of course makes perfect sense since the *spiritual* angels have been sent by God; and the *human* angles, like the Baptist, are likewise sent. This answer pertains to the *spiritual* angels only. These angels are *pure spirit*, that is, they have no corporeal bodies, although they have *appeared* at various times and places taking a human form, e.g.: the two angels that visit Holy Lot and his family in Sodom (cf. Genesis 19:1 – 24) or the two angels who ask the Apostles, *Ye men of Galilee, why stand you looking up to heaven? This Jesus Who is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come, as you have seen Him going into heaven* (Acts 1:10 – 11).

S. Thomas Aquinas in his *Summa* (Part I, question 108) names the *three hierarchies* that each contain *three orders* of angels: in the first *hierarchy* are the *Cherubim, Seraphim* and *Thrones*, in the second are the *Dominations, Virtues* and *Powers*,

and in the third are the *Principalities, Archangels* and *Angels*. These angels are certainly distinct from the Saints, who would be *higher*, as you say, on account of what they have accomplished. For example, Our Lady, the Blessed Virgin Mary, on account of her role in salvation is *higher* than the angels: when greeting Our Lady S. Gabriel the Archangel folded his wings before her and gave her reverence. In the Book, *The Mystical City of God*, by the Venerable Mary of Ágreda (d. 1665), we read this exchange between Holy Gabriel and Holy Mary: *Recognizing him as such [an angel], She, in her usual humility, wished to do him reverence; the holy prince would not allow it; on the contrary he himself bowed profoundly as before his Queen and Mistress, in whom he adored the heavenly mysteries of his Creator.*

In addition, certain saints would also be *higher* on account of being able to confect the Sacraments, most especially that of the Body of Christ.

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

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

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## PRAYER REQUESTS

**YOUR** prayers are requested for the sick, especially Mr. Frank Calderon, 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

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those who have died, especially 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**

21 May 2020

*Ascension Thursday*

15 August 2020 (Saturday)

*Assumption of the BVM*

1 November (Sunday)

*All Saints Day*

8 December 2020 (Tuesday)

*Immaculate Conception of the BVM*

25 December 2020 (Friday)

*Christmas*

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

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

2 February 2020:

**Purification of the BVM:** commemoration of the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion. Last Gospel of the Sunday.

9 February 2020

**Septuagesima Sunday:** commemoration of S. Cyril of Alexandria and S. Apollonia at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

16 February 2020

**Sexagesima Sunday:** commemoration of Suffrage of the Saints and Against the Persecutors of the Church at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

23 February 2020

**Quinquagesima Sunday:** commemoration of S. Peter Damian 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.

**CATECHISM  
FOR ALL**

**O**UR monthly lecture for February will be on the **Ceremonies and Rites of Holy Mass**; please submit your questions to:

*info@stfrancisoratory.org*

If you have not yet signed up for the lecture series you may do so at any time. **If you are interested please send an email to:**

Saint Francis Exchange  
*info@stfrancisoratory.org*



**ASH WEDNESDAY  
26 FEBRUARY 2020**

The 26<sup>th</sup> of February 2020 is **Ash Wednesday**, the beginning of **Great Lent**. Holy Mass preceded by the Blessing and Distribution of Ashes will take place at 7:00 pm.



*One is never too young to participate in the Life of the Holy Church*



*The Clergy receive their Ashes on their crown*



**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!



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## 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.*



*S. Blaise (3 February):  
Pray for us!*

S. Blaise was the Bishop of *Sebaste*, Armenia, and was martyred sometime in the fourth century.