

SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

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

FEBRUARY 2023 – SEPTUAGESIMA TIDE

LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

The Season, upon which we are now entering, is expressive of several profound mysteries. But these mysteries belong not only to the three weeks, which are preparatory to Lent; they continue throughout the whole period of time, which separates us from the great Feast of Easter.

The Liturgical Year, Dom Prosper Guéranger

AS we prepare ourselves to enter into the great and holy season of Lent, it is of great importance to take this season seriously and with purpose. The Holy Church has always called for *fast* and *abstinence* during times of great persecution and sin, as well as in preparation for a holy season or feast. We are in times of *great evil*, with the Holy Church and her faithful being persecuted by her enemies.

I am **begging** the faithful to take serious this year's Lententide for the sanctification *and* protection of the Holy Church. *Prayer*, *Penance* and *Sacrifice* **must** be taken seriously and with greater focus and intent in order to relieve these demonic attacks or to give us the grace to withstand them.

In the holy liturgy of this season we notice a few *changes*, first, the **Gloria**, **Alleluia** and **Ita Missa Est** are omitted at Holy Mass (the *Ita*

Missa Est is replaced by the *Benedicamus Dómino* – Let us bless the Lord). A wonderful tradition of this season is the *Burying of the Alleluia*. At the office of *Vespers* (Evening Prayer) the praying, or singing, of the Alleluia is done so quite solemnly, afterwards the clergy, accompanied by the faithful, “bury” the Alleluia by the use of a scroll or plaque with ALLELUIA written on it in either the churchyard or another appropriate “resting place” and then it is “resurrected” on Holy Saturday, the **Vigil of Easter**.



“Burying” the Alleluia

One of the greatest tragedies of the post-conciliar NewChurch is the destruction of so many lovely Catholic customs that united Catholic Families with the Holy Church, such as the Epiphany Blessing of Water and Chalk with the head of the home “marking” the lintel of the main entrance with the initials of the *Magi*. Such wonderful customs directly connected the hierarchy of the Church with

the hierarchy of the *Domestic Church*, that is, the family. When I was a boy I remember that it was my grandfather (my *Da*) who *always* led our grace at table. If he was absent due to work then my grandmother (my *Nonnie*) would lead it. There was no egalitarian “your turn” by anyone else at the table: once my cousin Jimmy and I were on an outing and when it came time for us to have our lunch it was he who lead our grace, because he was *ten months older* than I was...he still reminds me of that fact!

As I informed all you dear readers last month, our little **Priestly Society** was blessed to receive a new seminarian who has begun his Spiritual Year, and with your prayers and sacrifices for him and all seminarians, God's grace will provide them with what they need to fulfil their vocations!

This year I will also keep open our plea for your assistance: we must work hard for a permanent home for our Chapel, which means we need your prayers and sacrifices. We need to raise close to \$100,000.00 that will serve as a down payment for a property and then we will need your commitment to assist monthly to sustain that property. If you can assist in this goal, *one time or monthly*, we will be grateful and can promise that God will surely bless you.

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: My Lord Bishop: It seems that almost everyone I know now has tattoos. When I was younger this was a sign of rebellion and criminal behavior, but it seems today *everyone* has them, even some traditional Catholics. Can you please give us the Church's true teaching on tattoos?

With much respect,
Anonymous

A: As I stated in my letter at the beginning of this newsletter, we live in wicked times, and the purposeful mutilation of one's body is a confirmation of such wickedness. Over a decade ago an individual came to me and showed me their latest "body art" (a repulsive term, since the body is the perfection of God's art): it was an image of Our Lady with this person's mother's name and life dates. I was quite taken aback and stated this was sinful mutilation of one's body, to which the response was "But this is in honour of Our Lady and in memory of my dead mother," and I apologized for failing to teach them of this most holy and explicit teaching: *You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh, for the dead, neither shall you make in yourselves any figures or marks: I am the Lord* (Leviticus 19:28). So this poor person was hit with a double sin; the purposeful and forbidden marking of their body and the commemoration of the dead with that same mutilation.

Because of the NewChurch's disregard for the sacredness of the body, hence the tolerance of mutilation of the body with tattoos, modifications and the like (this includes so called "gender reassignment" mutilation) and that the sacredness of our body which belongs not to us but to God as *Temples of the Holy Ghost* (cf. I Corinthians 6:19). This also leads to the great sacrilege of *cremation* of the body, as it is an explicit denial of resurrection and restoration of the body.

Now, if after being made aware of such a prohibition an individual *continues* such mutilation of their body a pastoral penalty may need to be applied (e.g.: denial of Holy Communion), but there is no *obligation* to "remove" such mutilations, however, tattoo removal would be highly encouraged and serve as greater lesson to others. I remember reading several years ago of a "celebrity" who took his children to his *painful* tattoo removal sessions, taking no pain relief medication, as an example. One can only commend such action as a remedy of past and future sin.

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

info@stfrancisoratory.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

YOUR prayers are requested for the sick, especially for Miss Alyssa Smith, Miss Pamela Jo Perkins, Mr. Vern Fenimore, Miss Erica Chapman, Mr. Charles E. McClusky, Mrs. Denise

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Huizenga, Mrs. Diane Powers,
Mr. Paul Howard, Mr. Jeff
Michaels and Mrs. Maria
Gomez. Please also remember
in your prayers the souls of
those who have died, especially
Mr. Chris Hundt†. *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.*



Real Men Kneel at Holy Mass!

HOW TO DONATE AND SEND MASS STIPENDS

DONATIONS and Mass Stipends can be sent online (be sure to select *donation* and not *payment*) or you can always be sent to our Post Office Box:

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



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!



ASH WEDNESDAY

WE are called to remember that our **Lenten Observance** will begin on the 22nd of February, **Ash Wednesday**, the Blessing and Distribution of Ashes will take place at 6:45 pm that evening. All the faithful are highly encouraged to attend Holy Mass and begin their proper observance of this most holy season.

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION FOR 2023

18 May 2023 (Thursday)
Feast of the Ascension of the Lord
15 August 2023 (Tuesday)
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
1 November 2023 (Wednesday)
Feast of All Saints
8 December 2023 (Friday)
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
25 December 2023 (Monday)
Feast of the Nativity of the Lord

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 February:

5 February 2023:

Septuagesima Sunday:

Commemoration of the *S. Agatha, Virgin Martyr* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

12 February 2023:

Sexagesima Sunday:

Commemoration of *Seven Holy Founders of the Servites* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

19 February 2023:

Quinquagesima Sunday:

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

26 February 2023:

First Sunday in Lent:

Commemoration of the *Suffrage of the Saints and For the Living and the Dead* 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

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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.



*S. Matthias, Apostle:
24 February
Pray for us!*



The Hiding Mass in Van Nuys

Sunday Mass Times:

08:00 am & 10:00 am

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

(818) 786-2540

e-mail: info@stfrancisatory.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

✿**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

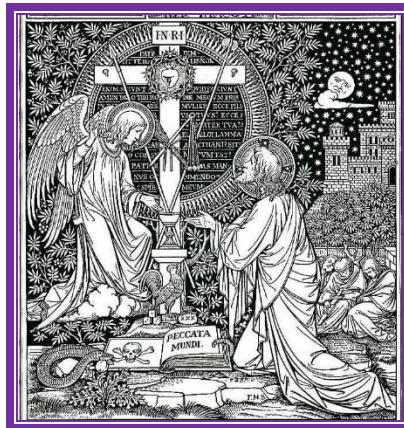
HOLY MASS is offered on the First Saturday of every month for all Friends and benefactors of **SAINT FRANCIS ORATORY CHAPEL**. Your generous donation (one time *or* monthly) enables you to be remembered upon the Altars of the Society, where *only* the traditional Latin

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
 - 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.*



Meditate daily upon the Passion of Christ during Septuagesima and Lent; with humility and gratitude: We bless Thee and adore Thee O Christ, because by Thy Holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world!

PETER SPEAKS:

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WHERE is the road which leads us to Jesus Christ? It is before our eyes: it is the Church. It is our duty to recall to everyone, great and small, the absolute necessity we are under to have recourse to this Church in order to work out our eternal salvation.

Saint Pope Pius X

