

# SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

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

MAY 2016

## LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

**Who** is she that  
cometh forth as  
the morning rising, fair  
as the moon, bright as  
the sun, terrible as an  
army set in array?

– Canticles 6:9

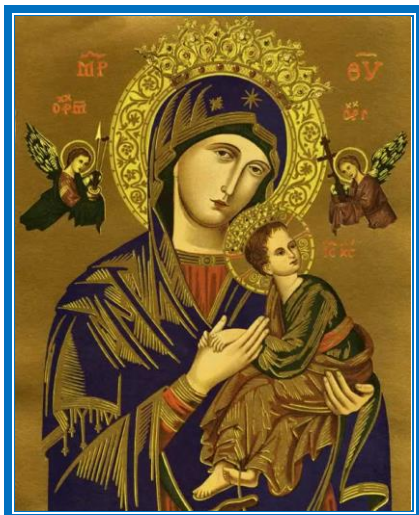
**T**HE month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The devotion of Christians to the Mother of Our Lord and King JESUS CHRIST is quite ancient, and has always been part of the daily practice of the Holy Church.

The Third Ecumenical Council held at Ephesus in 431 confirmed that Our Lady was the Θεοτόκος (Theotokos, meaning the Bearer-Mother of God), and as such she is elevated to the highest level of humanity. Not divine but still worthy of appropriate veneration and love from the faithful. Even certain non-Catholics venerate (to one extent or another) Our Blessed Lady.

The majority of the saints all had devotion to her, beyond a mere sentimentality, a real, true and proper devotion. Saint Basil the great wrote: *O sinner, be not discouraged, but have recourse to Mary in all your necessities. Call her to your assistance, for such is the divine Will that she should help in every kind of necessity.* And Saint Bonaventure tells us that *Men do not fear a powerful hostile army as the powers of hell fear the name and protection of Mary.* When speaking of confidence in Our Lady Saint Francis de Sales says: *Let us run to*

*Mary, and, as her little children, cast ourselves into her arms with a perfect confidence.*

In my own life I have always had great devotion to our Blessed Lady, most especially under her title: **Mother of Perpetual Help.**



*It is impossible to save one's soul without devotion to Mary and without her protection. – S. Anselm*

There are too many times to count, the graces too numerous, when I have benefitted from her maternal aid and protection. Whenever a situation seems too grave or impossible I simply beg her: *Domina, ut sis!* Lady, that is may be!

When Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of the **Queenship of Mary** (11 October 1954) His Holiness began by teaching the faithful that: *From the earliest ages of the Catholic Church a Christian people, whether in time of triumph or more especially in time of crisis, has addressed prayers of petition and hymns of praise and veneration to the Queen of Heaven. And never has that hope wavered which they placed in the Mother of the Divine King, Jesus Christ; nor has that faith ever failed by which we are taught that Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, reigns with a mother's*

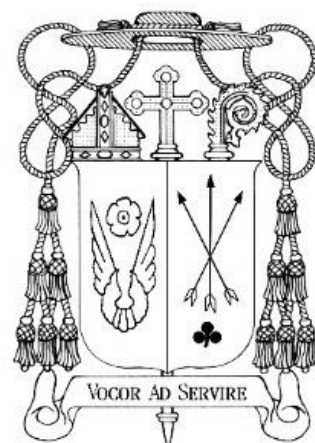
*solicitude over the entire world, just as she is crowned in heavenly blessedness with the glory of a Queen.*

Our confidence and hope must always lead us to beg for her intercession, most especially in today's world: the believer is bereft of her great and powerful aid unless he petitions her with sincerity and filial love. How could her beloved Son, Our Lord and King JESUS CHRIST, not heed her gracious requests on the behalf of us, her dearest children? He would not; for she would never ask for a favour that was not in keeping with the Divine Will. Ask with confidence, and she will deliver not what we desire, but what we truly need for our salvation!

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 grew up in the *Novus Ordo* and heard over and over that as long as a person (of any religion) followed their conscience and is “good” they can go to heaven. As I learn more and more about the authentic Catholic Faith I fear that most people go to hell. What is the real Catholic teaching about following your conscience? Thank you in advance.

*In the love of Jesus, JG, Anaheim, CA.*

**A:** Alas, many souls have been led astray by this erroneous modernist teaching. We call this error “Universal Salvation,” that is, the belief that everyone will be saved and go to heaven no matter what. This is predicated upon a false notion of the mercy of God. Quite often one hears things like “How could an all loving God send anyone to hell?” or, “I don’t believe in hell.” First, God sends no one to hell, we “choose” it when we sin and do not repent and amend our way of life. Now as far as following one’s conscience, this is only valid when one’s conscience is an *informed* and *Catholic* conscience. For example: attending the traditional Latin Mass at S. Francis or another Mass centre that is not part of the NewChurch, is seen by modernists as wrong or even sinful; however, our informed and Catholic conscience teaches us that receiving true, valid, and Catholic Sacraments, and attending the canonized

(and perpetually legal) Catholic Mass of all ages is not only acceptable, it is the *only* legitimate means of publicly offering worship to God Almighty.

Not going to Mass on Sunday or not following an obligatory law (like those whose conscience tells them they can fornicate, use contraception, etc.) is a false and sinful misuse of their conscience; more realistically this is “convenience” rather than “conscience.”

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



**Saints Philip & James  
(1<sup>st</sup> of May):  
Pray for us!**



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Y**OUR continued prayers are requested for the sick, especially Miss Theresa Lewis, Mr. Emil Ferrar, Mr. Alfredo (Freddy) Cortes, 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 Mr. Bernard Tanglao†, Mr. Ben Pijuan†, and Miss Kristie Tysdal†. If

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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 and First Saturday devotions will be on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of May. 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.



## ASCENSION THURSDAY



**T**hursday the 5<sup>th</sup> of May is the feast of the **ASCENSION OF THE LORD**: a Holy Day of Obligation. Holy Mass will be offered at 7:00 pm.

## THEMES AND READINGS FOR THE SUNDAYS OF MAY

**I**N order to help the faithful grow in understanding of their Faith, we will be highlighting the **Themes** and **Readings** for the Sundays of the month:

**1 May 2016:** Feast of *Ss. Philip and James* (with a commemoration of the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter). Epistle: Wisdom 5:1-5; how the just live and how they are an example to the faithful. Gospel: S. John 14:1-13; the relationship between Our Lord and the Father, and the

necessity of believing in God and Our Lord as Saviour.

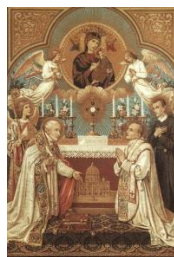
**8 May 2016:** *Sunday after the Ascension* (with a commemoration of the *Apparition of S. Michael*). Epistle: 1<sup>st</sup> S. Peter 4:7 – 11; the importance of prudence, hospitality and charity. Gospel: S. John 15:26 – 27, 16:1 – 4; preparation for the coming of the Holy Ghost and the warnings of those who will try and harm the Church.

**15 May 2016:** the *Feast of Pentecost*. Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 2:1 – 11; the story of Pentecost and the descent of the Holy Ghost upon Our Lady and the Apostles. Gospel: S. John 14:23 – 31; the power of the Lord the Holy Ghost will be given to the Apostles and confirm in them what Our Lord has told and promised them.

**22 May 2016:** *Trinity Sunday* (with a commemoration of the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost). Epistle: Romans 11:33 – 36; the mysteries of God are numerous and often incomprehensible. Gospel: S. Matthew 28:18 – 20; the Mission of the Apostles to teach and Baptize.

**29 May 2016:** *Sunday after Corpus Christi*. Epistle: 1<sup>st</sup> S. John 3:13 – 18; the world will hate the believers and followers of Our Lord, but we must respond with great charity.

Gospel: S. Luke 14:16 – 24; the Parable of the Great Supper, making allusion to the Blessed Sacrament.



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## More Easter 2016 Images



*The feast of Pentecost:  
Sunday 15 May 2016*



*The feast of Corpus Christi:  
Thursday 26 May 2016*

## 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!



### 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*

Van Nuys, CA 91406-2776

(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)



✿ 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*).

