

# SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

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

MAY 2019 - PASCHALTIDE

## LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

**F**OR Christ our pasch is sacrificed. Therefore let us feast, not with the old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth! – 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

**W**E have completed our first Lent and Holy Week at our new location. God's blessings continue to pour over our little Apostolate. A new face here and there, a helping gift of support from someone we have never met, these are confirmation of God's favour. Our work has built a small but faithful family for the past two decades, and we must be grateful to God for that.

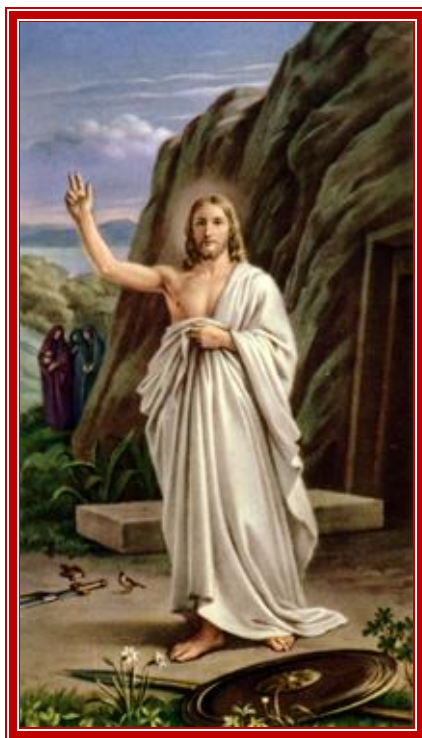
In the materialistic world and secular society we find ourselves in it is easy to feel unsuccessful, however, this is not how God judges His faithful. When the Apostles were hiding in the upper room doubting everything they had believed, their guilt and fear consumed them. But in the midst of their "pity party" the Lord appeared to them:

*Now when it was late that same day, the first of the week, and the doors were shut, where the disciples were gathered together, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them: Peace be to you. And when He had said this, He shewed them His hands and His side. The disciples*

*therefore were glad, when they saw the Lord* (S. John 20:19 – 20).

Our Lord is recognised by His wounds; by His own will His wounds remain on His gloriously resurrected body! The perceived failure of the Lord, His Passion and ignominious death upon the Cross, becomes the way the Apostles, and we, witness His Truth: He is Lord and God!

The martyrs of our Faith have always been seen as failures by their persecutors, but our admiration of them grows exponentially when we contemplate how much they suffered on account of Christ. As the Apostle teaches us: *For I think that God hath set forth us Apostles, the last, as it were men appointed to death: we are made a spectacle to the world, and to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake* (1 Corinthians 4:9-10).



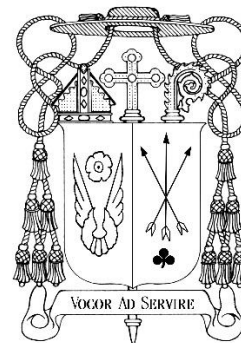
Several of you have approached my saying how sorry you are that we had to move, it made me understand how a widower might feel. And like that man I was the one who was comforting those who sought to comfort me. It makes me smile, and it makes me love you all ever more. Don't worry about your Monsignor, but do continue to pray for him: it is your prayers that I need...it is your prayers that I treasure!

Like the rose bush pruned back in the last frost of spring so new buds me shoot forth, our "pruning" has seen new buds of faithful. On Easter we Baptised two young men, husbands and fathers, who will no doubt yield much spiritual fruit and grace, not only for their families bur for their spiritual family here at S. Francis. Please pray for them: they belong to our little family.

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: Why would God need to resurrect the bodies of the dead if the faithful are already present in heaven as spirit?

*Anonymous*

**A:** I appreciate the opportunity to clarify the Church's teaching (predicated upon Scripture) of an essential truth of our Faith.

When God created man He made him in His own Image, that is, a creature with reason who was meant to live forever. It was on account of sin that Adam and Eve, and we their children, shall *die the death* (Genesis 3:3 *ff.*). It is Our Lord Jesus Christ who confirms the Doctrine of the *Bodily Resurrection of the Dead*, and therefore this is how God Himself has chosen our bodily Restoration:

*Martha therefore said to Jesus: Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But now also I know that whatsoever Thou wilt ask of God, God will give it Thee. Jesus saith to her: Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith to Him: I know that he shall rise again, in the Resurrection at the last day. Jesus said to her: I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in Me, although he be dead, shall live: and every one that liveth, and believeth in Me, shall not die for ever. Believeest thou this? She saith to Him: Yea, Lord, I have believed that Thou art Christ the Son of the living God, who art come into this world (S. John 11:21-27).*

It is Our Lord Himself who teaches us that there are those who try to dissuade us from our belief in the Living God and our own bodily resurrection; in S. Luke's Gospel He warns us that they falsely teach that *there is no resurrection* (cf. S. Luke 20:27), and He crushes this error by teaching us that *He is not the God of the dead, but of the living* (S. Mark 12:27). The Apostle again reminds us that *if Christ be not risen again, then is our preaching in vain, and your faith is also in vain...but now Christ is risen from the dead, the first-fruits of them that sleep* (I Corinthians 15:14, 20). The Apostle's teaching on this is so clear and so precise that only an enemy of Christ would dare to contradict it.

Lastly, call to mind the words of S. Paul: *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection* (Romans 6:5).

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

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



## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Y**OUR continued prayers are requested for the sick, especially Miss Rhonda Roeszler, Mr. Gary Starr, Mr. Alfred Smith, Mrs. Betty Schiermeyer, Mr.

Saint Francis Exchange

**John Owen, and Mrs. Maria Gomez.** Please also remember in your prayers the souls of those who have died. *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.*

## HOLY BAPTISM

On the great feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord, JESUS CHRIST, two young gentlemen entered into the Holy Catholic Church through Solemn Baptism. All of the ceremonies were observed: the abjuration of error, the exorcisms, tasting of blessed salt, the many blessings and orations, and the administration of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. It was a joyful moment for the whole Church, especially for our little Oratory Chapel.

Please keep these men in your prayers as they continue their journey by preparing for Holy Confirmation and Holy Communion!





### HOLY EASTER:

*He is risen; He is not here;  
Behold the place where they  
laid Him; He is not here*

**T**HE great miracle of the Resurrection of Our Lord is so deeply profound that it requires constant thought, meditation and study. First we must understand that many people have been raised from the dead in the Scriptures; Holy Elais raises the widow of Sarephtha's son (3<sup>rd</sup> Kings/I Kings 17:19 ff), and Our Lord raises the son of the widow of Naim's son (S. Luke 7:11-17), the daughter of Fairus (S. Mark 5:21 ff), and most famously S. Lazarus of Bethany (S. John 11), but that is the difference: *they were raised* but our Lord *raised Himself*. Because the Lord is the source of all life He has this power and ability. This act of His own volition permanently conquers death and sin forever, *O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting* (1 Corinthians 15:55)?

Because sin and death are indeed conquered once and for all by Christ Our Risen King, we must follow Him in this re-birth, this is why the Holy Church adds the Sacrament of Holy Baptism to this solemnity; because by His glorious Resurrection Christ restores us to the promise of eternal life; for as the Apostle teaches us, if we follow Christ Jesus into His death we, logically, shall follow Him into His Resurrection (cf. Romans 6:3)!

We must never forget that Our Lord Himself reminded us that there are those who try to dissuade us from our belief in the Living God and our own bodily resurrection; in S. Luke's Gospel He warns us that they falsely teach that *there is no resurrection* (cf. S. Luke 20:27), and He crushes this error by teaching us that *He is not the God of the dead, but of the living* (S. Mark 12:27). The Apostle again reminds us that *if Christ be not risen again, then is our preaching is in vain, and your faith is also in vain...but now Christ is risen from the dead, the first-fruits of them that sleep* (1 Corinthians 15:14, 20). The Apostle's teaching on this is so clear and so precise that only an enemy of Christ would dare to contradict it.

Man was created for eternal life, and we were clearly warned by God that we were not to eat of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, lest we *die the death* (Genesis 3:3 ff.), therefore the consequences of our disobedience was death, as the Apostle teaches us *stipendia*

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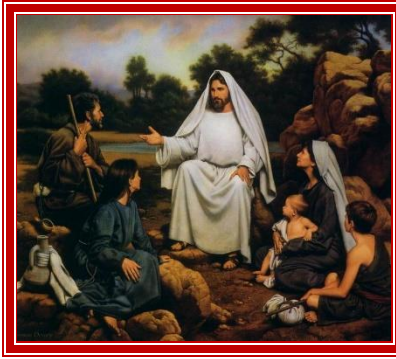
*enim peccati mors* (Romans 6:23). We must also remember that not only is death a consequence of our sin, but also certain types of suffering, specifically toil, pain and subjection (cf. Genesis 3:16-19).

However, with this divine and deserved punishment God gives us hope and promises mercy for those who will repent, convert and conform to His plan for us: a Redeemer Whose supreme act has restored us to the friendship and favour of God. It is also important to remember that God continuously spares us, wicked and unprofitable sinners; for example, when Abraham is commanded that he should sacrifice his only son, Isaac, yet at the last moment God sends His angel and stays Abraham's hand: *lay not thy hand upon the boy, neither do thou any thing to him: now I know that thou fearest God, and hast not spared thy only begotten son for My sake* (Genesis 22:12). Yet God spares not His own Son, allowing sinners to lay violent hands upon Him. Christ Our Paschal Lamb lays down His life for our sake in order to appease God's offended majesty.

God knows our weakness and frailty, and constantly gives us aid, which is the main purpose of the institution and administration of the Holy Sacraments, most especially the *Sacraments of the Dead*, Baptism and Confession: so called because they give grace and life to our souls which are dead in sin. Providentially God affords us the many, oft undeserved, chances to be restored to His

grace. When I think about these many chances I call to mind the lesson of our holy Father Abraham who bargained with God over the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah: God would spare the wicked if Abraham could find 50 righteous men, then forty-five, then thirty, then twenty, then finally ten...not unlike to nagging widow and the unjust judge in Our Lord's parable: *Although I fear not God, nor regard man, yet because this widow is troublesome to me, I will avenge her, lest continually coming she weary me* (S. Luke 18:5). He heard her cause to be rid of her, but how loving a God have we Who hears our cause *because He loves us!*

Lastly, let us do everything possible to retain our Easter joy, even in the midst of the perception of suffering, remembering the Apostle's admonishment: *the suffering of the present is not worthy of the glory to come* (Romans 8:18)! Always hold to the promise of the Lord, Who remains with us and sustains us: *Deus providebit*. Let us follow the example of Our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Sorrows. Her sorrow is for the great suffering of her Son...she was not sorrowful for herself, for she knew a sword would pierce her own soul (cf. S. Luke 2:35).



## CATECHISM FOR ALL

**W**E had a very successful year with our catechumens going through the entire Roman Catechism (often called the Catechism of the Council or Trent) as they prepared to be Baptised and enter the Holy Church. They will, of course, continue to prepare for the reception of the Sacraments of Holy Confirmation and Holy Communion.

In the past we held lectures on the Holy Faith, however, without having a place to regularly hold those lectures we will proceed with them via an email list. Once a month a lecture will be sent to all the participants on a mailing list, then they may respond by sending their questions and comments: those questions and comments will be returned to the participants before the next lecture.

What is truly exciting about this series will be the ability to have more guest lecturers than in the past since they do not have to travel to southern California.

If you are interested please send an email to the

Saint Francis Exchange  
[info@stfrancisoratory.org](mailto:info@stfrancisoratory.org)  
email address.

## HOW TO DONATE AND SEND MASS STIPENDS

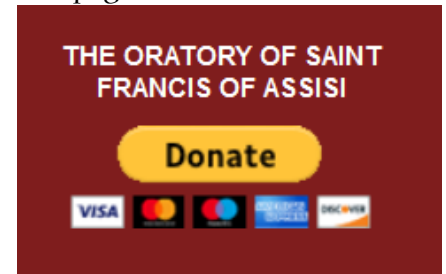
**W**E have had some recent inquiries on-line about how to donate or send Mass stipends. You can always send your donation to our Post Office Box:

**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:



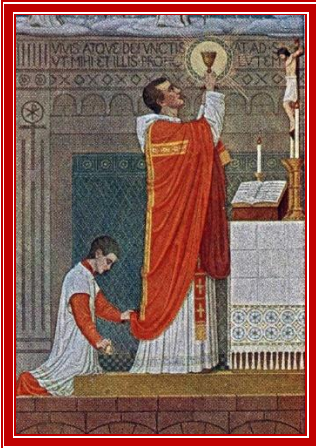
The normal stipend for a Mass Intention is \$20.00. Please be sure to include the person's name (w/Mr., Mrs. or Miss) and if they are living or deceased. Also, be sure to indicate if you wish a Mass Card to be sent to that person or their family.

**BTW: There are still several open dates in May for Masses.**

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!

# Mass Intentions for May 2019

|             |                               |                                |                         |
|-------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 01 May 2019 | Ss. PHILIP & JAMES            | <i>Missa Pro Populo</i>        |                         |
| 02 May 2019 | S. Athanasius                 | Special Favour                 | Msgr. Sebastian         |
| 03 May 2019 | FINDING OF THE HOLY CROSS     | <i>Missa Pro Populo</i>        |                         |
| 04 May 2019 | S. Monica                     | <i>Friends and Benefactors</i> |                         |
| 05 May 2019 | Second Sunday after Easter    | <i>Missa Pro Populo</i>        |                         |
| 06 May 2019 | S. John before the Latin Gate | Private Intention              | Anonymous               |
| 07 May 2019 | S. Stanislaus                 | Private Intention              | Anonymous               |
| 08 May 2019 | SOLEMNITY OF S. JOSEPH        | <i>Missa Pro Populo</i>        |                         |
| 09 May 2019 | S. Gregory Nazianzen          | Mr. Robert Skall               | Msgr. Sebastian         |
| 10 May 2019 | S. Antoninus                  | Private Intention              | Anonymous               |
| 11 May 2019 | <i>Within the Octave</i>      | Mr. Nathan Beeley              | Msgr. Sebastian         |
| 12 May 2019 | Third Sunday after Easter     | <i>Missa Pro Populo</i>        |                         |
| 13 May 2019 | S. Robert Bellarmine          | Private Intention              | Msgr. Sebastian         |
| 14 May 2019 | <i>Within the Octave</i>      | Mr. Jonathan Munn              | Msgr. Sebastian         |
| 15 May 2019 | Octave of S. Joseph           | The Munn & Beeley Families     | Msgr. Sebastian         |
| 16 May 2019 | S. Ubaldus                    | Mr. Joshua Higginbotham        | Msgr. Sebastian         |
| 17 May 2019 | S. Paschal Baylon             | The Higginbotham Family        | Msgr. Sebastian         |
| 18 May 2019 | S. Venantius                  | The Higginbotham Family        | Msgr. Sebastian         |
| 19 May 2019 | Fourth Sunday after Easter    | <i>Missa Pro Populo</i>        |                         |
| 20 May 2019 | S. Bernardine                 | Mr. Robert Skall               | Mrs. Christine Holzmann |
| 21 May 2019 | <i>feria</i>                  | The Higginbotham Family        | Msgr. Sebastian         |
| 22 May 2019 | <i>feria</i>                  | The Higginbotham Family        | Msgr. Sebastian         |
| 23 May 2019 | <i>feria</i>                  | The Higginbotham Family        | Msgr. Sebastian         |
| 24 May 2019 | <i>feria</i>                  | The Higginbotham Family        | Msgr. Sebastian         |
| 25 May 2019 | S. Gregory VII                | <i>Open</i>                    | <i>Open</i>             |
| 26 May 2019 | Fifth Sunday after Easter     | <i>Missa Pro Populo</i>        |                         |
| 27 May 2019 | S. Bede the Venerable         | <i>Open</i>                    | <i>Open</i>             |
| 28 May 2019 | S. Augustine of Canterbury    | Dom Anselm Marie, OSB          | Msgr. Sebastian         |
| 29 May 2019 | S. Mary Magdalen dei Pazzi    | <i>Open</i>                    | <i>Open</i>             |
| 30 May 2019 | ASCENSION THURSDAY            | <i>Missa Pro Populo</i>        |                         |
| 31 May 2019 | Queenship of the BVM          | Mrs. Darlene Smith †           | Msgr. Sebastian         |



**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**

**Be sure to visit our web site at:**

**www.stfrancisoratory.org**

**N.B. : Our new Mailing**  
**Address is:**

**Post Office Box 8469**  
**Van Nuys, CA 91409-8469**

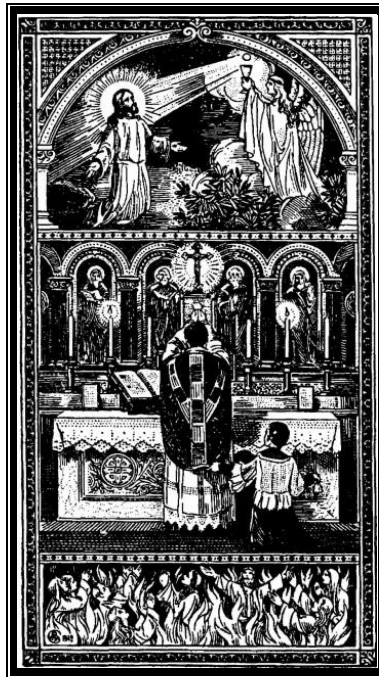
☛Saint Francis Chapel is staffed by the Priestly Society of Christ the King (SSCR); properly trained and ordained Roman Catholic Priests who are faithful to the teachings and disciplines of the Roman Catholic Church. Saint Francis is not affiliated with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Our Holy Fathers, 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!



## 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.*