

SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

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

NOVEMBER 2017 – THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

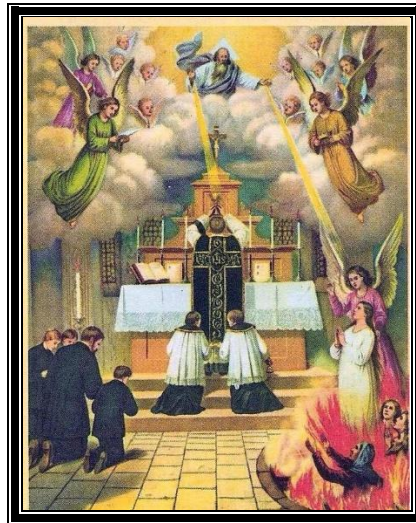
LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

SINCE the Catholic Church, instructed by the Holy Ghost...has taught that there is a Purgatory, and that the souls detained there are assisted by the suffrages of the faithful, and especially by the acceptable Sacrifice of the Altar...be maintained, taught and everywhere preached. – *The Council of Trent, Session XXV, Decree Concerning Purgatory*

NOVEMBER is a holy month, dedicated to remembering those Catholic souls that have died in God's grace, and now, being purified by their sufferings from *temporal punishment* due to sin. The Catholic Dictionary defines this *Temporal Punishment* as:

That temporal punishment is due to sin, even after the sin itself has been pardoned by God, is clearly the teaching of Scripture. God indeed brought man out of his first disobedience and gave him power to govern all things (Wisdom 10:2), but still condemned him "to eat his bread in the sweat of his brow" until he returned unto dust. God forgave the incredulity of Moses and Aaron, but in punishment kept them from the "land of promise" (Numbers 20:12). The Lord took away the sin of David, but the life of the child was forfeited because David had made God's enemies blaspheme His Holy Name (2 Samuel 12:13-14). In the New Testament as well as in the Old, almsgiving and fasting, and in

general penitential acts are the real fruits of repentance (Matthew 3:8; Luke 17:3; 3:3). The whole penitential system of the Church testifies that the voluntary assumption of penitential works has always been part of true repentance and the Council of Trent (Sess. XIV, can. xi) reminds the faithful that God does not always remit the whole punishment due to sin together with the guilt. God requires satisfaction, and will punish sin, and this doctrine involves as its necessary consequence a belief that the sinner failing to do penance in this life may be punished in another world, and so not be cast off eternally from God.



Besides having Holy Mass offered for the Holy Souls, another pious exercise is to offer and *additional decade* of the Holy Rosary for their intentions. My own daily Rosary concludes with a final decade for the Holy Souls, a "holy habit" I learned from my Irish family (the Irish have had great devotion for the Holy Souls for hundreds of years). But another important practice is to always "talk" about the Holy Souls and the practices

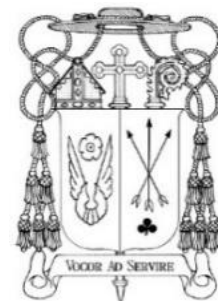
that aid in their relief. Every November I try and encourage the faithful to participate in this devotion and make it known: as I always say, **if you do not teach others to pray for the Holy Souls, who will pray for you after you die?**

So far the prayers for our beloved dead have remained an unbroken chain for over two-thousand years – will we be the generation that "breaks" the chain? Will we allow the Holy Souls, the Church Suffering, to languish in pain and sorrow? Or will we continue to offer them relief and expedite their expiation? I am confident in the latter, and so I charge you all with the mission of making known this devotion and participating in it yourselves. Let us offer prayers, sacrifices and good works for their benefit, all the while gaining graces for our own souls.

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: Sometimes I am unable to make it to Sunday Mass at S. Francis; can I mail my donation monthly?
God love you! RC

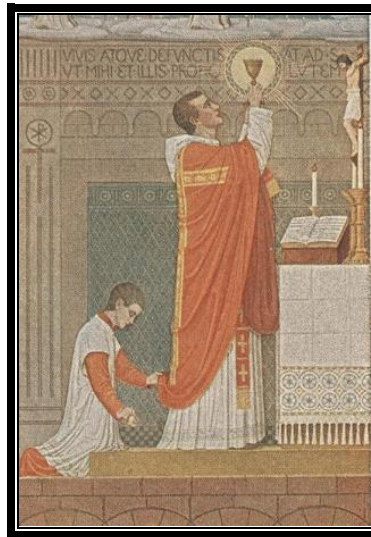
A: Thank you for asking such an important question. When it comes to support for our Church, Catholics have always lacked the participation of the protest-ant sects. It is important that we give ten percent (10%) of our income to the support of our pastors - this is not a gift, but what is owed to God by divine command: the Book of Deuteronomy is filled with this command, and S. Paul commands the faithful to give from their means in order to receive God's blessings (2 Corinthians 9:6). Ten percent is only what is owed God - it is where we start from, our support should be prayerful, thoughtful and meaningful.

That being said, the faithful should most definitely send their support by mail if they are unable to attend Holy Mass due to distance or illness. Several parishioners send their support once a month, which is highly commendable, some now use the *PayPal* link found on our website. Support of our chapel is important and commanded by God. May the Lord

continue to bless your generosity!

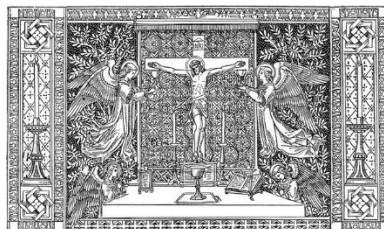


If you have a question, please feel free to e-mail: info@stfrancisoratory.org



SPECIAL NOTICE:

Beginning in September the amount for our Mass Stipends will increase to \$20.00, mainly due to the increased price of beeswax candles and others materials needed for Holy Mass; this also puts us on par with the majority of other traditional Mass centres. Your understanding and continued support is appreciated.



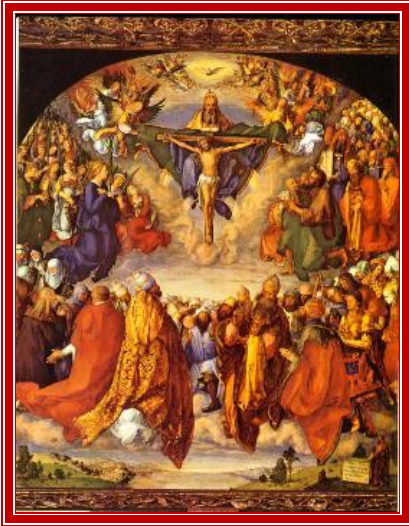
PRAYER REQUESTS

YOUR continued prayers are requested for the sick, especially Mr. & Mrs. Paul Howard, Mr. Frank Calderon, Mrs. Dorothy Smith, Mr. Joseph Bremmer, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Smith, Mr. & Mrs. William Schiermeyer, Mr. John Owen, and Mrs. Maria Gomez. Please also remember in your prayers the souls of those who have died, especially for Mr. Leon DeWald†, Mrs. Patricia McCormack†, Mr. David Damits†, Mr. Gino Dinnocente†, Sgt. Kenneth L. May, USMC (Ret.)†, Mr. 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. 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

OUR First Friday devotions will be on the 3rd of November at 7:00 PM, followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and our First Saturday devotions will be on the 4th of November at 8:00 AM, followed by the Devotions to the Immaculate Heart.



**ALL SAINTS DAY:
HOLY DAY OF
OBLIGATION**

WEDNESDAY the First of November is the great feast of **ALL SAINTS**: an Holy Day of Obligation. The Faithful must attend Holy Mass and refrain from *unnecessary* servile work.

The Faithful are also reminded that the day before (Tuesday the 31st) is a day of FAST (those from age 21 – 59 may only have ONE full meal with two smaller meals) and ABSTINENCE (no meat for those over 7 years of age).



**LIVING IN SIN:
WHAT IS A
CATHOLIC
TO DO?**

WITH the holidays fast approaching this month – Thanksgiving in a few weeks and Christmas next month – I usually get questions about the morality of inviting relatives who are cohabiting with someone, married *outside* of the Church, not Catholic, or who is not religious at all. These are all very serious situations and I shall do my best to separate them and offer suggestions for a remedy.

The Scriptures are very clear, in both the Old and New Testaments: we are to avoid evil and refrain from joining in with sinners (evil doers). But what does that *actually* mean in practical terms?

Today it has become quite common place for young people (and some *not so* young people) to cohabit and *act like* they are married. In this *action* they make full use of what is proper to marriage, which is illicit, and of course, sinful. This excludes them from the life of grace and they may not lawfully receive the Sacraments until they separate.

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When we are invited into their home for such family dinners or events, our presence denotes an approval. In moral terms this tacit approval means that we *consent* to their actions and therefore become co-sinners: this is the textbook definition of the sin of commission, which is a mortal sin and must be confessed before one can *worthily* receive Holy Communion and participate in the Sacramental Life of the Church. We also must take the same care in inviting them into your own home, and if they insist on bringing their cohabiter do not sit them next to each other at table, and certainly never allow them to share a room. This goes for *natural* cohabitation (a man and a woman) and even more for *unnatural* cohabitation (two people of the same sex).

This situation is the same for those Catholics who are not married in the Church (civilly “married” or “married” before a non-Catholic Minister): two non-Catholics can contract a *natural* marriage, which is not sacramental...this is another subject for another time.

The faithful Catholic, ever mindful of his soul before God, must never treat Catholics *living in sin* in any way that shows approval: and never act in a way that may communicate that the relationship is pleasing to God. It is not.

That being said, it is also important to leave a good impression upon the fallen Catholic and sinner: we continue, like Our Lord, to invite the sinner to return to a life of grace. This means saying

things like: *it would be lovely if you would come to Easter Mass with the family* (good example), but do not say: *you need to make your Easter duty or you will be excommunicated, you are in enough trouble living in sin* (bad example). Do not engage in any discussion that might become an excuse for them to reject the offer and blame you for remaining aloof from God and His Church: *well, I would go to Mass but my parents are so judgmental...I hate their hypocrisy...*

It is important to find a balance, as taught by Our Lord with the woman at the well in S. John's Gospel:

There cometh a woman of Samaria, to draw water. Jesus saith to her: Give Me to drink... Then that Samaritan woman saith to Him: How dost thou, being a Jew, ask of me to drink, who am a Samaritan woman? For the Jews do not communicate with the Samaritans. Jesus answered, and said to her: If thou didst know the gift of God, and who He is that saith to thee, Give Me to drink; thou perhaps wouldst have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water...[she then asks] from whence then hast Thou living water? Art Thou greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? Jesus answered, and said to her: Whosoever drinketh of this water, shall thirst again; but he that shall drink of the water that I will give him, shall not thirst for ever: But the water that I will give him, shall become in him a fountain of water, springing up into life everlasting. The woman saith to him: Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor

come hither to draw. Jesus saith to her: Go, call thy husband, and come hither. The woman answered, and said: I have no husband. Jesus said to her: Thou hast said well, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands: and he whom thou now hast, is not thy husband. This thou hast said truly. The woman saith to him: Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet...Jesus saith to her: Woman, believe Me, that the hour cometh, when you shall neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, adore the Father. You adore that which you know not: we adore that which we know; for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true adorers shall adore the Father in spirit and in truth. For the Father also seeketh such to adore Him. God is a spirit; and they that adore Him, must adore Him in spirit and in truth. The woman saith to Him: I know that the Messiah cometh (who is called Christ). Therefore, when He is come, He will tell us all things. Jesus saith to her: I am He, Who am speaking with thee (S. John 4:6-26).

The Lord is very gentle with the woman, yet He does not refrain from telling her that she is in sin (adultery) and must leave her sin to be reconciled to God. When speaking in truth we need not hem or haw, fearing what the hearer may think or "feel." The truth is simple, the truth needs no embellishment.

There will always be those whose sin is tied into their pride, and no matter how gentle or charitable you speak to them they will only reject the words. Remember, do not add your own pride into to mix – they are rejecting God, not you. Again the example set forth by Our Lord: And whosoever shall not

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receive you, nor hear your words: going forth out of that house or city shake off the dust from your feet (S. Matthew 10:14)... and Our Lord continues... Amen I say to you, it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city (*ibid.*). Yikes!

Those in sin will always try and turn the tables, *do not engage*, especially when you hear the *very* out of context "judge not lest you be judged" from them. The Lord tells us that in the first part of the Sermon on the Mount (cf. S. Matthew 7) and then explains that we will be held accountable for our own sinful actions and that we must be living a holy life *before* we lecture others. Remember: you are *not* living in sin, they are...the axiom does not apply.

Lastly, never give up on a sinner: God does not give up on us! Pray for their conversion and be a good example of Christian charity and morality. Do not be condescending, or loud, or refuse to speak to them, lest you become a *sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal* – a big noise (cf. 1 Corinthians 13:1)!



The ultimate un-invited: Adam and Eve expelled from Paradise!

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

MASS INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER 2017

		8:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
01 November 2017	ALL SAINTS DAY	7:00 PM	Private Intention	Anonymous
02 November 2017	ALL SOULS' DAY	8:00 AM	<i>For the Holy Souls</i>	
03 November 2017	Within the Octave	8:00 AM	Holy Souls†	OSM
04 November 2017	S. Charles Borromeo	8:00 AM	S. Joseph the Protector Chapel	Msgr. Sebastian
05 November 2017	Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost	10:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
06 November 2017	Within the Octave	Private Mass	Private Intention	Anonymous
07 November 2017	Within the Octave	8:00 AM	Sr. Marie Augustine, OSM	Anonymous
08 November 2017	Octave of All Saints	8:00 AM	S. Joseph the Protector Chapel	Msgr. Sebastian
09 November 2017	DEDICATION OF THE ARCHBASILICA OF OUR SAVIOUR	8:00 AM	Private Intention	Mr. Alan Cohen
10 November 2017	S. Andrew Avelino	8:00 AM	Holy Souls†	OSM
11 November 2017	S. Martin of Tours	8:00 AM	S. Joseph the Protector Chapel	Msgr. Sebastian
12 November 2017	Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost	10:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
13 November 2017	S. Didacus	Private Mass	Private Intention	Anonymous
14 November 2017	S. Josaphat	8:00 AM	Open	Open
15 November 2017	S. Albert the Great	8:00 AM	S. Joseph the Protector Chapel	Msgr. Sebastian
16 November 2017	S. Gertrude	8:00 AM	Open	Open
17 November 2017	S. Gregory Thaumaturgus	8:00 AM	Open	Open
18 November 2017	Dedication of Basilicas of Ss. Peter & Paul	8:00 AM	S. Joseph the Protector Chapel	Msgr. Sebastian
19 November 2017	Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	10:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
20 November 2017	S. Felix of Valois	Private Mass	Private Intention	Anonymous
21 November 2017	Presentation of BVM	8:00 AM	Open	Open
22 November 2017	S. Cecilia	8:00 AM	S. Joseph the Protector Chapel	Msgr. Sebastian
23 November 2017	S. Clement	8:00 AM	Open	Open
24 November 2017	S. John of the Cross	8:00 AM	Open	Open
25 November 2017	S. Catherine of Alexandria	8:00 AM	S. Joseph the Protector Chapel	Msgr. Sebastian
26 November 2017	Last Sunday after Pentecost	10:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
27 November 2017	<i>Feria</i>	Private Mass	Private Intention	Anonymous
28 November 2017	<i>Mass of Requiem</i>	8:00 AM	Holy Souls†	Anonymous
29 November 2017	Vigil of S. Andrew	8:00 AM	S. Joseph the Protector Chapel	Msgr. Sebastian
30 November 2017	S. ANDREWS, Ap.	8:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	



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

Be sure to visit our web site at:

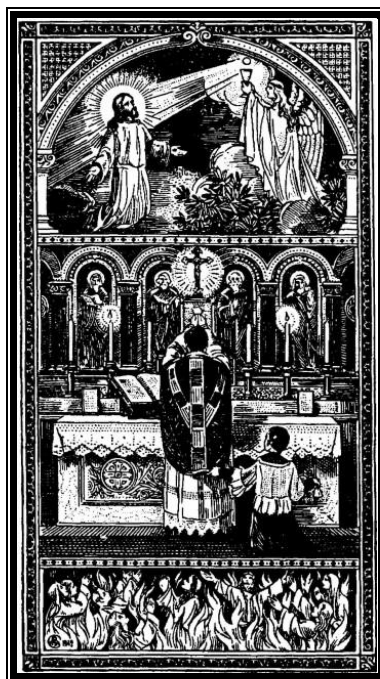
www.stfrancisoratory.org

✿ 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.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.