

# SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

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

JUNE AND JULY 2018

## LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

**AND from the fig tree learn a parable: when the branch thereof is now tender, and the leaves come forth, you know that summer is nigh. So you also, when you shall see all these things, know ye that it is nigh, even at the doors. Amen I say to you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done. Heaven and earth shall pass, but My words shall not pass. –**

**S. Matthew 24:32–35**

**WE** in Southern California are quite aware that *summer is nigh*; both figuratively and literally. *Literally* because the heat is upon us (be sure to read the summertime reminder for the Oratory Dress Code) and *figuratively* because we are awash in the progressive immorality of our culture, politicians and “religious” leaders (the NewReligion of the *Novus Ordo*). How much longer will God’s hand be stayed before the increase of disease, war and disasters reach a state where no one can deny what is upon us? The homeland of my forefathers, Ireland, has apostatised from the Holy Faith with its overwhelming acceptance of sodomy, unnatural “marriage” and the murder of its unborn. The “Land of Saints” is now the habitat of sinners!

If the traditionally Catholic countries have lost the Faith, what hope do the secular states have against Satan’s snare? Let us listen to the call of Our Lady, the Baptist and all the residents of heaven: **Repent and Do Penance!**

The Lord reminds us that a repentant and converted sinner will shine gloriously in His royal diadem: *I say to you, that even so there shall be joy in heaven upon one sinner that doth penance, more than upon ninety-nine just who need not penance* (S. Luke 15:7). We must fast and do penance, not only for our own past sins, but those of our family and friends...even for those who we have never met. What charity, to pray for the stranger or even the enemy of God! That is how saints are made.



*The Return of the Prodigal Son*  
(artist unknown)

The season to repent is upon us and it is up to Catholics to be an example of true charity.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of July, when we pray out First Friday devotions in honour of the **Sacred Heart**, let our intentions be refocused on *reparation*. Let us make reparation for our own sins, those of those we know and for the sins of the stranger. I encourage every person who

is able to read this article to “adopt a sinner” and offer prayers, penance and sacrifice for their conversion.

I also ask that you remember in your prayers the souls of those we have recently lost. Good and faithful Catholics who have died in the grace of the Sacraments, especially **Mr. William Schiermeyer, Mrs. Agnes Agzarian, Mrs. Aurelia Scherf,** and just this week **Mrs. Darlene Smith.** These good and generous souls have been so good to our little apostolate for decades, their pious example will be missed, but their spirit of charity and goodness shall remain in our memory forever. We will continuously pray for their eternal rest and glorious resurrection on the Last Day!

Truly it seems that God is gathering His own to Himself and we should be prepared for our own calling and judgment; may we live and die like those we have recently lost.

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 believe I remember your saying that neither *Tai Chi* nor *Yoga* were permissible types of exercise. I do not think I asked about *Pilates* at that time. Is *Pilates* a permissible type of exercise or not?

*Thank you, PŷP, Tarzana, CA*

**A:** That is an excellent question. Unlike the *Tai Chi* and the *Yoga*, which have a pagan-religious base, "Pilates" (properly called *Contrology*) is purely medical and health related. Therefore, it is quite acceptable: I think this would be very good for you, not only physically, but mentally as it teaches you breath control which stimulates natural relaxation and focus.

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

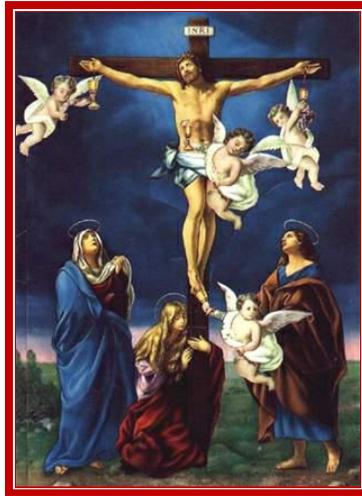
info@stfrancisoratory.org



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**YOUR** continued prayers are requested for the sick, especially Sr. Paula Sawhill, SDSH, Mr. Gary Starr, Mr. Joseph Bremmer, Mr. Alfred Smith, Mrs. Betty Schiermeyer, Mr. John Owen, and Mrs. Maria Gomez. Please also remember in your prayers the souls of those who have died, especially for Mrs. Darlene Smith†, Mrs. Aurelia Scherff†, Mrs. Agnes Agzarian†, Mr. William Schiermeyer†, Mr. Ronald Luyten† and Mrs. Maureen Morelli†. *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.*



**FEAST OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD**

**SUNDAY** the First of July is the great feast of the **MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

**EVER ANCIENT, EVER NEW**

**W**hen S. Augustine penned these words in his *Confessions* he was lamenting how long it took him to see and appreciate the beauty of God. Since then the Church uses this term to describe things that contribute to the Church's idea *Pulchritas*, and how God remains the Primary Mover, and object, of all things beautiful; and when man encounters or rediscovers that beauty it is, to him, *ever ancient, ever new.*

Dr. Mark Ruttle, a musician of much renown (and personally known to me) has

**Saint Francis Exchange**

taken hymns from the Church's treasury and given them new life through careful resetting; as Catholic composers have done for centuries. Dr. Ruttle began the *Lumen Hilare* sacred music project in 2016 and has created music for anyone who enjoys the *first art* meant to lift the soul and honour God.

It seems today most young people would rather "blog" than live their faith, but Dr. Ruttle has found remarkable young women of faith and talent who have used their time (and considerable talent) to record their performances of these songs and hymns of praise and devotion for our enjoyment, as well as for the exaltation of God's most holy Catholic Church. I highly encourage all to visit the website at [www.lumenhilare.com](http://www.lumenhilare.com)



*Images used with permission from [www.lumenhilare.com](http://www.lumenhilare.com)*



## FEAST OF THE OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

**M**ONDAY the 16<sup>th</sup> of July is the great feast of **OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL**.

Devotion to Our Lady and her *Brown Scapular* is quite ancient, and has been encouraged by the saints and popes

The Scapular was originally part of the Religious Habit (worn on the shoulders that covers the front and back of the habit) worn by both sexes in various communities, most notably the Benedictines, Servites, Trinitarians, and, of course, the Carmelites. It is this latter Religious Order, and its lay confraternity, to which are attached the special Promises for those who are *clothed* in this scapular (in its large and small forms) by Our Lady.

The **Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel** is probably the oldest scapular and served as the prototype of the others. According to a pious tradition the Blessed Virgin appeared to **S. Simon Stock** at Cambridge, England,

on Sunday, 16 July, 1251. As an aside, the Monsignor and Father Matthew Howard made a pilgrimage to S. Simon's Shrine kept at Aylesford Priory in 1997 and prayed before his relics (his skull is visible through a glass and ceramic reliquary).

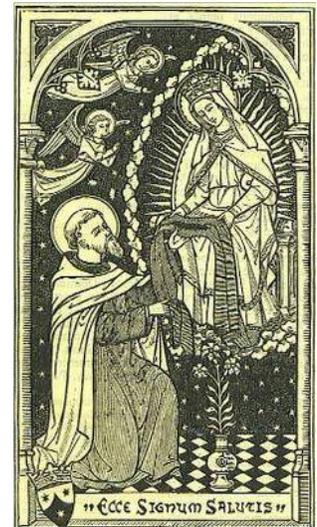
In answer to his appeal for help for his oppressed order, Our Lady appeared to S. Simon with a scapular in her hand and said: "Take, beloved son this scapular of thy order as a badge of my confraternity and for thee and all Carmelites a special sign of grace; whoever dies in this garment, will not suffer everlasting fire. It is the sign of salvation, a safeguard in dangers, a pledge of peace and of the covenant". The Catholic Encyclopedia tells us that the privilege was soon extended not only to the Religious of the Order but also its lay members, and:

*Declares nothing else than that all those who out of true veneration and love for the Blessed Virgin constantly wear the scapular in a spirit of fidelity and confiding faith, after they have been placed by the Church itself with this habit or badge under the special protection of the Mother of God, shall enjoy this special protection in the matter and crisis which most concerns them for time and eternity. Whoever, therefore, even though he be now a sinner, wears the badge of the Mother of God throughout life as her faithful servant, not presumptuously relying on the scapular as on a miraculous amulet, but trustfully confiding in the power and goodness of Mary, may securely hope that Mary will through her powerful and motherly intercession procure for him all the*

### Saint Francis Exchange

*necessary graces for true conversion and for perseverance in good. Such is the meaning and importance of the first privilege of the Carmelite Scapular, which is wont to be expressed in the words: "whoever wears the scapular until death, will be preserved from hell".*

The second privilege of the scapular, known as the **Sabbatine Privilege**, may be briefly defined as meaning that Our Lady's motherly assistance for her servants in the Scapular Confraternity will continue after death, and will find effect especially on Saturday (the day consecrated to her honour), provided that the members fulfill faithfully the not easy conditions necessary for obtaining this privilege. Those conditions are *perpetual chastity*, daily recitation of the *Little Office of the Blessed Virgin* (or the Office one is bound to) or Fifteen Decades of the Holy Rosary, and abstaining from meat on all Wednesdays and Saturdays of the year. Dispensations or taking on other pious forms of sacrifice can only be granted by the Holy See or one's Bishop.





### 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*).

## 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.*

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## SPECIAL FUNDRAISER:

By the kind generosity of a benefactor the Oratory Chapel of S. Francis of Assisi is able to offer a gift of the exquisite printed facsimile of the *Guttenberg Bible*, originally printed ca.1454, for your contribution of \$250.00 or more to our **Building Fund**. This beautiful edition is currently being sold online for many hundreds of dollars more than the requested donation.

You may mail your donation to S. Francis directly or visit our website and donate by the PayPal link. *Be sure to notate your donation is for the Building Fund and we will post your Bible immediately!*

