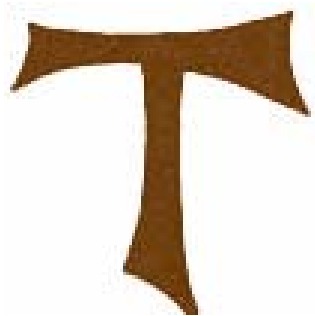




Glad Tidings

Little Portion Secular Franciscan Fraternity

February 2011

Calendar

9—"LITTLE PORTION" Meeting

6-7 Formation
7-7:30 Dessert
7:30-9 Meeting
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church—CR1

16—OBEDIENCE OF FAITH

Fr. Larry Dolan, OFM
10 AM -1 PM
Mission San Luis Rey Retreat Center
Contact: 760.757.6359
slretreat@sanluisrey.org

"Our response to God is called the 'obedience of faith.'" What does this mean in today's Church? Is there a conflict between obedience and reason? How can a thinking modern person give faithful assent? Please bring your Bible!

Celebrations



*Sister Constance Joan
of the Trinity—17*

Marietta—19

Our Franciscan Family

Regional *St. Francis Region*
www.stfrancisregion.org

National *The National Fraternity of the
Secular Franciscan Order USA*
www.nafra-sfo.org

Little Portion Council

Minister	Mike Reagan
Vice-Minister	Marietta Charbonneau
Secretary	Mary Collier
Treasurer	Sharon Deveaux
Formation Director	Charlotte Prather
Spiritual Assistant	vacant

Francis

“Let us, who have given up everything, take care lest for anything as cheap as worldly goods we should lose the kingdom of Heaven. If we find money anywhere, let us give it no more thought than the dust under our feet.

The brothers are to take nothing as their own, neither house, nor place, nor anything. And as pilgrims and strangers in this world, while serving the Lord in poverty and humility let them go confidently in quest of alms; and they ought not to be ashamed of it, because the Lord made himself poor in this world for our sake.

Let the brothers be on their guard against accepting in any way the churches, the lowly dwellings, and anything else constructed for them unless they are as is becoming to the holy poverty which we have promised in the rule; always putting up in them like strangers and pilgrims. God has called us to this holy rule of life for the salvation of the world, and he has made this contract between us and the world: that we give a good example to the world, and the world in turn provide for our needs.”

—*Francis, Man of the Earth*



Canonization Cause



The opening ceremony of the canonization process for the late Vietnamese Cardinal Francois Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan (1928-2002) took place in Rome last October. In 1975 while serving as the coadjutor archbishop of Ho Chi Minh City, Van Thuan was arrested. He was detained for 13 years, nine of which were served in solitary confinement in a Communist re-education camp in Vietnam. In 1988 he was liberated and sent into exile. Pope John Paul welcomed him to the Vatican and entrusted him with responsibilities in the Roman Curia.

Cardinal Thuan was godfather to our own Father John Francis Xavier Vu, of Interfaith, and for whom Fr. Vu was named. Fr. Vu attended the ceremony in Rome in October. —*Inside the Vatican*

HUNGRY to Change the World?

Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade Program has great opportunities to support fair trade chocolate:

1. Valentine's Day—Divine Milk Hearts; Hearts of Love Gift Bag; Sweet Treat Gift Basket .
2. Every day chocolate—CRS offers 14 different Divine chocolate products including dinner mints; cocoa; and milk, dark and white chocolate bars!
3. Chocolate books—Harvest of Hope (story of Ghana cocoa farmers) and The Bittersweet World of Chocolate (50 recipes and the story of fair trade chocolate.)



All the chocolate products available through the CRS Fair Trade Program are made with cocoa grown by Ghanaian farmers who receive a fair price for their labor and own a portion of the company that distributes the chocolate. You can purchase Fair Trade chocolate products, online at www.crsfairtrade.org or by phone at 888-294-9665



Franciscan Focus

JUSTICE



Now in the twenty-first century, the practice of human trafficking reaches every corner of the globe, from Asia and Africa to Europe and the Americas. It is also present in the United States, as vulnerable men, women and children are trafficked into our country from other lands. The Catholic Church has condemned human trafficking and has developed social service programs to service and protect its survivors. In the 2006 annual statement on migration, Pope Benedict XVI deplored the “trafficking of human beings – especially women – which flourishes where opportunities to improve their standard of living or even to survive are limited.” Similarly the Holy See emphasized related concerns in a recent address at the United Nations, stating that treating a woman “not as a human person with rights on an equal basis with others, but as an object to be exploited, very often underlies violence against women.”

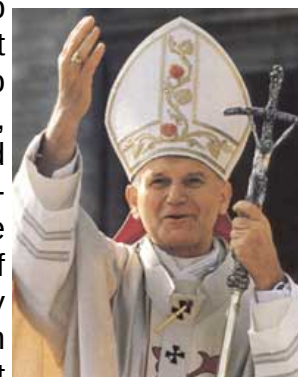
The Catholic bishops of the United States and Mexico have also spoken out on the issue, calling upon the governments of both countries to work together to apprehend traffickers and destroy trafficking networks.

—The USCCB Committee on Migration

PEACE

When Pope John Paul II is beatified on May 1, Divine Mercy Sunday, the faithful will be celebrating a day on which he himself wanted the Church to turn its gaze toward this “consoling and enthusiastic greatness.” This celebration takes place just six years after his death in 2005.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, director of the Vatican press office stated that the “church recognizes that Karol Wojtyla gave eminent and exemplary witness of Christian life, he is a friend and an intercessor who helps the people to direct themselves to God and to encounter him. His faith, his hope, his charity and his works should be admired precisely because they are an expression of the depth and authenticity of his relationship with God, of his love for Christ and for all human persons, beginning with the poor and the weak; of his tender filial love for the Mother of Jesus; his profound and prolonged recollection prayer; his desire to celebrate and proclaim Jesus the Redeemer and Savior of man, to make him known and loved by young people and the whole world.” John Paul II will be remembered, he continued, “for his affectionate interest in the sick and the suffering, for his visits to peoples most in need of food and justice and finally for his patient and authentic experience of personal suffering, of sickness lived in faith before God and before all of us.”



—ZENIT

INTEGRITY OF CREATION

Death Penalty



Illinois may become the latest state to ban the death penalty as the Illinois House voted to ban capital punishment. The move comes on the heels of more and more reports of problems in death penalty proceedings nationwide. Prominent legal figures such as former Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens have called for its elimination altogether. In Illinois alone over 171 people have been taken off death row and moved to life in prison.

Endosulfan Banned

Following years of works by the Center for Biological Diversity and allies, the EPA last week finally published plans to phase out and ban endosulfan, a highly toxic insecticide that has threatened rare wildlife – and human health – for decades. The DDT-era poison is used on crops and is a pervasive pollutant of waterways that has been linked to disruption of endocrine systems, reproductive disorder and other severe health problems in humans. Most endosulfan crop uses will end in two years and all uses will be phased out by 2016. —*Center for Biological Diversity*



Dog Fighting



Almost a year ago, members of the ASPCA traveled to Georgia to assist in rescuing 26 abused and neglected pit bulls from an underground dog fighting operation. The court case has been concluded and the two men responsible were convicted of animal cruelty and sentenced to prison – one to five years in prison and five years of probation, and the other was sentenced to one year in jail and nine years probation. —*ASPCA News*

Artful Lapping

Cats drink water faster than the human eye can follow, and more ingeniously than ever imagined, new research reveals. A team of engineers recently found that a cat's drinking method depends on its instinctive ability to calculate the exact point at which the tip of its tongue must curl to prevent water from falling off. Using a robot the team proved that a tongue-curling action happens an astonishing four times per second for a domestic cat. The team also worked out a mathematical formula to determine the water-lapping speed of any feline, large or small. —*Center for Biological Diversity*



A Fable of the Saguaro



When I was very small, the greatest threat to my survival was that someone might step on me. I was fortunate to have sprouted right at the base of a creosote tree. This bush you see here all around me today is *my* creosote bush. She protected me when I was young and stood by me through all the years of my growth, all the time when I was reaching toward the sky, only looking up.

One year the Lord of the desert was especially generous with rain. We had many showers and a few floods at that time. All around us the desert bloomed. I remember the beauty of it, but for me the most special thing was a great surprise. My arms sprouted. Now I was growing not just up, but outward as well. That is when I really became aware of my creosote bush and her protective care. That is when I learned to give back.

So here you see me now, with my arms outstretched, tending my patient bush, touching her branches with love, pruning away the dead twigs. We are both prickly sorts, but we embrace. No one could step on me anymore; in fact, people try not to touch me at all. I am much taller now than my bush and I will continue to shelter her from harm.



When saguaros grow to my size, not much can kill them. Only lightning strikes. I can see others of my family standing dead and skeletal where they have been hit by the desert Lord's thunderbolts. They keep watch and nourish our desert, even in death. We are patient here. We share our gifts as we can. Sometimes the cactus wrens and even hawks use me for nesting. I do not mind. We know that all our lives are bound together in this place.

—Charlotte Prather

Prayer for Greatness of Heart



Keep us, O God, from all pettiness;
Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.
Let us be done with fault-finding and
Leave off all self seeking.
May we put away all pretense and
Meet each face-to face
Without self pity and without prejudice.
May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous.
Let us always take time for all things and
Make us grow calm, serene and gentle.
Teach us to put into action our better impulses,
To be straightforward and unafraid.
Grant that we may realize that
It is the little things of life that create differences,
That in the big things of life, we are as one.
And, O God, let us not forget to be kind!

—*Queen Mary Stuart*

Your Prayers Requested for:

- ✠ Fr. Christian, Fr. Joe Quinn & Fr. Jerry
- ✠ Jim, Bob, Paula & Michele
- ✠ Jordan, Kevin & Autumn
- ✠ Steve, Ron & Dave

GLAD TIDINGS

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