

SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

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

APRIL 2020 – PASSIONTIDE AND EASTER

LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

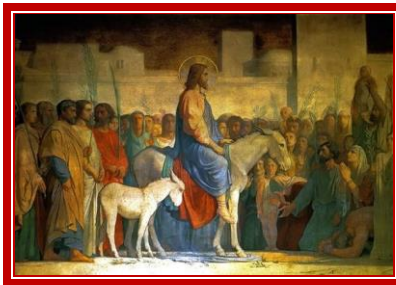
DESPISED, and the most abject of men, a Man of Sorrows, and acquainted with infirmity: and His look was as it were hidden and despised, whereupon we esteemed Him not. Surely He hath borne our infirmities and carried our sorrows: and we have thought Him as it were a leper, and as one struck by God and afflicted. But He was wounded for our iniquities, He was bruised for our sins: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by His bruises we are healed. – *Isaiah 53:3 – 5*

GOD ALMIGHTY is giving His Holy Church a great opportunity for sanctification and purification. The great fear that has come upon the world by means of the *Corona* contagion should cause a pious reaction by the faithful: they should become fully dependent upon God and trust in His providence, and they should offer a true repentance for their sins against Him and His Divine Law.

In times past when a city or state was afflicted by plague, pestilence or war the churches were overflowing with the people, most especially those who had fallen away from the Holy Faith. Solemn Masses and public processions marked these times, and prayer, penance and sacrifice were offered willingly by all.

Pope Pelagius II (d. 590), the staunch defender of

clerical celibacy succumbed to the plague that invaded Rome in the sixth century, while Pope Clement VI (d. 1352) disregarded the warnings of his court and physicians and cared for the sick and infected with his own hands. He fed, bathed and buried those who suffered from the *Black Death*, and granted a plenary indulgence for those who died from the plague. God rewarded his bravery and pious example by preserving him from ever getting sick of the dangerous contagion.



Now some may say this virus is a *Divine Punishment*, which it may be, but whether it is or not, it is definitely being *allowed* by God. You may ask, *How does an all loving God allow suffering?* S. Thomas Aquinas, the Angelic Doctor, answers this my first quoting S. Augustine:

S. Augustine says (Qq. 83,3): "No wise man is the cause of another man becoming worse. Now God surpasses all men in wisdom. Much less therefore is God the cause of man becoming worse; and when He is said to be the cause of a thing, He is said to will it." Therefore it is not by God's will that man becomes worse. Now it is clear that every evil makes a thing worse. Therefore

God wills not evil things...Now the evil that accompanies one good, is the privation of another good. Never therefore would evil be sought after, not even accidentally, *unless the good that accompanies the evil were more desired than the good of which the evil is the privation.* Now God wills no good more than He wills His own goodness; yet He wills one good more than another. Hence He in no way wills the evil of sin, which is the privation of right order towards the Divine good. The evil of natural defect, or of punishment, He does will, by willing the good to which such evils are attached. *Thus in willing justice He wills punishment; and in willing the preservation of the natural order, He wills some things to be naturally corrupted* (*Summa Theologiae*, First Part, question 19, article 9).

I think the best example of this is how God allowed the Passion of His Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. God willed this *evil* in order to bring about a greater good; the reconciliation and salvation of man. Let us enter into this meditation with prayer and respond with action. Use this suffering as a means of conversion.

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: Dearest Monsignor: I have a few theological questions I was hoping you could answer. 1. If a Catholic is in a state of venial or mortal sin, can they still pray for others, and will their prayer be efficacious? 2. If not, do all of the prayers of the Catholic have to be for themselves to come out of mortal sin? 3. Can a Catholic take on any temporal/spiritual punishment of another person on their behalf?

Respectfully, N.B., RC, GA

A: Those are outstanding questions: Prayer is efficacious no matter what state of one's own soul, however, being in a state of grace obviously has the greatest efficacy and merit. To gain an *indulgence* for one's self or another person one must be in a state of grace. *Venial Sin* can be removed by the use of Holy Water or saying an Act of Contrition, however, *Mortal Sin* can only be removed by Sacramental Confession and Absolution or an act of Perfect Contrition. The Holy Church, in her mercy, allows an individual, even if he be in mortal sin, to make the act to gain the indulgence (prayers, fasting, etc.) and they are held in the treasury of the Church. Once the person goes to Confession and is restored to a state of grace, the indulgence is immediately applied.

Prayers should be for one's self or for another

Catholic: if one is praying for a non-Catholic it must be for their conversion, or, if the prayer be for a Catholic in grave sin or error (e.g.: adultery, fornication, apostasy, heresy, etc.) that prayer must also be for their conversion and return to grace. For example, if one has a Holy Mass offered for a non-Catholic the intention must be for their conversion.

Finally, yes, you may offer sacrifice and penitential acts for another's benefit as well, with the same intentions as above. This is particularly true of offering penance and sacrifice for the Holy Souls of Purgatory or for the conversion of our non-Catholic or fallen away Catholic loved ones.

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

info@stfrancisoratory.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

YOUR prayers are requested for the sick, especially Mr. McCanna Anthony Sinise, Miss Lauren Howard, Mr. Paul Howard, Miss Rhonda Roeszler, Mr. John Owen, and Mrs. Maria Gomez. Please also remember in your prayers the souls of those who have died, especially Mr. Frank Calderon† and Mr. Alfred J. Smith†. *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.*



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HOW TO DONATE AND SEND MASS STIPENDS

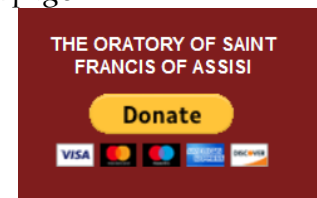
WE have had some recent inquiries on-line about how to donate or send Mass stipends. You can always send your donation to our Post Office Box:

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.

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!



FRANK PAUL CALDERON†

29 July 1930 – 24 February 2020

REST IN PEACE

*This is the funeral sermon given by the
Monsignor Sebastian after the Mass of
Requiem and Absolution.*

My dearest Mrs. Calderon, my dearest Sunshine, children and grandchildren, beloved family and friends of **Frank Paul Calderon**: grace, peace and Apostolic blessings in Our Lord and King, Jesus Christ. I am profoundly honoured to be able to speak to you all today about a dear and precious soul.

The book of Wisdom comforts us by teaching that *the souls of the just are in the hands of God* (Wisdom 3:1), I think we may all safely assume that the soul of our dear **Papa Frank** is safely in the hands of His Lord and King Jesus Christ. He was, and remains for us, an example of living the Holy Faith. His devotion to the traditional Faith of the Holy Catholic Church, most especially to the traditional Latin Mass, was unwavering. He was a devout man and an American Patriot who faithfully served his country in the Korean War. He was steadfast in his beliefs about civics and morality. He was constantly reading and researching his Faith, for he had a voracious appetite and longing to know more about God. Virtually every week in the past two decades he had questions for me, even during the last week of his earthly life. This is an edifying example for us all to follow.

After he became too ill to regularly attend Holy Mass we would meet at his home and pray together, and there was always a deeply profound reverence for the Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament, Whom he received with great joy and thanksgiving. No matter how ill or weak he made a proper preparation to

receive His Lord, most especially with thorough, humble and contrite Sacramental Confession. I can attest that he taught me great patience when hearing the worthy Confessions of penitents, which can often humble the confessor himself.

Recently while visiting **Papa Frank** in hospital, his daughter Erica were with him, praying for and with him, holding his hand and doing our best to give him comfort. He soon became quite animated and was looking towards me yet past me; and then he told us of what he was seeing. He said his *visage*, and I use that word quite purposely because, and Miss Erica can attest to the veracity of this, it was his word, which he said over and over to ensure our comprehension of his meaning. His *visage* was of many angels and a beautiful young man appeared in their midst, I asked him if this was the Lord Jesus, and he shook his head saying, "No, he has wings." We believe this might have been S. Michael the Archangel. This *visage* lasted several minutes, and the whole time his face was quite bright and alert, which only a few minutes earlier was very drawn and pained. We continued to pray with him many *Aves*, and afterwards we discussed the *visage* with him, but soon he became tired again and we let him rest. I do not make any claims about this event, only that his daughter Erica and I saw his physical change and animation during these few minutes.

The loss of our loved one's can be quite painful, even when they have lived long and fruitful lives like our dear **Papa Frank**. But we must take comfort in the promises of the Lord: I know that our earthly death is hard to bear, most especially when those we love precede us, because we remain without them for a time. But this, alas, is the consequences of our sin: *stipendia enim peccati*

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mors (Romans 6:23). Again, the Apostle teaches us:

Know you not that all we, who are baptized in Christ Jesus, are baptized in His death? For we are buried together with Him by baptism into death; that as Christ is risen from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also may walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His Resurrection. (Romans 6:3-5)

This is central to the Christian Faith, that those who die in Christ Jesus, like Him, they shall gloriously arise at the last day with a perfected body, the body we were originally created with but lost due to the sin of Adam. This perfected body shall not wither or die, but rather, remain forever in the presence of God Almighty and in the Company of the Saints! Just two weeks ago the Holy Church reminds us *meménto, homo, quia pulvis es, et in púlverum revertéris*...remember man, thou art dust, and to dust thou shalt return. This is a humbling reminder that God breathed life into the dust of the earth to create man, but that He also breathed into him a divine spark, the immortal soul, which can never die. This immortal soul shall be returned to the perfected body at the General Judgment, and never be separated again. This perfected body and soul will remain in the bliss of heaven forever, or, deprived of God's love and grace, in the torments and despair of hell.

Let us remember the precious and dear soul of **Papa Frank** in our daily prayers and offer for him, and all of the faithful departed, the intention that their temporal punishment, which may still be owed, may be expiated by our sacrifice and prayers. As the Holy Scriptures teach us: *It is therefore an holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they*

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may be loosed from sins (II Machabees 12:46).

Yes, we mourn him, our hearts are filled with the sorrow of being without him; but this is temporary, because, *if we are faithful*, we will join him in the company of saints, who praising God in heaven forever remain in joyful bliss of His most Divine and Majestic presence. You have all heard me, many times over the years, quote the Apostle, S. Paul, who teaches us that the *suffering and sorrow of the present cannot compare to the glory to come* (cf. Romans 8:18). It is only in heaven that we shall find perfect contentment, and if we wish to attain that blissful state we must, like dearest **Papa Frank**, be faithful to the promises of our Holy Baptism and remain in the grace of God and His Holy Church.

The mystery of our passing from this life into eternal life, and the great hope we share in the Resurrection of the Dead, is a pillar of our Christian Faith. It is the cornerstone of what we believe. As we offer prayers for the benefit of **Papa Frank's** soul, let us not forget to also offer prayers of joy and thanksgiving: the joy that his earthly pain and suffering, which was great in these last months, is over; the joy that if we are faithful we shall see him again in heaven; and the thanksgiving that we had him in our lives and hearts. Without him, my dearest Eric, Erica, Angela, and Paul, you would not be here – not just not here this morning at Holy Mass, but not here in this world. This would also pertain to his lovely grandchildren; Crystal, Christine, Brandon, Amber, Halle and Saidah. He is your father in life, and by his holy example, he is your father in Faith.

Let us pray for his soul with the prayer Lord Jesus Himself taught us: Our Father...

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION FOR 2020

21 May 2020

Ascension Thursday

15 August 2020 (Saturday)

Assumption of the BVM

1 November (Sunday)

All Saints Day

8 December 2020 (Tuesday)

Immaculate Conception of the BVM

25 December 2020 (Friday)

Christmas

SUNDAYS OF APRIL: THE CATHOLIC HAND MISSAL

In order to assist the faithful following Holy Mass with their hand missals here are the Sunday Masses for April:

5 April 2020:

Palm Sunday:

No commemorations.

12 April 2020

Easter Sunday:

No commemorations.

19 April 2020

Low Sunday:

No commemorations.

26 April 2020

Second Sunday after Easter: commemoration of S. Cletus and Marcellinus at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

To correctly participate at Holy Mass one *silently* unites his prayers with those of the Church through pious and attentive meditation of the prayers and reading of Holy Mass.

If you are unsure how to correctly set your hand missal arrive early for Holy Mass and ask the Monsignor to assist you. It is also important to become familiar with the *Ordinary of the*

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Mass, those parts that never change, i.e.: Kyrie, Gloria, Creed, Sanctus, Benedictus, and the Agnus Dei. And of course the Canon of the Mass, and the *Propers of the Mass*, those which vary according to the feasts of the day, i.e., Introit, Collect(s) (after the Gloria or Dominus Vobiscum), Epistle, Gradual, Alleluia, Tract or Sequence, Gospel, Secret, Communion Verse and Post Communion. On many feasts or days there are *Commemorations* (additional prayers) at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion. The careful attention to these prayers and readings will help one enter into a deeper spiritual relationship with the Holy Liturgy, the Saints and Mysteries of God.

CATECHISM FOR ALL

OUR monthly lecture for March will be on the **Bodily Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ**; please submit your questions to:

info@stfrancisoratory.org

If you have not yet signed up for the lecture series you may do so at any time. **If you are interested please send an email to:**

info@stfrancisoratory.org



LITTLE AUGUSTINE WILLIAM BRIGGS

Shawn and Kylie Briggs have welcomed their newborn son, **Augustine William Briggs**. Please keep this precious baby and his parents in your prayers. New life is always blessed by God and is a joyful increase of the Holy Church.



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**

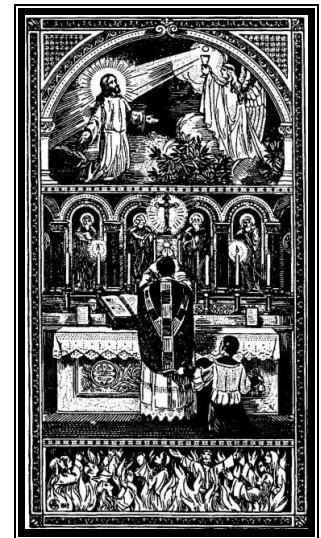
✿ Saint Francis Chapel is staffed by the Priestly Society of Christ the King (SSCR); properly trained and ordained Roman Catholic Priests who are faithful to the teachings and disciplines of the Roman Catholic Church. Saint Francis is not affiliated with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Our Holy Fathers,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

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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.