

SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

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

DECEMBER 2015 – ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIDE

LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

**Now is the hour for us
to rise from sleep; for
now our salvation is
nearer than when we
believed** – S. Paul to the
Romans 13:11

SAINTE PAUL, the Apostle, is reminding us that once we lived in the darkness of sin, but now we live in the light of JESUS CHRIST. Just as he teaches the Church in Rome that the *night has passed*, and now we must protect ourselves with the *armour of light*, that is, the grace of God. Grace is our only protection against sin and evil, grace gives us an abundant life here on earth, and it prepares us for heaven, where there is only grace.

The Apostle wants to remind us of how this earthly life is a struggle and a battle: light against the darkness of sin, the children of grace against the children of sin. The Apostle also gives us the contrary behaviours of the good and the evil: we are to *walk honestly, as in the day: not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and impurities, not in contention and envy: But [we must] put on the Lord JESUS CHRIST, [that is, we must live in His grace] and make no provision for the flesh in its [lustful temptations].* The greatest war against evil takes place within our own self. This is an important lesson for us to

learn: we are at war within our own selves. Our pride and our lust, for things and people, puts at odds with the light and grace of Christ our King.

Now the Gospel seems almost at odds with this joyful season we have just entered – a continuation of the Last Sunday after Pentecost's grim prophecy of the end times. Why this lesson on the First Sunday in Advent? Precisely because of that! The ADVENT of two thousand years ago was quite different: the Chosen People of God awaited the Messiah, Who would deliver them from the bondage of sin and darkness: they awaited the coming of the Great High King whom restores grace and order. But this is not *whom we await!*

At the Incarnation Our Blessed Lord came quietly, humbly, as the Lamb...as the Lamb! He returns as the Lion!

He first came and offered Himself as the Paschal Lamb, sacrificed in propitiation for our sins and those of our fathers. However, when He returns, He tells us in the Holy Gospel that He shall return when there is great tribulation; not this tiny inconvenient sorrow we now see - that on *the earth distress of nations, by reason of the confusion of the roaring of the sea and of the waves; Men withering away for fear, and expectation of what shall come upon the whole world. For the powers of heaven shall be moved; and then they shall see the Son of man coming in a cloud, with great power and majesty.*

He shall return in great POWER and MIGHT! Won't

all the wimpy, "nice" and weak modernists be surprised when they realize how wrong they have been? Won't everyone be shocked when they finally understand how His Mercy will work with His Justice! Not man's justice, but God's justice: power and might, and the wicked will be cast out where there is wailing and gnashing of teeth.

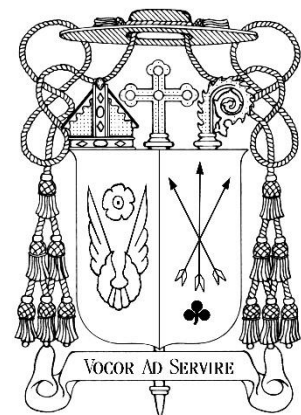
Hear and harken to the warning of the Apostle, and live in righteousness, holiness and grace – become a saint now, today, this very instant, before Our Lord and King *does* return, and all our excuses and whining will be drowned out by our screams and terrors as we descend into the pit of hell!

Now is the hour for us to rise from sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we believed.

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 awaited King,

Monsignor ✠ Thomas JF Sebastian

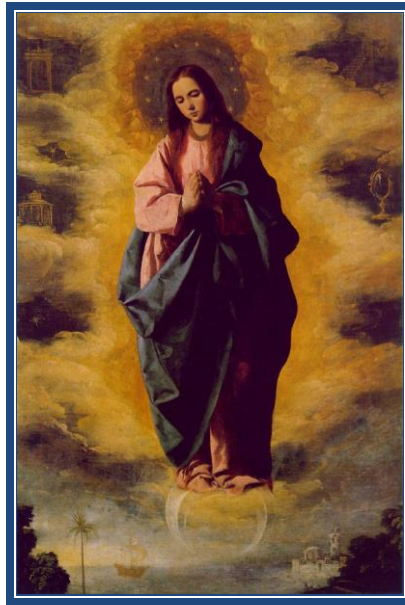


QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: What is necessary for a true confession? My non-Catholic friends seems to think it is all just ritual and no effect. *In Jesus and Mary. Anonymous, Los Angeles, CA*

A: This is a very important question, and one that is often misunderstood by the most pious of Catholics. Firstly, when we approach the *Sacrament of Confession*, which was instituted by Our Lord JESUS CHRIST, and forgives our sins (restores us to grace) that we have committed *after* Baptism, we must have *sorrow* for our sins, The Holy Church teaches us that without sorrow there can be no forgiveness. So to put it more plainly, we (the recipient) must have sorrow for our sins (contrition), perform a sincere penance (satisfaction) and truly promise to sin no more (amendment). The penitent must also reveal ALL their sins (the number and the type of sin, e.g.: stealing, lying, etc.); to withhold any sin renders the confession invalid and is an act of sacrilegious confession.

If you have a question, please feel free to send them via mail or e-mail (info@stfrancisoratory.org).



Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception (8th December): Pray for us!



HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Please remember that Tuesday, the 8th of December, is the solemn feast of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, a Holy Day of Obligation. The faithful are bound to attend Holy Mass and refrain from unnecessary servile work. For the convenience of the faithful Holy Mass will be at 8:00 AM AND 7:00 PM. Please also remember that the day before (Monday the 7th) is a day of Fast AND Abstinence.

PRAYER REQUESTS

OUR continued prayers are requested for the sick, especially Mr. Alfredo Cortes, Mr. Alfred Smith, Mr. & Mrs. William Schiermeyer, and Mrs. Denise Huizenga. 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.

FIRST FRIDAY AND FIRST SATURDAY

OUR First Friday and First Saturday devotions will be on the 4th and 5th of December. Holy Mass will be at 7:00 pm (Fri) and 8:00 am (Sat) with confessions heard before Holy Mass. Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament follows Holy Mass on Friday. This is a wonderful and most pious devotion, so please be sure to invite friends and family.



ADVENT LECTURE AND ROL OF GUADALUPE

IN order to build the faith and understanding of the faithful, the Monsignor will be delivering an ADVENT LECTURE on Saturday the 12th of December; the lecture is entitled: *Have Confidence in the Lord!*

The lecture will begin after Holy Mass (8:00 am) and will be followed by a “Mexican Style” pot luck!

Be sure to invite your friends and family: spread the Faith and help S. Francis grow!



SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

WE are asking all the faithful to petition S. Joseph for his especial support and favour as we seek to purchase a home that will serve as a permanent home for our Mission, as well as a place for the clergy to live and form other

men as future priests and religious.

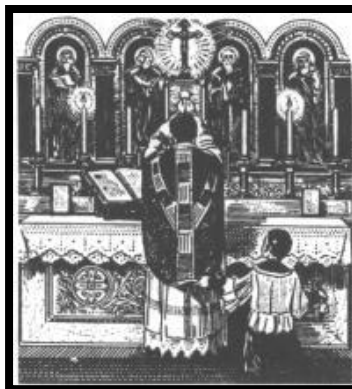
Because commercial real estate is so very expensive we really are “throwing” money away with a commercial lease.

We will be looking for a house that can accommodate the faithful and have ample parking: ideally we would like a home that is easily accessed from the 405 Freeway as most of our faithful travel that route.

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!



Saint Francis Exchange



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*).