

# SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

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

MAY 2017 – EASTERTIDE

## LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

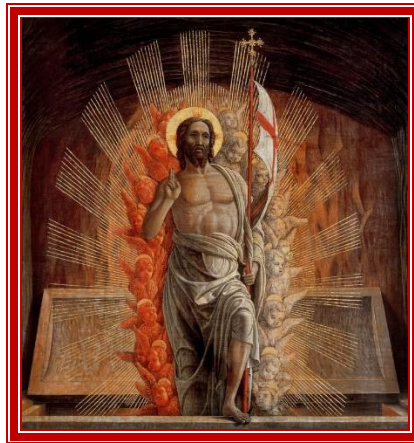
**BE not afraid; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, Who was crucified: he is risen, he is not here, behold the place where they laid him. – S. Mark 16:6**

**T**HERE can be no comparable joy in heaven nor on earth than this phrase uttered by the angels in white to the holy women at the empty sepulchre of the Lord. S. Paul teaches us that the victory over sin and death by Our Divine King opens the gates of heaven for us all, and that our work in the Lord is not in vain (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:51 – 58)!

The grace of God will live in us and bear much good fruit, as the Apostle writes to S. Titus: *For the grace of God our Saviour hath appeared to all men; instructing us, that, denying ungodliness and worldly desires, we should live soberly, and justly, and godly in this world, looking for the blessed hope and coming of the glory of the great God and our Saviour JESUS CHRIST, Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and might cleanse to Himself a people acceptable, a pursuer of good works* (S. Titus 2:11 – 14).

Have we been cleansed from all iniquity? Have we truly rooted out all sin and evil from our lives? Or have we still held unto a “little bit” of sin? Even a little bit of sin prevents us from truly being vivified by grace: as I have taught for many years:

*sin and grace are mutually exclusive. We cannot be “kind of” in grace or “sort of” in sin. The soul, like the body, is either alive or dead. But unlike the body the death of the soul is a death to the living grace of God (for the soul, not being a material thing, cannot actually die or cease). This is why Our Blessed Lord took on physical death for us, so that we might take on His eternal life.*



Such a Glorious and All-Loving Redeemer! Since we are now members of His own Body (the Church) we must live accordingly; holy, righteous and as an example of Him – look towards heaven and our own eternal life. The joy of the Christian, and the peace of living in His grace is the greatest “advertisement” for our loving Lord and His True Church!

Petty squabbles and the desire *to be right* are not the behaviours of a holy people, neither is immorality, which the Apostle tells us should not even be *named among you* (Ephesians 5:3) because those things are not becoming to saints! This is why we fasted

and sacrificed during Holy Lent; to die to sin that we might live in grace. This is the true joy of Easter: bury the old man of sin and be raised up the new man of grace (cf. Romans 6:6).

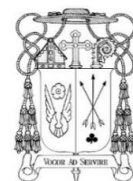
Take this great and holy season to *live* in His grace, to *walk* in His grace, to *be* in His grace; for *this is the day the Lord hath made: let us rejoice and be glad in it* (Psalm 117:24)!

I also hope that everyone will take this holy season as a time to renew our commitment to building up our lovely “little house” of God. Our Oratory Chapel *needs* new members in order to continue to provide you, the faithful, a place to receive the holy Sacraments of the Church, as they have been administered for over two thousand years. Let us see if we can get ten to twenty new *regular* parishioners before Advent; and with the centenary of Our Lady’s apparitions at Fatima upon us let us seek her intercession to bring about the triumph of her Immaculate Heart!

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 always thought that Jesus' mother was one of the women going to anoint Jesus' body early on Sunday morning. But, I think you said that she was NOT one of the women mentioned. But, if she was not; why not?

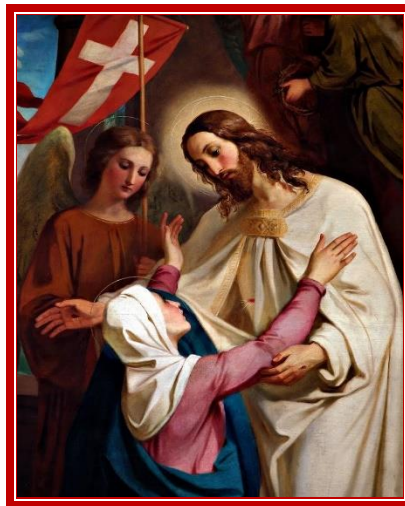
*Thank you, P.P., Tarzana, CA.*

**A:** THE HOLY SCRIPTURES are quite clear in this regard: S. Joseph of Arimathea petitions Pilate for the body of the Lord and when He is taken down from the Cross, with the help of S. Nicodemus, He is wrapped in "fine new linen and spices as was the custom of the Jews" and put into an unused tomb in a nearby garden (cf. S. Matthew 27:56 ff., S. Mark 15:46 ff., S. Luke 23:54 ff., and S. John 19:38 ff.) The women mentioned in attendance at the burial of Our Lord are Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph (the *other* Mary) and Salome, except in the Gospel account of S. John where the women are not mentioned by name.

In the devotion of the *Via Crucis*, or Way of the Cross, we meditate and pray that Our Blessed Lady arranged her Son's body in the Sepulcher "with her own hands."

This was the *immediate* preparation for burial because it was the great Passover and at sundown ALL labour must cease, so the Lord's body was prepared with haste, albeit with great reverence.

The scriptural accounts of the return for even more reverence and additional preparation take place three days later, "on the first day of the week", i.e.: Sunday. In these accounts we read that the Marys' (the Magdalene, the mother of James and Joseph and Salome) return and find the tomb already empty (cf. S. Matthew 28 ff., S. Mark 16 ff., S. Luke 24 ff., S. John 20 ff.). They are simply returning to do more: and they are all, except the Magdalene, blood relatives of the Lord. The Blessed Mother already took care of her Son on the day of His Passion and Death. Lastly, the Blessed Mother would not return to the tomb because she understood that the Lord would resurrect from the dead: He most likely, although not found in scripture, already appeared to her to confirm her hope.



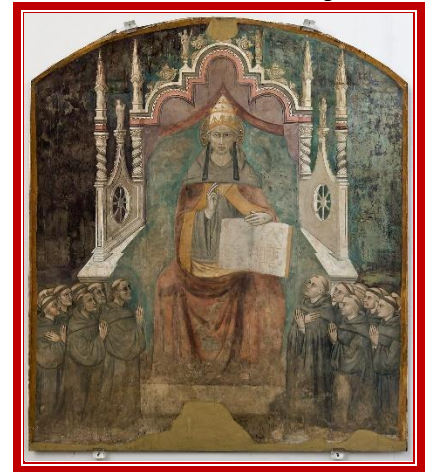
*Our Lady of Joy with the  
Risen Lord*

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

info@stfrancisoratory.org

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## Saint Francis Exchange

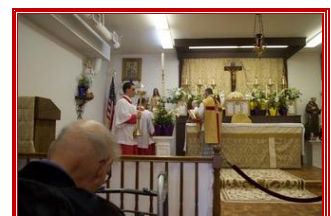


**S. Peter Celestine  
(19<sup>th</sup> of May):  
Pray for us!**

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## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Y**OUR continued prayers are requested for the sick, especially Mrs. Camille Howard, Mr. Charles Ivers (of Arlington, TX), Mr. Paul Howard, Miss Lizabeta Rubio, Mr. Frank Calderon, Mrs. Dorothy Smith, Mr. Joseph Bremmer, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Smith, Mr. & Mrs. William Schiermeyer, Mrs. Denise Huizenga, Mr. John Owen, and Mrs. Maria Gomez. Please also remember in your prayers the souls of those who have died, especially for Mrs. Roberta Dalton†, Mr. David Damits†, Mr. Gino Dinnocente†, Sgt. Kenneth L. May, USMC (Ret.)†, and 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.*



*Father Matthew Howard sings the Gospel of  
Easter Sunday.*





### FIRST FRIDAY AND FIRST SATURDAY

**O**UR First Friday devotions will be on the **5<sup>th</sup> of MAY**, and our First Saturday devotions will be on the **6<sup>th</sup> of MAY**. First Friday Mass is at 7:00 p.m., followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament; First Saturday will be at 8:00 a.m., followed by the Devotions to the Immaculate Heart.

The **HOLY LEAGUE** also meets at 6:45 pm on First Friday.



*Stations of the Cross on Good Friday 2017.*

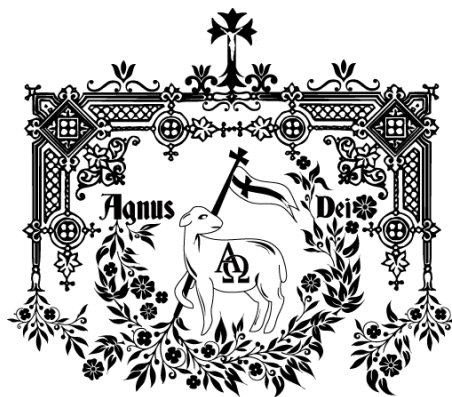


*Father Mary Gabriel, FBA, preaches about the Passion of Our Lord on Good Friday.*



### ASCENSION THURSDAY: HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

**THURSDAY** the 25<sup>th</sup> of May is the great feast of the **ASCENSION**: a **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**. For the convenience of the faithful Holy Mass will be offered at 8:00 am and 7:00 pm. Remember that the faithful *must* attend Holy Mass and refrain from unnecessary servile work under pain of mortal sin.



### Saint Francis Exchange



### OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY AT FATIMA: 100 YEARS

**W**HO is she that cometh forth as the morning rising, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as an army set in array? – Canticles 6:9

**T**HIS year marks the One Hundred Anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady of the Rosary at Fatima Portugal. Before we delve into the apparitions themselves, let us look at what was going on in the world at the time, especially in the Catholic world:

- ❖ The troubles in (formally) Catholic Mexico raged on with continual attacks on the Church, her clergy and her faithful adherents; the revolutionaries were Masons with connections to the United States, whose government often

sided with the revolutionaries.

- ❖ The revolution in Russia was underway with the aim of destroying any religion whatsoever.
- ❖ The Egyptian aggression against the Ottoman Turks effected many Christians in the Middle East; and of course the Armenian Genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Turks sought to destroy the oldest Christian nation.
- ❖ Woodrow Wilson, beginning his second term as President, declares war on Germany and enters World War I (he also ends his search of Pancho Villa) and thereby extending and aggravating the war.
- ❖ Europe not only face this horrific war, but many countries (like Portugal) faced inner conflicts by Socialists and Communists; both of whom were at war with the Church.

These few examples clearly demonstrate how the people of the world, most especially Catholic Europe (formally known as Christendom), had departed from God and His Holy Church. The calamities of war are a direct result of the rejection of the Social Kingship of Christ and would result in the loss of human life, persecution and depravity on the largest scale ever: many of these sins against God and man remain in our own times. These revolutions gave rise to the eventual "liberalization and

legalization" of abortion, euthanasia and genocide, and the promotion and even exaltation of immoral sexual depravity.

This is why it is imperative to examine the events of Fatima in 1917 in this light; heaven, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, gave the world an antidote to this spiritual contagion. Our Lady's remedy did not vary from her recommendations of the past, and they echo those from the Sacred Scriptures (the holy prophets, the Baptist and Our Lord Himself); *pray, repent and convert!*

It is with this in mind that we shall present at S. Francis special lectures and presentations *every 13<sup>th</sup> of the month* from May to October. PLEASE be sure to mark your calendars and invite friend and family to learn more about Our Lady at Fatima, her messages and requests, and how we *must* work to make this message known and convert many in order to stay the hand of God, "so much offended" by our sin and indifference. **Our Lady of Fatima: *pray for us!***

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



*The solemn blessing of palm branches on Palm Sunday*

## Saint Francis Exchange



*A portion of the Procession back into the Church.*



*Young Master Jude Francis learning and teaching others about the Faith of his Fathers.*



*Pontifical Mass follows the Procession.*



# MASS INTENTIONS FOR MAY 2017

01 May 2017	Ss. PHILIP & JAMES	Private Mass	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
02 May 2017	S. Athanasius	8:00 AM	Mr. Frank Calderon	The Alfred Smith Family
03 May 2017	SOLEMNITY OF S. JOSEPH	8:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
04 May 2017	Finding of the HOLY CROSS	8:00 AM	Fr. Anselm Marie Graves, OSB	Anonymous
05 May 2017	S. Pope Pius V	8:00 AM	Msgr. Ignacio Barriero-Carámula†	Msgr. Sebastian
06 May 2017	S. John before the Latin Gate	8:00 AM	<i>Friends and Benefactors</i>	
07 May 2017	Third Sunday after Easter	10:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
08 May 2017	Apparition of S. Michael the Archangel	Private Mass	Private Intention	Anonymous
09 May 2017	S. Gregory Nazianzen	8:00 AM	Mr. Clifford A. Perkins†	Miss Pamela Perkins
10 May 2017	Octave Day of S. Joseph	8:00 AM	Mrs. Josephine V.Z. Perkins†	Miss Pamela Perkins
11 May 2017	<i>Mass of Requiem</i>	8:00 AM	Mr. Ricardo Lopez-Cruz†	Miss Rachel Lopez
12 May 2017	S. Nereus & Comp.	8:00 AM	Private Intention	Msgr. Sebastian
13 May 2017	<i>Votive Mass of the Immaculate Heart</i>	8:00 AM	<i>In Honour of Our Lady</i>	
14 May 2017	Fourth Sunday after Easter	10:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
15 May 2017	S. John the Baptist de La Salle	Private Mass	Private Intention	Anonymous
16 May 2017	S. Ubaldus	8:00 AM	Mr. Clifford A. Perkins†	Miss Pamela Perkins
17 May 2017	S. Paschal Baylon	8:00 AM	Mrs. Josephine V.Z. Perkins†	Miss Pamela Perkins
18 May 2017	S. Venantius	8:00 AM	Mr. Ricardo Lopez-Cruz†	Miss Raquel Lopez
19 May 2017	S. Pope Peter Celestine	8:00 AM	Mr. & Mrs. Mark Ruttle	Msgr. Sebastian
20 May 2017	S. Bernardine of Siena	8:00 AM	Mr. Ricardo Lopez-Cruz†	Miss Raquel Lopez
21 May 2017	Fifth Sunday after Easter	10:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
22 May 2017	Rogation Day	Private Mass	Private Intention	Anonymous
23 May 2017	Rogation Day	8:00 AM	Private Intention	Anonymous
24 May 2017	<i>Vigil of the Ascension</i>	8:00 AM	Private Intention	Msgr. Sebastian
25 May 2017	ASCENSION THURSDAY	8:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
26 May 2017	S. Philip Neri	7:00 PM	Private Intention	Msgr. Sebastian
27 May 2017	S. Bede	8:00 AM	Private Intention	Msgr. Sebastian
28 May 2017	Sunday within the Octave	10:00 AM	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
29 May 2017	S. Mary Magdalen dei Pazzi	Private Mass	Private Intention	Anonymous
30 May 2017	<i>Within the Octave</i>	8:00 AM	Private Intention	Anonymous
31 May 2017	QUEENSHIP OF MARY	8:00 AM	Mrs. Patricia McClusky†	Msgr. Sebastian





### 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*).



Father Matthew Howard sprinkling the faithful during the "Vidi Aquam" on Easter Sunday.

## 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.traditioninaction.com

www.traditio.com

www.cfnews.org

www.remnantnewspaper.com

*N.B.: Recommendation of a website is for information, and does not constitute association with or full agreement of opinions or positions.*

## SPECIAL NOTICE:



Mr. Joseph John Vennari died on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 10:46 a.m. Mr. Vennari was a faithful Catholic who was devoted to the traditional Catholic Faith, Holy Mass and the message of Our Lady of Fatima.

Mr. Vennari was the founder of the *Catholic Family News* and a tireless defender of Catholic orthodoxy. He received the traditional Sacraments and blessings of the Church several times during the past weeks and months. On Sunday, April 2, Holy Mass was offered in his hospital room and he was able to receive Holy Viaticum one last time, as well as Extreme Unction and the Apostolic Blessing. He died wearing the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and the cord of St. Philomena, with the St. Benedict Crucifix (with the special 'Happy Death' indulgence attached) next to him. Please keep the soul of Mr. Vennari in your Holy Communion, prayers and sacrifices.

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord: and let perpetual light shine upon him.*



High Mass at S. Francis on Easter Sunday.