

The Little Portion Newsletter

St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina Fraternity
St. Margaret of Cortona Region

Next Fraternity Gathering

JUNE 25, 2018

St. Joan's Meeting House

AGENDA

7:30 pm: **Opening Prayer** page 35 of Ritual Book
Liturgy of the Hours: Mon. of the 12th Week of Ordinary Time. Evening Prayer page 942
Hymn: Holy God We Praise Thy Name #49 page 1560

Presider: Bonnie Ng

Antiphonarian: Donna Willard

Reader: Ginger Bahr

Following the Liturgy of the Hours:

The Ceremony of Introduction and Welcoming for Anne Dulik and Roland Willard

Ongoing Formation: The Gospel of John
Session 5: Read John 7-9

9:15: Closing Prayer page 39 - followed by the Social

Prayer Intentions

The Simmons Family for healing especially Mary for healing of her shoulder following recent fall.

Linda, Barbara's niece continued healing from head injury

Eleanor, Barbara's sister in law who had a stroke

Ron T. for special intention

Wes W. healing

For all those in our Book of Intentions

St. Francis Pray for us !

St. Padre Pio Pray for us!

JUNE 2018

Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis



Birthdays

June

Joy LaCour
6/1

Ginger Bahr
6/27



Since we did not have a May Newsletter or Gathering due to Memorial Day, May Professions are acknowledged here.



May Professions

Ginger Bahr 5/18/13
Margaret Wise 5/24/04

June Professions

Barbara Teller 6/04/78
Joan Jackson 6/12/10

Council Members

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|-------------------------------|----------------------|
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| Vice Minister: Margaret Wise: | 443-327-7502 |
| Secretary: Virginia Bahr: : | 410-838-7836 |
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| Formation Director: | Allen Siegel |
| Spiritual Assistant: | Br. Lawrence LaFlame |
| Newsletter Editor: | Bonnie Ng |

Minister's Message

Since June is the month that the Church dedicates to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, I have spent some time praying the Litany of the Sacred Heart as well as mediating on the Heart of Jesus.

The heart is a powerful metaphor in the Bible which symbolizes the wellspring of life and the center of one's being, the totality of a person where one's deepest desires reside. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that the word heart is mentioned more than a thousand times in the Bible. "The heart is the dwelling –place where I am, where I live; according to the Semitic or Biblical expression, "the heart is the place to which I withdraw." The heart is our hidden center, beyond the grasp of our reason and of others; only the Spirit of God can fathom the human heart and know it fully. The heart is the place of decision, deeper than our psychic drives. It is the place of truth where we choose life or death. It is the place of encounter, because as image of God we live in relation: it is the place of covenant" (CCC2563).

The heart of Christ is above all an expression of love. One of the visions that Jesus gave to St. Margaret Mary was that of His Heart enthroned on fire and flames, signifying that the heart of Christ burns with love for us. What a powerful image to consider and contemplate. The immensity and intensity of God's love for us and his desire for us to love Him is both awesome and something we cannot completely grasp. One of the invocations in the Litany of the Sacred Heart is "Heart of Jesus, burning Furnace of Charity". The fuel of this "furnace" is none other than the very core of God for "God is Love" (1 John 4:8.). We are aware of the great love Jesus had sharing in our humanity by the Incarnation, His sacrificial love with death on the Cross and finally His enduring love to be united with us in Holy Communion at every Mass. This image of the heart of Jesus as a furnace of burning love really struck me profoundly in my meditation with the

realization of how diminished my gratitude is in comparison.

I think the mystics understood Jesus's burning heart of love for their hearts burn with longing in loving God. Bonaventure, in the *Life of Francis* writes "Of the ardent love that glowed in Francis, who can tell? He seemed utterly consumed, like a coal that is set on fire, by the flame of the love divine." Yes the mystics understood the immense love in the heart of Jesus and thus the Litany of the Sacred Heart comes to a close with "Heart of Jesus, delight of all Saints". The mystics and the saints understood because they experienced the heart of Jesus as the words of the prophet Jeremiah describe, "His message becomes like a fire locked up inside of me , burning in my heart and soul" (Jer20:9).

May we all grow closer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus so that our hearts can be more like His, if not a furnace then with sparks of divine love! "Heart of Jesus, King and Center of all hearts, have mercy on us."

In Francis and Clare,
Bonnie Ng, O.F.S.



Ephesians: 3: 16-18

“I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.”

St. Francis’ Devotion to the Body of the Lord

“Toward the sacrament of the Lord’s Body, he burned with fervor toward his very marrow, and with unbounded wonder of that loving condescension and condescending love. He considered it disrespectful not to hear, if time allowed, at least one Mass a day. He received Communion frequently and so devoutly that he made others devout. Following that which is so venerable with all reverence he offered the sacrifice of all his members, and receiving the *lamb that was slain*, he slew his own spirit in the *fire* which always *burned upon the altar* of his heart. “

From:
“Remembrance of the Desire of a Soul” by Thomas Celano . Chapter CLII.



Words of St. Padre Pio

“Jesus almost always asks love of me. And my heart more than my mouth replies to him: ‘Oh my Jesus, I wish...., and I am unable to continue. But in the end I exclaim: ‘Yes Jesus, I love you. In this moment I love you and at the same time feel the need to love you more; but Jesus, I have no more love in my heart, you know that I have given everything to you. If you want more love, take this heart of mine and fill it with your love, and then command me to love you, I will not refuse; in fact, I beg you to do so, I desire it’.

I feel that love will eventually conquer me. My soul runs the risk of separating itself from the body, because it is unable to love Jesus sufficiently on the earth. So wounded is the soul with love for Jesus. So am I made ill by love. I experience continually the bitter pain of that ardor that burns and does not consume.”

From : *Words of Light: Inspiration from the letters of Padre Pio*. Compiled by Fr.Raniero Cantalamesa. P.104.

