



NEWSLETTER
JANUARY-MARCH 2016

From the Minister

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy Eastertide!

“The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ, a faith believed and lived as the central truth by the first Christian community; handed on as fundamental by Tradition; established by the documents of the New Testament; and preached as an essential part of the Paschal mystery along with the cross:

Christ is risen from the dead!

Dying, he conquered death;

To the dead, he has given life.”

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, pp 638)

On the day after Easter and on Buzz’s birthday, March 28, our dear Father Ange ended his earthly penance and was taken by our father Francis to meet his Lord in heaven. On the next page is a (very brief) summary of his life, so I won’t repeat them. We love him, and will see him again.

His viewing was last Thursday at St Pat’s, followed by the funeral Mass. The church was packed, and a number of people said it was the most beautiful memorial Mass they’d ever attended. There were over 30 diocesan and Franciscan priests in attendance, in respect and honor, and both Fr. Jim and Fr. Stan gave eloquent, personal and deeply moving eulogies.

In the words of Father Francis: “Keep a clear eye toward life's end. Do not forget your purpose and destiny as God's creature. What you are in his sight is what you are, and nothing more. Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take nothing that you have received ... but only what you have given; a full heart enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice, and courage.”

Love always,

Newsletter Editor

Celebrations

Anniversaries

Francis Bruno (February 11, 2006)

Lucia Barrett (February 9, 2008)

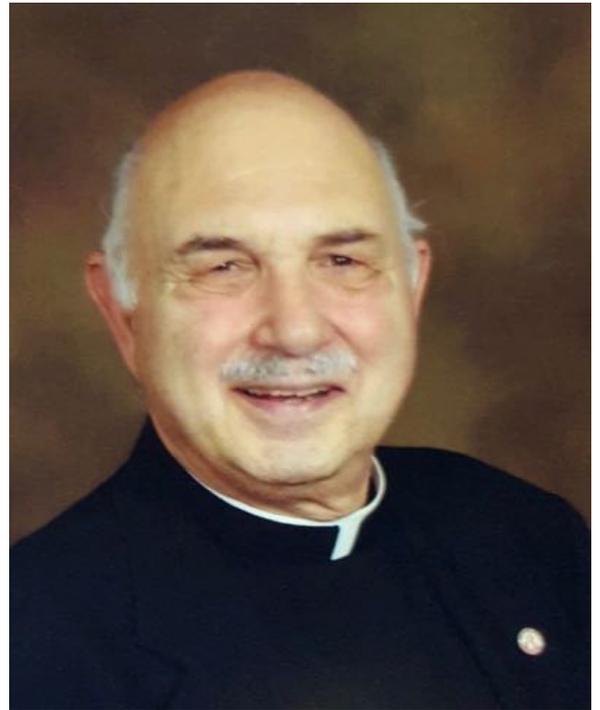
Sharon McHugh (February 9, 2006)

Jane Keehan (February 7, 2009)

Fr Angelus Salvatore Migliore, TOR

Fr. Ange was born on July 16, 1937 in the Bronx. He was ordained on May 23, 1964, in Johnstown, PA. He then spent ten years in Brazil, preaching and living the Word of God as he travelled up and down the Amazon River.

In 1974 he accepted an invitation to the College of Steubenville, Ohio, to help renew the college. He helped establish the Renewal Center and assisted the president in various pastoral situations, laid the foundations for priestly formation and initiated a Secular Franciscan fraternity, which evolved into a new order of TOR religious sisters.



In 1994, Fr. Angelus joined St. Patrick's as an associate and started the Re-Membering Program. He was officially named Pastor on July 1, 2003.

Fr. Ange was known for his profound understanding of the faith, his passionate directness, his dry humor and a willingness to go to any length to help. He was our Spiritual Assistant since St Michael's re-start in 2006. He passed from this life on March 28, 2016. He is loved and missed.

“Each one of us is the Gospel. This Fraternity isn't a Bible Study or a social group. We must ASSUME THE LIFE OF CHRIST, as Francis did! Faith without deeds IS NOT FAITH.”



Discipleship

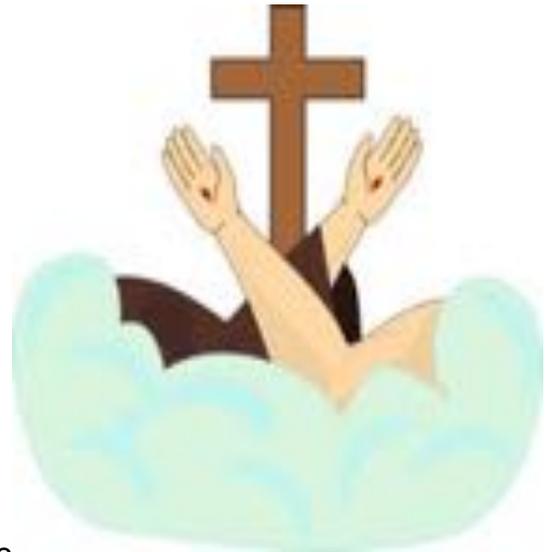
Seek the Gospel Life!

by Dennis Mallon, OFS, Immaculate Conception Fraternity
(condensed from <http://rhinoweb.org/gospel-life/this-test-2>)

“What’s the main difference between a practicing Catholic and a Secular Franciscan? The difference is that in addition to following all the guidelines and fulfilling the obligations of the Church, we make a permanent commitment to live a life of Penance, Sacrifice and Service, to God and to others, as we try to spread the Gospel in the way of Saint Francis of Assisi.

“You must be a practicing Catholic, in full agreement with all the Teachings of the Church, Pro-life and other laws. You must have a joyful, peaceful disposition with the desire to help and to serve others. We are committed by our vocation to center our life on Christ and to build up the Kingdom of God in temporal situations and activities. We live our membership in the Church and in society as an inseparable reality.

We allow God to be in charge of our life!



“Occasionally I still encounter individuals who are members of the Franciscan Order who still do not fully understand the concept of Penance. Understanding Penance requires one to first come to a mature understanding of sin and its effects in the world. The only thing we can know for certain is that only divine revelation really knows what sin is. In Ps. 36: vs. 2-5 we read ‘Sin directs the heart of the wicked; their eyes are closed to the fear of God. For they live with the delusion: their guilt will not be known and hated.’

“John Paul II in his encyclical “Redemptor Hominis” said some insightful things about our personal salvation. These are the points of his understanding of a response from Catholics:

- o The Gift we receive is the gift of the Holy Spirit, active in our lives.
- o This loving mercy of God brings us first to personal repentance.
- o He introduces us to Jesus who brings us healing and justice and salvation.
- o He empowers us to live on earth FOR HEAVEN, for Him and Him alone.

“Living daily with the awareness of these four points and implementing them into our lives is on-going conversion. Living the life of on-gong conversion is the ultimate meaning of Penance and being a Penitent.”

-- Fr. Angelus Migliore, St. Michael Newsletter, Jan/Feb 2013

Five Franciscan Martyrs Region

Deacon Thomas M. Bello, SFO

Deacon Tom joined our father Francis on March 29, 2016 after a battle with cancer. Born in Durham, NC, in 1949, he grew up in Raleigh and attended the UNC at Chapel Hill. After graduating UNC, he travelled to Oxford University in England, where he earned a Master's Degree in History. After marrying his wife, Judy, in 1975 they set down roots in Northern Virginia.

Drawn to the spirituality of St. Francis, he joined the SFO in 1983, and was elected the National Minister in 2009.

After his diaconate ordination in 1987, he was assigned to the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington, VA. He later served at St. James Church and St. Anthony of Padua Church, both in Falls Church. He spent 19 years serving at St. James Church.

Deacon Tom visited patients at the Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, visited the home-bound and distributed food to the needy. He also taught classes for RCIA and was the chairman of the Arlington Diaconal Council.

He is survived by his wife, three children and four grandchildren.



Family Focus on Marie



Marie Rose Paleveda was born in Tampa in 1954. A cradle Catholic and the first of 8 children, she's a "second mom" to her family.

Her youth centered around faith, family ... and dancing! Graduate from St Pat Grade School, she was an accomplished ballerina and choreographer in high school (and made most her own clothes).

Marie graduated from Florida A&M in 1993 in Physical Therapy (Summa Cum Laude) and has worked at St. Joseph Hospital for 20 years. On the St. Joe's Mission Committee, she's an EM, teaches Faith Formation and was an RCIA sponsor with Christ the King.

Since childhood she's been drawn to St Francis: her confirmation name is Francis of Assisi. She learned of St Michael's by an ad in the bulletin. Her husband of almost 26 years, Leo Coady, died of cancer in January 2012. A year and a half later, she attended her first SFO meeting. And she is the Editor's bride and love of his life!

Jubilee of Mercy!

(Condensed from Pope Francis' homily at the Divine Mercy Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square)

"We are all called to become living writers of the Gospel, heralds of the Good News to all men and women today," the Pope told the crowds during his homily. We do this by practicing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, which are *the hallmarks of the Christian life*. By means of these simple yet powerful gestures, even when unseen, we can accompany the needy, bringing God's tenderness and consolation."

Pope Francis referred back to the day's Gospel taken from John, which recounts the episode in which the Apostle Thomas doubts the Resurrection until he puts his hand in Jesus' side. These scenes denotes the contrast between the disciple's "fear" as they hid behind closed doors, and the "mission" on which Jesus sends them: "to proclaim the message of forgiveness," the Pope said.

"Being *apostles of mercy* means touching and soothing the wounds that today afflict the bodies and souls of many of our brothers and sisters. Curing these wounds, we profess Jesus, we make him present and alive; we allow others, who touch his mercy with their own hands, to recognize him as 'Lord and God.'"

Works of Mercy

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) defined the virtue of "mercy" in his great *Summa Theologiae* (ST II-II.30.1) as "the compassion in our hearts for another person's misery, a compassion which drives us to do what we can to help him."

Pope Saint John Paul II issued the papal encyclical *Dives in Misericordia* on 30 November 1980 declaring that "Jesus Christ taught that man not only receives and experiences the mercy of God, but that he is also called 'to practice mercy' towards others." Catholic tradition holds that the Works of Mercy (or Acts of Mercy) are practices that Christians must perform.

Corporal Works of Mercy are those that tend to bodily needs of others.

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| To feed the hungry. | To give drink to the thirsty. |
| To clothe the naked. | To shelter the homeless. |
| To visit the sick. | To visit the imprisoned. |
| To bury the dead. | |

Spiritual Works of Mercy aim to relieve spiritual suffering.

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|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| To instruct the ignorant. | To counsel the doubtful. |
| To admonish sinners. | To bear wrongs patiently. |
| To forgive offenses. | To comfort the afflicted. |
| To pray for the living and the dead. | |



Seasonal: EASTER!

Rev. Stanley J. Holland, TOR
(condensed from the Stewardship Letter, March 27, 2016)

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the central event in the history of humanity.



The events of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday are at the core of all that constitutes the Catholic Church, as well as at the core of our central act of worship, the holy sacrifice of the Mass. The central fact is that the temporary tomb of Jesus became an empty tomb.

Those who were with Christ when he died on the cross at first could not believe their eyes when they found the tomb empty. The Roman Guards were terrified. The empty tomb presents us with our ultimate destiny: eternal life. The consequences of this are consolation and hope.

We may fear death but we are not terrorized by it. Because of Christ's resurrection, death was changed from being ultimate to being merely transitional. Today is a day of hope and a day of glory for us all.

God's purpose and God's will cannot be undone by human sin and rejection. Just as Jesus called Lazarus out of the tomb, Jesus calls us out of our tombs of indifference, of hate, of bigotry, of our pride, and our sinfulness. The only things that stand in the way of our happiness is our pride, our willfulness, our defiant selves who refuse to surrender control over our lives and place them in God's hands.

Because the tomb is empty we are assured of eternal life. He is risen, He is risen indeed!



Mary Our Mother



Holy Mother of God

January 1

Mary is the Theotokos, the "Mother of God."

In his Apostolic Letter, *Marialis Cultus*, Pope Paul VI explained: "This celebration, placed on January 1 ... is meant to commemorate the part played by Mary in this mystery of salvation. It is meant also to exalt the singular dignity which this mystery brings to the holy Mother ... through whom we were found worthy to receive the Author of life.

"It is likewise a fitting occasion for renewing adoration of the newborn Prince of Peace, for listening once more to the glad tidings of the angels (Luke 2:14), and for imploring from God, through the Queen of Peace, the supreme gift of peace."

Feast of the Annunciation

March 25 (April 4)

The Feast of the Annunciation is one of the most important in the Church calendar. First, it celebrates the actual Incarnation of Our Savior -- the Word made flesh in the womb of His mother, Mary. Second, it is a principal Marian feast.

The biblical account of the Annunciation is in the first chapter of Luke, which describes the news given to Mary that she was to become the mother of the Incarnation of God. Thus the "angelic salutation" of Gabriel to Mary, 'Hail, thou who art highly favored. The Lord is with thee.'



And Mary's response to Gabriel's invitation is to succumb to God's will: "Let it be done to me according to thy word." Her exultant hymn, the Magnificat, found in Luke 1:46-55, has been part of the Church's Liturgy of the Hours at Vespers (evening prayer) for many centuries, and is repeated nightly in churches, convents and monasteries throughout the world.

Reflection

MOTHER MARY ANGELICA OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration
(April 20, 1923 - March 27, 2016)

Mother Angelica was a Poor Clare for over 70 years. She was the founder of the Eternal Word Television Network, founder of Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, builder of the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and the most prominent American Catholic of our time. She was the national voice of Pope Saint John Paul II.

She was a recipient of the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Award, presented by Pope Benedict XVI. She was a true defender of the faith, in an age of great immorality, in the world and in the Church.

Simply "Mother" to millions of faithful American Catholics, we ask her now as we did for 30 years ... Mother, pray for us! We need your prayers so dearly now!



“It’s your obligation to speak the truth, and everyone can either take it or leave it. But truth must be in us. We live in such poverty of truth today.”

