

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
FRATERNITY



SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
TAMPA, FL.

**NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2016**



From the Minister

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope and pray that you are having a fun-filled and peaceful summer! Please keep safe on the roads.

We had an excellent profession in June for Dave Koehler, OFS: congratulations Dave! May the love and guidance of Jesus, St. Francis, and our Mother Mary be with you.

Fr. Jim has also graciously agreed to become our Spiritual Assistant, pending confirmation from our leaders. Thank you Fr. Jim! We are ecstatic to have someone with your faith, dedication, love for others, poverty of spirit, and intelligence as our Spiritual Assistant. We are profoundly grateful to you and the Holy Spirit.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 20th, 2016. Dave and Marie will be presenting on Laudato Si', and I will be talking about our Fraternity elections here at St. Michael the Archangel. We have a tentative date for the upcoming elections, pending the Council's approval. You will have sufficient time to contemplate and pray about running for a position on the Council. For those of you who transferred here in the past 2 years, let me review part of our history in a few sentences: our sister Margie was elected Minister in May 2013, but unfortunately resigned in 2014, when she moved to the east coast of Florida. As Vice Minister, I took her place, but my tenure is now over. Please think and pray about joining the leadership of this great group.

At our next meeting, we will also be taking part in the Backpack for Hope Drive from Metropolitan Ministries. Marie Waddell, OFS emailed a list of items to fill the backpacks with; thanks Marie! I will supply about 10 backpacks, if you can purchase some items including pens, pencils, notebooks, etc. If you need the list, please contact Marie Waddell or me.

Happy Fourth of July! Let's continue to pray for victims of the savage and unnecessary violence that besieged the Middle East and Orlando. May the love and kindness of Jesus and His Mother bless the victims and their families. May they turn evil hearts into loving ones. May we also practice tolerance and understanding at all times. Let's also remember in our prayers our departed Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Angelus, members of our fraternity and the Franciscan Community.

Love always,

Theresa

Celebrations

Anniversaries

Mary Skok (April 28, 2012)
Rosa Talbert (June 7, 1979)

Dorothy Smith (April 28, 2012)
John Williams (June 18, 1978)

David A. Koehler, OFS

On June 4, 2016, the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Dave Koehler made his Permanent Profession to live the Gospel Life in imitation of St. Francis. St. Michael's fraternity conducted the Rite of Permanent Profession with Fr. Jim Angert during the Saturday morning Mass at St. Patrick Church in Tampa.

Dave had been attending the monthly fraternity meetings for over five years, and is the first member to complete Formation using the For Up to Now (FUN) National Formation Manual.



Dear Jesus,
Come to me I pray.
Please fill my soul
with Thy holy grace and
enable me to love Thee
and serve Thee
all the days of my life.

by Patrick Murphy, circa 1960
-- contributed by Jane Keenan

With Dave were the two youngest of his four daughters, Olivia (Sophomore, USF) and Elena (Senior, East Bay High), and his beautiful wife Marie, who will be professing this Fall.

The ceremony came off without a hitch, due to the efforts of Minister Theresa Zesiewicz, Formation Director Michelle Taylor and Counsellor At-Large Buzz Bruno.

It was especially significant that Fr. Jim presided at the Mass, since he just recently accepted the the position of Spiritual Director at St. Michael's Fraternity! Thank you, Fr. Jim!





UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Fortnight for Freedom!

The Fortnight for Freedom will again take place from June 21 to July 4. This two-week period is a time when our liturgical calendar celebrates a series of great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political power, including St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher, St. John the Baptist, Sts. Peter and Paul, and the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome.

The theme of this year's Fortnight is Witnesses to Freedom and will focus on the lives of women and men of faith, from all over the world, who have borne witness to authentic freedom in Christ. We have seen a great diversity of events promoting religious freedom across the country, including interfaith prayer services, special Masses and holy hours, rallies, televised town hall meetings, conferences, and other public events where speakers have highlighted the various threats to religious liberty, especially the HHS mandate and the plight of persecuted Christians around the world.

Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher were Renaissance men. More wrote theological and philosophical treatises, while making a career as a lawyer and government official. Bishop John Fisher worked as an administrator at Cambridge, confronted the challenge Martin Luther presented to Christian Europe, and most importantly served as Bishop of Rochester. These men were brilliant. Above all their accomplishments, these men bore witness to a deep faith in Christ and his Church.

More and Fisher are well-known for opposing King Henry's divorce. Ultimately, it was their refusal to sign an oath of supremacy that led them to be executed. King Henry VIII claimed to be the supreme head of the Church in England, asserting sovereign power over English Christians. Neither Fisher nor More could abide this claim. They were convicted of treason.

When More made his way to the gallows, he is said to have stated, "I die the King's good servant, but God's first." Both More and Fisher were patriots. They never rose up to incite rebellion or foment revolution. They were no traitors.

But when the law of the king came into conflict with the law of Christ, they chose Christ. These men gave their lives for the freedom of the Church and for freedom of conscience. They bear witness to the truth that no government can make a claim on a person's soul.

Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, pray that we too will be good servants to our country, but God's first!

**FORTNIGHT
FOR FREEDOM**

Five Franciscan Martyrs Region

Fight or Flight

(condensed from an article by Marie Thomas, OFS,
Regional Minister)

The heart of the Gospel is about forgiveness. If we look at our lives, we will find some people have betrayed us. Others we know and really loved, returned it with hostility. Forgiveness is God's response and is exemplified by the cross.

Some of us prefer to take wrongs we see and fix them. Others prefer to deny there is any problem and flee to avoid the tension. The Franciscan way is to stand in the middle. Once we can stand still, neither fighting nor fleeing, we are in the place of grace out of which newness and creativity can come. When our ego is no longer our agenda, then we can be open to God's agenda.

The Franciscan way is very wise but it is also lonely because most folks will be taking the other two ways: flight or fight. As Secular Franciscans we must wait and ask for the grace to respect people who don't agree with us. If we are full of God's love, we won't inflict pain on "them." True Secular Franciscans admit they are sometimes wrong and need forgiveness so they extend this same forgiveness to others.

Family Focus on Buzz



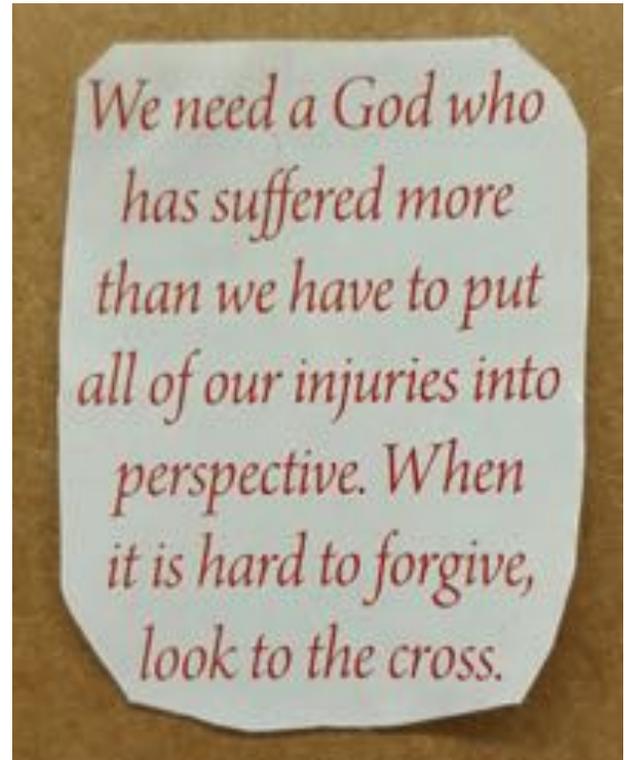
Francis "Buzz" Bruno was born March 28, 1952, in Saint Clare's Hospital, New York. He's a 1st generation American, with all four grandparents born in Italy.

He has Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees from Syracuse University, and later founded his own Information Technology consulting company, the Spinnaker Group. Buzz married Susan McIntosh on August 21, 1976.

In 1981, Buzz and Susan moved to Tampa and Buzz took a Professorship at USF. He also served on the Board of a number of charitable organizations, including Metropolitan Ministries. He also volunteered with Catholic Charities and served as the Disaster Relief Coordinator for the Diocese.

As a young man Buzz had moved away from Catholicism, but connected With Fr. Ange through oncecatholic.org. He re-entered the Church, became close friends with Fr. Ange, and in 2005 joined the parish Finance Council. In March of 2006 he accepted an invitation to be an interim Operations Officer for St. Pat's for "3-4 months" -- this March marked his 10th anniversary.

Buzz learned about the SFO from Fr. Ange. He took his formation with St. John Capistrano fraternity, and professed in the chapel of St. Pat's friary in 2006. That same year he became the first minister of the reactivated St. Michael Fraternity, and served in that position for three terms (9 years).



Jubilee of Mercy!

Jubilee for Priests, June 1-3 at the Papal Basilicas in Rome

"I invite everyone to pray to the Heart of Jesus for the entire month of June and to support with closeness and affection your priests so that they always reflect the image of that Heart full of merciful love," the Pope said.

The Jubilee for Priests falls on the 160th anniversary of the institution of the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, introduced in 1856 by Pope Pius IX. To celebrate their Jubilee in Rome, on Wednesday clergy and seminarians from around the world began the first of three days of prayer and reflection with pilgrimages to the Jubilee churches: S. Salvatore in Lauro, S. Maria in Vallicella and S. Giovanni Battista dei Fiorentini.

"Dear priests, in the Eucharistic celebration we rediscover each day our identity as shepherds. In every Mass, may we truly make our own Christ's words: 'This is my body, which is given up for you.' This is the meaning of

our life; with these words, in a real way we can daily renew the promises we made at our priestly ordination. I thank all of you for saying "yes" to giving your life in union with Jesus."



Divine Mercy

(condensed from EWTN.com)

The message of mercy is that God loves us — all of us — no matter how great our sins. He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others.

It is a message we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC.

A — Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B — Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

C — Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

Dear Lord, I thank You for this day.
I thank You for my being able to wake once again, to see and to hear this morning.
I'm blessed because You are a forgiving God and an understanding God. You have done so much for me and You continue to bless me.
Please forgive me every day for anything I have done, said or thought that was not pleasing to you, and I ask now for Your forgiveness.
Please keep me safe from all danger and harm.
Help me to start this day with a new attitude and plenty of gratitude.
Let me make the best of each and every day to clear my mind so that I can hear from You.
Please broaden my mind that I can accept all things.
Let me not whine and whimper over things I have no control over.
Let me continue to see sin through God's eyes and acknowledge it as evil.
And when I sin, let me repent, and confess with my mouth my wrongdoing, and receive Your forgiveness.
And when this world closes in on me, let me remember Jesus' example -to slip away and find a quiet place to pray.
It's the best response when I'm pushed beyond my limits.
Continue to use me to do Your will.
Continue to bless me that I may be a blessing to others.
Keep me strong that I may help the weak.
Keep me uplifted that I may have words of encouragement for others.
I pray for those that are lost and can't find their way.
I pray for those that are misjudged and misunderstood.
I pray for those who don't know You intimately.
I pray for those that don't believe.
And I'm grateful that you are in my heart.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen



Sacred Heart of Jesus

Solemnity June 3

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus can be clearly traced back at least to the eleventh century. It marked the spirituality of Saint Bernard of Clairvaux in the 12th century and of Saint Bonaventure and Saint Gertrude the Great in the 13th century.



Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is one of the most widely practiced and well-known Catholic devotions, with Christ's heart representing His burning, divine love for all mankind. The first unofficial celebration of the feast was in 1670 in France. But it took the visions of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque for the devotion to become universal.

The "great apparition" of June 16, 1675 is the source of the modern Solemnity. In that vision, Jesus asked St. Margaret for a Feast of the Sacred Heart on the Friday of Corpus Christi, in reparation for the ingratitude for the sacrifice Christ made for them.



Lord Jesus Christ, Your Heart is still moved to pity for every human need. Aware of Your invitation "Come to Me," we pray for the afflicted, the sick, the confused, for all broken hearts and shattered lives.

We bring to You all their material, emotional and spiritual needs as well as our own. By the love that led You to take flesh of the Virgin Mary, we plead for a favorable response to our prayers. Amen

*O Sacred Heart of Jesus,
I place my trust in you.*

Franciscan Missionary Associates

Laudato Si'

All this year, St. Michael's fraternity's monthly Formation has been focused on **Laudato si'**, the second encyclical of Pope Francis. Translated "Praise Be to You," and subtitled *On Care for Our Common Home*, in it Pope Francis criticizes consumerism and irresponsible development, laments environmental degradation and global warming, and calls all people to take "swift and unified global action."

The USCCB described the encyclical as "our marching orders for advocacy" and briefed both chambers of Congress and the White House, emphasizing the "need to respect and protect the dignity and lives of the poor."

Each month, a pair of fraternity members have tackled a chapter, summarizing the Pope's thoughts and feelings and leading discussion on what we can do as individuals, Catholics and Franciscans – to respond to his call for action.



Mary Our Mother

Feast of the Visitation

May 31

The earliest evidence of the existence of this feast is its adoption by the Franciscan Chapter of 1263, on the advice of St. Bonaventure.

Mary left Nazareth at the end of March and went over the mountains to Hebron, to wait upon her cousin Elizabeth. Her presence, and much more the presence of the Divine Child in her womb, was to be the source of very great graces for John the Baptist.

Our Lady now for the first time exercised the office of the Mother of God, that He might, through her prayers and meditations, sanctify and glorify us.



“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord! My spirit rejoices in God my Savior! For He has looked with favor on His lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed. The Almighty has done great things for me, and Holy is His name!” (Luke 1:46-49)

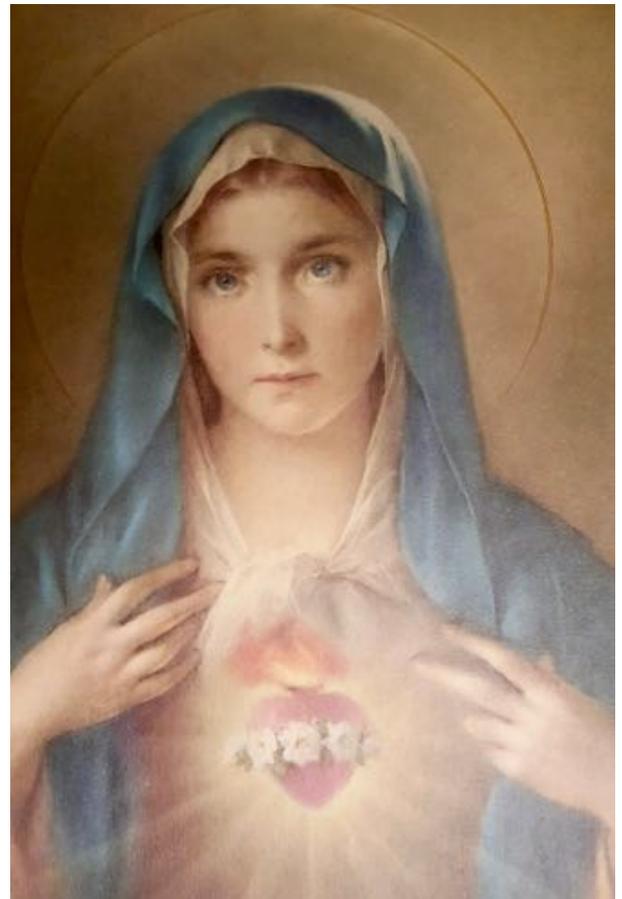
Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

June 4

The Immaculate Heart of Mary refers to her interior life, her joys and sorrows, her virtues and hidden perfections, and above all, her virginal love for God the father, her maternal love for her son Jesus, and her compassionate love for all people.

During the third apparition at Fatima, on July 13, 1917, Our Lady said to the three little shepherds: “God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my immaculate heart,” in order to save souls from hell and bring about world peace. She also asked for the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart.

Her heart, burning with love, is often depicted with the fire of divine love and wrapped with flowers. It is also often pierced by a sword or with seven wounds, in homage to the Seven Dolores, or Sorrows, of Mary. The Sorrows are: the Prophecy of Simeon, the Escape to Egypt, the Loss of Jesus in the Temple, Meeting Jesus on the Via Dolorosa, the Crucifixion, the Piercing of the Side, and the Burial. “O Most Blessed Mother, heart of love, heart of mercy, ever listening, caring, consoling, hear our prayer! Help all of us, Holy Mother, to bear our burdens in this life until we may share eternal life and peace with God forever! Amen”



Reflection

St. Clare

Feastday August 11

(condensed from an article by Michael Blastic, OFM)

Clare left her home, her family and the city of Assisi on the night of Monday of Holy Week in 1212 and traveled to the Portiuncola, where Francis and the brothers awaited her arrival. There, before the altar of Our Lady, Clare's hair was cut, and she promised obedience to Francis. From there, Francis led her to the Monastery of San Paolo where she was accepted as a serving sister.

The Poor Sisters placed themselves among the workers of medieval society through their commitment to manual labor. Yet Clare and her sisters lived contemplative lives at San Damiano. Clare suggested this in her *Letters to Agnes*, using the metaphor of the mirror of the cross. Clare invited Agnes to gaze, consider, and contemplate three moments of Christ's life: the poverty of his birth, the humility of his life, and the charity of his passion. The Poor Sisters looked into this mirror, into the real human experiences of the life of Jesus, in order to discover their true identity.

Clare understood that Christ underwent the passion "for the redemption of the whole human race." The purpose of looking into the mirror of Christ's life was to see one's self reflected there — the object was to become what you see: the poor, humble, loving incarnate Jesus.



Prayer over the Crucifix

Great God, full of glory and Thou, my Lord Jesus Christ, I beseech Thee to illuminate me and dissipate the darkness of my spirit, to give me pure faith, firm hope and perfect charity.

Oh my God, grant me to know Thee well and to do all things according to Thy light and in conformity with Thy most holy will. Amen.

– St Francis

