



Soldiers of Christ

Newsletter of the
Isolated Franciscan Tertiaries
of the OFM Province of the
Immaculate Conception

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Sandy Baden, TOF, Editor

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PENTECOST

“When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues of fire, which parted and came to rest on each of them. And they were filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim, (Acts 2: 1-4).

Pentecost is one of the most important feasts of the Church because it is our beginning after the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. More importantly the Scriptures, which illustrates how the Holy Spirit descended upon Mary and the Apostles with tongues of fire, shows us the importance of prayer. In considering that Jesus had promised the Paraclete would come after He had suffered the Passion (John 14:16) and then realize what Mary, the Apostles, and Jesus’s disciples did after the Ascension of our Lord? They gathered together each night, until the fiftieth day, (Pentecost), and prayed with joy in their hearts, (Acts 1: 12), Acts 2: 13-14).

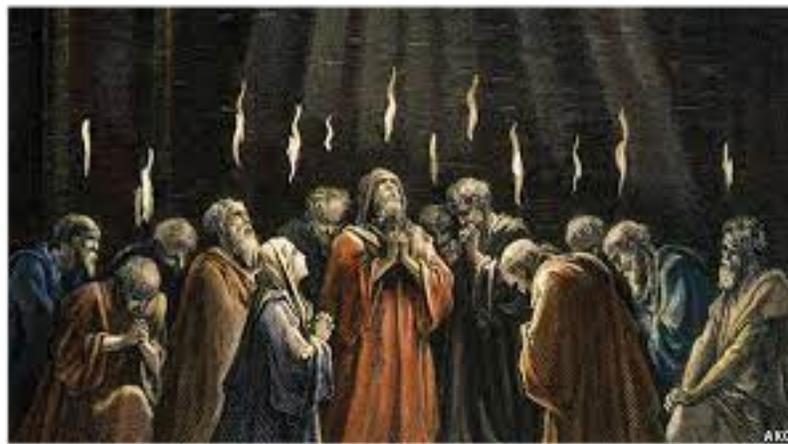
Also, when we think about our Confirmation and the preparation with the classes we attended, until we are anointed with blessed oil upon our foreheads, what did we experience? Probably nothing at all, but there is our Lord who sent the Holy Spirit for us to live a prayerful life and bring us fully into the Catholic Church. It is up to us to continue to pray in order for the Holy Spirit to bring the love of Christ into our hearts. Christ did say we could move a mountain if we have enough faith in our prayer. That could only be done with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Spending two years in Confirmation classes in the Lutheran Church in San Francisco, I remember reading the bible completely and discussing each book every Saturday with the Pastor and five of my other friends. What did I learn about Pentecost? I could not tell you. What did I learn of prayer? Again, I could not tell you. I did learn that Jesus was my Savior and the Bible was God's word. This was enough for me to want to learn and understand more.

Pentecost is so important to our Church because the coming of the Holy Spirit is still working in each one of us and in our Church today. How much prayer we bring within us to pray, and in our faith in that prayer, spark the fire of the Holy Spirit in our souls. It helps us do God's will in our lives depending how much we give ourselves to God. Just as the graces we receive in the taking of the Holy Eucharist is how much we offer back to God in this Eucharist prayer.

The Apostles understood the significance of the Holy Spirit as Christ had preached to them and blessed them. They knew that prayer would bring them to Jesus, and with the descent of the Holy Spirit, all obstacles were left behind for them to move forward through God the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Let us pray for understanding of the Holy Spirit in our lives and how God can help us through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to celebrate Pentecost on June 5, 2022.

Sandy Baden, TOF



GETTING TO KNOW OUR NOVITIATES

by: Sandy Baden, TOF
GORDON STANLEY SMITH



Gordon Stanley Smith was born in the Fiji Islands in the South Pacific where he had grown up. At the age of twenty-one he joined a lay missionary program under the Society of Columbia and was sent to various countries in South America working as a lay missionary helping the poor for over twenty years. In 2013, Gordon moved on to join the Congregation of the Redemptorist and began his Formation as a religious brother in Santa Rosa California and ended up in the Philippines working at a Catholic hospital taking care of the elderly.

Realizing he needed official credentials for Nursing, Gordon finally obtained his nursing degree in Melbourne Australia in 2018. After working in Thailand for a year he returned to Australia in March 2020, just days before the border was closed due to COVID. As COVID had spread in a nursing home, Gordon felt it was time to work in the COVID ward at the nursing facility.



Gordon was given a choice of staying with the Redemptorist Congregation or continuing his nursing profession in helping the most abandoned elderly patients. Nurses were leaving their professions over the fear of putting their families on the frontline with COVID. Gordon chose to leave the Congregation of the Redemptorist and continue in the COVID ward for the next twenty-four months. Searching and praying for a religious order that would fit his life and work, Gordon found the TOF. Gordon now lives in Oberson, Australia and is a Registered Nurse.



This beautiful picture was taken of Gordon Stanley Smith on April 24, 2022 the second Sunday of Easter, (Sunday of Divine Mercy) for his Investiture Ceremony in front of the Fijian Catholic Chaplain and Community in Sydney, Australia. A wonderful welcome to Gordon into the entrance of the Novitiate of Isolated Tertiaries.

**“BUT I SAY TO YOU LOVE YOUR ENEMIES. PRAY FOR THOSE WHO
PERSECUTE YOU”
(Matthew 5:44)**

Enemies...we'd love to hate them, wish they's slip on a banana peel or even choke on a chicken bone. We can't escape disliking them in this broken world and sometimes they hurt us. Lately my house has been overrun by brother mouse, or I should really say brother mice. They are in my kitchen, my closets and even ran havoc in my prayer room! Recently, I caught one of the cute buggers, only to have it lash out and bite me. (I'm on strike two with God's critters.) Grrrrrrrrrrr!!!!!!!!!!!!

In that moment I made an enemy, one no longer cute or welcome in my abode. I wanted to stomp it, take a hammer and smash it and curse it to heck. Out the door it went! But then, after some reflection, I thought it was only doing what was natural to itself for protection. As Christians committed to following Jesus in this Order, let us pray for those who 'bite' us and offer sacrifices for their healing and conversion, leaving their reasons why they do so up to the Lord. He will take care of everything! “We ought to love our enemies and do good to them that hate us. We ought to observe the precepts and counsels of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
...Letter to the Faithful...



“What wonderful majesty! What stupendous
condescension! O sublime humility! That
the Lord of the whole universe, God and the
Son of God, should humble Himself like this
under the form of a little bread, for our
salvation.”

St. Francis of Assisi

Monday:	Judith Inglesby, TOF
Tuesday:	Linda Menser, TOF
Wednesday:	Luis Guzman, TOF
Thursday:	Paul & Mary Tag, TOF Sandy Baden, TOF
Friday:	Linda Menser, TOF
Saturday:	Ericka Witover, TOF
Sunday:	Linda Menser, TOF

Please include prayer for the intentions of our Pope, Bishops and Priests. Also pray for the Community of Friars of the Immaculate Conception Province for an increase in religious vocations in their Community, and all the intentions of the members of the Isolated Tertiaries Community.

(Contact Pepe Ventosa, if you would like to participate in Eucharistic Adoration.)

ADMONITION IX Charity

Our Lord says in the gospel, “love your enemies (do good to those who hate you and pray for those who persecute you)” (Mt. 5:44). A man really loves his enemy when he is offended by the injury done to himself, but for love of God feels sorrow for the sin his enemy has brought on his own soul and proves his love in a practical way.

“Love of one’s enemies.” How difficult for us is it to love our enemies? Does it depend on what kind of sin that was committed or how deeply we have been offended? How do we reconcile ourselves when we have committed that sin and it can go both ways? These are questions that seem to come to mind when you think of the times of conflict in our lives.

One of the main points that Lothar Hardick, O.F.M. describes in Admonition IX would be we should love everyone, “out of love for the Kingdom of God,” even loving our enemies. The source of loving our enemies is to consider how to forgive. Each one of us have been created in God’s image, ‘to love,’ and therefore we must forgive our enemies and ourselves in our journey towards holiness. How do we do this if our souls seem to be in conflict with the various situations we have experienced? Thoughts may cross our minds that we have been persecuted against by someone and the natural response may seem to be revenge. Sometimes in reaching out to reconcile with our enemy it may create a more difficult encounter. How do we deal with this in a Christian and loving perspective?

In reading Lothar Hardick’s statement from St. Francis, “you should want nothing else for them, except what God permits to happen to you.” This is a beautiful statement in loving our enemies. Regardless of what sin has been committed the only answer to the conflict in our hearts would be prayer. Guidance from the Holy Spirit to guide us and reconcile the hurt and pain with the difficulty that had occurred. We are to pick up our cross and offer our love of our enemy to God in our prayer.

There is an example in my own life I have experienced which the Holy Spirit had guided me through reconciliation and offering forgiveness to God. After thirty years of a difficult marriage and my husband had passed away, I found myself sitting on a beach in Carmel, California. While watching the waves of the ocean and the beauty of the sight and sounds of splashing water before me, I felt compelled to pray. As each wave came rushing in and crashing down upon the beach I said to God, “I am angry at this offense committed against me.” The anger and hurt all at once was before me. As the water slowly receded back into the ocean I said to God, “I forgive.” In the end, the release of the anger and hurt seemed to have dissipated and love seemed to be replaced in my prayer to God.

Forgiveness can go both ways in loving our enemy and “pray for those who persecute” us. We must continue that prayer as long as it takes to reach our goal in our journey to perfection. When we pray the “Our Father” as Lothar Hardick suggests, “deliver us from evil,” we are to carry our cross as Christ carried his cross for us in his passion, death and resurrection, and then one day we will meet our Lord Jesus Christ in all His glory.



Sandy Baden, TOF on the beach

Picture taken by my sister and I did not know it!

We have a new Isolated Tertiary, **Susan Hoin, TOF**, who has recently been accepted as of May 2022, and is from Gaylord, MI. We are so blessed, at this time, to welcome Susan Hoin, TOF.

Save the Date

Reminder of The Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Prayer of Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a Roman Catholic prayer and one was composed by Pope Leo XIII.

Article 68: Every year in the month of January or of June, each fraternity shall publicly make or renew its solemn consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and in the month of May or December, it's consecration to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, by using the approved prayers.

JUNE: 3: IT Zoom Gathering, 6:45 PM Eastern Time. Linda Menser, TOF Facilitator on Article 41: Way of Perfection According to the Franciscan Spirit.

JUNE 5: Pentecost Sunday, the Birthday of the Church

JUNE 12: The Most Holy Trinity

JUNE: 13: Saint Anthony of Padua

JUNE 19: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. (Corpus Christi)
... Also it is Father's Day ...

JUNE 24: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

