



Soldiers of Christ

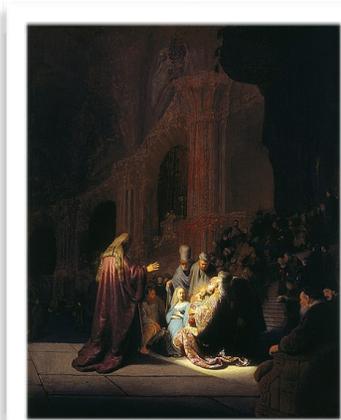
Newsletter of the
Isolated Franciscan Tertiaries
of the OFM Province of the
Immaculate Conception

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Sandy Baden, TOF, Editor

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FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD February 2, 2023



“And when the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord.” (Lk2: 22)
Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. (Lk 2: 25)

“Simeon took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ‘Lord, now let your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.’ And his father and his mother marveled at what

was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother, ‘Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that will be spoken against, and a sword will pierce through your own soul also, so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed .’ (Lk 2: 28-35)

What do we know of this righteous and devout man, other than he was up in age, and was waiting for the Lord as “it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.” (Lk 2: 26) 1

Waiting for the Lord, is the phrase that is an inspiration to us all as we think about Simeon waiting for years as he recognized our Lord for the blessing he was to give. We wait for the Lord in our prayer, we wait for the Lord at Christmas, we wait for the Lord when we attend Mass in the Holy Eucharist, and we wait for the Lord when Sister Death approaches. We wait, and in the end there is always “Joy” in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Presentation of the Lord brings us consolation as we think of Simeon when he lifts up our Lord in his arms with joy and knowing the Lord is finally here! The Lord is with us always now and forever, especially in the Holy Eucharist. For Simeon the moment had come and he presented our Lord to God to give the world our salvation.

A priest once said to me, Fr. John Sullivan, that “God reveals himself to us mostly through natural means in our everyday lives.” Sometimes, we do not even notice or stop to reflect that the answer to a prayer had been answered or that God had just passed by. Joseph and Mary, the Mother of God, hear the words from Simeon and are amazed at what had been said. The Presentation of the Lord gives us a definite proclamation that our Lord is here and the world should take notice.

THE CANTICLE OF SIMÉON

Lord, now let your servant go in peace:

your word has been fulfilled:

my own eyes have seen the salvation

which you have prepared in the sight of every people:

a light to reveal you to the nations

and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father.....

Sandy Baden, TOF

POPE BENEDICT XVI

Marian Thoughts

The Presentation of Jesus at the Temple

The first person to be associated with Christ on the path of obedience, proven faith and shared suffering was His Mother, Mary. The Gospel text portrays her in the act of offering her Son: and unconditional offering that involves her in the first person.

Mary is the Mother of the One Who is “the glory of (His) people Israel” and a “light for revelation to the Gentiles,” but also “a sign that is spoken against” (cf. Lk 2:32, 34). And in her immaculate soul, she herself was to be pierced by the sword of sorrow, thus showing that her role in the history of salvation did not end in the mystery of the Incarnation but was completed in loving and sorrowful participation in the death and Resurrection of her Son.

Bringing her Son to Jerusalem, the Virgin Mother offered Him to God as a true Lamb Who takes away the sins of the world. She held Him out to Simeon and Anna as the proclamation of redemption; she presented Him to all as a light for a safe journey on the path of truth and love.

Homily, February 2, 2006

Simeon’s Prophecy

In the words of the elderly Simeon (cf. Lk 2:34-35)...together with salvation (are anticipated) the contradictory sign of the Cross, and the sword that beneath the Cross of the Son was to pierce the Mother’s soul, thereby making her not only the Mother of God but also Mother of us all.

Address May 1, 2006

SAVING LIVES ONE STEP AT A TIME

Submitted by Linda Menser, TOF



Linda Menser, TOF & Kathy

San Diego had their Eleventh walk for life entitled “Changing Hearts-Saving Lives.” The event has been growing by leaps and bounds since it first started. People are waking up from their slumber to come out and defend the most vulnerable and helpless among us, the unborn. The Holy Spirit is really at work in this. They came out by droves to defend human beings from being murdered in their mother’s wombs, to cry out in protest against unjust laws which are not laws at all. People came of all ages and were charged with energy as they peacefully prayed and walked for the unborn. We were blessed with police protection surrounding the walkers as we marched around the County building by the beautiful water front. We were also blessed that God kept the expected rain away!

There were many speakers among which were present, Cardinal McElroy. News Channel 8 were filming the event and aired it on the evening news. I believe the theme in each of our hearts were, “we will not be silenced or canceled until abortion is cancelled.”

I would like to thank Kathy from Oceanside, our newest inquirer, for joining me. She truly showed a “Franciscan Spirit.” Let us continue to pray and fight for the unborn as Franciscans and “Soldiers of Christ.”

“DID YOU FAIL TO RESCUE THOSE WHO WERE BEING
DRAGGED OFF TO DEATH, THOSE TOTTERING, THOSE
NEAR DEATH. Proverbs 24:11

ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 2023

“A flood was rising from the earth and watering all the surface of the soil. Yahweh God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.” (Genesis 2:7)

“With sweat on your brow shall you eat your bread, until you return to the soil, as you were taken from it. For dust you are and to dust you shall return. (Genesis: 3:19)

Words spoken from God to Adam after eating from the forbidden tree, and both Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden. From Genesis: 3:19 we have come to know why we receive the Ashes on Ash Wednesday each year and is the beginning of Lent which is 46 days before Easter Sunday. The ashes on the forehead are a sign of repentance, fasting, and prayer. Catholics and some Protestant churches celebrate each year with a penitential service. The words, while the sign of the cross with ashes are placed on our foreheads, are repeated, “From dust you came and from dust you will return.”

Ash Wednesday: The beginning of Lent...February 22

Palm Sunday: Jesus’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem...April 2

Holy Week: Leading week up to Easter...April 2-8

Maunday Thursday: Foot washing and Last Supper...April 6

Good Friday: Crucifixion of Jesus and death...April 7

Easter Sunday: The resurrection of Jesus and Victory...April 9



“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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION Isolated Tertiaries Schedule

MONDAY	Judith Inglesby, TOF
TUESDAY	Linda Menser, TOF
WEDNESDAY	Luis Guzman, TOF Judith Inglesby, TOF Paul & Mary Tag, TOF
THURSDAY	Sandy Baden, TOF
FRIDAY	Linda Menser, TOF Pepe Ventosa, TOF
SATURDAY	Ericka Witover, TOF Miguel Mahan, 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 for all the intentions of the members of the Isolated Tertiaries Community.

Please contact Pepe Ventosa if you would like to be added to this Eucharistic schedule. 6

Initial Formation News

We have a new Initial Formation Team, Julie Elkinton, TOF, Group Leader, Sandy Baden, TOF, Group Assistant, under the direction of Ericka Witover, TOF, Formation Director.

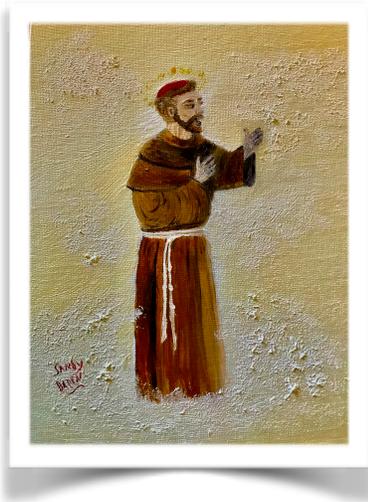
The first zoom meeting was on January 12th with five new people, James, VA, Kathy, CA, Brian, GA, Stephany, MO, and Bob, NC. We are blessed with this new group of Inquirers and would like all of us to keep them in our prayers as they continue the journey in discerning their vocations.

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ONGOING FORMATION ZOOM GATHERING MONTHLY SCHEDULE: 2023
PRESENTATIONS

MONTH	PRESENTATION BY:	TOPIC	ARTICLE
JANUARY	MARY TAG, TOF		ARTICLE 48
FEBRUARY	LINDA MENSER, TOF		ARTICLES 49-51
MARCH			
APRIL			
MAY			
JUNE			
JULY			
AUGUST			
SEPTEMBER			
OCTOBER			
NOVEMBER			
DECEMBER			

ADMONITION XVII The Faithful Steward



“Blessed is that servant (Mt. 24:26) who takes no more pride in the good that God says and does through him than in that which he says and does through someone else. It is wrong for anyone to be anxious to receive more from his neighbor than he himself is willing to give God.

This Admonition opens our eyes to true humility in observing the “will of God” in our lives. Lothar Hardick, OFM explains how we should not miss the message from the heart of St. Francis, to indicate we are “Servants of God” in all that we do with the gifts that our Lord has given to each of us. We should acknowledge that Christ has blessed us

and give thanks for use of these gifts for His glory and His alone.

How easy it is to forget this message that we are to give God thanks and glory for all that we have in this world. We try so hard when we are at work to do the best we can and seem to expect praise from our neighbor, but we should be thanking God for a job well done and give the glory to Him for what was accomplished. We are stewards of all that has been obtained from our Lord. Even in reading what is written here comes from the Spirit of God in its typing and not knowing what the next paragraph will read. So, I thank God and give Him the glory for these two paragraphs from Him so far.

Lothar Hardick, OFM also so talks about “God, the Lord of Creation,” and implies that we take for granted that “creation” does not include ourselves. How can this be? Look at the baby in the womb and when it is born. Life is so precious when picturing the mother first holding her new born child. Especially today for those who do not respect life, which God created, and babies are aborted for the convenience of the person who has lost sight of what God has given and is blinded to the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we keep the unborn in our most sacred prayers.

An artist can admire a beautiful scene of the mountains or the ocean, in God's creation, and then will desire to paint it. The beauty placed there remains constant on the canvas and does not change with the time of the season, but it is there for those to see how God inspired the beauty before the artist. Sometimes in the creative mind of an artist, with a whim of a brush, may change something of the scene and make it astonishingly more beautiful than what had originally appeared. Is that not inspired by God at that very moment? Should this painting then be hidden in a closet? This is what God inspired and therefore the world should see. This is when we thank God for the gift and glorify our Lord Jesus Christ in His wisdom.

Our achievements are God's achievements. If we do not see this or understand that everything comes from God we have been blinded by our own choosing. Imagine not being thanked for a job well done, which happens, or if you are thanked for a job well done we should then realize the credit should be brought back to God in our prayer. Knowing that our Lord is the creator, the One who inspires, the One who blesses us for doing His will and not for our own gain, we should then thank Him. When you are thanked for a job well done it warms our hearts that someone thought so much of us to take the time and effort to give us a thank you. Let us never lose sight of how much our Lord Jesus Christ loves to hear from us in our prayer and we should always thank Him for guiding our way. Also remember in the "Canticle of Mary" when Mary says, "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."

Save the Date

FEBRUARY 2: IT Zoom Gathering, 7:00 PM Eastern Time, 4:00 PM Pacific Time. You can sign in 15 minutes earlier before the meeting starts. Presentation: Articles 49-51.

FEBRUARY 2: Presentation of the Lord

FEBRUARY 9: IT Initial Formation group 2, 7:00 Eastern Time, 4:00 PM Pacific Time, Zoom meeting. You can sign in 15 minutes before the meeting starts.

FEBRUARY 16: IT Initial Formation Group 1, 8:00 PM Eastern Time 5:00 PM Pacific Time, Zoom meeting. You can sign in 15 minutes before the meeting starts.

FEBRUARY 22: ASH WEDNESDAY, (Fast and Abstinence), beginning of Lent. Remember Abstinence on Fridays during Lent.

