



St. Padre Pio Press

January, 2023

January Meeting

Our January meeting will be held at St. Christopher in the house behind the church on Sunday, January 8th at 11:00 AM. Take St. Christopher Lane which runs behind the church. Turn in at the second gate on the left and park in the lot. If steps are a problem, Jane says you can turn into the lot behind the hall which is the first gate to the left and go through the gate and cross the patio by going straight ahead to the front of the building. The door will be on your right. We will have Epiphany party and there will be ongoing formation after the party. Though it is called a party, please know it is a time to receive a Bible verse to follow throughout the year, a saint to guide you, a prayer partner, and a deceased brother or sister to pray for. It is not a party in the regular sense.

Council Meeting

The council will meet at the Wurzel home on Friday, January 6th at 6:30 PM.

Letter to My Brothers and Sisters



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy and Blessed New Year 2023!

I hope you and your families had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's Day. I thought that this year we should think more on the importance of prayer in our lives. I have listened on You Tube to an exorcist, Fr. James Blount. He states, "If you get serious with God, God will get serious with you." So, I thought we should think about how fortunate we are to be Franciscans and to have St. Francis in our lives. During these times we live in, prayer is even more important. I have listed below my favorite prayer of St. Francis.

Prayer Before the Crucifix

Most high, glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart. Instill in me a correct faith, a certain hope, and a perfect love; a sense and know, Lord, so that I might do your holy and true command.

St. Francis certainly had a way with words. I have always thought St. Francis used beautiful and awesome words to honor God. He especially knew how to speak openly with God.

Please remember to pray this year, 2023, to become closer to God. Certainly, He will become closer to you.

Your Servant Leader,

Denise

Forgiveness

If we do not forgive perfectly, Lord, make us forgive perfectly, so that we may really love our enemies for love of you, and pray fervently to you for them, returning no one evil for evil, anxious only to serve everybody in You. St. Francis of Assisi



My God and my all. St. Francis of Assisi

Ongoing Formation

The ongoing lesson will be on a chapter from Habits for Holiness. Stephanie Thieboux is scheduled to present the lesson. The prayer is scheduled to be the Chaplet of St. Michael.



Saints' Corner St. Hyacintha of Mariscotti



St. Hyacintha (or Hyacinth) of Mariscotti was born to a noble family at Vignanello in Italy in 1585. Her parents were Marc Antonio Mariscotti (Marius Scotus) and Ottavia Orsini. She was a religious of the Third Order of St. Francis. She was baptized Clarice and was known for her piety in her youth. However, she became frivolous as she grew older and was inclined to the ways of the world. Even though her life was miraculously saved at the age of seventeen, she would not change her ways. Her education at the Convent of St. Bernardine did not affect her frivolous lifestyle either even though her older sister had taken the veil.

At age 20, she set her heart on marriage with the Marquess Cassizucchi who passed her by in favor of her younger sister. She was disappointed and became depressed. She joined the convent at St. Bernardine and received the name Hyacintha. However, she confided in her father, telling him she had only done this to hide her embarrassment and not to give up the luxuries of the world. She asked her father to furnish her rooms with every comfort. She kept her own kitchen and wore a habit of the finest material. She also received visitors and paid visits outside the convent at her pleasure.

For ten years, she led this type of life which was so contrary to her vows that it scandalized the community. She did, however, keep her faith and was regular in her devotions. She remained pure, always respecting the mysteries of her religion. She also had a tender devotion to the Blessed Mother. Eventually, touched by God's grace and the exhortations of her confessor during a time of a serious illness turned her life around. She made a public confession of her faults in the refectory, discarded her luxurious clothing, and began to wear an old habit, to go barefoot, and to frequently fast on bread and water. She chastised her body by vigils and scourging. She practiced mortifications so severely, that the canonization considers the fact that she survived to be a continued miracle. She increased her devotions to Mary, the Baby Jesus, and the Blessed Eucharist, and to the sufferings of Christ. She worked many miracles, had the gift of prophecy, and of discerning the secret thoughts of others. She experienced by heavenly ecstasies and raptures.

During an epidemic, she nursed the sick and established two confraternities whose members were called Oblates of Mary or Sacconi. One gathered alms for the convalescent for the poor who were ashamed to beg and for the care of prisoners. The other procured homes for the aged.

Even though her life was now pure and holy, she always saw herself as contemptible. Her death on January 30, 1640 caused great sadness in Viterbo and crowds attended her funeral. She was beatified by Pope Benedict XIII in 1726 and canonized on May 14, 1807 by Pius VII.

The Holy Eucharist is a fire that purifies and consumes all our miseries and imperfections. Do everything in your power to make yourself worthy of the Eucharist, and this Divine Fire will take care of the rest. St. Hyacintha of Mariscotti

In Memory of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI



Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI was born on April 16, 1927 in Marktl am Inn, Germany. His father was a police officer who came from a traditional farming family in Lower Bavaria. As an adolescent, he lived in Traunstein on the Austrian border.

During WWII, his family prepared him for the harsh rule of the Nazis. He remembered seeing the parish priest being beaten by Nazis before celebrating Mass. At the time in Germany, the feeling toward the Catholic Church in Germany was very hostile. Toward the end of WWII, Joseph was enrolled in the auxiliary anti-aircraft service.

He studied philosophy and theology at the University of Munich and at higher school in Freising. He and his brother Georg were ordained as priests on June 29, 1951.

In 1953, he earned his PhD in theology with a thesis called "The People and House of god in St. Augustine's doctrine of the Church." Within four years he became a university professor. He taught dogma and fundamental theology first in Freising and then in Bonn, in Munster, and in Tübingen. In 1969, he became a professor of dogmatic theology and of the history of dogma at the University of Regensburg, eventually advancing to the position of Dean and Vice-Rector. From 1962 to 1965 he was present as a chief theological advisor to the Archbishop of Cologne.

He defined his vocation as "theological." His experience as a priest and expert at the Second Vatican Council was very valuable to his life. He also, through the years, continued to publish many detailed writings which served as a reference point for Catholics and for those who studied advanced theology.

He was appointed Archbishop of Munchen and Freising by Pope Paul VI on March 24, 1977. Ordained a Bishop in May of that year, he was the first diocesan priest in 80 years to take on the pastoral governance of this large diocese. He was created and proclaimed Cardinal by Pope Paul VI on June 27, 1977. On November 25, 1981, he was appointed by Pope John Paul II as Prefect of the congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith. He also became President of the Biblical Commission and the Pontifical International Theological Commission. He resigned his position as Archbishop of Munchen and Freising on February 15, 1982.

One of his outstanding achievements is the drafting of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Within the Roman Curia, he served as a Member of the Council of the Second Section of the Secretariat of State; of the Congregations: for the Oriental Churches, for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, for Bishops, for the Evangelization of Peoples, for Catholic Education, as well as for the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, and the Pontifical Commission Ecclesia Dei. As Dean of the College of Cardinals, he presided over deliberations during the Vacancy of the Holy See after the death of Pope John Paul II. He presided at Holy Mass in St. Peter's Square for the funeral of Pope John Paul II. He was elected the 265th Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church on Tuesday, April 19, 2005 and chose the name Benedict XVI.

On February 11, 2013, at the age of 85, Pope Benedict announced his resignation to the cardinals, telling them, "I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to and advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise" of leading the world's Catholics. He lived out his years quietly and passed to the Lord on December 31, 2022. According to his nurse, his last words were, "Lord, I love you."

Please Pray



Barbara Turkowski-Healing
 Tom Turkowski and Barbara, Jr.-Strength,
 health, and comfort
 Julie Bash-Health
 Joe Leslie-Health
 Edison Marshall-Health
 Dorothy Dorsey-Health and God's will and
 mercy
 Charlie Hale-Health
 Raoul Tapia-Repouse of soul
 Alma Tapia and family-Comfort and God's
 mercy
 Steve McBee's daughter Allison-healing
 Thanksgiving for Jesus, for His Sacrifices, and for
 our salvation
 Thanksgiving for God's blessings
 An end to abortion
 For all those suffering from Covid, the flu, and
 RSV
 The people of the Ukraine

January Birthdays



None

January Anniversaries of Profession



1/18/2020

Katy Nelson

Change for Charity



Please remember to donate to our
 change for charity fund. The entire proceeds
 are given to our three charities. We give to
 Veronica's Home of Mercy, Amazon Relief, and
 Capuchin seminarian.



Veronica's Home of Mercy
 Helping women who choose life, their children,
 and the working poor in the surrounding
 neighborhood.



Amazon Relief

Providing for the poorest of the poor in Brazil.
 Care and dignity for lepers, education for
 children, and love for all. This project was
 begun by a Secular Franciscan.



Capuchin Seminarians

If we want more priests and brothers in the
 future, we need to support them in their
 formation.

Gregorian Mass Restricted Fund

When a brother or sister passes, the Fraternity
 provides for 30 Gregorian Masses to be
 celebrated for the repose of his or her soul. We
 contribute what we can each month. No one is
 ever denied.

St. Francis Region Chapter

We pray for our minister, Denise Leslie, and our
 Vice-Minister Julie Bash as they attend the
 Regional Chapter. Our prayers are also with our
 Regional council, especially our own Janet
 Serros.