

The Encounter-El Encuentro Fraternity Newsletter

Secular Franciscan Order, Lake Wales, FL 33859-0232

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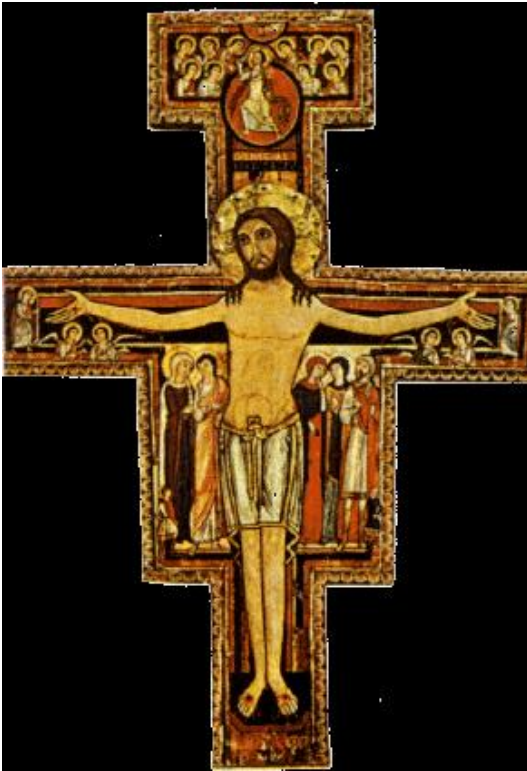
Dates to remember:

September 4 th :	St. Rose of Viterbo, virgin, III Order
September 17 th	Stigmata of Holy Father Francis
September 18 th	St. Joseph of Cupertino, priest, I Order
September 19 th	St. Francis Mary Croesse of Camporossa, I Order
September 23 rd	St. Padre Pio Pietrelcina, priest, I Order

Notes:

- 1) Mass at 08:30 at Holy Spirit Church on September 3rd, Labor Day weekend.
- 2) Monthly fraternity meeting following mass; should be short and sweet.
- 3) Newsletter changes still in progress; editor-in-training.
- 4) Rite of admission retreat/stigmata workshop on September 17th, 9am-3pm. Bring your own lunch.
- 5) Emily's rite of admission will be held in November; it will not be in October as initially planned. Deacon John to be Master of Ceremony.

- 6) St. Francis's Transitus and feast is only a month away. Let's get ready spiritually.
- 7) Please pray for our fraternity, our families, our sister fraternities, our dearly departed; for those who are lapsed and for those who want to enter our seraphic family.



From the *Icon of the Christ of San Damiano*

Shells around frame are a symbol of heaven's beauty and endurance
Mary, at Jesus' right, is shown, together with John, bigger than other surrounding characters, which in iconography depicts the importance or greater role.

To Jesus' left, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and the centurion (whose son was cured Jn. 4:46

In the upper horizontal beam, Jesus enters heaven, surrounded by angels.

God the father is portrayed by His hand at the center top of the cross.

The eyes of Jesus are larger than they should be. This is to denote that He is the One who has seen the Father.

A dove, representing the Holy Spirit, can be seen on Jesus' forehead

St. Francis's prayer before the crucifix:

“Most High, glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart.
Give me true faith, certain hope
and perfect charity, sense and
knowledge that I may carry out
Your Holy and true command.”

Quotable Quotes:

Christ's cross was the friars' book and they studied it day and night. St. Francis told them "when you pray, say the Our Father, and We Adore you, o Christ, in all your churches in the whole world and we Thank you, because by your holy cross you redeemed the world.

Bonaventure, Major Life, IV

In his present state of weakness man is incapable of imitating the Crucified Lamb of God perfectly and avoiding all the stains of sin. And so Francis taught his friars by his own example that those who Are trying to be perfect must cleanse themselves daily with tears of Contrition.

Bonaventure, Major Life, V

His flesh, which had been crucified along with his passions, bore the image of Christ's passion by an unheard of miracle: in his holy hands and feet could be seen the nails which had been miraculously formed out of his flesh by God. The nails were black like iron. [It is said that, Because of the nails, he used to walk on his toes].

Bonaventure, Major Life, XV

Did you know...?

The life that the Son of God offered as sacrifice was a human life, Jesus' life. Because he was truly man, his sacrifice would be limited. Because He is God, His act was of infinite value by which it compensated all the sin men could ever do. Isaiah 53 says he was wounded, bruised for our iniquities.

Frank Sheed, Theology for Beginners

When we suffer in pain, sadness, worry or adversity and we come to Christ Jesus, we are –not delivered from our cross, for the servant is not above his Master (Lk. 6:40) but comforted... St. Paul wished to renounce everything for the sake of His sufferings- "that I may know Him...and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him." (Phil. 3:10)

Columba Marmion, Christ the Life of Soul

Francis was not only a man who prayed but himself became a prayer. Bonaventure tells us that Francis had a sublime vision of a Seraph, in which he saw the lowly form of the Crucified. This inflamed Francis's heart and marked his body, so that he could bear the seal of the living God.

Bonaventure, Major Life, XIII

It is fitting, then, that since man sinned in the flesh, the Son of God's sacrifice was in the flesh, once and for all. Col. 1:24 tells us: "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake and fill up those things that are lacking of the sufferings of Christ, in my flesh, for his body, which is the church." If we humbly unite our sufferings with His, like Francis did, then we can truly say with the poverello: "We adore you, o Christ, in all your churches in the whole world and we thank you, because by your holy cross you redeemed the world.

Can we, then, picture in our minds St. Francis walking on his toes, with great pain to his feet, hands and right side in a perfect imitation of the Lord Himself? Can we even imagine to live for a single moment with pain produced by the median nerve? It is excruciating. Christ's suffering on the cross was redemptive. Likewise, Francis's suffering of the stigmata had great value to those for whom he prayed. We can, too, can join Francis in his embracing the Crucified Lord.

PAX ET BONUM