

Lent 2016

The Franciscan Joy

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<http://sfosomersetnj.sfousa.org/>



From the Minister's Desk

Happy Lent! People still look at me a little oddly when I say that – like “What’s so happy about Lent?” – but I’m a firm believer in Matthew’s Gospel that we heard on Ash Wednesday, (Gospel Mt 6:1-6, 16-18)

*Jesus said to his disciples:
“Take care not to perform righteous deeds
in order that people may see them;
otherwise, you will have no recompense from
your heavenly Father.
When you give alms,
do not blow a trumpet before you,
as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in*



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*The street to
win the praise
of others.*

*Amen, I say to you,
they have received their reward.
But when you give alms,
do not let your left hand know what your
right is doing,
so that your almsgiving may be secret.
And your Father who sees in secret will
repay you.*

*“When you pray,
do not be like the hypocrites,
who love to stand and pray in the
synagogues and on street corners
so that others may see them.*

*Amen, I say to you,
they have received their reward.
But when you pray, go to your inner
room,
close the door, and pray to your
Father in secret.
And your Father who sees in secret
will repay you.*

*“When you fast,
do not look gloomy like the
hypocrites.
They neglect their appearance,
so that they may appear to others to
be fasting.
Amen, I say to you, they have
received their reward.
But when you fast,
anoint your head and wash your face,
so that you may not appear to be
fasting,
except to your Father who is hidden.
And your Father who sees what is
hidden will repay you.”*

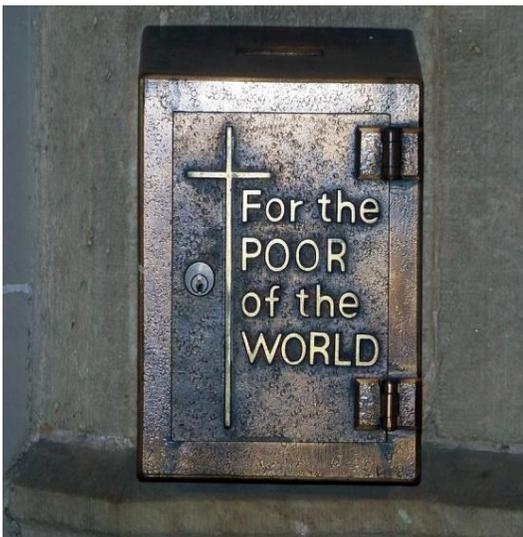


<http://www.religious-vocation.com/>

If I'm hungry because I'm fasting – or if I can't buy something because I gave the last of my pocket change to the poor box – I certainly don't want anyone to know. I want those around me to think I'm doing great even when my back hurts, or that I'm happy all the time even if I'm dealing with a difficult relative. You get the idea. So, Happy Lent! May the next 4 weeks be joyful and meaningful as you approach the Triduum and the love and awe of Easter fills your life. God Bless! And pray for one another!

Peace and All Good,

Mary-Frances



pixabay.com



*250px-Bartolomé_Esteban_Murillo-
_Brother_Juniper_and_the_Beggar*

The Days of the Paschal Triduum

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

The Easter Triduum begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil, and closes with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday.



Pope Francis Venerates the Cross 2015



Christ Washing the Feet of the Apostles by Meister des Hausbuches, 1475 (Gemäldegalerie, Berlin).

Good Friday

The liturgy of Good Friday, as an integral part of the Triduum, is linked to the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday

Lord's Passion

Our Lady of Guadalupe Queen of the Clergy Church, Venustiano Carranza, Federal District, Mexico : Stations of the Cross : Station 06 - Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.



2016

Easter Vigil

The paschal candle has its proper place either by the ambo or by the altar and should be lit at least in all the more solemn liturgical celebrations of the season until Pentecost Sunday, whether at Mass, or at Morning and Evening Prayer. After the Easter season the candle should be kept with honor in the baptistery, so that in the celebration of Baptism the candles of the baptized may be lit from it.



Pope Francis Easter Vigil 2015

Corporal Works of Mercy

Feed the hungry
Give drink to the thirsty
Clothe the naked
Shelter the homeless
Visit the imprisoned
Visit the sick
Bury the dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Instruct the ignorant
Counsel the doubtful
Admonish the sinner
Bear wrongs patiently
Forgive offenses willingly
Comfort the sorrowful
Pray for the living & dead

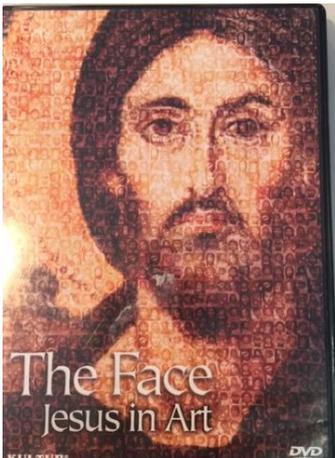
Profiles of Joy

I wanted to share with the region our meeting about our favorite pictures, poems and Icons of Christ. I sent this to The Troubadour . I included a large picture of Our Lady of the Mines.

Comfort Food for the Soul

Approaching God through the world of art was the focus of ongoing formation at our meeting on November 21, 2015 Joe McKenna our ongoing formation leader asked each of us to bring an example of art or poetry that has spiritual meaning. We enjoyed excerpts from the DVD

"The Face.. Jesus in Art".



Everyone revealed his or her special story about the images or writings they brought to share.

These included Desiderata by Max Ehrmann; Triptych Icons of the Holy Family, An Angel at the Cross statue; a picture of St. Francis Xavier Cabrini; The Pieta; a picture of Our Lady of the Mines from Hazard Kentucky Mines; a scene of Christ in Gethsemane; and a simple nativity scene.

After our meeting everyone was excited to look closely at each image or statue. Our Lady of the Mines was an especially interesting and distinctive image that everyone asked question about.

Frank Cryan, professed member, shares more details about this unique image of Mary.

" In August 1994, my son, Kevin completed his first year as a member of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC). He had lived in community with about five other volunteers. He had received no salary except for a small stipend of fifty dollars a month to pay for utilities, phone, food, and personal expenses. He had spent that first year (directly out of college) in Cleveland, Ohio at a neighborhood drop-in center for drug addicted and mentally ill persons, some of whom were ex-convicts. He re-enlisted in the JVC and was sent to

Hazard, Kentucky to work in a Hospice program. This year 1995 to 1996 would be spent visiting patients and their families throughout a five county area. His task would be to bring comfort and solace to the families and to attend to their needs as best a young man was able. Many of the patients were terminally ill with black lung disease from their years working in the Kentucky coal mines. Coal mining is a major contributor to the economy there.

In the spring of 1996, my wife and I visited him in Hazard. We were there on Sunday and attended Mass at his church which had a small congregation of about 130 people. The priest and the people were extremely hospitable. During Mass, the priest asked that any visitors identify themselves and tell a bit of their story. The priest then offered us a gift of the printed copy of what may have been a wood painting of Our Lady of the Mines. My wife and I cherished that print because it told us so much about the kind of person our son had become. My wife said of Kevin that he had a good heart. We framed it and placed it in the entry to our bedroom where we would see it often during our activities in the house.

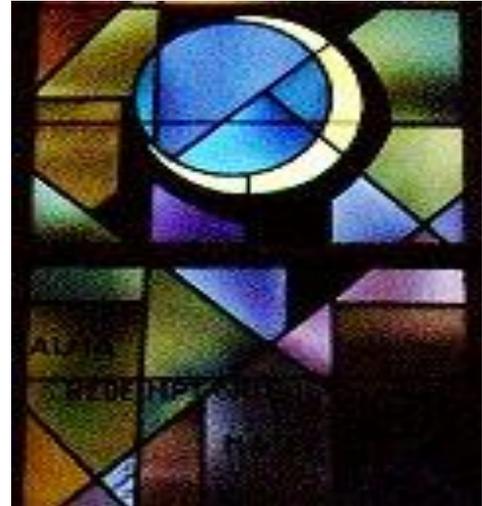
With only a small stretch of the imagination, the viewer can substitute for "of the Mines" ones own occupation in life, be it teacher, engineer, health care worker, detective, homemaker, or business person. Our Lady is there for each of us."

During the busy holiday season, it was good to refresh our spirits.

To hear the story behind the images, seeing Jesus through all types of art and culture was truly

Comfort Food for the Soul.

Penny



Praying for these Birthdays February and March

Evelyn Lehr...Feb. 3

Frank Cryan... Feb 11

Antoine Hoffman... Feb. 17

Darryl Dubose...March 2

Next meeting on March 19 at 9:30 . Part 2 of St. Pio

