



UPDATE

Newsletter of St. Anthony Fraternity
December 2019



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER December

- 8 - Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron & Queen of the Franciscan Order
- 12 or 13 - Finding the Body of St. Francis
- 15 - Bl. Mary Frances Schervier, virgin, 3rd Order
- 25 - Christmas Day
- 30 - The Holy Family

**Happy
Birthday!**

December

- 13 - Fr. Clarence Laplante, ofm (R.I.P.)
- 20 - Bro. Pierre Charland, ofm
- 21 - Bernard Bangalan
- 24 - Emily Espiritu
- 24 - Fr. Laurent Gallant, ofm (R.I.P.)

Quebec - Ontario Area Activities 2019-2020

Dec. 7 – Christmas Party

* 2020 *

Jan. 26 – Variety Show at Rosemont Friary
5750 boulevard Rosemont, Montréal,
QC, H1T- 2H2 (1-4pm)

April 24-26 – Area Retreat – Preacher is Fr. Daniel Gurnick ofm.

Benedict Labre House
Coordinator – Emily

Prayer Requests



For healing and good health:

Andrew & Carol Bangalan, Jared Bondoc, Estrella Calip, Michael & Mason Cooper, Esperanza Espiritu, Kaufmann Family, Yolanda Manzanal, Ruby Nair, Ike Osdon, Kimi (A Caregiver)

For the repose of the soul of:

An 84 Yrs Old Lady Who Stumbled While Walking And Hit Her Head On The Pavement And Died.

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Himig ng Pasko (Tagalog)

Malamig ang simoy ng hangin
Kay sayá ng bawat damdamin.
Ang tibók ng puso sa dibdib
Para bang hulog na ng langit

Koro

Himig ng Pasko'y laganap
Mayro'ng siglá ang lahat
Wala ang kalungkutan
Lubós ang kasayahan

Himig ng Pasko'y umiiral
Sa loob ng bawat tahanan
Masayá ang mga tanawin
May awit ang simoy ng hangin.

*(ultin ang koro at huling saknóng)

Music of Christmas (English)

The breeze of the cold air:
How happy are each [person's] emotions
The heartbeat in the chest
Is as though heaven-sent.

Chorus

[The] Music of Christmas is widespread
All are lively
There is no sadness
Happiness is full.

[The] Music of Christmas pervades
In the inside every home
Happy are the sights
There is song in the breeze of the wind.

*(repeat chorus and last verse)

Pope writes Apostolic Letter on the significance of the Christmas crèche

Pope Francis has written an Apostolic Letter on the meaning and importance of the nativity scene. He signed the Letter during his visit on Sunday afternoon to the Italian town of Greccio.

Greccio is the mountain village where Saint Francis of Assisi created the first crib scene in 1223 to commemorate the birth of Jesus. Pope Francis returned to the town on Sunday to deliver his Apostolic Letter entitled, "Admirabile signum".

The meaning of the crèche elements

Pope Francis reflects on the meaning behind the elements that make up the nativity scene. He begins with the background of "a starry sky wrapped in the darkness and silence of night." We think of when we have experienced the darkness of night, he says, yet even then, God does not abandon us. "His closeness brings light where there is darkness and shows the way to those dwelling in the shadow of suffering."

The landscape

The Pope then writes about the landscapes that often include ancient ruins or buildings. He explains how these ruins are "the visible sign of fallen humanity, of everything that inevitably falls into ruin, decays and disappoints." This scenic setting tells us that Jesus has come "to heal and rebuild, to restore the world and our lives to their original splendour."

The shepherds

Turning to the shepherds, Pope Francis writes that, "unlike so many other people, busy about many things, the shepherds become the first to see the most essential thing of all: the gift of salvation. It is the humble and the poor who greet the event of the Incarnation." The shepherds respond to God "who comes to meet us in the Infant Jesus by setting out to meet Him with love, gratitude and awe", he adds.

The poor and the lowly

The presence of the poor and the lowly, continues the Pope, is a reminder that "God became man for the sake of those who feel most in need of His love and who ask Him to draw near to them." From the manger, "Jesus proclaims, in a meek yet powerful way, the need

for sharing with the poor as the path to a more human and fraternal world in which no one is excluded or marginalized."

Everyday holiness

Then there are the figures that have no apparent connection with the Gospel accounts. Yet, writes Pope Francis, "from the shepherd to the blacksmith, from the baker to the musicians, from the women carrying jugs of water to the children at play: all this speaks of everyday holiness, the joy of doing ordinary things in an extraordinary way."

Mary and Joseph

The Pope then focuses on the figures of Mary and Joseph.

"Mary is a mother who contemplates her child and shows Him to every visitor", he writes. "In her, we see the Mother of God who does not keep her Son only to herself, but invites everyone to obey His word and to put it into practice. Saint Joseph stands by her side, "protecting the Child and His Mother." Joseph is the guardian, the just man, who "entrusted himself always to God's will."

The Infant Jesus

But it is when we place the statue of the Infant Jesus in the manger, that the nativity scene comes alive, says Pope Francis. "It seems impossible, yet it is true: in Jesus, God was a child, and in this way He wished to reveal the greatness of His love: by smiling and opening His arms to all." The crèche allows us to see and touch this unique and unparalleled event that changed the course of history, "but it also makes us reflect on how our life is part of God's own life."

The Three Kings

As the Feast of Epiphany approaches, we add the Three Kings to the Christmas crèche. Their presence reminds us of every Christian's responsibility to spread the Gospel, writes Pope Francis. "The Magi teach us that people can come to Christ by a very long route", but returning home, they tell others of this amazing encounter with the Messiah, "thus initiating the spread of the Gospel among the nations."

Transmitting the faith

The memories of standing before the Christmas crèche when we were children should remind us "of our duty to share this same experience with our children and our grandchildren", says Pope Francis. It does not matter how the nativity scene is arranged, "what matters is that it speaks to our lives."

The Christmas crèche is part of the precious yet demanding process of passing on the faith, concludes Pope Francis. "Beginning in childhood, and at every stage of our lives, it teaches us to contemplate Jesus,

to experience God's love for us, to feel and believe that God is with us and that we are with Him."