

## Pope Francis



Dear MI Members and Friends,

What a tremendous time of grace we have been living and are invited to continue living. We have a Pope, Pope Francis; the first Jesuit, the first Francis, the first from the Americas - *It seems that my brother Cardinals have gone to the ends of the earth to get one*, Pope Francis said upon his election. Everything is speaking of novelty, of renewal and new life. During the homily for the Celebration of the Passion of Our Lord, Father Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM, Cap, the Preacher of the Pontifical Household, said, *"We have reached the summit of the Year of Faith and its decisive moment. This is the faith that saves, "faith that overcomes the world" (1 Jn 5:5)! Faith – the appropriation by which we make ours the salvation worked by Christ, by which we put on the mantle of his righteousness. On the one hand there is the outstretched hand of God offering man His grace; on the other hand, the hand of man reaching out to receive it through faith. The "new and everlasting Covenant" is sealed with a handclasp between God and man.*

***We have the opportunity to make, on this day, the most important decision of our lives, one that opens wide before us the doors of eternity: to believe! To believe that "Jesus died for our sins and rose again for our justification" (Rom***

***4:25)! In an Easter homily of the 4th century, the bishop pronounced these extraordinarily modern, and one could say existentialist, words: "For every man, the beginning of life is when Christ was immolated for him. However, Christ is immolated for him at the moment he recognizes the grace and becomes conscious of the life procured for him by that immolation" (The Paschal Homily of the Year 387 : SCh, 36 p. 59f.).***

***What an extraordinary thing! This Good Friday celebrated in the Year of Faith and in the presence of the new successor of Peter, could be, if we wish, the principle of a new kind of existence. Bishop Hilary of Poitiers, converted to Christianity as an adult, looking back on his past life, said, "before meeting you, I did not exist".***

And an itinerary for this novelty was given by Pope Francis in his homily to the Cardinal electors on March 14, the day after his election at the *Missa Pro Ecclesia*. It is an itinerary we are all invited to follow. It has a three point plan: Journeying, building, professing.

**"Journeying."** O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord" (*Is 2:5*). This is the first thing that God said to Abraham: Walk in my presence and live blamelessly. Journeying: our life is a journey, and when we stop moving, things go

### MI Monthly Intention

*Immaculata, please intercede...*

... that faith in the Resurrection of Christ may lead us ever more closely toward the gifts that are eternal.

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60048

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MI NATIONAL PRESIDENT  
FR. PATRICK  
GREENOUGH, OFM CONV



The Vatican website can be located here: [www.annusfidei.va/content/novaevangelizatio/en.html](http://www.annusfidei.va/content/novaevangelizatio/en.html).

Videos also are available:

[www.usccb.org/beliefs-andteachings/how-we-teach/newevangelizatio/year-of-faith/videos.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-andteachings/how-we-teach/newevangelizatio/year-of-faith/videos.cfm).

Picture - Pope Francis kissed the feet of 12 inmates at a juvenile detention center in Rome on Holy Thursday.

wrong. Always journeying, in the presence of the Lord, in the light of the Lord, seeking to live with the blamelessness that God asked of Abraham in his promise.

“**Building.**” Building the Church. We speak of stones: stones are solid; but living stones, stones anointed by the Holy Spirit. Building the Church, the Bride of Christ, on the cornerstone that is the Lord himself. This is another kind of movement in our lives: building.

“Thirdly, ‘**professing.**’ We can walk as much as we want, we can build many things, but if we do not profess Jesus Christ, things go wrong. We may become a charitable NGO, but not the Church, the Bride of the Lord. When we are not walking, we stop moving. When we are not building on the stones, what happens? The same thing that happens to children on the beach when they build sandcastles: everything is swept away, there is no solidity. When we do not profess Jesus Christ, the saying of Léon Bloy comes to mind: ‘Anyone who does not pray to the Lord prays to the devil.’ When we do not profess Jesus Christ, we profess the worldliness of the devil, a demonic worldliness.

“Journeying, building, professing. But things are not so straightforward, because in journeying, building, professing, there can sometimes be jolts, movements that are not properly part of the journey: movements that pull us back.

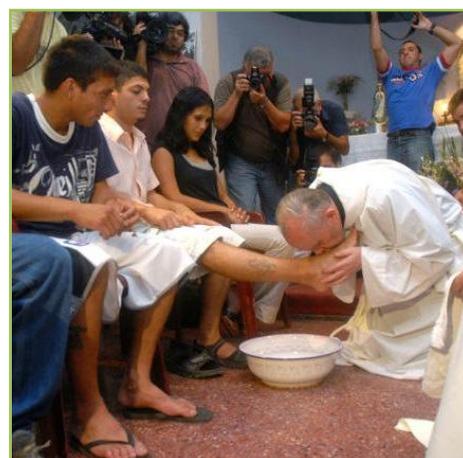
“This Gospel continues with a situation of a particular kind. The same Peter who professed Jesus

Christ, now says to him: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. I will follow you, but let us not speak of the Cross. That has nothing to do with it. I will follow you on other terms, but without the Cross. **When we journey without the Cross, when we build without the Cross, when we profess Christ without the Cross, we are not disciples of the Lord, we are worldly:** we may be bishops, priests, cardinals, popes, but not disciples of the Lord.

“**My wish** is that all of us, after these days of grace, will have the courage, yes, **the courage, to walk in the presence of the Lord, with the Lord’s Cross; to build the Church on the Lord’s blood which was poured out on the Cross; and to profess the one glory: Christ crucified. And in this way, the Church will go forward.**”

“My prayer for all of us is that the Holy Spirit, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother, will grant us this grace: to walk, to build, to profess Jesus Christ crucified. Amen.”

Ann O’Donnell  
Fr. Kolbe Missionary of the Immaculata  
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## A HISTORICAL MEETING BETWEEN BROTHERS

Pope Francis gave Pope Benedict an icon of Mary and Jesus that the Russian Orthodox delegation to his inauguration had given him just a few days earlier.



Pope Francis told Pope Benedict, "You gave us so many examples of humility and tenderness."

"They told me this was **Our Lady of Humility**. If I may say, I thought of you," Pope Francis said. Pope Benedict grasped his successor's

The meeting took place in Castel Gandolfo, where Pope Benedict is staying. When the two went into the chapel of the papal villa to pray, Pope Benedict indicated that Pope Francis should take the front pew, but Pope Francis, reaching out to help his predecessor walk, said, "**We're brothers**," and they knelt side by side.

Meeting with Pope Emeritus Benedict  
<http://video.repubblica.it/dossier/il-nuovo-papa/a-castel-gandolfo-lo-storico-incontro-tra-i-due-papi/123281/121771>



## GOOD FRIDAY WITH POPE FRANCIS

"One word should suffice this evening, that is the Cross itself. *The Cross is the word through which God has responded to evil in the world.* Sometimes it may seem as though God does not react to evil, as if he is silent. And yet, God has spoken, he has replied, and his answer is the Cross of Christ: a word which is love, mercy, forgiveness. It also reveals a judgment, namely that God, in judging us, loves us. If I embrace his love then I am saved, if I refuse it, then I am condemned, not by him, but my own self, because God never condemns, he only loves and saves."

"Dear brothers and sisters, the word of the Cross is also the answer which Christians offer in the face of evil, the evil that continues to work in us and around us. Christians must respond to evil with good, taking the Cross upon themselves as Jesus did. ...We now continue this Via Crucis in our daily lives. Let us walk together along the Way of the Cross and let us do so carrying in our hearts this word of love and forgiveness. Let us go forward waiting for the Resurrection of Jesus."



"Find Pope Francis' messages and homilies at [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/francisc](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francisc)



## Pro-Life

\* If you know someone who is facing an unwanted pregnancy, please share this number: (800) 395-HELP; or OptionLine.org.



## General Chapter of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual

Reflection by Fr. Patrick Greenough, OFM Conv.,  
MI National President

Provincials, Custos and other delegates from all over the world of the Conventual Franciscans gathered in Assisi for the General Chapter. The friars are present on every continent throughout the world ministering to the poor, teaching in schools, working in hospitals, staffing parishes and wherever the Gospel leads them and the Church needs them. It was the 200th General Chapter of the Conventual Franciscans in their 800 year history.

After reviewing the work of the Order of the last six years, on January 29, 2013, the **Friars re-elected Fr. Marco Tasca the 119th successor of St. Francis of Assisi.** All of the Friars gathered at the tomb of St. Francis where the newly re-elected Fr. Marco Tasca was blessed by the relic of St. Francis. Then the friars spent the next three weeks in the Papal Hall of the Sacro Convento attached to the Basilica of St. Francis discussing the needs and the



Fr. Patrick Greenough with delegates to the Chapter. Thank you MI members for your prayers.

future of the Order for the next six years.

Every day the friars gathered in prayer in the lower basilica of St. Francis for Divine Office and the Eucharistic Liturgy. What a blessing it was to gaze at the newly restored frescoes portraying the life of St. Francis and to be able to pray at the tomb of St. Francis for which the Conventual Franciscans have

cared from the moment of his death 800 years ago.

We were also specially blessed to have attended the papal audience of Pope Benedict who resigned from the papacy only a few days later.

All of the friars left the holy city of Assisi with a renewed fraternal brotherhood and desire to continue to rebuild the Church and spread the Gospel from Assisi to Istanbul, from Honduras to Japan, and from Uganda to Marytown in the USA.



Newly elected Father General of the Franciscan Conventual Friars blesses members of the General Chapter with the relic of St. Francis of Assisi.

## MI VILLAGES

### ESCONDIDO, CA

#### **MI Family Village**

First Saturday at St. Mary's 4:15-9pm

Joe & Sue O'Donnell 760-745-0935

We encourage the families to make the first Saturdays in honor of Our Lady of Fatima and we have the Pilgrim Virgin visitation to MI families. To celebrate this year of Faith we are sponsoring an Adult Bible study (Scott Hahn series) on the second Fridays of the month,

### HESPERIA, CA

#### **MI Adult Village**

Last Friday 10-11:30 AM

Joanne Panicko 760-244-7048

### MODESTO, CA

modestomi@aol.com

St. Joseph's Catholic Church

#### **MI Adult Prayer Village and**

#### **MI Spanish Village**

1st Sat after 8:00 am Mass

Suzanne Flint (English) 209-521-8299

Maria Braun (Spanish)

mbraun@stjmod.com

#### **MI Family Village**

1st Sunday 10:30AM ending with pot-luck

Bob & Judy Shannon [pacesetter1@mac.com](mailto:pacesetter1@mac.com)

Our three Villages sponsored the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual silent Marian Retreat entitled "*Mary: Mother, Model and Guide in the Faith*". Patricia Treece, the author of "*A Man for Others*," gave an inspirational talk on and signed books for two days. Fr. Kolbe Missionaries, Jillian Cooke, and Ann O'Donnell. Fr. Mark Wagner, pastor of St. Joseph's, Maria Braun, along with Patricia Treece spoke to the Spanish track. Nikki along with an army of leaders led a Children's track. Some 300 adults and children attended the day.



Picture: Fr. Mark Wagner, Jillian Cooke, Patricia Treece, Ann O'Donnell, Fr. Matthew O'Donnell

### RIVERSIDE, CA

#### **Holy Family MI Village**

2nd Friday, 8:33pm

Thomas & Mari Avalos 951-313-3980

#### **Holy Cross MI Village**

2nd Friday of the Month, St. Francis de Sales, Riverside CA, 4:13 pm Confession - 5:13 pm Holy

Mass - 5:44 pm Holy Hour then our Village at The Coffee Bean at 7:03 PM, 3712 Mission Inn Ave.

Fred Solorio [sonofppio@yahoo.com](mailto:sonofppio@yahoo.com)

at [www.facebook.com/MIYA.SoCal](http://www.facebook.com/MIYA.SoCal)

### SANTA CLARITA, CA

#### **Women's Rosary**

2<sup>nd</sup> Wed 7PM

Janet Cooke 661-296-5834

Mother's praying for their families

During Lent about 15 women gathered to participate in a weekly book study, *The Key to a Happy Life*, led by its author, Fr. Kolbe Missionary, Jillian Cooke.

### WALNUT, CA

#### **MI Adult Village**

1st Saturday 10-11:30 am

Carmen Denning 909-595-1366

We have a Pilgrim Virgin we bring into homes.

### WEST COVINA, CA

#### **MI Adult Prayer Village**

1<sup>st</sup> Monday 10-12pm

Alice O'Donnell 626-338-1724

Rosary, reflection and study from MI Formation

#### **Fr. Kolbe Missionary Center**

**Jess Ruiz** presented the history of Papal elections to the MI Young Adults, leading to a lively discussion. The first weekend of March **Fr. Gregory Dick, OPraem** preached a weekend retreat to MI adults at Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside, CA. Six new MI members were enrolled at the conclusion of the retreat.

**Spanish Retreat** was attended by 40 participants who lived the day in a very prayerful attitude.

March 17<sup>th</sup> we had our second **Families to the MAX** gathering, 17 couples and kids filled the house. The theme was Sacrificial love, emphasizing the Person

of Jesus Christ. The three part gathering will conclude with: the Mission of the Family in May.

### **STAMFORD, CT**

Holy Name of Jesus Convent  
305 Washington Blvd.,  
(203) 323-4546

#### **MI Village**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month -4 – 6pm Children welcome!

During February's meeting the writing of St. Maximilian Kolbe concerning penance was shared - *there is no love without penance*. One Member expressed how grateful she is to have faith because so many things have happened in the past few months, from losing her job, serious damage from Hurricane Sandy, and health issues in her family. Through this she has had confidence that it is part of God's plan. We also discussed how grateful we are for all the Holy Father has done and encouraged prayers for the Conclave for the new pope and for the assignment of new Bishops where needed.

#### **M.I. LIFE**

Holy Hour for Life – Each Wednesday 11-Noon  
[www.sistersminormi.org](http://www.sistersminormi.org)  
The Diocese of Bridgeport sponsored the 40 days for Life, Feb 13 to March 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **MT. PROSPECT, IL**

#### **Our Lady of All Nations**

2nd Thursday  
6:30pm pizza followed by prayer at 7:20pm. We are single young adults.

### **KANSAS CITY, MO**

#### **Ave Maria Village**

1st Saturday – 1<sup>st</sup> Sat at Redemptorist Church  
Christine Rossi                      [immaculata8@kc.rr.com](mailto:immaculata8@kc.rr.com)  
913-268-0208

Under Ave Maria Village's guidance are:

### **OSWATAME, KS**

#### **Morning Star MI Village**

Denise Bradley

### **MOUND CITY, KS**

#### **Mystical Rose MI Village**

Cecilia Jones

We are working on getting a weekly adoration program started and have it manned and supported by the MI members.

### **LA CYGNE ,KS**

#### **Spiritual Vessel MI Village**

Juanita Chrisman  
[jvcathrtlnd@hotmail.com](mailto:jvcathrtlnd@hotmail.com)

### **WICHITA, KS**

#### **The Upper Room MI Prayer Village**

[TheUpperRoom.homestead.com](http://TheUpperRoom.homestead.com)  
Third Wednesday/month 6:30pm  
Upper Room, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception  
Mary Rubeck                      316-778-1939  
[mrubeck@aol.com](mailto:mrubeck@aol.com)

### **TROOPER, PA**

#### **MI Totus Tuus Village of the Visitation BVM Church**

2nd Thursday in Mount Prospect  
Joe Valovage                      [jrvjnmj@verizon.net](mailto:jrvjnmj@verizon.net)

### **HOUSTON, TX**

#### **MI "Domus Mariae" Village**

1st Thursday (except July and August)  
6-7:15 pm monthly Holy Hour @ 6 PM followed by Kolbe's Readings.  
Our Lady of Czestochowa Church  
1731 Blalock Rd, 77080  
Turrus Davidica  
281-793-3394  
<http://www.midomusmariae.com>  
Email: [info@MIDomusMariae.com](mailto:info@MIDomusMariae.com)  
We now have a blog! It's for everybody! Check it out at: <http://www.midomusmariae.wordpress.com/>.

### **WEST HAVEN, UTAH**

#### **MI Families of the Immaculata Village**

St. Mary's Catholic Church [www.stmarysutah.org](http://www.stmarysutah.org)  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday                      12:30-2:00 pm  
The Masek Family                      801-898-3821  
[luinglife4u@gmail.com](mailto:luinglife4u@gmail.com)

We sponsored our **Second Annual Weekend**

#### **Lenten Faith Experience**

February 22nd: 5:00 Mass followed by Stations of the Cross, Soup Dinner & **Vocation Awareness**

**Night** featuring the movie "Therese"(with Spanish subtitles)/speakers.

February 23rd: MI Lenten Day of Reflection with CA guest speaker Ann O'Donnell gave reflections on the theme "*Mary: Mother, Model, and Guide of Our Faith.*" She led the participants into a deeper understanding of Church teachings on Mary and how these call them into a more intimate relationship with the Blessed Mother. Eight people at the end of the day made their act of total consecration surrounded by the pastor, Fr. Vidal Gutierrez, and



other MI members (pic.). One gentleman said, "I went and knelt before Mary to ask her forgiveness for the times I had not acknowledged nor given her the proper place. I will never do that again."

With great excitement, our Village of the Immaculata in Utah will be offering a spiritual bouquet of Masses, rosaries, and sacrifices for Pope Francis until the completion of 2013. After our very successful second annual MI Lenten retreat in February, we continued our book study on St. Catherine Laboure in March and distributed Marian holy cards and miraculous medals to the English and Spanish RCIA classes. We are also, organizing our parish's observance of Divine Mercy Sunday in April which will consist of adoration, the singing of the chaplet and a follow-up potluck dinner.

#### **MI CANADA**

##### **Ajax MI Village**

Moderator – Teresa Viechweg

905-428-0952

2nd & 4th Thursdays, 6:30pm

**Mt. Vernon, BC**

#### **MI Family News**

Thanks so much for the newsletter. St. Maximilian's account of the beginning of the M.I. was very interesting. I had never read it before. ...It was interesting to note the "ordinary" difficulties, delays, opposition and other details that surrounded the founding of the M.I. It helps one realize how God is always working, regardless of our awareness.

In the Immaculata, Fr. Stephen Boyle, OPraem (Rome)

#### **VOCATION:**

**Marriage – Justin O'Donnell and Erin Bliss** plan to marry July 6, 2013, Alhambra, CA

#### **Babies:**

**Dino & Kathy Durando** welcome their ninth child, Evelyn Anne, on February 28, here held by one of her eight siblings, Holt, MI.

**Ryan & Lis Luwia** welcomed their first child, Madeleine, La Verne, CA. Both Ryan and Lis were active in the Azusa Pacific U. MI Village.



February 14 – Valentine's Day, Diego Maximilian was born to **Carlos and Sarah Perez** in Claremont, CA. Diego is their first child. Both parents have been very involved in the MI and met while leading an MI Village at Azusa Pacific College, CA.

## Fr. Kolbe Missionaries Calendar

### April

- 2 Preparation for Total Consecration, 7-8:30pm
- 3 MI Spanish Village – 9am, rosary, talk on *Porta Fidei*, confession, Mass, lunch
- 5 Young Adults, 7pm – Jillian
- 6 Act of Total Consecration, 8:30 am Mass, St. Christopher’s Church, West Covina, CA  
MI Family Picnic Team Meeting, 10am
- 7 Aspirant Fr. Kolbe Volunteer’s formation, 1:30-4PM
- 9 Reunion of those who made Total Consecration, 7-8:30pm
- 14 Vocation Fair, Holy Family Parish in Artesia
- 15 MI National Board Meeting, Marytown
- 23 Evangelization Team meeting, 7pm

### May

- 19 Families to the MAX – The Mission of the Family, 2:00-5pm
- 25 Day of Evangelization - Jillian
- 27 Annual 26<sup>th</sup> Annual MI Family Picnic – Fun for everyone! Schabarum Park, Rowland Heights  
If you’d like to help or donate something to the raffle contact us.

Click onto [www.kolbemission.org/en](http://www.kolbemission.org/en) for further information on events sponsored by the Missionaries.  
Check out [www.miyouth.org](http://www.miyouth.org) for all MI Teen Summer Programs in the U.S.A.

### For your On-going Formation

CDs available for purchase from the Fr. Kolbe Missionaries

#### Fr. James McCurry – Spirituality of the Lamb

- 1) Lamb Spirituality
- 2) Behold the Lamb of God
- 3) The Lamb Rises

#### Mission Today 2013 – Death and Dying

- 1) Making Ethical Decisions – Fr. Joseph Illo
- 2) Death of a Saint – Jillian Cooke

#### Fr. Pio Maria, CFR

- 1) Theological Virtue of Faith
- 2) Faith Believes in the Impossible – Mary’s Journey
- 3) “I can do all things I him who gives me strength.” –accepting our fragility and limitations
- 4) Faith is a Gift to Welcome and Share