The Oblates of the Virgin Mary at
SAINT FRANCIS CHAPEL
Encountering the Heart of Christ in the Heart of Boston
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — July 22, 2018

1983     2018
35 YEARS
OF SERVICE

Christ, Seated in a Boat, Pacifies the Crowds on the Shore, etching by Rudolph Stang after J.F. Overbeck

Roy Schoeman, Jewish convert and author of Salvation is From the Jews, will give his witness testimony and a talk on

St. Maximilian Kolbe and the Holocaust

Monday, August 13, 6 to 7 PM
The Chapel Gift Shop
Item of the Week…

‘Stained Glass’ Paperweights
Hand-Painted in Britain

These 'stained glass' paperweights are the first of their kind. Hand painted in Scotland, they feature some of the most famous cathedral art from all over the world.

St. Maximilian Kolbe Novena
Mass Cards are now available in the chapel entrance. Enroll your loved ones in a novena of Masses in honor of St. Maximilian Kolbe beginning on August 6.

If you are interested in joining our choir for the 5:30 PM Vigil Mass on Saturdays, please email Kim at kim.araiza@gmail.com. Rehearsals are at 4:45 PM every Saturday.

SAINT FRANCIS CHAPEL RENOVATION FUND
We make this appeal to you to participate in the Chapel’s transformation through funding, prayer and suggestions. Please use the special envelopes found in the chapel entrance for this purpose. You may also use the giving kiosk in the entrance or visit stfrancischapel.org, click on the Donate button and enter “renovation” in the Special Instructions box.

Thank you and God bless you for all you do in helping the mission.
Prior to entering the Oblates of the Virgin Mary, I worked as an ICU nurse. Many days, as I made my thirty-minute trip to and from work, I would maintain as much silence as possible in the car. Most days, I would not play any music or make any phone calls during these trips. I would use this time to pray, reflect upon the day, or just enjoy the quietness. I needed that thirty minutes of silence, prayer, and reflection because the next twelve to fourteen hours at the hospital were anything but silent. In this way, my car became a “deserted place” for me to not only encounter Jesus, but also to reaffirm that my identity is rooted in Christ and not in my job.

This weekend, the Gospel of Mark reminds us of the importance of entering into a deserted place. After the Apostles return from their mission of healing and preaching, Jesus tells them, “Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest awhile.” How excited the apostles must have been to relate to Jesus all they had done. Jesus gave them a mission and they performed their mission well. Mark tells us that the apostles preached a mission of repentance and drove out many demons. Perhaps the apostles were expecting Jesus to laud them with many praises for a job well done. Instead, Jesus invites the twelve to withdraw from society and travel to a deserted place for rest. In doing so, Jesus is emphasizing the importance of finding a deserted place to the apostles and each of us as well.

By accepting Jesus’ invitation to a deserted place to rest, we not only rest physically, but mentally and spiritually as well. In short, we find our rest in the sacred heart of Jesus which leads us to the merciful heart of the Father. We enter into that sacred space of prayer where we can pour out the needs and desires of our hearts into the merciful heart of the Father. We enter into that sacred space of the heart of Christ.

In doing so, Jesus is emphasizing the importance of finding a deserted place to the apostles and each of us as well. Each of us, in our own way, has been entrusted with building up the Kingdom of Heaven on earth as baptized Christians. However, one day you might find yourself unable to work or perform simple task because of your health. At some point in life, your role as a husband, wife, father, or mother will change due to illness or death. These are difficult moments in life which test our ability to accept and trust God’s plan for our lives. Yet these moments also reinforce the importance of prayer and entering into deserted places where Jesus is waiting for us to rest with Him. It is in this place that we rediscover our Christian identity, an identity that comes from the Father because, “In love, he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ.”

Entering the “deserted place” of my car was not easy at times. There was always the temptation to break the silence. I saw many obstacles, struggles, and sins of my own life that prevented me from growing closer to Christ. In these moments, I often wanted to turn on the radio or make a phone call to put myself at ease. However, with time, maintaining silence in my deserted place became easier and something I looked forward to after at twelve hour shift in the hospital. Eventually, I came to see and realize how Christ was present in my life and the lives of my patients. I would not have been able to see Christ present in these areas of my life if it were not for the sacred, deserted space of my car. Ultimately, this time affirmed to me that no matter how hard I worked or what my day was like, prayer kept me going because it reminded me that my identity is rooted in who I am and not what I do.
Oblates of the Virgin Mary – USA

The Oblates of the Virgin Mary is an international religious community of priests and brothers serving in Italy, France, Austria, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Nigeria, the United States and the Philippines. The Oblates are involved in retreat and parish missions, spiritual direction, parish work, the media, clergy formation, and the foreign missions.

The US Province of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary is dedicated to St. Ignatius of Loyola, and includes communities in Massachusetts, Illinois, Colorado, California and the Philippines.

The OMV US Province House is at St. Clement’s in Boston.

The OMV motto, “Mariam Cogita, Mariam Invoca” “Think of Mary, Call on Mary” is taken from a homily by St. Bernard.

The Founder of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary.
Declared “Venerable” - the first step to Sainthood.

Fr. Bruno Lanteri (1759-1830)

St. Clement Eucharistic Shrine & St. Francis Chapel, Boston, MA
St. Joseph House, Milton, MA
St. Peter Chanel Parish
Hawaiian Gardens, CA
Holy Ghost Parish & Lanteri Center for Ignatian Spirituality Denver, CO
St. Mary Parish Alton, IL

OMV Formation and Retreat Centers
Cebu City & Manila, Philippines

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