



"To gather priests to Christ and to one another to proclaim..."

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

May 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rev. Leo Dabuoh West Africa					For prayer requests received	For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
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Padre Eusebio Kino: The Apostle of Arizona

Fr. Ray Ratzberger - Tucson Fraternity

I am writing this article while quarantined at home as a precaution, like everyone else around the world, from contact with the "Corona Virus." A couple of weeks ago the universal Church quietly celebrated St. Patrick's Day, the Apostle to the Irish. A couple of days earlier we in the desert remembered our Apostle, Padre Kino, who went to the Lord on March 15, 1711.

On a visit to the Capitol Building of the United States of American, one would notice various statues of prominent figures in American history. Each state has 2 prominent personages who represent them. Padre Eusebio Kino represents Arizona.

Eusebio Chino (in Italian it is pronounced "Kino") was born in Segno, in the Val di Non near Trent Italy on August 10, 1645. He was of German extraction, like most of the people in Lombardy, which at the time of his birth was part of the Holy Roman Empire. After his primary education he began classical studies at the Jesuit High School in Trent, and completed them in Hall (Tyrol). There he became seriously ill, but recovered miraculously through the intercession of St. Francis Xavier.

This experience was the cause of his conversion, which lead

him to join the Society of Jesus. Devoted to St. Xavier, he vowed to dedicate his life to the missions of India, like his cousin Martino Martini. In 1677, at Eichartt in Bavaria, he was ordained a priest. He completed his preparation for the foreign missions in Spain at the Jesuit College in Seville.

Though he wanted to go to the orient, like his patron Saint Francisco Xavier, his superiors had a different idea. They sent him to New Spain. On May 3, 1681 he arrived in Mexico disembarking at the Port of Vera Cruz after a three month voyage across the Atlantic.

He was 36 years old, and changed the spelling of his last name from "Chino" to Kino so people would not be confused on his Spanish origin, thinking instead he was from the Orient.

He arrived in Mexico with many skills to help the people. He was what one would call, a "Renaissance Man", with knowledge in many areas; he was a mathematician, a cartographer, a biologist, a sociologist, etc. And he had a missionary's heart.

His first mission was to evangelize the natives in California, joining an expeditionary group to colonize the "Island". It was named after a mythical island mentioned in a popular novel.

Europeans at that time did not realize it was a peninsula. However, the expedition failed, so Kino was reassigned to the missions of the mainland.

On March 13, 1687 Padre Kino set out on his life's greatest adventure—to evangelize the people of Pimeria Alta, modern Sonora, Mexico and Arizona.

Padre Kino not only was concerned about their conversion, but also wanted them to advance in the sciences and social development. He spent the rest of his life with these people of the desert whom he loved and respected. He had a father's heart.

It turned out that the Indians of Pimeria Alta had developed an ancient and rich culture. They had a rich history with mythical figures. A Moses type character named Iltoi led the ancestors of the Tohono O'odham (the tribe that resides in the Tucson area) in a revolt against the ruling class of the people called the Hohokam. They attack the palace (the ruins are in the town of Casa Grande) and these enslaved people won their freedom through his leadership. He is remember to this day as a god-like figure.

They had been cultivating crops for over 4000 years. They had extensive irrigation canals, and harvested food and spices that were new to the europeans. In

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A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name of priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own disposition and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul, take over his entire personality and life. Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always.

O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (.....). Amen.

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One of the objectives for the Fraternity of Priests is to inform our donors about the ongoing financial health and details of the organization. We thank those many faithful benefactors who help make our service possible. Thank you!

Fraternity Financial Report

Monthly Budget:

\$4,750.00

Actual Donations:

\$1,478.00

Budget Deficit:

\$3,272.00

Current as of
February 29, 2020.

April brings us the Holy Triduum, Easter Sunday, and Divine Mercy Sunday. What a blessing to be a Catholic during this time! Despite the chaos and demands, late nights and hours decorating, I love Holy Week. In a special way, I love how we begin to pray the Divine Mercy Novena on the day of mercy – Good Friday!

Divine Mercy! What a Feast! I love the devotion to Divine Mercy revealed to St. Faustina, I love praying the Chaplet, I love the Hour of Mercy, and I love the Image of Divine Mercy! I also am blessed to live in the northeast (United States) and so am only about two and a half hours away from the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. It is truly a grace to be able to make a pilgrimage there without too much fanfare.

Formed by the message of Divine Mercy, as such, I forget that not everyone knows it. One year, the deacon at my parish preached Divine Mercy Sunday. When I commented to him that he had not mentioned Divine Mercy at all, he said he was not familiar with it. Everything screamed in my head (luckily, my Guardian Angel kept it from coming out of my mouth), "But *mercy* is what it's *all* about! The Cross and Resurrection of Jesus is Divine Mercy! Reconciliation is Divine Mercy!" Unfortunately, he only connected the words "Divine Mercy" with a specific devotion given by St. Faustina.

With this in mind, I do want to share a bit about the Feast of Divine Mercy. Remember, the key parts of the Divine Mercy devotion passed on to us through St. Faustina, can be remembered by the acronym **FINCH** – **F**east, **I**mage, **N**ovena, **C**haplet, **H**our (I forget where I got this, but probably from reading a book by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC).

The Feast of Divine Mercy is about spreading trust in God, His love, and His mercy. But more than this, Jesus Himself wants to pour out His mercy

in a special way on us on this holy day. In St. Faustina's *Diary: Divine Mercy in My Soul*, Jesus says to St. Faustina: **My daughter, tell the whole world about My Inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. ... The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy.** (Paragraph 699, see also 300 and 1109) Jesus makes it clear that He is pouring out His mercy in unprecedented ways on this holy day. And don't we all need mercy?!?! I know I do!

During this season of mercy, I encourage you to recommit yourself to the Lordship of Christ, and allow Him to pour out a superabundance of His love and mercy upon you. If you can, get to Confession and Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday, and allow God's promise of mercy transform you!

Please remember to save the dates for our annual Fraternity Retreat, August 9-14, 2020 in Parma, Ohio, U.S.A.

Grace and Peace,
Fr. Von DeRosia



Editor's Note: Please send articles, comments, and photos to the our editor, Fr. Bob Carr, via e-mail to editor@fraternityofpriests.org. Newsletter material from all Fraternity members is gratefully accepted.

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fact Tucson is the only city in the United States that has been given by UNESCO the title of "World City of Gastronomy." One reason for this designation is the present day use of these exotic foods.

They developed multi storied buildings made from adobe and timber from the nearby mountains. They had advanced math with the use of the zero and designed beautiful pottery which is constantly being discovered as the city grows.

Padre Kino added a variety of new sources of food by introducing European domesticated animals such as cattle, and chickens. He taught them ranching, and husbandry. He introduced new ideas in horticulture, taught them how to cultivate new fruits and vegetables.

He also valiantly protected their rights and dignity by protecting them against the overbearing schemes of the Spanish hacendados. Fearlessly, he enforced a royal decree that exempted converted Indians from slave labor in the mines and from paying tribute. He also acted as a diplomat. He help iron out intra-tribal problems, and brokered peace among warring factions.

Padre Kino liked adventure. He conducted several expeditions to the northwest as far as the Rio Colorado, which he named for the red sediment that flowed in it. He also scientifically proved that California was a peninsula. He traveled 12,800 kilometers. There is a beautiful bronze equestrian statue in Tucson depicting him mounted on a tired horse. Copies of this statue can be found in the Sonoran Capital of Hermosillo,

and in Segno, Italy.

Padre Kino founded many missions among the desert people, from Sonora into southern Arizona. A small sample of some of the missions he founded is: Mission de Nuestra Señora del Pilar y Santiago de Cocospera in Sonora, Mexico; Mission de Santa Maria Magdalena de Kino (where his bones can be seen and is a destination for pilgrimages from Arizona and Sonora); Mission de San Antonio de Oquitos in Sonora; Mission de San Diego de Pitiquito, Sonora; Mission de San Ignacio de Caburica, Sonora; Mission San Xavier del Bac, Tucson; Mission de San Cayetano de Tumacacori (about 25 miles south of Tucson on the Santa Cuz River) just to name a few.

Fr. Jim Hobert helped me with this article by sharing some excerpts from a Biography of Padre Kino: "Rim of Christendom" by Herbert Bolton.

While trying to evangelize the Didiu tribe he was trying to teach Christian concepts in their simple Indian language. A classical example is his own story of how he explained the resurrection by reviving some apparently lifeless flies. When the astonished Indians shouted, "Ibimu huegite" they had given Fr. Kino the word he was seeking. [Rim of Christendom, p. 139f.]

It was with the youth that Kino, like every missionary, was especially concerned. He was often followed by a troop of Indian boys whenever he went riding on an excursion, the boys trying to keep up would cry if left behind. They would try to get to ride with Fr. Kino on his horse. [Rim, p. 139]

Sometimes the symbolism used to attract the Indians backfired. Kino: "We set up in our little church a large and pretty statue of the Holy Christ, but as soon as the Indians saw it they ran away, very much afraid of it. They hardly dared to talk with us, or among themselves, in very low voices or in whispers, asking who that person was and who killed him, and if he were some cruel enemy of ours, for it worried them very greatly to think that we treated people so. There was no way to pacify them, except to tell them he was our friend." [Rim, p. 141].

Sharing with the Indians how the Spanish were evangelized, Kino: "I told them how in ancient times the Spaniards were not Christians, how Santiago came to teach them the faith, and how the first fourteen years he was able to baptize only a few, because of which the Holy Apostle was discouraged, but the Holy Virgin (she bi-located) appeared to him and consoled him, promising that the Spaniards would convert the rest of the people of the world." [Rim, p. 269].

Our bishop, Edward Wisenburger, recently asked us to pray for Padre Kino's beatification. While I was on sabbatical in Rome at the North American College, we had a presentation on the process of beatification by one of the priests on the consistory dealing with such things. I asked him why Padre Kino was not made a saint by now. He thought he should be canonized, but basically he said there were not enough influential people interested in his cause. That seemed odd, because he is well known and loved in Arizona. Subbito Santo!

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

