

The Virtuous Cycle



Dear Mission Friends:

Many years ago while serving on the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Negro Historical and Cultural Society, I had the privilege of meeting and working with the renowned theologian and civil rights leader, Dr. Howard Thurman. As we pack up the Christmas decorations and begin the New Year, I am reminded of a short meditation of his:

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flock,
the work of Christmas begins:*

*To find the lost,
to hear the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among others.*

We dedicate this newsletter to two of our Dominican missionaries, recently deceased Br. Raymond Bertheaux, O.P. and newly ordained Fr. Mark Francis Manzano, O.P. Br. Raymond lived a life of joyful selflessness, true to the post-Christmas mission articulated by Dr. Thurman. And Fr. Mark Francis has hit the ground running as he embarks on his priestly ministry as a missionary, expanding Christ's kingdom of love in Mexicali. *We begin this New Year looking to the past with gratitude and to the future with hope.* In Christ's Peace,
Fr. Martin de Porres Walsh, O.P.



Brothers Mark Francis Manzano and Boniface Willard, O.P., before their ordination last May. (Fr. Boniface is now at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Seattle.)



Br. Raymond Bertheaux, O.P. was born on March 19, 1936 to a French father and a Mexican mother, grew up in the Bayview district of San Francisco, and at the age of eighteen made profession as a Dominican cooperator brother. In 1963 he accompanied Frs. Joseph Asturias and Vincent Foerstler to Chiapas to take over administration of the largest Catholic parish in the world which included the poorest and most oppressed people of Mexico, the Tzeltal Indians of Ocosingo. Br. Raymond was the last surviving member of that team which founded our very first mission.

In one of his early reports, he described Christmas in Ocosingo: *"It was beautiful. The Indians brought Jesus in from the hills with drum and flute music along with rockets shooting up into the sky,*



Br. Raymond in between Frs. Foerstler and Asturias, surveying the land in their early days in Chiapas.

and I rang the bells like no one's business...We have a pine tree covered with frosted cookies and gingerbread men and the children love them. Fr. Vincent spent his Christmas at one of the Indian villages in the mountains so couldn't be with us, but I did give him a large box of cookies and fruitcake to take. This was the first fruitcake I ever made and I must say it was good!" (Fr. Felix Cassidy, O.P. seems to remember a secret ingredient that made Br. Raymond's fruitcakes quite popular.)

Fr. Mark McPhee, O.P., my predecessor as the first director of our Mission Office, wrote of Br. Raymond in the first mission newsletter: *"In the evenings after the Rosary, he walks around about the Indian huts, playing his harmonica and visiting, and sometimes helping the children with their*

homework, for most of their parents cannot read or write. Everyone responds to his winning smile."

But Br. Raymond wasn't all fun and games, as we learn in a later report he sent: *"All the medicine in the world won't be of much use if our poor sick Indians continue to starve [due to lack of protein]...I go around to the various homes and make sure that the families mix soybean powder in their corn meal...Then I visit the homes of the bedridden and mix the powder in their corn meal myself...With the Sunday collections I buy chickens and ...teach them how to cook them and make a rich chicken broth. There is one woman who is up and around today because her diet was improved."*

After 17 years as a missionary in Chiapas, 4 years in Mexicali, and 7 years in Honduras, Br. Raymond was appointed archivist of our historic Dominican priory in Guatemala City, where he continued to live out Dr. Thurman's meditation as he ministered to street vendors and orphans. In his eulogy for Br. Raymond, Fr. Roberto Corral, O.P. called him *"a man who loved the missions and who loved working for the poor."* He continued, *"I believe this was where his heart remained all these years...he treasured the opportunity to return to Chiapas and Guatemala to visit his friends certainly, but most of all to continue to help the needy in these places."*

The last years of his life were spent serving as archivist of our Western Dominican Province, which included a special ministry for which he became known: At the time of a friar's death, he would create a beautiful display celebrating his milestones so that we might always remember him and give thanks for his life and ministries. Now let us always remember Br. Raymond and give thanks for his life, including his 58 years of service as a beloved Dominican friar. May he rest in peace.



Fr. Mark Francis at the moment of his ordination by Bishop Anthony Fisher, visiting from Parramatta, Australia.



It is with great joy that I introduce to you our newest missionary, **Fr. Mark Francis Manzano, O.P.**, who is from Fontana, CA and attended Cal Poly University.

He made his profession as a Dominican friar in 2004 after a thoughtful discernment process he describes as follows. May your prayers accompany him on his newest path.

One fond memory of mine is listening to a sermon about the saints on a bright Sunday morning. In our church, high above the pews, were several stained glass windows depicting various saints — Francis of Assisi, Thérèse of Lisieux, Anthony of Padua, and others, holy men and women who served the Lord and the Church in both heroic and hidden ways. While listening to the sermon, I watched the sunlight passing through, illuminating the windows and casting light into the church. And when the priest proclaimed, "A saint is someone whom the Son shines through," I knew then that I wanted to spend my life serving God and His people as the saints have done. Those words have stayed with me and I have endeavored to be a "saint" ever since.



Blessing graves and consoling parishioners on All Souls' Day.



The newly-ordained priest with his proud mother, Julieta Manzano.

I was born and raised in southern California. I enjoy playing piano, singing, strategy games, cards, and just about all things Star Trek. In college I studied mathematics and was active in my parish with music and youth ministry.

My interest in religious life began in February of 2002 at a religious education congress. After reading a biography of St. Francis of Assisi, I was fascinated with his life and how he lived the Gospel in a radical but genuine way and how he inspired others to do the same. So I did some research and was surprised to learn that these guys are still around!

I had never met any religious before. My pastors were diocesan priests and I went through the public school system. Little did I know that I would be wearing a habit a year and a half later.

So when I first discerned entering religious life, I looked into joining the Franciscans. They had a history of serving the poor and the forgotten, and were on the front lines of social justice issues. I then looked at the Benedictines and was strongly attracted to their monastic life and sung choral office. When I looked at the Dominicans, I found they had a healthy balance of both the active life and contemplative life.

*At the end of a year's discernment, I found myself drawn to the Dominicans who have a saying about themselves: **One foot in the monastery, one foot in the world.** I feel I can best serve the Lord, the Church, and His people with these men who have made it their mission for the last 800 years to praise, to bless, and to preach.*

Fr. Mark Francis Manzano, O.P.



The parish youth group is thrilled to have Fr. Mark Francis (top right) as their new chaplain.



Here with "one foot in the world" are Frs. Martin (left) and Mark Francis (right), flanking a celebrant.



***Prayer to St. Martin de Porres,
Patron of the
Dominican Mission Foundation***

***Brother Martin, when you were here on earth, you spent your life loving God and your neighbor. Now that you live in the presence of God in paradise, intercede for those who stand so much in need of the healing help of God and beg the Divine Physician to give us health of soul and body.
Amen.***

Prayer for the New Year

***Remember us, O God;
from age to age be our comforter.
You have given us the wonder of time,
blessings in days and nights,
seasons and years.***

***Bless your children at the turning of the year
and fill the months ahead with the bright hope
that is ours in the coming of Christ. Amen.***

*If you would like to remember our
missionary work
in your will,
our legal title is:*



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