



OLOL Chapter

Third Sunday of Advent

-Charity

Weekly Newsletter

Tuesday, December 12th, we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patroness of the Americas. Our Blessed Mother



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appeared to Juan Diego and she asked him to build a church for her on the spot where she appeared. So that the bishop would believe him, Our Lady placed her image on Juan Diego's tilma. Upon hearing that God loved them so much that he sent his mother to them, more than eight million people were baptized. Her message to Juan Diego was that whoever we are, she and her Son will be with us.

The beautiful picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe can still be seen today in Mexico City on Juan Diego's tilma.

This week, we begin our study on the virtue of Charity. Consider this from Fidelis, *A woman has joy when she knows she is loved. God, who loves us above all, comes to us. Therefore...the charitable woman is joyful because she prays.*

Our scripture reflection is 1 Thessalonians 5:15-18

Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Some questions to consider:

- What is joy?
- Why does joy "refresh" our hearts?
- Why is dangerous to be "gloomy" while claiming to be a Christian?
- Why is joy the result of prayer and



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devotion?

Invitation: Joy is the hallmark of the Christian, and it is attractive to even non-Christians. Look up in a bible concordance as many verses that have the word "joyful" in it as you'd like, and find one to memorize. Memorize it for Fidelis Night.



The King's message for December 11, 2017 was given by Ashley Sabo. We began the virtue of Charity. Our movie clip was from *Cinderella*.



In the clip, Cinderella is in tears after her stepmother and stepsisters ripped apart her dress and forbade her to attend the royal ball. While wallowing, she quietly cries out for help, not thinking that anyone can help her. But in her heart of hearts, she still believes in the power of hope, which brings her Fairy Godmother into the scene. Her Fairy Godmother whips out her magic wand, reminds Cinderella that she (the Fairy Godmother) would not have appeared if Cinderella had lost all faith, and gets to work to Cinderella to the ball.

“If you lost all your faith, I wouldn’t be here.”
- Fairy Godmother

There is a lot of power in that brief statement! We are often told that God is always present in our lives, even when we can’t see it. Though this is very true, we have a role to play in this encounter: allowing God to work in our lives. And that begins in prayer. Cinderella enters into a moment of despair in this clip, but she didn’t completely shut off her heart from hope, and that is why her Fairy Godmother was able to work in her life. God does this (and so much more!) in our lives when we open ourselves up to his joy, grace, and mercy and don’t shut off our

hearts in moments of weakness, sadness, or despair.

Think about some of the most joyful people in your life. What about them draws you in? The most joyful people I encounter are those who truly know God’s love for them. He loves each of us equally, but he is only able to bring us ultimate joy when we pray and open up that dialogue. As you reflect on joyful people in your life, consider how God may be asking you to let him into your life more. Do you need to spend more time in prayer? Can you fast from something for a few weeks (Netflix, dessert, social media) to hit the reset button on your time management? Whatever God is putting on your heart, trust that ultimate joy will come to the charitable woman who prays. And God needs you to be that woman.

Above reflections and thoughts are furnished by Fidelis.

Upcoming Calendar:

Monday, December 18 – meeting

Dinner provided by Anna Dana and Kendra Altepeter

Christmas Break till January 8, 2018.

First Fidelis meeting of 2018 – January 8 – 6:30 pm