THE FRANCISCAN FAMILY PRAYER CHAPLET

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"Keep trying to do what is necessary, then what's possible and suddenly you're doing the impossible."

THIS QUOTE ATTRIBUTED TO OUR FATHER FRANCIS CHALLENGES US:

ARE WE DOING WHAT IS NECESSARY? ... ACHIEVING WHAT IS POSSIBLE? ... AND THEN REACHING FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE?

Our brother Nick was doing what is **necessary**: praying. He wanted to do something to help renew the Franciscan Order, so the Spirit led him to do what was **possible**: write the Franciscan Family Prayer chaplet. The prayer is a 3 decade chaplet, one decade for each of the three branches of the Franciscan family (first, second and third orders).

Nick introduced the prayer to us, his secular fraternity St. Thomas More. We were moved by the power of this simple prayer and the idea of spreading it across the nation was conceived. Is disseminating it to all Secular Franciscans **impossible**? We pray not! But first things first...we needed the Church's blessing.

Francis always modeled obedience to the Church and submission to Church authority. In this spirit, we wanted approval for the Franciscan Family Prayer before sending it out. So we contacted our local chancery where Daniel Cardinal DiNardo shepherds the Diocese of Galveston-Houston. The process of approval for printing begins with theologians assuring the writing is free of doctrinal or moral error. This is called *nihil obstat*, a Latin term meaning 'let nothing stand in the way'. After receiving the *nihil obstat*, the writing was returned to the bishop for consideration of the Imprimatur, Latin for 'let it be printed'. The Franciscan Family Prayer received the Imprimatur on August 19, 2011.

Meanwhile the decision was made to create a physical chaplet for each of the approximately 700 fraternities in the United States. This plan seemed impossible, until the Spirit intervened through the Catholic Daughters of America. The local Pearland, Texas chapter offered to make all of the chaplets needed for the project, and even donated some of the beads and string. God bless the Catholic Daughters! Our St. Thomas More fraternity provided the San Damiano crosses and the chaplets were finished while we awaited the Imprimatur. Afterwards, the chaplets were blessed by our spiritual assistant, Father Nils Thompson, OFM, and lovingly placed in packets.

While the chaplets are free, we ask that only Regional ministers contact us to request a chaplet and a prayer card for each fraternity in their region. As regional ministers contact us, chaplets and prayers will be mailed <u>only</u> to the regional minister for distribution to their local fraternity ministers, *(that will keep our shipping costs down)* who will share them with their respective fraternities.

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ANY FRATERNITY WISHING TO BECOME PART OF THE 'IMPOSSIBLE' IS INVITED TO SPREAD THE PRAYER.

WAYS YOU CAN BE PART OF THIS PROJECT:

- Pray the chaplet prayer! • Pray the chaplet prayer! • Pray the chaplet prayer!
- Share with your local youth Franciscan groups.
- Send the prayer to your local newsletter.
- Make more chaplets. *(this could become a fund-raiser for your fraternity)*
- Send chaplets to every Franciscan you know in your area: first order, second order, third order religious & secular.

REGIONAL MINISTERS: Request your chaplets from lore.payne@gmail.com

We are blessed to be part of the greater Franciscan family; this prayer celebrates our part in that family and reaches for more. Please become part of the "impossible" idea of disseminating it across the United States; and let us know the fruits of your prayers. **Pax et Bonum!**

INSPIRED DURING HOLY WEEK 2010, NICHOLAS H. KOVACS, OFS CAME UP WITH THE FOLLOWING PRAYER:

Franciscan Family Chaplet

BEGINNING:

Make the sign of the cross and recite "The Apostle's Creed" on the San Damiano Cross. Then recite the "Hail Mary" 3 times.

FIRST DECADE:

Begin by saying: *"St. Francis of Assisi, through your intercession, I pray that the First Order increases in vocations and that its members continue to grow in holiness."*

Then recite the "Our Father" and recite 10 times the following: *"My God and my all!"*

SECOND DECADE:

Begin by saying: *"St. Francis of Assisi, through your intercession, I pray that the Second Order increases in vocations and that its members continue to grow in holiness."*

Then recite the "Our Father" and recite 10 times the following: *"My God and my all!"*

THIRD DECADE:

Begin by saying: *"St. Francis of Assisi, through your intercession, I pray that the Third Order, both Regular and Secular, increases in vocations and that its members continue to grow in holiness."*

Then recite the "Our Father" and recite 10 times the following: *"My God and my all!"*

CONCLUSION:

End by reciting 1 time: *"We adore You, O Lord Jesus Christ, because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world."* Say the "Glory Be" 3 times for the intentions of the Pope and his continued holiness.

Make the sign of the cross.