

# BOLLETTINO DI SAN FRANCESCO



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WEBSITE: [sanfrancescochurch.org](http://sanfrancescochurch.org)

RECTORY HOURS: 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday & Friday

**Fr. Dino Vanin, PIME Pastor**

**SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE:** 8 a.m., 10 a.m. (Italian) and 12 p.m.

**HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE:** 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

**DAILY MASS:** 8 a.m. **SATURDAY MASS:** 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

**CONFESSIONS:** Friday Nights 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**BAPTISMS:** Sunday at 1 p.m. or by appointment.

**MARRIAGES:** Check with Father six months before the wedding date for the office work and necessary instructions.

## **AUGUST 2024**

### **Unsettled by Doctrinal Development? Part 8**

Dear Parishioners and Friends of San Francesco Church,

After having covered the significant changes in the Sacrament of Reconciliation over the history of the Catholic Church, it is time now to reflect on the origin and development of the concept of limbo and its disappearance from the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

In the April 2024 issue of our Bulletin, I pointed out how Scholastic theologians in the Middle Ages came up with the need for a “place” in which the faithful departed could be purified of “temporal punishment” and make up for the penance they could not do before death. The doctrine of Purgatory makes perfect sense if we keep in mind that, in Heaven, the faithful are to be like God who is love (cf. 1 John 3:2 and 1 John 4:8 & 4:16). Anything that is not love must be purified by “fire” in the state of being called Purgatory (cf. 1 Corinthians 3:10-16). The doctrine of Purgatory was ratified over centuries (2nd Council of Lyons 1274; Council of Florence 1439; Council of Trent 1545-1563).

While the doctrine of Purgatory can be supported by several scriptural passages (Revelation 21:27; Matthew 22:1-14; Matthew 12:32; Matthew 18:21-35; Luke 16:19-31; etcetera), the concept of limbo seems to be mentioned only in a veiled fashion in 1st Peter 3:18-20 and Hebrews 11:39-40 as *limbus patrum, the Limbo of [our] fathers*. This “place” was conceived as underground and called also “hell” not as the place of the damned but, rather, as the holding prison for the just yet to be redeemed by Christ’s blood on the cross.

The word “limbus” (edge, hem) in Latin refers to a place somewhere outside of Hell and Purgatory, a no man’s land void of both pain and the enjoyment of the beatific vision of God. The technical term is *limbus infantium*, the limbo of infants, grouping together all unbaptized children (i.e., with original sin still on their soul) who die before having reached the age of reason, that is before knowing right from wrong.

*Limbus infantium* was conceived as a necessary hypothetical “abode” without either pain or enjoyment by the theologians of the fifth century enmeshed in the

controversy about original sin. Pelagius (354-418), an ascetic layperson and theologian from the British islands, denied original sin and held that it is possible to attain Christian perfection by willpower and sole reliance on human efforts. St. Augustine (354-430) was his fiercest opponent, basing his arguments about original sin and the necessity of baptism on Romans 5:12-21. In the first Adam all human beings have sinned, but all are meant to be saved by grace through the second Adam, Jesus Christ. The Church repeatedly condemned Pelagius as a heretic.

Peter Abelard (1079-1142) believed that unbaptized children do not suffer in the afterlife and are simply deprived of the beatific vision.

St. Thomas Aquinas did not offer formal reflections on this subject. However, some of his pupils gleaned from his reflections, which they added to his *Summa Theologica* as an appendix. In it they summarized St. Thomas’ reasoning: While an adult can desire superior gifts and cooperate with God’s grace to attain them and, thus, must grieve if he /she failed to attain them, an infant who is not yet equipped to desire superior goods, and has no way yet to attain them, cannot grieve for not attaining the beatific vision.

The Ecumenical Council of Florence (1442) urged the baptism of children as soon as possible as those who die unbaptized will go to Hell, but without having to endure the pains of those who are in Hell due to unconfessed mortal sins. Cardinal Thomas Cajetan (1468-1534) held the opinion that if a child died unbaptized, God counted the mother’s desire to have her child (unborn or born) baptized as sufficient for the beatific vision. St. Pius X (1835-1914) mentions the existence of limbo in his Catechism.

In 1980, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith stated that, concerning children who die unbaptized, the Church should entrust them to the infinite mercy of God. Four years later, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger stated that he rejected the view that children dying unbaptized could not be saved.

In 1992, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, in #1261 addressed directly the problem of children who died before receiving baptism: *As regards children who have died without Baptism, the Church can only entrust them*

*(continued on page 2)*

**Unsettled by Doctrinal Development? Part 8**  
(continued from page 1)

to the mercy of God, as she does in her funeral rites for them. Indeed, the great mercy of God who desires that all men should be saved, and Jesus' tenderness toward children which caused him to say: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them," allow us to hope that there is a way of salvation for children who have died without Baptism. All the more urgent is the Church's call not to prevent little children coming to Christ through the gift of holy Baptism.

The last one to mention limbo seems to have been St. Pius X in his Catechism. In more recent times, theologians appealed to the salvific will of God (1Titus 2:4), to the solidarity of the human race meant by our Creator God for redemption in unity, and to the futility of limiting God's ways of reading a desire for baptism in people's hearts. Once again, it seems to me that the Holy Spirit is leading the Church to abandon rigid answers that can cause pain and anguish, in this case especially to mothers of stillborn and unbaptized children. I see in this an appeal to humility before the impossibility of wrapping our heads around God and His ways and to live, instead, fruitful lives blessed by the enviable serenity that comes from knowledge of His infinite love.

**Fr. Dino Vanin at San Francesco Church**



**August 1-Thursday**

Special Intentions of the DiMichele family by family

**August 2-Friday**

Spiritual well-being of Bianca Mutti by mom Mary

**August 3-Saturday**

Special Intentions for Mary Mother of God Prayer Group

**6pm** Salvatore & Rosa Spadafora by family

**6pm** Christine M. Bollini by Iolanda Agazzi

**6pm** Giovanna & Nino Agazzi by Iolanda Agazzi

**6pm** Etta & Peter Bartoli by Corrado Bartoli

**6pm** Josephine & Siegfried Wozniak by Dr. Wozniak

**August 4-Sunday**

8am Bob Ruggioli by wife Sharon

8am Respect for Life by William Hickey

8am Giuseppe Spano by daughter Anna & family

10am Tullio DiMichele by family

10am Giovanni Blindu by wife Judi

10am Ottavio Zicarelli by wife Ida & family

10am Franca Del-Serrone by family & friends

12pm Mario Signorelli by wife & family

12pm Diva Bonaldi by family

12pm Elisa Vettraino by Danz family

12pm Souls in Purgatory by Angelica & Michael Leschuk

12pm Louis Pagnucco by family

**August 6-Tuesday**

Aldo Terenzi by wife Tina

John & Piera Franklin by daughter Mary Mutti

Evandro & Sally DiMichele by family

Special Intentions of the DiMichele family by family

The Conversion of Sinners by the DiMichele family

**August 7-Wednesday**

Santi family by Savina Gennari

Holy Souls in Purgatory by Rosalia Kehrig

**August 8-Thursday**

Alex Calderone by wife Geraldine

Salvatore Manzella by wife Rosa

Gentile D'Andrea-10th Anniversary by family

**August 10-Saturday**

Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life

**6pm** Giuseppe Pinelli by Sam & Alice Pinelli

**6pm** Barbara Pinelli by Reno Pinelli & family

**6pm** Etta & Peter Bartoli by Corrado Bartoli

**6pm** Josephine & Siegfried Wozniak by Dr. Wozniak

**August 11-Sunday**

8am Lisa Stewart by family

8am Bob Ruggioli by Mark Bernasconi

8am Theresa & Charles MacDonald by son Mike

8am Robert Ezzo by wife Janet & family

10am Rocco Ruggirello by family

10am Antonino Badalamenti by wife & family

12pm Dec members of Caruso family by Carmela Simon

12pm Vincent & Pierina Frabotta by family

12pm Mary Kolis by family

12pm Duncan & Marie Sousa by family

**Church Picnic starts @ 11am**

**August 12-Monday**

Francesco & Elvira DiCicco by family

**August 13-Tuesday**

Holy Souls in Purgatory by Bob & Anna Kustasz

**August 15-Thursday (Assumption)**

John & Piera Franklin by daughter Mary Mutti

Special Intention Ken & Maryanne Rawlings by Mary Mutti

Special Intention Lorena Williams by Mary Mutti

Special Intention Mary Knollmeyer by Mary Mutti

Special Intention Veronica Panzer & family by Mary Mutti

Special Intention Anna & Maria DiMichele by Mary Mutti

Special Intention Clifford & Mary Cunningham by M. Mutti

Special Intention Dr. Timothy Anders by Mary Mutti

Special Intention Dr. Ana Thompson & family by M. Mutti

Special Intention Kevin & Cathy Oswald & fam by M. Mutti

Evandro & Sally DiMichele by DiMichele family

Holy Souls in Purgatory by DiMichele family

The Protection of the Unborn by the DiMichele family

**August 16-Friday**

Armando Gennari by wife Savina

**August 17-Saturday**

Augusta & Antonio Recchia by Ludington-Dawson family

**6pm** Msgr. James Moloney by family

**6pm** Etta & Peter Bartoli by Corrado Bartoli

**6pm** Josephine & Siegfried Wozniak by Dr. Wozniak

**Wedding: 3pm Vincent Radziecki & Judy Cao**

**August 18-Sunday**

8am Marcel Normandeau by Ron & Michelle Marino

8am Robert Ezzo by wife Janet & family

8am Regina & Philip Vermander by family

10am Germano & Loris Costa by family

10am Lisa Fabbri by Casali family

10am Anna Martinelli by family

10am Francesco & Pierina Secchi by family

10am Antonino & Filippa Passalacqua by son Joe

10am Franca Esposito by husband & family

10am Mario Meschina by family

10am Caterina Ferrara by Nicolina Biondo

10am Salvatore Biondo by Nicolina Biondo

10am Arcangelo Biondo by Nicolina Biondo

12pm San Rocco Society w/procession

12pm Assunta Society-Club Mass

12pm Clyde Butros by Dolores & John Wegrzyn

### August 20-Tuesday

Salvatore Ventimiglia by family  
Eleanor Woods by Bob & Anna Kustasz  
Eduardo Arciniegas by Bob & Anna Kustasz

### August 22-Thursday

Prayers for Stella Kazikow family  
Special Intentions of the DiMichele family by family  
Betty Pruzinsky by DiMichele family  
John & Piera Franklin by daughter Mary Mutti  
The Protection of the Unborn by DiMichele family  
The Salvation of the Dying by DiMichele family

### August 23-Friday

William Leonard, Jr. by DiMichele family  
Special Intentions of the DiMichele family by family

### August 24-Saturday

Silvio Bernardon by family  
**6pm** Concetta Taglioli by Pagnucco family  
**6pm** Etta & Peter Bartoli by Corrado Bartoli  
**6pm** Josephine & Siegfried Wozniak by Dr. Wozniak

### August 25-Sunday

8am Michael Pisa, Jr. by sister Michele Pisa-Jones  
10am Adele Boschian by family  
10am Peter Fallone by family  
10am Vincenzo Esposito by family  
10am Annita Bastianelli-1st anniversary by family  
12pm Enzo DeLeonardis by family  
12pm Thomas & Benedetta Sabatini by Maria & Joe  
12pm Virgilio & MariaCandida Ferrera by Maria  
12pm Francesco & Evelina Ferrera by Maria  
**1:30pm Maria SS. di Custonaci w/Procession before Mass**

### August 27-Tuesday

Robert Pietraszewski by family

### August 28-Wednesday

Special Intentions of the DiMichele family by family  
Evandro & Sally DiMichele by DiMichele family

### August 29-Thursday

Gaetano & Antonietta Biundo by family  
Special Intentions of the DiMichele family by family  
Evandro & Sally DiMichele by family  
The Conversion of Sinners by the DiMichele family  
The Salvation of the Dying by DiMichele family

### August 31-Saturday

**6pm** Etta & Peter Bartoli by Corrado Bartoli  
**6pm** Josephine & Siegfried Wozniak by Dr. Wozniak

### Lectors for August:



**Aug. 04-**P. Graebert, M.Sugameli, N. Butros  
**Aug. 11-**J. Nowc, T. Silverio, L. Sawyer  
**Aug. 18-**P. Graebert, G. Buttacavoli, A. Perugi  
**Aug. 25-**J. Nowc, V. Amaro, N. Butros  
**Saturday, 6pm**  
**Aug. 3-**D. Brosky, **Aug. 10-**J. Foglyano  
**Aug. 17-**D. Brosky, **Aug. 24-**J. Foglyano  
**Aug. 31-**D. Brosky



**Reminders:** Remember to send or call the rectory office for Holy Mass intention requests by the 15th of the previous month so that your loved ones name can be placed in our bulletin paper.

Please call the rectory office to let us know of any change of address or phone numbers as we need to stay current on our registrations!

If you would like to become a member of our parish please ask Fr. Dino for the membership card after any one of our Holy Masses or call the rectory office. We look forward to having you on our list!



## FOR SAN FRANCESCO:

### THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY- THURSDAY, AUGUST 15th

This year it is a Holy day of obligation.  
Holy Masses @ **8am & 7pm**

### ASSUMPTION: SUNDAY, AUGUST 18th

After 12pm Mass, we will carry in procession around the Church, the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. All Societies and Clubs are invited to participate with their banners, please try to take part. The "**Assunta Society**" is organizing this celebration.



### SUNDAY, AUGUST 11-CHURCH PICNIC

San Francisco Church is very fortunate to have the support of so many families. We thank each of you for your support, assistance, and patronage to our Parish. On Sunday, August 11th we will host a picnic to be held on the church grounds from 11am to 5pm. A tent, table & chairs, main course, chips & water will be provided. Guests are free to bring their own picnic basket if they choose. All are welcome! Fun for the whole family with food (Italian flair), music and games. Free will donations accepted. For further information contact Ann Burrell @ (586) 242-1981. Thank you for supporting our parish, please come celebrate with us "Italian Style!" Sign up sheets for volunteers & desserts are available in the church vestibule.

### MARIA SS. DI CUSTONACI, SUNDAY-AUGUST 25th

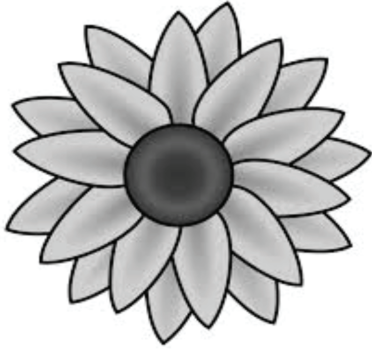
**1:30pm** Procession and Mass following.

### CATECHISM NEWS



We are currently accepting registrations for the 2024-2025 Religious Education Classes grades 1-8. Classes begin **September 24, 2024, from 5pm to 6:15pm**. Our program teaches "traditional doctrine" in accordance with the "Catechism of the Catholic Church." You do not need to be a registered parishioner to join. Simply complete a registration form and submit the form with payment to the church office. Forms are available in the vestibule of the church, or you can also print one from our website. All children must register, including those who participated in last year's classes.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Scossi dallo Sviluppo Dottrinale? Parte 8ª**

Carissimi parrocchiani e amici di San Francesco Church,

Questa volta voglio trattare del limbo. La parola limbo (orlo, bordo in latino) si riferisce a un "posto" nell'oltretomba tra il Paradiso e l'Inferno. Si distingueva tra limbus patrum (il limbo dei nostri antenati) e limbus infantium (limbo dei bambini morti senza essere stati battezzati). Nella Sacra Scrittura c'è un indiretto accenno al *limbus patrum* dove erano rinchiusi i giusti antichi prima della redenzione operata da Gesù Cristo con la sua passione, morte e resurrezione (1 Pietro 3:18-20 ed Ebrei 11:39-40). Infatti, nel Credo degli Apostoli si dice: "*fu crocefisso, morì e fu sepolto; discese agli inferi;*"

Il concetto di limbo per i bambini non battezzati fu necessitato nel V secolo come "posto" ipotetico, senza dolore e senza godimento, in quanto, alla loro morte, il peccato originale era ancora in essi anche se non avevano commesso nessun altro peccato.

Nei secoli successivi i teologi offrirono opinioni diverse su questo posto ipotetico di non sofferenza ma privo della visione beatifica di Dio goduta in paradiso.

Col passare dei secoli, i teologi dubitarono sempre di più della stessa esistenza del limbo. L'ultimo a parlare di limbo fu S. Pio X nel suo omonimo Catechismo. Si faceva risaltare invece il concetto di solidarietà del genere umano, dell'unificante disegno salvifico di Dio e l'impossibilità di interpretare la sua mente nel leggere nel cuore delle persone il loro desiderio di essere salvi.

Infine, nel Catechismo della Chiesa Cattolica del 1992, il concetto di limbo fu completamente sostituito da un invito ad affidare questo mistero e difficoltà teologica all'infinita misericordia di Dio.

Personalmente, vedo in questa decisione il lavoro dello Spirito Santo che, come Consolatore, porta soprattutto alle mamme che hanno avuto bambini nati morti o deceduti prima del battesimo, il conforto che si meritano davvero e lo sostituisce con un invito a progredire sulla via del Signore, fiduciosi nel suo amore infinito, portando frutti di carità che durino per sempre.

**P. Dino Vanin, PIME**



Our dedicated **Mary Mother of God Prayer Group** continues to meet every Monday @ 1:00pm.

Join us for prayer, refreshments and conversation afterwards in the church social hall. All are welcome!

