



“I have done what is mine to do; may Christ teach you yours!” —Francis of Assisi

The Transitus service this month was again a special time for me. There is nothing like gathering with my Franciscan brothers and sisters for prayer to honor the life and death of Francis. As I commented in conversation following the service the moment when the candle, representing Francis’ life, is blown out never ceases to take my breath away. I can only imagine what that moment was like for Francis’ brothers back in 1226.

The conversation in the church hall was another reminder to me of the importance of the so-called “elevator speech” as the two women who joined us asked questions about the Secular Franciscan Order and this way of life we have chosen to follow. The idea is that we should be able to give a short, focused description of the SFO (30 seconds or less) that is both informative and appealing to those who inquire about it. I must admit that I’ve never mastered this; I end up getting tongue-tied and rambling on. I keep working on it and maybe someday I’ll get it. What would your elevator speech be? —Bob

This month’s Fraternity Gathering

October 15, 2017 12:30 p.m. – Pot luck and gathering

Holy Family Catholic Church, lower level
2430 West 3rd St., Duluth
Park in the lower (gravel) parking lot

Agenda:

1. Opening Prayer: Franz
2. Liturgy of the Hours: Jane
3. Gospel sharing: Keith
4. Ongoing formation, “A Pope, a Sultan, a Friar, and a Lesson on Obedience”: Bob
5. Decisions from the REC
6. Packaging bird seed?
7. Advent/Christmas celebrations?
8. Business:
 - a. Stewardship prayer and collection
 - b. Approve September minutes
 - c. November meeting ministries:
Opening prayer:
LoH:
Gospel sharing:
Formation:
 - d. Finance report, payments, approvals
 - e. Formation and JPIC reports
 - f. JPIC Coordinator?
 - g. Other?
9. Vocations and closing prayers

Next month’s meeting: November 19, 2017

Council Meeting Agenda

Council meeting will immediately follow the fraternity meeting.

1. Opening Prayer
2. Approve minutes
3. Review agenda
4. Council Formation
5. Ongoing formation
6. Council membership
7. Comments, questions from fraternity members
8. Other business
9. Closing Prayer



Gospel Reading, Twenty Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time: Mt 22:1-14

Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come. A second time he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those invited: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast.'" Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.' The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests."

JPIC – (Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation)

The Queen of Peace web page has a nice description of what JPIC is all about:

JPIC in Action

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, which arises from our call to live the Gospel and our rule, challenges us to action. This action can take as many forms as there are needs in the world.

It can mean reaching out to the neighbor next door by shoveling snow or contributing to Catholic Relief Services to fund their development and disaster efforts. It can mean contacting our legislators about legislation to assist the poor or attending a meeting about the lack of affordable housing in our community.

Some days, it might mean providing a listening ear or a shoulder to cry on. Some of us feel called to promote the right for each baby conceived to be born and others for the right for that child to have adequate health care, a good education and a safe neighborhood. We might write a note to someone who is recently bereaved, pray about our decisions as voters, or keep informed on issues like immigration and refugees, the impact of technology on our quality of life, or understanding among different faith groups. Others feel called to raise awareness of the perils of climate change and the need for sustainable consumption and development. All of these issues and so many more fall under what Cardinal Joseph Bernardin called the "seamless garment of life." Each of us will respond out of our own gifts and circumstances and our sensitivity to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

It is the purpose of this website to be a helpful resource for you as you live out your call to bring joy and hope to others as a secular Franciscan.

Article 19 of our Rule highlights ways we live out **charity** – works of mercy, direct service to others, and **justice** – advocacy for legislative action and development that supports the dignity and value of all human life. It also reports on the actions of fraternities in our region. What are we doing in our local groups to further justice, peace and integrity of creation?

Article 19: "Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon. Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others." ~

Check it out if you get a chance.

—Jane

ODDS 'N' ENDS

A big thank you to all who attended and helped lead the Transitus service at St. Joseph's. Between this prayer service and last month's presence at St. John the Evangelist we are becoming more visible to the parishes here in the Twin Ports.

—Bob