

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

At last month’s ongoing formation we talked about servant leadership, which is a key element of the preferred style of leadership within Franciscanism. Another key element is shared responsibility for the life of the fraternity and the Order. Article 32 of our Constitution embodies both of these senses, “The brothers and sisters, rejecting all ambition, should **show love for the fraternity with a spirit of service**, prepared both **to accept and relinquish** the office” (emphasis mine). At various times we are called to lead, at others to support those who provide leadership. At all times “the sense of co-responsibility of the members requires personal presence, witness, prayer, and active collaboration” (Article 30. #2). In other words we have to show up, speak up, pray together, and work together for the good of the fraternity, each other, and the community.

During this month I had been tasked by the council to speak individually with each member about their willingness to serve in leadership. My heart was filled with joy as each member had clearly been reflecting about last month’s discussion and actively discerning their role within the fraternity. We may be a small group but are definitely filled with the spirit of Francis and Clare. As we move forward please join me in embodying Francis’ prayer before the cross: “Most High glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart. Give me right faith, sure hope and perfect charity. Fill me with understanding and knowledge that I may fulfill your command. Amen.” —Bob

**This month’s Fraternity Gathering**

**September 17, 2017 12:30 p.m. – Pot luck and gathering**

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

**Agenda:**

1. Opening Prayer: Pat
2. Liturgy of the Hours: Franz
3. Gospel sharing: Darlene
4. Ongoing formation, St. Clare: Jane
5. Leadership recommendations
6. Transitus plans
7. Business:
  - a. Stewardship prayer and collection
  - b. Approve August minutes
  - c. October meeting ministries:  
Opening prayer:  
Loth:  
Gospel sharing:  
Formation:
  - d. Finance report, payments, approvals
  - e. Formation and JPIC reports
  - f. Other?
8. Vocations and closing prayers

Next month’s meeting: October 15, 2017  
Ongoing formation- “A Pope, a Sultan, a Friar, and a Lesson on Obedience”: Bob

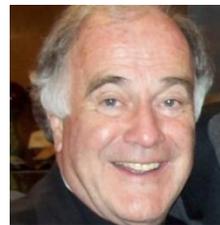
**REGIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FALL GATHERING**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

**9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

ST. BONAVENTURE PARISH~AMBROSE HALL  
901 E 90th St, Bloomington, MN 55420



FR. JOSEPH P. GILLESPIE, O.P.  
Pastor of St. Albert the Great Parish

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

Pope Francis encourages us to join him along with Christians around the world to pray and reaffirm our “personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation. . .”

Remember we are serving at Damiano September 16, 8:30 – 1:30. Thank you for serving. —Jane

## Gospel Reading, Twenty Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time: Mt 18:21-35

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt.

At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt.

Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

### Annual Diocesan Assembly

- **Date:** Saturday, October 14, 2017
- **Time:** 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM
- **Description:** Presenter Joe Miller from the Magis Center will speak on the compatibility of faith and reason
- **Location:** Marshall School, Duluth  
Registration and information available on the diocesan website, [www.dioceseduluth.org](http://www.dioceseduluth.org) or by calling the Pastoral Center, 218-724-9111



### ODDS 'N' ENDS

I forgot to mention last month that the fraternity council's recommendation that Darlene be professed was passed on to the REC for its approval. My understanding is that they will be meeting in October and, assuming they accept our recommendation, planning for the Mass and Rite of Profession will begin after that.

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If you have been following the news lately you've seen the Church, in both the Vatican and our American bishops, speaking out forcefully against racism and bigotry, and just as strongly in favor of protecting the rights of immigrants, including the undocumented. We are at a critical juncture in our nation with nativist sentiments finding fertile ground for promoting their views.

I was especially struck by Cardinal Dolan's response to a harsh critique that supporting immigration was not part of Catholic doctrine. The cardinal agreed that it was not a stated part of Church doctrine but that's because it has a deeper mandate in scripture: "The Bible is so clear, so clear, that to treat the immigrant with dignity and respect, to make sure that society is just in its treatment of the immigrant is Biblical mandate." The Franciscan Action Network has been working overtime lately to promote justice. I encourage you to stay in touch with and support their efforts as much as possible. Learn more at <https://franciscanaction.org/>

—Bob