



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

## Minister's Reflection

It occurred to me the other day how appropriate that November contain both the feast of All Saints and also the holiday of Thanksgiving. I have heard that the feast of All Saints was established for all the Saints who don't have their own feast day. These could be people who we knew, like a relative or someone in the community. They may not be recognized by the Church as saints, but they lived holy lives and witnessed to God's love in an exemplary way during their lifetimes. This leads me to the other bookend of November; Thanksgiving. I think we should give thanks for all the Saints, those recognized by the Church, but also the unnamed, unofficial ones, the ones who could have been our neighbors or who were our relatives and friends. The ones who helped us to become who we are today. I think of my grandmother who lived such a grace filled life, and also my uncle who showed me how to be a Christian man. It was all a part of God's plan that their lives intersected with ours, and what a blessing it was, certainly worth giving thanks and praise. Let's remember them during this month, maybe after Holy Communion or after our table prayer. Ask them to help us to continue our journey, to be a holy witness to others and be that link in a chain. —Franz

## Gospel Reading, Thirty Third Sunday of Ordinary Time: Mk : 13:24-32

Jesus said to his disciples: "In those days after that tribulation the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds' with great power and glory, and then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of the sky.

Learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that he is near, at the gates. Amen, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

## This month's Fraternity Gathering

**November 18, 2018, 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: Barb
2. Liturgy of the Hours: Jane
3. Gospel sharing: Darlene
4. Ongoing formation: Franz, Reflection 9 in *Live Like Francis*
5. Drawing of prayer partners for Christmas
6. Discuss Christmas collection for Damiano
7. Review plans for Christmas party
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) Other?
9. Vocations and closing prayers

Next month's meeting: December 16, 2018 at the Barnes'.

Ongoing formation: PARTY!

## Council Meeting Agenda

Council meeting will immediately follow the fraternity meeting.

1. Opening Prayer
2. Approve minutes
3. Review agenda
4. Review responsibilities of council members and servant leadership
5. 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rule
6. Planning next year's initiatives such as recruitment, visitation priorities
7. Other
8. Comments, questions from fraternity members
9. Closing Prayer

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

From Donna at Damiano:

“Thank you so much for thinking of us. We can always use winter wear, like coats, hats, gloves & boots. You know how our winters can be. Socks & underwear would be great also, [especially men's] Again Thank you!”

—Jane

## Wisdom from Fr. Solanus



We must be faithful to the present moment, or we will frustrate the plan of God for our lives.

Worry is a weakness from which very few of us are entirely free. We must be on guard against this most insidious enemy of our peace of soul. Instead let us foster confidence in God, and thank Him ahead of time for whatever He chooses to send us.

## Faith Matters

Recently I saw a report on TV about a movement of young professionals in our country who are embracing voluntary simplicity as a way of life. As you can imagine, that really caught my eye. It turns out, these people are doing this not for some spiritual purpose but to save up a giant store of money, so they can retire at a very young age. It's certainly not my place to make judgements about their lifestyle choice. I can only say that as Franciscans that's not our way.

We, too, embrace voluntary poverty. As it says in our Rule: “Let the Secular Franciscans seek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs. . .[T]hey should strive to purify their hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power.” (Article 11). We embrace simplicity for the sake of the Gospel (stewardship), for solidarity with the poor, and to remind ourselves of Francis' call to nonappropriation.

*By living sine proprio [without possessing], their poverty would be a countercultural rejection of wealth in all its forms. Their poverty would affect the way they related to each other and all others with regard their time, treasure, and talents. . .It would also include honors and titles, symbols of prestige, and above all, the human tendency to pride” (Crosby, Finding Francis, Following Christ).*

Thus our striving for simplicity includes but goes beyond material possessions. It also includes a poverty of spirit in our relationships with others and with structures of power and prestige.

And there is also a connection between simplicity and our emphasis as Franciscans on nonviolence and peace making. As Luci Arimond, co-founder of Loaves and Fishes, once astutely said,

*“The call to simplicity has at its core more than a desire for sacrifices or for solidarity with the poor. . .If you have nothing that you're afraid to lose, even though you may regret losing some things, then you cannot be betrayed by your fear into using violence for protection.”*

Let us welcome the upcoming Advent season by reflecting upon that “spirit of detachment from temporal goods” so that we can be free to love and serve others as Christ come into our midst. And let us be intentional about bringing the spirit of peace to our families and communities. —Bob

## **REGIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order USA**

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Note to media:

My name is Hazel Martin. I am the Regional Minister of Queen of Peace Region of the Secular Franciscan Order, which covers Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North and South Dakota and the western sliver of Wisconsin. I recently attended the Annual Chapter for The Secular Franciscan Order for the United States. In response to the crisis surrounding allegations of sexual abuse in the Church, the National Fraternity developed a position statement (see below). I ask you to consider using it as a **Letter to the Editor**. (*The Secular Franciscan Order is a community of Catholic men and women in the world who seek to pattern their lives after Jesus in the spirit of Francis of Assisi. Secular Franciscans are members of the Order of Saint Francis founded by Francis of Assisi over 800 years ago.*)

#### **OFS-USA NATIONAL CHAPTER 2018 STATEMENT**

We, the members of the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order - USA, gathered for our annual Chapter at the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel in Missouri, October 9-14, 2018. Approximately 90 leaders and observers were present, representing over 12,000 members throughout the United States, including Guam.

The recent Grand Jury report in Pennsylvania is a cause of sorrow, pain and agonizing self-scrutiny for the Catholic Church in the United States. We recognize the tragic reality of sinful abuse perpetrated on the most vulnerable. It deeply saddens all of us. We stand firm and make no excuses. The brothers and sisters of the Secular Franciscan Order extend mercy and compassion to the victims of abuse and to their abusers. Trusting in God who allows the good seed and the weeds to grow together (Mt. 13: 24-30), we pray for healing, forgiveness, reconciliation and peace.

More than 800 years ago, our Lord asked St. Francis of Assisi to “rebuild my Church which is falling into ruin.” Francis accomplished this by living a life of penance and sacrifice according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As followers of St. Francis, we commit ourselves to do the same. We call the members of our Order and invite all people of faith to be vigilant for the sake of the vulnerable and to foster strong relationships throughout the Body of Christ. We support the clergy and religious who serve Christ Jesus and His Church. Let us go forth in the Light of Christ to rebuild our Church, that it may be renewed as a beacon of hope and safe refuge, grace and truth.

Peace and all good,



## **ODDS 'N' ENDS**

Kudos to all involved in serving coffee and rolls this past month to the parishioners of Holy Angels in Moose Lake, especially to Keith and Ellen for coordinating our visit with Fr. Chris and the church. See the pictures on the next page.

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November 18, the date of our meeting, will mark the one-year anniversary of the beatification of Fr. Solanus. Keep his cause in your prayers.

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Speaking of Fr. Solanus, I had requested permission from his community to use his image in our fraternity banner. I haven't heard back from them yet but will keep trying.

—Bob



Newsletter edited by Bob