



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

You've no doubt heard the term "fake news" thrown around the past couple of years. Most often it is used when the speaker dislikes or objects to some facet of reality. Pope Francis weighed in on this term in his recent message for World Communications Day.

Francis denounced what he called "snake-tactics" (think Eve in the Garden) that consist of "false information based on non-existent or distorted data meant to deceive and manipulate the reader." Fake news has power, he said, because it sounds like it could be real news and because it "grasps people's attention by appealing to stereotypes and common social prejudices, and exploiting instantaneous emotions like anxiety, contempt, anger and frustration." It "ultimately makes us victims of something much more tragic: the deceptive power of evil that moves from one lie to another in order to rob us of our interior freedom."

That's the problem Francis sees. What, then, does he think we as Christians should do about fake news? Francis identifies two necessities: freedom from falsehood and the search for relationship. "To discern the truth, we need to discern everything that encourages communion and promotes goodness from whatever instead tends to isolate, divide, and oppose" (emphases mine). He said that peace is the real "true news" and ends his reflection with something we know well: the Peace Prayer attributed to St. Francis. May we all be wise discerners of the news and agents of peace.

—Bob

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

From the Franciscan Action Newsletter:

Suggestion Action: Take some time to reflect on this quote

"A church that does not provoke any crisis, preach a gospel that does not unsettle, proclaim a word of God that does not get under anyone's skin or a word of God that does not touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed: what kind of gospel is that?" —Oscar A. Romero

It was decided that as a fraternity we would like to try to serve three times a year at Damiano soup kitchen: January/April/September. Jane will contact them for to see if there are openings for the third Saturdays in April and September 2018. —Jane

### Gospel: First Sunday of Lent Mk 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

### **This month's Fraternity Gathering**

**February 18, 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: Bob
  2. Liturgy of the Hours: Franz
  3. Gospel sharing: Keith
  4. Ongoing formation: Darlene, Ch. 5 of *Live like Francis*
  5. Possible retreat for March?
  6. Formation workshop-who is going?
  7. Business:
    - a) Stewardship prayer and collection
    - b) Approve January minutes
    - c) March meeting ministries:
    - d) Opening prayer:  
LotH:  
Gospel sharing:  
Formation:
    - e) Finance report, payments, approvals
    - f) Formation and JPIC reports
    - g) Other?
  8. Vocations and closing prayers
- Next Month's meeting: March 18, 2018

## ODDS 'N' ENDS

Since our last gathering I learned from Tim Taormina, our Fraternal Visitor, that they want us to have a normal fraternity meeting. So I asked for and got volunteers to lead the parts we hadn't planned for. Thank you, Keith and Darlene, for stepping up.

This month marks five years since Mike Polson's death. Please remember Mike and his family in your prayers this month.

January

Our Fraternity weekend was filled with fun serving!



Jane loves serving the desserts. Me too!

## **Damiano Center**



Sunday Mass together & served refreshments at Bob and Jane's Parish- St Joseph's Church Duluth Heights

