



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

The cancellation of our meeting last month due to a snow storm (the first of three that week, as it turned out), led me to reflect on storms and our reaction to them. Particularly it struck me as strange that whenever there is a bad storm or an earthquake or a flood we tend to call that event "an act of God." Insurance policies even use that language. Now on one level I can see the truth in that: since we as humans didn't cause the event, often couldn't predict it, and certainly aren't in control of it, we attribute it to divine intervention. Fair enough. God can handle the blame.

However, I look out a hospital window a few days later at the warm sunlight glistening off the new-fallen snow on rooftops in downtown Duluth, and I rejoice. This, too, is an act of God. Indeed, as Franciscans, we see the presence

of God in everything. We speak of Brother Sun and Sister Moon, Brother Wind and Sister Water. And of course, we even speak of death as our Sister. So let us thank our heavenly Father for all the many acts of God in our lives.

—Bob

Gospel Fifth Sunday of Lent JN 12: 20-33

Some Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover Feast came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus."

Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

Jesus answered them,

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be.

The Father will honor whoever serves me.

"I am troubled now. Yet what should I say?

'Father, save me from this hour'?

But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour.

Father, glorify your name."

Then a voice came from heaven,

"I have glorified it and will glorify it again."

The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder;

but others said, "An angel has spoken to him."

Jesus answered and said,

"This voice did not come for my sake but for yours.

Now is the time of judgment on this world;

now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth,

I will draw everyone to myself."

He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.

This month's Fraternity Gathering

March 18, 2018 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: Bob
 2. Liturgy of the Hours: Franz
 3. Gospel sharing: Keith
 4. Ongoing formation: Darlene, Ch. 5 of *Live like Francis*
 5. Business:
 - a) Stewardship prayer and collection
 - b) Approve January minutes
 - c) April meeting ministries:
 - d) Opening prayer:
LoTH:
Gospel sharing:
Formation:
 - e) Finance report, payments, approvals
 - f) Formation and JPIC reports
 - g) Other?
 6. Vocations and closing prayers
- Next Month's meeting: April 15, 2018



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

We are set to serve at the Damiano Center next month, April 14th from 8:30AM to 1:30PM.

Jane

- o **Seasonal Reflection** from Queen of Peace Regional Fraternity

• **The Season of Lent**

The etymology of Lent is English. Long ago, in the Northern Hemisphere, the word Lent was understood to have the same word base as 'lengthen', so it pertained to the time of year when daytime hours continue to lengthen. (Resource: [Companions of the Calendar](#), p.12)

This penitential Season begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. Ash Wednesday occurs on the 7th Wednesday before Easter. However, the 40 days of Lent are counted from the 1st Sunday of Lent through the daylight hours of Holy Thursday. The days between Ash Wednesday and the 1st Sunday of Lent are an introduction to the upcoming 40 days; a time to think about what we want to change in connection with ourselves, and about the disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. If one looks closely at the word 'discipline', it starts out with the same letters as disciple. As Christians, we are disciples of Jesus. One of the symbols of Lent is the 'pretzel', since the shape of the food resembles a person's arms crossed in prayer.

The Liturgical color of Lent is purple with a reddish hue. The color purple represents conversion, a turning of one's heart toward God. If one reflects on one of the purposes of Lent, which is conversion, a person should view themselves differently at the end of the 40 days, than he or she did at the beginning of the Season.



Immaculate Conception Church in Isla Mujeres Mexico... very graphic Crucifix over altar and 3D stations of the cross... Statue of Mary is a legend that 3 fisherman found 3 identical statues in the 1700's..each brought to their village... made of wood with Porcelain hands and head..

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