



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

I'm still making my way through Pope Francis' latest apostolic letter, *Gaudete et Exultate* (Rejoice and Be Glad: On the Call to Holiness in Today's World). There is a lot here about finding holiness in the ordinary and routine, along with the examples of the saints of course. But this paragraph jumped out at me:

"A community that cherishes the little details of love, whose members care for one another and create an open and evangelizing environment, is a place where the risen Lord is present, sanctifying it in accordance with the Father's plan. There are times when, by a gift of the Lord's love, we are granted, amid these little details, consoling experiences of God" (145).

This passage spoke to me of the importance of fraternity, which is the lifeblood of Secular Franciscans. It wasn't always that way for me. There was a time when I thought that I could be a good Franciscan without bothering with fraternity. And I did live a life fully committed to the Franciscan Gospel life, . . . except for that one crucial piece. I credit the late Jim Hein for reminding me just how important it is to live my Franciscan walk with my brothers and sisters in fraternity. Now I cannot imagine being a Franciscan without fraternity.

I trust you are not as foolish as I was. However, I also know that our commitment to each other has its good days and bad days. That's human nature. However, as we look forward to becoming canonically established I encourage each of you to reflect afresh on your own commitment to fraternity life.

—Bob

Gospel: Pentecost Sunday Jn 20:19-23

On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples
were,
for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, "Peace be with you."
When he had said this, he showed them his
hands and his side.
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
And when he had said this, he breathed on them
and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit.
Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and whose sins you retain are retained."

This month's Fraternity Gathering

May 20, 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: Franz
2. Liturgy of the Hours: Jane
3. Gospel sharing: Darlene
4. Ongoing formation: Bob, "Mercy and Minority in the Franciscan Tradition," Part I, Dan Horan
5. Review Visitation Report
6. Business:
 - a) Stewardship prayer and collection
 - b) Approve March minutes
 - c) meeting ministries:
Opening prayer:
LoH:
Gospel sharing:
Formation: Keith, TBD.
 - d) Finance report, payments, approvals
 - e) Formation and JPIC reports
 - f) Other?
7. Vocations and closing prayers

Next month's meeting: June 17, 2018

REGIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Regional Fraternity meeting will be June 1-3 at Christ the King Retreat Center. Fraternity members, spouses, or family members are welcome to attend. The weekend begins Friday evening with check-in time from 3:00pm to 7:00pm. It is a great opportunity to see how the Regional Fraternity functions.

Cost for the weekend is \$175.00/person for a private room (2 nights lodging and four meals included) or \$155.00/person for a shared room. This is payable by cash or check, made out to Queen of Peace Region, before or upon arrival Friday evening.

NOTE: There will be no Friday evening meal at the Retreat Center.

Council Meeting Agenda

Council meeting will immediately follow the fraternity meeting.

1. Opening Prayer
2. Approve minutes
3. Review agenda
4. Follow up on Visitation Report
5. Formation plan for Returning Members
6. Other
7. Comments, questions from fraternity members
8. Other business
9. Closing Prayer



Darlene's thoughts...

Spring is here and everyone I've talked to is getting their bird feeders filled and the hummingbird sugar water out.

While visiting my sister this March in Arizona I noticed the Hummingbirds flying around the trees in her yard and into the Desert Ravine. I asked my sister if she put out feeders for them. She told me that they were advised not to, that it interfered with their purpose in being there. That really had me thinking about why we put feeders outside our windows. Would the birds starve if we didn't feed them? How much money is generated for the bird feeding industry? This Summer the bird feeders are put away and I will instead be watching them in the bushes and in the wild flower meadow in my yard.

BIRDS

**That God made birds is surely in His favor.
I write them as His courtesies of love.
Hidden in leaves, they offer me sweet savor
of lightsome music when they streak above
my garden wall they brush my scene with
color. They are embroideries upon the
grass. I write the gayest stitched-in
blossoms duller than birds which change
their patterns as I pass.
I nurse a holy envy of St. Francis who lured
the birds to nestle at his breast. Yet I am
grateful for this one which dances across
my lawn, a reckless anapest.
Subjects for gratitude push up my living
praise to a sum that tempts the infinite.
but birds deserve one whole psalm of
thanksgiving and these words are my
antiphon for it. Jessica Powers- 1956**

ODDS 'N' ENDS

Be sure to check out the new NAFRA website: <http://secularfranciscansusa.org/>



Also new, in case you missed it in the latest Tau is the new SFO logo. -Bob