



## Minister's Reflection

On New Year's Day, I did some reminiscing while paging through a folder of miscellaneous articles/clippings/notes that I collected over the years. I came across a card titled, "The New Rule in a Nutshell" by Fr. Habig, OFM. I can't recall who gave me the card but it must have been in circulation for years as the Rule is no longer new, but in fact 40 years old now. In the grand scheme of our 800+ year old Order, however, it's still a young Rule, so the title still holds.

The card reminded me of our project last year where we reduced each article of our Rule into one sentence. We discussed how we need to keep the Rule alive in our daily lives, and that looking at the Rule through the lens of these "nutshells" can be a way to do that. I decided that finding this card was a wake up sign for the New Year, to commit to reflecting on it each time I pray. I put the card in my Liturgy of the Hours so I can't miss it. It only takes a few minutes to read a "nutshell" and ponder what it means to me. I hope that you can find a way to integrate the Rule in your daily life. We Franciscans can't put this on the shelf as the Rule itself calls us to daily conversion. It also calls us to pray every day one of the liturgical prayers proposed by the Church. It all takes discipline and grace, but the fruit is so abundant and greatly needed in our world.

In this new year of 2019, I look forward to living the Rule and living in fraternity with you, my brothers and sisters. May God bless us in our commitment to walking the path of a Secular Franciscan in our communities and families.

—Franz

## This month's Fraternity Gathering

**January 20, 2019, 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: Darlene
2. Liturgy of the Hours: Franz
3. Gospel sharing: Barb
4. Ongoing formation: Keith, Reflection 10 in **Live Like Francis**
5. Annual report review
6. Business:
  - a) Stewardship prayer and collection
  - b) Approve November minutes
  - c) February meeting ministries:  
Opening prayer:  
LoTH:  
Gospel sharing:  
Formation:
  - d) Finance report, payments, approvals
  - e) Formation and JPIC reports
  - f) Other?
7. Vocations and closing prayers

Next month's meeting: February 17, 2019.

Ongoing formation: TBD

## Faith Matters: Reflections from your Spiritual Assistant

"I promise to live  
all the days of my life  
the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
in the Secular Franciscan Order  
by observing its rule of life."

With these words each of us who are professed into the SFO committed ourselves to living according to the Rule as promulgated 40 years ago by Pope Paul VI. The Rule was the result of many years of study and reflection upon the

teachings of Vatican II, the Franciscan sources as they were known then, and the lived experience of countless Secular Franciscans from around the world.

The Rule of 1978 came together under the inspiration of the Spirit to be an organic whole by which we Secular Franciscans are “animated and guided.” By organic whole I mean that we strive to follow each and every one of the articles of the Rule to the best of our abilities, by the grace of God. We don’t just pick out the ones we like or ignore the ones that seem too hard or make us uncomfortable.

In fact, it is probably the articles that make us most uncomfortable that point us in the direction of needed spiritual growth. Not unlike Francis kissing the leper in his day. Perhaps I’m struggling with some aspect of the Church these days and am put off by the call to “go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission.” Or perhaps I am a shy person and the thought of being “in the forefront of promoting justice” scares me to no end. Maybe I am fearful of economic hardship so the call to “seek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs” seems too much of a stretch.

The reality is that none of us is capable of perfectly living out the entirety of the Rule. We are sinners in daily need of “radical interior change which the gospel itself calls “conversion.” That is why fraternity is so crucial to us as Secular Franciscans. We lean on each other for support in living our gospel call, we pray with and for each other, we share our gifts that your strength and wisdom can help to fill in my weak areas, and we call each other to faithfulness, service and joy. The Rule, taken as a whole, is our guide on this marvelous, challenging and joy-filled journey together. As Franz notes above, let us with the help of the Rule to recommit ourselves in 2019 “to walking the path of a Secular Franciscan in our communities and families.”

—Bob

### **Gospel Reading, Second Sunday of Ordinary**

**Time: Jn 2:1-11**

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."

And Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told the them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it.

And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from — although the servers who had drawn the water knew —, the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now."

Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

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

Reminder for those who said they were coming: Our next Damiano meal service is Saturday, January 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



A big thank you to all for the wonderful donations to Damiano (see picture), and for Barb who dropped everything off. —Jane



Photo by Darlene



The fraternity at table for the Christmas party (Photo by Darlene).

### Franciscan Saints/Blesseds of the Month

- 7 BL ANGELA OF FOLIGNO
- 12 ST BERNARD OF CORLEONE
- 14 BL ODORIC OF PORDENONE
- 16 STS BERARD AND COMPANIONS  
 Sts. [Berard](#), Peter, Accursius, Adjutus and Otto, first martyrs (the *Protomartyrs*) of the Franciscan Order, were all natives of Umbria, Italy. Sent by St. Francis in 1219 to preach to the Moors, their first mission to the Moors in Seville was unsuccessful, and they crossed to Morocco where they preached in the presence of King Mira-ma-Molin. The king had them expelled but the friars evaded the guard at Ceuta and returned to their mission. Infuriated by their insistence, the king had them put to death by the sword on Jan. 16, 1220. Their remains were brought back to Europe and rested in the church of the Canons Regular of St. Augustine of the Holy Cross at Coimbra where St. Anthony of Padua – not yet a friar – was a member of the community. Berard and his companions were canonized in 1481 by Pope Sixtus IV. (Source: <https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/franciscan-calendar.html>)
- 24 ST FRANCIS de SALES
- 27 ST ANGELA MERICI
- 30 ST HYACINTH OF MARISCOTTI
- 31 ST JOHN BOSCO

### Wisdom from Fr. Solanus

The weaknesses we experience are naturally providential guards against one of the greatest dangers to holiness: pride.

Heaven—where love of God and our neighbor is the life and very soul of society and association, where hopeful faith has merged into eternal charity.



### ODDS 'N' ENDS

Diocese of Duluth Men of Faith Catholic Conference

Saturday March 19, 2019 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Marshall School  
 1215 Rice Lake Road  
 Duluth, MN 55811

Guest Speaker: Paul George

He is the author of *Rethink Happiness: Dare to Embrace God and Experience True Joy*. Paul also host a weekly national radio show and podcast, *The Paul George Show*. He has a master's degree in theology from the University of Dallas. Paul resides in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Our Regional Spiritual Director, Kathy Taormina, is recruiting professed Secular Franciscans for the next Spiritual Assistants class starting this summer. It is a two-year program leading to commissioning as a Spiritual Assistant. Please consider whether God is calling you to this ministry. —Bob