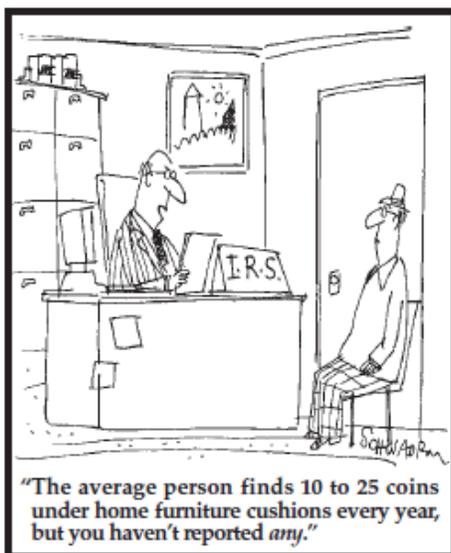


"I have done what is mine to do; may Christ teach you yours!" —Francis of Assisi

Minister's Reflection

In our Rule, we read how we should seek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods. In this season of Lent, the Church encourages the faithful in seeking this detachment too. With both the Rule and the Church pointing us to detachment, I thought it would be a good point to cover in this month's message to you, my brothers and sisters in the fraternity.

Catherine Doherty writes, "one of the hardest things to be detached from is our daily routine and lifestyle." We have a plan for our day and when other things pop up, it's easy for us to say we are too busy or if the interruption is urgent, we may respond with irritation. Catherine says that detachment from our plans, our routine, allows us to respond to others. In fact, she says, "at any moment you must drop everything. You must be available especially for God." (Poustinia, pg. 101) We know that God works through other people and events. We should see Christ in these disruptions in our day. Sometimes you may see me get a little out of sorts when our meetings don't go according to plan. Say a prayer for me, God has a lot of work to do. I have a lot to learn about the plans I make and letting God's plan for me take precedence. May God give you the strength and desire to seek detachment from temporal goods, even your routine, so that you may Love Him and serve him better every day of your life. —Franz



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Gospel Reading, Second Sunday of Lent: Lk 9:28b-36

Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." But he did not know what he was saying.

While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.

This month's Fraternity Gathering

February 17, 2019, 12:30 p.m. – Pot luck and gathering.

NOTE: Irish theme for lunch

Holy Family Catholic Church, lower level

2430 West 3rd St., Duluth

Park in the lower (gravel) parking lot

Agenda: Lenten retreat day. Theme: "On the Road with Francis"

Next month's meeting: April 28, 2019.

Ongoing formation: Rob, Reflection 11 in *Live Like Francis*, or alternative



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Franciscan Saints/Blesseds of the Month

2 St. Agnes of Prague

St Agnes de Prague was born to the king of Bohemia in the year 1205. She was sought as a bride by many kings of Europe. She begged Pope Gregory IX to intervene, and as a result she obtained her freedom. The emperor declared himself satisfied since Agnes chose not a human being but the God of heaven in preference to him. Agnes resolved to establish a convent of Poor Clares in the capital city of Prague. St. Clare sent five sisters from the convent of St. Damian in Assisi. Agnes and seven other young women of the highest ranks of society entered the new convent together with these sisters. Agnes distinguished herself as a model of virtue. Holy zeal, similar to that of her holy mother St. Clare, characterized her vigilance regarding the observance of holy poverty. Agnes died on March 6, 1282. Her feast, which has long been celebrated in Prague on March 2nd, has been extended to the entire Franciscan Order.

9 St. Frances of Rome

24 Bl. Didacus Joseph of Cadiz

Faith Matters: Reflections from your Spiritual Assistant

Article 5: Secular Franciscans, therefore, should seek to encounter the living and active person of Christ in their brothers and sisters, in Sacred Scripture, in the Church, and in liturgical activity. The faith of St. Francis, who often said, "I see nothing bodily of the Most High Son of God in this world except His most holy body and blood," should be the inspiration and pattern of their Eucharistic life.

There's a scene in the old movie "City Slickers" where the wizened old cowhand tries to tell his greenhorn charges the true meaning of life. "It's just one thing," he says, to their initial confusion. They eventually figure out his meaning: for each of us there is one key belief or priority around which we build our lives. Everything else is secondary.

For Francis the "just one thing" was Jesus Christ. Everything in Francis' mind was about conforming himself as closely as possible to Christ. For him "what would Jesus do?" wasn't a clever saying from the 90's but a way of life. And because Francis was a pretty concrete thinker, he sought out the Lord in the things he could see, hear and touch: his brothers and sisters in community, the sound of the Gospels read aloud, the feel of the candles or smell of incense in churches, and, of course, in the Eucharistic bread and wine.

As followers of Francis the Eucharistic liturgy holds a special place in our lives. Of course, this isn't unique to us: for all Catholics liturgy is the source and summit of our prayer lives and our lives together in the community of faith. What it does mean is that Franciscans should be actively engaged in the liturgy, not just going through the motions. As Fr. Lester states in the Franciscan Journey, "Our participation should be as dedicated as we can make it. What we receive at the Eucharistic liturgy is so rich that we do not keep it to ourselves. We become passionate to share the good news with everyone, always in appropriate ways" (p. 152). Our encounter with Jesus in the Eucharistic liturgy inspires us to show God's love to the world around us. How does the faith of Francis inspire your Eucharistic life?

—Bob

Council Meeting Agenda

Council meeting will immediately follow the fraternity meeting.

1. Opening Prayer
2. Approve minutes and agenda
4. Visitation update
5. Initial Formation decision
6. Other
8. Closing Prayer

Wisdom from Fr. Solanus

Redemption and hope in the final purpose of our existence: to know Him, our blessed Beginning, our Life, and our All.

Shake off anxiety. Last year it was something that you smile about now. Tomorrow it's about something that will not be serious if you raise your heart to God and thank Him for whatever comes.

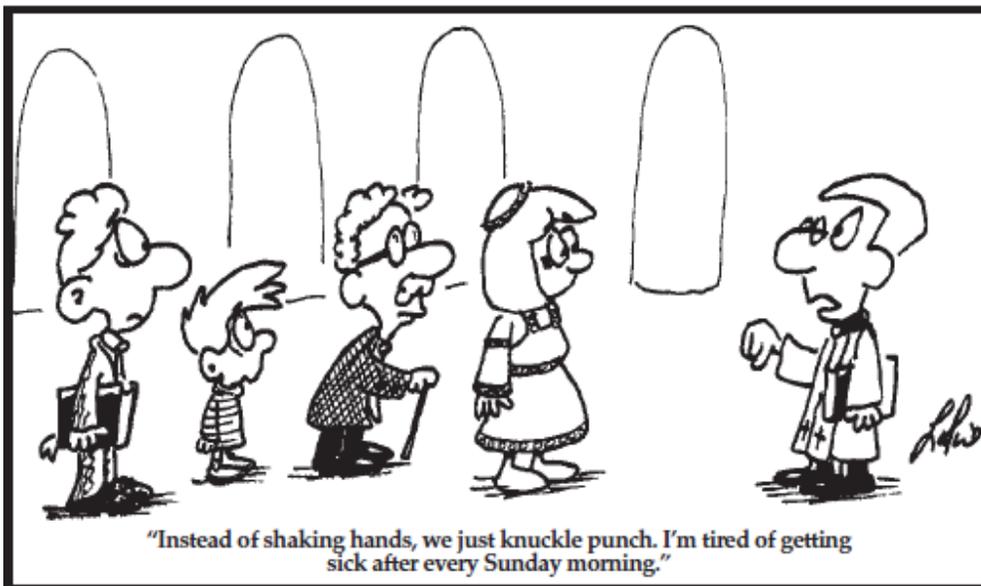
ODDS 'N' ENDS

If you haven't done so yet, read the latest Tau. It has a lot of information from the 2018 NAFRA Chapter as well as the December National Executive Council meeting. Of special note is the 2019-2021 National Priority: Fraternity Life. There are three aspects to this:

1. Deepening our Franciscan vocation
2. Growing in Fraternal Communion
3. Cultivating Universal Kinship

Save the date: The Annual Queen of Peace Regional Meeting is coming up, Friday, May 31 – Sunday, June 2, 2019. It's a great opportunity to see how the Regional Fraternity works. Since it is our visitation year, representatives of the National Fraternity will be attending. All SFO members in the Region are welcome to come. The cost of the weekend is \$175.00 per person/single room, or \$150.00 per person/shared room. This cost includes three meals on Saturday. Registration information should be coming in the next month or so.

—Bob



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

Reminder for those who said they were serving: Our next Damiano meal is Saturday, March 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

—Jane