



Minister's Reflection

Our next lesson in the *Live Like Francis* book is in a new section titled “Conversion”, a topic that is no stranger to any Secular Franciscan, otherwise known as a Brother or Sister of Penance. Indeed, our Rule Article #7 asks us to conform our thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which is called conversion. We know that conversion is a process of a lifetime because we are all prone to get stuck in our ways, which often are not God's ways. A careful reading and reflection on the Gospel opens our eyes to God's ways. Prayer and self-examination are helpful. Yet, we know from the Rule that both thoughts and deeds must be conformed to Christ. Our actions should be a sign of the interior change. Sometimes, we get that reversed. We go through the actions without the interior change, without the relationship with Jesus. Another path to change that I have found is through failure. Failure can open one's eyes to the truth of our situation, of our relationship with God. I look forward to the summer months ahead and our discussions on conversion. May we all be a help to each other on this path to conversion.

—Franz

This month's Fraternity Gathering

May 19, 2019, 10:30 a.m. – Isabelle baptism (sanctuary), reception (social hall), and fraternity gathering (parish library)

St. Benedict Catholic Church
1419 St. Benedict St., Duluth

Agenda:

1. Opening prayer – Bob
2. LotH – Kathy
3. Gospel sharing – Barb
4. Ongoing Formation – Keith, Reflection 12 in *Live Like Francis*
5. Business
 - a. Approve April minutes
 - b. Treasurer report, bills, receipts
 - c. Formation report
 - d. JPIC report
6. Vocation and closing prayer

Next month's meeting: June 16, 2019.

Ongoing formation: TBD

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

From the Franciscan Action Network:

Franciscan Fast for Peace During Ramadan

As the poet Rumi said “We are all the same... all the same... longing to find our way back... back to the One... back to the only One!” Whether there is an attack on a Synagogue in Pittsburgh, a Mosque in New Zealand, or a Christian church in Sri Lanka, it is an attack on all of us. We are all the same. God is in each of us and we are all part of God. When you are attacked, I am attacked; when I hurt, you hurt; when you feel joy, I feel joy.

The Muslim holy observance of Ramadan begins at sundown on May 5th and continues to June 4th. Each year, during the 9th month of the Islamic lunar calendar, 1.5 billion Muslims participate in this season when, from sunrise to sunset, they fast from food, drink, and general sinful behavior, such as violence, arguing, and lying. It is seen as an opportunity for Muslims to rediscover their own belief, improve their character, and ensure they bring benefit to society. The idea is to develop a deeper understanding of where you are and what you have in order to become a better person.

Because we wish to stand in solidarity with our Muslim sisters and brothers, and honor their beliefs, we invite all our Franciscan members and friends to join us in a day of fasting on Friday, May 17th. On this day, we as Franciscans will fast in whatever way is possible for us individually. As we fast, we will pray for peace in all hearts, peace in all minds, and peace in our world.

—Darlene

Faith Matters: Reflections from your Spiritual Assistant

Article 10: United themselves to the redemptive obedience of Jesus, who placed His will into the Father's hands, let them faithfully fulfill the duties proper to their various circumstances of life. Let them also follow the poor and crucified Christ, witness to Him even in difficulties and persecutions.

I have never forgotten the prayer on the card given out by Sr. Edward Marie at the end of our eighth grade school year: "Most Holy Spirit, come to my aid. Enlighten my mind that I may successfully complete my course of studies, and honorably fill the station of life to which I may be called." I have prayed that prayer many times over the years, especially at times of key turning points or big decisions about job choices.

Each of us has been called by God to build the Kingdom in whatever "circumstances of life" we have been called to. Each of us has been given specific gifts or talents with which to carry out our life's calling. For some of us that calling is lived out through our careers; for others it is in the raising of children, for some it is through volunteer work.

The Catholic Social Teaching tradition speaks of the inherent dignity and importance of work in our lives. Work is more than earning a paycheck. As St. John Paul II stated, "Work is a good thing for man—a good thing for his humanity—because through work man *not only transforms nature*, adapting it to his own needs, but he also *achieves fulfillment* as a human being and indeed, in a sense, becomes 'more a human being'" (On Human Work). Work brings meaning to our lives and enables us to cooperate with God as co-creators.

As Franciscans we strive to let Christ show through our work and other activities. As Jesus "placed His will into the Father's hands" we place ourselves at the service of God and others. By "faithfully" is meant that we strive to act with compassion, integrity, perseverance, and joy in all that we do. And when it is difficult to do so, we remember Jesus' command to take up our cross and follow him in "redemptive obedience." May we each honorably fill the station of life to which we have been called.

—Bob

Franciscan Saints/Blesseds of the Month

9 ST CATHERINE OF BOLOGNA

11 ST IGNATIUS OF LACONI

16 ST MARGARET OF CORTONA

Saint Margaret was born in 1247 near the town of Cortona in Italy. Her mother died when she was very young and her stepmother treated her so badly that Margaret left home as a young adult and lived a rather wild life for several years. That ended when her lover was killed by his enemies.

Margaret returned home and threw herself publicly at the mercy of her parish community, which received a mixed reaction. In Cortona she met a friar who helped her find direction in her life.

In 1277 Margaret received the habit of the Third Order and lived in austerity as a penitent. She became an informal confessor to many who sought out her wisdom and healing touch. Margaret died in 1297 and her body is preserved at a shrine in Cortona.

17 ST PASCHAL BAYLON

18 ST FELIX OF CANTALICE

20 ST BERNADINE OF SIENA

24 DEDICATION OF BASILICA OF ST FRANCIS

28 ST MARIANA OF JESUS de PAREDES

30 BL BAPTISTA VARANO

30 ST FERDINAND, KING

Gospel Reading, Second Sunday of Easter: Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

When Judas had left them, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and God will glorify him at once. My children, I will be with you only a little while longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"Is that one of those apples that keep doctors away?"

BIL
and
JEFF
KEANE

Newsletter edited
by Bob