



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

## Minister's Reflection

In the Church's June calendar, we see an impressive array of saints' feast days, such as Justin Martyr, Boniface, Norbert, and Aloysius Gonzaga. We also meet some special feasts such as Corpus Christi and Trinity Sunday. However, when I think of June, I think of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 28<sup>th</sup>. St Margaret Mary Alacoque is most often credited with increasing this devotion in the Church. However, I see from Wikipedia that Anglicans, Lutherans and Eastern Catholics also have the devotion. Pictures of the Sacred Heart are so common in our churches and Catholic homes that we tend to not pay much attention to it anymore. It often becomes relegated to just Catholic art. To me, the burning heart of Jesus reminds me about God's love and how it differs from human love. I think of how infinite divine love is and how it is not conditional. It's tempting to project our human perspective onto God's love, thinking that when we sin, we don't deserve his love or that his love is diminished. The image of the Sacred Heart should dispel this thinking. The burning heart of Jesus can't be put out by our actions or changed. I think God's love is a good object for Franciscans to reflect on. I remember reading how St Francis could never refuse a request that was prefaced with, "for the love of God". That phrase is so powerful, that the Christian heart must respond.

—Franz

## This month's Fraternity Gathering

**June 16, 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 – Kathy
2. LotH – Darlene
3. Gospel sharing – Jane
4. Ongoing Formation – Bob, Ecclesiology of Laity
5. Report from Regional fraternity gathering
6. Picnic?
7. Transitus location?
8. Business
  - a. Approve minutes, assign ministries
  - b. Treasurer reports, bills, receipts
  - c. Formation report
  - d. JPIC report
9. Vocation and closing prayer

Next month's meeting: July 20, 2019.

Ongoing formation: TBD

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

**From the Franciscan Action Network:**

As people of faith and spirit, we are deeply grateful for the Earth. Yet we know that nature is out of balance and feel a moral responsibility to respond. We want our lives to reflect our values, avoiding excess and embracing simplicity. FAN continues to support the **Living the Change** campaign, where individuals can make personal commitments to live more sustainably. Additionally, we offer information on more climate care events below.

June 18th, 2019 marks the fourth anniversary of the release of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home* and momentum is building in the U.S. Catholic Church. The Catholic Climate Covenant is hosting a webinar on **Tuesday, June 11th, 2019 at 3pm ET / 12p PT**, where they will share the good news of what has happened as well as what lies just ahead so, together, we can build on these efforts. Register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3581209826363874827?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=2f2b1366-1d93-4aa5-a692-53f9933cff71&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=725575e9-0eb8-4393-baf7-fffc448ff6a0> even if you can not attend in person and you will receive a recording of the webinar.

Millions of school strikers have shown us they're serious about climate action and on Friday, May 24th, the youth challenged adults: Will you join us? We urge our members and friends to **save the date for a global week of action for the climate from Friday, September 20 to Friday, September 27, 2019.** Stay tuned for more information.

—Darlene

## Faith Matters: Reflections from your Spiritual Assistant

*Article 13: As the Father sees in every person the features of his Son, the firstborn of many brothers and sisters, so the Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ.*

*A sense of community will make them joyful and ready to place themselves on an equal basis with all people, especially with the lowly for whom they shall strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ.*

My experience over the years has been that, as a group, Franciscans are the most accepting and welcoming people I've known. There are exceptions to be sure but most of us live out the first part of this Article of the Rule pretty well. You could say that it's built into our spiritual DNA.

The second paragraph has a lot of different, but connected, pieces to it that need some teasing out. I especially love the flow described here: 1) "a sense of community" with each other in fraternity leads us to be 2) "joyful and ready" to enter into relationships of mutuality "with all people," with 3) a special emphasis on "the lowly", for whom we 4) strive to make their lives better. Each step in this process requires a foundation in the step just before it. It all starts with community and a recognition of each person as "a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ."

And then there is that phrase, "conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ." What does that mean and how do we work toward to bring it about? To my mind it is all about respect for their God-given human dignity. It means seeing life from their perspective and being in true solidarity with them, as in the old expression to "walk a mile in someone else's shoes." There is no "us and them." There is only "us," brothers and sisters in Christ.

Many years ago, I was blessed to take part in a day-long "poverty immersion" workshop. Each of us was given an identity and placed in a scenario common to people living in poverty. The experience opened my eyes to what it was like to maneuver through the simulated world without many of the basic things I take for granted every day. As my pretend "wife" and I struggled to maintain the survival and dignity of our "family," even simple moral choices weren't so simple anymore. At the end of the day I could go back to my relatively comfortable life, but I learned new empathy for those who couldn't so easily step out of their circumstances.

Francis learned this lesson by living amongst and identifying with the poor, the lowly, and the outcasts of the Umbrian Valley. And he commanded his followers to do the same. As Secular Franciscans we still follow this call, whether it is Barb's volunteering at Damiano, Keith and Ellen with Meals on Wheels, or Jane's work with homeless youth, to name just a few examples. In countless ways we demonstrate our belief that the other has value, is worthy of respect, and is truly an "imago Christi."  
—Bob

## Franciscan Saints/Blesseds of the Month

12 BL JOLENTA

13 ST ANTHONY OF PADUA

22 ST THOMAS MORE

Thomas More was born in London in 1480 and grew up as a devout youth. He became a lawyer, a scholar and writer, and a Third Order Franciscan.

Thomas joined the court of Henry VIII and later was appointed Lord High Chancellor in charge of running affairs of the Kingdom for the king. Unfortunately for Thomas this was during the time of King Henry's conflict with the Pope over his divorce from Queen Catherine and his remarriage to Anne Boleyn. Henry broke from Rome and had himself set up as the head of the Church of England. He demanded that all his subjects approve his actions under penalty of death.

Because Thomas refused to swear an oath to this action he was imprisoned in the Tower of London. When this punishment failed to change Thomas' allegiance to the Church of Rome, Henry ordered his execution for treason. Thomas More was beheaded on May 19, 1535. He famously said before his death, "I die the king's faithful servant, but God's first."

30 BL RAYMOND LULL



## Gospel Reading, Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity: Jn 16:12-15

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you."



Little Isabelle joins the Church, May 19, 2019



Sunday breakfast at the Regional Fraternity meeting in Buffalo, MN

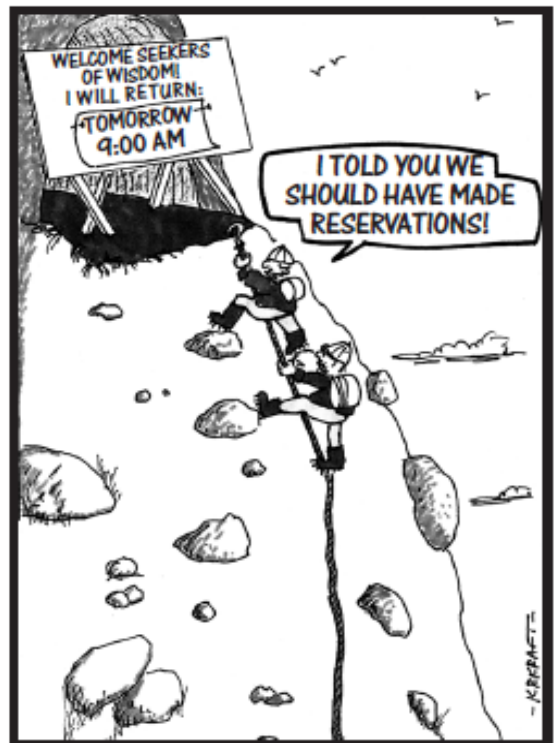
### ODDS 'N' ENDS

It's official: we are on for hosting next spring's Regional Gathering in Little Falls. Let's put our thinking caps on as we come up with a speaker and a theme.

Hazel Martin, our Regional Minister, will be presiding over our fraternity election in September. Our Regional Spiritual Assistant, Kathy Taormina, may also come or she might delegate me to witness the election in her place.

There are five Secular Franciscans in the Spiritual Assistants class which just started at the end of May. If all goes well they will be commissioned in two years. Please keep these SA candidates in your prayers.

At the Regional Fraternity gathering's silent auction fundraiser Jane and I managed to win for our fraternity the large San Damiano cross that used to grace the convent in Little Falls when I worked there. It will be great for our Transitus. —Bob



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