



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

### Minister's Reflection

The Saint constantly endeavored to persevere in this gladness of heart...With utmost solicitude he avoided the greatest evil of ill humor... With imperturbable calmness and cheerfulness of mind he sang to himself and to God songs of joy in his heart. Thomas of Celano.

According to Celano, St Francis worked at being joyful. It wasn't a feeling of the moment or a feeling dependent on circumstances. He avoided things that made him sad, and he sought the things that kept him joyful. I think his joy attracted others to join him in his walk of life. As secular Franciscans, we need work for this joy too. Our joyfulness will help others to discern a calling to join us. A joy filled Christian will attract others to seek the Lord. Joy isn't something that can be purchased or found by academic study. It is something that comes from being close to God, knowing Him and serving Him. Avoiding sin is critical, but so is trusting in God's goodness, confident that He is near and that all will be well. I think that our monthly fraternity gatherings are a good place for us to build up each other in joy. Being children of the light, we bring that light to each other as we make our way through this vale of tears. May God help us know what true joy is and to share it with each other. —Franz

### This month's Fraternity Gathering

**August 18, 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. LotH – Jane
3. Gospel sharing – Barb
4. Ongoing Formation – Bob, "The Church's Six Main Spiritualities"
5. Transitus plans
6. Damiano volunteers
7. Business
  - a. Approve minutes, assign ministries
  - b. Treasurer reports, bills, receipts
  - c. Formation report
  - d. JPIC report
8. Vocation and closing prayer

Next month's meeting: September 15, 2019.

**Fraternity election!**

### Gospel Reading, 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time: Lk 12:49-53

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three; a father will be divided against his son and a son against his father, a mother against her daughter and a daughter against her mother, a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."



## Faith Matters: Reflections from your Spiritual Assistant

*Article 17. In their family they should cultivate the Franciscan spirit of peace, fidelity, and respect for life, striving to make of it a sign of a world already renewed in Christ.*

*By living the grace of matrimony, husbands and wives in particular should bear witness in the world to the love of Christ for His Church. They should joyfully accompany their children on their human and spiritual journey by providing a simple and open Christian education and being attentive to the vocation of each child.*

It should come as no surprise that our Rule places a great emphasis on the family as part of living the Franciscan vocation. The Church has long promoted family life as integral to our faith and has spoken of the family as the “domestic Church” and the primary site of a child’s religious formation.

To this foundation the Rule adds that Seculars who are parents should add “the Franciscan spirit of peace, fidelity, and respect for life.” Why these virtues? I think it is because a family which practices these consistently can truly be “a sign of a world **already renewed in Christ** (emphasis added). The Reign of God has already broken upon us, and these virtues are both a means to promoting God’s Reign and the fruits we can expect from it. Those who are married who live out these virtues “bear witness, . . . to the love of Christ for His Church.”

None of this leaves out those of us who are single or whose marriages were torn apart by death or divorce. The call to conform family life to the Gospel of Jesus Christ applies even to a family of one, or if there are no children to raise. We are each a part of many families: our family of origin, our immediate family, our parish family, our fraternity and, of course, the entire Franciscan family, to name just a few. Often those who are single are freer to focus on service and the needs of others.

The question for all of us, single or married, is how do we “joyfully accompany” others in our lives by “providing a simple and open Christian education and being attentive to the vocation” of each person?” If you recall our discussions of Jesus and the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, you can see that the statement above pretty well describes the ministry that Jesus provided to his fellow travelers. Jesus walked along with them, he gave them a scriptural lesson, and respected their “vocation” as witnesses to the resurrection when he revealed himself in the breaking of the bread. How do you bear witness to the love of Christ in your world?  
—Bob

## Franciscan Saints/Blesseds of the Month

- 2 OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS OF PORTIUNCULA
- 4 ST JOHN BAPTIST MARY VIANNEY
- 7 BLS AGATHANGELUS AND CASSIAN
- 8 HOLY FATHER DOMINIC
- 11 ST CLARE OF ASSISI
- 14 ST MAXIMILIAN KOLBE
- 17 ST ROCH

St Roch was born in 1348 at Montpellier in France, the son of the noble governor of that city. His birth was described as a miracle since his mother was infertile, and he was marked from birth with a red cross on his breast. Roch was raised in a devout manner by his parents. They died when Roch was just 20. He then gave away all his inheritance to the poor and joined the Third Order of St. Francis.

Intending to make a pilgrimage to Rome, Roch instead ministered to plague victims in cities throughout Italy. He was said to have healed many by his prayers and the touch of his hand. Eventually Roch contracted plague himself but survived only to be arrested as a spy on his return home. He was thrown in prison and died there several years later. It was then that the townspeople recognized the red cross on his chest and proclaimed him a saint by popular demand.

- 19 ST LOUIS OF TOULOUSE
- 21 ST PIUS X
- 25 ST LOUIS IX

## Council Meeting Agenda

Council meeting will immediately follow the fraternity meeting.

1. Opening Prayer
2. Approve minutes/agenda
3. Preparation for Election
4. Formation update
5. Spring gathering-April 25, 2020
6. Comments, questions from fraternity members
7. Other business
8. Closing Prayer



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### ODDS 'N' ENDS

Reminder: We are scheduled to serve at Damiano on **September 14** (the day before our gathering) from **8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** Let's make sure at the fraternity gathering that we verify who's coming.

#### Collection for the migrants at the border

Here's the list of things to bring for our collection to send to Project Oak Tree in New Mexico:

- Personal size travel hygiene supplies
- Lip balm
- Hairbrushes and hair ties
- Small and medium belts
- Shoelaces
- New underwear and socks for children and adults

#### Built Upon a Rock Fest

The third annual Mass/free music festival sponsored by the Diocese of Duluth will be Saturday, **September 14** at the **Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary**. The Mass starts at 4:00 p.m. with the concert/food to follow. —Bob

Editor's Note: Normally the *Joyful Noiseletter* is the source of our monthly cartoons but the following appeared in the July/August edition under the title "Christ-like' figures through the centuries", written by the Editor, Cal Samra.

#### St. Francis of Assisi

Like Jesus, St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226 A.D.) wept occasionally, but joy and wit were Francis's trademarks, and he considered himself a "fool for Christ." "Where there is sadness," Francis prayed, "let me sow Your joy."

In his book, *St. Francis*, Nikos Kazantzakis wrote: "When Francis was among others, he would laugh and frolic – would spring suddenly into the air and begin to dance, or would seize two sticks and play the violin while singing sacred songs he himself composed." Francis asked, "Lord, where do I get the strength to sing and dance on this dunghill?"

Men and women by the thousands were attracted to Francis because of his joy and good spirits. G. K. Chesterton observed that in the 13th century, "men acted quite differently according to whether they had met him or not."

Francis embraced poverty and celibacy, but he "wanted his followers to laugh, not to waste their breath on sullen denunciations." He urged his followers to walk everywhere, like Jesus, and the Franciscans of his time were merry-hearted men and women.

Francis was a lover of nature and a peacemaker. He made a valiant effort to make peace between the Christians and the Muslims during the Crusades.

The Franciscan monasteries and retreat centers were renowned as healing centers where troubled Christians and the poor could go to practice their faith. They were encouraged to work and to garden, as well as to pray and sing, and grew strong on the healthy organic fruits and vegetables they raised and ate. They no doubt helped and healed many more trouble persons than have our modern, very expensive psychiatric hospitals, which generally are indifferent or hostile to religious faith.

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

From Tammy A. Keiter, OFS, the Queen of Peace Region JPIC Animator:

Each year the Season of Creation begins on September 1, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends on October 4, the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. Christian families unite for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home.

This year, the theme for the season is biodiversity, God's interwoven wondrously web of life and the value of each creature.

The attached guide will help you learn about the Season and plan how to celebrate it. More resources, including webinars and prayer services, a Facebook group, and photos, are available online. Please visit [SeasonOfCreation.org](http://SeasonOfCreation.org) to access all of the materials.

Sample guides will be available at the fraternity gathering.

—Darlene

### **Wisdom from Solanus Casey**

- ❖ Like the Holy Trinity, faith, hope, and charity are one. Theoretically, faith—like the Eternal Father—comes first; but in both cases, they are essentially one.
- ❖ Confidence in God—the very soul of courage—is victory assured.
- ❖ The world is full of misunderstanding, but God often uses its mistakes to correct us and to give us the right outlook on life and its eternal destiny.
- ❖ To know is to appreciate. God Himself can be appreciated and loved only inasmuch as He is known.



### **Franciscan benediction**

May God bless you with discomfort  
At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial  
relationships,  
So that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger  
At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of  
people and the planet.  
So that you may work for justice, freedom,  
and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for  
those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger, and  
war.  
So that you may reach out your hand to  
comfort them and to turn their pain to joy.

And may God bless you with enough  
foolishness  
To believe that you can make a difference in  
the world,  
So that you can do what others claim cannot  
be done,  
And bring justice and kindness to all our  
children and the poor. Amen.