

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

Minister’s Reflection

As secular Franciscans we are called to both a prayerful and an active life in the secular world around us. This follows the path that St Francis discerned when he struggled between a contemplative life and one of active service to the Church. You may recall the story where he sent a brother to two people whom he trusted with the question, “shall I live a contemplative life, or one of active ministry in the Church?” These people helped him discern God’s call. We must share our gifts but also encourage others to share theirs. Over the past few months, we have been preparing for our fraternity elections. We have a slate of servant leaders ready to see what God has planned. We know that Christ is the leader that we must follow in our own way of leadership. I keep hearing him ask Peter, “Do you love me?” “Feed my sheep”. May we all be generous in our service to the fraternity, both in leadership and in all the needs that exist for it to grow and respond to where the Spirit leads.

—Franz

This month’s Fraternity Gathering

September 15, 2019, 12:30 p.m. – Pot luck and gathering.

Holy Family Catholic Church, lower level
2430 West 3rd St., Duluth
Park in the lower (gravel) parking lot

Agenda:

- 1. Opening prayer – Bob
2. LoH – Franz
3. Fraternity election presided over by Hazel Martin, Regional Minister
4. Transitus plans
5. Business (as time permits)
a. Approve minutes
b. Treasurer reports, bills, receipts
c. Formation report
d. JPIC report
6. Vocation and closing prayers

Next month’s meeting: October 20, 2019.

Ongoing formation – Jane: Writings of Clare

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil and Jeff Keane



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## Faith Matters: Reflections from your Spiritual Assistant

*Article 18: Moreover they should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which "bear the imprint of the Most High," and they should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship.*

For many centuries dominion theology has been the dominant theology within Christianity with regard to creation. It takes its cue from Genesis 1:28:

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and **fill the earth and subdue it**; and **have dominion over** the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth" (*emphasis added*).

A dominionist reading of this sets up a hierarchy of humankind above all else. On the positive side this can lead to the idea that we are stewards of creation, charged with caring for it lovingly as its caretaker. The negative side of this belief system is that creation is ours to do with as we please, which has led to the destruction of much animal habitat, forests and set the stage for the climate crisis.

Francis' intimacy with the God of All Creation led him to a different insight. This insight is also based in scripture but this time flowing out of the second creation story in Genesis Chapter 2. Here we read of all creation arising through God's action from the same earth, the *adamah*, from which the name "Adam" comes. We are brothers and sisters, all part of the same creation. And so Francis could praise God for Brother Sun and Sister Moon, Sister Water and Brother Fire, and Sister Earth, our Mother. We are interconnected, part of the web of life, one with creation.

Naturally, as Secular Franciscans we, too, carry on Francis' emphasis as we "strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship." We see ourselves as part of creation and nature, respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, and recognize our shared heritage as God's handiwork. "Be praised, my Lord, for all your creation."  
—Bob

## Franciscan Saints/Blesseds of the Month

- 1 BL BEATRICE OF SILVA
- 2 BLS JOHN FRANCIS BURTE, SEVERIN GIRAULT & COMPANIONS
- 4 ST ROSE OF VITERBO

Rose was born in Viterbo in 1233 into a poor, pious family. Even at an early age Rose showed a great devotion to prayer, especially for the conversion of sinners, and compassion for the poor.

At age 9 Rose felt called by the Virgin Mary to join the Third Order. Accepted into the Order, she lived a life of prayer, penance and solitude in her father's home. For two years Rose traveled the streets to preach penance and faithfulness to the Church.

When she was 12 the people of Viterbo rebelled against papal rule. Her preaching against the revolt led to her family being exiled for three years until papal forces prevailed.

Though denied admittance to the Poor Clares due to the lack of a dowry, Rose remained faithful to her calling until her death on March 6, 1251. She was admitted to the Order after her death.

Even though her feast day is March 6, Franciscans celebrate Rose on September 4, the date of the transfer of her relics to the Monastery of San Damiano.

- 17 STIGMATA OF OUR HOLY FATHER FRANCIS
- 18 ST JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO
- 20 ST FRANCIS MARY OF CAMPOROSSO
- 23 FINDING THE BODY OF ST CLARE
- 26 ST ELZEAR OF SABRAN & BL DELPHINE

## Wisdom from Solanus Casey

- ❖ Happiness in this world consists in the hopes we foster. Little children are happy in the vivid hopes that animate them. Ours should be the hope of the saints, springing from the infallible promises of heaven, and imbued with the appreciation of the contrast between the eternal and the temporal.
- ❖ Listen to know Mary that you may love heaven and heavenly things.
- ❖ The great lesson God wants us to learn on our pilgrimage here is appreciation for life eternal He has waiting for us.

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

From Sr. Margaret Magee, OSF, FAN Board Member:

### **Am I Meek and Humble of Heart?**

Our readings on this Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time speak of the need for good and humble hearts. The beautiful reading from the Book of Sirach seems a good guide for how we should conduct our lives. “My child, conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts. Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and you will find favor with God.” Unfortunately, this is not the lesson that we hear encouraged and taught in our society and culture today. All too often we get caught in the “ego”, we thrive on competition, rivalry and personal success. These attitudes often breed conflict, enmity and distrust. We tend to live in a culture of conflict where people want to protect what they feel is rightfully theirs, protect the things that they have worked hard and long to acquire.

The Letter of Paul to the Hebrews suggests that perhaps this culture of conflict has been with us for a long time and has been shaped by how people have imaged and imagined God. Time and time again the ancient Israelite people, those brought into the covenant relationship with God through the great prophets, Abraham, Moses and Isaiah, turned away and hardened their hearts. Often this hard-heartedness led to people creating their own image of God and limiting God to their people and their tribe. Paul, writing to their descendants, the Hebrews, reminds them that they are called to dwell in the city of the living God, in a new and heavenly Jerusalem, brought about through Jesus Christ. Paul’s vision of living Christ, living community in relationship with all people, was so much more inclusive and expansive.

In today’s gospel we sense a very observant Jesus who was invited to dine in the home of one of the leading Pharisees. Considering the culture and custom of that time, it is easy to imagine how the seating arrangement worked. Is it really any different in our current milieu? Often today, people still get caught up with the ego, the “places of honor”, identifying those who are acceptable and those who are unacceptable, the misfits.

This timely parable calls us to “check our ego at the door” and be attentive with hearts open to see ourselves in relationship, as one with others. We are called to have the mind and heart of Christ Jesus who humbled himself, becoming incarnate in our human flesh. Christ becomes incarnate in all human flesh, in the flesh of the poor, the flesh of the crippled, the flesh of the oppressed, the bullied, the unwanted and in the flesh of all those who are marginalized. May we humbly grow in seeing Christ enfleshed in ourselves, in all people and in all of creation.

Richard Rohr, OFM expressed this so well, “It’s a gift to joyfully recognize and accept our own smallness and ordinariness. Then you are free with nothing to live up to, nothing to prove, and nothing to protect. Such freedom is my best description of Christian maturity, because once you know that your “I” is great and one with God, you can ironically be quite content with a small and ordinary “I.” No grandstanding is necessary. Any question of your own importance or dignity has already been resolved once and for all and forever.” (Radical Grace: Daily Meditations)

Suggested Action:

Meditate and pray this week on the status of your heart: How often do you find yourself with thoughts that are not humble?

**Prayer for Humility: Author unknown.**

**Lord Jesus, when you walked the earth,  
Your humility obscured your Kingship.  
Your meekness confused the arrogant,  
Hindering them from grasping your purpose,  
Your nobleness attending to the destitute.  
Teach me to model after your eminence,  
To subject my human nature to humility.  
Grant me with a natural inclination  
To never view myself greater than anyone.  
Banish all lingering sparks of self-importance  
That could elevate me greater than you.  
Let my heart always imitate your humility.  
Amen**

—Darlene

## **ODDS 'N' ENDS**

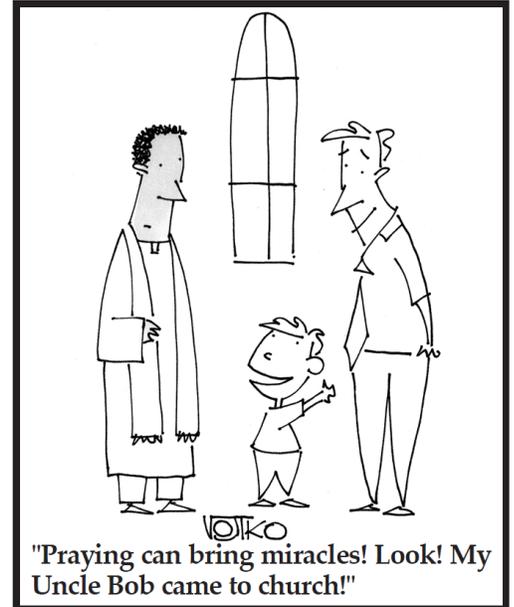
Reminder: We are scheduled to serve at Damiano on **September 14** (the day before our gathering) from **8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** If you volunteered at the fraternity gathering please be sure to show up a few minutes early (they lock the kitchen door).

### **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.

CIOFS, our international fraternity, has prepared a special gift for us to help us celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Rule. It is a 12-minute video, entitled, "Forty years of the 'New' Rule. A Treasure for the OFS." It provides an historical perspective on the Rule of 1978 and a beautiful summary. For those of you with internet access it can be found at YouTube.

—Bob



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## **Climate change is the most important life issue today**

Sep 4, 2019

by Daniel P. Horan

Sunday marked the start of the annual ecumenical "Season of Creation" observance, which lasts from Sept. 1 through Oct. 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. It is a time set aside for Christians to reflect on the state of creation through prayer and action.

It is also an opportunity to focus our attention on the most fundamental issues of justice and peace, particularly as they pertain to our ethical commitment to life issues. . .

While I agree with the intellectual and moral integrity of the consistent ethic of life principle, which upholds that every human life — born and unborn — is inherently valuable, dignified, and must be protected, we live in a time in which there is now a more fundamental issue that threatens *all life*: climate change. For this reason, it seems to me dangerously shortsighted to propose directing our attention, argumentative energies, and financial resources to any singular anthropocentric ethical issue. The stakes are too high for us now to be so myopic. . .

What good is it to prevent abortions or save the elderly from euthanasia or ensure the elimination of capital punishment if there is no air to breathe, water to drink, land to farm, plants or animals to eat, or habitats free from flooding, hurricanes, wildfires, tornados, earthquakes or some of the other devastating weather phenomena? I'm not suggesting that we ignore those discrete life issues; they demand prayer and action, too. However, there is a uniquely dire valence to what is happening to our planet and a very limited window to do anything to save the very possibility of life on this planet at all. . .

Pope Francis, for example, situated his 2015 encyclical letter "*Laudato Si'*, on Care for Our Common Home" within the broader tradition of Catholic moral teaching, reminding the church and world that despite our self-centered compartmentalization, there is only ever an "integral ecology" in which the fate of humanity and non-human creation are inextricably intertwined. While the human poor have been and will always be the first to suffer the consequences of climate change's effects, ultimately no one can escape the destruction of "our common home." . . .

Let us not squander this year's Season of Creation, but instead allow it to be a time for us to reorder our priorities and form our consciences to be truly pro-life, because the future of all life is counting on us.

**Edited for space. Full article available at <https://www.ncronline.org/news/environment/faith-seeking-understanding/climate-change-most-important-life-issue-today>**