

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

"Placed on the ground and stripped of his sackcloth garment, he lifted up his face to heaven as usual, and totally intent upon that glory, he covered the wound in his right side with his left hand, so no one would see it. Then he said to his brothers, 'I have done what is mine, may Christ teach you what is yours.'"

St. Francis affirms each person's unique response to God by directing us at the end of his life to what God wants. He says, "may Christ teach you what is yours." I think sometimes we become un-teachable by thinking that we have all the answers or experience. We also become set in our ways and not open to being taught, especially if it may mean change. Its worth recalling what is needed to be taught something. First, humility is needed so that we start at a place where we are not closed off. Second, we need to listen and not let distractions or our own thoughts get in the way of receiving the message or lesson. Lastly, one must remember it, and act upon it, thus reinforcing the message and integrating it well in our life.

As we slip in to the autumn of the year and perhaps the autumn of our lives, its worth recalling how St. Francis met sister death. I see his humility of life even at the end, and always directing others to Christ. We have a lot of work to do in sharing the love of Christ in our day. May God give us grace and strength to do what is ours to do. —Franz

This month's Fraternity Gathering

October 18, 2020, 12:30 p.m. – Pot luck and Gathering

**Holy Family Catholic Church, social hall
2430 West 3rd St., Duluth
Park in the west parking lot**

Please review the Covid-19 safety protocols on the second page

Agenda:

1. Opening prayer – Barb
2. LotH – Kathy
3. Gospel sharing – Jane
4. Ongoing Formation – Bob: USCCB pastoral letter "Open Wide Our Hearts."
5. Transitus evaluation
6. Seeds project this year?
7. Christmas plans
8. Business
 - a. Approve minutes, assign ministries
 - b. Treasurer reports, bills, receipts
 - c. Formation report
 - d. JPIC report
9. Vocation and closing prayers

Next month's meeting: November 15, 2020.
Ongoing formation – TBD

Gospel Reading: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Mt 22:15-21

The Pharisees went off and plotted how they might entrap Jesus in speech. They sent their disciples to him, with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion, for you do not regard a person's status. Tell us, then, what is your opinion: Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?"

Knowing their malice, Jesus said, "Why are you testing me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin that pays the census tax." Then they handed him the Roman coin. He said to them, "Whose image is this and whose inscription?" They replied, "Caesar's." At that he said to them, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"So I guess I can skip doin' my homework."

Guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health for community gatherings:

- Ask participants to review this screening survey: Have you had any of the following symptoms that you cannot attribute to another health condition?
 - ◆ Fever or feeling feverish?
 - ◆ Chills?
 - ◆ A new cough?
 - ◆ Shortness of breath?
 - ◆ A new sore throat?
 - ◆ New muscle aches?
 - ◆ New headache?
 - ◆ New loss of smell or taste?
- Strongly encourage all persons to wear masks
- Maintain at least six feet between people who do not live in the same household.
- Provide tissues for proper cough/sneeze etiquette, trash receptacles and hand sanitizer.
- Encourage participants to regularly wash and/or sanitize their hands.
- Routinely clean and disinfect all areas, such as offices, restrooms, common areas, etc.
- Refrain from singing or chanting.

Faith Matters: Reflections from your Spiritual Assistant

My uncle “Buster” was severely handicapped from birth, with intelligence never surpassing that of a six-month-old. He couldn’t walk, talk, feed or clothe himself, and he had an awful temper if he didn’t get what he wanted. He was so strong that he could seriously injure anyone unlucky enough to be in reach when he struck out. Social workers, physicians, friends and neighbors urged my grandmother for years to put Buster into an institution since “he’ll never amount to much.” She refused, even though it was a tremendous struggle at times to care for him. Grandma kept him with her until the day she died, at which time Buster’s sister took him into her home until he died at age 64. They simply refused to believe that his life was without value or purpose.

What’s a human life worth? How do you decide? I guess it depends on your perspective. Insurance companies assign monetary values to lives every day. In New York after 9/11 they even had a commission that decided how much each of the dead was worth, down to the dollars and cents. And I’ve read that the human body can be distilled down to a few dollars’ worth of chemicals. What do you think you are worth?

A belief in the inherent worth and dignity of all people is the foundation of all Catholic social teaching. This belief is grounded in the idea that the human person is made in the image of God and by this fact alone has immeasurable value. Every person—regardless of race, sex, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, employment or economic status, health, intelligence, achievement—or any other differentiating characteristic—is worthy of respect. It is not what you do or what you have that gives you a claim on respect; it is simply *being* human that establishes your dignity.

Franciscan Saints/Blesseds of the Month

- 4 OUR HOLY FATHER FRANCIS
- 6 ST MARY FRANCES OF THE FIVE WOUNDS
- 10 STS DANIEL & COMPANIONS
- 12 ST SERAPHIN OF MONTEGRANARO
- 20 BL JAMES OF STREPAR
- 20 BL CONTARDO FERRINI
- 21 BL JOSEPHINE LEROUX

Josephine Leroux entered the Poor Clares at age 22 just before the outbreak of the French Revolution. The new government outlawed religious life and closed convents. Josephine continued her way of life, however, and was imprisoned for being disloyal to France.

Because she had resumed the life of a religious contrary to the laws, Josephine was condemned to death. She faced execution bravely, seeing this as proof that she was deemed worthy to give her life for the Kingdom. Josephine was beheaded on October 23, 1794 along with several other sisters. She was beatified by Pope Benedict XV.

- 22 ST PETER OF ALCANTARA
- 23 ST JOHN OF CAPISTRANO
- 26 BL BONAVENTURE OF POTENZA
- 30 ANNIVERSARY OF DEDICATION IN CONSECRATED FRANCISCAN CHURCHES

That's a challenge to our modern American society where we often deem a person's worth by what they can do, or perhaps what they have done, and we throw away "worthless" people as easily as we discard that old worn out sofa. As the U.S. Catholic Bishops have stated,

In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and assisted suicide. The value of human life is being threatened by increasing use of the death penalty. The dignity of life is undermined when the creation of human life is reduced to the manufacture of a product, as in human cloning or proposals for genetic engineering to create "perfect" human beings. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person (*Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions*).

It's easy to become jaded and cynical at times, especially when we see or hear about individuals whose lifestyle choices seem stupid or self-destructive, or whose cultural values and ways of acting are foreign to us. As Franciscans we have an incredible opportunity to make a difference in their lives, just by showing each person the respect that they deserve.

—Bob

Request from Damiano

Do you have extra household items you can donate?

We are in need of dishes, silverware, pots & pans. We have a great need for sets of sheets, blankets, and towel sets. Please email Robin at rtomczak@damianocenter.org or call 218-727-1834 to schedule an appointment to drop off your donation. Thank you in advance! 😊



"Alice, it's me! Guess where I am? I'm sending you a selfie."

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Wisdom from Solanus Casey

- ❖ It is really a privilege to help one another and to save our neighbors a step, wherever they may be. Since we have nothing of our own, what we do is sure to come back to us again.
- ❖ God loves to load confidently loving souls with supernatural divine generosity .
- ❖ How often I regret that daily Holy Communion was not recommended when we were young! I feel now that we missed so much that would have strengthened us against the dangers and temptations of youth.
- ❖ There is nothing more rational in reason than to love God. By stifling reason and gratitude, sin begets atheism, which is the unqualified climax of intellectual insanity, of moral degeneracy, old moral blasphemy.

ODDS 'N' ENDS

No, you have not lost track of the date. This newsletter is early to accommodate Franz's request for it to come out before the Transitus. Please read the minutes to get all of the details about the Transitus.

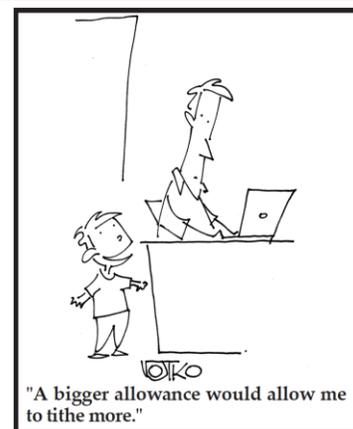


Please continue prayers for the selection of a new bishop for the Diocese of Duluth.



My recovery from surgery is going as expected. I thank you all for your prayers and look forward to seeing you at the Transitus. Right now, I am thanking God for speech recognition software that types what I say. Typing with one hand is awfully slow!

—Bob



"A bigger allowance would allow me to tithe more."

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Newsletter edited by Bob