



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

I started reading Thomas Dubay’s book, “Happy Are You Poor” for the second time as my wife suggested I take it up again. It confronts the materialism of our culture so well by proposing a simple life and spiritual freedom from things. Early on in the book Dubay lays out premises for his book, one of which is “totality of pursuit”. In this short paragraph he explains that the saints best display this trait and that their example is instructive. In particular, I think St Francis exemplified this trait radically. Dubay says that biblical men and women are not halfhearted or lukewarm. “Nowhere in scripture are we asked for much or most or quite a bit. Always it is everything. The God of revelation is never a God of fractions. It is not enough to love Him with 95% of our heart, not enough to be detached from major obstacles, not enough to be merely cordial and helpful in community, not enough to be regular in prayer. No, we are to love with a whole heart, to be detached from all we possess, to enjoy a complete communal unity, to pray always” (pg 42). In other words, God wants our whole being, and we must not hold anything back from Him. Francis was a real life exemplar of this giving us Seculars this mode of life and we must follow. I rejoice that we have so many saints to help us with not only their lives lived on earth but also their intercession for us from heaven. When you read about their heroic virtues, there is a longing to be with them, to give praise with them in the heavenly Jerusalem. —Franz

This month’s Fraternity Gathering

November 15, 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

NOTE: This is the tentative plan. A decision on whether we gather in person or remotely will be made closer to the date. You will be notified by phone or email if the in-person gathering is cancelled.

Agenda:

1. Opening prayer – Bob
2. LotH – Barb
3. Gospel sharing – Franz
4. Ongoing Formation – Kathy: Reflection 19 in *Live Like Francis*.
5. Christmas plans
6. Business
 - a. Approve minutes, assign ministries
 - b. Treasurer reports, bills, receipts
 - c. Formation report
 - d. JPIC report
7. Vocation and closing prayers

Next month’s meeting: December 20, 2020.
Ongoing formation – TBD

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.

Gospel Reading: 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Mt 25:14-30

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "A man going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one--to each according to his ability. Then he went away. Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five. Likewise, the one who received two made another two. But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money.

"After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five. He said, 'Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.' Then the one who had received two talents also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.' Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said, 'Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter; so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.' His master said to him in reply, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return? Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.'"

Franciscan Saints/Blesseds of the Month

- 4 ST CHARLES BORROME0
- 7 ST DIDACUS OF ALCALA
- 13 ST FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI
- 14 ST NICHOLAS TAVELIC
- 17 ST ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY
- 18 BL SALOME
- 19 ST AGNES OF ASSISI
- 24 COMMEMORATION of ALL DECEASED of the FRANCISCAN ORDERS
- 26 ST LEONARD OF PORT MAURICE
Leonard was born Paul Jerome Casanova in December of 1676, the son of a ship captain whose family lived in Port Maurice, Italy. After studying to be a physician, he instead joined the Friars Minor and took the name Leonard. Leonard spent the bulk of his life as a preacher of missions and retreats throughout Italy, attracting large crowds. He became famous for promoting the Stations of the Cross devotion. Later Pope Benedict XIV sent Leonard on several diplomatic assignments to the royal courts of Europe. Leonard died in Rome at age 74 and was canonized in 1867.
- 27 ST FRANCIS ANTHONY FASANI
- 28 ST JAMES OF THE MARCH
- 29 ALL SAINTS OF THE FRANCISCAN ORDERS



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
©Martha Campbell
Reprinted with permission



Jane and grandsons making Blessing Bags which she brought to our last fraternity gathering.



Faith Matters: Reflections from your Spiritual Assistant

Everyone knows that America is “sue crazy”, right? At least that’s the line we often hear. We may even have used that language ourselves. The underlying behind this comment is that there is something seriously wrong with our society. This theme of Catholic social teaching would both agree and disagree with this sentiment.

Catholic social tradition teaches that there are fundamental rights that all people have simply by virtue of being human. By “fundamental” it is meant that these rights belong to the person; they are not granted by society or government. Nor are they earned by achievement, wealth or any other measure of human production. Furthermore, no nation or society can take them away.

“There is a growing awareness of the sublime dignity of human persons, who stand above all things and whose rights and duties are universal and inviolable. They ought, therefore, to have ready access to all that is necessary for living a genuinely human life: for example, food, clothing, housing, the right freely to choose their state of life and set up a family, the right to education, work, to their good name, to respect, to proper knowledge, the right to act according to the dictates of conscience and to safeguard their privacy, and rightful freedom, including freedom of religion,” *The Church in the Modern World, #26.*

These rights do not come about by magic. The social teachings state that these rights are realized in community. Furthermore, they are to be respected and protected by all the institutions of society, including government, and by all members of society.

But talking about rights is only half the story. Equally important are the duties and responsibilities that we owe to each other and to society as a whole. As the American bishops wrote in preparation for this year’s elections, “Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to one another, to our families, and to the larger society. Rights should be understood and exercised in a moral framework rooted in the dignity of the human person,” *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, 2020.* Central to this idea is the concept of the common good, that we all give up a little of our individual rights for the good of all of us.

So applying this theme to the question of lawsuits leads to a compromise view between those who want to blame society’s ills on trial lawyers and those who want to take away from people the power to sue for redress. Those who use the courts out of greed or for other personal gain are violating the principle of the common good. Their private gain often comes at the expense of the rest of us.

On the other hand, we do not live in a just society that protects the fundamental rights of all people, especially the poor and vulnerable. To deny the protection of law or government under these circumstances is an immoral abandonment of those who cannot protect themselves. Therefore, Catholic social teaching would also agree with those who say that access to the courts is often the only way to secure these rights.

In the view of Catholic social teaching, rights and responsibility go hand in hand. You simply can’t have one without the other.

—Bob



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
©Ed Sullivan
Reprinted with permission

Wisdom from Solanus Casey

- ❖ Inasmuch as individuals or humanity as a whole turn away from God to seek peace elsewhere, in just so much will they be restless, disappointed, and discouraged .
- ❖ Shake off excessive worry and show a little confidence in God’s merciful Providence.
- ❖ How merciful the good God is in letting us now and then run up against a snag of some kind, that halts us for at least a moment of reflection on the real purpose of our existence as rational creatures: *eternity in God.*
- ❖ Death can be very beautiful—like a wedding—if we make it so .
- ❖ Be sure, if the enemy of our soul is pleased at anything in us, it is ingratitude of whatever kind. Why? Ingratitude leads to so many breaks with God and our neighbor .

Regional Announcements

From Kathy, our Regional Spiritual Assistant:

This is a prayer request to go out to all our fraternities for prayers for the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls MN as they deal with the Covid19 crisis. These good sisters have served for years as Spiritual Assistants to our fraternities and region. Let us lift them up in prayer.

“Thanks for your prayers and concern Kathy and we pray for your safety also. We have had two Sisters die from Covid19. They were living in our Care Center. We buried Sr. Blasé Kulzer and on returning from the cemetery, we were informed that Sr. Therese Lenz who was hospitalized also passed away from Covid19. At that time we also had five Sisters in our Care Center and two in assisted living who tested positive. All of these had no symptoms. Following Public Health guidelines, we were all distanced from each other for 14 days. After more testing, we now have just two Sisters in our Memory Care Center who have tested positive. We remain in lock down, but are not quarantined. The memory Care Center is a separate Unit.

We just had our 3 day Annual Community Meeting via Zoom. It was amazing how well this went. We were happy to see each other. The Sisters living outside Little Falls have been restricted from the Motherhouse. I will be meeting with the St. Francis Fraternity via Zoom next month.

So we trust in God and know that we are all loved and cared for by Divine Providence.

Peace, love and all that is good.

Sr. Mary Ann”

Council Meeting Agenda

Council meeting will immediately follow the fraternity meeting.

1. Opening Prayer
2. Approve minutes (3/15/20)/agenda
3. 2021 Spring gathering planning
4. 2021 Come and See Parish
5. Other
6. Closing prayer

ODDS ‘N’ ENDS

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

Check out the excerpt below from *Waking Up White* by Debbie Irving, which we discussed last gathering. I’ll bring the book to the gathering for us to review as a possible Formation topic.

—Bob

Newsletter edited by Bob

On April 9, 2009, I raced into class, arriving just in time. I took a deep breath, relieved to see a television set in the corner of the room. Great—we get to watch a movie, I thought. About a half hour into the film, *Race: The Power of an Illusion*, the focus turns to the GI Bill. I remember thinking, Hmm, my father and uncles talked about that bill, about how great it felt to win the war and come home to free education and a housing loan. My father’s law school education had been paid for by that bill. My parents’ first home had been subsidized by it. In 1975, when Vietnam vets came home to a cruel reception, my father expressed his outrage by contrasting it to the enthusiastic welcome he’d gotten in 1945. He pointed to the GI Bill as proof.

But all of a sudden, the film starts talking about the bill not being accessible to black Americans. An elderly black couple, Mr. and Mrs. Burnett, appear on the screen, speaking about the day half a century earlier that they’d excitedly driven out to a New York suburb, Levittown, to look for a home. Mr. Burnett, a returning GI, and his wife drove through a neighborhood and toured a house, imagining themselves living there. They were convinced: this was the lifestyle they wanted. When Mr. Burnett approached the realtor, expressing his interest and inquiring about the purchase procedure, the realtor sheepishly told him he couldn’t sell to Negroes. “It’s not me,” he explained. The Federal Housing Authority (FHA) had warned the town’s developers that even one or two nonwhite families could topple the kind of values necessary to profit from their enterprise. The Burnetts were crushed.

The chilling reality is that while the American dream fell into the laps of millions of Americans, making the GI Bill the great equalizer for the range of white ethnicities in the melting pot, Americans of color, including the one million black GIs who’d risked their lives in the war, were largely excluded. The same GI Bill that had given white families like mine a socioeconomic rocket boost had left people of color out to dry. I’d been reaping the benefits of being a white person without even knowing it. I felt duped and alarmed (**Excerpt taken from Irving, Debbie. *Waking Up White*, Chapter 7).**)