



Minister's Message

"A Perspective on Servant Leadership"

by Hazel Martin, OFS, Regional Minister

A career in teaching gave me another milieu in which to be a servant leader. I believe a person exhibits servant leadership through his/her words, actions and attitudes. Students and teacher aides were people I interacted with everyday. On occasion, I would mentor a student teacher.

The school district I worked for had many open enrollments every year because word got around Northeast Iowa that our teachers and staff had the attitude of 'students first'. I had a general reputation of treating others fairly, whomever they were or where they came from. A key consideration in treating others fairly is not treating everyone the same, but treating others according to what they need.

In regards to others, servant leaders prioritize service over power. I think servant leaders: speak to others in a respectful, civil way; listen attentively; exhibit compassion and mercy; think about what to say before saying it; say what they mean and mean what they say; and

remember to lead by example as well as by words.

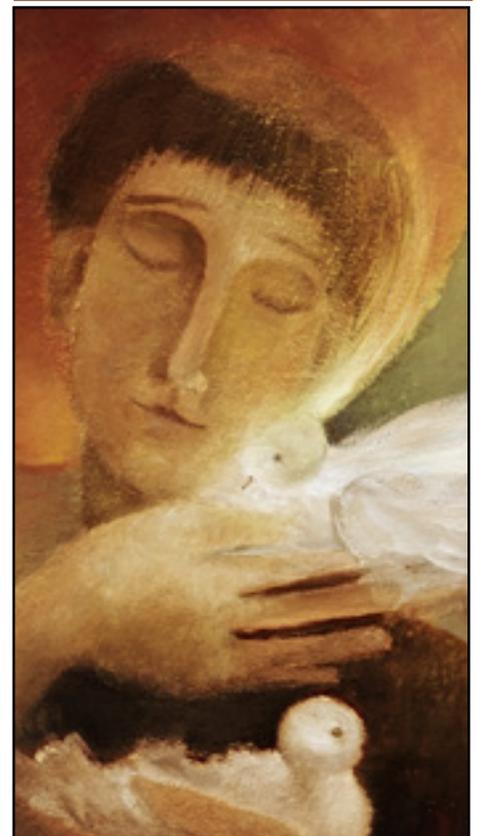
One occasion that St. Francis provided some guidance to his brothers on the topic of 'servant leadership' was in his Letter to a Minister. Francis said, "There should be no friar in the whole world who has fallen into sin, no matter how far he has fallen, who will ever fail to find your forgiveness for the asking, if he will only look into your eyes. And if he does not ask forgiveness, you should ask him if he wants it. And should he appear before you again a thousand times, you should love him more than you love me, so that you may draw him to God; you should always have pity on such friars" (St. Francis of Assisi Omnibus of Sources, p.110).

During a spirituality seminar I attended, a priest, who was the presenter, said, "When the power of love becomes stronger than the love of power, there will be peace" (Fr. Joseph Nassal, CPPS). I wish all of my sisters and brothers in this Region many blessings in 2020!

Winter 2020, Issue 29
February 2020

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To serve our brothers and sisters with enthusiasm and a heart full of Christ!

We all knew it was coming, as it does every three years! Regional election time!

Excuses abound about why we cannot serve. Many of us may believe that we are not qualified to serve or we feel that we will slight our local fraternity if we serve the region. We may believe we are too busy, either in life or in our parishes and this is just 'not the right time' to serve.

Well brother and sisters, let me put your minds and hearts to rest! We, as baptized Catholics, are called to build up the Kingdom of God. We, as Secular Franciscans, by the rite of our Profession, are duty-bound to serve. Let me remind you of who we are and to what we professed!

RITUAL of the SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER, Profession in the OFS

"Celebrant: Do you wish to be **faithful to this vocation** and to practice the spirit of service proper to Secular Franciscans? Candidates: **Yes**, this is what I want."

"Minister: The local fraternity is a viable sign of the Church, a community of faith and love. Together with all the members **you now pledge yourselves to spend your efforts** to make this fraternity a genuine ecclesial assembly and a living Franciscan community."

"I, N.N., by the grace of God, renew my baptismal promises and **consecrate myself to the service of his kingdom**. Therefore, in my secular state I promise to live all the days of my life the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan Order **by observing its rule of life**. May the grace of the Holy Spirit, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and our holy father Saint Francis, and the fraternal bonds of community always be my help, so that I may reach the goal of perfect Christian love."

RULE of LIFE, Article 21 and 16

*"...Their service, which lasts for a definite period, is marked by a **ready and willing spirit** and is a **duty of responsibility to each member** and to the community."*

"Let them esteem work both as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption, and service of the human community."

May we always remember...

*"...[Be] as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, **rendering service with a good will as to the Lord** and not to men, knowing that whatever good any one does, he will receive the same again from the Lord..."* Ephesians 6: 6-8 RSV

Kathy Taormina, OFS
QOP Regional Spiritual Assistant

Worthy to teach others

Let's imagine we are the Scribes and Pharisees in the gospel of St. Mathew, "Do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example." Those who encourage others into new patterns of growth must be examples

We encourage others into new patterns of growth. Jesus was aware that the teachers were teaching correctly, the practices that needed to be observed and lived (the rule) so there can be gospel to life and life to gospel living, the new growth pattern. His concern was this: Were they themselves practicing what they were teaching? Did their words match their actions? Good questions to ask ourselves.

Let's make an honest effort to take to heart the things we are expecting of others. Lets' begin by practicing one of the most important of skills LISTENING. Listen to your own words and practice what you are preaching. Listen to what others say and don't say. Focus on developing the skill of listening. It is as important as speaking. Start by focusing on the intent to understand rather than to respond. By doing that, you'll build trust, earn respect and help to develop others.
You will be worthy to teach others



Charity vs Justice

As Secular Franciscans, we strive to bring Gospel values into our everyday experiences and of brothers and sisters through life in fraternity. We are committed to compassionate service to people through charity and justice initiatives to make changes to society at every level.

Today so much is happening around the world and even in our own communities. There is a sense of urgency from the cries of the poor and marginalized, to address a lot of needs and many different needs. There are a lot of different kind of responses to the different needs.

Charity and justice are two concepts that are often confused terms. Neither are enough on their own. There is a parable, written by Ronald Rolheiser, and is quite famous within social justice circles, told around these two concepts: There was a town, beyond the bend of a large river. One day some children noticed three bodies floating in the water. Townsfolks quickly pulled the bodies out of the river. One was dead, one was alive and quite ill, the third turned out to be a healthy child. Everyday a number of bodies came down the river, good people continued to tend to them – caring for the sick, placing children with families, and burying those who were dead. This went on for years and townsfolks worked on developing elaborate systems for picking them out of the river and tending to them. The town itself felt a healthy pride in its generosity. However, during all these years and despite all that generosity and effort, nobody thought to go up the river, beyond the bend that hid from their sight what was above them, and find out why, daily, those bodies came floating down the river.

This may seem to be an improbable tale, but the difference between the concepts of charity and justice are clearly outlined. Charity occurred when the townspeople put their efforts together to rescue the bodies, while justice was sought by the people who went upstream to stop whoever was throwing the bodies downstream.

As such, justice refers more to the concept of moral rightness, while charity refers more to the giving of help to those who are in need. Charity deals with the immediate need, while justice leans more towards addressing the root cause of the problem.

As Franciscans we serve others in direct need through ministries of charity individually on our own or with our fraternity brothers and sisters. On the other hand, we serve others through social justice which involves using our voice to stand up against the injustices in our community and the world. In order to do this, we need to support social justice actions such as: learning more about specific issues, calling and writing letters to elected officials, using social media and volunteering for initiatives and organizations to advocate on issues. Are we willing to go upstream to seek to respond to the Lord's call to do the works of justice in a fragmented world? May we be dependent upon the gift of the Holy Spirit, who prays in us and who empowers us to continue to do the works of charity and justice thereby furthering the kingdom of God.

Charity	Justice
Charity = social service. Charity provides direct services like food, clothing, shelter.	Justice = social change. Justice promotes social change in institutions or political structures.
Charity responds to immediate needs.	Justice responds to long-term needs.
Charity is directed at the effects of injustice, its symptoms. Charity addresses problems that already exist. Otherwise put: LOVE MOPS UP.	Justice is directed at the root causes of social problems. Justice addresses the underlying structures or causes of these problems. Otherwise put: JUSTICE TRIES TO MAKE SURE THE MESS ISN'T MADE TO BEGIN WITH.
Charity is private, individual acts.	Justice is public, collective actions.
Examples of charity: homeless shelters, food shelves, clothing drives, emergency services.	Examples of justice: legislative advocacy, changing policies and practices, political action.

Resources:

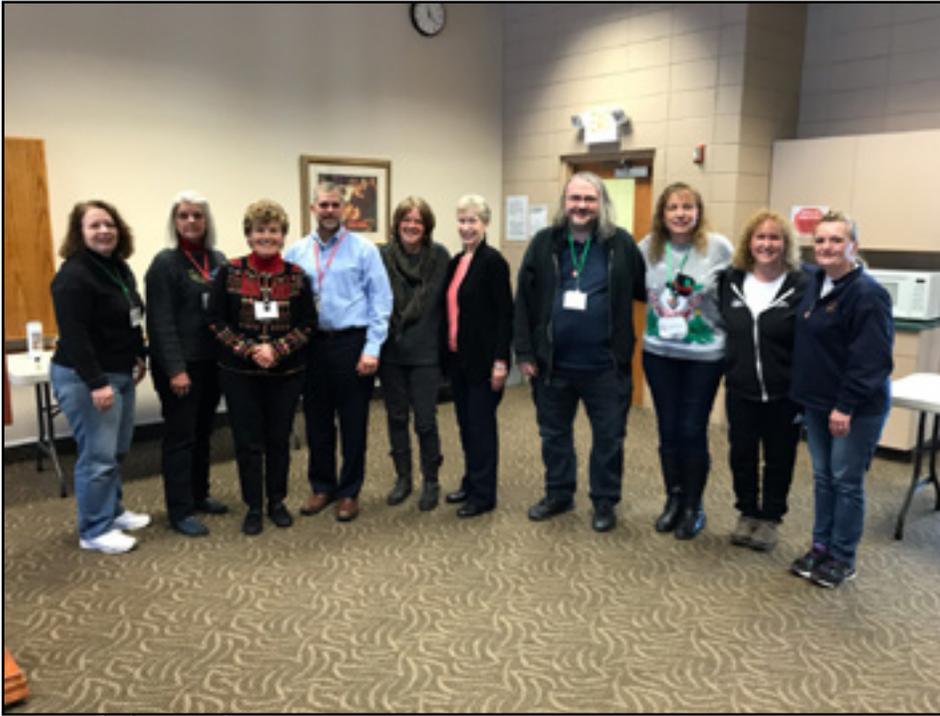
- Living God's Justice: Reflections and Prayers-National Pastoral Life Center (Roundtable Association of Diocesan Social Action Directors)
- <http://www.differencebetween.net/language/difference-between-justice-and-charity/>
- Office for Social Justice, Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis



Professions and Elections

ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA FRATERNITY RITE OF ADMISSION

The St. Pio of Pietrelcina Fraternity in Forest Lake, MN admitted 10 new members into the Order through the Rite of Admission. The Rite was held on December 14 at the Church of St. Peter.



From left to right:

Cathleen Cary, Marilyn Rynes, Lyn Palacheck, Bruce Nolden, Kris Rehfeld, Ann Leahy-Medek, John O'Brien, Christine Milam, Karan Blackmer, and Cheryl Mancini

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Minister

Hazel Martin, OFS
yankeefan50@outlook.com

Vice Minister

Tim Taormina, OFS
tjtaormina@delta.com

Secretary

Mona Wolney, OFS
anomyenlowo7@gmail.com

Treasurer

Kathy Fraser, OFS
44frase@gmail.com

Formation Director

Margi Florence
margiflo32@gmail.com

MN, WI, ND, SD Council Member

Jo Lambert, OFS
lambert.jo09@yahoo.com

IA Council Member

Keith Gass, OFS
kgcorner2010@gmail.com

NE Council Member

Luis Alvarez, OFS
lalvarez62@yahoo.com

Regional Spiritual Assistant

Kathy Taormina, OFS
kathysfo@hotmail.com

If you have anything to put in the Tracings. Please send it to Alan at alanweierofs@gmail.com
Thank you.

TRACINGS

Regional Newsletter ISSUE 29 | Winter 2020