



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

I was reading a story to my two year old daughter the other day called, "The Honest Woodcutter". In a nutshell, it was a story about a woodcutter who tripped near a river and lost his ax in the water. Cutting trees was his sole source of income for himself and family, so he was grief-stricken. A water Sprite heard his groanings, and appeared to him out of the water, inquiring into the matter. After hearing it, the water Sprite went into the waters three times, coming up with a different ax each time: 1. a beautiful silver ax, 2. A luxurious gold ax, and finally 3. a well-worn but serviceable ax (the woodcutter's). After being offered the first two in succession, he responded that they were not his. Finally, when the third was brought forth, he claimed that for his own. As a reward for his honesty, the water Sprite gave him the other two. I imagined this same story in three other ways. First, all three being offered at the same time for the same low price. Second, all three being offered but at prices more appropriate for their quality. Thirdly, all being offered but woodcutting not being your profession, but only an occasional activity. What would your response be to these proposals? We face decisions just about every day touching on honesty, but also simplicity and stewardship. Many times, we enter these decisions without giving it much time or thought. In living out our Rule, we can't go through life unthinking when it comes to these decisions. I pray that we may all face them with not only honesty to the facts, but also honesty with ourselves on what we need. —Franz

This month's Fraternity Gathering

May 17, 2020, 1:00 p.m. – Phone gathering.

NOTE: Instructions for the conference call will be included in the mailing

Agenda:

1. Opening prayer – Keith
2. LotH – Bob
3. Gospel sharing – Barb
4. Ongoing Formation – Franz: Reflection 29 in *Live Like Francis*
5. Next Damiano, July 18?
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: June 21, 2020.

Ongoing formation – TBD

Gospel Reading, 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time: Jn 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him. But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"If you really want them to grow fast, you hafta say a prayer to your gardening angel."

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
©Bil & Jeff Keane
Reprinted with permission

Faith Matters: Reflections from your Spiritual Assistant

Watching the various “rebellions” against the shelter-in-place orders—from people refusing to wear masks in public to the organized rallies around the country—I have been thinking about perseverance. Leaving aside those who simply want to make a political statement, people really are straining under the restrictions: for some it is loss of jobs and income, for others it is loneliness, for parents it is struggling to manage homeschooling or keeping kids occupied, some are just plain bored. I fully appreciate the difficulty. That is where perseverance comes in, or as it is translated in this passage from Romans, endurance:

we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Paul asserts that suffering has spiritual value. I think he’s on to something. As painful as it is to go through suffering, surviving it does make us stronger. We bend but do not break. We learn that we are more capable, more resilient than we probably gave ourselves credit for before the crisis. In short, it builds character.

Character is that virtue which stems from continually striving to do good even under difficult circumstances. And that good isn’t just for me. Our Catholic emphasis on solidarity says that we are all in this together. We act together in this health crisis to protect all of us. Most Americans seem to get that instinctually, even if they are not religious. The ones most loudly protesting the restrictions usually do not. In doing so they miss the hope that Paul speaks of.

The foundation of our hope is God’s love “poured into our hearts.” If we act in solidarity in loving action (or, in this case, inaction), we will as a people get through this crisis together. —Bob

Wisdom from Solanus Casey

- ❖ Mary is the Mother of God, and by His divine wisdom, power, and merciful condescension, the Blessed Mother of redeemed humanity, therefore our Blessed Mother also.
- ❖ God Himself is the principal reward even here, for each of us, inasmuch as we learn to appreciate, inasmuch as we put on Christian gratitude.
- ❖ There is nothing in nature or visible creation, however sublime, but what is simply a shadow, a counterpoint, of the supernatural.

Franciscan Saints/Blesseds of the Month

- 9 ST CATHERINE OF BOLOGNA
- 11 ST IGNATIUS OF LACONI
- 16 ST MARGARET OF CORTONA
- 17 ST PASCHAL BAYLON
- 18 ST FELIX OF CANTALICE
- 20 ST BERNADINE OF SIENA
- 24 DEDICATION OF BASILICA OF ST FRANCIS
- 27 ST MARIANA OF JESUS de PAREDES

Mariana was born in 1618 in Quito, Ecuador. As a child she felt drawn to God and the Virgin Mary, and later received the habit of the Franciscan Third Order. She lived as a near hermit in her home, where she observed a strict discipline of fasting, prayer and mortification. Mariana ventured out only for services and charitable activities in the nearby Jesuit church. She was known for her spiritual wisdom and for healing the sick.

During the 1645 earthquakes and subsequent epidemics in Quito, she publicly offered herself as a victim for the city and died shortly thereafter. She was canonized as the first saint from Ecuador in 1950 by Pope Pius XII.

- 30 BL BAPTISTA VARANO
- 30 ST FERDINAND, KING



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

From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops based on Pope Francis' *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*:

Prayer to Care for Our Common Home

Father of all, Creator and ruler of the universe, You entrusted your world to us as a gift. Help us to care for it and all people, that we may live in right relationship-- with You, with ourselves, with one another, and with creation. Christ our Lord, both divine and human, You lived among us and died for our sins. Help us to imitate your love for the human family by recognizing that we are all connected— to our brothers and sisters around the world, to those in poverty impacted by environmental devastation, and to future generations. Holy Spirit, giver of wisdom and love, You breathe life in us and guide us. Help us to live according to your vision, stirring to action the hearts of all— individuals and families, communities of faith, and civil and political leaders. Triune God, help us to hear the cry of those in poverty, and the cry of the earth, so that we may together care for our common home. Amen.

—Darlene

REGIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathy Taormina, Queen of Peace Regional Spiritual Assistant, offers this prayer for this time of crisis:

A Franciscan Prayer as We Face Coronavirus

Dear Father, Almighty Healer and Physician, we bring our fears, anxiety and petitions to you during this outbreak of coronavirus. Please restore our inner peace so that we can be a shining light to those stuck in the darkness.

And let us pray for

- + All those who have the virus and fear the outcome, may they find their peace in you.
- + All the medical staff who cannot work from home but need to be in the 'trenches' taking care of the sick, may they have the stamina and good health to continue to serve.
- + For all the working parents who are suddenly faced with their children's schools being closed. Help them to find a solution that does not impact their earnings too greatly.
- + For all those who are worried, please grant them the peace to get through this time.
- + For all those working extra hours to provide more test kits, masks and sanitizer, shower them with the ability to keep up their difficult schedule.
- + And for all the rest of us, please help us make good decisions about where we go and when to stay home, what supplies we buy and how much/many, and most especially keep us calm and filled with Your grace so that we are able to reach out to others in need.

We ask these things through the Sacred Heart of Your Son, Jesus. May we be open to Your Ministering to us so that we are equipped to minister to others. Amen

Kate Kleinert, OFS – St. Katherine of Drexel Regional Minister

ODDS 'N' ENDS

As decided at our last gathering:

Blessing bag items (40 bags)

<input type="checkbox"/> Gallon size Ziploc bags	Bob/Jane
<input type="checkbox"/> Hand sanitizer	TBD
<input type="checkbox"/> Quarters	Fraternity
<input type="checkbox"/> Granola bars	Keith/Ellen
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuna/crackers	Bob/Jane
<input type="checkbox"/> Trail mix	Franz
<input type="checkbox"/> Cheese and crackers	Keith/Ellen
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifesaver mints	Bob/Jane
<input type="checkbox"/> Soap	Kathy
<input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrushes/toothpaste	Darlene
<input type="checkbox"/> Deodorant	Kathy
<input type="checkbox"/> Combs	Franz
<input type="checkbox"/> Chapstick	Kathy
<input type="checkbox"/> Note cards	Bob/Jane

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

—Bob

