

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

Last year, I purchased a little book by John Michael Talbot titled "Reflections on St Francis" in a religious bookstore in Chicago. I was there for a conference and thought it would be a good read in the hotel. It's my habit to mark pages with a sticky note when I come across passages that make me pause to think. Here is what I marked from that book:

"Do we get angry when others "sin"? Often it is we who have sinned. If we seek God's will for others instead of our own will, then when others sin we only feel compassion and love. Yes, that love may have to be tough at times, but God help us if we are only tough without love. Often we only try to impose our own will in the name of God by quoting scripture and church teachings. But despite its religious "clothing" such an approach is really only trying to impose our will onto the will of others. When we "let go and let God" then his will is truly accomplished. Then love is free to flow to all of us everywhere."

Our world could use a lot of that free flow of love these days. May our will conform to that of Christ in our journey with our brothers and sisters. I look forward to seeing everyone this month at Holy Family Church. Let's remember to wear our masks and keep distances for the protection of each other. Also, please stay at home if you are not feeling well. Better to be safe than sorry. —Franz

Gospel Reading, 12th Sunday in Ordinary

Time: Mt 10:26-33

Jesus said to the Twelve: "Fear no one. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father."

This month's Fraternity Gathering

June 21, 2020, 1:00 p.m. – 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 third page](#)

Agenda:

1. Opening prayer – Barb
2. LotH – Darlene
3. Gospel sharing – Kathy
4. Ongoing Formation – Jane: Reflection 15 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: July 19, 2020.

Ongoing formation – TBD



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
© Bob Vojtko
Reprinted with permission

Faith Matters: Reflections from your Spiritual Assistant

A man walked up to a Franciscan and Jesuit and asked, "How many novenas must you say to get a Mercedes Benz?" The Franciscan asked, "What's a Mercedes Benz?" The Jesuit asked, "What's a novena?"

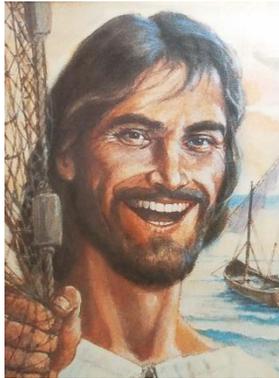
So goes one of the many jokes that the different orders tell about each other, all in good humor. Why humor, you might ask, in this time of illness, protest and violence? How can I tell a joke at a time that demands serious reflection and prayer?

In fact, it is the most serious times that demands humor. All great spiritual leaders know the value of humor in healing our souls and bringing us together. Francis knew this. That's why he styled himself as a fool for Christ. Jesus knew this as well, though you'd never know it from most of the depictions you see of him where he looks so serious. My favorite picture of Jesus is this one, which I think is, in spirit, the most accurate image. It shows him hanging on to the rigging of the boat enjoying a laugh with his friends.

How can we know Jesus laughed? We can know because he attracted people to himself, especially children. Anyone who has any experience with kids knows they would never be attracted to a sourpuss. Jesus experienced the full range of human emotion, including levity. His humor didn't take anything away from his message; it punctuated and highlighted the core of his message: "the Kingdom of God is at hand." How can this not be a time of celebration!

We find ourselves in a time of great suffering and strife. It is a natural human reaction to bad news to get down. It is our own passion narrative and we're still in Good Friday. But never forget the lesson of Easter: even when things look their worst we are, and always will be, Resurrection People. Let the Alleluias, and the laughter, ring!

—Bob



"The Risen Christ by the Sea", Jack Jewell

Franciscan Saints/Blesseds of the Month

12 BL JOLENTA

Yolanda (Jolenta) of Poland was born in 1235 as the daughter of the king Hungary. She had two sisters who became saints: Margaret of Hungary and Kinga of Poland (Cunegunda).

During the time of her marriage, she was noted for her great services to the poor and needy of the country, as well as being a major benefactor of the monasteries, friaries and hospitals connected to them. Her husband gave her so much support in her charities that he earned the nickname "the Pious". She was widowed in 1279.

Following her husband's death, Yolanda entered the Poor Clare monastery that Kinga had founded. Forced to relocate due to armed conflict in the region, Yolanda founded a new monastery. She has been declared a candidate for sainthood.

13 ST ANTHONY OF PADUA

22 ST THOMAS MORE

30 BL RAYMOND LULL

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

I copied information on donating to the H2O project for the newsletter...

It is not too late to contribute to our **H2O Project**. Although the H2O Project begins in Lent, you can contribute all year round. Our H2O Project has been able to fund diverse water projects, providing clean water where desperately needed. This year, with the COVID-19 pandemic, the National JPIC Commission are looking at ways of funding water needs in indigenous communities who have no running water for desperately needed hygiene care. Please send all contributions to the **H2O Project**, c/o Claudia Kauzlarich, 2007 Maverick Trail, Harrisonville, MO 64701-1545. **Make the check payable to OFS-USA** – with H2O Project in the memo. Thank you for your kind and generous support.

This is the second call for nominations for the 2020 Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Award. Please prayerfully consider someone from the **worldwide Franciscan Family** that you would like to nominate for this wonderful honor. I will bring forms to fill out to the meeting. The deadline is July 15, 2020..

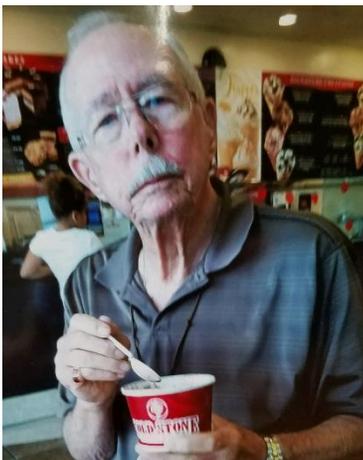
—Darlene

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.

Wisdom from Solanus Casey

- ❖ In His divine economy, God has honored His creatures—most especially His rational ones—by giving them each, according to his ability, a part of His own work to do, by participation in His own divine activity.
- ❖ Keep courage—rather, confidence in God, which is courage divinely reinforced.
- ❖ As manifested in the lives of the saints, if we strive and use the means God has given us, we too can ascend to great sanctity and to an astonishing familiarity with God—even here—as pilgrims [on our way] to the Beatific Vision.



Remembering Pat Nacey, OFS who died May 28, 2017. Have an ice cream treat in Pat's honor. He would love it!

Newsletter edited by Bob



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
©Harley L. Schwadron
Reprinted with permission

ODDS 'N' ENDS

Remember that we will be assembling our Blessing Bags (40 bags) at the fraternity gathering. Here's a reminder of what each committed to bring:

<input type="checkbox"/> Gallon size Ziploc bags	Bob/Jane
<input type="checkbox"/> Quarters	Fraternity/Keith
<input type="checkbox"/> Granola bars	Keith/Ellen
<input type="checkbox"/> Beef jerky	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 pray for the selection of a new bishop for the Diocese of Duluth.

—Bob





Statement on Racism from the National Commission of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation of the U.S. Secular Franciscan

*How long, O LORD, must I cry for help and you do not listen?
Or cry out to you, "Violence!" and you do not intervene?
Why do you let me see iniquity?
Why do you simply gaze at evil?
Destruction and violence are before me;
there is strife and discord. (Habakkuk 1: 2-3)*

Once again, the wound of racism in our society has been exposed because of what appears to be careless and irresponsible behavior by persons whom we should trust to keep peace and encourage non-violence: law enforcement officers and public officials.

The National Commission of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States, hereby declares that racism is morally wrong. It does not love or respect life. Neither Scripture, our Rule of Life nor our faith justifies it, for any reason, or under any circumstance.

Our Catholic social teaching calls us to respect and honor the dignity of every human life, from the womb to natural death. It makes no exclusions on the basis of color or ethnicity and calls out no other distinction to be excluded. We are called to honor and respect the lives of people we love and people whom we may find it hard to love; people who are like us and people who are different from us.

The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many others each have their tragic and brutal circumstances, but share a central question that cannot be ignored: If they had been white, and the circumstances were identical, would they be alive?

As Catholic Christians and Franciscans, we owe it to ourselves to do the following in response to racism:

- To identify and eradicate the structures in our societal institutions that perpetuate racism and replace them with structures that are fair and just, and that value the lives and gifts of every person.
- To pray for an end to racism; indeed, to pray for interracial solidarity, for our laws and our faith practices to reflect our compassion and value for the dignity of every human life; and that we lovers and followers of Jesus and Francis of Assisi, be leaders in bringing about a rightly informed sense of racial equity and justice in our land and in our Church.
- To identify and confront our own unconscious racial biases. After a shared history of hundreds of years in this country, we all have them. They make their way into our lives and culture, often unnoticed. But we can become more just and open by discovering these unconscious biases and replace them with love and engagement.

And finally, we need to have safe and meaningful dialogue about those racial biases. We owe it to ourselves and to our brothers and sisters to develop a strong sense of community and fraternity through peaceful conversations. This is truly a conversion moment where dialogue and education are needed. Our Holy Rule calls us to be "bearers of peace" and we all must bear the burden of peace as we walk this journey towards holiness as brothers and sisters, with open hands and joyful hearts.

Come, Holy Spirit! Lord, make it so!