

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

“He was walking one day by the church of San Damiano, which was abandoned by everyone and almost in ruins. *Led by the Spirit*, he went in to pray and knelt down devoutly before the crucifix.” Francis of Assisi Vol II: The Founder Pg 249.

We hear and read many stories of Francis being led by the spirit. How are we led by the spirit? A good question to consider. I think part of answering the question is to acknowledge that the spirit of God works through people and events. We have our loved ones who prompt us to pray and to do good. We have inspirations that are triggered by some event or incident in our lives. I think the spirit is constantly present to lead us, but our readiness or openness is often lacking. Francis lived at a time of general religious decline (sound familiar?), yet the spirit was leading and he let himself be led by it. An abandoned church is a sad sight. They get closed and sold in our efficient country. However, in other places they remain standing and in decay. It's a sad sight, but it prompts one to think, and to pray and to ask what God wants of us. Led by the spirit, may we accomplish God's will in our daily lives, responding generously with love. —Franz

This month's Fraternity Gathering

July 19, 2020, 12:30 p.m. – Picnic and Gathering

Franz's house
3729 E 3rd St, Duluth

[Please review the Covid-19 safety protocols on the bottom of the page](#)

Agenda:

1. Opening prayer – Bob
2. LotH – Franz
3. Gospel sharing – Barb
4. Ongoing Formation – Keith: Reflection 16 in *Live Like Francis*
5. Feedback on blessing bags
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: August 16, 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, 12th Sunday in Ordinary

Time: Mt 13:24-43

Jesus proposed another parable to the crowds, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well. The slaves of the householder came to him and said, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' His slaves said to him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, "First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

He proposed another parable to them. "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the 'birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.'"

He spoke to them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened."

All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables. He spoke to them only in parables, to fulfill what had been said through the prophet: *I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation of the world.*

Then, dismissing the crowds, he went into the house. His disciples approached him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." He said in reply, "He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. Just as weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all who cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

Franciscan Saints/Blesseds of the Month

- 8 ST GREGORY GRASSI
- 9 ST NICHOLAS PICK AND COMPANIONS
- 10 ST VERONICA GIULIANI
- 12 STS JOHN JONES AND JOHN WALL
- 13 BL ANGELINE OF MARSCIANO
- 14 ST FRANCIS SOLANO
- 15 ST BONAVENTURE
Born Giovanni di Fidanza, Bonaventure entered the Franciscan Order in 1243. He studied at the University of Paris and became one of its premier scholars. His theology was marked by an attempt to fully integrate faith and reason. In 1257 he was elected Minister General of the Franciscan Order. He steered the Franciscans on a moderate and intellectual course that made them the most prominent order in the Catholic Church until the coming of the Jesuits. Bonaventure was formally canonized in 1484 by the Franciscan Pope Sixtus IV.
- 21 ST LAWRENCE OF BRINDISI
- 23 ST CUNEGUNDA
- 23 ST BRIDGET of SWEDEN
- 24 BL LOUISE OF SAVOY
- 27 BL MARY MAGDALENE OF MARTINEGRO



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Faith Matters: Reflections from your Spiritual Assistant

Have you ever experienced a “dry spell” in your life when creativity and inspiration seems at a low spot? I certainly have, which made me think about that sometimes elusive creature called inspiration. And I found some interesting stories of inspired people that show how unpredictable inspiration can be.

Philo Farnsworth had an inspiration while sitting on a hillside in Idaho. The neat rows in a nearby farm gave him the idea of creating pictures on a cathode ray tube out of rows of light and dark dots. He was only 14 at the time. The next year he presented the concept as a high school science project, and at 21 he demonstrated the first working model of a television set.

Edward Land was taking pictures of his family while on a vacation trip. His young daughter asked "Why do we have to wait to see the pictures?" and Land thought to himself "good question!" He sketched out some ideas and tried them in his lab in Boston. The Polaroid Camera appeared soon after.

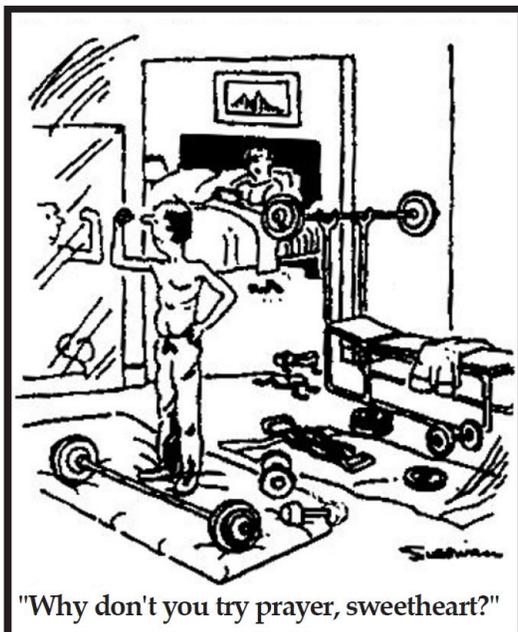
To inspire means to breathe in. To inhale something from outside us, whether it is air or a new idea, which keeps us vibrant and alive. Its close cousin is spirit, the root word of spirituality. At its heart spirituality is about getting in touch with the spirit that gives you life and sustains you.

People often speak of writings as inspired. By that they mean that the author has drawn upon a source of wisdom greater than themselves whose insight changes us and our outlook on life. For example, we believe that the various authors of the New Testament writings were inspired by the Spirit of God and the example of Jesus to write “the Word of God.”

Because it unpredictable, cannot be controlled, and causes us to change, inspiration is often seen as dangerous. This is especially true of those in positions of power or wealth, but all of us to one extent or another fear change. We grow accustomed to our habits and ways of thinking, and feel threatened when something outside of us challenges them.

As Shakespeare wrote, “Ah, there’s the rub.” We have a choice to make. We can open ourselves up to the inspired wisdom that enters our lives and, by doing so, risk change and growth. Or we can die as we are, with our old ideas, beliefs and prejudices intact. It is a free choice, and I’ve known many people over the years that have chosen either path.

Most of the time we don’t recognize inspiration until we look back. In hindsight we can more clearly see those events or people that have changed our lives. Usually those changes are unplanned and surprising.



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Take a look back at your own life. Who or what has inspired your life? What were some of the events or people whose inspiration led you to the path of life you now find yourself in? What inspires you to keep going day by day, especially when times are tough?

—Bob

Wisdom from Solanus Casey

- ❖ Crosses—the best school wherein to learn appreciation for the love of Jesus crucified, the divine Lover of our souls.
- ❖ Humanity’s outstanding weakness seems to be a thoughtless want of appreciation for the uncountable blessings by which Almighty God is always surrounding it.
- ❖ For the Christian to view the passing of a loved one only through the lenses of the worldly wisdom—which so sadly excludes faith in God and, consequently, confidence in a favorable hereafter—would be a sad misfortune.
- ❖ Jesus is no crank! He knows we are not angels but poor sinners, and He understands when we fail.

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

A Press Release from the Franciscan Action Network:

Franciscans Say: Black Lives Matter

As Christians, we must stand up for racial justice by working for reform in our institutions and in our communities

Washington, DC – Black lives matter. The Franciscan Action Network (FAN) stands in solidarity with the peaceful protests taking place across the country over the murder of George Floyd.

This spring has revealed, time and again, a racist violence still coiled in the recesses of America's institutions of law enforcement and criminal justice. Ahmaud Arbery, gunned down by white vigilantes in Georgia while jogging, a murder whitewashed by local police. Breonna Taylor, killed in a hail of gunfire in Louisville, as police stormed the wrong apartment. George Floyd died with a white police knee on his throat, while handcuffed and unresisting, as both he and a crowd of onlookers pleaded for the police to let him breathe.

Franciscans believe all human beings, regardless of race, creed, or color, are created in the very image and likeness of God. Therefore, FAN condemns all forms of bigotry and racism and has previously called on our elected leaders to courageously speak and stand against systemic racism and bigotry directly.

Silence is complicity. Christians cannot stand on the sidelines at this moment. We cannot be neutral. Nor can Christians cower behind pious claims of personal virtue which are not enough for the cultural, social, and political change so desperately needed. Christians must confront and call to account institutions of power that brutalize our sisters and brothers. Christians must pursue comprehensive, institutional reforms to unmask the legacy and present evil of systemic racism.

Franciscan Action Network condemns the actions which killed Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd. We ask all Franciscan communities and the Franciscan-hearted everywhere to join us in calling for justice for these black victims of American law enforcement. We ask Franciscan communities and the Franciscan-hearted to join us in solidarity with those speaking out for justice.

—Darlene

Our Blessing Bags in the process of assembly



Newsletter edited by Bob