

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

“Brother forgive your master (for taking your property) for the love of God so that you may set your soul free, and it may be that he will return what he has taken. Otherwise, you will lose not only your property but also your soul.” The brother replied, “I can’t forgive him unless he returns what he took.” Francis had a mantle on his back and he said to him, “Here I will give you this cloak and beg you to forgive your master for the love of the Lord God.” The man’s mood sweetened and moved by this kindness, he accepted the gift and forgave the wrongs (Celano, *The Founder*, Pg 305)

The brother that Francis was talking to was violently angry at the injustice that was done him. I think there is value in reflecting on how Francis responded. Some things that come to my mind is that Francis started with a desire to save this man’s soul. Second, he was willing to sacrifice something to help achieve that goal. Lastly, it’s hard to maintain anger in the face of such humility. We Franciscans offer welcome, and gentleness to break the violence in people’s hearts.
—Franz

This month’s Fraternity Gathering

August 16, 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

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

Agenda:

1. Opening prayer – Barb
2. LotH – Jane
3. Gospel sharing – Darlene
4. Ongoing Formation – Franz: Reflection 17 in *Live Like Francis*
5. Transitus 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: September 20, 2020.

Ongoing formation – TBD

Gospel Reading, 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mt 15:21-28

At that time, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, “Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon.” But Jesus did not say a word in answer to her. Jesus’ disciples came and asked him, “Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us.” He said in reply, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But the woman came and did Jesus homage, saying, “Lord, help me.” He said in reply, “It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters.” Then Jesus said to her in reply, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And the woman’s daughter was healed from that hour.



“Don’t act so surprised. There are lots of politicians down here.”

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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Faith Matters: Reflections from your Spiritual Assistant

A little over two centuries ago our forefathers made a bold assertion. They believed, at a time when all the nations of the earth were ruled by kings or emperors, that free people could govern themselves, an idea known as democracy.

Now of course they did not do it perfectly—slavery is a good example—but the United States remains the oldest continuous democracy in the world. They also knew that this experiment in government wouldn't be easy. Thomas Jefferson famously said that the success of our democracy rests on citizens being informed and involved. Unfortunately, most of us today are neither informed nor involved.

As Catholics we have a special obligation to get involved. In their statement *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* the U.S. bishops said:

In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. "People in every nation enhance the social dimension of their lives by acting as committed and responsible citizens" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 220). The obligation to participate in political life is rooted in our baptismal commitment to follow Jesus Christ and to bear Christian witness in all we do. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us, "It is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person. . . . As far as possible citizens should take an active part in public life" (nos. 1913-1915). (Para. 13).

In other words, it's not OK as a Catholic citizen in a democracy to act like the nearly 42% of American voters who did not cast a ballot in the last major election. In real terms this means that nearly 100 million of us chose to sit on the sidelines in 2016 and let others do the real work of democracy.

So what do we do, especially in this time of divisive politics? As the bishops teach, we should start by reflecting upon and discussing, even with candidates for office, some "fundamental moral choices" that face all of us:

- How do we protect human life and dignity?
- How do we fairly share the blessings and burdens of the challenges we face?
- What kind of nation do we want to be?
- What kind of world do we want to shape?

The bishops go on to say, "As Catholics, we are led to raise questions for political life other than those that concentrate on individual, material well-being. Our focus is not on party affiliation, ideology, economics, or even competence and capacity to perform duties, as important as such issues are. Rather, we focus on what protects or threatens the dignity of every human life" (*Forming Consciences*, 91). The question is not "what is best for me or my group?" but "what is in the best interest of all of us?"

How are you planning to defend democracy, and human dignity, in this election year?

—Bob

Franciscan Saints/Blesseds of the Month

2 OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS OF PORTIUNCULA

4 ST JOHN BAPTIST MARY VIANNEY

7 BLS AGATHANGELUS AND CASSIAN

Agathangelus Noury was born in France in 1598. He joined the Capuchin Friars in 1619 and worked as a missionary from 1629 until his death. As superior of the Capuchin mission in Cairo he strove to bring the Copts back into unity with the Church. When he was sent as superior to a new mission in Ethiopia in 1637 he summoned Cassian Lopes-Netto to assist him.

Cassian was born in Nantes in 1607 and entered the Capuchins in 1623. After a few months of missionary activity both were seized by the Abyssinians and martyred in the city of Gondar in 1638.

They were beatified by Pius X in 1905.

8 HOLY FATHER DOMINIC

11 ST CLARE OF ASSISI

14 ST MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

17 ST ROCH

19 ST LOUIS OF TOULOUSE

21 ST PIUS X

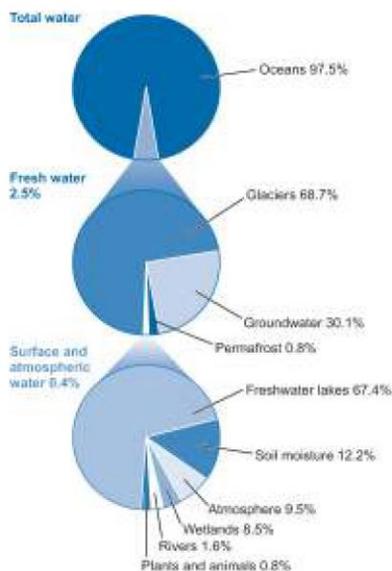
25 ST LOUIS IX

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.

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

From the Creation 3, 2, 1 Project:



Even though our planet is 70% water, only a small percentage of that is fresh water. The rest is salt water which cannot be used. The 2.5% of fresh water exists mostly as ice or permanent snow cover. We have only 1/3 of that percentage available for use. According to some predictions, by the year 2025 around 1.8 billion people will have no access to drinking water.

Everything we do requires water, for drinking, washing, growing food, and for industry, construction and manufacturing. With more than 7.5 billion people on the planet, and the population projected to top 10 billion by 2050, the situation is set to grow more urgent.

Water seems the most renewable of all the Earth's resources. It falls from the sky as rain, it surrounds us in the oceans that cover nearly three-quarters of the planet's surface, and in the polar ice caps and mountain glaciers. It is the source of life on Earth.

Your Weekly Question to Ponder:

In some places, water is becoming a “commodity subject to the laws of the market.” Why does Pope Francis say that water cannot be treated like other natural resources – available for purchase for those who can afford it?

Educate yourself on the world's water supply and how your individual actions are effecting that supply.



—Darlene

Wisdom from Solanus Casey

- ❖ Man's purpose as a rational creature is to recognize and to know His Creator, so as to be able intelligently to love Him, confidently to hope in Him, and gratefully to serve Him.
- ❖ We worry our heads and hearts about many things, and almost totally undervalue the invitation most beautiful of all: "Learn of Me, because I am meek and humble of heart." Mary the penitent understood it well, and Jesus praised her for her appreciation.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ How pleasant the glorified memory of the saints in heaven must be, who have finally triumphed over the world, the flesh, and the devil.

From the National SFO website. Check it out:
<https://secularfranciscansusa.org/>



"May the fraternal bonds of community always be our help, so that we may reach the goal of perfect Christian love." — from the Secular Franciscan Rite of Profession to the Gospel Life

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"See? It's one of the Ten Commandments: You kids better do 'zactly what thy Mommy and Daddy tell ya to do."

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SPEED BUMP

by Dave Coverly



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Newsletter edited by Bob