

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

As I write this message on April 7th, we have the good news of the appointment of a new Bishop for our Diocese. The Holy Father has appointed Fr. Daniel Felton, of the Diocese of Green Bay, as our new Shepherd. He gave a press conference today in which he sang a few verses from a well-known hymn, “Glory and praise to our God who alone gives Light to our day.” It’s a great day and an answer to many prayers of the faithful of our diocese. I met Bishop-Elect Felton briefly this morning and his first question to me was about the financial status of our diocesan organization. In our very brief meeting, I am encouraged by his concern and good personality. I thanked him for answering the call to serve here and welcomed him. He has to learn how to be a Bishop now, and will need our prayers going forward, even when unpopular decisions are made. As a fraternity, we will need to continue to discern how to assist our new Bishop and see what the Holy Spirit has planned for us.

—Franz

Gospel Reading: 3rd Sunday of Easter, Luke 24:35-48

The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way, and how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Then he said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have.” And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them.

He said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said to them, “Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”

This month’s Fraternity Gathering

April 18, 2021, 12:30 p.m. – Snacks and Gathering

Holy Family Catholic Church, social hall
2430 West 3rd St., Duluth
Park in the west parking lot

Agenda:

1. Opening prayer – Jane
2. LotH – Barb
3. Gospel sharing – Darlene
4. Ongoing Formation – Franz: *Fratelli Tutti*, Intro and Chapter 1
5. Business
 - a. Approve minutes, assign ministries
 - b. Treasurer reports, bills, receipts
 - c. Formation report
 - d. JPIC report
6. Vocation and closing prayers

Next month’s meeting: May 16, 2021.

Wisdom from Solanus Casey

- ❖ Life here in the exile is so short and uncertain, that it seems to me it ought to have another name.
- ❖ How merciful the good God is, always “fitting the back to the burden”—if not vice-versa, as is often the case.
- ❖ Eternal life: passing from time to eternity, from transitory struggling for existence common to mortals, to the destiny we trust, where anxiety and struggling for existence give place to confidence and union with every ideal ever dreamed of.



Faith Matters: Reflections from your Spiritual Assistant

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord
Yours are the praises, the glory, and the honor, and all blessing,
To you alone, Most High, do they belong,
And no human is worthy to mention your name.

With these words Francis began his famous Canticle of the Creatures. In this poem prayer Francis celebrates his spiritual insight that we are one with all of creation. This prayer continues to inspire people today.

The body of Church teaching known as Catholic Social Teaching got its start, as we discussed earlier, with Pope Leo XIII in 1891, and has been expanded upon by every pope since then. The final element of that teaching is stewardship of creation. It has grown over the past several decades with the realization that the fate of humanity is ultimately connected to the fate of the world and creatures around us. Pope Francis made this realization the centerpiece of his encyclical *Laudato Si*.

As all Franciscans know, Francis anticipated this by over 700 years. His intimacy with Jesus led him to the understanding that we are brothers and sisters with all living things, and even inanimate objects. Francis' insight was that the dominion interpretation of Genesis 1:28 common in the Church of his day ("fill the earth and subdue it") was not the whole story. Francis didn't see Nature as existing simply for the benefit of humanity but as a reflection of God and God's love. Even the worm on the walking path was precious in Francis' eyes for it spoke to him of God's love. And as Dan Horan stated at the last Q: "Our interconnectedness is not simply poetic or sentimental, but a statement of the profound truth affirmed, as it were, by both science and religion." That truth is that we need the world, and the world needs us, and that if we are not careful, we could lose it all.

We are fortunate as Secular Franciscans to have our own expression of JPIC—Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation—as an integral part of the Order. JPIC reminds us, as Vatican proclaimed, that promoting justice is an integral part of our Catholic faith, and that caring for creation is an authentic expression of justice. As Secular Franciscans we express our care for creation in our daily lives by being good stewards of the gifts that God has given us. The next time you take a walk outside, don't forget to say hi to your brothers and sisters. —Bob

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"If an apple a day keeps the doctor away,
how many days do I get for an apple pie?"

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Franciscan Saints/Blesseds of the Month

- 3 ST BENEDICT THE BLACK
- 17 ST BENEDICT JOSEPH LABRE
- 21 ST CONRAD OF PARZHAM
- 23 BL GILES OF ASSISI
- 24 ST FIDELIS OF SIGMARINGEN

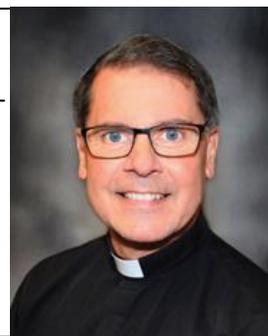
Fidelis was born Mark Rey in 1577 in Germany. He became a lawyer known for defending the rights of the poor and oppressed. Growing disgusted with the corruption he encountered in law, Rey joined his brother's Capuchin community, where he was given the name Fidelis. As a friar he continued his work among the poor and as a preacher.

Fidelis was sent during a time of great violence to Switzerland to preach against the Reformation of Calvin and Zwingli. He met some success but was eventually killed in 1622 by Calvinist soldiers. Fidelis was canonized in 1746.

- 28 BL LUCHESIUS

ODDS 'N' ENDS

As Franz mentioned above, we finally have a new bishop-elect in Fr. Daniel Felton of the Green Bay Diocese. Bishop-elect Felton was ordained a priest on June 13, 1981. His episcopal ordination and installation as bishop of Duluth have been set for May 20. Praise be to God! Let us pray for his success here and be ready to support him and his leadership. —Bob



Newsletter edited by Bob