



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

On May 1st my parish of St Benedict held a St. Joseph retreat. I attended this event hoping to understand the person of St. Joseph better and learn from his witness, both as a husband and foster father. One reflection that gave me insight was called "St. Joseph, the righteous man." Some things that were covered in a nutshell: 1) obedient to the angel's command, 2) Put others first, 3) Brave in the face of a dangerous journey to Egypt, 4) Responsible in settling his family in Nazareth, 5) Trusted God in the face of Mary's pregnancy. I was also reminded about other people in the scriptures who were called "righteous" and how this title was a high honor to the Jews. I am pleased that the Holy Father has called this the year of St. Joseph because we have a lot to learn from him even though the scriptures have so little. I have heard his life referred to as one "hidden in Christ". We are called to honor our parents in the commandments, perhaps this could apply to more than just our biological parents, maybe even Joseph and Mary. I will end with a short prayer from St. Alphonsus Liguori, "Since God has wanted to obey you [St. Joseph], allow me to be in your service, to honor you and love you as my Lord and Master."

We will resume our meal and social before the May gathering, starting at 12:30. —Franz

This month's Fraternity Gathering

May 16, 2021, 12:30 p.m. – Potluck and Gathering

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

Agenda:

1. Opening prayer – Keith
2. LotH – Barb
3. Gospel sharing – Kathy
4. Ongoing Formation – Franz: *Fratelli Tutti*, Chapter 2
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: June 20, 2021.

Ongoing formation – *Fratelli Tutti*, Chapter 3

Gospel Reading: Ascension Sunday, Mk 16:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.



"You may now unmask and kiss the bride – if you recognize her as the woman you intended to marry."

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ODDS 'N' ENDS

This month we welcome a new bishop in Duluth. Fr. Daniel Felton will be ordained and installed on May 20. Keep him in your prayers.



May 28 will be the fourth anniversary of Pat Nacey's death. St. Pat, pray for us.

—Bob

Faith Matters: Reflections from your Spiritual Assistant

Holy Virgin Mary,
among the women born into the world,
there is no one like you.
Daughter and servant
of the most high and supreme King
and of the Father in heaven,
Mother of our most holy Lord Jesus Christ,
Spouse of the Holy Spirit,
pray for us
with Saint Michael the Archangel,
all the powers of heaven
and all the saints,
at the side of your most holy beloved Son,
our Lord and Teacher.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

It is no surprise to Franciscans that Francis had a great devotion to Mary, the mother of Jesus. This devotion is noted in the various biographers of Francis' life. It may come as a surprise, however, that Francis wrote very little about Mary. The above is an exception, composed by Francis as an antiphon for his Office of the Passion.

The Little Office of the Blessed Virgin had begun in the Church roughly four hundred years before the time of Francis. He would have been familiar with it from his time living with the Benedictine priest at San Damiano, if not from his religious education growing up in Assisi. Like many of his day, devotion to the Virgin Mary would have been an important part of his prayer life (remember that at this time the rosary wasn't developed yet, and wouldn't be for many decades after Francis' death). Francis adapted the Little Office for his community and in doing so composed the above prayer.

Maybe it is time for Franciscans to reclaim this prayer, as a prayer in its own right, rather than simply an antiphon within another prayer. Something to think about. —Bob

Wisdom from Solanus Casey

- ❖ Let us not worry about past stupidities and sins, but rather thank God for having rescued us from hell and from the jaws of our unruly passions.
- ❖ How little we realize what a benefit it is that we taste sorrow now and then. Get acquainted with the Queen of Martyrs—God's Mother suffering—and you will learn something of how we ought to love sorrow and pains in this life.
- ❖ To know and appreciate is to advance in the one science necessary: sanctity.

Council Meeting Agenda

Council meeting will immediately follow the fraternity meeting.

1. Opening Prayer
2. Approve minutes (1/17/21)/agenda
3. Request for profession
4. Transfer request
5. Other
6. Closing prayer

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
- 28 ST MARIANA OF JESUS de PAREDES
- 30 ST BAPTISTA VARANO

Camilla was born in 1458 into a noble family and grew up with all its trappings. As a young girl she was inspired by the preaching of Franciscan friars in Varano and began a life of prayer and austerity. For nearly three years she resisted her father's attempts to marry her off. When he consented to her becoming a nun Camilla entered the Poor Clares and took the name Baptista.

At a time of great upheaval in Italy, Baptista wrote extensively: about her visions, her spiritual struggles, and the fruits of her meditation. She was considered one of the most gifted writers of her time and a renowned leader among the Poor Clares. Baptista died during a plague in 1524 and was canonized in 2010.

- 30 ST FERDINAND, KING

Newsletter edited by Bob

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

Here is a reflection passed on by a fellow Secular, Mary Holtz, OFS:

Where there is a need, there is a Franciscan

Our vocation includes pursuing Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation. This idea comes to us naturally from the life of St. Francis and the whole Franciscan movement. It was his inspired pursuit of the Gospel Life. Francis's love of Jesus led him to public preaching, and to take on the concerns of others. He held up with such passion the lepers, the poor, and the marginalized. He saw Christ's presence in them. Francis was active in bringing about reconciliation between opposing parties. He saw and experienced God's love and beauty in all of creation. He had deep personal religious experiences in private prayer as well as in ordinary life. These things brought him deep into the mystery of God. Francis's way of speaking benefited all to whom he met; he made the message of God's love understandable to ordinary people. St. Francis's words and now our words: "Pace e Bene" and "Pax et Bonum" (Peace and all good) require more than just saying them. Remember the message in the words contain an action: "Lord, let me be an instrument of Your peace; Your healing peace."

(Parts paraphrased from usfranciscans.org/home/justice-and-peace)

—Darlene



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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"If so many people get hurt in war, why do they keep playin' it?"

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Praying the Secular Franciscan Rule

Amended 5/10/2018, La Verna Region

Adapted 2/16/2020

O Lord, our God, we intend to make present the charism of our Seraphic Father Francis in the life and mission of the Church, in various ways and forms but in life-giving union with one another. By our commitment, we pledge ourselves to live the Gospel in the manner of St Francis by means of our Rule approved by the Church (Arts. 1-3). Help us, we pray, so that daily we may:

- Help us, we pray, so that daily we may observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of St Francis, going from gospel to life and from life to the gospel (Art. 4);
- Help us, we pray, so that daily we may seek to encounter the living and active person of Jesus Christ in our brothers and sisters, in sacred scripture, in the Church and in the Eucharist (Art. 5);
- Help us, we pray, so that daily we may go forth as witnesses and instruments of the Church's mission among people, proclaiming Christ by our life and words (Art. 6);
- Help us, we pray, so that daily we may conform our thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by the radical interior change which the Gospel calls "conversion", making use of the sacrament of reconciliation on the way to renewal (Art. 7);
- Help us, we pray, so that daily we may use prayer and contemplation as the soul of all we are and do (Art. 8);

- Help us, we pray, so that daily we may imitate the Virgin Mary's complete self-giving in her openness to your every word and call (Art. 9);
- Help us, we pray, so that daily we may faithfully fulfil the duties proper to our various circumstances in life (Art. 10);
- Help us, we pray, so that daily we may seek the proper spirit of detachment and purify our hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power (Art. 11);
- Help us, we pray, so that daily we may acquire the purity of heart needed to set ourselves free to love God and our brothers and sisters (Art. 12);
- Help us, we pray, so that daily we may accept all people as your gift, Lord, and an image of Christ (Art. 13);
- Help us, we pray, so that daily we may exercise our responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of service (Art. 14);
- Help us, we pray, so that daily we may be in the forefront of promoting justice by the testimony of our human lives and by courageous initiatives (Art. 15);
- Help us, we pray, so that daily we may esteem work both as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption and service of the human community (Art. 16);
- Help us, we pray, so that daily we may cultivate the Franciscan spirit of peace, fidelity and respect for life in our families, striving to make it a sign of a world already renewed in Christ (Art. 17);
- Help us, we pray, so that daily we may respect all creatures, animate and inanimate "as bearing the imprint of the Most High" (Art. 18);
- Help us, we pray, so that daily we may be bearers of peace and messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, as immersed in the resurrection of Christ, we serenely tend towards Sister Death and our ultimate encounter with you, our Father (Art. 19).

For our life in Fraternity (Art. 20 - 26)

- Help us, we pray, so that we may be united at all levels of fraternity - local, regional, national and international, with fraternities having their own moral personality, by the norms of our OFS Rule and Constitutions. (Art. 20)
- Help us, we pray, so that we may be animated and guided by councils and ministers that serve with a ready and willing spirit as they carry out their responsibilities. (Art. 21)
- Help us, we pray, so that we may develop within our local fraternities a sense of Church and Franciscan vocation that will be enlivened by our apostolic services. (Art. 22)
- Help us, we pray, so that we may engage as an entire community in the process of formation by the manner of our living, especially for those in initial orientation. (Art. 23)
- Help us, we pray, so that we may adopt appropriate means for growth in Franciscan Spirituality, in the ecclesiastical life of our Catholic Church, in our secular life and in the life of fraternity. (Art. 24)
- Help us, we pray, so that we may offer regular financial support contributing according to our means towards the expenses of OFS Order at all levels of fraternity. (Art. 25)
- Help us, we pray, so that we may uphold our collaboration with and the support provided by our Spiritual Assistants and Councilors of the higher fraternity who assist us as a concrete sign of communion and co-responsibility. (Art.26)

All this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Brother. AMEN!