



ORDINIS FRANCISCANI SAECULARIS

St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity, Welland.

Newsletter #160 July 2019

Minister's Message

Prayers that you may enjoy the beauty and abundance of summer weather and harvests!

A great big thank you to all those who took office at last month's elections! We begin a new journey together in the service of the Lord! It may simply be a 'change of hats' as they say, but every role brings its own challenges, and new opportunities for growth!

Mark Rozario and I had the privilege to visit the Canadian Food for Children Warehouse in Mississauga on June 17th, representing the Trillium Regional Fraternity, as a group of interested persons met to consider creating a forming group. There were two professed OFS there, and the others were people who volunteer at the warehouse on a weekly basis. It was an experience to visit the warehouse and see what they do there, and to meet with the people interested in St. Francis, and speak with them about the Secular Franciscan Order. The warehouse was filled with skids, piled high to the ceiling and wrapped in plastic, waiting for loading. There are at least one shipping container filled and sent daily to one of many destinations, especially in South America and Africa. Dr. Simone was not present, as he continues to practice medicine and only visits the warehouse on Fridays.

The group of people that met there that day seemed interested in learning more about the Order, and Helen, a professed member from the Brampton fraternity who works at the warehouse, will guide them with her fraternity's support. Please support them in prayer!

Franciscan Fridays: Some of our members who happen to be attending Mass at St. Kevin's Church on a Friday, have been gathering after Mass to share in a few minutes of prayer. Thank you to those who stay for prayer and perhaps more of you will join us in the future!

On Sunday, we had talked about going for dinner after the meeting, but this time and day does not work for everyone. Perhaps we can talk about an alternate day and time at the meeting, and

so we will NOT go out for a meal this Sun. July 7.

We hope to have our pilgrimage again on August 2nd, which is on a Friday this year. Please think about what churches you would like to visit, and we will discuss it at our meeting.

The Feast of St. Clare will be on a Sunday this year. Please consider if you would want to celebrate on the day, preferably in the afternoon, or perhaps on the Saturday, the day before, in a similar format to last year's program. We will discuss that at our meeting as well.

May God bless you with peace and joy!

Debbie

Coming Events

- ~ Sun. Jul. 7th 1:30 p.m. Regular meeting
- ~ Fri. July 26th 1:30 p.m. Formation session
- ~ Sun. Aug. 4th 1:30 p.m. Regular meeting
- ~ Mon. Aug. 19th 1:30 p.m. Regular meeting
(All above meetings at St. Kevin's Hospitality Room)
- ~ Fri. Aug. 2nd Pilgrimage: time and locations to be announced.

Pope's Monthly Intentions July Universal Justice

That those who administer justice may work with integrity and that the injustice which prevails in the world may not have the last word.

Monthly Devotions The Precious Blood of Jesus

Father, by the blood of your own Son you have set all people free and saved us from death. Continue your work of love within us, that by constantly celebrating the mystery of our salvation, we may reach the eternal life it promises. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



From our Spiritual Assistant:

Peace and all Good.

Remember that Francis was torn between Praying and Preaching. In *The Little Flowers* (Chapter XVI,) he asks Brother Masseo to go to both Clare and Sylvester and ask them whether Francis should spend his life as a contemplative hermit or go out and preach. Both saints send the same response back (through Masseo.) "The Lord says, go and tell Brother Francis that he has called him to this state not to save merely his own soul but that he may produce fruits in those of others, and that through him many souls be saved."

You are called to be Franciscan not for yourself but to "produce fruits" in others.

Remember that Francis went out and preached - but he also set aside time to go away and pray. It's not 'either-or;' it's both prayer and 'working in the world.'

The following is a reflection on Matthew 7.21-29 (go from Gospel to life.) It never mentions Francis, but is inspired by Clare's and Sylvester's response to his question.

deacon maurice ofs

Should we seek only Faith or must Faith also be expressed in Works?

In Matthew 7.21-29, the man cries "Lord, Lord," because he HAS faith: he believes in Jesus and prays, and wants to follow Jesus... but Jesus says that this hypothetical man will NOT enter the Kingdom of Heaven - unless he DOES the will of "Our Father in heaven." The hypothetical man has faith, but NOT the works that faith would generate.

And the alternative may also be a problem. Jesus also talks of others who do such works: who prophesy in Jesus' name, and cast out demons and do many works of power in Jesus' name... but will not enter Kingdom of Heaven EITHER: Jesus says to (and of) such, "I never knew you; go away from me." These ones, it seems, have works but not faith.

Faith and works is not an EITHER-OR. There is a complex relationship connecting Works to Faith. Each expresses the other; neither is whole without the other. The message for us is to be conscious of both Faith and Works: to nurture both, to value both, to practice both - and to APPRECIATE the fundamental way the two are interconnected.

Jesus gives us the parable of a house built on rock OR on sand specifically to reinforce the importance of Works in our Faith life. The house built on sand is a simile for a foolish person who DOES hear Jesus' words, but doesn't ACT on them - doesn't WORK on them. The WORKING is just as important as the believing. The house built on rock is a simile for a wise person who BOTH believes and works.

There's a suggestion (in the parable) that DOING THE WORKS may be a starting place, a foundation: a Rock on which we can build stronger, more resilient faith. Building on sand is trying to sustain faith WITHOUT letting it produce works. Faith must be physically expressed by our hands and feet and our strength and our proclamation... so that it will not be washed away in the storms and winds of life.

What works? Jesus lists prophesy, and casting out demons, and great works of power as examples. And we need to be open to doing such great works when called upon to do so. But we also sustain and develop our faith with ordinary... everyday works: such as; really listening to each other, putting the other first, doing to others as we would have done to us, respecting all people (not just people who are easy to respect.) We sustain our faith by standing up for all life, and by feeding the hungry and visiting the sick and the prisoner.

Do whatever The Father reveals as His will for you... then Jesus will not say to you (or to me), "I never knew you; get away from me." Rather He will place us at His right hand, and say to us, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." (Matthew 25)

Joke Corner

Bob: "Call me a doctor! "Call me a doctor!"

Rob: "Are you sick?"

Bob: "No, I just graduated from medical school."

To have some fun, walk into an antique store and say, "What's new?"

Ha! Ha! Ha!

Please Note: There are no birthdays or anniversaries this month. Ed.