



K A N S A S T M I S S O U R I T O K L A H O M A

M i n i s t e r ' s M e s s a g e

Blessings my brothers and sisters,

First, I pray that your Lenten season has been a blessing and a joy to you. Relish this special and holy time. Do not let it go by in casual passing. Pray and put all your trust in God to guide you in your penances and conversion to recognize His holy plan for you. As Matthew Kelly tells us over and over, Our God is a God of purpose. He placed us here in this place on earth and at this time on purpose, for a purpose and with a purpose. Our job is to let God reveal that purpose to us and to remember that God's purpose was always to send His Beloved Son to show us the way. A fruitful and blessed Lent to all of you, and a holy and joyous Easter.

First, there is a Regional issue that needs to be resolved and directly involves all of you. After cancelling our Regional Summer Gathering last year at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita, we had the Center apply our deposit on a weekend for this year, not knowing what our situation would be. The weekend is August 6 – 8, 2021.

We need to know by May 6 approximately how many rooms we will need or if we are cancelling the event. So, (you can see where this going) we need to know how many of you are or would considering attending the Regional

Summer Gathering in Wichita face-to-face. Here is how we would like to handle getting your answers.

I will be sending out an email to the local ministers soon with a short questionnaire. I am asking them to get the questionnaires to you. Please get your responses back to your fraternity minister by the end of April. The three Area Councilors will be calling all the fraternity ministers to get the responses to the questionnaire at the end of April so we can make a decision by May 1. Your cooperation in this matter will help us immensely in making this decision. Thank you so much in advance for your cooperation with this.

I hope that all of you have gotten your copy of the new TAU. Please read it carefully. There is so much inspiration and information in there to keep us together as a Franciscan Order. There is also an article about our very own Monica Olivera of the Brother Jacoba fraternity in Lawrence, Kansas, who won the title of National JPIC Honoree for 2020 for her work with First Nations Outreach to needy and poor Native Americans on reservations. We are so proud of her and the work she and members of the First Nation Outreach do. Well done, Monica!

I would also like to reinforce our National Minister

Jan Parker's plea for us to read "Instrumentum Laboris." As you know from our Formation Friday lessons these last several weeks, this is a working document of topics that are to be discussed in depth at our General Chapter this year. For our newer members or Candidates, General Chapter is the gathering associated with the International Fraternity.

This has come to us from the International Presidency (CIOFS); however, this is not a document conceived and written by a higher council that is being handed down to us from above. Not at all. For the past six years, this document in all its rough forms has gone back and forth between our International, National, and Regional Executive Councils all over the world in preparation for our 800th Anniversary of our first rule, *Memoriale Propositi* this year. Like our Rule "Instrumentum Laboris" was created to animate and guide us in our lives as Franciscans while looking forward as to how to address issues and areas of concern and to focus strongly on not only how we can be better servant leaders but how to deepen our sense of co-responsibility required of each of us in our General Constitution and Statutes.

I can think of no better Ongoing Formation for all of us than to read, question, discuss and understand the inspiration found in this document. All the issues in this document are in response to problems and questions that have been placed before various councils in conjunction with a clearer understanding of our General Constitution, and our National and International Statutes.

And, if you have not yet read Pope Francis's new encyclical "Fratelli Tutti" this too is excellent material for Ongoing Formation. What a beautiful invitation to build and rebuild a culture of peace and dialogue once again. It is so centered on our Franciscan values and virtues and shows us once again how to work together to care for each other as a human family, especially as we recover from the pandemic. And there are so many study guides that are available, like the one found on the USCCB website.

I pray you will consider reading both documents.

As for my latest reading project, I chose this year as my New Year's Resolution to read and pray the Bible in a Year podcast by Fr. Mike Schmitz and am I ever glad I did. I have attempted to read the whole Bible many a time, but never made it far before I wanted to throw my hands in the air, somewhere around Leviticus or Numbers, completely confused and even dismayed. Why are they doing that? Why does God ask them to do kill all the people of Midian? What does that mean? Why are they counting all the men and cattle? Again? But when it is explained in terms of their culture and civilization and their covenant with God, and then related to our culture and civilization, and the fulfillment of God's promise, it makes so much sense.

Since I started my study with Fr. Schmitz, I have had many days of intense reflection, but there is one I want to share with you that goes all the way back to the beginning. I was praying to God, thanking Him for his gracious goodness with which He has blessed me and my family, when I remembered the very opening of the Bible, "...and God said it was good." I thought, yes, my life is good. I have all I need physically; I am gaining more and more needed insight to my faith and my relationship with God. Yes, it is good. And when God said of all that He created, "It is good.," He did not try to improve on it, He did not add to it, He did not change anything – No. It was good! That meant it was enough, it was abundant, it was beautiful in its design, it was amazing in its function. It was GOOD!

Maybe my life is not as perfect as when God first made it. I have sullied it whenever I questioned God, when resisted or even defied God. Yet this life from God IS good and can be good once again. Even with all its twists and turns, with all its struggles and pains. It is even good in a pandemic. Each struggle, each painful

experience in my life has led me back to God, closer to God. When things don't go my way, eventually my eyes are opened to my resistance to God's will. I have discovered that even my perception of bad can actually be God's ultimate good that he wishes for me. All I must do is work with God, humbly submitting to His Will, to regain a good life. God made all of life good. It is our job to believe Him.

See Christ



“Live a life worthy of our calling!”



Be Christ

Judith

Act of Consecration to St. Joseph by St. Bernardine of Siena:

O my beloved St. Joseph, adopt me as thy child. Take charge of my salvation; watch over me day and night; preserve me from the occasions of sin; obtain for me purity of body. Through thy intercession with Jesus, grant me a spirit of sacrifice, humility, self-denial, burning love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and a sweet and tender love for Mary, my mother. Saint Joseph, be with me living, be with me dying, and obtain for me a favorable judgment from Jesus, my merciful Savior. Amen.

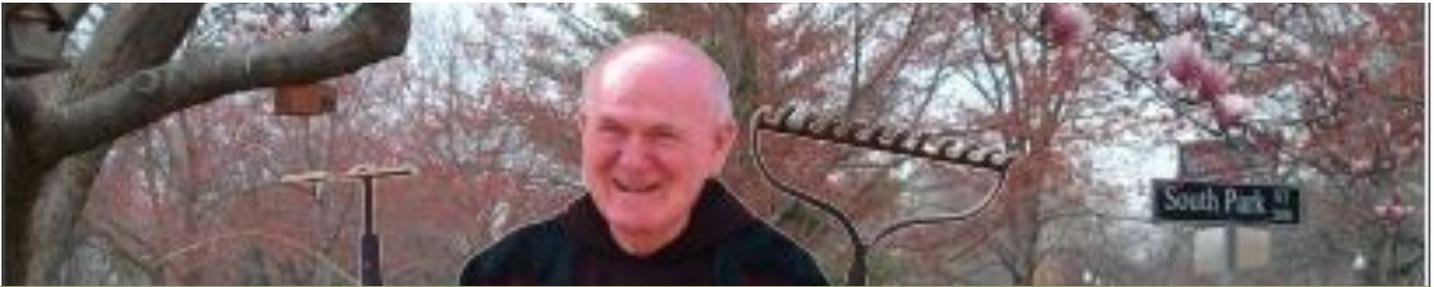


St. Joseph, Terror of Demons



Sister Death

NAME	FRATERNITY	CITY, STATE	DATE
Adam Cuong Nguyen OFS	St. Anthony of Padua	Wichita, KS	September 28, 2020
Monsignor Ralph Kaiser OFS	Queen of the Angels	Buckner, MO	December 11, 2020A
Anthony Rizzi OFS	Holy Eucharist	Independence, MO	December 21, 2020
Maryann Peale OFS	Holy Eucharist	Independence, MO	December 25, 2020
Claude Graybill OFS	Our Lady of Sorrows	Olathe, KS	December 29, 2020



Words from Father Mike Scully OFM Cap. Regional Spiritual Assistant

From the Regional Spiritual Assistant

OUR CREDO

REFERENCES

Omer Englebert: St. Francis of Assisi: A Biography.

(*Read the Last Will and Testament of Francis.*) Such was the Last Will and Testament of St. Francis, and the way he interpreted the Rule of 1223. But, as we have seen, the Order had evolved too far for it to be still possible to take his intentions into consideration.... As for Francis, now that, following the example of the knights and martyrs, he had once more testified to his faith and said his *Credo* before dying, there remained nothing more for him than to await the hour of death.

[chapter 21]

Og Mandino: The Greatest Miracle in the World.

Use wisely your power of choice. Choose to love...rather than hate. Choose to laugh...rather than cry. Choose to create...rather than destroy. Choose to persevere...rather than quit. Choose to praise...rather than gossip. Choose to heal...rather than wound. Choose to give...rather than steal. Choose to act...rather than procrastinate. Choose to grow...rather than rot. Choose to pray...rather than curse. Choose to live...rather than die.

[from The God Memorandum]

Wilton Gregory: What Franciscans Can Do To Rebuild The Church

The greatest detriment today to vocations is our own failure to be true to our calling. When we live fully the life we profess, vocations will come. People must be taught to understand the special nature of religious. Your communities must stand out as oases in the marketplace—as places of silence and reflection in the middle of the city, town or village. Your lives should reflect what the Christian life can and should be. So how can you as Franciscans best respond today to the command “Rebuild my church”? By being faithful to your way of life, your charism and your vows.

Sean Sammon: Religious Life in America

In carrying out our ministry in a spirit of selfless service, we witness further to counter-cultural values. How? By avoiding the all too familiar and tragic betrayal of a spiritual life that occurs when we give our heart away generously at the time of first commitment, and then take it back, bit by bit, with each passing year.

As Francis of Assisi came to the end of his life, he wanted most of all to speak his mind about his plan that he saw ebbing away. He knew that the ideals that he had chosen at the beginning of his conversion, as he called it, had not blossomed the way he had hoped. He knew that what he wanted for his Order would not be fulfilled. So he would not leave the world without speaking his goals one final time. Such was the reason for the *Testament*. In it, he said once again: this is my credo; this is the reason why I am here; this is my choice. As if to say to us—“Just so you know how I really feel, here it is.”

His real feelings were the ideals and goals that he had chosen. Bishop Gregory spoke them eloquently to the Franciscans of the Immaculate Conception Province at their Chapter several years ago, part of which is quoted above.

We cannot choose the goals that Francis set for himself because we live in different times with different parameters, and as seculars, we actually live in the world. but you and I have chosen goals. In terms of Og Mandino's spirituality, we have made our choice. We have chosen the Secular Franciscan life within the twenty-first century. The fact is that we continually choose those ideals; we continue to say that the focus of our lives is the Jesus that Francis knew in a personal way.

Perhaps we have to re-choose those goals again, to re-discover what we have already chosen, to improve our focus, to decide again to be a little better secular Franciscan than I was yesterday or the day before.

Some Thoughts For Consideration

1. A suggestion: go through the Testament of Francis, and determine what thoughts can be applied to your life right now.
2. One of the ideas in leadership training is that the most successful people in the world have their goals *written out* and they *carry the goals with them*. What are the goals for your personal spiritual life? What are the goals for your life as a secular Franciscan? Write them down, and put them in a place where you can read them often.
3. What is the most important goal for a Secular Franciscan and why?

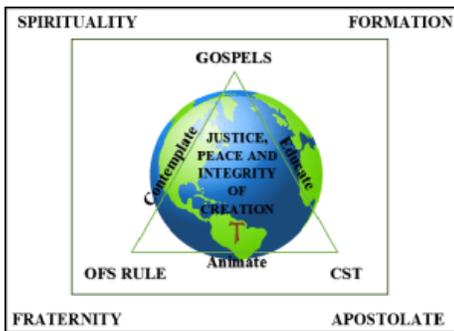


How Can I ask My Brothers and Sisters to Pray for a Special Intention

If you have a special intention and would like the many prayer warriors in our region to flood heaven with prayers for your intention, then send your special request to

prayers@sfojuandepadilla.org

You don't have to send your request to someone else first! Just send it straight to the above email address.



JPIC Updates

By Susan Tabor OFS, Regional Animator

Despite the pandemic, we have all learned how to adapt our modes of operating to accommodate the restrictions imposed to protect public health.

Last fall at the regional annual meeting and in my last newsletter, news was shared about the national JPIC focus groups being convened to study certain issues and as a result of that work, release materials for fraternities to use for their formation.

Community is part of our formation; everything from reflecting on issues related to our chapter to how to better be peacemakers and how to best promote and do justice in our world.

I thought I'd update you concerning the work of each group:

Immigration: This group has launched a survey concerning the needs of fraternities in this area. Materials are being prepared by focus group members on various aspects of immigration so that we all have the same information. Several tools should be coming to you during this summer.

Earth care: This group has been reviewing Laudato Si, as this is the document which is our springboard. We have begun gathering resources to share with fraternities, but I do not have a release date yet.

Spirituality and JPIC: We are presenting material each month on how various aspects of prayer and Franciscan spirituality connect with JPIC. We have presentations scheduled through the end of this year. These have been wonderful, and I hope we can package them and get them to you early next year.

Mindful Dialogues: We are learning, processing for ourselves and identifying how to promote mindful and civil dialogues within our fraternities and within our order. This has been very thought-provoking and insightful. I have no idea yet as to when materials for fraternities might be released. The convener wants us to learn by doing before we teach it, which makes sense to me.

I am excited to welcome a new JPIC animator in our region! Our Lady of Sorrows fraternity in Olathe now has a JPIC animator! Her name is Renee Schmit. Welcome, Renee! We are glad to have you!

Happy Easter, everyone, and happy spring!





St. Anthony Fraternity Feeds the Hungry in Wichita, KS



Christopher Riggs represented the St. Anthony Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order of Wichita while presenting a check for \$1,000 to Sharon Meckenstock Saturday, Dec. 12, at St. Jude Church. She directs the St. Jude Food Pantry. Father John Fogliasso is pastor. The Franciscans have donated \$1,000 to the pantry for several years just before Christmas.



Jeanmarie Murry OFS of St. Anthony's Fraternity and Claudia Kauzlarich OFS, National Treasurer and member of the Holy Eucharist Fraternity pose for picture taken by Dona Gibbons OFS, Queen of the Angels Fraternity.

Franciscans Join First Responders Conference Wichita, KS



Catholics from around the country met in Wichita, KS to attend a conference entitled "Empowering the Spiritual First Responders" sponsored by the House of Mary Ministry in November 2020.

The conference focused upon learning more about the physical needs to those in distress. The goal was to better prepare attendees to minister to those in trauma in time of disasters. This would include assisting clergy who may be overwhelmed because of the a great demand for them to care for the sacramental needs of the laity during times of disasters.

The conference included talks from priests, psychiatrists, counselors and medical personnel. Topics covered depression, suicide alcohol and drug abuse, freemasonry, pedophilia, and the occult. One speaker was a former Satanist and abortionist who shared an amazing conversion story.

A couple of sessions included how to do street ministry and how to pray over others. One day soon, we all may be called to assist those in distress. Like the boy scouts motto: **Be Prepared.**

St Stanislaus & St Adalbert Broken Arrow, Oklahoma



On Oct. 3, Feast of the Transitus of St. France, St. Stanislaus and St. Adalbert Fraternity in Broken Arrow, OK, celebrated the profession of two new Franciscans. L-R: Ann Marie Neuok, OFS, formation director; Trish Hanlon, OFS, newly professed. Matt Gerlach, pastor of St. Anne Catholic Church in Broken Arrow; Ginger Thumnel, newly professed; and Dominick Palmisano, Minister of St. Stanislaus and St. Adalbert Fraternity.



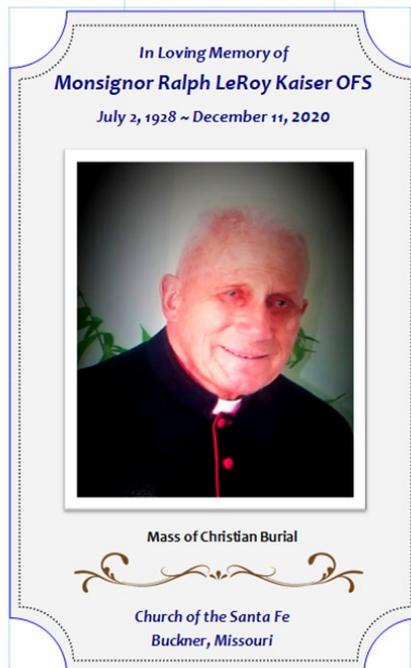
Election Held at Brother Jacoba, Lawrence, KS



Newly elected council (l-r): Gloria Creed-Dikeogu - treasurer, Sylvia Ridge, KC Metro Regional Councilor and Fraternal Visitor, Connie Ehrlich—minister, Ruth Entwistle—vice-minister, Bob Brill—formation director, Fr. Mike Scully OFM Cap.—Pastoral Visitor and spiritual assistant and Gini Shoulberg—secretary.



Monsignor Ralph Kaiser OFS, Spiritual Assistant of Queen of the Angels May He Rest in Peace and the Perpetual Light Shine Upon Him



Members of the Queen of the Angels held a private Franciscan Crown Rosary for Monsignor at the Church of the Santa Fe in Buckner, MO.

Monsignor Ralph Kaiser OFS, Spiritual Assistant to the Queen of the Angels Fraternity in Buckner, MO., passed away December 11, 2020 at St. Joseph Hospital, Kansas City, Missouri. Monsignor Kaiser was ninety-two years old and served the Church with great distinction for sixty-six years in priestly ministry.



Monsignor Kaiser was born on July 2, 1928. He became a Secular Franciscan at St. Bonaventure University. He was ordained on May 29, 1954 at St. John's Cathedral, Paterson, New Jersey. He served at Assumption, Christ the King, Holy Trinity, and Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Parishes in Kansas City., MO. His final assignment was at the mission parish of the Church of the Santa Fe.

In addition to his parochial duties, Monsignor Kaiser served as Chaplain in the United States Navy. He was made a Chaplain to His Holiness by Pope Benedict XVI on August 16, 2006. He was a self-taught musician. He participated in the Independence Community Orchestra and won awards for his solo performances. He taught several students from his parish and they also went on to win state awards.

Monsignor was an outstanding photographer and won awards for his pictures of nature. He was voted "Man of the Year in Buckner, MO. twice, a town not previously known for its tolerance of Catholics. The city librarian said that Monsignor had read nearly every book in their library. Let us pray for this holy priest. May we meet again.



Queen of the Angels Prepare Homeless Relief Boxes



Queen of the Angels Fraternity in Buckner, MO. worked together to prepare boxes for the homeless this February 2021. Boxes included gloves, scarves, hats, hot hands/feet packets, snacks, sanitary and personal hygiene items and more. When all boxes were packed, Father Holland blessed them before their distribution to the homeless.

Homebound, Aging—Addressing the Needs of our Fraternity

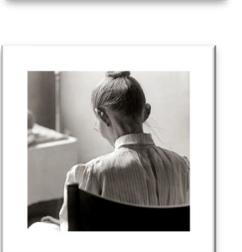
The Pandemic presented numerous problems for fraternities trying to keep members involved as a fraternity. But keeping in contact with all members is always a challenge especially when health, aging and life circumstances get in the way.

Queen of the Angels Fraternity for the first time, had members who were unable to attend the regular gatherings each month. Two had surgery and had to stay quarantined, one was in the nursing home with declining mental health, another had several strokes with physical limitations and another was now his care taker.

Our council wanted to support these members and were concerned about how to continue to let them know that they were still important to us. We found that it was challenging navigating the many circumstances of people in stressful situations such as confusion, dementia, mental health issues, misunderstandings and unreasonable expectations.

We came up with a goal—To make one contact with each person every month, either by personal contact, a phone call, a **“Thinking of You” card** with all members signing at the gatherings. We also started anonymous **“Prayer Partners”** for the year with a card recording the prayers we have completed for that person each month. This card is distributed to each person at the gatherings. We will reveal who the “Prayer Partner” is at the Christmas Gathering.

If the member has had surgery, we will provide meals, run errands for them as we are able. We want our members to know that fraternity means support from their brothers and sisters. We are still learning and growing in this area and would love to know what has worked for your fraternity. If your fraternity has some creative ideas, please contact Jo Keller, Minister





Wedding Bells Are Ringing

Brenda Lager OFS and Troy Haas OFS were officially engaged on the feast of the Holy Family in Brenda's home parish of St. Paul's in Angelus, KS. The wedding date is September 4 2021 at St. Joseph's Church in Hays KS. Brenda and Troy are members of the St. Joseph Fraternity in Hays, KS. We wish both of them a happy, holy and blessed marriage and life together.



"...Peace is a gift which God gives you in prayer..." St. Padre Pio, pray for us



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Our Lady of Sorrows ~ Olathe, Kansas

In the Moment

By Genna Ferrell OFS

It is important to be prepared. School teaches us skills to prepare us for our future occupation and our daily lives. Once people have graduated, most believe that school is behind them. Yet employers often require various levels of training and certification for their employees. Someone can also choose to learn new skills for enjoyment such as a hobby. However, people do not as readily think of training concerning spiritual growth. That sort of training they believe is for the religious and priests.

Knowledge is important. Wisdom is also important. The best evangelists are not walking encyclopedias. Most people do not join the faith because of their heads. They follow their hearts. It is love and compassion that draw people into the church. When mercy walks the city streets, hearts are healed. When eyes filled with love gaze deeply into another's eyes, hearts are opened. These things cannot be taught in schools. They are taught by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit's guidance is a school of love. St John taught people to love one another. After a while they asked, "When can we move on to the next lesson?" "Once you have mastered the first", he replied.

How can we enter this school of love? Through prayer and listening for guidance, we can learn how to open the door of our heart and the hearts of others. This guidance, however, takes place within the present moment during the realities of daily life. That is the first lesson. Seek to maintain an open mind and heart always ready to hear and respond.

Genna Ferrell OFS
minister of Our Lady of Sorrows Fraternity



DID YOU KNOW?

The regional website now has a shorter address—<https://jdpofs.org/> (you can still find it with the old address!)

[Looking for Formation Ideas?](#)

- ◆ Email donagibbons2@gmail.com and ask for information on a topic. Already some of the formation directors do this and hopefully it helps you plan a great formation program for your gatherings.
- ◆ Formation Fridays are published each week on the regional website: <https://jdpofs.org/>
- ◆ Regional Website also has many other ideas for formation
- ◆ National Website <https://secularfranciscansusa.org/formation-spirituality/>
- ◆ The National website also has blogs, article and messages from various Franciscans that can be used for formation topics.
- ◆ You can have a Gathering with a neighboring fraternity to share formation lessons. Great way to meet your fellow Franciscans.

Peace, Dona Gibbons OFS, Regional Formation Director



A grain of wheat

A piece of clay

An instrument in the hands of the Lord

by Judith Cronk, Minister

These three phrases came to me recently while at prayer. I was bemoaning to God of all the many, many people who are suffering so much and in different ways. My list of petitions gets longer and longer as this virus continues to plague our world, as discontent and hatred ravage our country. I was begging God to help these poor people and to relieve them of their ills and worries and to help us be more patient and understanding with each other. That's when I heard in prayer -

“A GRAIN OF WHEAT A PIECE OF CLAY~AN INSTRUMENT IN MY HANDS.”

Me, Lord? Is this your answer to me? Is this what You are asking me to become and be? How, Lord? How do I do this? And how does this really help all these people? I am only one person and not very qualified or holy to boot.

A grain of wheat is nothing, Lord. It isn't even capable of feeding one person let alone alleviating the vast hunger in our world today. **“YES, BUT IF THAT GRAIN SURRENDERS TO THE FERTILE EARTH, IT CAN DO SO MUCH MORE.”** If I can surrender to the soil of humanity, if I let go of my own wants and let You work through me as was Your plan for me all along, You will know how to multiply the little I am and have?

All I need to do is give to God what I have in faith, and He will do the rest. The Law of Love is a law of abundance. God cannot be outdone in generosity. If I give Him me, with all my flaws and shortcomings, He can make me more than I ever thought I could be.

But will I let God sow me where He wills? Will I die to self to rise to help others? Can I humble myself before all people to be placed in the ground and trampled on by others? Can I react with love and kindness both interiorly and exteriorly to my fellow Franciscans when I do not get my own way? Can I be kind, forgiving, gracious and patient when my feelings are hurt? Ah, death is hard to invite into my life and even harder to withstand once it enters! Can I continue to love in the middle of this death to self? Please, God, help me.

But a piece of clay is just that: a lump of earth - unshapen, unidentifiable, of no use or purpose. **“YES, BUT IN THE HANDS OF THE MASTER POTTER THAT LUMP CAN BECOME A MOST USEFUL AND EVEN BEAUTIFUL VESSEL.”**

But what shape will I become? What vessel will I be? What job do you have in mind for this vessel? Will the change in my shape hurt? **“YES, SOME.”** Will I still be recognizable to my friends and family? **“MAYBE, OR MAYBE NOT.”**

Like Simon, Jesus changed him from a “sinful man” to Peter the Rock. He became the person the whole Church could trust, could depend on, could bet their lives on. After his change, his sincerity and devotion to Jesus became the hallmarks you knew him by. That was a big change. If Jesus can do that with Peter, maybe He can do it with me.

But I have made so many mistakes. **“YOU'VE ALL MADE MISTAKES, BUT THAT DOES NOT DEFINE WHO YOU ARE.”** As Chris Stephanick of Real Life Catholic says, your mistakes are only a few pages in the book of your life. Sure, you've sinned, but that doesn't spell your name. Remember who you are. You are a son or daughter of God, the King of all Created. And as such, you are worthy of praise. To deserve that praise, you need only obey and follow the God of all, “whose way is wide and easy for those who love Him.”

Lord, who will you fashion me to be? What will my name be? Lord, send your Holy Spirit upon me. Your breath can fill and warm this lifeless and cold clay, making it more pliable and more willing to conform to the shape you choose, molded in Your Holy Hands.

An instrument in the hands of the Lord sounds promising. But wait, that means I must let go of controlling my life again and let God use me as He will. But, Lord, look at me. I am no more than a rusty or broken utensil. I don't even know what kind of a utensil I am! How do you plan to use me, Lord? Is the work to be done by this utensil hard? "YES, THE WORK CAN BE HARD." Will I break? AND, YES, YOU MAY BREAK. BUT I WILL ALWAYS BE THERE TO PUT YOU BACK TOGETHER AGAIN."

Lord, I fear, but I am yours. Plant me in the soil of humanity, water me with your Word and break me open to grow into the finest of wheat for your people. Shape me, Lord, into a sturdy and useful vessel that can carry Your food of love to the poor and needy, the sad and forsaken, the forgotten and lonely. Then, repair and use the utensil you choose me to be, Lord, for those difficult and heartbreaking jobs of bringing your people home to You.

But I cannot do this alone. Please send me Lord, my Franciscan brothers and sisters who have gone before me to water and soften the hard ground of human hearts with their prayers so to allow those I serve to receive your Word. Send my Guardian Angel to protect this earthen vessel so not to break as I feed and assist those you put in my life. And please, Lord, send Your Holy Spirit to strengthen this old instrument and to be my light to show me Your path and guide me in the dark days ahead.

Then, Lord, I can be

Your grain of wheat,

Your piece of clay,

Your willing instrument in Your loving hands.

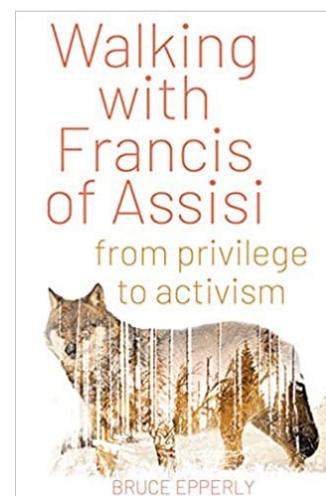
By Judith Cronk OFS, Minister

From the Bookshelf...

Walking with Francis of Assisi: From Privilege to Activism

by Bruce G. Epperly

From a pilgrimage through the streets of Assisi to contemplative walks on the beaches near his home, Bruce G. Epperly has pondered the questions of privilege, prayer, and social justice while walking with the teachings of Francis of Assisi. From his roots in reformation traditions, he has a deep understanding of the call Francis received to rebuild the church and the need for constant reformation not only in our personal lives but also in our society and in our religious institutions. He knows that change comes from within, from listening to the spirit of God as we engage in contemplative listening.



I highly recommend this book. It helps us explore our thinking on prayer, poverty, privilege and activism, and how this knowledge and awareness can deepen and enrich our spiritual lives.

....Susan Tabor OFS



My Thoughts in the Year 2021

By Marguerite Seaman OFS, Holy Eucharist Fraternity

The World That We Live In Look out your window and what do you see. Do you see love and peace? Do you see joy and happiness? Do you see hope for the future? What do you see? All these things are possible through love not war. Sadness and sorrow have no place in the world.

It is up to us to bring positive vibes to the world around us and beyond. We do this by love. We do this by sharing our lives with each other. We do this by respecting each culture, societies, nationalities, genders, and social positions there is in the world. It all starts with us, you and me, because if we do not have love and peace in our own world then there will be none in the world beyond us. If we do not have joy and happiness in our lives then there will be none in the world around us. If we do not have hope for the world around us then there would be none at all. It all starts with us and goes to the next person, and that person will spread it to the next person, and so on... Are you willing to spread love and peace to the world? Are you ready to spread joy and happiness to the world? Are you ready to spread the hope that God Almighty gave us when He sent His most Divine Son to us? We must spread the love, peace, joy, and happiness in the world in order to have hope for a better future. Are you willing to do these things because the Lord and Savior tells you to?

Think about what we need to do in order to make this world a better place to live it. As we think about the world think about the babies, families eating and sharing with each other, going to church worshiping the Lord together, and all the nature around us. We have the green grass, the animals, the trees, and the water ways of the world. Now think about the way we can celebrate these things that I mentioned. We can celebrate them by celebrating the Lord Jesus Christ. He is in all of these thing and beyond. He is our loved ones. He is in the animals. He is in the trees. He is in the water ways, and He is the way to true happiness and joy through the love and peace in which we spread through our daily lives.

When we look out the window we may see war, famine, hate, anger, sorrow, sadness, and destruction of the world. Well it is time to change our view of the world so we can change these things that destroy our lives piece by piece. It all starts with a person then it travels to people around us. We still have hope in the world because God Almighty gave us His Son as an example of love and peace, joy and happiness, and how to have hope for the world around us. We change the world one person at a time. First it must start with us as individuals, and then we can go on from there. If we do not have love and peace, joy and happiness, and hope for a better future then how can we give it to others around us and beyond?

So let gather ourselves together and declare our hearts, souls, and spirits as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the reason why we are here reading this piece. He is the reason why we can love each other like the way He loves us. So go now into the world and live your life the way Jesus Christ wants us to live it. Through love and peace, and through joy and happiness. I will start now by saying, "I love you." Can you say that to me?

Praise the Lord. Marguerite Seaman OFS
Holy Eucharist Fraternity, Independence, MO

Changing your email address?

1. Be sure to let your minister know so that they can ensure the **fraternity database is updated.**
2. The minister will then send an email to **postmaster@sfojuandepadilla.org** to let Bart and Dona know of the change. They will update contact information.

This will ensure that you continue to receive information from the region.

Psalm 91

You who live in the secret place of Elyon, spend your nights in the shelter of Shaddai,
saying to Yahweh, 'My refuge, my fortress, my God in whom I trust!'

He rescues you from the snare of the fowler set on destruction;

He covers you with his pinions, you find shelter under his wings. His constancy is shield and protection.

You need not fear the terrors of night, the arrow that flies in the daytime,
the plague that stalks in the darkness, the scourge that wreaks havoc at high noon.

Though a thousand fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, you yourself will remain unscathed.

You have only to keep your eyes open to see how the wicked are repaid,
you who say, 'Yahweh my refuge!' and make Elyon your fortress.

No disaster can overtake you, no plague come near your tent;

He has given his angels orders about you to guard you wherever you go.

They will carry you in their arms in case you trip over a stone.

You will walk upon wild beast and adder, you will trample young lions and snakes.

'Since he clings to me I rescue him, I raise him high, since he acknowledges my name.

He calls to me and I answer him: in distress I am at his side, I rescue him and bring him honor.

I shall satisfy him with long life, and grant him to see my salvation.'



St. Joseph Fraternity Hays, KS

March 21, 2021, Melia Korbe was officially welcomed
Melia Korbe as a Candidate into the Secular Franciscan

Order after the 8 AM Mass at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church.

Photos are of Brenda Lager, minister, Melia Korbe, candidate and Geri Rupp, formation director. Melia works from her home for FOCUS.

