

Our Franciscan Life

Vol. 21 No. 6

Our Lady of Consolation Fraternity Newsletter

June 2021

St. Anthony Says . . .

"It is common to all, but more particularly to the children of the world, to desire tranquility and peace, health of body, fine weather, and other things useful and necessary for this life and for the pleasure of those who misuse them. Those who ask them in faith should only do so from need, and even then they should always subject their own will to the will of God. In asking, one should pray with devotion and faith, yet no clinging obstinately to these things. We do not know, though our Father in heaven does, what is needful to us in our present circumstances."

Fraternity Schedule

JUNE

4-6 - REGIONAL MINISTERS MTG,

Christ the King Retreat Center, Buffalo, MN

7 - COUNCIL MEETING, 1:00, FRH, PL

11 - SACRED HEART OF JESUS

12 - IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

13 - OFS MEETING, 3:00, FRH, PL

Prayer - Mary **Meeting in person & Zoom**

Ongoing Formation (chapt 30) - Mary Ann

20 - FATHER'S DAY

JULY

4 - INDEPENDENCE DAY

5 - HOLIDAY

**18 - Franciscan Retreats Garden Party,
Farewell to Br. Bob Roddy, OFM Conv.
1-3pm FRH, PRIOR LAKE**

23 - TOKYO OLYMPIC GAMES

AUGUST

10 - TRANSITUS OF ST CLARE,
Assisi Heights Chapel, Rochester, MN.

15 - ASSUMPTION BVM

15 - COUNCIL MEETING, 1:30, FRH, PL

15 - OFS MEETING, 3:00, FRH, PL

Prayer -

Ongoing Formation (chapt 31) -

Treats -

Franciscan of the Month

On June 29, we remember **Mother Mary Frances Bachman (1824-1863)**, who inspired many women to serve God as religious sisters. Born in Bavaria, Germany, she married Anthony Bachmann, a farmer and followed him to America in 1847. After her husband died, leaving her with four children, Mary and her sister founded a congregation of Franciscan sisters. Their order cared for the sick and the poor throughout many states. Mary died of tuberculosis in 1863. Two of her daughters eventually joined the Franciscan order she founded and a son became a diocesan priest.

Our June Meeting

You will receive a Zoom meeting invitation the previous Friday for our Sunday June 13 meeting at 3 pm. For those attending in person-- with masks and social distancing - we will meet at the retreat house in the Marian lounge.

FRH Garden Party on July 18

The retreat house will host a garden party on the afternoon of July 18 which is the farewell send off for departing retreat house director Brother Bob Roddy. Our fraternity will assist with registration, serving refreshments, and giving tours. We will have sign-ups for these duties at our Sunday June 13 fraternity meeting. July 18 would have been our monthly meeting date, so our work at the garden party will be our July event instead of a fraternity meeting.

Vacation

is on the minds of many people in June. With the heat come a slower pace and more time out doors. By enjoying nature, we partake of one of the many gifts God awards us in this life. You can have a good time sitting in a chair and enjoying a nice view as much as you can enjoy spending fistfuls of money on expensive travel and entertainment. Enjoying yourself on the cheap is a time-honored Franciscan activity.

Dr. Steven Schier, OFS

Keeping in touch...

May Fraternity Meeting: A detailed meeting report was sent to each fraternity member who was not able to attend the May meeting via Zoom or in person.

This was intended to be my last installment on ***Fratelli Tutti***. Whew! To be honest it has been a bit of a tough read, but I know I'm always the one who benefits the most from studying the documents. I hope my summaries have been helpful for you. I think it's important to hear what Pope Francis has to say, especially when he promotes values so in line with our Franciscan rule and the way of life we aspire to lead as followers of St. Francis.

***Fratelli Tutti*: Chapter Seven: Paths of Renewed Encounter**

In this chapter, Pope Francis discusses how to arrive at a true peace. Achieving peace does not mean trying to arrive at the place we were before a conflict begins because needs and situations change. In addition to justice and mercy, we must tell the truth of what happens in conflict. Everyone involved needs to have a place and a voice at the table of peace, including the victims, the most vulnerable. He tells us that social inequality is the root of violence.

Forgiveness and reconciliation are central themes in all Christian teaching, but that doesn't mean that the wronged are meant to accept evil or give up their right to dignity and respect. Forgiveness cannot be imposed but must be worked out in dialogue with mutual understanding and listening. We must remember tragedies of the past, such as the Holocaust and Hiroshima and allow history to be our teacher. "True forgiveness breaks the cycle of evil but never forgets it." (251)

Pope Francis then goes on to discuss war and the death penalty, which he considers extreme ways of responding to the situations and conflicts they are meant to resolve. He allows that there are rare circumstances that warrant armed conflict, but that too often it is justified when other means are passed over. The destruction and loss of innocent lives are tragic and unacceptable results of warfare.

He called for an end to the death penalty. "There can be no stepping back from this position...the death penalty is inadmissible." (263) He cites the possibility of judicial error, the use of killings in totalitarian regimes, the human dignity, even of one who takes the life of another, and verses from scripture which charge us not to resort to violence of any kind.

Chapter Eight: Religion at the Service of Fraternity in our World.

This chapter was the most stirring of all to me and much easier to read than the others. I wish I had room to quote from it at length. In this chapter Pope Francis talks about the role of people of faith in the building of social friendships. **I can't do justice to this in the space I have left.** Up for one more newsletter focus on *Fratelli Tutti*? Or shall we take an ongoing formation time to read and discuss? It's brief, 11 pages. Let me know your preference, please.

Mary Higgins, secretary and Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation