

ST LOUIS FRATERNITY MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER



REFLECTIONS FROM OUR FRATERNITY MINISTER

What Kind of Fool Am I?

Last summer I was asked if I would teach tenth grade Confirmation class. It took me a few days to discern the possibility, after all, what did I know about teaching 16-year-old kids. Am I being setup as a fool? I knew the kids would rather be somewhere else and I would probably lose their attention right away. What could I teach them? I was told that you just have to follow the video program, no problem, right? Well, after the first couple of classes and boring videos I was frustrated.

I started to pray and then research how I was to advance the spiritual life of these young teenagers. They have learned all the basics in their early years of catechesis. So, the time of teaching facts was over, it was time to look at expanding their spirituality.

Along the way a friend told me that I just needed to share my own faith with them and with that I was on a roll. I started by telling my story, my journey, my relationship with Jesus. It was amazing how they became attentive and started to ask questions. Then I started each class by asking them what was one good thing that happened to them the past week. They liked it!

By the time February and Lent came along the kids and I had a great connection. I looked forward to each class. On our second to last class, I asked them “What is the one thing you are going to take away from our time together that you will take into the rest of your life?” It was time well spent.

For our last class I did a mini retreat in church. I explained to them the 5 promises, the ones their parents made for them at their baptism and they will now make at their Confirmation Mass. We sang and laughed and cried together. I just hope I was able to touch their hearts and advance their relationship with Jesus. Only God knows for sure and for us time will tell.

After this time with these young people, I have come to have faith and confidence that God is working through me to inspire just by being myself and sharing what is in my heart.

Francis said, “The Lord has called me to be a new kind of fool in this world” I guess that is what I have done.

Your Franciscan “Fool”
Deacon John



REFLECTIONS FROM OUR SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT

My parents were deeply devoted to the Blessed Virgin. A five-foot statue of Our Lady of Fatima was enshrined in our yard with a flood light on the statue at night reminding us of Mary’s intercession for all of us. Recently I was pondering the apparitions to young persons like Bernadette at Lourdes and the three children at Fatima so I put *Marian Apparitions* into the Internet search. What a surprise to read the research from the University of Dayton of 386 cases of Marian apparitions in the twentieth century. Only eight of those have received the “yes” approval from the Church of the supernatural character of the apparition. The research reminded me how important devotion to the Blessed Virgin is for our spiritual development. All persons who have claimed an apparition in their lives

may be like any of us – persons whose prayer to Mary resulted in a special grace of insight or healing. Pope Francis acknowledged the significance of placing ourselves under Mary’s protection when on March 25, 2022 he prayed “Mother of God and our Mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the Church and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine.” May we renew our devotion to Mary, Mother of the Church, that we may reflect in our lives the goodness, that she desires us, her children, to share with others.

Sister Ramona Miller, OSF

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR FORMATION MINISTER

This week I can’t help but think about the Eucharist, as we hear in the Gospel as Jesus teaches us about the intimacy that He seeks to share with all of us: “unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood you have no life within you.” The people listening to this did not understand and turned away. But Jesus is calling us to a deep communion with Him. He tells us, then if anyone wants to be a disciple of His, they have to renounce themselves and take up their Cross. The Eucharist is that place at which we can die to ourselves and join Jesus in His offering to God – And He tells us that by joining ourselves to Him, He will raise us up on the last day!

None of us are worthy of this but we’re very thankful for the grace of God and the love of God.

Happy Easter Season to everyone.

Larry

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

*No one in our Fraternity is celebrating a birthday this month.

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

May 17 – Maryanne

May 19 – Larry

May 26 – Greg

May 26 – Margaret

May 28 – Deacon John

May 28 – Deana

OUR FRANCISCAN RULE

This month Sister Ramona will lead us in discussing Rule # 16 using Lectio Divina Format.

Rule # 16 "Let them esteem work both as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption, and service of the human community."

FORMATION

Larry will lead us in a discussion of Reflections 27 & 28 from Live Like Francis.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 14 – Fraternity Meeting 10 AM – 12 Noon in the O’Day Room at Church of St. John the Evangelist

June 4-6 – Regional Retreat at Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo, MN

***WHAT WILL OUR CONTRIBUTION BE FOR THE 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY of Queen of Peace Region? ***

June 11 – Fraternity Meeting 10 AM – 12 Noon in the O’Day Room at Church of St. John the Evangelist

June 25 – Retreat with Tau Shalom Emerging Fraternity at Viterbo in LaCrosse, Wisc. 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Details to be shared as they are available.

July 9 :SAVE THE DATE: Remembrance Service and Dedication of the Maggie DeStazio Memorial Chapel on the DeStazio Family Farm in Rochester – more details to follow

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MAY 24 – DEDICATION OF THE BASILICA OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

