



Pace e Bene

Peace and Good

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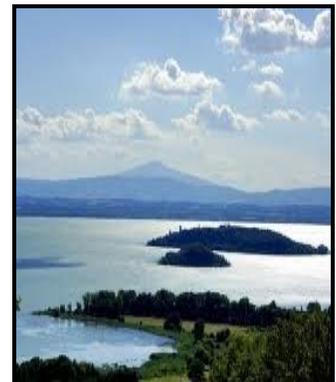
April, 2015

Lent on an Island: No One Home but God

It came at the end of our impossible-to-put-into-words pilgrimage to La Verna. On our journey back to Assisi, our bus driver took the scenic route to a rustic little restaurant on the shores of Lago Trasimeno near Perugia. After navigating a busy road we landed inside for a tasty meal of a potpourri of various and sundry Italian delectables. We had hoped to arrive just as the sun set beyond the lake and mountains, but since we took the long route, that was not to be as the sky only sported streaks of the retreating sun. But the seaside setting, the visible island, and the story were all pertinent. For the past few days I've been fascinated by the account of how St. Francis spent Lent of 1213. After spending Carnival (Tuesday before Ash Wednesday) with a friend on the shores of Lago Trasimeno, Francis asked requested that he row him across to the large, uninhabited island sitting out in the lake. The *Fioretti* further tells us that all Francis took with him were two loaves of bread and a jug of water. On Holy Thursday when his friend returned with his row boat to take Francis back to the mainland, he had only eaten one half of a loaf. In order not to become vain by imitating Jesus to the letter, he had only eaten a portion of the one loaf.

At the time of Francis the island was devoid of human residents and even today is populated by only about 60 persons, give or take. So it was a perfect place for him to get away from everything that could distract him from prayer as he prepared to celebrate the Easter Feast. His only shelter from the elements was whatever vegetation he could pull together as a cover. And what may be the lesson? Even our fastings, penances, and other Lenten observances can become obstacles and distractions to learning just to be present to our God in prayer. Instead of opening our hearts to what He wants to do in us, with us, and for us, our cycle of human actions — penitential though they may be or seem, can become foremost in how we judge the success or failure of our Lenten seasons when we become preoccupied with crowing rights about what we gave up during those 40 days — coffee, candy, TV, Facebook, etc. etc. etc. Though the Church's laws guide us in our Lenten journey by emphasis on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, Father Roch Neimier, OFM, said it well: "The wisdom of the Scriptures, however, reminds us that more than anything we need to keep a heart focused on the living God and to

strive for purity of heart . . . God wants our hearts, not our sacrifices . . . If the very center of our life turns to God, then the rest of us will do the same. Our concern will not be the fulfillment of prescriptions or legalities, but the direction and the movement of our hearts. ("In the Footsteps of Francis and Clare", p.135)". And once the movement of our hearts is in the right direction, we can joyfully sing the Easter ALLELUIA knowing that the risen Jesus is the center and focus of all our thoughts, words, actions, and desires — not us or our paltry attempts at asceticism. "Jesus yesterday, tomorrow, and forever".
—Sr. Agnes Marie,



Remember in Prayer

Please continue to pray for Elizabeth Topash, as she continues to heal. For the gift of Fred Kagel and all the joy that he exudes. Let us remember our elderly fraternity members that aren't able to participate in person but are with us in spirit. Let us pray for all the fraternity members that couldn't be with us this month and for those members that have asked for our prayers.



April Fraternity Meeting Schedule

- 7:30** Doors open, welcoming conversation,
Drop off and set up of food items
- 8:15** Initial and Ongoing Formation in Respective Meeting
Rooms
- 8:15** Ongoing Formation for Professed in Auditorium
- 9:30** St. Francis Convent Main Chapel for Morning Prayer
- 9:40** Liturgy of the Hours: Morning Prayer
- 10:00** Eucharistic Celebration
- 10:45** Community Social in Auditorium
- 11:15** Business Meeting
- 12:00** Concluding Prayer and Dismissal

Calendar of Events for April, May, and June 2015

April 16, 2015	Annual Day of Renewal of Vows for all Members of the Franciscan Family
April 18, 2015	Monthly Fraternity Meeting in the Auditorium
April 25, 2015	Regional Study Day II: for SAs and those attending for Enrichment 10:00 a.m. at St Joan of Arc, Kokomo Speaker: Fr. Maurice Richard, OFM, Conv “Fraternity and Francis” and “Penitence and Conversion”
April 26, 2015	Breakfast at Catholic Worker House: 7:00—11:00 am.
May 7, 2015	Meeting of the Council at 6:00 p.m. St. Louis Parlor
May 16, 2015	Monthly Fraternity Meeting in the Auditorium
May 24, 2015	Feast of the Dedication of the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi Breakfast at Catholic Worker House: 7:00—11:00 am
June 4, 2015	Meeting of the Council at 6:00 p.m. St. Louis Parlor
June 12–14, 2015	Triennial Visitation of Our Lady of Indiana Region by Tom Bello, OFS, National Minister of the SFO at the University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne
June 13, 2015	Feast of St. Anthony of Padua
June 20, 2015	Monthly Fraternity Meeting in the Auditorium
June 28, 2014	Breakfast at Catholic Worker House: 7:00—11:00 a.m.



Regional Study Day II

Saturday April 25, 2015 10:00am St. Joan of Arc Parish Kokomo Indiana
Fraternity and Francis and Penitence and Conversion
Presented by Fr. Maurice Richard, OFM, Conv.

Regional Study Day III

Saturday July 11, 2015 10:00am St. Joan of Arc Parish Kokomo Indiana

These days are for those studying to become a Spiritual Assistant and for those just yearning for Franciscan Enrichment. Contact Sr. Agnes Marie for more info.

Tim Short, OFS Formation Director

When I went to Mass on the fifth Sunday of Lent, the priest, at the beginning, mentioned a disconnect in the Gospel (John 12:20-33). Some Greeks come asking to see Jesus. The apostles convey their request, but Jesus seems to completely ignore them. Unfortunately, the priest did not give the Homily. The deacon did, and he said nothing about the priest's observation. I've been trying to sort it out since.

First, I need to understand that the Greeks represent me. Their desire to "see" Jesus is an expression of what ought to be the greatest desire of my heart. If I'm properly oriented, then my main goal is also to "see" Jesus. But in the Gospel, Jesus does not grant the Greeks an audience. Does that mean He is also unavailable at times to me? The Gospel does not say it, but presumably the apostles returned to the Greeks to say sorry, Jesus could not see them. Hopefully, they also told them what Jesus said, because upon closer reading, Jesus grants their desire.

"Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be."

If they want to "see" Jesus, they must serve and follow Him. It's not enough just to get a short audience. To see Him that one time and then walk away without their lives being changed would not be true seeing. A commitment is required. If the Greeks wish to see Him, they need to be where He is, continually.

And then later:

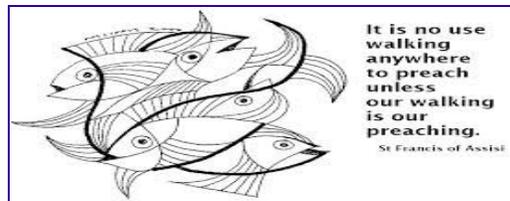
"And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself."

Here Jesus gives them the pivotal moment to watch for. If the Greeks persist, if they stay with Him, they will see Him at the optimal time and Jesus will make a connection to them that will make their "seeing" deep and lasting. When was Jesus "lifted up from the earth?" The first time is on the Cross. This is perfect for us as Franciscans. Our tradition invites us to continually contemplate Jesus on the Cross. If I wish to "see" Him, then I must be with Him at the Cross.

How about the Resurrection? Jesus is lifted up from the tomb, the Earth, into everlasting life. Am I with Him in the pivotal moment as He conquers death, and thus gives me that same life?

And then finally, what about the Ascension? Jesus is lifted from the earth on a cloud to take up his seat at the right hand of the Father. Do I "see" Him as my advocate, the guarantor of my happiness? Did the Greeks get the message? I hope so.

But even more, I hope you will, because the invitation to the Greeks is your invitation as well. Be with Jesus where He is, continually. Serve and follow Him, and look for Him as He is lifted up from the Earth in this Easter season. Then He will ensure that you "see" Him as He wishes to be seen.



Our Lady of the Road Outreach

The next serving date is Sunday April 26th. All are invited. Please note that cooks should arrive at **7:15am** and everyone else at 8:30am. Cooks should be ready to leave at 9:30am. We want to finish up by 10:30am so people can make it to 11:00am Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral.

At all Fraternity meetings we will be accepting monetary donations in the Red Box that will be going around the room when the Brown Bag is circulating. If you are unable to participate please feel free to make a donation toward the food.

Thanks everyone and see you Sunday April 26th at Our Lady of the Road at Bronson and Main Street!



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Convent,
1515
Dragoon Trail,
Mishawaka,
Indiana
(across from
Marian High
School)

Immaculate
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For more
information please
contact any
council member.

Pace e Bene– Peace and Good



“...The cross is a mystery: the mystery of the love of God who humbles himself, who empties himself. Where is your sin?... Your sin is there on the cross. Go and look for it there, in the wounds of the Lord, and your sins shall be healed, your wounds shall be healed, your sins shall be forgiven. God’s forgiveness is not a matter of canceling a debt we have with him. God forgives us in the wounds of his Son lifted up on the cross.” – Pope Francis

The March Retreat was beautiful! Fr. Alex spoke from the heart and as a result touched many hearts with his words. He was so generous and heard confessions after his first talk and then again after his second talk. He brought a relic of the cross for all to venerate. Thank you Fr. Alex for the sustenance we needed to finish our Lenten journey. Hope you will join us again!

April Birthdays, Profession Anniversaries, Death Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS:

- 1: Mary Ann Kendziora, OFS**
- 19: Diane Kreager**
- 28: Elizabeth Topash, OFS**

Update from the Communication Councilor-

It is with great pleasure that I ask for your participation in the following committees of fraternity life-

- **Hospitality Committee**
Work with the fraternity and guests during monthly meetings
- **Kitchen Committee**
Work with snacks and beverages as well as room set up and clean up at monthly meetings
- **Liturgical Committee**
Participate in the Liturgy of the Hours and Mass as Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, and Gift Bearer
- **Media Committee**
Work on the Website, Newsletter, Roster, or as a Photographer

If you are interested in working on any of these committees please contact Mary Andrews. I will be reaching out to secure a chairperson for each committee. Please be open to the call! Full committee descriptions are available on the website. Look for an informational flyer to arrive in your mailbox soon.

Questions? I can be reached at maryandrews44@gmail.com or 574-288-0888 after 7:00pm