

FIDDLESTICKS

Issue 123

Post-Chapter 2017



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Chapter Report



So, what happened at Chapter? We began on Thursday with prayer for those who couldn't be with us, and greetings from sister organizations: Br. Jeff from OLF, Br. Fred from OFR, and Br. Mike from OFS. We were glad to have them with us! As for those absent, we set out paper and colored pens for everyone to write notes of greeting to each missing member. These were available throughout the weekend.

Our new Council members reported that they have met 35 times over the past year by teleconference to discuss the logistics of our new leadership model and discern the gifts of council members. This discernment led to Nancy Menning taking the role of Treasurer for the Order, and John Son of Syvert being called to serve as Chaplain.

Our Formation Team has organized themselves with Sr. Anjelika welcoming new Inquirers, and Br. John Michael and Sr. Helen-the-Kiwi supporting our Novices. They have worked to match new Postulants with Formation Counselors, and have updated the Formation materials. The Formation Team presented Neal Dunnigan, Thom Longino and Carol Stiver as candidates for profession this weekend. Sam Loudenslager was presented as a candidate for Novicing. Our three profession candidates answered questions on their journeys toward profession, and what this step will mean to them. All three were approved for profession after a time of silent prayer.

Sr. Nancy shared the Treasurer's report and discussed members' rights and responsibilities regarding Order membership. She volunteered to develop written guidelines for approved expenses, and proposed that this Chapter approve a budget for 2018 to manage our usual expenses.

There were reports from the Newsletter Editor, TSSF meeting representative, and JPIC.



(Continued on page 2)

Chapter Report, continued....

Small group discussions throughout the weekend addressed how our Principles guide us in daily life and influence our individual and Order missions, and how OEF members can support each other.



Members addressed requests for release from vows from two of our sisters. Discussions included the meaning of lifetime vows and the fact that sometimes we grow in different directions. It was discerned after two sessions sitting with this decision, that, sadly, one sister would be granted release. Due to some extenuating circumstances, the other sister will be asked to walk with us for another year. Sr. Nancy agreed to companion with this sister through the next year.

Our guest speaker was Fr. Bob Hutmacher, OFM. He shared with us his ministry as director of worship at St. Peter's Catholic Church in downtown Chicago. He spoke of the irony of working with issues of poverty, anger, hatred, drug issues and homelessness "surrounded by bankers, lawyers and sinners" in the Chicago Loop. He also spoke about the House of Mary & Joseph on the West Side of Chicago, and the Franciscan mission to create spaces where everyone can "feel welcomed and respected." He spoke about showing the humility of Christ, and simply doing what God asks of us, offering ourselves in joy. He shared a little of his music ministry as director of "Chiesa Nuova," a ministry for the performing arts.

Fr. Bob also shared some wisdom in response to our discernment on release from vows. He said, "The vow we make is, first of all to God, then to the community. When you give your life to the Order, you give your life." Still, some

separation will occur, and it is always painful "if we allow ourselves to truly become one with one another."

Another issue addressed at Chapter was the question of allowing profession for someone who cannot attend Chapter. Members discussed the need to be careful of the connection between exceptions and precedents, deciding when it is time to change our statutes and practices to accommodate a few. We also considered the relationship and contributions already being made by the novice in question, and the fact that she is an active member of the community, despite her limitations. We discussed the need to be a little flexible in the name of pastoral care when this is warranted, and when to trust in the discernment of the Formation Team in this regard. It was pointed out that the Order may one day be in the position of TSSF, being large enough to have regional Chapters. This would eliminate our current concern of requiring attendance at the international Chapter. The discussion also addressed the issues of justice and accessibility, as well as the importance of face-to-face gatherings in a dispersed Order. Our discernment brought us to the conclusion that the novice in question will be offered profession at a regional gathering. Other such requests will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Br. Michael Vosler reported that he is working with Br. Neal and Sr. Markie as a Fellowship Coordinating Team. They are mapping out the locations of each member and will have these organized into regions for next year's Chapter. The Order currently has about 13 regions across the US, Canada, New Zealand, and Internationally.

Sr. Markie led a reflection on those in OEF who have left this life, and how to acknowledge their Order membership in obituaries. It seems that most of our families have no idea what our Order membership means. How do we share our vocation as Franciscans with loved ones and even our local churches?

We once again discussed the different ways we communicate, and how to better include everyone,

Chapter Report, continued....

regardless of technological ability. A communications team was formed including those with skills in this area: Br. John Michael,, Br. Neal, Sr. Nancy, Sr. Chris, and novices Kathleen D. and Sam.

Other discussions arose from our use of a "Parking Lot," a sheet of paper on which members could write questions and concerns for discussion throughout the weekend. Topics included the journey ahead for OEF, what we do best and our impact on the world; how we bear witness to our Franciscan charism in our local communities; the idea of some OEF members living in community; OEF's lack of racial, ethnic and economic diversity, and how to make it possible for people from other cultures, languages and economic status to join us.

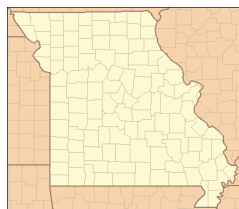
Br. Elijah closed the session with a most appropriate prayer: "We couldn't be any happier at this point, sharing sacred space together."

Amen!



The Council would like to express our gratitude to our "Chapter Scribes," Stephen Gerhardt and David Ketchum. We offer a very brief synopsis of our Chapter business here in "Fiddlesticks." In the coming days/weeks, we will be formulating and sending out the complete minutes.

**Next year's Chapter will be at Pallottine Renewal Center in Florissant, MO, June 21-24, 2018. Mark your calendars!*



Juniper Cup



Last year's Juniper Cup winner, Brer Bruce James Kay, challenged us to come up with new meanings to our acronym "OEF." The letters could appear in any order. Several of us rose to the challenge, and hilarity ensued!

Here are the results: In third place, taking home our little sister Kiwi for the year, was visitor Virginia Dunnigan (wife of Neal, who professed this year). Her entry was: "Orcs Eating Fruitcake."

In second place, taking home the coveted Br. Rat, Reg Weeks, n/OEF with this entry: "Endomorphic Formulating Ornithologists."

This year's winner of the very valuable habit of James the Least was Br. Carlo Gendron with his very Franciscan simple entry: "Ok, Everyone, Fraternize!"

Br. Carlo has already designed a challenge for next year's Cup: "Write a blues song about the vicissitudes of being a Franciscan. You may read it, sing it a cappella or with accompaniment, and you may have others join you."

Yes, once again, "we have to write a song!"

Get scribbling all you musical verse-writing types!



The winners - 1st place Carlo, 2nd place Reg (which means the Rat is back in NZ) and 3rd place Virginia



JPIC: Hate Crimes Impacting Our Communities

By Neal Dunnigan, OEF



A Book Recommendation

Siblings,

On July 21, I was privileged to attend an Anti-Defamation League (ADL) presentation on their model hate crime legislation and how the official hate crime reporting process works.

The session presented by Cheryl Drazin (ADL Regional Director) and was co-sponsored by the Oklahoma Conference of Churches, the Oklahoma Inter-Faith Alliance, the Jewish Federation of Greater Oklahoma City, and the American Muslim Association of Oklahoma.

A couple of key take-away points:

- Hate crime official statistics just describe the tip of the hate iceberg. So, while the local numbers may seem small to some, their significance is much greater.
- The official government recording and compilation process for hate crimes is cumbersome, error prone, and highly variable. However, that is due in large part to the decentralized nature of our justice system and to the inherent problems collecting and classifying events.
- Watch group data does not go into the official government statistics. However, sociologists do analyze and correlate watch group data to official government data.

*It is important to report hate crimes and call them out as such. The victim may need some help to do this. In some, even many, cases the authorities may, for different reasons, choose not to classify events as hate crimes. That possibility should not deter people from reporting them to both official police agencies and watch groups.

The Anti-Defamation League and the International Association of Chiefs of Police have established a database of "hate symbols and indicators".

This can be viewed on-line or via a phone app. The URL is:

www.adl.org/hateID



LOVE NOT FEAR
#nohatehere

Author: Rev. R. John Brockmann TSSF

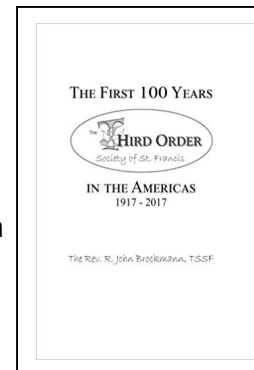
Title: *The First 100 Years in the Americas: 1917 - 2017: Third Order Society of St. Francis*

Publisher: CreateSpace, 4900 LaCross Road, North Charleston, SC 29406, [\(843\) 308-0971](tel:8433080971)

Date of Publication: March 20, 2017

Brief Description:

When one reads what Francis of Assisi wrote, one is struck by how "unoriginal" most of his compositions were. Most were a pastiche of sacred scripture. Such a composing approach reflected his humility, suggesting that there was nothing higher or truer than Scripture, so he would "write" with the words and phrases of this truest language rather than the paltry inventions of his creation. As a humble Franciscan history of Third Order Anglican Franciscans (tertiaries) in the Province of the Americas, this book uses the composition methods of our 13th-century founder and presents a pastiche of 100 years of voices in the Province of the Americas. Papers, letters or articles written over the last century are presented whole; so, in one fashion, this history is an anthology by many authors. Many gifted people over the last 100 years wrestled with a wide variety of topics in the life of a Franciscan tertiary, and the greatest acknowledgment we can pay to them is to read what they wrote. As 21st-century Internet-experienced "readers," we are accustomed to a visual presentation of information. Thus you will find these pages filled with over 170 pictures, diagrams, and tables so that this history is also a scrapbook of what we looked like and who we were over the past 100 years. This history also has more flesh and blood stories written by those who experienced them rather than a comprehensive collection of facts.



About the Author

The Rev. R. John Brockmann TSSF has been a professed member of the Third Order Society of St. Francis (TSSF), Province of the Americas for 24 years and has just stepped down as the Minister Provincial. He has been the editor of the Province's *Franciscan Times* for over two decades and is currently the Province's archivist and online librarian.



Chaplain's Corner



Dear Brothers and Sisters of St Francis and in Christ.

I thank God for each of you and remember each one of you in my prayers. I would like to reflect of my experience at Chapter this year. For me being in OEF is not only very near and dear to me, but the annual chapter gathering is the highlight of my year. And it was supposed to be again this year...and for a short time it was.

I arrived at the Cenacle Retreat Center on Wednesday evening on my bicycle. I was planning on riding during free time at Chapter and also preparing for RAGBRAI (DesMoines) Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa). Excitedly I met several of my brothers and sisters already at the retreat center and had wonderful conversations both Wednesday and Thursday. Together we laughed and cried and shared what was new in our lives and in our ministries. Thursday evening, I gave the message with the theme of unity. I related to those in attendance the story of Jesus washing one another's feet and him telling the disciples how deeply he cared for each and every one of them. And my conclusion was Jesus didn't have any friends, just brothers and sisters all. When I take my final breath, I want to be remembered for not having a single friend, but each one I look at as a brother and sister, no matter if I agree with them or completely disagree with them. We are all one family of God and a very diverse mixture of things attractive and quirks that we may find unattractive, but we are still related.

Friday morning after more gatherings I decided to spend the afternoon on my bike, training for RAGBRAI in mid-July. After riding almost 3 hours, I was headed back to the retreat center when my weekend dramatically changed.

I was on a bike trail along Lake Michigan and a bike in front of me stopped very unexpectedly. Although I tried to avoid the accident, I hit the bike and landed on my hip, fracturing it. After being taken by ambulance to the hospital and having hip surgery, I spent the

next four days in the hospital. I am now home again and doing very well.

I wish to thank those members of OEF who visited me in the hospital, and those at Chapter who kept me in their prayers. As I was laying in the hospital, I also kept each one of you in my prayers.

For those who have been involved with OEF and have come to Chapter, thank you for being members of my family. For those who have not been to Chapter before, please come because each one of you is missed and I for one would like to walk with each one of you on your journey as you walk with me. Each one of you is not a friend, but you are brothers and sisters all.

Bless you always,

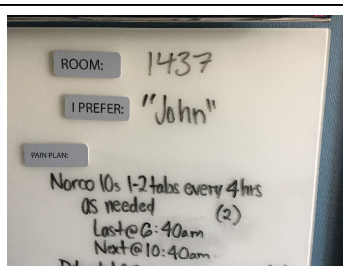
Br. John, Son of Syvert



An Important Reminder

Reminder! Nancy Menning is the OEF Treasurer. Contributions can be made by sending a check (made out to "Order of Ecumenical Franciscans") to Nancy at:

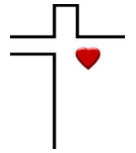
**Order of Ecumenical Franciscans
Nancy Menning, Treasurer
521 N Aurora St
Ithaca, NY 14850**





Getting a New Heart

By Neal Dunnigan, OEF



My entire OEF journey has been a blessing, including this past Chapter and my recent profession. One of the things that several of my siblings asked me on Sunday morning following my profession was: "How does it feel?"

At first I thought it was just a morning conversation starter; something to be dismissed as just a friendly gratuitous or rhetorical phrase like "How about them Mets?". But then I thought better.

Perhaps I was underestimating my siblings and there was an opportunity to reflect and learn something.

In my personal faith journey, I had been through both the rituals and sacraments of liturgical denominations and the emotional dramatics of evangelical worship. While the experiences were usually positive and sometimes even memorable, I never felt dramatically changed by the church worship experience; certainly not to the extent that I might have been lead to expect.

Particularly, given that I was at times told that I was receiving the Holy Spirit, the Body of Christ, or the Presence of God. When I hear others stand up with their personal testimony, it is often so Paul-lightning-horse dramatic. They had been thugs, abusers, hedonists, done jail time - and now they were SAVED. I was simply disinterested, self-absorbed, and lazy - and now maybe just somewhat less so - not much of a Christian plot twist for me. Rather than being a Saul-to-Paul, I was more of a

Pinocchio - looking to be real.

There is a story in the Old Testament (1 Samuel 10) where the prophet Samuel tells young Saul something

to the effect that Saul will become a new/different person in that he will have a new heart.

Our OEF General Rule 4 tells us to "conform our thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel itself calls Conversion." Maybe the poetry of the theologies that I was exposed to were such that, in their enthusiasm, they obscured the inherent holiness of the everyday and sent me (and others) searching for feelings of supernatural transcendence as the model for spiritual experience and as the litmus test for the divine presence. From a Franciscan perspective, I now believe that the ability to detect God's presence in everyday circumstances is key and that the ecstasy of Christian mysticism is most often simply the innocent delight of seeing the divine in every day things.



Certainly my Postulant and Novice formations had been changing experiences - incrementally and gradually. Reports from those around me were like Joni Mitchell's "Both Sides Now": "they say I've changed. Well something's lost, but something's gained in living every day." That was good, yet the personal feeling for me was one of following my Rule. Like a new diet or exercise regime, I was going on faith. Yes, a good feeling, but initially more of something I was doing than something I was.

As I prepared to profess as a novice, I resolved to live that run-up year as if I were an already-professed, full time Franciscan...and I believe that I pretty much did so. Still, as I looked forward to profession, my expectations were

“The root of joy
is gratefulness.”

-David Steindl-Rast

*Quote by David
Steindl-Rast*

Getting A New Heart, continued...

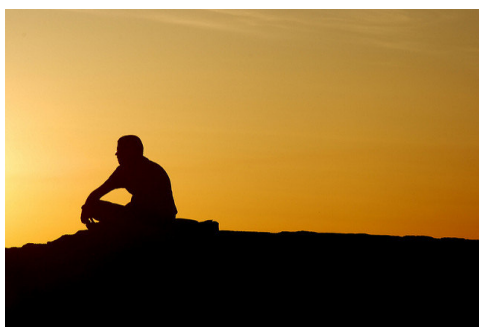
guarded: "fine, same course and speed, don't really expect a change".

Yet there was a change. It first occurred when I could feel, without looking or touching, that I was now wearing a metal San Damiano Cross instead of my old friend, the wooden Tau. Then there is this feeling of presence, like a new nervous system parallel to the old one; helping it out and allowing me to sense myself in perspective. Kind of like the way a supporting hand on your back or shoulder helps you be more aware of your own presence, while subtly providing reassurance, direction, and energy. Of course, it is difficult to sense one's nervous system in the first place, let alone sense a difference. And I am expressing these sensations in my own personal experiential poetry.

So what do I make of my conversion / new heart? My reflection goes back to St Clare's admonition to St Agnes of Prague; how I should put my mind before the mirror of eternity. It is not about seeing something new, so much as quieting myself to now see what had been missed. Perhaps for me, the formation process, followed by the perpetualness of profession, has better connected me, through quietness and meditation, to God's time and the mirror of eternity.

Peace and blessings,

Br. Neal



Joy: A Reflection by Stephan Gerhardt, n/OEF

Joy is the sound and smell of the ocean. Joy is everywhere and in everything. Joy is a gift from God. You will find it inside you and will feel it in a multitude of ways usually when you least expect it. Joy comes in many forms; music, tears, hugs, smiles, children, pets, words, sunsets and more. Joy is not something we can contain. It is meant to be shared without condition or hesitation. It is something we give and receive often in the same moment. **When you look into someone's eyes and experience joy, that is God looking back at you.** If your heart is open, not only will you experience a lot of joy, your heart will grow bigger. Joy is hugging my wife. Joy is wrapping each other up in warm laundry fresh out of the dryer. Joy is being allowed to play and just be who you are. Joy is a beautiful cloudscape. Joy is



seeing a child's eyes get big over a Christmas tree. Joy is the sun setting over the ocean. Joy is the sound of music in a Cathedral; a compline choir, a brass choir or an operatic voice. Joy is the sound of romantic ballads being played on a piano. Joy is caring for another human being when they are sad, lost, ill, dying or alone. Joy is the taste of bread and wine. Joy lives in the intimacy of giving and receiving Holy Communion. Joy is creating new experiences for others most especially my wife. Joy is what I experience every time I get to cook for someone and watch them eat. Joy is the overwhelming mental and emotional sensation of feeling everybody in the room at once and realizing that you love them. Joy is the sound and feel of my cat purring when we snuggle. Joy is simple not complicated. Joy is that moment when you are one with another. Joy is that moment when you are one with Creation. It is in giving that we receive: We receive Joy. Joy is an invitation to experience and understand love as God does. Joy is what is happening when we love something or someone in the world as God has loved us. Joy is the realization that you are loved and wanted. Joy is the color of fall leaves. Joy is the smell of carnations and roses. Joy is the smell of spices and incense. **Joy is anything that brings me back to God.**



“Gaze into This Mirror Every Day”

A reflection by Sr. Petra Aleah Strand, OEF



I am grateful I had the opportunity to reflect with the community on the Fourth Letter of Saint Clare of Assisi to Agnes of Prague. I thought I might present the text for your continued reflection. All of Clare’s letters are worthy of our meditation, with or without knowledge of their historical context. Of course, the more we know of that context the more it will help hone our perspective. Like Scriptures, however, reading any spiritual text is a dialogue. As we read the text we cannot help but read into it our own assumptions. Then, however, the text makes us question those assumptions and we make some adjustments. So it goes, back and forth. We read ourselves, our world, and our lives into what we are reading, and Clare comes back to us from within her world and her life. With all spiritual writing, however, we are attempting, and by divine grace it might be granted to us, to be open to the Holy Spirit. The Lady Spirit who spoke to Clare uses her words now to speak to us in our present. The eternal Presence there meets us here. There might take place in us a recognition of the divine Image of Christ whose image we all bear and whose reflection we see in all creation. Perceiving Christ by the Holy Spirit’s own knowing—there is such beauty there—we see ourselves, others, nature, and the reality of the world around us.

Writings such as Clare’s cannot be grasped all at once; they need to be read again and again. The text I read at Chapter was from the translation of Sr. Frances Teresa Downing, O.S.C., *Saint Clare of Assisi: Volume One, The Original Writings* (Phoenix: Tau Publishing, 2012), pages 82-89. Sr. Frances has the original Latin on the facing page of her English translation, both of which are enhanced by her footnotes, endnotes, and introductions. I recommend all of her writings.

—Sister Petra Aleah, OEF



Here is the text from Clare’s Fourth Letter:

- 7 ... now that I am writing to you, dearest,
I rejoice and exult with you in the joy of the Spirit, O Bride of Christ,
- 8 because you ... are wonderfully wedded to the spotless Lamb ...
for you have laid aside all the vanities of this world.
- 9 She is certainly happy who has been given to drink at this banquet in order to cleave with all her heart to Him,
- 10 at Whose beauty all the blessed hosts of heaven unceasingly wonder,
- 11 Whose love stirs to love, Whose contemplation remakes, Whose kindness floods,
- 12 Whose sweetness fills, Whose memory glows gently,
- 13 Whose fragrance brings the dead to life again, the glorious vision of Whom will make all the citizens of the Jerusalem above most blessed,
- 14 He is the splendor of eternal glory, the brightness of everlasting light and an unspotted mirror.
- 15 Gaze into this mirror every day, O Queen, Bride of Jesus Christ, and constantly see your own face reflected in it,
- 16 so that you may adorn your whole being, within and without, in richly decorated robes.
- 17 Adorn yourself, as is only fitting, with virtues like flowers, and garments every bit as ornate as those of the daughter and dearly beloved Bride of the Most High King.
- 18 For in this mirror shine blessed poverty, holy humility, love beyond words as—by the grace of God—you can contemplate in the whole mirror.
- 19 Turn your mind, I say, to the border of this mirror ...
- 22 Then in the center of the mirror, consider ...
- 23 At the edges of that same mirror, contemplate ...
- 29 and sighing with the immense longing and love in your heart, may you cry out:
- 30 “O heavenly Bridegroom, draw me after you and we will run in the fragrance of your perfumes! ...”



Fellowship News



A Golden Gate gathering, May 13, 2017



I have been so many places in the past six weeks that I'm not sure where I am now! I just returned from eight days in the remote mountains of Mexico, where BPFNA: Baustistas por la Paz held our annual Peace Camp. It was challenging at times (a Waco girl with a heart condition will have a few difficulties breathing at 9,000 feet) and magical at times. We were in the region of the Mazahua people.

But before that, I was in Portland, Oregon to officiate at the wedding of a former intern. While I was there, I sent a random, offhand email to Sr. Sophie, saying I wish I were closer to Florence. She replied immediately, saying that she had recently moved and was about ten minutes from where I was staying. So, the day after the wedding, we had a long, happy brunch and she took me to the airport. That was July 3rd.

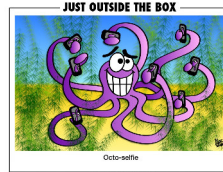


Below is a photo of our serendipitous reunion. We couldn't figure out how to take a selfie, so the waitperson took it for us, laughing at us the whole time.



Blessings on you and your loved ones.

Peace and grace,
Katie



Happy OEF sisters: Katie Cook & Sophie Elisa Dale

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

Submissions for the Francistide 2017 issue of "Fiddlesticks" are being accepted immediately.

Deadline for submissions is Oct. 1, 2017.

Send submissions to Sister Chris at
capoef@solarus.biz

or snail-mail to:

Christine Petersen, OEF
853 Norwich Ct.
Nekoosa, WI 54457

Thank you!





Some Words of Wisdom from Fr. Mychal Judge, OFM

Submitted by Kathleen D., n/OEF

**Used with permission by Sal Sapienza from "Mychal's Prayer."*

Lord, take me where you want me to go. Let me meet who you want me to meet. Tell me what you want me to say, and keep me out of your way."

Prayer of Fr. Mychal Judge, OFM (First official victim at the Twin Towers 9/11/2001 and recognized as a saint either canonized in various reformed Catholic churches or considered a "de facto" saint in some local Roman Rite Catholic Churches.)

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THE LAST HOMILY OF FATHER MYCHAL JUDGE Given on September 10, 2001, the day before his death, at the FDNY's Engine 73, Ladder 42 firehouse in the Bronx, New York:

"Good morning, everyone.

"May the grace of God the Father, peace of God the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. We come to this house this morning to celebrate renewal, rejuvenation, new life. We come to thank God for the blessings over all the years the good work that's been done here and especially the last few days. We can never thank God enough for the reality of the lives we have. So, standing in His presence this morning, and truly this is a chapel, let us pause for a moment, perhaps close our eyes, and thank God for some special blessings in our individual lives.

"Let us pray.

"Thank you Lord for life. Thank you for love. Thank you for goodness. Thank you for work. Thank you for family. Thank you for friends. Thank you for every gift because we know that every gift comes from you, and without you, we have and are nothing. So, as we celebrate this day in thanksgiving to you, keep our hearts and minds open.

"Let us enjoy each other's company, and most of all, let us be conscious of Your presence in our lives and in a special way in the lives of all those who have gone before us. And Father we make

our prayer, as always, in Jesus' name who lives with You forever and ever.

"That's the way it is. Good days. And bad days. Up days. Down days. Sad days. Happy days. But never a boring day on this job. You do what God has called you to do. You show up. You put one foot in front of another. You get on the rig and you go out and you do the job - which is a mystery. And a surprise. You have no idea when you get on that rig. No matter how big the call. No matter how small. You have no idea what God is calling you to. But he needs you. He needs me. He needs all of us.

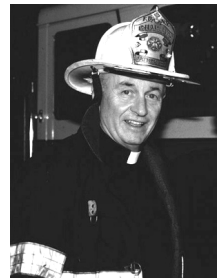
"The retiree - He needs your prayers. He needs your stopping by occasionally to give strength and support and to tell the stories of the old days. We need the house and to those of you that are working now, keep going. Keep supporting each other. Be kind to each other. Love each other. Work together and do what you did the other night and the weeks and the months and the years before and from this house, God's blessings go forth in this community. It's fantastic! What great people. We love the job. We all do. What a blessing that is. A difficult, difficult job and God calls you to it. And then He gives you a love for it so that a difficult job will be well done. Isn't He a wonderful God? Isn't He good to you? To each one of you? And to me! Turn to Him each day. Put your faith and your trust and your hope and your life in His hands, and He'll take care of you and you'll have a good life.

And this house will be a great, great blessing to this neighborhood and to this city. Amen."

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The Complete Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; Enjoying one



Some Words of Wisdom, continued...

moment at a time; Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; That I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him Forever in the next. Amen.

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Contemplation on The Beatitudes

by Fr. Mychal Judge, OFM

A heavenly attitude is theirs, those whose home is in Truth; theirs is a heavenly state.

A heavenly attitude is theirs, those mourning their wrongs; they shall be comforted.

A heavenly attitude is theirs, those with humility; they will gain the earth.

A heavenly attitude is theirs, those who hunger and thirst for justness; they shall attain it.

A heavenly attitude is theirs, those whose love is without conditions; they will therefore receive unconditional love.

A heavenly attitude is theirs, those without fault in their minds; they will see God.

A heavenly attitude is theirs, those serving the peace of God; they will be called the children of God.

A heavenly attitude is theirs, those being scorned because of their justness; theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

A heavenly attitude is yours when they harass you and scorn you and deceitfully speak against you every evil word because of being with me.

Rejoice, be happy, be joyful at the increase of your reward in achieving heaven for yourself and others.

**To learn more about Sal Sapienza and his ministry, go to www.salsapienza.com/bio.*

A Franciscan Examen

By Br. John Michael Longworth, OEF

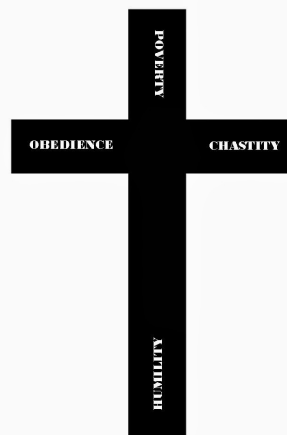
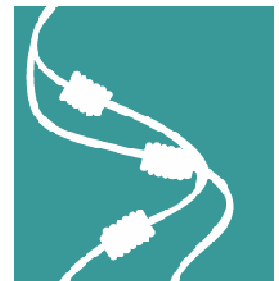
Here are some thoughts I use as an Examen:

Three knots - Interpersonal:

- Poverty - How do I find right relations with things?
- Chastity - How do I find right relationships with my body and respect the sacredness of others' bodies?
- Obedience - How do I find right relations with God and the new family God gives me?

Three knots - Communal/missional:

- Justice - How am I called to promote right relations with things and among my neighbors?
- Peace - How am I called to promote right relations between my neighbors?
- Integrity of Creation - How am I called to promote the human vocation of Earth-keeping and reflecting the love of God to (His) Creation?



Fiddlesticks
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I Prayed For You Today

By Donna Fargo



I prayed for you today. I sent you good thoughts, surrounded you with hope and faith and love. I asked your guardian angels to protect you and keep you safe from any harm and to blanket you with joy and contentment and peace and prosperity.

I asked that you be guided with the wisdom to make the choices to enhance your life and the awareness to make changes that are in your best interest.

I wished for you a storehouse of opportunities, the ability to meet your goals, and the joy of your own approval and acceptance.

I wish for you your heart's desire, every need met every prayer answered, and every dream come true.

I prayed for you today. I asked that you be prepared for whatever life hands you or whatever you're going through.

I asked that your spirit be strong and lead you and guide you each step of the way down every path you take. I asked the earth to be good to you, and I asked God to show you His perfect way.

I prayed for you today.

Submitted by Carol Stivger, OEF