

April 2010



The Franciscan Legionnaire

Newsletter of the Friars Legion of St. Peter's Church in the Loop
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Christ is Risen! Truly Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

By Fr Chuck Faso, OFM

The Forty Days of the Lenten Journey to the life-giving waters of Baptism are completed. The Three Days of the Triduum festival of the Passover of Jesus and us from life, through death to Life, have been celebrated. And now we rejoice during these Fifty Days of Easter. We continue to return to that empty tomb and know the joy of Christ once dead is now risen and lives in our lives and hearts, in our hopes and dreams, in our struggles and challenges.



Wherever our difficulties of life takes us, no matter how dark our hearts may become, even until death itself, we know that Jesus has been there and walked through it all. Jesus the Risen Lord joins us in our journey. We are the disciples on our way to Emmaus on Easter afternoon – and in their pain and hurt, their despair and hopelessness, Jesus joined them, walked with them, spoke to them, and ate with

them. And they recognized that this stranger was Jesus, alive and powerfully present to them. And so begins these fifty days of inviting Jesus into each and every moment of our lives. Jesus is Risen! Jesus is light for our darkness! Jesus is Joy for our sadness! Jesus is life for our dying! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Immigration: 10 Myths

Last month, I enjoyed a week of driving Heather Metcalf of FI – Franciscans International, the NGO at the United Nations in New York. One of the 12 Franciscans groups we visited was the Motherhouse of Franciscan Sisters in Clinton, Iowa. An added feature that we were able to experience was a talk by Erik Camayd-Freixas PhD at the motherhouse to Sisters and laity from the area. The talk was entitled: “Immigrant Rights and American Values: Seeing with New Eyes”. Dr Erik, as he was introduced, is a professor of Latin American Literature, Director of Translations Studies, and Founder of the Research Initiative on Immigration Reform at Florida International University. Dr Erik served as a federal interpreter at the Waterloo IA hearings following the May 12, 2008, immigration raid at Agriprocessors, Inc.

I did not remember hearing about this raid, the largest single site immigration raid in the history of the United States. The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents stormed into Agripprocessors, the local kosher meat packing plant, and arrested 389 immigrants. Fifty-six were released with GPS devices on their ankles allowing them to care for their children, however, they were not permitted to work or leave the area. Within a few days the majority of those arrested were charged with identity theft, even though the names and numbers were given them by the owners of the plant. None of the immigrants spoke or understood English. If they wanted to work there, they had to sign the papers presented. They were invited by the plants owners to come to work there. This day changed the lives of innumerable people, shattered a town, and served as an impetus for reflection on our American values.

This experience touched the depths of Dr Erik's heart and prompted him to write a report to Congress denouncing the violations of due process and the criminalization of immigrant workers. He shared his reflections on the implications that the Postville Raid has and will have on immigrant rights and American values.

My eyes were opened to the rights our immigrants are granted by our American values. The discussion and questions that followed his talk gave evidence to the desire for greater understanding of the immigration issue and the national need for an overhaul of our immigration law. I kept thinking about my grandparents who were immigrants in the 1890's from Sicily, Italy.



Much literature was available after the talk. I picked up a one piece that was post-card size. It was entitled: "IMMIGRATION: 10 MYTHS". From this card, I learned much - Myths & Facts:

MYTH 1: Immigrants take American jobs

FACT: Corporations relocating in pursuit of cheap, vulnerable workers are the real job stealers. States with high immigrant populations have lower unemployment rates.

MYTH 2: Unions oppose immigration because it harms the working class.

FACT: "We reject those who exploit public anxiety by making immigrants the scapegoats for economic and social problems. (AFL-CIO Convention 1993)

MYTH 3: Immigrants are a drain on the economy.

FACT: Immigrants are more likely to pay taxes than they are to use public services. The majority of immigrants, being of prime working age and ineligible for many public services, contribute more to the public sector than they use.

MYTH 4: New immigrants need to follow rules just as immigrants in the past did.

FACT: "The rules" generally refer to conditions permitting open immigration of white Europeans from 1880-WWI. "The rules" have always been different for people of color, whether they were African, Asian, or from Central and Latin America.

MYTH 5: The country is being overrun by illegal immigrants.

FACT: Only 4.3% of all workers in the US are unauthorized migrants; they constitute 19% of workers in agriculture, 17% in cleaning and building maintenance, 12% in construction, 11% in food preparation and 8% in production.

MYTH 6: The US has a generous refugee policy.

FACT: The vast-majority of the 3 million refugees admitted to the US since 1945 have

been from just three countries: Cuba, Viet Nam and the Soviet Union. For the US “refugee” has generally meant “refugee from Communism”.

MYTH 7: Immigrants are not learning English; bilingual education just adds to the problem.

FACT: Spanish-speaking immigrants are learning English just as quickly as earlier generations of European immigrants did. They are also retaining their native language at higher levels. Research absolutely shows that developing academic skills in students’ native language supports their acquiring English.

MYTH 8: Americans oppose immigration; debate in Congress reflects that.

FACT: Some politicians use fear-mongering and scape-goating of immigrants to attract attention and support. But, most people in the US particularly those that live in high-immigration areas, are not anti-immigrant.

MYTH 9: We need to protect our borders to prevent terrorists from entering the country.

FACT: Most of the 9/11 hijackers were in the US on legal visas. Since 9/11, the many measures targeting immigrants in the name of national security have netted no terrorism prosecutions.

MYTH 10: If people break our laws by immigrating illegally, they are criminals and should be deported.

FACT: Immigrants “break the law” because the law is designed to not allow certain groups equal rights. Undocumented immigrants do not cause harm; they commit victimless “crimes” because of who they are.

(From “They take our Jobs!” by Aviva Chomsky – Beacon Press Boston)



Our US Catholic Bishops Conference stand up strongly for Immigration Reform. I went to GOOGLE and typed in “Immigration and US Catholic Bishops”. Hundreds of thousands of results came up immediately. For example:

US Catholic bishops condemn US immigration raids Sep 10, 2008: US Roman Catholic bishops charged that immigration raids on US workplaces break up families and disrupt communities, without addressing the country's flawed immigration system.

Another article stated: The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops wishes to influence Congress to focus on an immigration reform that would reunite families, restore due process protections for people migrating to the country and regularize the status of illegal residents.

So much more is available for our continued understanding of this most important issue for all Americans.(www.justiceforimmigrants.org)

Financial Considerations

By Peter Wells, friend of St Peter’s

Your financial portfolio probably contains many if not all and more of these items: Checking account, Savings account, Money Market account, cash stocks, bonds, Mutual Funds, IRAs, 401k Plan, thrift plan, pension plan, annuities, Guaranteed Life Income plan, life insurance, antiques, real estate, etc., etc.

While you are alive, you have to manage, grow and protect your assets and at different stages of your life, the strategies used will change. At death, your assets will be distributed according to your will or Trust documents. Your will/Trust documents should be integrated with your financial documents to assure efficient transfer of your assets to your beneficiaries with the least tax liabilities possible. Leaving certain assets to charity could be tax efficient.

During retirement, there are two major financial concerns: 1) running out of money and 2) paying for long-term care costs. And, of course, if you want to leave a legacy for St Peter's you can either *create one* and/or leave assets you currently own.

As you can see, there is much to consider and ponder over. To help you with this very important process, St Peter's Church offers you a free *no obligation* service. For more information and a review of your current plan, call Peter Wells at 847-543-4886.

A Way Out of Violence and Vengeance

By Richard Rohr OFM

There has to be a way out of the stupidity of violence and vengeance! When both of us are blind, we both fall into the pit, as Jesus says. Vengeance seems so logical, but it doesn't really work. It doesn't advance human history, or finally our own agenda. It only delays and disguises the problem. The devil is now on both sides.

The wonder of the resurrection stories in the Gospels is that Jesus exhibits no vengeful attitude toward the authorities or his cowardly followers. He is not even judgmental toward them. Afterwards, his followers never call for any kind of holy war against those who killed their leader, which is almost unknown in world history. Something new has clearly transpired. This is not the common or expected story line. A new Spirit is abroad.

Even Gandhi and Martin Luther King said that they learned their nonviolence from Jesus, but most of us church people are still catching up with him.

Happy Easter during these Seven Weeks of celebrating Easter! Fifty Days of Alleluia's!

“Let him easter in us, be a dayspring to the dimness of us, be a crimson-cresseted east...”

***-from Gerard Manly Hopkins’
“The Wreck of the Deutschland”***

***APPLICATION FOR YEAR-LONG
MEMORIAL CANDLE***

(Please print, leaving a space between each word.)

To be lit in honor of:

Living_____ Deceased_____

Requested by:

Date candle is to be lit: Immediately_____

Specific
Date_____

The offering for the Memorial Candle is \$150.00. Please enclose a check for the full amount with this form.

***APPLICATION FOR PERPETUAL
ENROLLMENT IN THE FRIARS
LEGION***

(Please print, leaving a space between each word.)

Please Enroll:

as a Perpetual Member of the Saint Peter's Friars Legion.

Living_____ Deceased_____

Your Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

OFFERING: Individual, \$25.00_____

Family, \$100.00_____ *(Immediate family, parents and children)*