



The Franciscan Legionnaire

Newsletter of the Friars Legion of St. Peter's Church in the Loop
 110 W. Madison St., Chicago, IL 60602 ❖ Phone: 312-372-5111
 E-mail: FriarsLegion@aol.com ❖ Web Site: www.stpetersloop.org

Peace and Everything Good

Written and Edited, by Fr Chuck Faso, OFM
www.frchuckofm.org

The Merry Month May is here!

Month of Mary – Remember May Altars in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. And those songs we sang that touched our hearts: “Bring Flowers of the Fairest” and “On this Day, Oh Beautiful Mother.” We knew it was spring because we could bring fresh lilacs and lilies of the valley, tulips and daffodils to Mary’s altar. And there was the May Crowning procession. Mother’s Day on the second Sunday of the month – a day to honor Mary our Mother, and our own mothers living or deceased. My two sisters and I will visit the grave of our mother, Isabel Faso, in Assumption Cemetery in Glenwood IL and Grandma Helsel’s grave nearby as well as Grandma Faso’s grave in Evergreen Cemetery in Steger IL. Remembering Mary and our own mothers stirs gratitude, respect, stories and more stories of love and kindness and maybe also forgiveness and compassion. Let the Wow’s, Ah’s, the “I remember when...”, “I am so thankful for...” be expressed and heard often this month.

Fifty Days of Easter continue – After forty days of Lent, the Fifty Days of Easter (also called the Week of Weeks) free us to sing our Alleluia’s with gusto and grateful faith in the Risen Lord Jesus, now the Cosmic Christ (confer below). We continue to return to the Empty Tomb with wonder and praise! We

continue each day to hear at Mass from the Acts of the Apostles – the story of those first thirty years of the Church after Pentecost with Peter and Paul preaching in Acts’ twenty-eight speeches and sermons proclaiming Jesus once crucified and buried, now risen and glorified throughout all creation. May the Lord continue to Easter in us and be a Dayspring for any dimness!

This month trees and gardens awaken, hope springs anew, spring cleaning opens closets and windows – mops and Windex everywhere, a month of First Communions, Ordinations Graduations, Weddings, a month of beginnings, of promises, of endless positive possibilities for our hearts, our relationships, our church and our world. Thank you, God, for the Month of May!

Reflection by Kevin Casey, one of our Legionnaire Readers on his experience at St Peter’s in the Loop of Chicago:

I Have to Confess:

Everything Changes in Here

Here I am walking down Madison Street on a bitterly cold weekday morning.

The temperature is in the teens and the wind is blowing off Lake Michigan and rushing through the loop blasting a dry and painful lashing on all of us pedestrians. My office isn’t in “the loop” but I often work there and will attend Mass or Confession at St. Peter’s weekly. I prefer the “off hours” to avoid the massive sidewalk

crowds and snarled traffic. As the bundled worker bees weave their way through this icy hive, I notice how some of us give a sharp, quick glance at each other as we pass. We all somehow size each other up and compartmentalize everyone, like a Fed Ex worker at the air dock sorting zip codes. Similar to the hive in one's backyard, there is a social hierarchy to this late morning class of people. You can see it in the haircut, the coat, the shoes, the briefcase, quality of the leather bag, and the use of technology.

Me, I fit somewhere in the middle. Not dressed in a suit because I work in a wide variety of places, but dressed in nice slacks, shoes and a shirt with a fairly bland winter jacket. Truthfully, I also carry my own set of defensive looks and judgment on this mass of humanity. Sometimes that prejudgment may include skin color. I pass by the homeless man that sits in a little nook near St. Peter's who appears too weak to speak up today. 14 degrees has a way of sapping energy. He is wrapped in filthy blankets and hats showing only his dirty bearded face. I quickly walk by without acknowledging him as I hypocritically dart into the Church. I breathe the warm air in the foyer completely forgetting that I was supposed to see the face of Jesus in the filthy homeless man outside.

Once inside, I see the Eucharist on the altar as I carefully walk toward the holy water font. Everything changes in here as I slowly kneel and make the sign of the cross. I look out over the pews and see two dozen people sitting or kneeling in silence. The group looks like the United Nations today with the United States, Poland, Kenya, Mexico, and Korea in attendance. I slowly and quietly stroll down a side aisle looking to put as much open space between me and everyone else because, you know, it's all about me and God right now. After eight or nine prayers of petition, I look for the confessional lights and see that it's now open for business.

As I make my stealthy approach, an African-American couple arrives at the same time. We both offer to let the other go first, but they insist. I make a joke that I might be in there for a while. I also let them know that they should stand back so as not to hear my confession which might inflict brain damage. They laugh and say the same applies to each of them. From the depths of my heart, I feel a spiritual warmth that passes between us.

As I turn toward the confessional, I think about how we all look at each other out on the sidewalk and then how we look and treat each other in here. Ironically, part of my confession will include some racist thoughts and feelings. I instantly feel ashamed of myself and truly saddened. As the door closes, I realize that God loves me so much, that he has even provided the means for my contrition. How can I remain aware that I am in Christ's presence in and outside of Church? Perhaps from the lips of Christ Himself, "I am with you always".

Remember....Just going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in your garage makes you a car.

Global Security

Every five years a Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference is held as an opportunity for decision-makers representing 189 countries to examine and take action on global nuclear policy. The next review will take place in New York from May 3-28, 2010.

REFLECTION by Richard T. McSorley, SJ: "Can we go along with the intent to use nuclear weapons? What it is wrong to do, it is wrong to *intend* to do. If it is wrong for me to kill you, it is wrong for me to plan to do it...Likewise, if I intended to use nuclear weapons in massive retaliation; I have already committed massive

murder in my heart.” -Let us prayer for wisdom for our leaders so justice and peace will flourish.

Year of the Priest

June 2009, Pope Benedict began a year for all of us to reflect on and be grateful for the gift of the Priesthood of Christ. Christ is the only Priest. In Christ all of us through Baptism share priesthood. Some men are called through Ordination to share in the ministerial priesthood of Christ. I was ordained on June 13, 1967, a transition time of the Church. Transition has happened many times in our history, e.g, married priests during the first twelve hundred years of the church, women in various roles of leadership in the early church, celibate priests, and now in the USA one hundred married priests who were Ministers in other Christian faiths and now ordained as Latin Rite Catholic Priests.

A survey of US seminarians who will be ordained in 2010 has found that 31% were born outside the United States, with most coming from Mexico, Colombia, the Philippines, Poland and Vietnam. Other findings of the survey:

- the average (mean) age of ordinands is 37; the median age of diocesan ordinands is 33
- 10% are converts
- 37% have a relative who is a priest or religious
- 55% have more than two siblings
- 49% attended a Catholic elementary school, and 39% attended a Catholic college
- 60% completed college before entering the seminary; 92% held full-time jobs
- 16% had a parent with career military service

78% were encouraged by a priest to enter the seminary; few were influenced by vocational advertising

50% were discouraged by parents or other family members from considering the seminary; 15% were discouraged by priests, while 4% were discouraged by religious

19% attended a World Youth Day, and 8% attended a Franciscan University of Steubenville High School Youth Conference

67% regularly prayed the Rosary before entering seminary; 65% regularly took part in Eucharistic adoration

the seminarians typically began to consider a priestly vocation when they were 18

Let's pray for all priests and for vocations.

The Focus of our Faith: Jesus or Christ? (Adapted from *The Cosmic Christ* by Richard Rohr)

The three Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) are largely about the historical Jesus who worked miracles, who taught, who promised us a new way of seeing, a new way of life in this world.

It is seldom pointed out, however, that *Paul* is not talking about Jesus; Paul is almost always talking about “Christ.” Paul hardly ever quotes the historical Jesus and never knew him in the flesh. Really rather shocking when you realize that his letters are one third of the New Testament! The phrase “in Christ” is his most common usage—over 100 times.

We take Paul as a touchstone of orthodoxy, the central, foundational teacher of Christianity—and yet he hardly quotes Jesus! Something else is going on here, which has largely been off of the Christian radar. Paul has largely fallen in love with “the Christ” and it was Jesus who

pointed him there. Most Christians still need to make the same movement, and to believe in both Jesus AND Christ. They are two distinct faith affirmations.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Your financial portfolio probably contains most if not all and more of these items:

Checking account, Savings account, Money Market Account, cash, stocks, bonds, Mutual Funds, IRA, 401k 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. Other financial considerations that could be of interest to you are:

- Roth IRA conversion
- Charitable gifting
- Strategies to get a guaranteed income for life to meet and enhance basic expenses
- Grandparent gifting
- Leaving a legacy for charity, for your family, for St Peter's

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.

May the Lord give you Peace!

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*)