

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

Guide me, Lord, along the everlasting way. (Psalm Response)

Today we celebrate the memorial of St. Francis of Assisi. Although he died nearly eight hundred years ago, this beloved saint continues to teach us about the value of simple faith and trust. Consider the following story.

Late one night, one of Francis' friars woke from sleep, groaning and crying aloud, "I am dying!" Awakened by the noise, Francis lit a lamp and asked, "What ails you, my Brother, to make you die?" "I am dying of hunger!" he answered. It seems that Francis' zeal for the Lord had inspired this friar and his brothers to excessive fasting as a way of capturing that same sense of devotion.

Moved with pity, Francis spread the table and invited all the friars to join him in eating with the starving brother so that he wouldn't be ashamed to eat alone. Then he told all of them to be careful not to harm their bodies and souls, whether by practicing severe fasts and penances or by overindulging in pleasure. He said that what God wanted from them most of all was conversion—deep, lasting, and ongoing.

If he could speak to us today, Francis would remind us as well that our salvation is a "gift of God." Whenever we rely on our own willpower to perfect ourselves, we are in danger of draining the cross of its power. Whenever we reduce faith just to a set of rules and put our trust in following them as a means to holiness, we lose sight of Jesus' love and his sacrifice for us.

Although Francis led a demanding life and occasionally performed severe penances, he always maintained a joyful spirit because he was filled with God's love. Indeed, joy was the hallmark of Francis and his brothers.

We can live this way too if we let the joy of the Lord become our strength. We can become saints if we surrender ourselves to God's mercy and to the power of the cross that sets us free to do his will.

"By your grace alone, may we make our way to you, . . . God all-powerful forever and ever." (St. Francis, "Appeal to God the Father")

Today's Announcements:

- Tonight the Lady Irish volleyball team plays Vancleave here at home. It is also Senior Night. The first game starts at 5:30. Come out and support your team!
- Congratulations to the following students of the month for August: Jameson Thriffley, Gully Yates, Gavriella Persing, Gabby Quintana, Emma Bruffey, Gabby Patino, Jordan Pete, Amelie Million, Jacob Fennell, Natallie Noel, Chris Ladner, Julia Hancock.

- Congratulations to the following students of the month for September: Avery Culbertson, Nick Krass, Vincent Pisciotta, Rachel Vivian, Gracie Davenport, Makenzie Stenum, Mallory Edwards, Mary Catherine Kalil, Richard Springer, Lauren Skinner, Skye Ward, Laurie Pisciotta.