



THE CLARION

St. Conrad Fraternity, Order of Franciscans Secular
St. Margaret of Cortona Region
Hanover, Pennsylvania

July / August 2019

Pax et Bonum

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Minister's Message

I was at a restaurant recently, eating with a certain group from church, and happened to mention a current event of a political nature. A person near me suggested that I refrain from speaking about anything political to avoid a potentially unpleasant discussion. While keeping the peace and moving to another topic, it caused me to think about what had happened. Why can't we have meaningful conversations with those who disagree with us?

Arthur C. Brooks is a scholar of public policy and the president of the American Enterprise Institute. In a recent article in the *National Catholic Register*, Mr. Brooks pointed out that "our culture's problems aren't merely problems of disagreement, but, rather, of how we view and treat one another." He says that we no longer see others as merely incorrect in their views, but the persons themselves as worthless, undeserving of love or consideration. In essence, we believe that our ideas and beliefs are rooted in goodness and love while those that differ with us are evil and spring from hatred.

This thinking makes dialogue with those holding opposing views from us difficult, and compromise impossible. After all, we are completely right and they are nothing but idiots and fools. We see this thinking in our politicians, the talking heads on the evening news, on college campuses with their need for "safe spaces," and, apparently, even in restaurants while enjoying social time with a group.

One of the first steps in challenging this thinking is to become aware of it. A nonprofit organization, More in Common, found in 2018 that 93 percent of Americans are unhappy with how divided we've become with each other. On a positive note, another report from More in Common shows that 77 percent of Americans believe our differences are not so great that we cannot come together.

In order to come together we need to lessen some of the emotion, the way we seem to tie our very self-worth to our beliefs, and be more at peace with ourselves and others. St. Francis of Assisi always instructed his brothers to carry peace in their hearts. In his Cantic of Brother Sun, St. Francis wrote, "Blessed are those who endure in peace, for by you, Most High, they shall be crowned." Being at peace allows us to actually listen to other arguments. So, what is peace; is it only the ability to remain calm?

For St. Francis, peace meant seeing Christ in others, praying and sacrificing for others, understanding that the peace of Christ is love, from which flows, as much as humanly possible, the pure expression of living the Gospel. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice." In my Webster's dictionary, the definition of "justice" includes 'right action,' righteousness, to show due appreciation for, to treat fairly. In other words, it is to show compassion and care for others. Simply put, justice is love.

Remember the old Latin verse, *Amor omnia vincit*, meaning Love conquers all things. Love allows us to stop focusing only on what we want and to listen to others. Love brings peace which makes good listening possible, which, in turn, makes compromise possible. This is possible because instead of seeing enemies or fools, we see people who we love or at least can respect.

So what does all this mean for us? St. Francis would greet people with, "May the Lord give you peace." As Franciscans, we can see from our seraphic father how important and necessary peace is in order to have good and meaningful relationships and dialogue with others. We won't hold others in contempt because we'll be able to separate, in our minds, the person(s) we love and/or respect from their beliefs and arguments. Lord, make us instruments of Thy peace.

Peace and All Good,
Jeff Topper, Minister

On-Going Formation

From the book *To Live As Francis Lived*, at July's gathering we will cover Reflection No. 52 – Let Us Begin Again, and Again, and Again

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions**July****The Integrity of Justice**

That those who administer justice may work with integrity, and that the injustice which prevails in the world may not have the last word.

August**Families, Schools of Human Growth**

That families, through their life of prayer and love, become ever more clearly "schools of true human growth."

July Birthdays

Mary Barrick..... 7/26

August Birthdays

José Barata..... 8/26

Dick Bonini 8/16

Jackie Redding..... 8/9

July Profession Anniversaries

Catherine Livelsberger7/24/1988

Judy Topper7/13/2003

Jeff Topper7/13/2003

August Profession Anniversaries

Sister Cecilia Reilly 8/22

July Necrology

Genevieve Licklider7/27/1986

Maurice Malone..... 7/1/1996

A. Louis Ratti7/30/1981

Shirley Redding.....7/19/1991

Eleanor Tevington7/11/1997

August Necrology

Gerard Cohee 8/7/2007

Lawrence Eckenrode.....8/22/1981

Joseph McCormick.....8/22/1997

John Pickell8/29/1968

Important Dates in July

July 1 - St. Junipero Serra

July 3 - Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle

July 4 - St. Elizabeth of Portugal

July 15 - St. Bonaventure

July 17 - St. Francis Solano

July 25 - Feast of St. James, Apostle

July 26 - Sts. Joachim and Anne,
Parents of the BVM

July 30 - Blessed Solanus Casey

Important Dates in August

August 2 - Our Lady of the Angels of
the Portiuncula

August 4 - St. John Vianney, Cure of Ars

August 6 - Transfiguration of the Lord

August 11 - St. Clare of Assisi

August 14 - St. Maximilian Kolbe

August 15 - Assumption of the BVM

August 21 - St. Pius X, pope, 3rd Order

August 25 - St. Louis IX, king, 3rd Order

August 27 - The Seven Joys of Our Lady

Fraternity Prayer Vine

Please continue to pray for the health and the intentions of:

- José Barata
- Mary Barrick
- Pat Bilz
- Fr. Richard Forcier, ORM Conv
- Jessica – get well soon
- Mary Lou Gennaula
- Concetta Glorioso-special intention
- Sherlynn Holland
- Mary Minor
- Jackie Redding
- Sr. Cecilia Reilly

Just a reminder: if you want your prayer need(s) added to the prayer vine, or if you wish to have your name removed, please let your editor know.

Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, we beg you to send us many holy vocations, and to help those given such callings to respond freely, generously and faithfully. May their self-offerings and consecrations offer you fitting praise. Amen.

Prayer at Gatherings

For July and August we will pray the Liturgy of the Hours. Please bring your breviaries.

Attendance at Gatherings

All active members should make the Gathering a priority. If you are unable to attend, please contact one of the council members. We are a family and, naturally, become concerned when we don't hear from one of our brothers or sisters.

Final Thought

Why is it that a \$10 bill looks so small at the grocery store but so big at church?