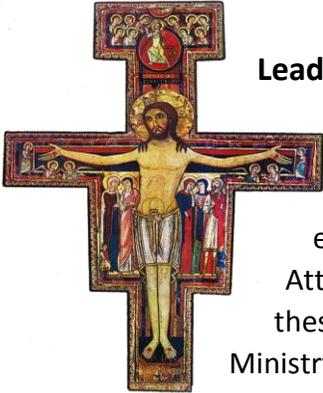


Faith in Action Ministry Prayer

May 2020

We pray as if all depends on God; we work as if all depends on us.



Leader: We call ourselves Franciscan or Franciscan-hearted, but what does that really mean? For this year, we offer you attributes that were developed by the staff at the FRC. Grounded in the spirituality and practice of Saints Francis and Clare, and then building on an understanding of the Franciscan charism and the core elements of Franciscan leadership, FRC staff developed this set of attributes. Attributes are behaviors that exemplify the values we hold dear. Let us now explore these attributes as they connect to our mission and the projects of the Faith in Action Ministry.

This month we will explore the attribute... ***Our trust in Providence: We pray as if all depends on God; we work as if all depends on us.***

Scripture: Our Scripture passage is from the Gospel of Matthew:

“For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself.” ***Mt 6:25-34***

Reader 1:

At the Franciscan Renewal Center, we hold nothing back from God. We empty ourselves—our hopes and dreams, our gifts and strengths, our work and ministry—completely, thoroughly, into our trust in God, who alone is goodness and perfection.

Our work, too, is a whole-hearted, authentic offering of gratitude and servanthood. Our focus is sharp; our energies boundless; yet the thoroughness of our dedicated efforts is always accompanied by a humility that acknowledges the limitations of all our strivings and the necessity of our total trust in God

- with prayer-filled hearts, we strategically plan,
- with intentionality, we share our vision to encourage understanding, collaboration and generosity,
- and with authenticity, we offer transparency and accountability in pursuit of our objectives.

Reader 2: What do we hear some of our community members saying about our trust in providence?

- “I always thought poverty could only be a bad thing. At the Casa I came to understand that there’s a ‘good kind of poverty,’ and it’s God’s poverty. God gives himself away completely so he can love us totally. That’s big. It’s great to trust in a God like that. I have to try to be like that with others in my own life.”
- “I love worshiping at the Casa. We put our whole heart and soul into it. It makes me want to put my whole heart and soul into God.”
- “If I think about where I see complete selflessness in giving, I think of the most beautiful and humble ministry at the Casa, that of the volunteer gardeners. They put everything into preparing the ground, planting, and nurturing. They don’t look for glory or praise. Then they let go and let God do the rest.”

Leader: Sharing -- *How is this attribute Franciscan?*

What is it to trust in Providence? The proof is in the beauty and compassionate care God has for all of creation. How much more are we loved, we who are created in God’s image? Such trust does not extol a lazy approach to life in which we expect everything to fall into our laps, for we are asked to be industrious and even co-creators with God using our gifts and our talents in our labor, our work.

PAUSE to reflect/pray (individually) and then share if you are with a group

1. When do you worry? What parts of life do you find hardest to trust to God?
2. What does this attribute (*We pray as if all depends on God; we work as if all depends on us*) mean for you and your ministry? How does your ministry show this attribute of “trusting but acting?”
3. In this time of uncertainty and in the midst of a global crisis, how do we as individuals or as ministry teams “trust in providence”?

Closing:

God of Life and Justice enliven us with your Spirit. Renew in us the breath of hope and change. We share the questionings of all those who want to build a more human world, a world where hunger is no longer the daily fare for so many, a world at peace, a world where all may live in dignity and freedom. ***We confess that we often turn away. We ask that you, the God of courage be with us, keeping our hearts and minds open to new understandings and fresh ways. Amen.*** [LJL]