

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
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The World's Happiest Man

Saturday is the feast of the man who started a great "Return to Christ" movement in the 13th century and who bequeathed to the world the secret of perfect joy.

St. Francis found his joy not in worldly possessions, fame, ease or pleasure. A rich young man, he renounced his wealth and worldly station for Christ. Then he found that having nothing he possessed all things because he possessed Christ.

We may never reach the heights of Francis' sanctity and therefore of his joy but we can try. A good start is to read and adopt his famous prayer:

Lord, make me an instrument of peace!
Where there is hatred . let me sow love.
Where there is injury pardon.
Where there is doubt faith.
Where there is despair hope.
Where there is darkness light.
Where there is sadness joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console.
To be understood . . . as to understand.
To be loved as to love.

-- for --

It is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Yes, that was printed last May in the Bulletin but a good thing can't be repeated too often. That prayer has recently been printed by an eastern manufacturer to be distributed in millions of copies. The newspapers carried an item about two men, one a wealthy citizen, the other a traffic cop. They stood shoulder to shoulder, discussing and copying that prayer from a card in a show-window on Fifth Avenue.

Perhaps St. Francis will start another "Return to Christ" movement. We can do so in our own station of life if we adopt that prayer, even one line at a time.

We can't do it? The only help Francis had was Christ. Haven't we - daily?

Sloppy Joe.

In the service of God there is no place for sloppiness which means disrespect, carelessness. Christ respected us, loved us so much, was so careful and thoughtful toward us that He not only died for us but left in addition the Sacraments and above all His Body and Blood to be our food, so much did He respect us, dignify us.

Let's not be sloppy in our service to Him. Here are some evidences of respect: proper neat attire in chapel, being on time for Sunday Mass, fervent thanksgivings.

It takes a few extra minutes to dress carefully, to be on time and to make a devout thanksgiving. Those extra minutes will be appreciated by Him who spent 33 years in our service and never once thought of being sloppy toward us.

PRAYERS: Ill, Sister of Sister Leo Marie, O.F.; Sister of Brother Brian, C.S.C. (Duj); Uncle of Warren Leary (Ly); Grandmother of Larry McCarthy (How); 3 Special Intentions.