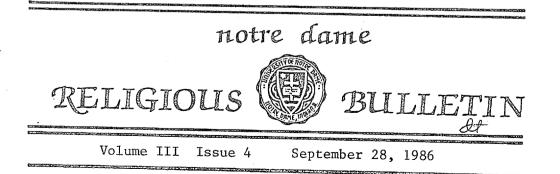


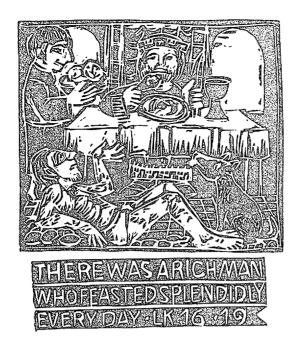
Twenty-Sixth Sunday of The Year September 28, 1986 (1107 R 27

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

Woe to those ENSCONCED SO SNUGLY in Zion!

FROM ST. LAZARUS TO ST. FRANCIS ASSISSI including ST. TERESA, THE LITTLE FLOWER, MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL IN BETWEEN ALL MAKE FOR LITURGICAL WEEK FULL OF MEANING FOR EACH OF US. IMAGINE JESUS TELLING US THAT LAZARUS, A MERE DIRTY BEGGAR, WHO WORKED LITTLE, RELATED TO OTHERS LESS, AND SEEMED TO HAVE LITTLE PURPOSE, MADE HEAVEN. WHAT REALLY DOES JESUS ASK OF US TO SUCCEED?





SANCTA MICHAEL, ORA PRO NOBIS SANCTA GABRIEL, ORA PRO NOBIS SANCTA RAPHAEL, ORA PRO NOBIS SANCTA TERESE, ORA PRO NOBIS SANCTA FRANCIS, ORA PRO NOBIS SANCTA LAZARUS, ORA PRO NOBIS

This week we the Church celebrate enough saints to have our own litany of saints! The above list for the week includes Lazarus even though he is merely a figure in one of Jesus' stories. He is an an example Jesus gives us of one who made it to heaven. He is worth our consideration for sure.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GET TO HEAVEN-TO MAKE IT WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE? Jesus uses his story of the rich man and the sore-ridden beggar, named Lazarus, to tell us that being poor sure helps and being rich can be an obstacle in makingit to heaven!

What's wrong with being rich especially if I earn it? Nothing really! I can have a piece of heaven now, already. But... if I listen to Jesus, He tells it a different way. This story of the rich man and the beggar is only one of many times Jesus strongly reminds us that wealth and power can get in the way and in this story he even tells us that we won't even listen to such "nonsense"!

Sin keeps me from God and eventually from Heaven. How can wealth be sin-ful? The rich man did not make it but Lazarus did. Each of us can complete this reflection for him/herself. Try it for size. How do riches get in between me and my God? What is Jesus telling me in this story? Lazarus made it - he was declared a saint by Jesus himself.

OUR CATHOLIC HERITAGE REALLY SHINES THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH'S CELEBRATION OF THE ANGELS MICHAEL, GABRIEL, AND RAPHAEL. Maybe we don't think much of angels today but we still have many Catholics named Mike, Rafe, and Gabe; names coming from scripture and sounding the very presence of our God.

Also, we celebrate the young St Teresa who gained her place near the Lord by doing the little things of daily life well and for God. She let God in.

This week ends with our Church's celebration of our dear Brother Francis of Assissi on Sat. Oct. 4. This is Francis, God's own 13th Century Trubadour, who proclaimed trust and peace andlove of all of God's creatures, the small and the tall. Now, well after eight centuries Francis is revered and continues to inspire. He lived and taught Jesus' Gospel. Much of our Catholic devotion, such as the Stations of the Cross and theChristmas Crib scene, can be traced to Francis. He keeps urging us to trust in the Lord and the goodness of our neighbor. Francis, pray for us.



CELEBRATE FRANCIS

One of the first questions often heard in school as a child was, "Why did God make you?" The class answered, "To know Him, love Him and serve Him in this world and be happy with Him in the next." Francis of Assisi responded to this question and met his Lord in people, by sharing their experiences of pain, suffering and joy.

The Creator's hand worked gently and patiently in Francis' life. When he was deep in proyer in front of the cross at the church of San Damiano, Francis heard the Lord say, "Go, repair my church; it is falling into ruin." Francis thought it meant to rebuild the bricks of the church. The Lord had to speak to Francis again, "Go and rebuild my church." This time Francis understood. He began to rebuild the Church through a celebration of life--life in every form. He identified with the poor ones, the little, and the left-outs of his society. He embraced the leper and fed the beggar. Through the lame and the leper, Francis met his Lord. The more he opened himself to ministry and service of others, the greater the peace and joy which entered his spirit.

The root of Francis' conversion was reconciliation with the Lord. The unconditional love of the creator for creation, the life of Jesus, and the people of the streets, outcasts and lonely, revealed to Francis the peace of the Lord. At the end of his life Francis said to his companions, "The Lord has given me what is mine to do. May He also give you yours." Even at the moment of death, Francis remained open to the Lord's way in his life, as well as the fact that the way may, and will, be different in another's life.

As Francis followed in the footsteps of the Lord Jesus Christ, he devoted his life to the Gospel call of service, reconciliation and peacemaking. To celebrate the life of the poor one from Assisi, we are invited to respond to the Gospel call not possessively, but passionately. As we live together in a world which, at times, tears itself apart, let us remember the man from Assisi and recommit ourselves to serve, to reconcile and to bring peace to our brothers and sisters.

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SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28++++++++LIBRARY LOUNGE

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