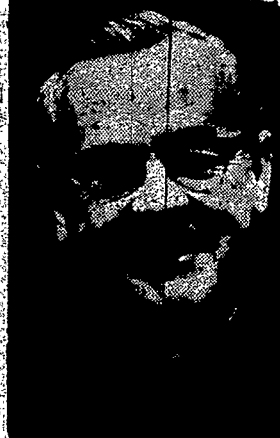


Pastoral Perspective

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

Feast of St. Francis

On October 4th we celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, one of the most beloved of Christian saints. More than most, he unified the love of God, of his fellowman and of the beauties of nature. His ability to speak of Brother Sun and Sister Moon reflects his appreciation of the lovely rolling countryside of Assisi, where a famous church now marks the places he walked.



Each of us probably finds some aspect of St. Francis' life particularly appealing. Some are attracted to his warmth and sense of joy, others find his simplicity much needed in our day, still others see inspiration in his prayerfulness. There is almost a childishness in the life of St. Francis, but that of profound insight and not naivete.

Whatever the words we use, the central reality in his life that seems most touching is his ability to link the beauty of God and the daily life of man. Unfortunate Greek categories like divine and human seem at times to suggest a chasm between God and the human race. The beauty of the Incarnation is that God chose freely to walk among us. Jesus Himself used the title Son of Man, to emphasize the desire of the Godhead to imbue apparently ordinary people and created reality around us with a reflection of His own beauty and glory.

Yet we are so often blind and insensitive to beauty. We are struck with wonder at the changing leaves on the trees during Fall. We note that animals are provided with thicker coats to survive the winter. Skiers rejoice that snow will soon beckon them to frosty trails. But day after day, we take people around us for granted. The wonder of new birth, the mystery of individuation, the anguish of discovering limitation, the almost infinite variety of personalities are all indications of God's own limitless beauty. How often we take His beauty reflected in people around us for granted.

How strange we are! We are fascinated by the almost infinite variety in nature around us, yet we are suspicious of people who are different from us. We are uneasy if our neighbor has a different nationality or skin, or culture, as though this could be anything other than another indication of God's myriad beauty.

What are the lessons St. Francis reawakens for us? In a country of affluence and waste, he calls us to voluntary moderation and simplicity; in a time of tension and division, his life calls us to inner peace and unity; in an era of racial and ethnic unrest, he invites us to charity and loving dialogue; in a period of technology and waste, he suggests a return to nature and sound ecology; in an atmosphere of isolationism and anxiety, St. Francis reminds us to share and to laugh and to enjoy.

We thank God for the example and inspiration which we derive from the life of St. Francis of Assisi. We pray to be able to imitate his love of God and human life and nature. Would our world not be a better place if each of us prayed and lived his beautiful prayer:

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love. Where there is injury, pardon Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope. Where there is darkness only light, and where there's sadness ever joy.

Oh Master, grant that I may never seek, so much to be consoled as to console. To be understood as to understand. To be loved, as to love, with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned. In giving to all men that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.



'In a country of affluence and waste, he calls us to voluntary moderation and simplicity; in a time of tension and division, his life calls us to inner peace and unity; in an era of racial and ethnic unrest, he invites us to charity and loving dialogue...'

Bishop Hogan's Public Appointments.

The Bishop has recovered from bronchial pneumonia and will resume his schedule on Oct. 10.

OCTOBER 1978

- 10 — Priests' Council Meeting — Holiday Inn, Waterloo — 10:30 a.m.
- 13 — Diocesan Directors Meeting — 9:00 a.m.
- 15 — Concelebration of the Eucharist and Homily — 50th Anniversary of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish — 3:00 p.m.
- 16 — Ministry to Priests Training Workshop — St. Bernard's Seminary — 9:00 a.m.
- 17 — Concelebration of the Eucharist and Homily — Seneca/Cayuga Regional Assembly — St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls — 7:30 p.m.
- 19 — Bishop's Finance Committee — Pastoral Office — 9:00 a.m.
- 20 — Diocesan Directors Meeting — 9:00 a.m.
- 20 — Priests' Spirituality Committee — Becket Hall — 12:30 p.m.

- 20 — Ordination to Priesthood of Daniel O'Shea — St. Boniface Church — 8:00 p.m.
- 21 — Annual Bishop's Burse Dinner — Knights of Columbus — Phelps Hotel, Phelps — 6:30 p.m.
- 22 — Concelebration of the Eucharist and Homily — 50th Anniversary of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Rochester — 3:00 p.m.
- 24 — 61st Annual Meeting of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester — Camp Stella Maris — 6:00 p.m.
- 26 — Ministerial Holy Hour — Center for Continuing Education — 10:00 a.m.
- 27 — Diocesan Directors Meeting — 9:00 a.m.
- 27 — "They Also Serve Who Lead", lecture by Dr. Ernest T. Campbell — Panel response will include Bishop Hogan — Geneseo — 6:00 p.m.
- 29 — Joint Consultative Bodies Meeting — Otto Shults Center, Nazareth College — 4:00 p.m.