

MEANDERINGS

One of the consequences of moving to a new place is the discovery of saved things that haven't been read in years. The question: *Why did I save this stuff in the first place?*

But some things I'm happy that I saved. So I thought I might share some poetry with you. It comes mostly from another century (Later 1900's) and still has some zing. Here goes - and I hope you enjoy these slightly revised poems.

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To Francis - with love

*So here we are,
you and I,
21st century,
and we're talking
about following
a 13th century friar.*

*Not that I'm against
the 13th century.
It is called
the "greatest" -
But I'm living now!*

*Gospel - "Good news."
The words are as
old as Jesus,
and people are
not so different.
So what's this
man in brown
trying to prove?
What's with this little
man from Assisi?
What's the buzz?*

*What's so special about
one man in a history
that contains thousands
of special people
who followed Jesus?*

*Francis believed the Gospel,
the whole thing -
Matthew, Mark, Luke
and especially John..
Jesus said: "Do not worry
over what to eat ..."
and Francis didn't.
"Whoever wishes
to follow me,
let him deny himself,"
and Francis did!
"Take nothing with you
on the way."
So Francis didn't.*

*It might sound simplistic,
even impossible, or
at least ridiculous,
wouldn't you say?
But it happens to be
the way Francis did things.*

*Jesus said: "I have
come among you
as one who serves ..."
You guessed it -
Francis did the same.*

*He even called his followers
"Friars minor"
His 'Little brothers'
because they were to
be servants of all."
"My brothers are called 'lesser'
so that they may not
presume to
become greater."*

*That's pretty neat when 'power'
seems helpless to deal with*

*many human problems.
We need little brothers
instead of 'big brother.'*

*So, gospel living,
according to St. Francis,
is simply taking the
whole thing seriously,
as it is!
Not watered down,
not interpreted away,
but just as it is revealed,
without gloss!*

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In union with Jesus

*The clenched fist
Unity?
The peace sign,
Unity?
The march together,
Unity?
Celebrating together,
Unity?
Syrian peace talks,
Unity?
Gang warfare,
Unity?
Indifference - apathy,
Unity?
Criticism - gossip,
Unity?
"Don't get involved."
Unity?
"Let George do it!"
Unity?*

*"May they all be one,
Father, may they
be one in us,
as you are in me
and I am in you.
So that the world
may believe it was
you who sent me."*

*This is the sign that
Christ is with us,
that we are
one with him
and one with each other;
Always!*

*Back to fundamentals,
Francis and the Gospel.
"Without me you
can do nothing."
True
or false?*

*Unity with Jesus
is all-important!
More important than -
the peace corps,
day-care centers,
political organizations,
big churches
well-knit fraternities,
two (four?)TV sets,
the latest I-phone,
sensitvity training,
A new hair-do,
A motorcycle.
A prom date,
A car.
Other friends.
A vacation.
The latest computer
A new apartment.
A sufficient bank account.
Health.*

*Franciscans have
to know, deep inside,
where it counts,
that Jesus is #1
in their lives.*

*Otherwise ..
- Disorder -
"Without me you
can do nothing"...
for you,
for your brother,
for your sister,
for anybody.*

*So what
is your answer about
who or what
is #1?
Honestly?*

Being a neighbor

*A man was going
from Jerusalem to
Jericho - and on
the way he was
attacked by robbers
and left half-dead.
That's Jesus' way of
exploring the question:
"Who is my neighbor?"*

*Participate - to have or
to share with others in some
activity, enterprise etc.
"Partake"*

*is described thus by Webster,
which isn't half bad.
But if you hate
working with people,
or sharing praise or
carrying part of the burden,
then it probably
gets you to turn the page
and skip this part ..
MAYBE!*

*But Franciscans
can't just 'tune out.'
They may want to,
and even start to,
but they can't be
true to their calling
and not participate!*

*Willy-nilly,
they must learn
to take part in,
and share with others
in good activities!
This goes beyond
personal, individual
efforts ... alone.
It means that we
group together
to tackle a problem,
present a program,
share a burden.
We are a family,
a fraternity - at work,
together.*

*So we offer the family:
ideas, suggestions,
building blocks,
brainstorms,*

*anything at all
that will make the family
do and be together
for Jesus,
the Trinity,
and the people
Jesus loves,
which is everyone!*

*So we learn together,
to work together,
to suffer together,
to celebrate together,
to recognize people
as people,
and respond with
sensitivity to needs.
These are ways
by which
we show our love.*

*All of us
working
TOGETHER!
Recognizing
the Samaritan who
is our neighbor!*

- Turtle talk -

*Behold the Turtle
who makes progress
only when he
sticks his neck out!*

- Says the Turtle: -

*Maybe I'm lucky
to be
going slowly,
because
I may be going
in the wrong direction.*

- Franciscan talk -

*Lord, make me
an instrument
of your peace.*

Please!