



Week ending 9 December 2016

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On Thanksgiving, "I was deeply grateful"

By Susie Thompson, Cap Corps Volunteer



Susie Thompson

Wow! I can't believe we've already been in Montana for over three months! Once school began, time just flew by. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I'd like to give thanks for the many blessings I've experienced out here. I feel like Thanksgiving is particularly relevant to me this year, as I'm a pilgrim in my own little way: an outsider who has been welcomed by the people who live here and who would like to give thanks accordingly.

I'm deeply grateful for my work at the school, particularly all the people there. The children here are amazing. They are sweet, loveable, and so much fun. From the first day of school, I've had more laughs and hugs than I can count. On days when I feel miserable, sick, or in pain, it's the kids that get me through the day. It's almost as if they have some sort of radar, because on the days I'm struggling the most, they bombard me with affection, making whatever problems I'm facing so much easier to bear. Because of them, I look forward to coming to work each day, and that in itself is something to be grateful for. And if this wasn't enough to make me love my job, I get to work with some pretty awesome people. The principal, teachers, and other staff are wonderful and ever so patient with me. They have been generous with their wisdom and kindness, even on the days when I barely feel functional. I'm learning so much from them all, both about the Cheyenne and Crow cultures and about teaching, and I feel so inspired by all of them.

Of course, I am incredibly grateful for the whole community here. I don't know what I'd do without the fantastic people here. From providing a place to just be (or, even better, to bake cookies), to bringing food, to inviting me on hikes or to dinner, they have provided me with the support I've needed to continue, especially when I feel most vulnerable. I would be remiss if I didn't include the Jesuit Volunteers; they're a wonderful group of people, and it's nice to know I can visit them whenever I want a running buddy, someone who is willing to spend a whole day baking and experimenting with the creation of apple cider, or a place where I can simply sit quietly and read a book in the presence of others.



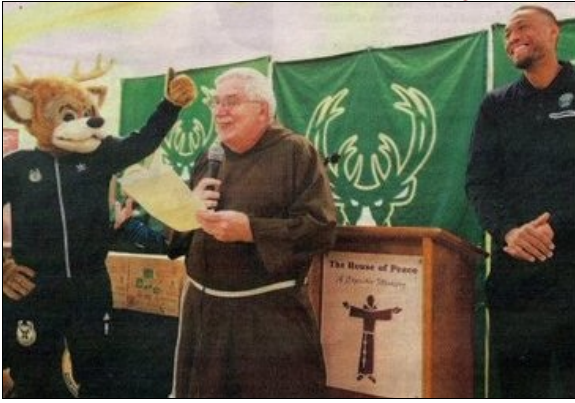
"Big Sky" in Ashland MT

We have been blessed with incredibly warm weather here in Ashland, and even today, I was able to go for a run and be quite toasty. Some

e things in life.



A Buck donates turkeys!



L-R: Bango, Perry McDonald and Jabari Parker

The holidays are a busy time at Capuchin Community Services in Milwaukee. Staff and volunteers at the House of Peace prepare food packages for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

On 22 November, Perry McDonald introduced Milwaukee Bucks player Jabari Parker at the House of Peace. Parker, accompanied by Bucks mascot, Bango, donated and distributed Thanksgiving meals to 150 central city families. Students from Divine Savior Holy Angels and Messmer high schools assisted with the distribution.

"A tree grows in"... Manitowoc



+Sarah Bertler,
FSCC

A memorial tree was presented to the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity honoring Sarah Bertler who died on October 16. Sarah was a member of the province's Wellness Ministry Council, and played an essential role in planning and implementing the province-wide survey conducted last fall. During her ministry years, Sarah cared for many friars as a nurse at St. Paul Elder Services in Kaukauna. She also helped out at

St. Fidelis Community when called upon. As an instructor at Bellin College, she facilitated a geriatric clinical experience for her students which the friars of St. Fidelis appreciated.



L-R: Debby Van Ermen, Lois Gosch, and Bob Hollander at tree planting ritual

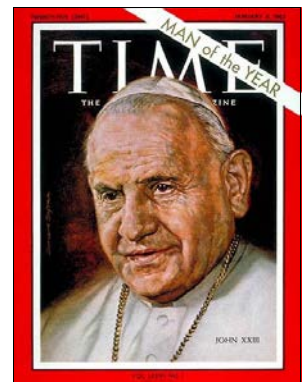
The tree was planted at the Holy Family Convent Cemetery in Manitowoc. Thanks to Debby Van Ermen (Wellness director) and Bob Hollander (St. Fidelis maintenance) for making this possible.



Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December.

John XXIII's great encyclical letter *Pacem in terris* (1963) was the first papal document to refer specifically to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to acknowledge its importance. Described in the addresses that John Paul II gave, in 1979 and 1995, to the United Nations General Assembly as the "fundamental document" of that organization, as "a milestone on the long and difficult path

of the human race" and as "one of the highest expressions of the human conscience of our time", the declaration responded to the grave concerns raised by the Second World War, when "disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of humanity".



The declaration was one of the major early initiatives of the United Nations, published just over three years after the birth of that organization. In the words used by the pope in 1998 World Day of Peace Message, it was “a solemn act, arrived at after the sad experience of war and motivated by the desire formally to recognize that the same rights belong to every individual and to all peoples”.

The spirit of the document’s 30 articles is enshrined in these words from its preamble: “Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world”.

The most fundamental of the rights enumerated in the declaration are the right to life, the right to freedom (including freedom of thought, conscience and religion) and the right to participate fully in society. Other rights flow from or complement these. The document sets down those political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights which are basic to every human person’s dignity and development. They include: freedom of opinion, expression, association and assembly (political rights); equality before the law (a civil right); the rights to own property and to receive sufficient recompense for labor to enable oneself and one’s family to enjoy an adequate standard of living (economic rights); the rights to education, to participate in the arts and to share in scientific advances and benefits (social and cultural rights). A number of these and other rights could be described collectively as the right to be free from the burden of poverty and socio-economic disadvantage.



**STAND UP
FOR SOMEONE'S
RIGHTS TODAY**
Human Rights Day 2016

The inviolable and inalienable rights listed in the Universal Declaration have certain other essential characteristics, notably their universality and indivisibility. They are universal in the sense that they apply equally and without exception to every human person everywhere and at all times, irrespective of race, gender, age, culture, conduct or any other circumstance. And they are indivisible in the sense that economic, social and cultural rights are just as essential as civil and political rights. The government which allows a person to vote but excludes him or her from education, health care, adequate housing or work opportunities is transgressing that person’s human rights.

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December. This year, Human Rights Day calls on everyone to stand up for someone's rights! Many of us are fearful about the way the world is heading. Disrespect for basic human rights continues to be wide-spread in all parts of the globe. Extremist movements subject people to horrific violence. Messages of intolerance and hatred prey on our fears. Humane values are under attack.

We must reaffirm our common humanity. Wherever we are, we can make a real difference. In the street, in school, at work, in public transport; in the voting booth, on social media. The time for this is now. “We the peoples” can take a stand for rights. And together, we can take a stand for more humanity.

It starts with each of us. Step forward and defend the rights of a refugee or migrant, a person with disabilities, an LGBT person, a woman, a child, indigenous peoples, a minority group, or anyone else at risk of discrimination or violence.

The above is an excerpt from a pastoral letter issued by the Catholic bishops of Australia to mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1998.

“No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.”

~Nelson Mandela, Human Rights Day, 2012



Steve Wolf (nephew of Joe Wolf), his wife and his sister are all suffering with cancer.

James Heffron, father of Dave Heffron, died recently.

Former friar David Boskovich died recently.

Ken Weber, cousin of André Weller, is now in hospice care.



DECEMBER

- 10 Int'l Human Rights Day
- 11 3rd Sunday of Advent
Robert Smith (B)
Tom Nguyen (B)
- 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe (F)
Paul Koenig (B)
- 13-14..... Pro Council, Mt. Calvary WI
- 14 Anniversary of Sandy Hook Elementary
School shooting, 2012
Juan Flores (N)
- 16 Worku Gebre (B)
- 17 Pope Francis (B)



Advent Calendar

He will come like last leaf's fall.
One night when the November wind
has flayed the trees to bone, and earth
wakes choking on the mould,
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.
One morning when the shrinking earth
opens on mist, to find itself
arrested in the net
of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.
One evening when the bursting red
December sun draws up the sheet
and penny-masks its eye to yield
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,
will come like crying in the night,
like blood, like breaking,
as the earth writhes to toss him free.
He will come like a child.

~ Rowan Williams

