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Published for the Friars of the
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Province of St. Joseph
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13 February 2019

Issue 1149

RANDOM ACTS OF KindnessWeek

Random Acts of Kindness Week: February 14-20

Random Acts of Kindness Week is a time when citizens all across the globe are challenged to do something kind for a friend or stranger for no reason at all. Originally started by Megan Singleton, Josh de Jong and Marshall Gray, Random Acts of Kindness Week continues on, thanks to the efforts of the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation, a really terrific nonprofit organization founded upon the powerful belief in kindness, and dedicated to providing resources and tools that encourage acts of kindness.

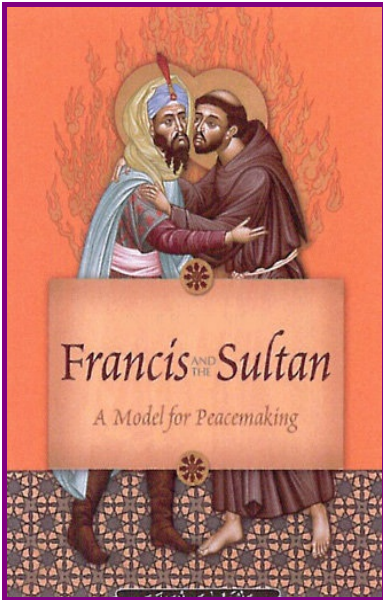
How can you participate in Random Acts of Kindness Week? Any way you want – you just have to do something nice for someone else. It can be as easy as holding a door open or lending someone a dollar for a cup of coffee. Or you can take it a step further and volunteer.

But the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation encourages you to start however you can: be generous with compliments, return a shopping cart, help someone load or unload their groceries, make someone laugh, thank your employees, give your seat to an elderly person, smile at others.

Easy, right? In fact, none of the ideas listed above take more than five minutes of your day. In addition to making the person you direct these acts of kindness at feel good, they'll make you feel good too. So start small – and then incorporate acts of kindness into your daily routine.

*Imagine a world where we look
out for each other; where we all
pay it forward; where we
measure success in selfless acts;
where kindness is the
philosophy of life.*





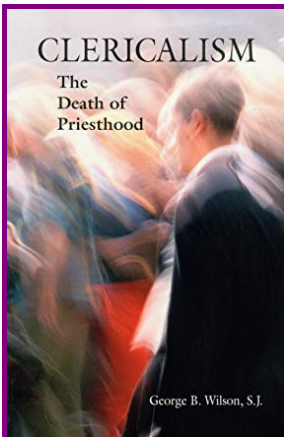
Pope Marks Anniversary of the Encounter Between St. Francis and the Sultan

On January 7th, during an address to the Diplomatic Corps, Pope Francis referred to the 1219 meeting between St. Francis of Assisi and the Sultan as a model for interreligious dialogue.

“Even though over the centuries many quarrels and dissensions have arisen between Christians and Muslims, in different areas of the Middle East they have long lived together in peace. In the near future, I will have occasion to visit two predominantly Muslim countries, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates. These represent two important opportunities to advance interreligious dialogue and mutual understanding between the followers of both religions, in this year that marks the eight-hundredth anniversary of the historic meeting between Saint Francis of Assisi and Sultan al-Malik al-Kāmil.”

The pope will visit Morocco from March 30 - 31, and will meet Muslim civil and religious leaders.

Clericalism: The Death of Priesthood



George Wilson is an ecclesiologist and organizational facilitator, and he's also a Jesuit. He is very familiar to many friars of our province, having facilitated two of our past provincial chapters. In 2008, Wilson published *Clericalism: The Death of Priesthood* which addresses, among other issues, the scandal of misconduct by Catholic clergy.

Searching for answers in the midst of the sexual abuse crisis in the church, many blamed the “clerical culture.” But what exactly is this clerical culture? As members of the church, Wilson maintains, we all share responsibility both for creating a clerical culture and for that culture's transformation. This

***“Since culture is a human creation and is therefore marked by sin, it too needs to be healed, ennobled and perfected.”
John Paul II, Redemptoris Missio***

book aids that transformation by helping us examine some underlying attitudes that create and preserve destructive relationships between clergy and laity. After looking at the crisis and establishing where we are now, this book challenges us with concrete suggestions for changing behaviors.

Reviewing the book in 2008, Eugene Kennedy (professor emeritus, Loyola University) said that “Wilson has the eyes and heart of a good pastor. He sees everything about the church and the priesthood with x-ray vision and an understanding heart...Wilson provides just the right book at just the right time. Everyone who wonders what can be done to help the church and its priests in the next generation should read this book.”

Given the ongoing crisis, it may be a good time to revisit this insightful and hopeful book, available on Amazon. His other books are *Blessing Prayers* and *Church Leadership: Training in the Ethical Use of Power*.



We Saw You at St. Conrad's

Milwaukee friars and friends gathered for the annual celebration of the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Several friars from St. Lawrence Community in Mt. Calvary joined them.



Tucson Diocese Honors Jubilarians

On February 3rd, the religious of the Diocese of Tucson celebrated their religious jubilees in a liturgy presided by Edward Weisenburger (bishop of the diocese). Among the honorees at the celebration was our brother John Francis Samsa, celebrating his 65th year as a friar. A luncheon followed the liturgy. Accompanying John Francis at the celebration were two of our brothers: Ken Smits and Wally Balduck.




Ken Smits and Wally Balduck (first two from left) and John Francis Samsa (5th from left).



- Dorothy Diedrich (sister of Ray Meier) died recently.
- John Luksich (brother-in-law of Randolph Graczyk) died recently.
- I thank everyone for the prayers for my niece Debbie. She is doing better but has a ways to go for complete healing. ~ Michael Gaffney
- I would like to take this time to thank everyone for the kind words and expressions of sympathy on the passing of my aunt. I am amazed at all of the people who sent me an email. Some of whom I don't even know. It warms my heart to know that I work for an organization that cares so much and are there for others in a time of need. I feel very blessed.
Thank you! ~ Mary Beth Mueller
- The whole family of my sister Natalie Galloway is very thankful for the prayers offered for her and her family during her sickness and after her death. Thanks to all and may God bless you. ~ Franklin Eichhorst

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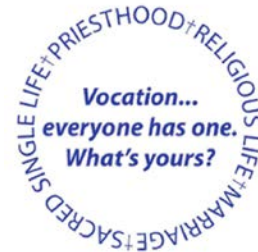


13 Keith Clark (B)

14 John Willger (B)
Harlan Swift (B)
♥ Valentine (F)

17 Michael Bertram (B)
John Gau (B)

25 Martin Pable (B)

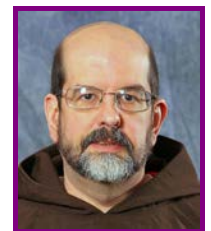


St. Anthony Apartments

Grand Opening of St. Anthony Apartments

In 2011, Rob Roemer began his ministry as the volunteer coordinator for St. Ben's ministries in Milwaukee, and the thing that impressed him about the city was its sense of community.

Today, Rob Roemer is the director of Capuchin Community Services, which includes the House of Peace and St. Ben's ministries. The sense of community that Rob



Rob Roemer

experienced is evident in the St. Anthony Apartments, housing for the homeless. The building on the corner of 10th and State Streets was formerly St. Anthony Hospital.

In 1970, St. Ben's began operating a Community Meal in the basement and serving meals to the homeless.

Founded on the principle of "housing first," St. Anthony Apartments offers permanent, affordable housing as quickly as possible for homeless and low income people, together with the critical supportive services and connections to community resources needed to become self-sustaining.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for St. Anthony Apartments will be held on 15 March at 10:30 am.

