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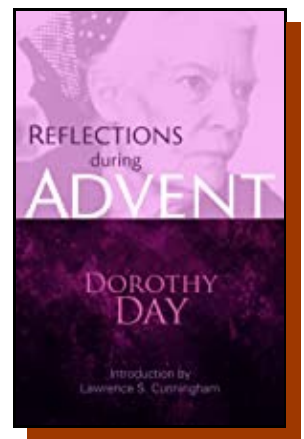
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In his September 2015 speech to the United States Congress, Pope Francis credited American journalist Dorothy Day (1897–1980), cofounder of the Catholic Worker movement, for her deep faith and social activism. Day’s devotion to her Catholic faith and its traditions reverberated through a series of four reflections published during Advent 1966 in *Ave Maria* magazine. These reflections, available for the first time as an eBook collection with a new reader’s guide and an excerpt from “On Pilgrimage,” are as important today as they were fifty years ago.

Written a year after the close of the Second Vatican Council, Dorothy Day’s *Reflections during Advent* address a Catholic Church in a time of tremendous upheaval. Catholic devotions fell out of practice. People sought God separate from church life. Seminarians, novices, and vowed religious were turning away from religious life. American affluence and materialism seemed to know no bounds. It was a time in the Church not unlike the world today.

“One of the most intriguing things about Dorothy Day was how she managed to harmonize a radical social vision with the most orthodox and traditional kind of Catholic piety,” writes Lawrence S. Cunningham, the John A. O’Brien professor of theology (emeritus) at the University of Notre Dame, in his introduction to the collection. “Her views on society would cause the most ‘progressive’ Democratic voter to pause, but her spiritual life was fueled by her fidelity as a Benedictine oblate to the Liturgy of the Hours, her meditations on sacred scripture, her love of the lives of the saints, and her assiduous participation in the Eucharistic liturgy.”



This work is a must-read for every Advent season, a timeless reminder of Day’s witness to faith that echoes Pope Francis’s words in his historic address to Congress: “Her social activism, her passion for justice and for the cause of the oppressed, were inspired by the Gospel, her faith, and the example of the saints.”

The Kindle version is available for \$4.49 on Amazon.



Not a day, but a Season

by Ray Duplechain

With fall comes change. Our culture pushes us to hurry, get it done, now! For our spiritual integrity, we do well to take a longer view beyond the present moment, to look out into the future, beyond today, this week, this year. Thanksgiving is not about a day, but about a season: a season of gratitude.



Gratitude is of the heart. It can only grow from there, and when it blooms it is expressed in each of us as joy! Beyond nice thoughts and pithy words is the struggle that is our daily manner of living. Life can be messy, but it is also manageable. Few of us escape the messiness of our current culture and the challenges we face in our careers and families. Life inevitably proves to be difficult, but it does not have to be burdensome. The challenge of the Christian life is to know who we are and to whom we belong. As daughters and sons of God, through grace, we possess all that is needed to nurture gratitude in our lives.

We began the season of gratitude on the first two days of November with the feasts of All Saints and All Souls, to remember those who have gone before us in the faith and in our families. We are who we are as a result of those who formed and molded our lives. So the first fruit of gratitude is to remember those people who positively influenced our lives and nurtured us. The goal is to pass along wisdom, knowledge and understanding to those who surround us; parents, siblings, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors and co-workers. We are called to praise God for the wonderful work of our lives; he sends us to fill the lives of other people with good things.

Joy, Joy, heartfelt Joy! Thanksgiving begins with a gaze upon gratitude. Many suffer from an inability to be grateful; they suffer homelessness, malnutrition, lack of basic healthcare, racism, fear of deportation, loss of affection, broken relationships. The list is long. But for the grace of God, any one of us could find ourselves in a seemingly hopeless situation. Hope nurtures gratitude which is rooted in the heart, and feeds the soul. Gratitude always stands ready to be embraced. It beckons us to turn a cheek to the hurts of the world, it brings light to the darkness in any situation, and leads us to thanksgiving. Gratitude helps to protect our soul from doubt and fear. With gratitude the soul rejoices and experiences the gift of joy – heartfelt joy.

May God's abundant blessings accompany us in the coming days as we remember and recall with gratitude in our hearts, all that he has done for us. May we respond to his grace with heartfelt joy so that our countenance will be for all an encounter with holiness, mercy, compassion, and love. *Happy Thanksgiving!*

[Ray Duplechain is director of the permanent diaconate in the Archdiocese of New Orleans]

Reflection: Season of Creation

by Aaron Richardson, OFM



Aaron Richardson, OFM

Throughout this fall's Season of Creation, from Sept. 1- Oct. 4, I found myself engaged in various ways with what Pope Francis calls for in *Laudato Si* – an “ecological conversion.” In my own spiritual life, this has meant evaluating my relationship with the environment and the creatures around me, with an openness to change my behaviors and attitudes. It has helped me to come to appreciate the dignity of all of God's creation and to understand that everything that has been created has a value that is independent of its usefulness.



Our community of mostly student friars in Chicago recently held discussions about the pope's encyclical on *Care for Our Common Home* and practical ways that we can live with ecological sensitivity. We are raising our awareness of single-use items and how much trash is contained in the packaging of items around our home, in an effort to address the throwaway culture which Francis names as one root cause for our current environmental crisis.

**"SAFEGUARD CREATION.
BECAUSE IF WE
DESTROY CREATION,
CREATION WILL DESTROY US!
NEVER FORGET THIS!"**

- POPE FRANCIS



We're also paying attention to our need to pray for creation and to talk about care for creation in homilies and other liturgical settings. Our Franciscan tradition, of course, offers the Canticle of the Creatures as an excellent spiritual resource toward our realization that "everything is connected," a statement that lies at the heart of ecological conversion.

While each of us is individually challenged to live more harmoniously with the world around us, we also recognize that our small efforts pale in comparison with the need for corporate responsibility. Our planet needs leadership to enact policies that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect habitats from industrial pollution.

This year, on Sept. 20, I joined several brothers from our house, along with students and faculty of the Catholic Theological Union and Catholics from across the Archdiocese of Chicago in our local chapter of the International Climate Strike, the event organized by local students in conjunction with young people around the globe. This was an opportunity for us to call upon political leadership, locally and globally, to take action to protect our common home. "The waters are rising," a popular protest slogan states, "and so are we."

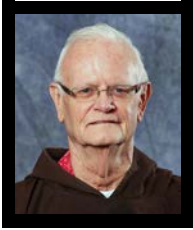


Students of Saint Francis International School in Silver Spring, Maryland, also participated in the International Climate Strike – the gathering in the nation's capital.

Global climate change is already affecting the lives of the poor, as we see in the cases of climate refugees. Moreover, the threats of a global environmental catastrophe are very much on the minds of students everywhere. If the Catholic faith is going to speak to this generation, its ministers need to take environmental issues as seriously as they do.

Drawing from our Franciscan heritage, I am being challenged to lead an authentic life in communion with the creation. I'm challenged to preach an ecological lifestyle, using words when necessary. Living as simply as I can, and praying as fervently as I can, is part of that lifestyle – and God knows I need improvement! Standing in solidarity with students advocating for change is also part of that lifestyle. I thank God for their witness and their challenge.

Aaron Richardson, OFM, a friar in post-novitiate formation living in Chicago, is studying for his master's in divinity at the Catholic Theological Union. He professed his first vows in 2016. The above is excerpted from his recent essay in HNP Today, newsletter of the Franciscan Holy Name Province, published here with permission.



Our brother, James Magnan, died on 5 November 2019 at the age of 76. Jim was born in Milwaukee WI in 1943, the son of Clarence and Monica (née Kinley) Magnan. He was invested in the Capuchin habit in 1962, and perpetually professed in 1966. Jim ministered as a nurse in Wausau WI, Crown Point IN,

Mt. Calvary WI and Chicago IL. He served as the director of religious education at Sacred Heart Parish in Willcox AZ, and in Detroit MI as secretary for the missions. Jim was preceded in death by his parents, and his brother Clarence Jr. He is survived by his many Capuchin brothers with whom he lived, prayed and ministered for over 55 years.

- Elizabeth Hanamann, mother of Sally Maas (manager of St. Fidelis Friary), fell and sustained multiple injuries. She is scheduled for surgery.
- Jim Hast underwent surgery to remove a cancerous growth, a form of melanoma.
- William Hartman, brother-in-law of Ben Markwell, died recently following a long illness.



November

- 24 **Christopher Woods (B)**
Francis Voris (B)
Mark Joseph Costello (B)
- 25 **Faris Najor (B)**
- 28 **Thanksgiving**
- 29 **Formation Video Conference**
Alan Veik (B)
- 30 **Jerry Smith (B)**
André Weller (N)

December

- 1 **1st Sunday of Advent**
World AIDS Day
- 2 **Paul Yaroch (B)**
- 4 **Paul Schmitz (B)**
- 5-6 **Provincial Council, Milwaukee**
- 7 **Ordinations, Milwaukee**



World AIDS Day is observed each year on December 1st and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV, and remember those who have died. Started in 1988, World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day.

**Happy
Thanksgiving!**

**And a Blessed
Advent!**

