

FRANCIS, CLARE AND BONAVENTURE AS PRAYER GUIDES

Francis of Assisi was a good hearted man willing to learn his father's lucrative cloth business if he could also have fabulous parties with his friends and take time to become a knight and fight for this emerging social class. Capture, imprisonment, and a lengthy illness brought time for reflection and finally prayer. Slowly there was a change of what his heart desired. Seeking out caves and quiet places and deserted churches brought an encounter with the living Christ that gave him his call that gave him his direction. He also set a direction for myriad others. The first woman who followed Francis and his first brothers was Clare, from the noble class, which he first did battle with. Now both gave their lives whole-hearted to God laying aside all to the poor and following the poor Crucified Christ who first loved us. 30 years later a future scholar Bonaventure became the second founder of the order. Bonaventure put words around the journey to God of Francis and Clare. His mystical works are a source for the beginner and the advanced in the spiritual journey to meet God.

Bonaventure would go on retreat and then write them down so others could have the spiritual fruit of encounter with God. His practical methods of meditation involve using the imagination to enter in the scripture passage and encounter the living God. In the six months a small group has experienced this form of prayer in retreats and days of prayer. They want to make this available during an evening prayer experience to wet the appetite for this imaginative scriptural experience. These encounters with the living Christ change our lives slowly. With good humble soil and community support this can blossom into a heart-felt journey that changes one's life as one is "seized by God." Through contemplation the heart is touched by the self-diffusive goodness of the Father poured out through the Word, especially by "the labor, suffering and love of Jesus crucified."

Bonaventure also speaks of the goal of prayer as the transformation in which the stillness goes beyond words.

Soul's Journey to God – Franciscan Prayer

Monthly Evening of Prayer

Date: 2nd Tuesday each month

Time: 6-8PM

Optional potluck at 5 PM

Place: (We are in transition for location.)

Tuesday, October 10, Marycrest

Retreat Center, 2851 W. 52nd, Denver

Reflection: Tree of Life, "Jesus Faithful

Witness, Paragraph 41

Place to be announced for future Tuesdays.

Remember God does provide. For questions contact

souls-journey-into-god@comcast.net

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Tuesday, December 12, 2006

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Each 2nd Tuesday year around.

Prayer Experience Description:

Introduction to Bonaventure's Soul's Journey and the Tree of Life (The Life of Christ) which is the path to God.

Brief talk on a Franciscan principle of spirituality.

Guided meditation on the Scripture reading related to the Life of Christ and silent meditation on the Tree of Life (copy available).

Silent contemplation of San Damiano cross.

Optional sharing. Bring your bible and copy if have one of Tree of Life. (Copies available.)

A group interested in studying Bonaventure will be gathering on October 7 evening in Centennial for an informal gathering. If interested contact Liz at meafuhr@hotmail.com

Ref. Works of Bonaventure: Journey of Soul to God, Tree of Life, and Life of Francis, Translated by Ewert Cousins; The Journey into God, A 40 day Retreat with Bonaventure, Francis, and Clare, Joseph Raischl, SFO and Andre Cirino, OFM Simply Bonaventure; Crucified Love, Bonaventure's Mysticism of the Crucified Christ; and Franciscan Prayer all by Ilia Delio

Directors and Participants

Sister Elizabeth Fuhr, a Franciscan of Penance and Christian Charity, has a Masters in Christian Spirituality, is an experienced spiritual director and retreat director and recently attended of the Franciscan International School, Canterbury, England. She resides in rural South Dakota 605-983-3937 and travels to Denver . meafuhr@hotmail.com

"Though I have been a Franciscan for many years, praying with Francis, Clare, and Bonaventure is now my joy and call." Liz Fuhr OSF

Sean Hudson

"I am currently a Bus. Admin. student at Regis University while working full time. To me, The Tree of Life has helped make my spiritual discernment a much more beautiful experience because it's so much more to the point when aiding in studying scripture and then meditating on the scripture readings while I study them!"

Ruby Moscoso

Catholic Biblical Student Graduate, 2nd year student of Catechetical School.

"Through St. Bonaventure's mystical meditations, prayer, and the Word, the Holy Spirit opened up my mind, heart and will to experience the love of God."



To be on the contact list for all prayer experiences
contact
souls-journey-into-god@comcast.net
For questions contact Liz 605-983-3937

Soul's Journey into God Franciscan Spirituality



www.marycrest.org