



THE LION'S PAUSE



Greetings!

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 11)

[Read This Week's Lesson](#)

Frankly Speaking

During General Convention, time outs were taken from the legislative agenda for a variety of activities, including presentations and conversations to explore three current pillars of the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement: Evangelism, Racial Reconciliation, and Care of Creation.

As I returned from Austin to an unkempt lawn, I was reminded of how my efforts at lawn care might be viewed from on high.

God on Lawns

by an Anonymous and Irreverent Scribe

(Reprinted from El Ojo del Mar Magazine, May 2010, p.21)

Imagine the conversation The Creator might have had with St. Francis on the subject of lawns:

God: Hey St. Francis, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there in the Midwest? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect "no maintenance" garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But all I see are these green rectangles.

St. Francis: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

God: Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees, only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

St. Francis: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

God: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

St. Francis: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it... sometimes twice a week.

God: They cut it? Do they then bail it like hay?

St. Francis: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

God: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

St. Francis: No Sir. Just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

God: Now let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

St. Francis: Yes, Sir.

God: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

St. Francis: You are not going to believe this Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

God: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves form compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural

circle of life.

St. Francis: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

God: No. What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and to keep the soil moist and loose?

St. Francis: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

God: And where do they get this mulch?

St. Francis: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

God: Enough. I don't want to think about this anymore. Sister Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

Sister Catherine: "Dumb and Dumber", Lord. It's a real stupid movie about.....

God: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, beseeching you that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and for ever. Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Beauty of the Earth, BCP, p. 840.

Notable

Music this Sunday

Guest pianist Joyce Corbett will appear in two duets with the organ: "Worship the Lord" as arranged by Linda and Ron Sprunger, and Mark Hayes/Marvin Gaspard's "Fairest Lord Jesus." Soprano Frances Swinehart will sing "God Is My Shepherd" from Dvorak's "Biblical Songs."

-RESTORATION CAMPAIGN-

Fundraiser



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SATURDAY
SEPT. 8TH
2018

6:00-8:00PM

Presale Only

at

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
515 48TH ST NW, CANTON, OH 44709
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330.499.2662 | office@stmarks-canton.org

More details coming soon!



THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF OHIO

This Week's Bicentennial Prayer comes from:

St. John's Church - Cuyahoga Falls

Almighty and everlasting God,
hear our prayers and grant to this parish
all things necessary for its spiritual well-being:
enlighten and guide our leaders,
our clergy, wardens, and vestry;
strengthen and increase the faithful;
visit and relieve the sick;
turn and renew the hard-hearted or careless;
bring again those who have wandered;
remove from us anything that resists your grace
or hinders your purposes;
make all of us one united voice to sing your praise
and give witness to your goodness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Sunday, July 22nd:

Rubber Ducks Baseball Game, 2pm

Monday, July 23rd:

Knitting, 1:00pm

Tuesday, July 24th:

Lunch Bunch, 1:00pm @Nuevo Alcapulco

Finance Committee, 3:30pm

Wednesday, July 25th:

Causal Evening Prayer, 5:30pm

Sunday, July 29th:

"Alleluia" Bingo Sunday: *A Special Service at 10am*



PRAYER CONCERNS

Ken Pakenham, Joan Werren, Ron Hill,
Peg Hill, Ken McPeek, Maxine Kit, Conley Family

Family and Friends: Susan, Johnny Willoughby, Doug King, Gabe Russo (cousin of Kate Cerrone-Arnold), Jim Mesko (friend of Jim Weaver), Edna Glinsky (aunt of Pam McCarthy), The Shafer Family (friends of the Gordons), Justine Grosick and daughters (friends of the Mulls), Layna (friend of Boyds), The Moore Family (friends of Nadels), The Latora Family, Judy and Mark McIlvaine (Sandi Kaustinen's sister-in-law and brother), Erin, Chad Patch, Allison & Family, Carol Morton, Barry (friend of Gordons), James McIlvaine (Sandi Kaustinen's father), Dave McQueen (friend of the Mulls)

For all those serving in the armed forces:

Jake Binder - Korea (husband of Amanda Hines Binder)

For all those who have died:

-Please share updates with Bobbi Gordon.-

PRAYER CHAIN:

St. Mark's has a group of prayer warriors who pray for specific needs of those on the prayer chain. If you would like to place yourself or a loved one on the prayer chain, please contact Bobbi Gordon at ggordon24@sbcglobal.net

Please note, prayer requests may be placed on the Prayer Chain, in the Sunday bulletin's Prayer Concerns, or in both places. Please let Bobbi know your preference.

Upcoming *Servers*

Servers this Sunday, July 22nd:

Acolytes, 8:00am: Sharon Ryan

Acolytes, 10:00am: Joe Hoot, Lauren Hoot, Marilyn Thorp

Eucharistic Minister, 8:00am: Anne Coen

Eucharistic Ministers, 10:00am: Bruce Hixon, Sara Strattan

Ushers: Bob Kocab, Al Korosi, Mike Ryan

Altar Guild 8:00am: Sharon Ryan, Sara Strattan

If you are unable to serve, please try to find a sub as soon as possible and notify the office. Thank you!

Yours in Christ,
St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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