

MY LIFE WITH THE SAINTS

- Thursday - April 24, 2014

CHAPTER 13: FOOLS FOR CHRIST- FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Before
STONATA
OPERA

1. What did you know about St. Francis of Assisi before you read Chapter 13? What did you learn new about St. Francis after reading Chapter 13?

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| - Assisi | - FOUNDER OF REL. ORDER |
| - "Rebuild My Church" | - CLARIFYING HIS "VISION" |
| - PREACH THE GOSPEL | - POVERTY |
| - GARDENS | - PEACE PRAYER |

AFTER

- TRUST
- FAITH
- AWARENESS OF Δ'S PRESENCE
- CHANGE OF HEART

2. How are "Brother Bill", Francis of Assisi, Father Martin brought together?

- CASSOCK → sign → COMMITMENT TO GOD
- put themselves totally at the service → GRACIOS → CANTOR
- risking everything for Xt
- NON VIOLENT RESISTANCE (p 289) - "Love them" → (277)

3. Describe the "Repair My Church" conversation that Francis had with the Lord.

- NOT "A" CHURCH } crucifix in cloister
 - BUT "THE" CHURCH } where St. Clare is buried
- Called followers of Jesus to a radical following of Jesus TODAY - Sister Third Order

Pages & Time
DOWN
ROOF
(279)

4. What does Father Martin mean when he says: "Francis of Assisi is a good example of why the legends should never overshadow the actual life...His real life, which we know a good deal about, prevents him from ever being completely tamed by the legends."? (page 279)

LEGENDS

- talking to the wolf (page 281)
- birds landing in his hands
- going into town to preach
- leper on road (282)

- REALITY:
- ① Love Them (286)
 - ② God's Providence (284)
 - ③ Change of Heart (280) - MASTER NOT MAN

5. "In truth, there was little Bill could do other than be their friend and, as he said, 'love them'." (page 286) Why does Father Martin describe Brother Bill in this way. Have you ever been in a similar situation?

- GRACIOS = OUT OF CONTROL
- JESUS - BILL → INTERPOSE w/ GRACIOS (288)
- "NOW WE PRAY" (288)

6. Why does Father Martin describe Saint Francis as a "Fool for Christ"?

- not derogatory or a put down
- praising of St Francis
- people would misunderstand } simplifying it's turning it into nice stories
- } tailoring his vision to suit their own needs
- } doing it half-heartedly
- Francis: remained "centered" in God - giving up all → taking nothing on the journey.

7. "Sensing that he was not up to the challenges of running a rapidly growing religious order, Francis resigned, turning over the management of his group to another brother." (page 292) Remind you of anything? Is this greatness? Humility? Trust in God? What else?

- no Francis w/o a Benedict
- doesn't matter who gets the "credit"
- others: SSS/Mother Angela/

8. Why is Saint Francis called by some "the world's most popular saint"? (page 294)

- Captures everyone's imagination: all people, of all religions
- basic values of "the heart"

9. Have you met any Saints? "The door of the friary closed, and I was reminded once again of the saints that God raises up in every age, and how lucky I have been to meet some of them." (page 295)

- PJP II
- very holy and good Jesuit
- Fr. Benedict
- Mother Teresa of Calcutta

10. How does St. Francis of Assisi help you become a more dynamic Catholic?

- teaches Me what is important
- reminds Me it is possible to follow Jesus credibly
- not always easy → even for a "saint"
- greatness is truly becoming the servant of all
- Francis washed feet —