Saint Francis and the Wolf of Gubbio

~Jack Wintz, OFM ~

The story of how Saint Francis of Assisi tamed the Wolf of Gubbio is one of the great legends linked with the life of the saint. I have never been too worried as to whether the story was historically true or not. I am more interested in seeing how the story fits into the pattern of biblical themes and of God's plans for creation. In this well-known legend, Saint Francis goes to the Italian town of Gubbio, where a fierce wolf had been terrorizing the village and even killing some of the people, including children.

During his visit to Gubbio, Francis goes out to meet the wolf. You can find an account of this event in The Little Flowers of Saint Francis, a 14th-century collection of stories about Francis and his companions. According to the story, when the wolf sees Saint Francis, he comes charging at the saint with his mouth open, ready to attack. Saint Francis immediately makes the sign of the cross over him and says, "Come here, Brother Wolf. I command you on behalf of Christ that you do no harm to me or to anyone." As soon as Saint Francis did this, notes The Little Flowers, "the fearsome wolf closed his mouth and stopped running; and once the command was given, it came meekly as a lamb, and threw itself at the feet of Saint Francis."

Francis Cuts a Deal with the Wolf

Then Saint Francis scolds Brother Wolf for destroying and killing the creatures of God. "The whole town is complaining about you," Francis tells the wolf gently. "But I want to make peace between you and the people. And so I promise that I will have food given to you regularly, Brother Wolf, by the people of this town so that you will no longer suffer hunger. And I want you, Brother Wolf, to promise that you will never harm any human person or animal." The wolf showed agreement by simply bowing his head.

And so Francis asks the people of the town if they will promise to provide food for wolf regularly. They all say they will. Finally, they will promise to provide food for wolf regularly, and Francis immediately places it in the hand of Saint Francis. Because of this action...there was such rejoicing and wonder among all the people...that they all began to cry to heaven, praising and blessing God who sent Francis to them who, through his merits, had freed them from the jaws of the cruel beast."

"Afterwards that same wolf lived in Gubbio for two years, and he tamely entered the houses, going from door to door, without doing any harm to anyone and without any being done to him; and he was kindly fed by the people...Finally after two years Brother Wolf died of old age, at which the citizens grieved very much."

Echo of the 'Peaceable Kingdom'

The "peaceable kingdom" is an expression of the messianic era of peace, foreseen by the prophet Isaiah in this famous passage: "Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them" (11:6). Another passage of Isaiah reads, "The wolf and the lamb shall graze alike, and the lion shall eat hay like the ox....None shall hurt or destroy on my holy mountain, says the Lord" (65:25).

It is clear that the inspired writer of the Book of Revelation, the final book of the Bible, was referring to the "peaceable kingdom" when he wrote, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth...I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race....He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death and mourning, wailing or pain, [for] the old order has passed away" (Rev 21:1-4).

Surely the inspired writer of Revelation, whom we know as John, is pointing us back to Isaiah's description of the rise of the messiah: "But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse [David's father], and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and understanding...He shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted....Then the wolf shall be guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid" (see Isaiah 11:6-9). As a footnote of the Catholic Study Bible tells us, "this picture of the idyllic harmony of paradise is a dramatic symbol of the universal peace and justice of messianic times" (p. 891).

Francis and the Messianic Era

As I note in my recent book, Will I See My Dog in Heaven? (Paraclete Press), "What Isaiah is showing us here is a vision of a future era in which the original state of peace and harmony in the Garden of Eden, lost through disobedience and sin, is restored. In this new world, there will be no pain or sorrow or enmity or untimely death, only happiness and rejoicing. Even the animals will return to a state of innocence and bliss....Clearly the author of Revelation goes out of his way to show that, just as the first book of the Bible [Genesis] began with an ideal garden paradise where God, humans and beasts dwelt peacefully together, so now the Bible's final book ends with the original garden of harmony and peace restored."

In part, what the story of Francis and the wolf reveals to us is that Saint Francis—as a follower of Christ, the Messiah foretold by Isaiah—is helping to bring about the same peace and reconciliation in this world. This peace, harmony and reconciliation is not only meant to exist between God and humans, but also between God and the whole family of creation! We, too, can be instruments of this peace.

October is the Month of the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On autumn mornings as we conclude Lauds, the giant window of Our Lady is often blazing bright in the glow of the rising sun. Mary is illumined by the Radiant Dawn, the Sun of Justice, who is Jesus Christ her Son. Baptized into Christ Jesus our lives are meant to glow with his presence as well. One way we may grow closer to him is by praying the Rosary. October is the Month traditionally dedicated to the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

What consolation the Rosary brings. Remembering the mysteries of Christ's life and Our Lady's life, we repeat Hail Mary after Hail Mary. Indeed, the mysteries of the Holy Rosary—joyful, sorrowful, glorious and luminous—are the mysteries of our own lives as well. As we pray the Rosary, we beg Our Lady to draw us closer to him who is our Light. We remember seeing parents and grandparents so often praying their rosaries, "saying their beads" as some referred to this devotion. We remember as well that for many saints the Rosary was an indispensable part of their daily prayer.

~From Saint Joseph's Abbey, Spencer, MA~
~Pastor’s Corner~

This Wednesday we celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Although his life was one of great poverty, his simple example, eight hundred years ago, still speaks strongly to the world today. Francis' message of absolute poverty and his living example of this poverty trouble our thoughts and challenge us to grapple with Jesus' command to leave all behind and follow Him. Choosing poverty, in the end is choosing God who commands us to love Him above all things; with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. To be free of all possessions and all attachments allows one to love God with everything we are and to not place our love in anything else. This type of love for God is difficult and painful. We seldom encourage people to live this way, let alone strive to live this out ourselves.

Many who live their lives raising families and supporting others, necessarily need to create a healthy environment in this vocation. Parents can't expect their children to eat only a little bread and use a rock for a pillow. Still, as we get older and hear God's call, this challenge of giving up all things for the sake of God's kingdom must somehow be answered. I always thought that my religious vocation would be an obvious response to loving God with my entire being. Yet, the religious life has always been fraught with men and women struggling to live more simply and in poverty. My life is too comfortable, with too many distractions and too much worldliness. If I were a Franciscan, St. Francis would look at me with love and sadness. Our dear Jesus must wonder sometimes how we have lived His Gospel message of love, poverty, and crosses with such affluence.

As we pray for our daily bread, and maybe our daily cheese or egg or vegetable or piece of meat, do we really believe that this portion of food is actually sufficient? Aren't we encouraged to pray for so much more? Way too much more? To spend our lives struggling for things far beyond what is healthy for us? Can we really love God enough when our hearts are divided with love of material things? Can we really love for God is difficult and painful. We seldom encourage people to live this way, let alone strive to live this out ourselves.

~The Holy Guardian Angels~

The mission of the Guardian Angels is, as Saint Paul tells us, to serve the future heirs of salvation. Every kingdom, country, diocese, church and religious order has its protecting Guardian Angel. So has every person. Each bishop of the Catholic Church has two Guardian Angels. Our Guardian Angel is given us at the moment of our birth, stays with us all through life, comforts us in Purgatory, and escorts us, if we are saved, into Heaven. There is a special angel in each church to record all distractions and irreverence that occur there. The greatest joy any of us can give our Guardian Angel is one of his special devotions, reverence for the Holy Angels who have charge of the care of the tabernacle in every Catholic Church. There are nine choirs of angels, and three hierarchies. These choirs and hierarchies are: first hierarchy, Angels, Archangels and Principalities; second hierarchy, Powers, Virtues and Dominions; third hierarchy, Thrones, Cherubim and Seraphim. This is in the order of ascent. It is from the first hierarchy — Angels, Archangels and Principalities — that guardians are chosen by God for man. Angels are for individuals. Archangels are for parishes, churches and religious communities. And Principalities are for provinces, countries and nations. Saint Augustine says, "Go where we will, our angels are always with us"; And Saint Bernard says, "Make the holy angels your friends. No matter how weak we may be, or lowly our condition, or how great the dangers which surround us, we have nothing to fear under the protection of these guardians." In every difficulty, danger and temptation, Saint Bernard urges us to invoke our Guardian Angel. ~From catholicism.org~
The feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron of animals, is on October 4th. At 4:00 pm on the following Sunday, October 8th, Father O'Reilly will preside over a blessing of animals and their owners in front of the Cathedral. You are invited to bring your pet in a safe manner for this special blessing.

On the weekend of October 7-8, Father Anthony Nguyen and Father Jerry Frank will officiate at all of the Masses, and speak to us about the work being done by Unbound, an organization that has served more than 600,000 children, youth and elderly in 19 developing countries since 1981. We look forward to learning about and supporting this wonderful social outreach of the Catholic Church.

"Flame of Love Diary" of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Retreat at St. Lawrence Parish, 4625 Don Julio Blvd. North Highland. In Spanish on Mondays, October 2, 9, 16 and 23, 7-9 pm. In English, on Thursdays, October 5, 12, 19, and 26, 7-9 pm. You will discover great graces from Our Mother and the urgency of spreading the Flame of Love of Her Immaculate Heart. The cost is $5. Join us on this special spiritual retreat through Mary’s special month of October. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Divine Mercy Conference — Jeff Cavins of the “Great Adventure Bible” series, Sister M. Confida Gilara from St. Faustina’s Covent in Boston, and Conor Maher, Youth Minister at Divine Savior Parish in Orangevale, are this year’s guest speakers for the Divine Mercy Conference at Divine Mercy Parish, 2231 Club Center Drive in Natomas on October 7th, from 9:30 and to 4:30 pm. Tickets are still available, but going fast. $20.00 in advance, or $25.00 at the door. For more information, visit DivenMercySacramento.org, or call 530-677-2805.

"A Treasure of Inestimable Value: Catholic music through the ages" - Saturday, October 14, 10:00am to 3:00pm, at the Pastoral Center, 2110 Broadway. A brief survey of the church's musical heritage from the first century to the present, including its origins in the pre-Christian Jewish liturgy of the Temple and synagogue. Learn how the music of our faith laid the foundation for all the music of western civilization. Guided listening, history, and some easy singing. For musicians and non-musicians alike. Lunch included. $20. To register, call 916-733-0221 or email jcavanagh@scd.org.

Retrouvaille –Marriage Recovery
Is your marriage in trouble –miserable –dead? Would you like it to come alive? Retrouvaille can give you the communication skills you need to relate to one other in a more respectful and emotionally mature way. The next weekend is in Sacramento, October 13 -15. For more information call (800) 470-2230 or visit http://www.helpourmarriage.com.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
welcome two new ministers, Sheilah O’Hara and Paolo de Oca. Let us keep them in prayer as they answer God’s call to service.

Holiday Craft Fair at St. Elizabeth of Portugal Parish Hall
on November 4 & 5, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Free admission. There will be a variety of handmade crafts and food. Interested Vendors: $25.00 for an 8 foot table for both days. Vendors will make a profit from their crafts and proceeds from the rental of the tables will go to the St. Elizabeth Parish building/maintenance fund. If interested in renting a table, please call 916-442-2333 or 916-928-1423 or email stelizportugal@gmail.com or battimarco7@aol.com by Tuesday, October 24th. The fair will be held at St. Elizabeth’s, 1817 12th Street, Sacramento, CA. 95811. Free Admission/Open to the public.

Announcing the brand-new www.scd.org
The Diocese of Sacramento is pleased to announce the launch of a new Diocesan website. The site has been redesigned with a fresh look, streamlined navigation, and mobile-friendliness so you can take it with you on the go! Take a tour of the brand-new website today at www.scd.org.

The Sacramento Life Center is in need of baby supplies for low-income new moms. Gift baskets filled with clothing, diapers and supplies are given to every patient after her baby is born. Please consider donating: clothing (up to size 18 mos), diapers (especially size 3,4,5) and other baby items like shampoo, lotion, bibs, hats, pacifiers, blankets, etc. Donations can be dropped off Monday through Friday 9-4:30 at Sacramento Life Center, 2316 Bell Executive Lane in Sacramento. For more information please call 916-451-4357. Thank you for your generosity!

Calling all Scouts and American Heritage Girls in grades 7-10! - The Catholic Council on Scouting is hosting a retreat for Scouts and American Heritage Girls to participate in the "Mary, the First Disciple” award program. This program is focused on the life of Mary and relevance in our own lives. Join us for a fun and fulfilling weekend of spiritual growth October 13-15 at Camp Trinity Pines in Colfax, CA. Visit scddec.org/catholic-scouting, or email scouting@scd.org for more information.

Attention Scouts and Venturers looking to earn your religious emblem award! - The "Ad Altare Dei" (to the altar of God) will accelerate your personal and spiritual growth by exploring what it means to actively live out your Catholic faith. Come learn more about fulfilling your “Duty to God” with other scouts, during this fun and rewarding weekend from October 13-15 at Camp Trinity Pines in Colfax, CA. The retreat is open to Catholic youth registered in the Boy Scouts of America, 13 years and above. Visit scddec.org/catholic-scouting, or email scouting@scd.org for more information.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion welcome two new ministers, Sheilah O’Hara and Paolo de Oca. Let us keep them in prayer as they answer God’s call to service.

“For it is in giving that we receive.” ~Saint Francis of Assisi~
The most powerful tool the Lord has given us to help one another is prayer. If you, your family, or someone you know are in need of prayer, send your prayer request to cbsprayer3@yahoo.com or fill out the form on cathedral-sacramento.org. Hundreds of parishioners are always prepared and honored to take up your prayer for you.

Offering Mass for a special intention is a long-standing tradition in the Catholic Church. It is usually considered that special graces are obtained for whom the Mass is said. Masses are offered for many reasons: for the souls in purgatory, in remembrance for someone who is deceased, or in honor of a birthday or special anniversary. If you would like to have a Mass said for someone, please contact the rectory office for help with available dates and times. Intentions are $10.00 donation per Mass request and are due the Tuesday before the publication weekend.

**Cathedral Kids**

Maybe you have heard that actions speak louder than words. It means that the things you do are more important than the things you say. Show kindness to others. Trust God. He wants what is best for you, so find out how to work for God. Then do what he asks.

Matthew 21:28-32 ■ 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Read the Gospel and Color**

“Preach the gospel always. If necessary, use words.” ~Saint Francis of Assisi~
Esquina del Pastor

Este miércoles celebramos la fiesta de San Francisco de Asís. Aunque su vida fue de gran pobreza, su ejemplo simple, hace ochocientos años, todavía habla fuertemente al mundo de hoy. El mensaje de Francisco de la pobreza absoluta y su ejemplo vivo de esta pobreza agitan nuestros pensamientos y nos desafían a lidrar con el mandamiento de Jesús para dejar atrás y seguirlo. Elegir la pobreza, al final es escoger a Dios que nos manda amarle sobre todas las cosas; con todo nuestro corazón, alma, mente y fuerza. Estar libre de todas las posesiones y de todos los apegos permite amar a Dios con todo lo que somos y no colocar nuestro amor en otra cosa. Este tipo de amor a Dios es difícil y doloroso. Rara vez animamos a la gente a vivir de esta manera, y mucho menos esforzarnos por vivir esto nosotros mismos.

Muchos que viven su vida criando familias y apoyando a otros, necesitan necesariamente crear un ambiente sano en esta vocación. Los padres no pueden esperar que sus hijos coman sólo un poco de pan y usar una piedra para una almohada. Sin embargo, a medida que envejecemos y escuchamos el llamado de Dios, este desafío de renunciar a todas las cosas por el bien del reino de Dios debe de alguna manera ser contestado. Siempre pensé que mi vocación religiosa sería una respuesta obvia a amar a Dios con todo mi ser. Sin embargo, la vida religiosa siempre ha estado plagada de hombres y mujeres que luchan por vivir de manera más sencilla y en la pobreza. Mi vida es demasiado cómoda, con demasiadas distracciones y demasiado mundanalidad. Si yo fuera franciscano, San Francisco me miraría con amor y tristeza. Nuestro querido Jesús debe preguntarse a veces cómo hemos vivido su mensaje evangélico de amor, pobreza y cruces con tal afluencia.

Mientras oramos por nuestro pan de cada día, y tal vez nuestro queso o huevo diario o vegetal o pedazo de carne, realmente creemos que esta porción de comida es realmente suficiente? ¿Nos anima a orar por mucho más? ¿Demasiado más? ¿Garantizan nuestras vidas luchando por cosas más allá de lo que es saludable para nosotros? ¿Podemos realmente amar a Dios cuando nuestros corazones están divididos con amor por las cosas materiales? ¿Podemos estar realmente cómodos en nuestras comunidades cerradas sabiendo que muchos de nuestros hermanos y hermanas no van a recibir su pan de cada día? Estas preguntas y muchas más nos deben molestar en la fiesta del bello San Francisco.

Bendición de Animales

San Francisco de Asís, patrono de los animales, se celebra Octubre 4. El domingo siguiente, Octubre 8, Padre Michael O’Reilly bendirá las mascotas y a sus dueños a las 4:00pm frente a la Catedral. Usted está invitado a traer a su mascota, de una manera segura, a ésta bendición especial.

Durante el fin de semana de Octubre 7-8, el Padre Anthony Nguyen y Padre Jerry Frank oficializarán todas las Misas, y hablarán acerca del trabajo que Unbond, una organizacion que sirve a mas de 600,000 niños, jóvenes y ancianos en 19 países en desarrollo desde 1981, hace. Esperamos aprender y apoyar a este maravilloso esfuerzo de la Iglesia Católica.

Estacionamiento para el catecismo

Las clases del catecismo para niños y sus papás empezaron hoy 10 de septiembre. El mejor lugar para estacionarse es el City Hall Garage en la calle 11 casi esquina con la calle J. (Donde está la gran P). El costo del estacionamiento es de $5.00 dólares pero a usted no le cuesta porque la Catedral lo paga por usted. Por favor recoja su cupón al final de la Misa a 1pm.

¡Venga a prepararse para recibir sus Sacramentos!

Clases para Bautizo, Primera Comunión y Confirmación para adultos todos los lunes de 7pm a 8:45pm. Para más información hable al 916 444 3071 x 15 con el Diacono Edgar o al 916 444 5364 con Sister Jenny.

Retiro en OCTUBRE Lunes 2, 9, 16 y 23 de octubre 7:00 p.m. a las 9:00 p.m. Les animamos a participar en este retiro parroquial “La Llama del Diario de Amor” del Inmaculado Corazón de María. A lo largo de todo, descubrirás las gracias reveladas en el Diario escrito por Elizabeth Kindlemann y la urgencia de difundir la Llama de Amor del Corazón Inmaculado de las gracias de María. Por favor revise los folletos ubicados en la iglesia. El costo es de $ 5. Puede obtener el libro por adelantado en la oficina parroquial o recogerlo en la primera sesión. Únanse a nosotros en este retiro espiritual especial a través del mes especial de octubre ¡Todos son bienvenidos!

¿Tienes preguntas sobre tu fe?

Razones para Aprender Mas Sobre Tu Fe

Jesús nos pide: “... vayan y hagan discípulos de todas las naciones, bautizándolos en el nombre del Padre y del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo, enseñándoles a obedecer todo lo que les ha mandado a ustedes” (Mateo 28, 19-20) Si somos seguidores de Jesús, o sea cristianos, es nuestro deseo hacer lo que Él nos pide. Los invitamos a venir todos los lunes de 7pm a 8:45pm a aprender mas de tu fe. No hay costo alguno. Sólo se requiere traer biblia, cuaderno y pluma. Preguntas: 916-444-3071 ext 15 Diacono Edgar. ¡Te esperamos!

¿Tiene usted problemas después de un aborto?

¿Todavía anda buscando paz, años después de haber escogido esa alternativa? Experimente la sanación amorosa de Jesús en el Retiro de Rachel’s Vineyard (en español), el 27-29 de octubre en Auburn, patrocinado por la Diócesis de Sacramento. El retiro de fin de semana incluirá discusiones, ejercicios espirituales basados en las Escrituras, el sacramento de Reconciliación, servicio de recordación y la misa. Abierto para mujeres, hombres, parejas y miembros de familia que hayan sido afectados por un aborto. El costo es de $175 por persona e incluye comidas, cuarto privado y los materiales del retiro. Tenemos asistencia financiera disponible. Para más información, llame al (916) 733-0161 o envíe un email al projectrachel@scd.org. Sus preguntas y participación son estrictamente confidenciales.
Chinese Community News

華人團體消息

中秋節快樂！
Happy Mid Autumn Festival!

10月是玫瑰月，我們會於每一主日彌撒前下午二時半誦念玫瑰經，敬請各位教友提早回來一同參與。

October is the Month of the Holy Rosary, we will pray the rosary every Sunday prior to our Mass at 2:30 pm. Please come earlier before Mass to join us.

華人團體在教友職務展覽的攤位 9.24.2017

The Chinese Community's booth at the Ministry Fair 9.24.2017

The Most Reverend Jaime Soto, D.D, M.S.W, Bishop of Sacramento

The Most Reverend Myron Cotta
Auxiliary Bishop of Sacramento

The Very Reverend Michael O'Reilly, Rector
Reverend Kieran M. McMahon,
Priest in Residence
Reverend Nicholas Ho, Chinese Mass
Deacon John Gisla Deacon Raul Leon
Deacon Don DeHaven Deacon Edgar Hilbert
Sister Jenny Aldeghi, FDCC, Dir. of Education

Rex Rallanka, Director of Music

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www.cathedralsacramento.org

SCHEDULE OF MASSES
Monday to Friday    12:10 pm
Monday to Thursday  5:10 pm
Saturday Vigil      5:00 pm
Sunday              7:30 am
                    9:00 am
                    11:00 am
                    1:00 pm en Español
                    3:00 pm Chinese
                    5:00 pm
                    7:00 pm en Español
State Holidays      12:10 pm only

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION
Monday to Friday    11:30 am to 12:00 pm
Saturday             4:00 pm to 4:45 pm
Domingo - en Español 12:30 pm a 12:45 pm
                     6:30 pm a 7:00 pm

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
Wednesday    12:45 pm to 4:45 pm
Thursday    12:45 pm to 4:45 pm
Friday      12:45 pm to 3:45 pm

BAPTISMS (Registration is required)
English — 3rd Saturday of the month, 9:00 am
Español - 4º Sábado del mes, 9:00 am

BAPTISM CLASSES
English — 1st Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm
Español — 2do jueves del mes, 7:00 pm

WEDDINGS — Contact 916-444-3071,
Six (6)months in advance

GIFT SHOP — Sundays 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Mondays 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

| Name (Nombre): | ____________________________ |
| Street Address (Domicilio): | ____________________________________ |
| City (Ciudad): | ____________________________________ |
| State (Estado): | ______ Zip Code (Código postal): ______ |
| Home Phone (teléfono de casa): | (_____)___________________ |
| Cell Phone (Celular): | (_____)___________________ |
| Email: | ____________________________________ |

Please indicate:

New Parishioner/Individual
New Parishioners/Family
Change of Address
Please send Offertory Envelopes

Please return by (Regrese por favor):

1) Put into collection basket at mass (deposite en la canasta de la colecta en misa)
2) Scan to pdf file and email to: blessed@cathedralsacramento.org
3) Fax to: 916-443-2749
4) Mail to (correo): 1017 11th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

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