



Mission *monthly*

OFFICE OF MISSION INTEGRATION & CAMPUS MINISTRY | APRIL 2017

LIVING THE JOY OF EASTER

The most commonly repeated phrase throughout the entire Old and New Testament is “Be not afraid!” Nowhere is this more evident, more celebrated, or more real than at Easter.

The celebration of Easter is founded upon the Christian belief that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. However, the meaning of this celebration would be lost if it were treated merely as an event in the past. In reality, it is an ongoing, daily reality in which we celebrate that Jesus is alive, here and now, dwelling among us in and through the Holy Spirit. This is the reason we rejoice and say alleluia! Jesus’ Resurrection is the final victory over darkness, sin, and death and the reason why Christian life is (and ought to be) characterized by brazen joy, defiant fearlessness in the face of injustice or tragedy, and courageous love.

Yet this kind of joyful living that we have in Jesus is all too often minimized or trivialized. For instance, consider St. Francis’ life for a moment. As I’ve written before, in a previous edition of Mission Monthly, it is too easy to reduce the joy of St. Francis to a fleeting and shallow form of happiness. When we see “Francis of the Bird Bath” or images of him holding cuddly animals, we’re tempted to think about joy as a naïve kind of emotion that only exists when we’re out-of-touch, unaware of the difficulties of life, or living with our head in the clouds. Yet this cutesy version of St. Francis does not do him justice, nor help us live in the real world.

Francis was not ignorant of tragedy, blind to human suffering, or afraid of sadness. Francis experienced abandonment by his family and friends, suffered debilitating illnesses, lived in poverty, willingly walked into danger, and lovingly embraced the leper. Such actions do not come from passing feelings of pleasure or happiness, but from a profound sense of gratitude in Jesus and the enduring joy that comes forth from it. This is the Francis that I’ve come to admire because it is the Francis that most clearly reveals the person of Jesus and the life he offers to us—a life that can withstand suffering, persist beyond tragedy, and persevere in the midst of grief. *The joy of Easter is not a mere feeling, it is an act of courage! Joy in Jesus is not ignorance, but an abiding knowledge of the truth that God is love, that light overcomes darkness, and that death is not the end. Easter living is not blind to suffering, but rather, it is a defiant stance against despair and a firm confidence in love.*

So, Be Not Afraid! He is Risen! Happy Easter!



Chaplain's Corner

It's hard to believe that we're heading into the home stretch of not just the season of Lent, but of our academic year here at Hilbert.

During Lent we continue to have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel on Tuesdays from 12 noon to 1 p.m. It's been wonderful to see faculty, staff, and even the occasional student join this intimate, mystical way of quiet prayer.

This time of year includes plenty of religious and food-centered celebrations. There are still many churches where they bless Easter Baskets, including right up the road at Our Lady of Victory Basilica, at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 15.

For a new Holy Week tradition, there will be a Holy Roll on Holy Thursday. At the request of one of the young bike riders from the Slow Roll, we will visit two churches in Kaisertown and five in Polonia on bike, a new way to do the tradition of visiting seven churches on Holy Thursday night. Those interested can meet at St. Bernard's Church at Clinton and S. Ogden Street in Buffalo at 8:30 p.m. on Holy Thursday. There are two volunteers who will watch the bikes while people are inside the churches praying. If you come, please wear a helmet and make sure your bike has lights.

Finally, if you've given up sweets for Lent, you might want to join us on the Dough Roll. On Saturday, April 29 at 1:30 p.m. we will meet up at Flying Bison Brewery at 840 Seneca Street, and bicycle to four places staking a claim to having the world's best jelly donuts—Mazurek's and Donut Kraze in Buffalo, and Paula's and Eileen's in West Seneca. We will cycle back to Flying Bison to discuss who really has the best jelly donuts! It's a 16-mile loop. If you join, please wear a helmet and be aware that we'll be bicycling on some busy streets.

While we will enjoy these more festive celebrations, we realize that for Christians the days of the Triduum—Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter—are the holiest of our Holy Days. While there are no religious services on campus during Easter Break, I hope you can attend services with family and friends at your local house of worship.

*Peace and All Good!
Fr. Jud Weiksna, OFM*

Earth Day and Beyond

Care for Our Common Home

By Sr. Sharon Goodremote, FSSJ

As an alum of Hilbert College, I have always been grateful for the wonderful education, professors and experiences I had at Hilbert. I especially am grateful for the beauty of the campus. Surrounded with such beauty, each person coming onto the campus at Hilbert can become aware of the wonder and awe that God has given us through this wonderful gift of nature. April is a perfect time to celebrate the beauty that surrounds us by celebrating Earth Day, April 22.

Did you know?

1970 was the first Earth Day celebration in U.S. This day was celebrated to bring attention to what pesticides, oil spills and many other disasters were doing to our common home – planet Earth. It was the beginning of the mantra – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Did you know?

From the beginning of organized religions around 5,000 years ago religions brought forth the fact that there is a loving Creator who gifted us with this wonderful world we live in and we need to be grateful for this gift, care for it and share it with each other.

Did you know?

June 2015 Pope Francis proclaimed a ground breaking statement addressed to “every person living on the planet”, titled, *Laudato Si*, (Italian for Praise Be You, My Lord) *Care for our Common Home*. The world heard Pope Francis’ call to care for the wonderful gift of creation and he asked the question, “What kind of home do we want to leave to our children?”

Did you know?

At the United Nations Climate Change Conference in December of 2015, The Paris Agreement was negotiated by representatives of 195 countries. This is an historic turning point for the world to, together, reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Did you know?

As a Catholic Franciscan College, Hilbert has responded to our call to care for creation. Trinity Hall, opened in the fall of 2009, which has geothermal heating system as an energy-efficient heating and cooling system.

Did you know?

That so many of our individual actions can make a profound difference in what kind of world we create. Reduce, Reuse and Recycle are not just nice words but are profound challenges to us.

Reduce: Think twice before buying something. Every product we purchase has an environmental footprint, from the materials used to create it to the pollution emitted during manufacturing to the packaging that ends up in landfills. So before you buy, ask yourself if you really need it. If you do, consider buying gently used instead of new, and look for minimal packaging and shipping. Watch *The Story of Stuff* (<http://storyofstuff.org>) and learn more about the zero waste movement (<https://www.ecocycle.org/zerowaste>)

Reuse: Can I begin to give away what I do not need? One wise person said, “If it is in my closet and I have not used it or worn it for a year – I don’t need it. Someone else does.”

Recycle: Recycling can be inconvenient, but each time we recycle something – plastic bottles, electronics etc. – we keep it out of landfills. Do you recycle at home, in the dorms?

Consider something in nature that gives you a sense of peace – a beautiful tree, listening to birds, walking on a nature path, fishing. Being in nature usually makes us more peaceful and aware of beauty. What would YOU be like if you no longer could see or hear or experience this beauty in nature? What can you do to help preserve and keep this wonderful gift from God for future generations?



HILBERT COLLEGE

Mission Integration & Campus Ministry

Baccalaureate Mass

Celebrate the Class of 2017!

As part of the Commencement celebration, it has been a longstanding tradition at Hilbert College to hold a Baccalaureate Mass in honor of the graduating class. It is my privilege to announce that this year's Mass will be held on **Saturday, May 13th, 2017 at 9:30 am**. The location is **Swan Auditorium** here on campus. Fr. William "Jud" Weiksnar, OFM, our college chaplain, will be the celebrant.

If you are attending the Baccalaureate Mass, Administration and Trustees can assemble in the Honor's Lounge and faculty and staff can assemble in Paczesny Hall 140 at 9:00 am. **In order to ensure that there is enough seating for family, the faculty and staff are asked to RSVP to reserve your seat. If you or a family member is in need of special assistance, please let me know.**

All graduates of 2017 and their families are cordially invited and encouraged to attend this very special liturgy. Unlike the Commencement ceremony, they may bring as many guests as they wish to the Mass and tickets are not necessary. However, it is requested that they please RSVP to me at jpapia@hilbert.edu, by calling (716) 926-8924, or in Bogel 103C to indicate how many will attend. If they or a family member is in need of special assistance, they are asked to let me know.

Join others from the Hilbert community at this Baccalaureate Mass to give praise and thanks to God on the joyous day of Commencement!

Jeffrey Papia

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Bogel 103C



[@FranciscanHawks](#)

franciscan funnies

A Lutheran pastor is asleep one night when the phone rings. The fire department is calling to say that someone is about to jump off a roof. The pastor throws on his clothes, jumps in his car, and races to the house. When he arrives, a firefighter points to the man on his roof.

“Don't jump!” yells the pastor.

“Well, I'm going to,” says the man. “I've got nothing to live for!”

The pastor asks, “What about your family?”

And the man says, “I've got none!”

The pastor asks, “What about your friends?”

The man says, “I've got none!”

The pastor pauses for a long while and then says, “Well, I'm sure we could be friends. I'll bet we have a lot in common.”

“I doubt it,” says the man on the roof.

The pastor thinks. “Well, do you believe in God?” he asks.

“Yes,” says the man.

“See?” says the pastor. “We have that in common! Are you a Christian?”

“Yes,” says the man.

“So am I!” says the pastor, delighted.

“Are you Lutheran by any chance?”

“Yes I am,” he says.

“I'm a Lutheran pastor!” says the pastor. “We have so much in common!” Then he pauses and asks, “What branch? Missouri Synod or Evangelical Lutheran?”

“Evangelical Lutheran,” says the man.

Then the pastor says, “In that case, jump, you heretic!”

Un saint triste est
un triste saint.
("A sad saint is a
sad sort of saint.")
- St. Francis de
Sales

