

# JTO Connect

## FRANCIS NOW! Celebrating the Journey, Living the Dream

Date: July 29-31, 2016

Location: Bergamo Center

### EVENING PRAYER – 9:00 PM, Thursday, July 28, 2016

**Theme:** Service/Guidance from the Lord

**Leader:** Therese Zins

**Location:** Chapel (if available) or Barrett Room

**Needed materials:** Several large candles, matches/lighter, chairs for each participant, holy water, bowl or basket for crosses, Tau crosses for all Thursday participants, table, list of names of all attending on Thursday, guitar/s music stand/s, music stand lights

**Pre-work:** Select nine people to read portions of commissioning service and set up room

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A few moments of silence to quiet our minds and hearts

**Opening Song:** Where Charity and Love Prevail #481 (sing all verses acapella)

**Reading:** Romans 12: 9 – 18 (Therese reads)

*Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good;*

*Love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor.*

*Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.*

*Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.*

*Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.*

*Bless those who persecute [you], bless and do not curse them.*

*Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.*

*Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation.*

*Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all.*

*If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.*

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#### Commissioning Service

##### Opening Prayer (Therese reads)

We, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, have been working on the reunion for more than a year. As the planning time comes to a close and we put into action all these plans, let us pray for the wisdom and grace to go forth and share our stories. May we have trust in God's guidance and faith to act with conviction. And may we be a beacon of light to those who are attending the reunion. Let us spend a few moments thinking about our Franciscan values by reflecting on the Beatitudes.

**Reader 1: (Bob O'Dwyer)** *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* May we praise and thank God for the blessings in our lives, and may we always respect the dignity of each and every human being.

**All:** Gracious God, hear our prayers.

**Reader 2: (Julie Rashid)** *Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.* May we pray in solidarity for those who suffer from the loss of loved ones, good health and other losses, especially those who lack the most basic necessities.

**All:** Compassionate God, hear our prayers.

**Reader 3: (Mary Bergman)** *Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.* May we act each and every day with humility, and may we be good stewards of the creation that has been entrusted to us.

**All:** Gentle God, hear our prayers.

**Reader 4: (Mike Rasp)** *Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.* May we hunger and thirst for justice on behalf of our brothers and sisters in need around the world.

**All:** Righteous God, hear our prayers.

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**Reader 5: (Kathy Hooper)** *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.* May we open our hearts to the transformative power of love and forgiveness, that we might create a more peaceful and just world.

**All:** Merciful God, hear our prayers.

**Reader 6: (Steve Knapp)** *Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.* May our hearts and minds be renewed by the presence of God in our lives, and may we always strive to see the face of God in every person we meet.

**All:** Ever-present God, hear our prayers.

**Reader 7: (Carrie Mosher)** *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.* May we work to protect the most vulnerable members of society, especially children, that they might know a peaceful and loving world instead of a hostile one.

**All:** Loving God, hear our prayers.

**Reader 8: (Kathy O'Dwyer)** *Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, or theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* May we have the courage to make a preferential option for the poor and put the needs of our brothers and sisters first.

**All:** Steadfast God, hear our prayers.

**Reader 9: (Br. Scott)** *Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me.* May our voices carry Your message of justice for the poor, even as others seek to drown them out.

**All:** Just God, hear our prayers.

**Leader: (Therese)** We would like to spend a few moments commissioning one another for service this weekend.

*Fr. Christian (or another priest who is an early attendee) blesses the Tau crosses. Calls Ken's name. Ken steps forward. The priest lays hands on Ken's head and says: "May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you, this weekend. May you do God's will in the service of Jesus Christ". All participants raise their hands in blessing and say: "Go forth as a beacon of God's light". Fr. Christian places the Tau*

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*cross around Ken's neck. Hugs Ken. Fr. Christian rejoins the participant congregation and Ken takes over as leader, calling each person by name and repeating the above.*

**Leader Final Prayer:** (Ken) Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, our God. Shine your light before others, that you may be a beacon in the darkness and a messenger of light.

**Closing Song:** Christ Be Our Light #601 verses 1,2 & 5.