



## *Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Reflection September 20, 2020*

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**Sunday Reflection References:** gifts of the spirit and unity of the body - I Cor 12.; St. Francis (of Assisi) prayer and “stories.”

### ***What can we do?***

St. Francis and a young monk were walking through the woods enjoying the fine weather one day when the monk stopped and, looking at St. Francis, said, “Here we are enjoying this fine day while so many others are suffering from hunger and illness. Why doesn’t God do something?” St. Francis stopped walking and looked at the young monk and, smiling, said, “What are YOU doing about it?”

I will admit that I am not a prayer warrior like others I know. But I know that praying is one thing we can always do. It may not seem like much - us Americans feel an urge to “do” something - but I personally attest to the fact what when one person asks another “Can you pray for me?” a divine connection is made between those two people and God, who is always there, blesses that connection and the prayers that follow.

St. Paul tells us there are many spiritual gifts, and one person doesn’t necessarily have all of them. While some may be great scholars and interpreters of scripture, others may indeed be prayer warriors. Others are good listeners and are gifted with the ability to hear and then act in the way God intends. (“Let those who have ears, ... “ you know the rest.)

Let’s end this day with the St. Francis prayer, knowing that these are not just words, but divine connections with our families, friends, and each other, which will lead us to the work that is ahead.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light; And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may Not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
To be understood, as to understand; To be loved, as to love; For it is in giving that we receive;  
And it's in pardoning that we are pardoned; And it's in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.  
Amen

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***We continue to offer our prayers for*** Ron and Debbi, Chris and for those who are near and dear to us facing cancer and other debilitating illnesses. For the victims of COVID-19 and first responders and medical staff comforting them; for the victims of the fires in the Western US and the firefighters risking their lives. For all military and law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line to protect others. During these challenging times may we all face the blessings and challenges humbly and with faith. May the peace which passes all understanding be with you this day and forever. Amen – Vance

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