

The Clockmaker's Daughter

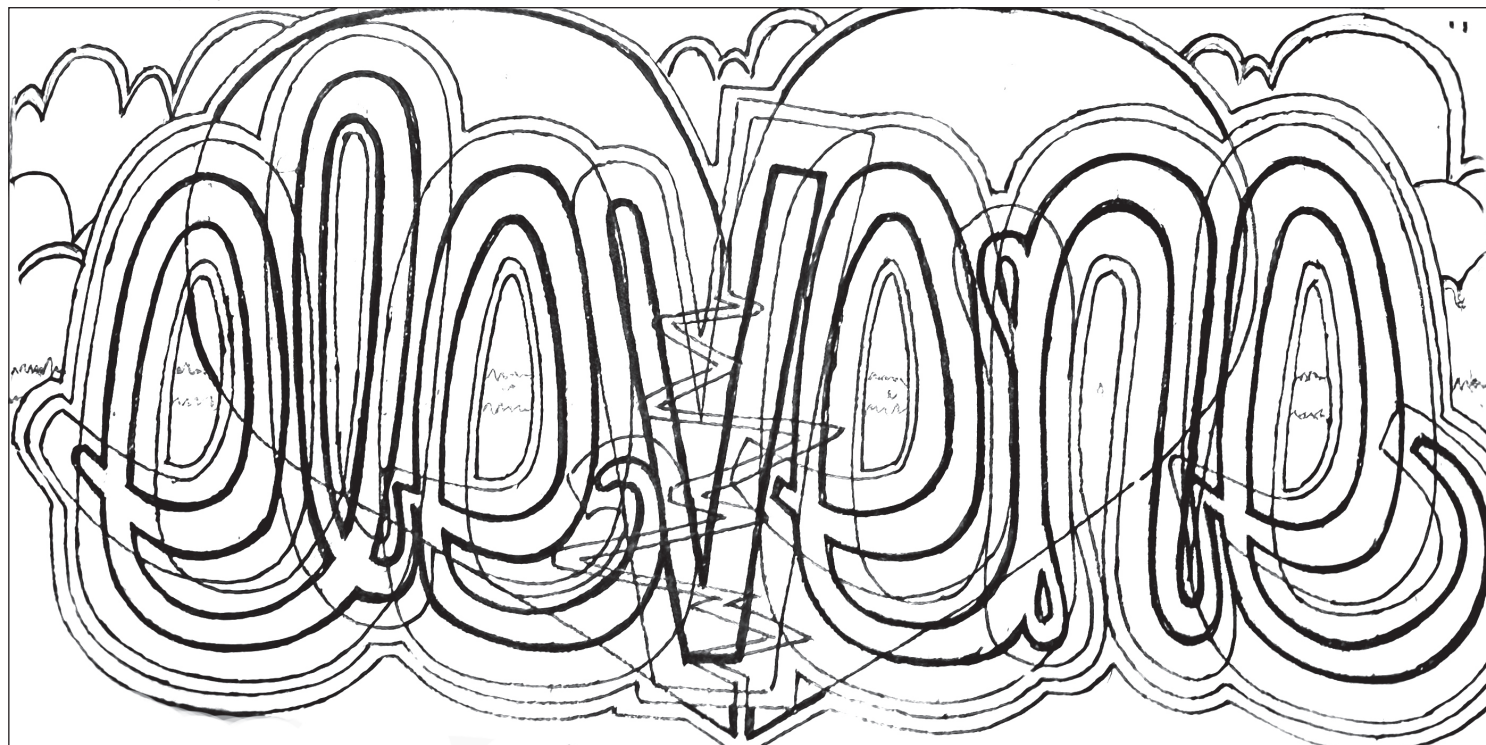
The clock struck thirteen as the old man adjusted the final gear. The machine before him, a labyrinth of brass and glass, hummed to life. "Father," said the girl, her voice a melody of wonder and hesitation. "Will it hurt?" The clockmaker looked at her, his hands trembling as they rested on the console. Her eyes, the precise shade of amber he had chosen, glimmered with a question too vast for words. "No, Ada," he whispered. "You'll feel... free." Her porcelain fingers brushed against his. "But will I still be me?" He paused. For thirty years, he had perfected her design, crafting not just a daughter but a companion, a soul forged from cogs and memory. Yet, in the quiet hours of the night, when the ticking of clocks filled his shop, he had doubted. Not his skill, but his right. "You are more than these gears," he said finally. "More than my creation. You are... yourself." The machine whirred louder, its crystalline core casting a soft glow. It was time. "Then why must I leave?" she asked, her voice breaking. "Because this world is unkind," he said. "It doesn't yet know how to love something like you. Out there, you'll find others. A place where you can belong." "But I belong here," she said. The clockmaker closed his eyes, steadying his breath. "If you stay, they'll tear you apart to understand you. I won't allow it." She nodded, though tears she could not shed clouded her gaze. "I'll miss you, Father." "And I, you." He pressed the final lever. The machine's hum turned into a roar, and light engulfed her form. When the silence returned, the shop felt impossibly empty. The clockmaker stared at the empty space, his hand lingering over a single gear she had left behind. "Tick," he murmured to the still air. "Tock."

~ DOMINIC

I have witnessed in my own life how God has filled me with more joy and inspiration when I've poured out my gifts and talents to serve others. In 2 Kings, we read about a poor widow who went to the prophet Elisha for help. Her late husband's creditor wanted to seize her two sons. All she had at home was a small jar of olive oil. The prophet instructed her to collect empty jars from her neighbors and to keep pouring oil into the container they brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. She kept pouring until all the jars were miraculously filled. She could pay the family's debts with the extra oil. God is faithful and always provides. He's blessed us with gifts and talents and resources to be a blessing to others. Let's not hide or dismiss our gifts but use them for his glory.

~ REGINALD G.

Pen drawing by Montez



STREET VOICES

St. Francis Breadline
Franciscan Bread for the Poor
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

V5 N6 ■ FEBRUARY 2025

If you have any content to share for our newsletter please see one of the breadline staff. **We are in need of content such as a poem, lyrics, writing, thoughts, questions, image of your artwork or anything uplifting or informative.** Anyone who contributes content for our newsletter will receive a \$10 gift card.

The St. Francis Breadline and this publication is made possible by the Our Lady of Guadalupe.

FRANCISCAN 360 IS OPEN!

WHAT: Case Management, Computer Access, Mailing Address, Health Clinic

WHERE: 144 W. 32nd Street

WHEN: Monday - Thursday, 9am - 4pm
Scheduled appointments only on Friday from 9am - 4pm

WHO: All are welcome!

NEW: Art and Guitar classes, Work space available Tuesday 9am - 11am

Good Morning! This week we have writing from Kevin F., Rodney Wise, Jane Farmer, Wenda Lee Shelton Mendes, Sis. Mari Clari, Reginald G., Dominic, trivia provided by Smokey, artwork from Montez and Lola Derrick

Be the first person to correctly answer all three trivia questions provided by Smokey and win a gift card.

Who is the only basketball player to average a triple double for his whole career?

Who's the only player to score 100 points in a game?

Who's the first player to hit 60 home-runs?

Answers to last week's trivia.

What is the only flag that does not have four sides? Nepal

What colors is the flag of the United Nations? Blue and white

In what country is the Chernobyl nuclear plant located? Ukraine



Colored pencil cartoon by Lola Derrick

Inner Self

Reflecting on my inner self I look at past situations that I encountered over the years! Quite a few over the years good, bad and indifferent! My higher power has traveled the path with me during these endeavors protected me guided me. The birth of my daughters, the birth of my grand daughters, being homeless, abusing drugs! During these times I looked to my inner self to deal and adapt but it my higher power by my side guiding me the whole time. Realizing I could be a great father, I could deal with my addiction, become a productive member of society assist many community in need of services and support! My inner core is caring and giving not deceptive! I am my brother's keeper and that is due to my faith and belief in my higher power! Trust in ones self!

~ KEVIN F

Disappearing and Reinventing

No matter how old you are, it is never too late to chase your dreams and become the person you've always wanted to be. We can accomplish our goals and become the version of ourselves we desire by buckling down and putting in the hard work that our dreams require. Eliminating all distractions, setting all non-goal oriented tasks aside, and removing negative influences from our lives are a few tactics we can implement to reach heights we previously believed to be unattainable. Taking a break from personal relationships with friends, family, coworkers, neighbors, and others might also be beneficial. The people in our lives are important to us, both mentally and emotionally. We rely on them for love, support, and companionship, but sometimes it is necessary to temporarily distance ourselves in order to fully focus on shedding our old skin and starting fresh. Taking time for yourself and "disappearing" in a sense, allows us to give ourselves our best chance at reinventing ourselves. Disappearing for a few months and making self improvement our one and only priority for a while allows for rapid progression towards our self-made finish line. We can track our own progress by taking pictures and listing the facts of our current states and what we wish to change as well as who we hope to be and what we hope to have accomplished at the end of our own journey. We can continue tracking our own progress with written updates describing what we've done and any advancements we've noticed as well as take more pictures to capture smaller, less noticeable details so we may analyze and appreciate the little steps we've taken towards rejuvenation. Though the finer details may not be as noticeable without photographic evidence, they all add up to bigger and better end results; end results that our friends and family will be impressed to see. (Disappearing from the people in our own lives, working on ourselves, and surprising them just a few weeks or months later also allows for a great serotonin boost!) Take some time to become a new you- free from any outside distractions- and see how far you can push yourself. The results might surprise you!

~ JANE FARMER



NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNING

Let's be real about it, new Years resolutions we hardly ever stay committed to keeping them. We put a lot of stress on ourselves trying to keep these demands that we put on ourselves. But making bad choices that we make day after day, month after month is a different scenario. It actually becomes a problem. We need to sit down and take an honest inventory of ourselves. But, the FIRST things we need to do, is TALK to our Heavenly Father FIRST. God knows all thing's. It's time to clean House whether it's paraphernalia, people or situations that we seem to be involved in. It's time for a new beginning in this year of 2025. Let's stop making these bad choices that we already know that is not good for us. 1 Corinthians 7:1 "Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body and spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God."

~ RODNEY WISE



Drowning in your waves
Hiding between the lines
Living a slow death
Watching as time collapses
Thoughts swirling
in my head
Crying as the walls of my
throat contract
Losing the focus of
my solace
Panicking as the petals of
the flower unfurl
To reveal a blossom
so rotten

Fire sprouting from the
roots of earth
Engulfing the crimson
pools near my body
Making me realize, I'm an
unlivable creature
Cursed to be everyone's
boredom eraser

~ KHARI



THE STORY
HAND TO HAND
WILL YOU EVER UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS MEAN WELL YES PRETTY
MUCH ANYTHING. WELL I THINK WHAT THE TRUTH TO THIS WHEN TWO
PEOPLE TOGETHER MAKES A AGREEMENT TOGETHER TO CONQUER
SOMETHING GREAT THEY THINK WILL IN A WRONG THINKABLE WAY
FROM HAND TO HAND LEFTHAND TO THE RIGHTHAND TO CONQUER
THE WORLD THE WORLD BELONG TO GOD HE IS THE OWNER OF
THE WORLD SO WHAT I SAY HOW DO YOU THINK THE UNTHINKABLE
HAND TO HAND FIVE FIVE, TEN TOGETHER ROLL UP NICELY IN A NEW
YORK SUBWAY TO TAKE THE HOME YOU LIVE TO PUT YOU OUT IN THE
STREETS TO HOMELESS AS A BEGAR .DO YOU NOT BELIVE IN GOD?DO
YOU NOT KNOW GOD? YOU TWO HAND TO HAND FIVE TO FIVE THAT
GIVE YOU A TEN DOLLAR BILL FOR THE HOME TO BE IN NEW YORK
STREETS AS A BEGAR THAT YOU TWO ARE EVERYDAY WHAT IS THE
PURPOSE OF TOUR DEPISE WHEN YOU YOUR SELF DOES THE SAME
THING? DOES THIS NOT MEAN YOU YOURSELF AND I ARE NOT SMART
FOR YOURSELF WHY BRING DESPISE WHEN YOU ARE THE DESPISE
DOES THIS MEAN YOU ARE JUST BEING JEALOUS FOR NOTHING WHAT
IF YOU ALL ARE WRONG SWEET AS HONEYDEW THAT BELONGS TO THE
MORNING DEW WHAT JUST IF ALL OF YOU ARE SIMPLY WRONG?
#HANDTOHANDFIVEFIVETENTOGETHERTODESPISE
WENDALEESHELTONMENDES
#HOMEDEPOT

~ WENDA LEE SHELTON MENDES



Sis.Mari Clari says "Stagnant water stinks..."

Peace, Love and Blessings to all the Elders and the generations who follow behind them. I'm so happy to see that you made it to the other side of the Calendar, and to those who did not...may you rest with the Angels.

Question: Have you ever, when walking down the street on a hot summer day, come to a street corner and been hit in the face with a horrible smell? I mean, something that makes you look wildly about, cover your nose, and gasp for breath? Ten to one, it was probably a pool of stagnant water which had been festering in the sun, turning green and murky, getting stinker and stinker...

Well, unfortunately, sometimes we allow our outlook on life to be stinky just like that pool of festering green and murky water, especially when we have unresolved challenges that we need to, yet refuse to, address. It doesn't matter the reason why we don't address them, just the fact that it does not get done. And when those unresolved challenges remain unaddressed, it can cause us to adopt a stinky attitude to life, where we become victims with a "Poor Me" mentality. Well, Sis. Mari Clari says...GET OVER IT ALREADY!!! Do what you need to do, and if you don't know what to do, ask...ask...and keep asking until you understand what you need to do. Then, handle your business as you best understand...and stop stinking!

~ SIS.MARI CLARI