

THE STORY

“MY SWEETEST VALENTINE’S DAY EVER
DO WE COUPLES LOVE THIS DAY.THE DAY TO LOVE FOREVER
DO WE PLAN FOR THIS DAY?OR DO WE JUST LET THE MOMENT HAPPEN
MAGICAL MOMENT HAPPEN?THE BEST FLOWERS,THE BEST YOU CAN FIND
THE SPARKLE IN YOUR EYES FOR THE MOMENT TO LOOK AT YOU,THE BEST
DINNER YOU CAN POSSIBLE THINK OF.YES,TO ALWAYS REMEMBER THE MOMENT
THE TIME THE DAY FOR THE HOUR OF LOVE WE SHARE THE BEAUTIFUL WORDS
THAT WE SPEAK FOR EACH OTHER,AS WE WALK TOGETHER TO HEAR THE BEAUTIFUL
SOUNDS OF THE BIRDS CHIRP FOR EACH OTHER WITH A GOOD EAR, WHAT SOMETHING
MAGICAL I SEE FOR YOU TWO BEAUTY BEAUTIFUL WORDS FOR ME TO HEAR WITH MY
GOOD EAR I WILL CHIRP THESE MAGICAL WORDS FOR YOU TWO AND I WILL SURE
TELL SOMEONE THE BEAUTIFUL THINGS I HEAR.I CAN SEE WITH MY GOOD EYE
YOU WILL HAVE A BEAUTIFUL VALENTINE DAY FAREWELL FOR THE TWO OF YOU.
#WENDALEESHELTONSHELTONMENDES
#HAPPYVALENTINESDAY.

~WENDALEESHELTONMENDES



Colored pencil drawing by Lola Derrick



Digital work by Dominic

Hello !!! Speaking in general, dealing with public assistance or welfare or social security, try to be proactive, even if you are dealing with housing appointments, call ahead make sure you keep all meetings and documents in order ,put your best foot forward and keep all your ducks in a row, if you want to move forward or obtain something worth wild or you desire,being responsible is important, the person you are interacting with will see it and appreciate your commitment!! Stay prayed up my friends.

~TIMOTHY MIDDLETON

STREET VOICES

St. Francis Breadline
Franciscan Bread for the Poor
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

V5 N7 ■ 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 Rodney Wise, Sis. Mari Clari, Wenda, David E., and Jane Farmer, poetry from Gregory Spears, writing from Cynthia Maria Nadia Glock, Timothy Middleton, and Dominic, trivia provided by an anonymous guest, poetry from Khari, a Haiku from M. Dunn, and artwork from Lola Derrick and Dominic

For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Galatians 5:15

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

What player took over most points scored from Wilt Chamberland?

Who was the last player to register a triple double for the whole season?

Who broke Babe Ruth’s record of hitting the most homeruns in the American league? (The record was 60) The record has since been broken again!

Answers to last week’s sports trivia.

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

Who’s the only player to score 100 points in a game? Answer: Wilt Chamberland

Who’s the first player to hit 60 home-runs? Answer: Babe Ruth

In the midst of my thoughts, I hide
A heart full of love I can’t let slide
I long to reach out, to touch, to share,
But fear wraps it’s chains around the air

I want to love, yet hold it back
Afraid of what others might attack
I seek connection, yet build my walls
A paradox inside, where silence calls

My soul wants to give, to care, to be
But I wonder if they’ll ever truly see
So I stand in the shadows, half lit
Loving them all, but never quite fit

Maybe one day when stars align
I’ll speak the words I keep confined
Until then, I’ll wait, just a little more
For the people that might understand what I adore.

~KHARI

THE GOOD FATHER

In spite of what’s going on in the world today. The trials and tribulations of war and the crime that goes on in certain urban cities. God is still on the THRONE. In the book of Matthew chapter 5, it says “God is good to the Just and the unjust.” “He sends rain down on the good people and the bad people.” A lot of things that has happened in this world and a lot of things that is going on now. I can’t explain why God permitted for these things to happen the way they have. But, in spite of what’s going on now “God is good.” He is the one we should console with when we go through hard times. HE IS THE GOOD FATHER.

~RODNEY WISE

Broadening Your Skillset

What skills do you currently possess? What skills could you gain in the future to make yourself a more competitive candidate for employers? What hobbies do you have that could potentially increase your marketability? For me, I have recently taken it upon myself to brush up on my foreign language skills- something that I have neglected for a few years. I currently speak very basic Spanish and German, but have taken it upon myself to improve my fluency in both languages. Spanish and German are not only two languages that I have dabbled in, on-and-off, for the past few years, but they are two languages that, in a city as diverse as New York, would be beneficial for me in many regards such as in day-to-day communication with people on the street, in a future customer-facing job in which daily interaction with others is expected, and even in my future schooling prospects. Spanish is the second most commonly spoken language in the US, after English and fluency in the language is becoming a requirement for many employers. Taking up the challenge of learning a foreign language not only boosts your credentials for future ambitions you might pursue, but also strengthens your brain. Studies show that multilingualism helps to delay the onset of Alzheimer’s disease symptoms as well as make your brain more resilient to any potential damage caused by dementia. You are not only improving your personal communication skills, but also preparing your future self to resist age-related brain deterioration. While I have personally chosen foreign languages as my personal pastime, it is important that you find what works best for you. Your interests could include writing, mathematics, music, or athletics. Regardless of what you take a liking to, it is important to pick at least one hobby and fixate on it. Allow yourself to become a master of whatever hobby you’ve chosen. Build your skills in the activity of your choice so that you may, one day in the future, use it to your advantage.

~JANE FARMER , FEBRUARY 3, 2025

Patience

I’m about to turn 50 but I’m still learning things about myself. Two years ago my landlord sold the house I was living in and it’s only now that I’m finally moving out. If I knew how long it was going to take I wouldn’t have believed it. But I was patient and didn’t give up and now I’m getting paid to move out! I’m still shocked that it’s happening but I’m happy it’s over finally! Don’t lose hope and remember patience is a virtue.

~DAVE E.

Happy Valentine's Day

Like the red rose,
Your love is so beautiful-
Forget your thorns.

by M. Dunn



Haiku image by M.Dunn



**From good to bad
From bad to worse
The love I had
Is now a curse
I loved her once
But she’s now a stranger
To love her now
Puts me in danger
No doubt about it
I have come to see
She’ll take the money
And forget about me
I put nothing above her
I still remember the time
When I once loved her
And she was mine**

~GREGORY SPEARS



Sis. Mari Clari says “Excuse me, you’re in the way...”

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.

It’s a New Year, and a New “Me”. I hope that it also means it’s a New Year for a New “You”. Why? Because God has given you another opportunity to write a new chapter in your Book of Life, with new challenges, new experiences, new situations, new people to meet, new lessons to be learned and new Blessings to receive. So, what’s it going to be? Are you going to choose to remain like a hamster, constantly spinning on that wheel with no end in sight, or are you going to choose to stop blocking your own Blessings? And you ask Sis. Mari Clari, “How am I doing that?”. In reply, I offer this: You, and only You block your own Blessings by avoiding anything that causes you to venture outside of your comfort zone...but if you don’t do that, then you can never spread your wings, or fly, or receive what has been divinely ordained for you? You don’t have to believe me, but once I moved out of my own way, I have been soaring with the Eagles...and don’t intend to land anytime soon!

~SIS. MARI CLARI

“The Echo Collector”

No one knew his real name. He walked through cities, through war zones, through the ruins of empires. A man with no shadow, no footprints left in the dust. The only thing people remembered was the sound of his voice, a soft murmur slipping into their ears like the wind before a storm. He collected echoes. The first time I saw him, I was a boy hiding under the splintered wood of a collapsed bridge, listening to the screams of a city burning. He bent down, cupping his hand as if catching rain, and the cries of the dying disappeared into his palm. Years later, I found him again. Or maybe he found me. “Why?” I asked. “Why steal voices? Why silence the past?” He smiled, a sad, knowing thing. “Because echoes never fade. If they are left behind, they haunt. They repeat. They trap the world in the past.” I clenched my fists. “So you erase history?” “No,” he whispered, stepping closer. “I keep it safe.” He opened his hands, and I heard them—centuries of voices, trapped in an invisible chamber. The laughter of lost children. The final words of fallen kings. The last whispers of lovers who never got to say goodbye. “Would you like to listen?” he asked. I almost said yes. Then I saw the hunger in his eyes. I turned and ran, his chuckle chasing me down the alley. I have never spoken since. Because I know he’s waiting. Waiting for my words to become an echo he can steal.

~DOMINIC

America News 1232025 Cmngk On this cold morning as we have inauguration of President Trump with 1st lady Miliana Trump son Barron trump plus colleagues administration at his side. As we welcome 47th president with supreme justice swearing him I’ll. To uphold honor ‘code “foreign or domestic to uphold this obligation freely.... T o watch over our country and this great land.our Airways our waters..and land To keep border safe and secure .. with relevance...that usa needs. America is all about equality. Not by the color Of There a skin..... God speed.

~CYNTHIA MARIA NADIA GLOCK.K.