

“Voices of the Sixth Stomach”

The traveler hit the ground laughing. Not because it was funny — not at all. It was a reflex now. Every time he jumped, the laws of nature rearranged themselves slightly wrong, like a jigsaw puzzle where every piece is shaped like a question mark. This time, he landed in a meadow. But the grass was teeth. Gentle, humming teeth. They chattered softly, like they were remembering a joke from a million years ago. Above him, the sky was an eye. Not a metaphor. It blinked. He stood. His legs had too many knees. New, he noted. He filed that away. “Welcome to Gastronomica,” said a cow. Except it wasn’t a cow. It was shaped like a thought of a cow, painted onto the surface of a four-dimensional stomach. Its voice came from inside his brain, wearing a tuxedo. “You’re early,” it added. “For what?” “The Ceremony of Digestive Ascension,” it said, then burped a hymn. He walked, because it’s what people do when nothing makes sense. Every step sent ripples through the world like he was walking on the inside of a drum. The landscape unfurled: cities made of cartilage, trees that breathed philosophy, rivers of milk that remembered. Creatures moved through it — lanky, rubbery things that looked like gods who had been rejected in early drafts. All of them were waiting for something. They called him “The Anomaly.” In a museum that only existed in the third half of the day, he saw a fossil of himself, labeled: “Last Mammal to Remember Shame.” He tried to scream, but a butterfly flew out of his mouth and exploded into a flock of smaller screams. At the heart of Gastronomica, deep in the Gullet Temple, he found the stomach. It wasn’t metaphor either. A real, beating, god-sized gut, covered in eyes and scars and half-digested stars. It pulsed when he approached. A mouth opened where there should not have been a mouth. “Why am I here?” he asked. A voice answered from beneath logic. “Because you tasted the fruit of movement. Because you asked, ‘What’s before the beginning?’ And we... we were hungry.” “Are you God?” The stomach laughed. It sounded like a universe cracking in half. “We are the reflux of gods.” And then, as it opened wider, he understood: he had never been traveling through time. He had been digested all along — through the bowels of existence itself. The final scene burned itself into his mind: A future where evolution had looped into absurdity. Creatures made entirely of irony. Babies born fluent in sarcasm. Dinosaurs that had reinvented post-modernism. Jellyfish that wrote novels. A tree that sued him for trespassing — and won. And in the center of it all: a little child, human-looking, drawing him in a coloring book made of skin. He screamed again. This time, the scream answered back.

- DOMINIC

Drawing by Khari



When Pain Shows

Our pain is a thing that comes and goes.
What we do with it is a deciding factor in how we grow.
How we hold it in.
And, how we choose to let it show.
Determines the situation we are in at our very low.
We stuff it down to hide it so nobody can see.
And, we finally let it out when we are alone and left to be.
Because, that is the only way that we know how to grieve.
Eventually turning us cold mistaken we are free.

-SERAPHIEL



STREET VOICES

St. Francis Breadline
Franciscan Bread for the Poor
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

V5 N21 ■ MAY 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 trivia contributed by Smokey, writing from Jane Farmer, poetry from Gregory Spears, writing from an anonymous contributor, poetry from Seraphiel, poetry from Henry, writing from Kevin F., writing from Rodney Wise, writing from Cora Shaw, writing from Dominic, artwork from Jim C., and Khari.

The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” you shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” You shall not covet, “and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbors as yourself.” Loves Does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

ROMANS 13:9

Answers to last weeks trivia questions

Who is the all-time leading scorer in NBA history?
Answer: LeBron James

Which MLB player was nicknamed “The Bambino”?
Answer: Babe Ruth

Who was the first black player to lead a black college to win an integrated national championship in basketball and became a Knicks hall of famer (he won three straight Championships).
Answer: Dick Barnett

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

Who was the first 5 tool baseball player?

Who was the first African American baseball player in the majors?

Who’s the greatest middle weight fighter of the 40’s to 50’s?

- TRIVIA PROVIDED BY SMOKEY.

Welcome Pope Leo XIV to the world! He is the first American Pope to be elected. During my lifetime I have several Pope’s elected and everyone of them were very special men who have provided hope and cheer to many around the world! Following Pope Francis footsteps will not be easy because during this troubling times many will seek guidance and prayer! He is similar to Pope Francis in that he will walk among the poor and provide hope!

- KEVIN F

The Finish Line

They say life is short- but living is the longest thing we'll all ever do. It's the journeys we embark on throughout our lifetimes that are short, however seemingly endless they may be in the moment. Each journey can be thought of as a miniature lifetime within our lives as a whole. Each journey is a different chapter of our stories and, in the end, conjoin together to shape who we were as people during our time on this Earth; each individual voyage converging to make up an entire lifespan. As life goes on, the journeys tend to become more strenuous and the lessons tend to be harder to learn, but we can look back on each as a growing pain; necessary for forming our true selves- the individuals that will be judged by the Lord on Judgement Day. Each phase in our lives harbors a teaching of God that we are to learn firsthand; a lesson to be learned. We take these lessons learned and use them to improve upon ourselves. We can look back at who we were ten years ago and, if you've been putting in the required effort, you are a far more mature, intelligent, skilled person than you once were. The goal of each journey, no matter how difficult, is, ultimately, to improve ourselves and inch closer and closer to sanctimony so we may one day, again, join the Lord in the Kingdom of Heaven. We have the Lord to thank for progress we make throughout our lives; progress recognized at the completion of each journey. It is God who pushes us to complete our journeys and it is He who makes the rewards we reap at the end of them possible. As you look back on all of the progress you've made, don't forget to thank God for pushing you to the finish line.

- JANE FARMER

Joy New York Knicks

During these times in our great city there is a lot of turmoil, pain lack of hope! So one reaches for anything that will uplift spirits generate joy and allow some happiness! The NY Knicks are presently against the Boston Celtics a very revered basketball team. The community in NY is overjoyed at what they have accomplished so far lifting the spirits of fans throughout NY! Giving the community something to focus on other than the negative goings-on! Positive focus breeds positive thinking and well being. Support our team who are about to go to the eastern finals. Can you imagine if they reach the championship finals how NY would react. Good Joy!

- KEVIN F

Find your home, find your heart.

Some people wonder through their lives looking for a place to belong at. Many search endlessly through the world. Some think they are lost some just strangers. Some say your home is where the heart is. So, by following your heart some end up finding their true home. Its where the heart belongs at. As long as your heart isn't hallowed you have a home to take shelter in. It all starts with your heart and what's un your heart. That's how you'll find your home away from home. Find your home, find your heart.

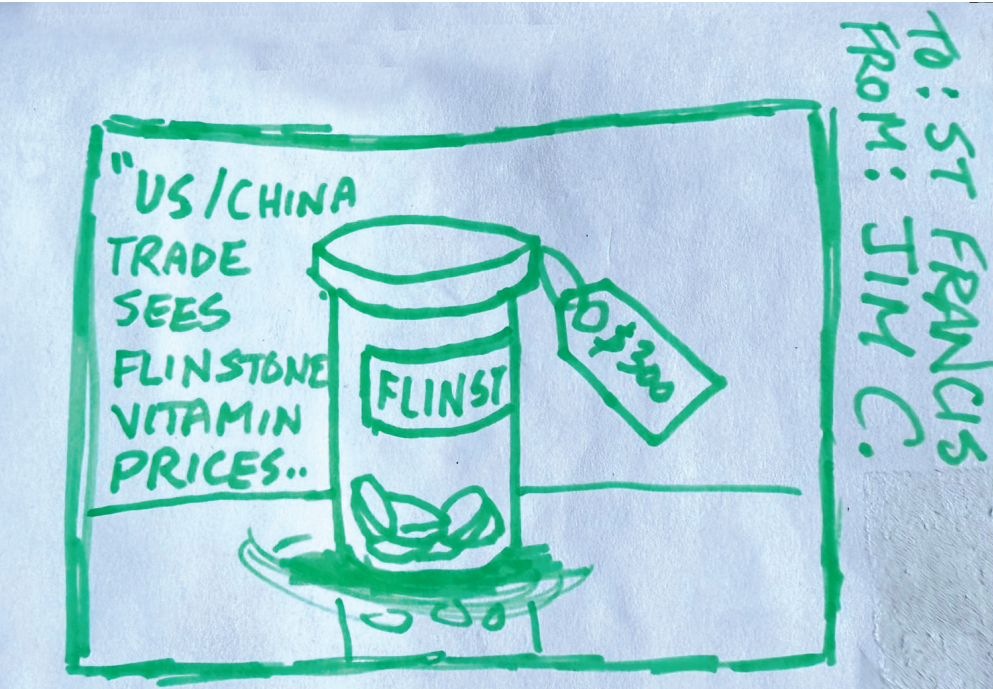
-ANONYMOUS



Story of Jesus and the Children

He said, "Let the children come to me because the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to the children." Jesus loves the children so must everyone love them. We are all God's children, no matter how old we become. We must all love one another as we are all brothers and sisters according to His word. We all need to work on spreading more love among one another in this world and work to eradicate hate between us. We are all God's children.

- CORA SHAW



Cartoon by Jim C.

THE NAMES OF GOD

A lot of people Don't realize how awesome our God is, or how powerful our God is. Our Heavenly Father carries many name's. Especially back in the old testament days of Abraham and Moses. Let's break down a few of these powerful names of God.

1. JEHOVAH RAPHA - The Lord is my healer.
2. JEHOVAH NISI - We have the Victory in the Lord.
3. JEHOVAH JIREH - The Lord is my provider.
4. JEHOVAH SHALOM - The Lord that gives us Peace.

Trust in the Name of the Lord today.

- RODNEY WISE



I'm gonna ask you out
I'm under your spell
Don't say no
I don't take rejection well
I'm gonna ask you out
The future I see
It's me and you together
Definitely
I'm gonna ask you out
I might as well
My head is banging
With wedding bells
I'm gonna ask you out
Three words I can see
Together, forever
Eternally

- GREGORY SPEARS



My life have been
up and down
From Soho loft to
homeless shelter
I have seen both sides
of the world
True friends are hard
to find
With sins and temptations
all around
Thanks for God's
open arms
Grant me chances
to believe
Believe that sun shines
after rain.

- HENRY

