

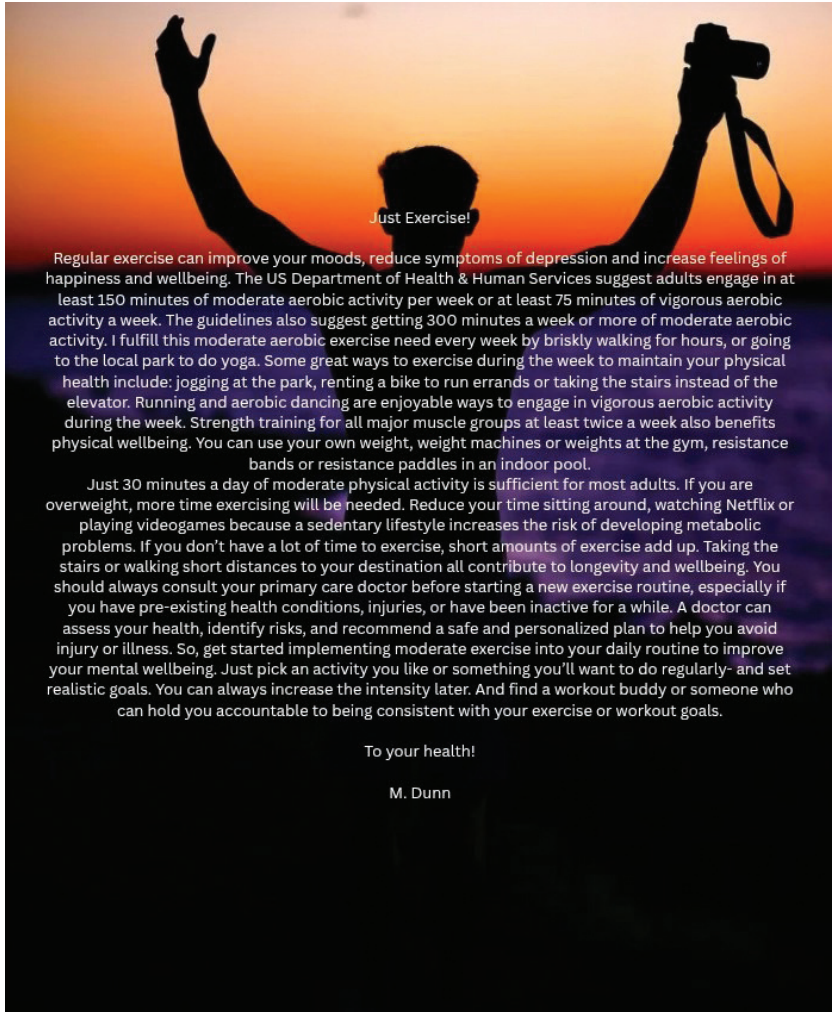


Today's Bible verse I'm talking about is
2 Samuel 22:29.

*“You, LORD, are my lamp; the
LORD turns my darkness into light.”*

Through Christ, we can all walk in the light.
Life without Christ is life of darkness. Darkness
in the heart, mind, and the soul. All things love
and light are found with Christ. There is no other
path to light other than through the Lord.

-MERCEDES DANIELS



By M. Dunn

Have no doubt that you're becoming
who you were destined to be.
Don't ever believe for a second
that your hardships, trials, and tribulations
aren't compounding to produce the wise
and evolved version of yourself that you
were always meant to be. Every mistake
made, every misstep taken, and every
wrong road you've ever driven down is
leading you on the inevitable journey
of self discovery. We are expected to
make these mistakes in our lifetimes.
We aren't judged by God for not being
perfect or not having all of the answers;
that's what He's for. We are flawed
individuals voyaging this unpredictable
and, oftentimes, corrupt world. We are all
doing our very best to get by, day-by-day,
following His word, and finding peace
and contentment within our lives. The
methodology in which we use to obtain
this fulfillment sometimes isn't the most
reverent in respect to both ourselves
and our savior, however it ought to be
emphasized that there is a steep learning
curve to be overcome when navigating
this world. It's crucial to turn to the Lord
for daily guidance when determining the
decisions you're to make and who you're
going to be in this world. Let the Lord
lead you to the destinations that are to
make up the course of your life. Let the
Lord decide what experiences you are to
have in order to be transformed into who
He intended you to be. Pray to Him when
you're unsure of what to do next. Pray
for His wisdom to reign down upon you
allowing you to make the choices that are
right for you and capable of propelling
you to the next phase in your life. This life
is not a race, it's a unique path that we
are undergoing to become one with God
once more. Whoever you are now and
whatever you're currently dealing with is
not the end of your story. God always has
the final say and no matter how difficult
your struggles are, always know that He
has blessings in store for you that you are
to receive in due course. Do not rush your
transformation; you are on God's time and
He has every intention of making you the
best version of yourself there possibly is.

-JANE FARMER

STREET VOICES

St. Francis Breadline
Franciscan Bread for the Poor
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

V5 N43 ■ OCTOBER 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 Reginald
Gunnell, Jane Farmer, poetry from Henry Yee, writing from Rodney
Wise, a short piece from Rhyann Scorpio-Rhys, original song lyrics from
Tim Falvey, writing from Sawanda Stewart, artwork and writing from
M. Dunn, scripture reflection from Mercedes Daniels writing from
Kelvin Ager and artwork from Honesty.

*The Lord is my Rock, my fortress and my deliver;
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my
shield and the horn of my salvation,
my stronghold.*

PSALMS 18:2

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

What football team was formerly known as the Frankford Yellow Jackets?

Who was the NBA MVP in 1976, 77, and 80?

What arcade game became a hit in 1973?

Answers to last weeks trivia questions

The likeness of which president is featured on the rare \$2 bill of USA
currency?

Answer: Thomas Jefferson

What is the only English word that ends in “-mt”?

Answer: Dreamt

What is the hardest natural substance on Earth?

Answer: Diamond



Drawing by Honesty



In quiet streets, a helping hand,
The church is there, across the land.
With food to share, and clothes to give,
For those who struggle, just to live.
A friendly face, a listening ear,
To calm their worries, dry each tear.
No judgment cast, just open hearts,
To play a role, in better starts.
A gentle light, a guiding way,
To brighter futures, every day.

-HENRY YEE



Despair

Despair in it's rightful place, is desperation. And where does desperation come from, Fear. Everything all boils down to fear. Fear of letting go, fear of staying, fear of thyself. Self loathing, self doubt, self destruction. All of it stems from fear. And the ability to release ones fears is not an easy task. It requires you to look at oneself in a prospective that even you do not like. It requires attention to the details that you buried within. Hoping that all the outside things you use to distract yourself will cover it up. However, the only thing that was truly done was you covered up the truth. Courage is not the absence of fear, but the ability to move forward inspite of it..... Selah

-SAWANDA STEWART



The Trumpet and the Dove

The trumpet sounds — the earth replies,
With smoke that veils the weeping skies.
Men march in pride, their hearts grown cold,
Forgetting love, pursuing gold.

The fields once green now bleed with pain,
The rivers murmur war's refrain.
Brothers divided, nations torn,
Hearts like armor, faith forsworn.

But in the dark, a whisper grows,
Through ashes, still, the Spirit flows.
A wounded Christ with open hands,
Walks gently through the shattered lands.

He calls the weary to His side,
"Lay down your sword, forsake your pride.
Blessed are those who sow in peace,
For they shall see all conflict cease."

The dove descends — her wings outspread,
Where once was fear, now hope instead.
The cross still stands where hate has reigned,
Its light unbroken, love unstained.

So may we build with humble grace,
A world that mirrors Heaven's face.
For every scar and every tear,
Christ whispers, "Peace, be still — I'm here."

And when the trumpet sounds again,
It won't call men to fight in vain —
But summon saints from every shore,
To sing of peace forevermore.

-KELVIN AGER

"Flowers from Paris"

Lucky penny flicked in a wishing well
Lucky penny flicked is my wish itself
Lucky Penny coming back, I see.
Lucky penny, Lucky me.

We always knew that we had a little chance
had no damned clue that our next Dizzy Dance
would be so soon, so here's our chance
let's take a little chance.

And so I come home with flowers from Paris
and a clover from my mother land
for a mother to be and my boy or my girl
or something or nothing between

Flowers from Paris.

-TIM FALVEY

DON'T GO BACK !!!

I have personally come to a crossroads in my life. I have had and been through a lot of struggles in my life. Health, financial, low self esteem, just to name a few, but for some reason or another God has helped me to make it through those hardships. My farmost biggest battle that I had to fight was addiction. I wouldn't wish what I have experienced on my worst enemy. But, all along as I just found out God was pruning and shaping my character for the "calling" that he has on my life. But, I had to make a major decision. Either follow God's way where there is safety and eternal security, plus blessings, or I could continue to stay on this path of destruction. The Bible says "the thief only comes to kill, steal and destroy". I have wasted a lot of time indulging in the wrong devices which has caused a lot of pain, heartache and setbacks. It's time to "DON'T GO BACK". "DON'T LOOK BACK". LUKE 9:62" If any man who keeps looking back, is not fitting for the kingdom of God". As I take this major step for my self, I hope someone who is reading this will also make up their mind to take it also. AMEN.

- RODNEY WISE

I Walked Past Him

I need to confess something.
The other night, a man was sitting on the church steps.
His coat was thin, his hands shaking. He asked me if I had anything to spare.
And I walked past him.
I told myself I was late.
I told myself I didn't have cash.
I told myself there are shelters, there are programs, there are people more qualified to help than me.
But the truth is simpler: I didn't want to be bothered.
I walked past him, and I felt his eyes follow me as if to say, I see what you chose.
The whole night, I couldn't shake it.
Not the image of him — but the image of myself.
Because I know the story of Francis kissing the leper.
I know the call to see Christ in the poor.
And I know that when I walked past him, I didn't just walk past a man.
I walked past Jesus.
I can't undo that moment.
But I can name it.
And I can tell you this: next time, I will stop.
Not because it will fix everything.
Not because I'll suddenly have enough to save the world.
But because I don't want to keep walking past Christ.

-RHYAN SCORPIO-RHYS

Poem

Wouldn't it be wonderful, if our first love could be our one and only love, forever and ever, amen? Well, surely you know by now that life is not like that. People come and go in our lives, taking a little piece of our heart with them. As difficult or painful as it may be, that is exactly what they should do. We have more than enough love to share and spare, and we should give it freely. When we love for a reason it feels good to give love, because we get what we give. When we have seasonal love, it is a whirlwind love, preparing us for something better. When those very special people come into our lives, we can and do love them forever. Loving is not what causes our emotional damage, it is the attempt to throw people out of our hearts and minds. When we love reasonably for the season we are in, we will undoubtedly enjoy a lifetime of loving...

-REGINALD GUNNELL