

Black History

Black history, to me, is African American history through time. It reflects periods when African Americans were oppressed and denied their humanity in this country. But it also reflects moments of triumph celebrating notable individuals and pivotal successes that shaped our nation.

Black history is a time to both grieve and rejoice. It allows us to reflect on what our ancestors endured and to recognize how far we have come. It reminds us that our past should not be the sole determinant of our future.

We are growing and developing in every area of society. We can honor where we've been while celebrating where we are and where we are headed as a culture and a people.

Black history should be embraced by all nations, colors, and creeds. It deserves the same love, peace, justice, and equality as any other history. God created all people and cultures to live in peace and justice.

Let this Black History Month be a time of meaningful learning, reflection, and unity an opportunity to honor the past while building a stronger future.

BY: DARNELL DAVIS



The Camera

Eyes see all see me all safe and control imagine

Everything everywhere everyone see all the past the present the future

Steps each one single at a time pictures for actuality true reality

Step up and see who are you without lies they see

They see everything everyone every time see you today every day

Shadows of unknown no idea a faceless face how do you feel now

They see all they see everything but you can't see

Know nothing security from the dark trust in the black wall

See all they hide they know who we are every time

In the black to protect to keep you safe so what do we believe make a choice

BY: MIGUEL



Photo by: Anders Sten



STREET VOICES

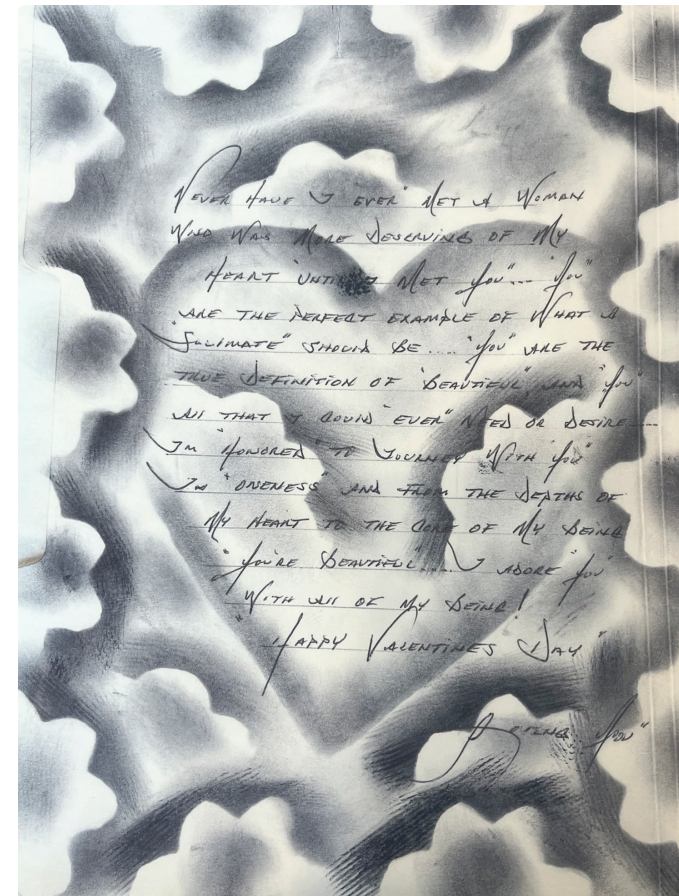
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Franciscan Bread FOR THE POOR, Inc. • St. Francis Breadline

Community Newsletter

Good Morning! This week we share poetry and spoken word from Jae Webb, Tony G, Reginald G, Ryan Scorpio RHS, Jane, and Miguel. Artwork and writing by Darnell Davis, with photography by Anders Sten. These pieces offer authentic reflection and positive energy for the times we are living in grounding us in truth, creativity, and resilience.



By: Darnell Davis

*“God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble”*

PSALM 46:1



WEEKLY TRIVIA CHALLENGE

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

1. What element has the highest melting point of all elements on the periodic table?
2. Which country has a flag that features a maple leaf?
3. In which country and city was pizza originally created?

Answers to last week trivia questions.

1. What city is famously known as “The Big Easy”? Answer: New Orleans
2. What planet in our solar system has the most moons? Answer: Saturn
3. What natural process turns caterpillars into butterflies? Metamorphosis

FRANCISCAN 360 IS OPEN!

WHAT: Case Management, Computer Access, Mailing Address

WHERE: 144 W. 32nd Street

WHEN: Monday - Thursday, 8:30am - 4pm
Scheduled appointments only on Friday from 9am - 4pm

WHO: All are welcome!

If you have any content to share for our newsletter please send content to streetvoicesnewsletter@gmail.com.

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.

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I wanted to share some reflections on the importance of overcoming struggles and pressing on, even when the path forward seems unclear.

We all face seasons of adversity that test our resolve and challenge our spirit. These moments are not merely obstacles; they are opportunities for profound growth and self discovery. While the weight of difficult circumstances can feel overwhelming, it is through perseverance that we build true resilience.

Pressing on requires a conscious decision to focus on our long term goals rather than our immediate hardships. It means finding the inner strength to take the next step however small it may be. By remaining steadfast and maintaining a positive outlook, we can transform our challenges into the very foundation of our future success.

BY: JAE WEBB



Now that the holidays are behind us and we are embarking on a new year, we should reflect on the mistakes of the past so we can avoid repeating them. That is the only way to become better souls than we were before.

The Lord will always be there to guide us if we falter, but it is up to us to be prudent and to strive for a happy and peaceful life a fulfilling life filled with joy. Only by being strong can we live productively and faithfully. It is often the weak who fall short of Jesus' expectations and stumble along the way.

To be strong is to be informed and aware of what surrounds us the good and the bad. We ought to live with the words of Jesus in our hearts, allowing them to guide us through dark days and support us when we feel vulnerable or uncertain. These are the moments when we may struggle to get back up.

The Lord is there, waiting with open arms. But this should not encourage recklessness, assuming He will simply pull us up. We must do our part to the best of our abilities, relying on our own grit to move forward despite the odds. And only when we have truly done our part and still fall short should we seek the Lord's guidance.

Amen.

BY: TONY G

Prudence Is Love with a Spine

Prudence doesn't get much attention because it isn't glamorous. It doesn't look holy in the way people expect no dramatic sacrifice, no big emotional moment.

Prudence is quieter than that.

It asks, What is the good thing to do here, now, in reality? Not in theory. Not in a perfect world. Not in a version of the story where you get to be admired.

It is practical wisdom moral clarity with both feet on the ground.

Without prudence, even good intentions can cause harm. You can speak the truth like a weapon. You can "help" in a way that humiliates. You can give in a way that creates dependence instead of dignity. You can offer peace when protection is what's needed.

Franciscan life is full of compassion, but it is not careless compassion. Prudence gives love a spine.

Prudence is knowing when to remain silent not out of fear, but because silence is the kindest offering.

It is walking away from an argument you could win because winning would cost you your soul.

It is asking one honest question before you act: Will this bring peace or just make me feel powerful?

Sometimes prudence looks like restraint. Sometimes it looks like courage. Often, it looks like choosing the slower, harder good over the quick, satisfying one.

In a world that prizes instant reactions and loud opinions, prudence is resistance.

It says:

I will not be ruled by impulse.

I will not confuse intensity with truth.

I will not mistake being loud for being right.

I will choose the good carefully

and then I will do it.

BY: RHYAN SCORPIO-RHYS



While working from home during the pandemic, I made it a habit to put on dress pants and a button-down shirt each morning. My roommate once asked why I stayed dressed up until the end of the workday.

"I'm well dressed," I replied. "When I wear these clothes, I know I'm at work. When I take them off, I send a signal to myself to relax."

The way we dress can send signals to our minds about the occasion and our expected behavior.

As believers in Jesus, Paul instructs us to dress appropriately not in suits and ties, but in how we live out our faith in Christ. We are called to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. When these qualities flow from the Spirit working within us, they allow others to see that we are serving as Christ's ambassadors.

BY: REGINALD G



Friendship

When the Seahawks won the Super Bowl, I wasn't particularly invested in American football. Still, I was fortunate to spend the evening surrounded by friends and good food.

While football and food were the stars of the night, the event reminded me of the importance of friendship and community.

Life is not smooth sailing for most of us. Some are born into privilege and given a head start, while others enter the world in less-than-ideal circumstances and spend years repairing the damage from their formative experiences. Many of us are trying to navigate relationships, education, and careers in a fast-paced world that can be unforgiving to those who struggle.

It's the seemingly small things that keep us grounded: a text from a friend on a random Tuesday, a long-awaited hug, or an invitation to a Super Bowl party that makes us feel remembered and valued.

It's the kindness of our friends the people we meet along the way and who care for us as we care for them. Friendship and community give us the courage to keep going when things feel overwhelming.

BY: JANE

