

**Local Chapter
Reflection
for
March/April 2024**

Living into our Legacy

**We Are God's
Work of Art:
Sharing Our
Six-Word Stories**

In Every Age

Verse 1



1. Long be - fore the moun - tains came to be and the land and



1. sea and stars of the night, through the end-less sea - sons of all



1. time, you have al - ways been, you will al - ways be.

Refrain



In ev - 'ry age, O God, you have been our ref-uge.



In ev - 'ry age, O God, you have been our hope.

Final



God, you have been our hope,



you have been our ref - uge, you have been our hope.

Continued on next page

In Every Age continued

Verse 2



2. Des-ti - ny is cast, and at your si-lent word we re-turn to



2. dust and scat-ter to the wind. A thou-sand years are like a sin-gle mo-ment

to Refrain



2. gone, as the light that fades at the end of day.

Verse 3



3. Teach us to make use of the time we have. Teach us to be



3. pa - tient e-ven as we wait. Teach us to em-brace our ev-'ry joy and

to Refrain



3. pain. To sleep peace - ful - ly, and to rise up strong.

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Convener: Living into our legacy, we gather in the hope of finding meaningful ways of embracing our PRESENT in its fullness. We do this by embracing the past that is in our PRESENT, the present that is in our PRESENT, and the future that is in our PRESENT. This is what living into our legacy is all about – it is living the prayer we hear expressed in the song “In Every Age” as we share with one another something of the story of our precious lives.

Everyone: Gracious and loving God, as unique as we all are, so are our stories. Each story is intricately woven with the fine details of life, seasoned with memories – some pleasant, others not so pleasant.

In every detail, every memory, every element of our story, you are present.

Help us, Lord, to share our life stories with one another in ways that they might come to know you all the more as a result of our witnessing. Thank you for those you have sent to share their stories with us. Together, all our stories are a part of your story, for which we are grateful. Amen.

[This prayer is an excerpt from “Faith reflections: Sharing our faith stories” by Rev. Tiffany C. Chaney <https://www.boldcafe.org/sharing-stories-others/>]

Convener: Mindful of the Franciscan legacy entrusted to our care and the legacies of our Sisters and Associates who have gone before us in faith, hope and love, let us be attentive to our readings for today and the meaning they hold for each of us and for all of us as we live more deeply into our legacy.

Scripture Reading: *Ephesians 2:10*

“We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning God had meant us to live it.”

A Reading from *The Rule and Life of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular of Saint Francis, 31*

In that love which is God, all the brothers and sisters, whether they are engaged in prayer, or in announcing the word of God, or in serving, or in doing manual labor, should strive to be humble in everything. They should not seek glory, or be self-satisfied, or interiorly proud because of a good work or word God does or speaks in or through them. Rather in every place and circumstance, let them acknowledge that all good belongs to the most high Lord and Ruler of all things. Let them always give thanks to Him from Whom we receive all good. (*Rule 1221 17:17*)

Quiet Reflection

Convener: Let us now move into the process designed for us today, the sharing of our Six-Word Stories and what they mean as we think about our legacy.

It is said: “When we tell our stories, we strengthen and encourage those around us . . . and we strengthen ourselves too.” So let us begin.

Process:

Sharing Our Six-Word Stories

Initially, members of the Local Chapter are invited to share their six-word stories—in six words, without any explanation, listening attentively to one another.

After the stories have been shared, each individual is invited to offer an explanation of the story (about 5 minutes) and convey the story's meaning and significance.

When everyone has spoken, the group may pause for a few minutes of **silent reflection** on the following questions:

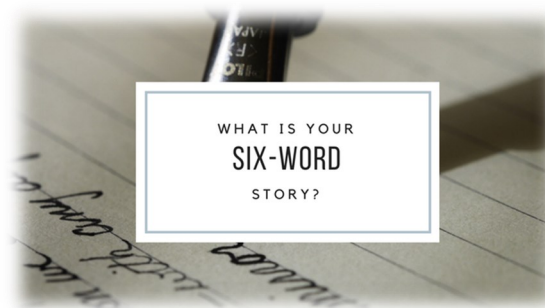
- 1) What was my experience of creating my six-word story and sharing it with others?
- 2) As I listened to the six-word stories of others and their explanation, what did I learn about the importance of listening to another's story?
- 3) As I/we think about living into our legacy, what do these six-word stories reveal to us about the tangible and intangible ways that we have influenced or have been influenced by the lives of others? And what does that mean for me/us as I/we think about our legacy as Congregation?

- 4) These six-word stories offer us but a glimmer of insight into who we have been, who we are now, and who we are yet to become. For me, what is the most important “take away” from this experience?
- 5) Have I discovered anything new about what it means to be “God’s work of art”?

Concluding Prayer:

Saint Francis of Assisi, *The Praises To Be Said at All the Hours*

All-powerful, most holy, most high and supreme God; all good, supreme good, totally good. You Who alone are good, may we give You all praise, all glory, all thanks, all honor, all blessing, and all good. So be it. So be it. Amen. (Alleluia.)

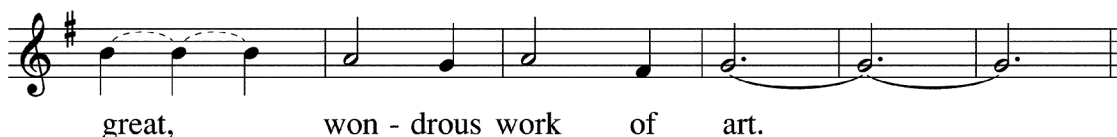
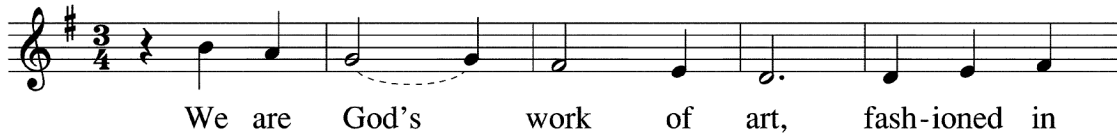


Closing Song:

We Are God's Work of Art

by Marty Haugen (*Wondrous Love*)

Refrain



We Are God's Work of Art continued

by Marty Haugen (*Wondrous Love*)

Verses

1. When we were dead in sin, you brought us to life in Christ,
and raised us up, up to the heavens.
2. How rich is the grace of God, how strong is the love of God,
to send us Christ for our salvation.
3. We are strangers no longer, outcasts no longer,
we are saints in the house of God.
4. We are the temple that our God has fashioned,
in Christ we are the dwelling place of love.
5. From the foundation of the world you have chosen us,
destined in love to be your sons and daughters.
You have revealed to us the myst'ry of grace, to unite all things in Christ.

Text: Ephesians 2;1, 4-7, 10, 19, 21-22; Marty Haugen, Spanish trans. By Donna Pena. Tune: Marty Haugen, © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense #A-704593.

Attention Convener

The only feedback required from the Local Chapter at this time
is a listing of the titles of the Six-Word Stories and
the names of their authors. Thank you!

Sisters of St. Francis
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