

**Subject:** Faithful and Grue  
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# St Francis

## *Faithful and True*

December 31, 2014

### **The Challenge of Blessing**

*Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True . . .  
Revelation 19:11*

#### ***First of All . . .***

Happy 2015 to all!! May God bless you more than you are able to imagine this year. I take great confidence that can happen because of what we celebrate this week- The Feast of The Holy Name of Jesus. In secular circles it is called NewYear's Day. We look to the strength of the Name of Jesus for a solid foundation for our lives.

#### ***Some of What This Means***

One thing it means is that things will change. The only absolute is change, actually. In fact, the name of Jesus in this passage cited above shows us how we can join in with change and be blessed richly by it. Firstly, He is "Faithful." Jesus is faithful to lead us, empower us, and

challenge us, to become who He created us to be. That will always mean change. We are becoming, by His grace, all we are meant to be. Secondly He is "True." He is true to what we always have been. There is a thread running through our lives of who we always truly are. No matter what changes occur in our lives Jesus wants to hold onto that thread running through our lives that will never change. That is how He created us.

### ***How Change Can Be a Blessing***

Sometimes we get into a way of doing things which becomes comfortable but does not allow us to reach our goals, or become who we are meant to be. Realizing what is valuable in what we are doing while rising to new levels of performance or fruitfulness will allow us to see what is always true about us. Making any changes that allow us to become more of who we really are will enable us to be faithful to all Jesus has called us to do and be. We carry what we have valued into a new future. That is always a great blessing.

### ***This Sunday at St. Francis***

The vestry and I would like to apply this idea to one area of our life together- the Sunday morning announcements. We want the sharing of what God is opening up to us to be more effective without discarding what we really value in our announcement/sharing time. So, during our usual announcement time I will ask you these questions:

1. What do you value about the way we share these announcements/how do you experience a sense of life during this time?
2. How shall we carry into the future what we value about sharing announcements so we can find a more fruitful way of making those announcements?

What do you think? Would you come ready to share your answers this Sunday?

### Coming Attractions

***Thursday, January 1, 2015*** healing service 12:00noon

***Sunday, January 4, 2015*** worship at 10:00am- announcement discussion following

***Sunday, January 11, 2015*** worship at 10:00am and Annual Parish Meeting followed by pot luck.

### ***Centerville Circle of Prayer***

For Wally's Wholesale, Walter Ford, owner, that the employees would find great value and fulfillment in their work, and many people in the community would be well served with the purchase of vehicles.

***Diocese of Virginia***

Congregations and clergy of Varina Church, Richmond; Christ Ascension, Richmond; Epiphany, Herndon; Holy Comforter, Richmond; Epiphany, Richmond.

***Metropolitan Richmond***

For racial reconciliation and healing in Metropolitan Richmond; for an end to all racial prejudice and discrimination, beginning with what is in our own hearts.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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