

Of Saints and Souls

By One Namesake of St. Margaret Mary

Remnant memories of a Catholic School childhood came back to me the other night. I could once again see the long-ago little girl kneeling in the big echoing church, praying with the serious diligence of a small monk. Who would have thought the revered saints and all they stood for to this awe-struck child would, today, be presented in the image of Mickey Rourke? Well, it worked. He played a very convincing St. Francis of Assisi in the movie "Francesco".

The first scene in the film is a gathering of his followers, attempting to write down the truth of Francesco's life. In 1200 AD the writer would need holy faith indeed to hope the truth of the written word would survive copies, translations or the ravages of interpretation.

These ragamuffin writers must have done well, because what follows in the film is the life story of an enigma, very much like Christ was. Yet for whatever reason, be they spiritual, dogmatic or situational, St. Francis had a profound affect on countless individuals from his own time to the present. Possibly, Emerson was thinking of this man when he wrote "The unexamined life is not worth living."

Originally, young Francesco was the son of a wealthy merchant who ran a retail business amidst great poverty in the Italian town of Assisi. These inequities were, in part, what finally drove Francesco to a life of vowed poverty for himself, in emulation of Christ.

This film raises the question again, if poverty was ever considered a virtue, what has happened to us?

In the endless human search for the truth, a life such as this never loses significance. Francis was even a feminist, to his great credit. He made no attempt to keep a woman from being a disciple. Somehow the bare facts of his life were not part of the curriculum in "saint worship".

I'm grateful to the makers of this movie for not indulging in more sensationalism. The treatment of the story did not destroy the importance of the theme.

As we celebrate All Saints and All Souls days, mixed with the Pagan aspects of Halloween, maybe some of the real energy is still left, floating about in the cauldron of the cosmic human brew.

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The 1994 Stormy Weather Arts Festival

will be held November 4th-7th here in Cannon Beach. The events include, day by day, **Friday:** Late Night Beach Coffeehouse, 8-midnight @ the Chamber Community Hall. **Friday & Saturday:** "Lattice & Lovage", 8pm @ the Coaster Theater. **Saturday:** First Saturday Gallery Openings, 5-8pm. Black Tie & Jeans Artists Reception, 6-11pm, @ the Chamber Community Hall, including the "Artists Quick Draw & Auction", 8:30pm. **Sunday:** "Free Sunday Concert", 1pm, @ the Chamber Community Hall. **Monday:** "Special Festival Presentation", 10:15 am, Cannon Beach Grade School. The Festival also includes Live Music during the days at various downtown locations and a Special Art Show featuring works by local artists. For more information, contact the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce at (503)436-2623.

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The vilest deeds like poison weeds
Bloom well in prison air.
It is only what is good in man
that wastes and withers there.
Oscar Wilde.

Newport Performing Arts Center

Listings for November

Friday & Saturday, Nov. 4th & 5th @ 8pm

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Nov. 13th & 20th @ 2pm

NEW VISIONS: MADE IN OREGON

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she has treated me, she doesn't deserve
to have any. Oscar Wilde

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