

*Akhi, the beggar sage, sits at the city gates
instructing all in the dance of life. . . .*

Ask Akhi...



From a crowd in this busy season, a desperate reader writes:

Dear Akhi,
Why don't you *do* something? You just sit there.
Busy

Dear Lost in the Crowd,

Oh, Akhi sits with a purpose. This became very clear many years ago while I was watching monks at prayer. They dress simply and beg their food. They have no worries about the things that often preoccupy others. They focus on the goodness around them and the wonder within.

You have seen the same thing where you come from in monasteries and cloisters. The men and women behind those walls are like bees. Their prayers fly all around us, before we rise in the morning and sometimes late into the night. They gather all the pollen of our lives, the "stuff" that can irritate our eyes and make breathing difficult.

These holy people take it in where it mingles with the God who dwells there. And they sit. And they listen. And they pray. And the result: honey! Those who appear to be doing "nothing" are making honey for us. They are able to find all the sweetness in life, bring it to one place, and purify it with their watchfulness and stillness.

They serve us well by making it clear that life offers sweetness to anyone willing to slow down and search for it. While you are busy, they are buzzing. Oh, Akhi plays with words.

Praised be Allah!

I wish you much sweetness.

Akhi (you know where to find me!)

Akhi welcomes your letters about life's mysteries.

Spotlight

on board member



Dick Fratianne, MD

Can you tell us a little about your family?

Mom and Dad were 1st generation Italian. Mary and I have 5 children; Betsy in Medina; Scott in Kanesville WI; Gregory in Columbus; Susan in Atlanta; and Lisa in Aurora. The grandchildren range in ages from 2 to 23 years.

Even though you are retired, it seems you are never standing still. What are you up to now?

I still teach two or three days a week at Metro where I serve on the Foundation Board. I also continue to lead our burn survivors groups: adults, the children's camps, teen mentoring, and our young adults survivor group. I am on 6 nonprofit boards: the Christian Life Center, Catholic Charities, and Health Space to name a few.

When is your birthday? June 7, 1932

Other than your recent publication Cinders to Butterflies, do you have any favorite books?

The Collaborative Leader, Loughlan Sofield S.T., Donald Kuhn; Jesus, a Gospel, Henri Nouwen; The Theology of the Body, John Paul II; and Healing and The Mind, Bill Moyer.

Seen any good movies lately?

"The Man Without a Face," and "Seabiscuit."
Both portray the theme "triumph over tragedy."

Why are you pleased to be associated with us?

"Beacon Street touches people's souls and helps them become more fully alive in the Spirit."

Have you got a motto you live by?

The true beauty of a person comes from within.

How will this Christmas be special for you?

This will be the 50th Christmas Mary and I have been together.