

PEACE



Sandal Prints

January 2014

St. Clare Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order

Minister's Message

By Michael T. Reidy, OFS

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year! 2013 was a banner Year of Faith complete with the gift of our new Pope Francis. We begin our new year with Pope Francis' message for the 2014 World Day of Peace, January 1st. The message is themed Fraternity: the Foundation and Pathway to Peace.

It may come as some surprise to us that our fraternity begins in Trinity and encompasses all creatures and all of creation, far beyond the borders of our local fraternity of St. Clare in Portland, Oregon. It's this practice of fraternity as solidarity that St. Francis declared in his *Canticle of the Sun*, believed to be the first written Italian.

In thirteenth century Italy, most were illiterate. The first Bible would not be printed with movable type for another hundred and fifty years. In Francis' day, all Bibles were handwritten and prohibitively expensive. The Latin Vulgate bible was only read out loud in churches. It was hardly common to everyday people. Yet it was the proclaimed Gospel of Matthew 10 (The Kingdom of God is at hand...) that Francis heard in 1209 in the chapel he himself had restored by his own hands (St. Mary of the Angels – Porziuncola), that forever changed his life and became the birthplace of Franciscan fraternity. Soon afterwards, Francis said, "God gave me brothers." Bernard of Quintavalle was the first to join him, followed by Peter of Cattaneo, and Brother Giles.

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A Message From Our National Minister

Beloved National Family,

Our beloved Holy Father Pope Francis has issued one of the strongest calls I've ever read for FRATERNITY in the cause of PEACE in his first World Day of Peace Message for January 1, 2014.

Besides personal meditation over these words, I would encourage using this message for ongoing formation in your fraternities. This message might also be well-used in convincing inquirers on the advantages of fraternity. You may read the message online here: <http://www.news.va/en/news/pope-francis-issues-peace-day-message> or read it included with this newsletter.

Advent Peace and Love to all,

Deacon Tom Bello

Calendar

January

- 1 Dorothy Palzinski's birthday
- 9 Shirley Stevens' birthday
- 11 Mike Reidy's birthday
- 12 Marie Stobie's birthday

12 Fraternity Gathering
Taize Service—1:30 p.m.
St. Clare Parish
8535 SW 19th Ave., Portland

Please enter the Church in the spirit of quiet from the side door on the East side of the Church.

Refreshments:
Mary Lou Betzing, Lete Davis,
Verna VanNewkirk

Donations for Francis Center:
women's underwear

- 16 John Goold's birthday
- 29 Lynne Burns' birthday

February

9 Fraternity Gathering
1:15 p.m. Parish Center
Christ the King Catholic Church
7414 SE Michael Dr., Milwaukie, OR

Vespers & Refreshments:
Tricia Fryer, Bruce Siggins,
Jim Shaffer

"While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart." ~St. Francis of Assisi

An Invitation to learn more about our Rule as Secular Franciscans

by Lynne Burns, OFS

Back in October during our fraternity gathering, we were asked 3 questions to reflect on, one question was "What aspects of Franciscan spirituality or activity would you like to understand or practice more completely?" The Rule was listed as something that our fraternity would like to know more about. Lete noted that there are only 26 articles in the Rule. It was suggested that we meditate on a different article each day of the month. This might be a good way to begin the new year.

Beginning this month, the formation team will be submitting an article on The Rule. We all learned about the Rule during our initial formation. However, it is good to look at our Rule again and reflect on it especially since many of us have been professed for a few years. We can apply our experience as Franciscans to our Rule and grow in our understanding of our way of life. The Rule touches on every aspect of our lives and gives us meaning to live out our vocation more fully.

This month the formation team has asked Michael to write a brief history of our Rule. The next 3 months someone different from our team will write an informational article regarding our Rule. In the NAFRA

December's Fraternity Gathering

By Lynne Burns, OFS

St. Clare Fraternity and the San Buenaventura Community had a joint gathering with a potluck and reflection on the Annunciation. We also prayed the Magnificat as a group, some in English, some in Spanish.

Some highlights from the reflection were the scripture passage, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold you will conceive in your womb and bear a son and you shall call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High."

Mary probably had questions in her mind concerning the angel's message; for example how was Joseph going to react to the news of her pregnancy? Another question Mary may have had, was what were the people in the town going to think or do; would they beat her? However, she did not question the angel, but trusted God completely.

As Franciscans, we are to look to Mary as our role model. She trusted God even though she could have been

(National Fraternity) FUN manual, which is a resource guide for formation, there is a lesson called, "A View of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order through The Lens of Humility." This lesson is divided into 3 sessions, God Turns to Us, We Turn to God and We Turn to others. Our goal is to present some of the information and reflections from these 3 sessions.

Our team is inviting each person in the fraternity to please read the lesson on the Rule reflectively and prayerfully. Then meet with one, two (or a small group) of our brothers and sisters to gain perspective and have faith sharing together. Ideally, it would be nice to meet in a home or your church, however if you are not able to do that then you are invited to speak to a brother or sister on the telephone (possibly use your computer and Skype).

After reading the Minister's letter, which includes a brief history of our Rule, please use these questions to begin your reflection.

1. Of the 3 scripture verses that were important to Francis, which impacts me the most?
2. When is the gospel of Jesus most alive in me?

ostracized. Mary accepted God's call to be the Mother of God and that led to a difficult life. Yet she put all of her faith in God and was blessed. Can we accept God's plan for our life especially when there are many challenges and we may have to endure many hardships?

Even though our society does not seek to know God or trust in Him, we as Franciscans should share our faith with the people around us. If we consistently believe in God, our message that God is real will help to convince many people.

In conclusion, let us contemplate in order to imitate our Rule, which says "The Virgin Mary, humble servant of the Lord, was open to his every word and call. She was embraced by Francis with indescribable love and declared the protectress and advocate of his family. The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently." (article 9)

Chasing Ice

By Kay Haberlach, OFS

There will be a showing of Chasing Ice on January 25th at 1:30 pm at Ascension Parish in Portland. This is the story of one man's mission to change the tide of history by gathering undeniable evidence of our changing planet.

The photography is stupendous. The film lasts approximately 70 minutes and is sponsored by JPIC.

... Contemplate. . .

by Sr. Loretta Schaff, OSF

"In the common prayer, the spirit of praise gives glimpses of the invisible.

*In it you receive a kind of 'shock of meaning.'
And within you comes welling up the wonder of a love."*

Br. Roger, Founder of Taize
www.taize.fr

The Fraternity will have the opportunity for "common prayer" through communal contemplation within the form of a Taize service on January 12 at St. Clare Parish Church, at 1:30 pm. During the service, there will be an incorporation of the Rite of Admission for Gordon Smith. Following this prayer-centered Gathering, there will be a social and announcements in the Parish Hall.

Maureen Briare from the University of Portland will cantor and play her beautiful harp. I will join her on piano.

May we each come to this prayer and be open to the "glimpses of the invisible" and and the "wonder of love" welling up within our hearts. What a beautiful way for the Fraternity to begin the gift of a New Year together!

Prayer for a New Year

Center for Action and Contemplation; www.cacradicalgrace.org

Who are you, O God?
and
Who am I?

You flood through the Waves of Time,
Making all things new and lovely,
Warm and forever.

My life is one small ripple,
Gone in a moment,
Yet longing to be gathered into
Your Everlasting Flood.

You show yourself to me,
even when I am not looking.
You heal me,
even when I do not ask.
You know me,
even when I do not know you.
You love me,
even before my heart is ready for love.

Who are you, O God?
and Who am I?

I do not know
how to answer these questions.
What I do know is that Your love
has engulfed and captured mine,
All your billows and breakers
have rolled over me,
And I am content.
Now and Forever. Amen.

Minister's Message, continued from page 1

It was the Gospel as The Way of Life that spawned Franciscan fraternity. But because the Gospel was inaccessible to most people, the gospel had to be seen lived in order to be best heard. Still true today, the gospel is best heard when seen lived in fraternity.

Like Jesus, Francis used the Sermon on the Mount to encapsulate the Gospel. The Church still uses the Beatitudes as the basis for today's Catholic Social Teaching. Our National Formation (FUN) Manual has a side-by-side comparison of the 7 tenets of Catholic Social Teaching with the Beatitudes. We will explore this relationship in the coming months.

While the exact contents of our first rule have been lost to history, it is believed that it contained, in particular, three of Francis' favorite scriptures that the first three brothers received of the Lord to confirm their fraternal mission. These are included in the Rule of 1229.

Matthew 19:21

Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Luke 9:3

He told them: "Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt."

Thomas of Celano says "Blessed Francis, seeing that the Lord God was daily increasing the number [of the brethren] for that very purpose, wrote down simply and in few words for himself and for his brethren, both present and future, a pattern and rule of life, using chiefly the language of the holy Gospel after whose perfection alone he yearned." (I Cel., i, 13)

The Rule St. Francis gave us, his Brothers and Sisters of Penance, can still be read in the prologue to our current rule of 1978. In it, we are enjoined to an apostolic and evangelical Way of Life after the example of Jesus in the Gospel. To make it easier for his early followers who did not have their own Gospels, Francis gave us a few words we could live by. Today we know these as our Secular Franciscan promises of Simplicity, Penance and Humility. He also gave us a few Scriptures and the Beatitudes to guide us. The Rule we have today is simply an exposition of these virtues.

St. Bonaventure and the "Legend of the Three Companions" (viii) repeat almost the same words that St. Francis himself used in his "Testament": *"And when the Lord gave me some brothers, no one showed me what I ought to do, but the Most High Himself revealed to me that I should live according to the form of the holy*

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Franciscan Saints and Blesseds - January

JANUARY

- 3 Most Holy Name of Jesus
- 6 Bl. Diego José of Cádiz, priest, I Ord.
- 7 St. Angela of Foligno, religious, III Ord.
- 8 Bl. Eurosia Fabris, III Ord.
- 12 St. Bernard of Corleone, religious, I Ord.
- 14 Bl. Odoric of Pordenone, priest, I Ord.
- 16 Sts. Berard, priest, and companions, protomartyrs of the Order
- 18 St. Charles of Sezze, religious, I Ord.
- 19 Bl. Thomas of Cori, priest, I Ord.
St. Eustochia Calafato, virgin, II Ord.
- 20 Bl. John Baptist Triquerie, priest, martyr, I Ord.
- 23 St. Maryanne Cope, virgin, OSF
- 24 St. Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor, III Ord., founder
- 27 St. Angela Merici, virgin, III Ord., founder
- 29 Bl. Roger of Todi, religious, I Ord.
- 30 St. Hyacinth of Mariscotti, virgin, III Ord.
- 31 St. John Bosco, priest, III Ord., founder

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Gospel. And I caused it to be written in few words and simply, and the Lord Pope confirmed it for me."

Francis, in his own words, states his intention for the Rule was to simply put down in a few words the Gospel as the Way of Life. Our modern Rule of 1978, is divided into three easy chapters.

1. The Order (vs 1-3)
2. The Way of Life (vs 4-19)
3. Life in Fraternity (vs 20-26)

The prologue was written by Francis himself in two Chapters. Chapter One includes the Blessings For Those Who Do Penance. Chapter Two contains the consequences For Those Who Do Not Do Penance. The Rule ends with the Blessing of St Francis.

"May whoever observes all this be filled in heaven with the blessing of the most high Father, and on earth with that of his beloved Son, together with the Holy Spirit, the Comforter." (Blessing of St. Francis from the Testament)

I forward this Advent Greeting from our National Minister, Deacon Tom Bello, OFS and the Pope's first World Day of Peace message for January 1st, 2014 on Fraternity: the Foundation and Pathway to Peace. Happy New Year and Blessed Epiphany!

Peace & Good,

Mike

Treasurer's Report

By Lete Davis, OFS

Month ending Nov. 30, 2013

General Income	\$627.35
General Expenses*	\$272.02
Account Balances	\$3036.90

**Expenses include monthly and necessary budgeted expenses to operate the Fraternity.*

"Regarding expenses necessary for the life of the fraternity and the needs of worship, of the apostolate, and of charity, all the brothers and sisters should offer a contribution according to their means."

—Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, Chapter 25

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Submission deadline for the next issue is January 20

This month's banner includes an image representing the theme of this year's World Day of Peace. Pope Francis has chosen 'Fraternity, the Foundation and Pathway to Peace' for the 47th World Day of Peace, his first as Pope. The Day is celebrated on the first day of each New Year since its institution by Pope Paul VI.