

Sandal Prints

St. Clare Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order
April 2018

Our Fraternity Vision: To be a contemporary incarnation of Christ Jesus as a vibrant fraternity in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi through contemplation of the Gospel, on-going conversion and service to others.

Minister's Message

by Evelyn Brush, OFS

Sisters and Brothers,

Spring has many changes. And, with the announcement of the passing of Sr. Loretta's mom and Tricia's dad, I have been reflecting on death. A few weeks ago, Tom Wolf, who had photographed the Transitus for us, passed away in his sleep. The previous evening, he had gone to band practice, came home and prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet with his family, went to bed and died. Tom was an outstanding amateur photographer and willingly volunteered his services to us. Both expected and unexpected deaths hurt our hearts and we must give ourselves time to grieve.

We usually think of spring as a time of new life but for me, spring has been a time of death. My father passed away unexpectedly in his sleep on Palm Sunday many years ago. My mother died Easter Monday nearly two decades later. Though her death was anticipated, I was stuck in Central Oregon with a dead battery on Easter morning when all the garages were closed. When I was finally on the road for the three-hour drive to the hospital the next day, I learned of her death via voice message only after I had cleared Santiam Pass, which didn't have cell service. As I continued my drive, I began to notice the bright green colors of the Willamette Valley (unlike the high desert of Sisters, OR where it can snow in June). I knew my mom was at peace and smiling at the earth as it was awakening from winter slumber.

Grieving is an all-consuming process and affects us in body, mind, and spirit. Sometimes we grieve over a loss of something, rather than a death of a loved one, including over the disappearance of the familiar. With death, we know that our loved ones unite with our loving God for eternity. I like how Pope Francis is confident that our pets will join us in heaven, which make sense because many times we feel fulfilled by the love of a special creature. But when we lose things that have been our comfort, we don't have such an assurance.

I know this also as a parent, watching my second child grow into adulthood. Sometimes I look at her and can barely see the little girl she used to be. I miss the days when she fit into my lap or would hold my hand, a time when I could influence her hopes. Yet, I still have a future with her, a future still to be unfolded. I am just not in control.

But grieving the loss of the way things used to be is much more difficult, much scarier. I felt this when I got divorced. There wasn't a predictable future or outcome. Think of your favorite living room chair as it wears out from regular use. Even if you get the same type of chair from the same store as a replacement, it doesn't fit the same or smell the same. We have

continued on page 2

April

Gatherings

- 8 Fraternity Gathering
1:15 pm, Parish Center
Christ the King Catholic Church
11709 SE Fuller Rd., Milwaukie, OR
Donations for Francis Center:
men's underwear

Birthdays

- 4 Jim Burns
23 Natalie Ettlin
27 Sol Krueger

Profession Anniversaries

- 9 Kay Haberlach—18 yrs
16 Marie Stobie—68 yrs
21 Barbara Allen—6 yrs
21 Ramiro Hernandez—6 yrs
21 Verna VanNewkirk —6 yrs
23 Evelyn Brush—40 yrs
28 Tricia Fryer—27 yrs

Refreshments & Vespers

April 8, 2018

*Mary Lou Betzing, Evelyn Brush,
Laura Wagman*

May 6, 2018

*Shonne Farrell,
Mike & Clare Reidy*

June 10, 2018

*Tricia Fryer, Jerri Wagner,
Barbara Allen*

2018 Ongoing Formation Calendar

April 8: FUN: Our Identity as
Secular Franciscans

May 6: Charism and Mission
(please note date change)

Pray for the Rest of Their Souls

Madaline (Madge) Schaff
Tricia Fryer's father



Spiritual Reflections

by Sr. Loretta Schaff, osf

Holy Week and Easter came early for me this year. The Paschal Mystery of death and resurrection has been deeply a part of my soul's experience since March 17, the day my mother was embraced by Sister Death, and at the time of her burial, March 24. There is such a primal feeling at the time of a Mother's death. It is only viscerally felt.

The mystery of death truly settled in my heart as my brother and I held my mom's hands as she was breathing her last breaths . . . peacefully. It is so sacramental to be present to the journey into Eternal Life. The mystery of resurrection comforted me as I left Spokane early March 25. There was a radiant resurrection sunrise of intense light. Brother Sun was revealing to me that life had not ended for my mom, just changed; for she was now face to face with the Risen Light, Jesus the Risen Christ.

The bittersweet experience of deep loss as well as the celebration of a beautiful life leaves me unable to really articulate my heart's reflections as memories return unbidden. Now, the process of grieving unfolds, supported by loving family and friends. May I grieve well. So many of you, too, have experienced the death of a loved one. As people of faith, as a people in Christ through our baptism, there is no separation in the communion of saints. The blessed space between ourselves and those who have gone before us is very thin just on the other side of our skin.

While there are so many spiritual writers who try and express their experience of death through poetry, reflections, Scriptural quotes, I find myself, at the moment, leaning into words of John O'Donohue, Celtic Catholic scholar and author who writes:

"We do not need to grieve for the dead. They are now in a place where there is no more shadow, darkness, loneliness, isolation, or pain. They are home. They are with God from whom they came.

In eternal time, ALL IS NOW; time is presence. I believe that this is what eternal life means: It is a life where all that we seek -- goodness, unity, beauty, truth, and love -- are no longer distant from us but are now completely present with us."

Blessed Season of Resurrection to each and every one of you. May the Risen Christ bless you with Easter peace.

April Prayer Intentions

To underline our communion with the Pope, we offer the intention of the Holy Father for the month and an intention for OFS according to the life and important events of the Order.

For those who have Responsibility in Economic Matters: That economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths.

OFS: For the national fraternities of Mauritius, Cuba, Latvia, Taiwan and for the CIOFS Presidency.

Minister's Message, continued from page 1

lost our favorite chair and we lament. We honor what we have lost but move beyond it.

"Nostalgia is the enemy of hope."

If we dwell on what we have lost, if we lament, then we are always looking backward at the way things used to be; we don't experience hope. We get stuck. We don't see all of the possibilities that are in front of us. We must lift our heads, look up and forward so that we don't miss the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is with us in this very moment, with these very people around us now. Looking up and forward has a different feel and a new smell, just like our new living room chair.

We have no time for lamenting. When we celebrate our 70 years of being a fraternity in August, we will honor the past by looking back as well as look to our future. St. Clare Fraternity is creating something new. We are embracing our future as an intercultural fraternity, made up of passionate people in love with our God and following in the footsteps of St. Francis. We are a people of hope!

Happy Easter!!

Peace and All Good,

Evelyn

News from the National Executive Council OFS-USA

Jubilee Year for 40th Anniversary of the OFS Rule

Our Minister General, Tibor Kauser, has announced the celebration of a Jubilee Year from June 6, 2018 - June 6, 2019 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the current OFS Rule. Pope Paul VI approved this Rule on June 24, 1978 with the apostolic letter *Seraphicus Patriarcha*. How will you celebrate this Jubilee Year? Please share your ideas! We have started by adopting a theme that reflects this anniversary: "Renewed and Confirmed: Live the Treasure! Celebrating 40 Years of our OFS Rule"

New OFS-USA Website Launch

Our new OFS-USA website will be launched by April 30. We are excited about the direction we are taking with the new website that allows for greater interactivity with our visitors. We ask for your suggestions and feedback as we go forward in securing our presence on the web. The next issue of TAU-USA will feature an article on the new website.

2021 Quinquennial (Q)

The location and date of our 2021 Quinquennial Congress is set. It will be held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona. Arrival date is Wednesday, August 18, 2021. Departure is Sunday, August 22, 2021.



Franciscan Saints and Blessed

APRIL

- 3 St. Benedict the Black (or African)
- 16 St. Bernadette Soubirous
- 17 St. Benedict Joseph Labre
- 21 St. Conrad of Parzham
- 23 Bl. Giles of Assisi
- 24 St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen
- 28 Bl. Luchesius

Song of Solidarity

“... therefore I ask blessed Mary, ever Virgin,
 all the angels and saints, and you,
 my brothers and sisters, to pray for me
 to the Lord our God.”
 — The Confiteor

For the one who cannot rest,
 For the one who cannot cry,
 I bow and pray.

For the vulnerable,
 For the lost,
 For the broken,
 For all those who’ve been told that this
 glorious created world
 and the Word of God that echoes through it
 is for others, but not for them,
 I bow and pray.

For the one who cannot stay,
 For the one who cannot leave,
 For the one who cannot forget,
 For the one who cannot forgive,
 I bow and pray.

For all the prayers that lie still in the hearts
 Of the hungry, the thirsty, the homeless,
 the lonely, the imprisoned, the enslaved,
 the sick and the dying,
 those fearful or haunted by sin,
 I kneel and say my prayers for them.

May others pray for me,
 For I am a child of solidarity,
 A member of the body of Christ,
 And when my brother suffers, I suffer,
 And when my sister rejoices, I rejoice.

I put aside my prayers for myself, Lord,
 And pray for the one who cannot pray.
 This is my song of solidarity.
 Amen.

Treasurer’s Report

by Jim Burns, OFS

Month ending February 28, 2018

Account balances	\$ 3760.64
General Income	\$ 2020.00
General Expenses*	\$ 100.00

As of December 27, 2017

Account Balances	\$ 5667.25
------------------	------------

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

Contributions may be mailed to the Fraternity Treasurer at:
 St. Clare Treasurer, 14917 NE 87th St.,
 Vancouver, WA 98682

“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

Council Members

Minister

Evelyn Brush, OFS
 evelyn.parker.brush@gmail.com

Vice-Minister

Ramiro Hernandez, OFS

Secretary

Tricia Fryer, OFS

Treasurer

Jim Burns, OFS

Formation Director

Juan Urias, OFS

Councilors

Mike Reidy, OFS

Spiritual Assistant

Sister Loretta Schaff, ofsf

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Newsletter Editor

Barbara Allen, OFS
 rosessoap@gmail.com

**Submission deadline for
 the next issue is
 April 20**