

# Sandal Prints

St. Clare Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order  
January 2019

**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.

**Our Fraternity Mission:** St. Clare Franciscan fraternity makes a difference every day, enhancing the lives of everyone they encounter by being the living presence of St. Francis of Assisi.

## Minister's Message

by Evelyn Brush, OFS

*Sisters and Brothers,*

As part of our opening prayer at our last council meeting, Sr. Loretta read a passage from Murray Bodo's new book *Surrounded by Love*. She then asked us a question about a time in our life when God touched us. Our sharing time was cut short, so we didn't have time to answer. But that question has lingered in me. So, I want to tell you about "Martin the Cobbler".

"Martin the Cobbler" is the common name given to a short story by Leo Tolstoy originally called "Where Love is, God is". And this story changed my life.

The story is set in 1899 Russia. Martin is an excellent cobbler but quite fond of his vodka. He is bitter because his wife died many years ago leaving him with an infant son. But the son, died just as he was getting old enough to help Martin in the shop. He blames God for his losses. On Christmas eve a Holy Man comes to Martin and asks him to replace the binding on his Bible. Martin explains that he and God are not on speaking terms and another cobbler should do the work. The Holy Man tells Martin that he is unhappy because he is only living for himself and not for others. The priest still wants Martin to replace the binding on the Bible and perhaps take time to read it. Martin scoffed but agreed to the task.

While Martin is asleep that night, God speaks to him and tells him to keep watch out his window because he will visit with him the next day. Martin opens his shop for business and keeps looking out the window. During the day Martin interacts with several characters, showing kindness to each one. The first is a sickly 'yard man' coughing while shoveling snow. Martin invites him in to warm by his fire and gives him new boots.

As Martin returns to his window looking for God, he sees a mom dressed inappropriately for the winter cold, carrying a crying baby. He invites them in to have a drink warm themselves by the fire. The woman explained that she had sold her shawl that morning to buy food for her baby. Martin goes to an old cedar chest and pulls out a warm shawl that had been his wife's and wraps it around the woman. As she and the baby depart, he gives her some money.

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## Calendar

### Gatherings

#### January

- 13 Fraternity Gathering  
12:15 pm, Parish Center  
Christ the King Catholic Church  
11709 SE Fuller Rd., Milwaukie, OR
- 26 Book Study, 2:00 pm  
Mike & Clare Reidy's home
- 28 Council Meeting, 4:30 pm  
St. Joseph Catholic Church  
6600 Highland Dr., Vancouver, WA

#### February

- 10 Fraternity Gathering  
12:15 pm, Parish Center  
Christ the King Catholic Church  
11709 SE Fuller Rd., Milwaukie, OR
- 16 Book Study, 2:00 pm  
Mike & Clare Reidy's home
- 25 Council Meeting, 4:30 pm  
St. Joseph Catholic Church  
6600 Highland Dr., Vancouver, WA

### Birthdays

#### January

- 4 Tom Brannon
- 9 Shirley Stevens
- 11 Mike Reidy
- 12 Marie Stobie
- 29 Lynne Burns

### Profession Anniversaries

#### January

None this month

### Refreshments & Vespers

*January 13, 2019*

Potluck! Bring your favorite snack to share.

*February 10, 2019*

Volunteers needed. Please sign up at the January gathering.

*March 10, 2019*

Volunteers needed.



Once again Martin posts himself at his shop window to watch for God. An old woman laden with bags and carrying a basket of apples walks by. Swift as the wind, a boy runs by and tries to steal an apple, but the old woman catches his arm, holding firm. She starts yelling at him and tries to strike him. Martin intervenes and recognizes that the boy is hungry. He offers to pay for the apple. The boy is grateful and offers to help the woman carry her bags.

At the end of the day, Martin is disappointed because God did not stop by. He sat at his work table, drinking his Vodka, and dozes off while reading the Bible. In a dream Martin hears "Martin, do you know me?" and the images of the yardman, the mother with her baby, and the old woman and boy appear, each saying "It is I." When Martin awakes, he read a passage from the Bible: "Whatever you do to one of these, no matter how small he'll be, whatever you do to your brothers and sisters, remember, you do it unto me." Martin says to himself "God came after all!"

I had seen a television movie of this story when I was nine years old. But it was flipped. Set in the US, the cobbler stayed in his shop waiting for God to visit him. He had been rude and dismissive to customers that day, wanting only to meet God. That night in his dream he had complained to God that he had not showed up as he said he would. God explained to him that, indeed, he had visited him, in the three persons of the customers who Martin had treated poorly.

So, in answer to Sr. Loretta's question about God touching our lives, I have to say it was seeing this movie. My whole understanding of human dignity was changed that day. Each single person I meet represents God. No class distinctions, no matter their wealth or lack of it, each person made in the image and likeness of God. When I was nine years old, God touched my life in an irreparable way.

Let us start the new year praising God for each other and dedicating the year to Our Blessed Mother as we celebrate the World Day of Peace on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Happy New Year everyone.

Peace and All Good,

*Evelyn*

## Notes for our January Gathering

- We're trying something new! In January, April, July, and October, we'll be having potluck refreshments during our social time before the meeting. Bring your favorite to share this month.
- We are letting go of a number of volumes from our fraternity library, so here's your chance to take something home to read (and don't return it!). Members can also declutter their own bookshelves and bring books to the January gathering. Anything not claimed by the end of the day will be donated to Our Lady of Sorrows Parish for their book sale to raise money for a new roof.

## January: Poverty Awareness Month

Take up Pope Francis' challenge "to make a serious examination of conscience, to see if we are truly capable of hearing the cry of the poor," by participating in Poverty Awareness Month in January. Use the following reflection, and visit [povertyusa.org](http://povertyusa.org) or [pobrezausa.org](http://pobrezausa.org) to Encounter, Learn, and Act to end poverty in your community.

### *A Reflection On Poverty In Our Community*

Visit [povertyusa.org](http://povertyusa.org) or [pobrezausa.org](http://pobrezausa.org) and use the "Maps & Data" feature to explore poverty statistics in your county, state, region or in the entire U.S. Using the map, navigate statistics first on your home state and then navigate to select your county. As you explore these statistics, reflect:

How does the cost of living impact the rate of people living in poverty in my community? How does the cost of living impact me and my family?

What is deep poverty? What might the experience of living in deep poverty be like?

Which communities experience poverty at higher rates than others (Consider race, gender, ability, age)? Why is this? What are the systemic factors or barriers that I know of that keep people in poverty? What I have experienced encountering those in poverty in my community?

*Taking your exploration further:* How do I support people in my community experiencing poverty, keeping in mind the reality of who experiences poverty most frequently? How do I demonstrate my concern for those in my own community who are most vulnerable? (Ideas to consider: how do I support legislation, political officials, CCHD funded-groups etc. that prioritize the groups in my community specifically impacted by poverty). *Where do I feel called to do more?*

Going deeper ... Notice how you feel. What information was new to you? What was surprising? What was not surprising?

If there is one word that describes how you are feeling, maybe write it down or share it with someone else.

Close your reflection in prayer:

God of Justice, open our eyes to see you in the face of those in poverty. Open our ears to hear you in the cries of those exploited. Open our mouths to defend you in the public squares as well as in private deeds. Remind us that what we do to the least ones, we do to you. Amen

*Source: Being Neighbor: The Catechism and Social Justice, USCCB, April 1998*

## 12 Months of Franciscan Peace

Adapted from the 12 Weeks of Franciscan Peace by Carolyn D. Townes, OFS, National Chair for JPIC in the United States

*Each month focuses on one specific PEACE building block and will include a connection to the prior month, a short explanation of the month's theme, a Psalm fragment, a Reflection Question and a prayer for the Month.*

### The thought for last month was COMPASSION.

You move from empathy to compassion; from the feeling to the action. "But when Jesus saw the multitude, he was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd." (Matt 9:36) Jesus was moved with compassion and he did something about it.

### Psalm Fragment:

"He has made His wonderful works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and full of compassion." Psalm 111:4

### Reflection Question:

When was the last time you were moved with compassion? What did you do about it?

### Prayer for last month:

Most High and glorious God, lighten the darkness of my heart and give me sound faith, firm hope, and perfect love. Let me, Lord, have the right feelings and knowledge, so that I can carry out the task that you have given me in truth. Amen." /St Francis, after the Crucified Lord, told him to repair the Church.

### For the 5th month the theme is EVANGELICAL LOVE.

St. Bernard the Abbot stated: "Love is sufficient of itself, if it gives pleasure by itself and because of itself. It is its own merit, its own reward. For when God loves, all He desires is to be loved in return; the sole purpose of His love is to be loved, in the knowledge that those who love Him are made happy by their love of Him."

Unconditional love, or agape, is rooted in behaviour towards others without regard to their due is the love with which Jesus loves and speaks; Gospel love: agape. This is the love that expects nothing from the one loved. Jesus left us two commandments: love God and love our neighbour as ourselves. So, the greatest commandment is to love....Jesus is saying that we ought to behave well towards others. I cannot always control how I feel about others but I can control how I behave toward other people.

Saint Francis went about loving the brothers and sisters of Assisi. He greeted each one with "Pace e bene!" Peace and all good." When you can greet another with the greetings of peace, then you will not have malice in your heart.

### Psalm Fragment:

"The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord raises those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous." Psalm 146: 8.

### Prayer for the month:

"I will extoll You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable." Psalm 145: 1-3

## World Day of Peace Message

by Joan Lewis, [joansrome.wordpress.com](http://joansrome.wordpress.com)

The Vatican has released the papal message for the 52nd World Day of Peace on the theme "Good politics is at the service of peace." This world day takes place every year on January 1, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Read the entire message at <https://bit.ly/2CmIobS>

In his message, Francis begins by stating "Peace be to this house!"

"In sending his disciples forth on mission, Jesus told them: 'Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace shall rest upon him; but if not, it shall return to you',

*continued on page 4*



**Thank You, Sister Loretta, as you conclude your appointment as our Spiritual Assistant.**

Thank You...

...for listening...

...for guidance...

...for inspiration...

...for being there...

And most importantly

...for encouraging us to be bold with our songs of thanksgiving, praise, and witness.





## January Prayer Intentions

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

Young People and the Example of Mary: That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.

OFS: For the International Meeting of YouFra, for the WYD and for the Latin American Congress in Guatemala.

## January Franciscan Saints and Blessed

- 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- 3 Holy Name of Jesus
- 7 Bl. Angela of Foligno
- 12 St. Bernard of Corleone
- 14 Bl. Odoric of Pordenone
- 16 Sts. Berard and Companions
- 24 St. Francis de Sales
- 27 St. Angela Merici
- 30 St. Hyacinth of Mariscotti
- 31 St. John Bosco

### *World Day of Peace Message, continued from page 3*

“Bringing peace is central to the mission of Christ’s disciples. That peace is offered to all those men and women who long for peace amid the tragedies and violence that mark human history. The “house” of which Jesus speaks is every family, community, country and continent, in all their diversity and history. It is first and foremost each individual person, without distinction or discrimination. But it is also our “common home”: the world in which God has placed us and which we are called to care for and cultivate.”

Francis reflects on the role of “good politics at the service of peace,” saying those who hold political office must exercise their office in service to others, basing their work on the foundation of charity and human virtues.

At the same time, Pope Francis warns of the vices that can afflict politics, including corruption, xenophobia, racism, lack of concern for the environment, and contempt for exiles. “The Pope encourages politicians to “foster the talents of young people and their aspirations” in order to promote peace, noting that “Everyone can contribute his or her stone to help build the common home.”

The Holy Father repudiates a politics of intimidation and fear, and denounces “the uncontrolled proliferation of arms.” Peace, he insists, is based on respect for each person... respect for the law and the common good, on respect for the environment” as well as “the moral tradition inherited from past generations.”

In conclusion, Pope Francis says that peace “is the fruit of a great political project grounded in the mutual responsibility and interdependence of human beings.” But, he says, “it is also a challenge that demands to be taken up ever anew” – a challenge that “entails a conversion of heart and soul.”

## Treasurer’s Report

by Jim Burns, OFS

Month ending November 30, 2018

Account balances	\$ 3625.60
General Income	\$ 257.00
General Expenses*	\$ 230.00

As of December 23, 2018

Account Balances	\$ 3011.88
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\*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

Position to be filled

### Secretary

Tricia Fryer, OFS

### Treasurer

Jim Burns, OFS

### Formation Director

Juan Urias, OFS

### Councilors

Mike Reidy, OFS  
Barbara Allen, OFS

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### Newsletter Editor

Barbara Allen, OFS  
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**Submission deadline for  
the next issue is  
January 20**