

sandal Prints

St. Clare Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order
June 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 is so beautiful! Last year I was so overwhelmed with work, family life, and being newly elected as minister that I didn't get a chance to admire the beauty around me. This year my daughter and I planted flowers in our little swath of dirt adjacent to our apartment. My daughter got adventurous and planted vegetables in containers on the patio. She, who only knows life in Central Oregon, is content to have a 50% success rate her first year of gardening.

One way I have for admiring the colors and scents of the season is by taking our dog for a walk. After many years in the high desert surrounded by flower-eating deer, I am awed at the multitude of flowers and the many shades of green. I am equally amazed at how short a time the flowers are in bloom. This realization prompts me to take the dog for extended walks as often as possible.

Our dog, Riker, is a rescue dog from the Oregon Humane Society. He is mostly Cavalier Spaniel with some Dachshund thrown in. For a long time, we were convinced that he was a rather dumb animal, not responding as expected. He got pretty good at understanding hand signals, but he gave us a blank look when we would say: "Want to go for a walk?" Only recently we reviewed the adoption papers and read the narrative more closely. We then realized the issue.

Riker doesn't speak English! He had been owned by two previous families, both of which spoke Spanish in the home. We had a big laugh once we realized the situation.

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June Fraternity Gathering Day of Reflection - June 10 9:00 am-4:00 pm

St. Clare Catholic Church
8535 SW 19th Ave.
Portland OR 97219

- We will be reflecting and sharing on **Fraternity and Francis** (from the FUN manual, begins on page 365, <http://secularfranciscansusa.org>)
- We will attend Mass together at 10:45 am
- Bring a sack lunch

June

Gatherings

10 Fraternity Gathering
9am-4pm, Day of Reflection
St. Clare Catholic Church
8535 SW 19th Ave, Portland, OR

Birthdays

16 Dora Murphy

Profession Anniversaries

11 Rosmarie Furrer—21 yrs
15 Laura Wagman—22 yrs

Refreshments & Vespers

June 10, 2018
Day of Reflection—brown bag
lunch

July 8, 2018
Fraternity Picnic Potluck

August 12, 2018
70th Anniversary of Fraternity

September 9, 2018
Mary Lou Betzing, Bruce Siggins,
Barbara Allen



Spirit of Beauty: A Prayer

O Spirit of Beauty,
You orchestrate
The symphonies of seasons
And songs of souls,
Turning the eternal rhythms
Of heaven and earth.

The trumpeting green of Spring,
The Sunny violins of summer,
The meow cellos of autumn,
The deep bassoons of winter.

The harmony of the spheres,
The sonatas of the seas,
The fugues of the wind,
The quartets of the bird.

Blessed is the Spirit of Beauty,
Orchestrator of cosmic harmonies.

Charles Burack

I want you to know about Riker because this is sometimes how I feel. I am an extrovert, one who is energized by being around people, surrounded by introverts. Extroverts have some common characteristics, such as we think out loud (talk a lot), make decisions quickly, and express stress by being even more energetic (hyper). Being isolated or working alone is often draining and causes great fatigue. I tell you this because, in the fraternity, extroverts are the minority.

I know how to adapt to working with and living with introverts. I am the only extrovert in my birth family of seven children, as well as my nuclear family. At work, I am the only extrovert, too. My coworkers will sometimes stand back and look at me like I am a strange creature, fearful that energy will consume them. One time at home, I had finished working in the kitchen and was standing silently in the dining area pondering my next step, when my daughter, who was sitting on the far side of the living room, called out "Mom! Too much energy!!" I wasn't even talking or physically moving at the time; only the gears in my head were spinning. Yet, she could feel the energy I was involuntarily emitting. I was stunned and perplexed.

I have worked to become sensitive to the energy I carry. I have learned to talk slower, to refrain from interrupting or talking over people, to give people time to process their answers, not to change subjects too quickly, and to expect an answer only after deliberate thought. Introverts are deep thinkers and often have great wisdom to share. It is not my language, but like Riker, we are adapting.

I am *always* overjoyed at seeing you and basking in the fellowship of fraternity gatherings. Because our fraternity gatherings are on my busiest work day, I am often already at full speed. I want you to feel comfortable to say, 'Dial it down, Evelyn' and know that my feelings won't be hurt. I need your reminders to **take a breath** so that I can mindfully enter into fellowship. Let us help each other so that we can enjoy our time together in a common language, that of Franciscan fraternity and love.

Peace and All Good,

Evelyn

Spiritual Reflections

by Sr. Loretta Schapp, osf

“What is it going to take to blow a Franciscan breeze into the world again, other than courage and humility?”

Wim Wenders, director of the film *“Pope Francis: A Man of His Word”*, asked this question while reflecting on the world's position on power and poverty. What a challenging question to all First, Second and Third Order Religious and Secular Franciscans!

With this year's 40th Anniversary of *The Rule for the Secular Franciscan Order*(1978), it is indeed a question to ponder, not only personally as a Secular Franciscan but also as an Order in the Church. The choice of the word “breeze” is so Franciscan. While a breeze is gentle, it can also be strong, but nothing like a whirling tornado that leaves behind destruction. A quote attributed to Francis comes to mind: *Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words*. The way we live preaches the Gospel. An embodied, incarnational *Franciscan breeze* in us preaches the Gospel.

A wonderful book to help foster that *Franciscan breeze* in each of us is *Leading Like Francis* by Carl Koch. It is deeply embedded with Franciscan spirituality and exemplifies what it means to live the Franciscan charism. It is not meant just for elected servant leaders but for all Franciscans who are called to lead by their lives and by what they promised at their Profession. The Regional Council has committed itself to reading it for its own on-going Formation. Because it contains the core of how we are to be Franciscan in our relationships and in our world, the Regional Council will gift each minister/leader with this important book at the Annual Ministers Meeting in June. There is a hope that the book will become a resource for each Council and Fraternity.

I invite you to take Wenders' question to your prayer time. What is the particular Franciscan gift of the Spirit (Charism) that you have been given that will be a *Franciscan breeze* that blows in the world and in the relationships that are a part of your life? Then, when the collective breezes of all the Franciscan Orders come together, could there be another Pentecost?

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 previous month, a short explanation of the month's theme, a Psalm fragment, a Reflection Question and a prayer for the Month.

Month 1:

The thought for this month is Prayer.

Article 8 of the OFS Rule begins: "As Jesus was the true worshipper of the Father, so let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all they are and do."

Prayer is first and foremost in our lives as followers of Jesus. Everything we do and say must be embodied in a spirit of prayer. Author Henri Nouwen wrote, "When we sit down to pray, we enter the presence of the God of peace who disarms our hearts. We make our peace with God, and God gives us the gift of peace."

In the life of prayer, our wills and God's grace act together. When we pray, we must surrender to the will of God and not our own wills and wants. This can be difficult especially when we want our own way. Yet, we must remember that God wants what is best for us and His ways are greater than our ways. Only God can see the big picture.

At the very beginning of Francis' conversion, he is living with a poor priest at the chapel of San Damiano. His parents do not know where he is, so his father goes around the city inquiring about his son. When he learns where Francis is, he calls together his friends and neighbors and goes down to San Damiano.

Francis is still new in the service of Christ; so when he hears about his pursuers and knows they are coming, he hides from his father's anger by creeping into a secret cave which he has prepared as a hiding place. There he stays for a whole month. He eats food brought to him secretly and prays continually with tears that the Lord deliver him from persecution and grant him the fulfillment of his desire to serve him alone.

He fasts and prays unceasingly, not trusting in his own strength but relying wholly on God; and God fills his soul with unspeakable joy and a wonderful light until, glowing with an inner radiance, he leaves the cave, ready to face his persecutors. Light of heart, he climbs the road to Assisi. When his friends and relatives spy him, they smother him with insults, calling him a fool and a mad man, and they hurl stones and mud at him.

But Francis, who has become God's servant, pays them no heed. Indifferent to their insults, he thanks God for everything.

Initially, Francis hides from his father's anger by creeping into a secret cave which he has prepared as a refuge. Like all of us at the beginning of the emergence of the true self, he fears his father's anger, he draws inward and hides, and he prays for the wrong thing because he does not as yet have the courage to become himself. He prays that the Lord will deliver him from persecution and grant him the fulfillment of his desire. He does not know as yet that the fulfillment of his desire involves persecution.

But because he perseveres, the Lord fills his soul with light, and he leaves the cave where he is hiding and faces the insults and blows of his persecutors. In overcoming his shame, he discovers his true self and is unmoved by persecution. And he thanks God for everything, not just for what is pleasant, such as his misguided desire to be delivered from persecution. In acting, in facing the consequences of his commitment to Christ, Francis learns to pray correctly. *[From The Way of St. Francis by Murray Bodo, OFM]*

Psalm Fragment:

"The Lord has heard my supplication;
The Lord will receive my prayer." ~ Psalm 6:9

Reflection Question: Do you pray for your will alone or for your will to meet God's grace?

This Month: Pray that your will and God's grace will always meet – making you an instrument of the Lord's peace.

Prayer for the Month: The Peace Prayer

Lord, make me a channel of your peace;
Where there is hatred, I may bring love;
Where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness;
Where there is discord, I may bring harmony;
Where there is error, I may bring truth;
Where there is doubt, I may bring faith;
Where there is despair, I may bring hope;
Where there are shadows, I may bring light;
Where there is sadness, I may bring joy.
Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted;
to understand, than to be understood; to love, than to be loved.
For it is by self-forgetting that one finds.
It is by forgiving that one is forgiven.
It is by dying that one awakens to eternal life.
Amen





Franciscan Saints and Blesseds

JUNE

- 12 Bl. Jolenta
- 13 St. Anthony of Padua
- 22 St. Thomas More
- 30 Bl. Raymond Lull

St. Anthony of Padua

“Let us ask Jesus Christ, Our Lord, to fill us with His mercy, so that we may practice compassion with ourselves and others, not judging nor condemning, but forgiving those who hurt us, helping those who are in need, pardoning all offenders, offering mercy, just as God has shown mercy to us.” —St. Anthony of Padua

The gospel call to leave everything and follow Christ was the rule of Anthony’s life. Over and over again, God called him to something new in his plan. Every time Anthony responded with renewed zeal and self-sacrificing to serve his Lord Jesus more completely.

His journey as the servant of God began as a very young man when he decided to join the Augustinians in Lisbon, giving up a future of wealth and power to be a servant of God. Later when the bodies of the first Franciscan martyrs went through the Portuguese city where he was stationed, he was again filled with an intense longing to be one of those closest to Jesus himself: those who die for the Good News.

So Anthony entered the Franciscan Order and set out to preach to the Moors. But an illness prevented him from achieving that goal. He went to Italy and was stationed in a small hermitage where he spent most of his time praying, reading the Scriptures and doing menial tasks.

The call of God came again at an ordination where no one was prepared to speak. The humble and obedient Anthony hesitantly accepted the task. The years of searching for Jesus in prayer, of reading sacred Scripture and of serving him in poverty, chastity, and obedience had prepared Anthony to allow the Spirit to use his talents. Anthony’s sermon was astounding to those who expected an unprepared speech and knew not the Spirit’s power to give people words.

Recognized as a great man of prayer and a great Scripture and theology scholar, Anthony became the first friar to teach theology to the other friars. Soon he was called from that post to preach to the Albigensians in France, using his profound knowledge of Scripture and theology to convert and reassure those who had been misled by their denial of Christ’s divinity and of the sacraments..

After he led the friars in northern Italy for three years, he made his headquarters in the city of Padua. He resumed his preaching and began writing sermon notes to help other preachers. In the spring of 1231 Anthony withdrew to a friary at Camposampiero where he had a sort of treehouse built as a hermitage. There he prayed and prepared for death.

On June 13, he became very ill and asked to be taken back to Padua, where he died after receiving the last sacraments. Anthony was canonized less than a year later and named a Doctor of the Church in 1946.

Treasurer’s Report

by Jim Burns, OFS

Month ending April 30, 2018

Account balances	\$ 5814.29
General Income	\$ 230.00
General Expenses*	\$ 142.36

As of May 30, 2018

Account Balances	\$ 3088.64
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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

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

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Newsletter Editor

Barbara Allen, OFS
rosesoap@gmail.com

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