

# Sandal Prints

St. Clare Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order  
May 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,*

I had volunteered to lead the senior ministry program at a local parish before I went to Chicago for grad school. So, when the parish closest to Catholic Theological Union offered a retreat day for seniors, I asked if I could participate. It was led by Sr. Jamie Phelps OP, a retired African American theologian. During lunch, when everyone was visiting together, she asked me "Where are your people from?" I told her Oregon. She said "No, where are your people from?" I said it more slowly, "O-re-gun." She then exclaimed: "You don't know where your people are from!" Her comment gave me pause, and I reflected on her question for several weeks. Where are my people from?

This was my first awakening that I had not left my 'culture' in fifty years. Except for going to college at Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA, I had not lived outside of Oregon and had spent nearly 25 years in rural Oregon. I was so green that I hadn't realized that Oregon had its own culture (which turns out to be quite different from that of Chicago's culture). I became aware that my classmates never wore blue jeans and certainly did not wear simple t-shirts or graphic Ts. For the first time, I started to pay attention to what was 'normal' for me, but not customary for my neighbors.

For one thing, Catholicism is the norm in Chicago. The Cardinal was often on television, met regularly with the mayor and governor, and the Catholic schools were filled. At the Franciscan parish in downtown Chicago, there were five daily Masses and for Ash Wednesday over 30,000 people received ashes! The exercise of religion was easy. It was historical and cultural. This was quite a difference from my experience in Central Oregon where Catholics are only 6% of the population. Being publicly Catholic in my small town took effort and commitment. After reflecting on Sr. Jamie's question, I figured that there were so few Catholics in Oregon that my grandparents didn't worry about ethnicity, that finding another Catholic was more important than finding a mate from their historic country of origin.

I was lucky enough to work with Sr. Jamie's sister, Marionette, an elderly catechist serving two different parishes. Nettie, as she was called, told me stories of being a Black Catholic that broke my heart. Her 'people' were from Alabama but her father moved the family to Chicago following WWII. Just as he had done in Alabama, he enrolled his children in Catholic school. But Nettie, the oldest, ended up in a Catholic school where she was not wanted. She told me stories of how bad the Sisters and other students treated her. I asked about her treatment by the Sisters, because it didn't make sense to me. I had never heard of Sisters being so overtly hostile to a fellow Catholic and was shocked. She explained that race trumped religion.

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May

## Gatherings

- 6 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

- 6 Evelyn Brush  
7 Juan Urias  
9 Verna VanNewkirk  
10 Ramiro Hernandez  
21 Mary Dugas  
21 Giovanna Zanotto  
26 Tricia Fryer  
27 Carlene Roeker

## Profession Anniversaries

- 5 Anna Krueger—6 yrs  
5 Sol Krueger—6 yrs  
8 Shirley Stevens—26 yrs  
15 Dora Murphy—13 yrs  
21 Shonne Farrell—2 yrs

## Refreshments & Vespers

*June 10, 2018*  
*Tricia Fryer, Jerri Wagner,*  
*Barbara Allen*

*July 8, 2018*  
*Picnic Potluck*

*August 12, 2018*  
*70th Anniversary of Fraternity*

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

## 2018 Ongoing Formation Calendar

June: Fraternity and Francis

July: Picnic

August: 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Clare Fraternity

September: Francis/ Divinity of Christ/ Cosmic Christ

October: Outreach to the poor activity, TBD

November: Franciscan Theology/ Spirituality

December: Franciscan Theology/ Spirituality

Her parents were very upset. Things were so bad for her that her parents removed her from the school and enrolled her in the neighborhood public school.

And yet, here she was, in her early 80s, still faithful to God and the Church, volunteering as a catechist to promote the faith! Nettie's faithfulness through all the temporal turmoil she endured, particularly in Chicago, is a testament to strength. She knew what the truth is and that other people could not move her away from God and her identity as a Catholic. I stood in awe of her.

This month we celebrate Pentecost, sometimes called the birthday of the Church. It is a time to rejoice where the Word of God has already spread. It is also a call to evangelize and bring the Word of God to those who don't know Jesus. From that foundation in Jesus, we can then invite them to be Catholic. But are we comfortable doing that? According to Fr. Dwight Longnecker, a convert to Catholicism, there are several impediments to evangelization. Here are a few.

Too many Catholics confuse evangelization with getting people to join the Catholic Church. The primary task of evangelization is meeting people where they are introducing them to Jesus Christ.

A lot of Catholics think the Church's primary way of evangelizing people is by helping them. It's true that an important aspect of evangelization is social welfare. Feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, healing the sick, bringing justice to the oppressed — all of that is good stuff and must not be neglected. It is also a powerful witness to the authenticity of the Catholic message. However, just doing that isn't enough. We need to give people the Bread of Life, as well as a sandwich. Many Catholics would never breathe a word about their faith, but are busy in the soup kitchen. Soup kitchen is good. Actively sharing the faith is also good and necessary.

Ignorance. Too many Catholics simply don't know their faith well enough to share it.

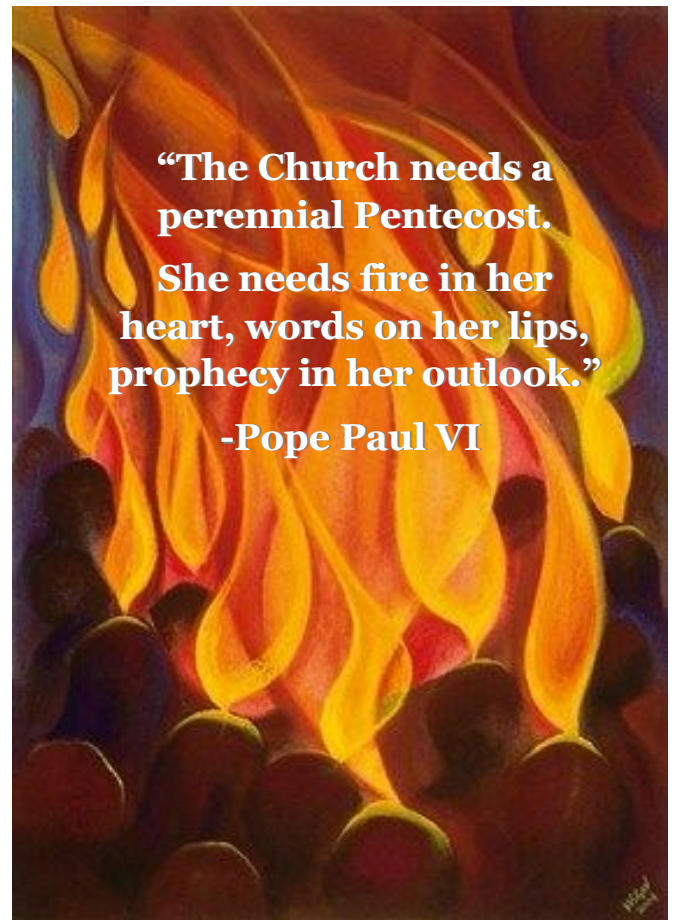
Indifferentism. This is the widespread feeling (and teaching) that all the Christian denominations are pretty much the same and it doesn't really matter which one you go to. It's consumerism. Choose the one you like best. This indifferentism is widespread in our culture and widespread in the Catholic Church. Furthermore, it extends to non-Christian religions and no religion at all. Huge numbers of Catholics think it is perfectly okay if a person attends not only another Christian church, but follows a different religion. "We're all climbing the same mountain. We're just going up different paths!" That is a load of codswallop. Any casual study of the different world religions will show that they are not all equal. Some are superior to others simply from a human perspective. Likewise with the different Christian denominations. This is sentimental claptrap.

Do people who say this really believe it? No. Otherwise they would have to agree that a rattlesnake-handling Pentecostal from Kentucky is equal to St. Francis of Assisi. Would they look at the wild eyed Westboro Baptist crowd or an anti-Semitic, racist Catholic fundamentalist and say benignly, "Well, we're all pretty much the same. They've simply chosen a different path up the mountain." And yet indifferentism is rife in the Catholic Church in America, and that's why Catholics don't evangelize: they don't think they need to.

Universalism. The ugly twin sister of Indifferentism is Universalism — the teaching that God loves everyone so much that he would never send anyone to hell. In other words, in the end, everybody will be saved. Why bother if we're all going to get into heaven simply because God is such a nice Santa Claus-type figure in the sky who will make sure everyone succeeds? Like indifferentism, the Catholic Church is riddled with universalism and its cowardly half breed sister semi-universalism. This is the belief that there is a hell and there might just be a few people there, but there won't be many and maybe even the ones who are there will serve their prison sentence and be allowed into heaven after all. Universalism is cowardly, un-Scriptural and un-Christian. It doesn't take a St. Thomas Aquinas to figure out that this teaching means not only the death of evangelization, but eventually the death of the Church.

Peace and All Good,

*Evelyn*





## Franciscan Saints and Blessed

### MAY

- 9 St. Catherine of Bologna
- 11 St. Ignatius of Laconi
- 16 St. Margaret of Cortona
- 17 St. Paschal Baylon
- 18 St. Felix of Cantalice
- 20 St. Bernadine of Siena
- 24 Dedication of Basilica of St. Francis
- 28 St. Mariana of Jesus de Paredes
- 30 Bl. Baptista Varano
- 30 St. Ferdinand, King

## Prayer for Good Humor

by Saint Thomas More

*In 2014, during his address to the Roman Curia on the occasion of the presentation of Christmas greetings, Pope Francis affirmed, "A bit of good humor is very good for us! It will do us much good to pray St. Thomas More's prayer frequently: I pray it every day, and it helps me."*

"Grant me, O Lord, good digestion,  
and also something to digest.

Grant me a healthy body, and the  
necessary good humor to maintain it.

Grant me a simple soul that knows  
to treasure all that is good and that  
doesn't frighten easily at the sight of evil, but  
rather finds the means  
to put things back in their place.

Give me a soul that knows not boredom,  
grumblings, sighs, and laments,  
nor excess of stress, because of that  
obstructing thing called "I".

Grant me, O Lord, a sense of good humor.  
Allow me the grace to be able to take a joke  
to discover in life a bit of joy, and  
to be able to share it with others, Amen"

## May 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.*

The Mission of Laity: That the lay faithful may fulfil their specific mission, by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today.

OFS: For the national fraternities of Canada, Costa Rica and New Zealand (VFP).

## Treasurer's Report

by Jim Burns, OFS

Month ending March 31, 2018

Account balances	\$ 5680.66
General Income	\$ 247.00
General Expenses*	\$ 2925.00

As of April 25, 2018

Account Balances	\$ 2989.27
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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  
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### 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, ofS

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### Newsletter Editor

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