

St. Clare Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order March 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,

When I was nine years old, I was watching an old movie on television. I never know the name of it until just a few years ago, but a few images are etched in my memory. I remember seeing a Franciscan priest skulking between buildings trying to avoid the military patrols, back in the Old West time. The priest was trying to reach a particular house without being seen so that he could celebrate Mass for the families who had gathered in secret. That scene, of the friar risking his life to say Mass, effected my faith development and fostered a deep appreciation for the Eucharist. If he was willing to go to great lengths to provide the Eucharist to people who risked their lives, then it was time for me to be more attentive and intentional at Mass, which I could attend without any risk.

I just finished a retreat at Mt. Angel at which Archbishop Sample gave one of the conferences. He is a man in love with the Mass, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. He talked about how God transcends time and space in such a way that the altar is the Cross, a re-presentation as an unbloodied sacrifice. He calls us to evaluate what we do at Mass by asking: "Would this be appropriate to do at the foot of the Cross?" Archbishop Sample is passionate about reverence at Mass and finds the Extraordinary Form of the Latin Mass to be the most perfect.

It was good to hear his explanation because I am not eager to step in the culture of the Extraordinary Form; it is foreign to me. I don't have any experience with it, except a few childhood memories. I am of the age where the focus has been the Mass as a meal. I consider myself the first generation of Vatican II in that I started Catholic school in 1963. As a catechist, I would tell the children that Mass is like Thanksgiving Dinner. You would gather and listen to people tell family stories, which is like listening to the Scripture readings at Mass. Then the food is prepared, dishes prepped, hands washed, and food is served, which is Holy Communion. We then see the dishes getting cleaned and then sit back and take a breath, because no one should eat and run. Then the final blessing and farewell. This metaphor worked well up until families stopped eating dinner together. Whether our own emphasis is on the unbloodied sacrifice or on the meal, it is truly the real presence of our Savior.

So, whether people feel closer to God with guitar music or Latin chant, whether your prayer focuses on the unbloodied sacrifice or celebrating a communal meal, let us all appreciate the ease with which we can access the sacraments. Catholics in other parts of the world, including rural parts of the US don't have enough priests for weekly Mass. The Holy Mass is truly a taste of heaven on earth.

Peace and All Good,

Evelyn

March

Gatherings

11 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

None this month

Profession Anniversaries

19 Giovanna Zanotto—54 yrs

Refreshments & Vespers

March 11, 2018 Tricia Fryer, Kay Haberlach

April 8, 2018 Mary Lou Betzing, Laura Wagman

May 6, 2018 Shonne Farrell

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

July 8, 2018 Fraternity picnic

August 12, 2018 70th Anniversary Celebration

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

October 14, 2018 Tom Brannon, Jim Burns, Lynne Burns

November 11, 2018 Shonne Farrell

December 9, 2018 Clare Reidy, Mike Reidy, Bruce Siggins

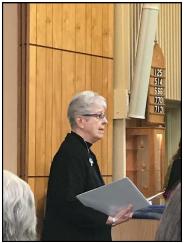
Ideally, three members will sign up per month. Here are the signups to date. Please take a moment at the March Fraternity gathering to volunteer to help provide refreshments and lead prayer on a future date.

Celebrating With and in Eugene by Evelyn Brush, OFS

How fun it was to have everyone gathered for the re-activation celebration for St. Francis Fraternity, Eugene. Due to the weather our friends from the south and east could not join us, but the extended fraternity of St. Clare was there. Ramiro made sure members of San Buenaventura had transportation to Eugene and with enough room that some of the children were able to attend. It was exciting for them to see what lies ahead for San Buenaventura as they move closer to their independence.

Sr. Loretta designed a lovely liturgy so that the celebration was grounded in prayer. Our regional Minister, Deacon Terry Barber, OFS wore his Franciscan stole as he presided over the Liturgy of the Word. The music was provided by members of the new fraternity and the lunch afterwards was exquisite. The reading of the proclamation and the naming of the fraternity members was a high point for me. I could feel their joy emanating from the group as well as their sense of community.

Two photographers covered the event and one of their members is tasked with writing an article for the Catholic Sentinel. I look forward to reliving the joy through the photos. Getting coverage in our diocesan Catholic newspaper will again bring our Order to the public's attention. Let us always remember this joy!

















2018 Ongoing Formation Calendar

March: Justice and Peace presents Human Trafficking April: FUN: Our Identity as Secular Franciscans

Caring for Mother Nature

Each month when we gather, we add a small burden on the earth in the form of disposable plates, cups and utensils. Would you please consider bringing your own reusable items and transporting them home for washing? Should you forget, we will have the regular supply of disposables available, but perhaps we should try to take the little steps we can to help Mother Nature.

Spiritual Reflections

by Sr. Loretta Schaff, osf

Each year the Lenten journey invites us to deeper conversion as a brother and sister of Penance. Yes! We have heard this before! So what is new? Again, we are given another invitation to enter the intense Lenten journey to embrace the raw, vulnerable parts of ourselves and continue our transformation, nano-inch by nano-inch. God knows the heart and knows our sincere intentions to become the person God desires us to be. "I have come that you may have life, life to the fullest." John 10:10. Where do we draw grace and strength to continue this journey year after year after year?

As Franciscan gospel people, we sink our prayer into the Lenten Gospels. There, through the living Word of God, we are offered challenging invitations to die to self and become more like Christ.

Go into your desert place.
Go pray in secret.
Tear down your personal temples.
Choose to live in the light.
Remove the blindness of your heart.
Become the buried grain in order to bear fruit.
Drink from the well of Life.
Walk the passion-steps with the Crucified One into death and Resurrection.

We need a lifetime to welcome this Paschal mystery of growth and change. But we have HOPE. The Jesus of the Lenten gospels has gone before us to show us the way. And Francis, too, made this Lenten Jesus "the center of his life with God and people . . . [He saw this Jesus, the Christ,] as a way to the Father's love, the truth to which the Holy Spirit leads us, and the life which has come to give abundantly." Rule 4



Polaris Human Trafficking Quiz

- 1. Human Trafficking includes both sex trafficking and labor trafficking. T F
- 2. In order to fight Human Trafficking, it is necessary to understand what type of trafficking there is in your community. T
- 3. Which of the following is likely to be a victim of Human Trafficking?
- a) A 19 year old from Oregon whose boyfriend sells her for sex online.
- b) A farmworker is threatened when he tells his boss he wants to quit.
- c) A woman travels from China for a high paying job, but instead is forced to perform commercial sex acts in a massage business.
- d) All of the above.
- Smuggling people across borders is human trafficking.
 F
- 5. Human Trafficking occurs only in illegal underground industries. T F
- 6. Which type of sex trafficking is most frequently reported to the National Human Trafficking hotline in the US?
- a) Escort services
- b) Outdoor solicitation
- c) Residential
- d) Illicit massage, health and beauty businesses
- 7. Human Trafficking victims in the US are always immigrants from other countries. T F
- 8. Which was NOT one of the top *three* reported types of *labor trafficking* in the United States?
- a) Agricultural workers
- b) Factory and manufacturing employees
- c) Domestic workers
- d) Restaurant and food services

See the answers at the bottom of the last page.

A Thought from Pope Francis for Lent

Do you want to fast this Lent?

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and *contemplate simplicity*.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and *fill your heart with joy*.
- Fast from selfishness and *be compassionate to others*.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



The Stations of the Cross

When you walk into any Catholic church in the United States there is one architectural feature that is present almost everywhere you go: The Stations of the Cross. The stations might be featured in stained glass windows or in beautiful paintings or depicted in statues or wall reliefs that line the sides of the church.

Why is that? And where did the Stations of the Cross come from anyway? To answer that question, we have to go all the way back to 33 AD.

The original Via Dolorosa

An ancient tradition has it that the Blessed Virgin Mary visited the sites of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection on a daily basis after his ascension into Heaven. Additionally, there are other traditions that claim Mary followed Jesus as he took his cross to Calvary. She was the first to accompany Jesus along his *via dolorosa* (sorrowful way) and it did not take long for pilgrims to imitate her example and walk that lonesome road of Christ's suffering and death.

By the reign of Emperor Constantine various churches and markers were set up at specific points on Jesus' path to Calvary. Pilgrims traveled to the Holy Land for many centuries to visit these sacred sites, often taking something back with them to remember their journey.

Travel to the Holy Land, however, was not always easy or even permitted. It remained a hotspot of religious tension and many wars prevented Christians from making the journey. In lieu of traveling to theses holy sites, the Franciscans and others throughout Europe decided to create shrines and replicas in local towns. The goal was to help the faithful enter into Jesus' Passion without having to make a lifethreatening trip. There were even attempts to reproduce the exact paces between the original sacred spots so that the replicas were as true to Jerusalem as could be.

In 1342 the Franciscans were appointed special guardians of the sacred sites in the Holy Land, and soon

after we see the first mention of the word "stations" to denote the various stops along the way of Jesus' passion. Franciscans continued to replicate these holy places throughout Europe in outdoor shrines that became very popular.

Modern-day Stations of the Cross

By the 17th century the Franciscans wanted to begin erecting these "stations" within the church walls and asked Rome for permission. Additionally, they wanted the faithful to be granted the same indulgences that would have been given to those who traveled to Jerusalem. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, Pope Innocent XI recognized the need and granted their request.

"Realizing that few persons...were able to gain [indulgences] by means of a personal pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Innocent XI, in 1686, granted to the Franciscans...the right to erect the Stations in all their churches, and declared that all the indulgences that had ever been given for devoutly visiting the actual scenes of Christ's Passion, could thenceforth be gained by Franciscans and all others affiliated to their order if they made the Way of the Cross in their own churches in the accustomed manner. Innocent XII confirmed the privilege in 1694 and Benedict XIII in 1726 extended it to all the faithful. In 1731 Clement XII still further extended it by permitting the indulgenced Stations to all churches, provided that they were erected by a Franciscan father with the sanction of the ordinary. At the same time, he definitely fixed the number of Stations at fourteen."

In 1991 Pope John Paul II proposed an updating of the Stations of the Cross, removing stations that are not found in holy Scripture. He also added a 15th station, that of the resurrected Jesus. By doing so, we remember that we are an Easter people, and that our God lives and reigns in unity with the Father and Spirit.



March 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.

<u>Formation in Spiritual Discernment:</u> That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.

OFS: For the national fraternities of Brazil (VFP), Switzerland, Russia, and Japan.

Franciscan Saints and Blesseds

MARCH

- 2 Bl. Agnes of Prague
- 9 St. Frances of Rome
- 24 Bl. Didacus Joseph of Cadiz

2018 World Communications Day Message

http://media.pauline.org

As mandated by Vatican II and established by Pope Paul VI in 1967, each year the Church celebrates World Communications Day on the Sunday before Pentecost. This year it falls on May 13th. The purpose of this worldwide celebration is to encourage reflection on the opportunities and challenges presented by the communications media.

To close the message for the 2018 World Communications Day, Pope Francis paraphrases the well-known Prayer of St. Francis. This might be a wonderful prayer to pray for those in media professions, especially journalists, but also for all of us, who are communicators in our own ways.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Help us to recognize the evil latent in a communication that does not build communion.

Help us to remove the venom from our judgements.

Help us to speak about others as our brothers and sisters.

You are faithful and trustworthy; may our words be seeds of goodness for the world:

where there is shouting, let us practice listening; where there is confusion, let us inspire harmony; where there is ambiguity, let us bring clarity; where there is exclusion, let us offer solidarity; where there is sensationalism, let us use sobriety; where there is superficiality, let us raise real questions; where there is prejudice, let us awaken trust; where there is hostility, let us bring respect; where there is falsehood, let us bring truth. Amen.

Treasurer's Report

by Jim Burns, OFS

Month ending January 31, 2017

Account balances \$ 3682.62 General Income \$ 278.00

General Expenses* \$

\$ 113.39

As of December 27, 2017 Account Balances \$ 3747.23

*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

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> **Vice-Minister** Ramiro Hernandez, OFS

> > **Secretary** Tricia Fryer, OFS

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Spiritual Assistant Sister Loretta Schaff, osf

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Newsletter Editor Barbara Allen, OFS rosesoap@gmail.com

Submission deadline for the next issue is March 20

Polaris Quiz Answers: 1. T 2. T 3. d 4. F 5. F 6. a 7. F 8. b