

Sandal Prints

St. Clare Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order
November 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.

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,

At work, I am blessed to have a 'super volunteer' who likes to hang out at the parish and help out any way possible. Stan is a slight figure in his late 50s, unable to work due to joint pain and prefers his walker over a cane. He is a great talker, often times about an old television show or some obscure music group. All Stan needs is a good cup of coffee before being able to set about the tasks I give him.

When he moved to Portland a few years ago to live with his brother, he latched on to the parish as his social identity. I say 'social identity' because identity is one of three things all human beings need. Each of us needs identity, relationship and purpose. Our identity tells us who we are. For Stan, he identifies as a volunteer (really, he calls himself my minion). His relationships revolve around those of us at the parish, his brother, and friends at a neighboring parish. As a disabled person, finding a purpose had been a challenge until he linked up with Our Lady of Sorrows parish. He had tried to volunteer at the neighboring parish, but they couldn't find anything for him to do. Without identity, relationship and purpose, we languish.

Last summer, Stan worked two different Vacation Bible Schools at two different parishes to fill his time. He enjoys children and stands ready as the substitute teacher for Religious Education. He has helped by answering the parish phones, previewing promotional DVD material sent by publishers, and walking the neighborhood hanging posters for upcoming blood drives. He also volunteers with St. Vincent de Paul and attends any and all training opportunities offered by the archdiocese. Stan's favorite is filling in at Mass for any of the liturgical ministers unable to perform their tasks. He has become indispensable to the staff around the parish.

But, awhile back, Stan lost his housing when his brother was laid off from his job. He now sleeps in his car on the street alongside the parish. His car holds many of his possessions, mostly clothes, and serves as his kitchen and dining room. He tries to stay warm by running the car heater, but the cost of gas is impacting this option. Each morning, Stan comes into the parish office to clean up, use the toilet and get some coffee. He cheerfully checks in with everyone in the office and begins telling us all a story or reminiscence.

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Calendar

Gatherings

November

- 11 Fraternity Gathering
1:15 pm, Parish Center
*Christ the King Catholic Church
11709 SE Fuller Rd., Milwaukie, OR*
- 17 Book Study, 2:00 pm
Mike & Clare Reidy's home
- 18 Thanksgiving Potluck with
San Buenaventura, 2:30 pm
*Ascension Catholic Church
743 SE 76th Ave., Portland, OR*
- 19 Council Meeting, 4:30 pm
*St. Joseph Catholic Church
6600 Highland Dr., Vancouver, WA*

December

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

Birthdays

November

- 2 Shonne Farrell
- 8 Anna Krueger
- 11 Mary Lou Betzing
- 27 Barbara Allen
- 27 Claudette Elmore

December

- 25 Jesus!

Profession Anniversaries

November

- 10 Bob Sells—20 yrs
- 11 Claudette Elmore—17 yrs
- 22 Mary Lou Betzing—26 yrs

December

- 13 Natalie Ettlin—30 yrs

Refreshments & Vespers

November 11, 2018

Shonne Farrell, Laura Wagman

December 9, 2018

*Clare Reidy, Mike Reidy,
Bruce Siggins*

“World Day of the Poor” - How Do I Celebrate Something Like That?

by Fr. Pete Henriot, SJ

Looking at the world around me today, recalling scenes from Africa where I lived for three decades, thinking of people close to me here in the Pacific Northwest –so many poor, even in the midst of prosperity and wasteful spending.... How can I celebrate something like that? Shouldn't I be mournful and sad for a “World Day of the Poor”?

Yet that's the challenge Pope Francis offers on November 18, 2018 – to “celebrate” a Day of the Poor by memory and prayer, reflection and decision. Francis suggests a beautiful line from Psalms to guide me: “The poor cried, and the Lord heard them” (Ps 34:6). This verse prods me to ask if I listen to the poor around me, right here in the Northwest. Do I hear them? How do I respond?

I think of three groups of poor women and men who have confronted me and obliged me to ask if I hear their cry.

There are elderly folks who live in fear of lack of decent medical care as they face rising costs and threatened cuts in government assistance. I recall my recent experience of receiving excellent medical attention because I had a good insurance program to handle very expensive bills. The faces of some elderly around me in the hospital reflected worry because their insurance plans were not as generous and they heard of the current President's desire to curtail health programs. Would the public hear the cry of these poor elderly and respond with necessary political action?

Then there are the growing numbers of homeless poor around me. Street corner beggars and empty lot campers: women, men and children who cannot afford rising costs of housing associated with rising incomes of persons attracted to the booming Northwest economy. In my own neighborhood of Tacoma I've met veterans enduring consequences of post-traumatic stress disorder; youth hooked on drugs; women abandoned, with their children, after marriage breakdown; older men confused after losing family contacts. Would good responses of church agencies like St. Vincent de Paul be sufficient to hear the cry of this increasing poor population?

What about the poor locked up as “detainees” in huge facilities here in the Northwest and around the country? Men who have worked the local fields of vegetables and fruits for 35 years, mothers who have recently lost their children at an unhospitable border crossing, young women and men in the midst of college educations: all detained not because of crimes but because of lack of documents. I've met these “poor” as I serve as Chaplain in a detention center. What will it take to hear their cry and respond with the hospitality that the rest of us “immigrants” have received over the years?

“The poor cried and the Lord heard them.” On this World Day of the Poor 2018, I ask myself: do I hear their cry close around me? And how do I respond?

Rev. Peter Henriot, SJ, currently lives in Tacoma and is the Director of Development of the Loyola Jesuit Secondary School, a co-educational boarding school in a poor rural area in Malawi; www.loyola-malawi.org. To read the pope's message for the World Day of the Poor, and to find resources developed for the Day, visit www.seattlearchdiocese.org/Missions.

Minister's Message, continued from page 1

Over the last month, I have seen a transformation, and not for the better. Some of our people are starting to look at Stan and see ‘homeless guy’ and not ‘super volunteer’. One catechist doesn't want to work with him and a support staff member questions why we let him use the bathroom when other homeless people aren't allowed. Last week, Stan committed what seemed like the greatest offense to people: he changed his shirt in public, in the parking lot for all to see. Some people were offended. Yet, he was just changing into a dress shirt, preparing to attend Mass where he was going to be the Lector. The privacy that we enjoy by having a place to live is not always available to Stan.

I can imagine how the residents of Assisi viewed St. Francis as he went from being a merchant's son to becoming a beggar. How many friends did Francis lose when he became homeless and his clothing tattered? He had to rely on the kindness of people. Stan, too, is relying on the kindness of others, having received a blanket, stocking cap, and flashlight. As the nights are getting colder, I fear for his health.

Those of us who value Stan's desire to help, plus his availability, have been scratching our heads saying, “It's Stan, not some homeless guy.” Yet, the fear of the ‘other’ is pervasive and some people are becoming apprehensive of him. How did Stan devolve into becoming one of “them”? How did his uniqueness before God get obliterated? How do we help others see “the image and likeness of God” when they look at Stan or any other homeless person?

The people who are changing their perspective on Stan are called “the moveable middle”. They are the people who are not die-hard ideologues on each end of the spectrum. They are grounded in Christian values, but somehow, seem to miss the practical application of the gospel. Yet, they are capable of being moved, of having their eyes opened and hearts enthused. As I watch them become resistant to Stan, maybe there will be an insight into helping them (or others) move toward compassion. I hope that, if I can find out how, then maybe it can be reverse engineered. I take this situation to prayer and ponder.

Peace and All Good,

Evelyn

Spiritual Reflections

by Sr. Loretta Schaff, osf

Love and Gratitude During Difficult Times

With the events of these past weeks, deaths at the Tree of Life Synagogue, bombs sent through the mail, school shooting in North Carolina, hurricanes destroying people's lives, floods, people fleeing their countries of oppression and fear, etc., how can one live in loving gratitude each day, especially during this Thanksgiving season when there is so much sadness that "weeping is all that we can do?"

Paul reminds us, "*In everything give thanks.*" 1Thess 5:18. The "simple" prayer attributed to St. Francis calls us to live with contradictions: "*Where there is darkness, light; where there is hatred, love*". As Franciscans we are challenged to the core of our being in the realities of the world around us to live with hearts of gratitude and love, especially during difficult times. Each of us, in our daily incarnational lives, uniquely expresses that love and gratitude which the world desperately needs. Living out of gratitude and love increases hope that there is goodness in our world. Be an instrument of hope. Be a person of gratitude. Be an incarnational presence of love and goodness. Be a part of the transformation of a world that knows love and gratitude during these difficult times. Simple? Not easy.

*Love is patient but not passive.
Love is kind and astute.
Love is not envious or arrogant or rude
But it is firm and fierce
About injustice and oppression.
It does not insist on its own way
But strives to stay on the way to justice and peace.
It does not abide violence and abuse.
It does not rejoice in wrongdoing,
But rejoices in the truth.
It bears all things of God,
Believes all things can be transformed
Through compassion, [love and gratitude]
Hopes all things for the vulnerable,
Endures all things that alleviate suffering.*

(Ruth Nakashima Brock)

Happy Thanksgiving blessings to each and every one.

—Sr. Loretta Schaff, osf



Franciscan Influence on the First Thanksgiving

by Fr. Joseph Mary Elder, O.F.M.Cap.

www.capuchins.org

Most people could recount the basic story of the first Thanksgiving: the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth rock, the Native Americans taught them to grow food, and they gathered together for a feast of thanksgiving.

Most versions of the story leave out the key role played by an English-speaking Catholic Native American named Squanto and the influence the Franciscans had on his life.

In the early 17th century, Squanto's tribe came in contact with some of the earliest English colonist in the Americas. He was captured and taught English so he could serve as an interpreter. But in 1614, as he was being transported by John Smith (of Pocahontas fame), one of Smith's lieutenants, Thomas Hunt, kidnapped him.

Hunt took Squanto to Spain to sell him as a slave. But some Franciscan friars saw what was happening and saved Squanto. The Franciscans taught Squanto the Catholic faith and baptized him.

In 1619, Squanto was finally able to return home on a ship led by John Smith. Tragically, upon arrival he discovered that most of his tribe had died of a plague the year before.

It was almost as though God had prepared him perfectly for what happened next: just a year later in 1620, the Pilgrims arrived. They were English Calvinists who were seeking to build a new religious community apart from the Church of England. Little did they know that they would end up being saved by a Catholic!

The Pilgrims had little food and were unprepared for survival in the Americas. Squanto, who spoke great English and had a lot of experience with English culture, reached out to help, teaching them how to grow food in the new landscape. It must have seemed like a miracle to the Pilgrims!

He befriended the Pilgrims and became an important part of their community. At one point, Squanto was kidnapped by another tribe and a team of Pilgrims saved him.

Unfortunately, less than two years after the landing of the Pilgrims, Squanto became sick and died suddenly.

As we gather this Thanksgiving with friends and family, let us remember the many blessings God has given us, great and small, and pray together a prayer of gratitude.

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 LISTENING.

When we hear, we hear with just the ears. When we listen, we listen with the whole body – ears, eyes, heart, posture, mind – open and empty....Our Lord Jesus was an active listener, just as His mother. It took great discipline to listen to the words of the angel Gabriel. Mary did not hear what she wanted to hear; she listened to the words, asked a clarifying question, then gave her fiat – her yes to God.

Psalm Fragment:

“Oh, that my people would listen to Me, That Israel would walk in My ways!” – Psalm 81:13

Reflection Question:

When was the last time you sat down in quiet and listened to God speak to your heart?

Prayer for last month:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has anointed me. To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. (Luke 4:18-19)

For the 4th month the theme is COMPASSION.

Compassion is the recognition of another person's suffering accompanied by the disposition to alleviate that suffering. Compassion is a type of feeling where you tend to feel for the person concerned. You strongly feel sorry for the state of a person without attempting to know what is there in his or her mind. Without even understanding the intensity of his or her problem or predicament you simply feel sorry for a person; which is different from empathy. But compassion has a second component: to alleviate that suffering. You witness the suffering of another, and your heart is moved to do something about it. 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. Being a bearer of peace, it is not enough to be your brother's or sister's keeper; you are your brother and your sister. They belong to you and you belong to them in the Kingdom of God.

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 the 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.

Coming Up...

- Winter Fraternity meeting start times may change to 11:30 or 12. Fraternity members have expressed interest in this to help offset traveling during winter's earlier darkness at the end of our gatherings. We'll be discussing this at the November gathering.
- A visit to the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist is still being organized, but may not take place until spring. Stay tuned!

Fraternity Book Club

It's not too late to join the current book club discussion group! Meeting on the Saturday after the monthly Fraternity gathering, the group is just beginning to explore Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, *Gaudete et Exsultate* (On the Call to Holiness in Today's World). Our next meeting is Saturday, November 17, 2:00 pm, at Mike & Clare Reidy's home (see the fraternity directory for address). Come prepared to discuss the Introduction and Chapter 1. The document can be found online at <http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>.

Free 'Advent in My Pocket' Booklet

Advent begins on December 2nd and a new booklet with meditations and prayers for every day of the Advent season is free and available by request. The 28-page booklet, a pocket treasury of prayers for each day, was written by Sr. Fran McManus, RSM, and produced by the seven OFM provinces of the United States: Assumption BVM, Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Sacred Heart, St. Barbara, St. John the Baptist, and Holy Name. If you would like a copy, call 513-721-4700 ext 3219 or email friarworks@franciscan.org with your name and address.

Please help us keep our mailing list current

To remove your name or update your email or mailing address, please contact Barbara Allen, 4710 NE 141st Ave., Vancouver, WA 98682, 360-334-1566, rosesoap@gmail.com. Thank you.



November 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.

In Service of Peace: That the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict.

OFS: For the national fraternities of the United States, Portugal, Vietnam (VFP), Nicaragua (VFP) and for the CIOFS Presidency.

November Franciscan Saints and Blessed

- 4 St. Charles Borromeo
- 7 St. Didacus of Alcala
- 13 St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
- 14 St. Nicholas Tavelic
- 17 St. Elizabeth of Hungary
- 18 Bl. Salome
- 19 St. Agnes of Assisi
- 24 Commemoration of All Deceased of the Franciscan Orders
- 26 St. Leonard of Port Maurice
- 27 St. Francis Anthony Fasani
- 28 St. James of the March
- 29 All Saints of the Franciscan Orders

Thanksgiving Prayer

This Thanksgiving, let those of us who have much and those who have little gather at the welcoming table of the Lord.

At this blessed feast, may rich and poor alike remember that we are called to serve one another and to walk together in God's gracious world.

With thankful hearts, we praise our God who like a loving parent denies us no good thing.

Source: *Songs of Our Hearts, Meditations of Our Souls: Prayers for Black Catholics*



Treasurer's Report

by Jim Burns, OFS

Month ending September 30, 2018

Account balances	\$ 3365.56
General Income	\$ 375.00
General Expenses*	\$ 400.00

As of October 22, 2018

Account Balances	\$ 2815.56
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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

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