

Sandal Prints

St. Clare Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order
September 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,

In March, we had a presentation on human trafficking. It was both informational and disturbing. Thankfully, one thing the presenting group included was a list of actions and opportunities we could undertake if we wanted to be more involved. One group listed was Rahab's Sisters.

Rahab's Sisters is a safe space for women to gather each Friday night where they are served dinner, have time off the street or away from 'boyfriends' and pick up needed supplies such as socks, underwear and hygiene items. It operates out of St. Peter and Paul Episcopal Church on SE 82nd between Burnside and Stark. Volunteers serve the female guests (and those who self-identify as female), most of whom are 'unhoused' and over 45 years old. Some are prostitutes; many are addicts, and many are women of color.

Rahab's Sisters emphasizes 'Radical Hospitality.' From 7-10pm it is a place for women helping women no matter the guest's condition. Actively using drugs is discouraged, but no woman is turned away. Their vision is to live in the city of Portland where all women are safe from physical and sexual exploitation, offering a warm safe environment with nutritious food, hot coffee, conversation, and personal hygiene necessities. "Our sisters are welcomed without judgment, no strings attached."

I signed up to be a volunteer since I have one Friday evening a month that I don't have to work. And, even though I work full time in parish ministry, I am mindful that I still need to volunteer, to do service, for which I am not paid. The orientation that started at 5:30pm included a tour of the gathering space, discussion of services provided, and what to expect once the doors opened. At 6:30pm we gathered in the kitchen so that the volunteers could meet each other, review the schedule for the evening and know what was offered for dinner. At 7pm, the uniformed security guard was positioned at the front door (to keep the men out) and the doors were opened to welcome the guests. I had a chance to wait tables, work the drink station, monitor bathroom usage and to retrieve supplies for women. I also had the opportunity to have dinner and engage in conversation with a couple of women (and one dog).

Midway through the evening, the director took the new volunteers out to the parking lot, so we could observe the needle exchange program in action. Multnomah County Health Department staff were busy showing addicts how to use Narcan (for overdose recovery), counseling folks about rehab options, and exchanging needles. It is a program that I had heard about, but had never seen in action.

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September

Gatherings

9 Fraternity Gathering
1:15 pm, Parish Center
Christ the King Catholic Church
11709 SE Fuller Rd., Milwaukie, OR

Birthdays

30 Jerri Wagner

Profession Anniversaries

14 Sr. Loretta Schaff—54 yrs
27 Bruce Siggins—34 yrs

Refreshments & Vespers

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

Ongoing Formation

September 9, 2018
Francis/ Divinity of Christ/
Cosmic Christ

October 14, 2018
Outreach to the poor activity, TBD

November 11, 2018
Franciscan Theology/ Spirituality

Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

"When we now celebrate the 40th anniversary of our Rule, we have to remember, that it is not the gift itself, what we celebrate, but the giver, who is God himself. Let us live therefore this celebration by being grateful to Him and by giving thanks to Him with our prayer, with our love, with our entire life."

Tibor Kauser
CIOFS Minister General



History of St. Clare Fraternity

June 11, 1948

St. Clare Fraternity canonically established at St. Clare Parish.

At the time, there were 4 other fraternities in Portland:
Third Order of St. Francis (1916) Renamed

- *St. Bonaventure Fraternity* (1939) (Ascension Parish)
- *St. Anthony* (1917/St. Anthony Parish, Tigard OR)
- *St. Francis* (1924/St. Francis Parish)
- *St. John Vianney* (1944/Cathedral Parish)

1958: St. John Vianney Fraternity became inactive. Members transferred to St. Clare Fraternity or St. Bonaventure.

1964: St. Francis Fraternity became inactive. Members transferred to St. Bonaventure.

1968: St. Clare Fraternity moved meeting from St. Clare Parish, Portland, to St. Anthony Parish in Tigard, OR. Met separately from St. Anthony Fraternity. Provincial advised both to merge and become St. Clare Fraternity.

1969: St. Anthony Fraternity became inactive. Active members transferred to St. Clare Fraternity.

1973: A satellite from St. Clare Fraternity was initiated, taking the name of St. John Vianney.

1978: St. Bonaventure became inactive. Members transferred to St. Clare Fraternity.

1982: St. John Vianney of 1973 canonically established.

1992: St. John Vianney became inactive. Active members transferred to St. Clare Fraternity.

1997/98?: St. Clare Fraternity moved gathering to Franciscan Renewal Center.

2000: St. Clare Fraternity moved gathering to Ascension Parish.

2005: St. Clare Fraternity moved gathering to Christ the King Parish, Milwaukie, OR.

2018: St. Francis Fraternity, Eugene, sponsored by St. Clare Fraternity reactivated.

Presently, St. Clare Fraternity sponsors emerging San Buenaventura Fraternity, Ascension Parish.

**Chiara.
Clare of God.
Beloved patroness of the St. Clare Fraternity.**



*Through your intercession, Clare,
May the brothers and sisters of this Fraternity
remain faithful to their Profession declaration:
THIS IS WHAT I WANT!*

*Through your intercession, Clare,
May the brothers and sisters of this Fraternity
embrace the deeper call to Franciscan Life
as a Secular in the world that cries out for peace.*

*Through your intercession, Clare,
May the brothers and sisters of this Fraternity
be a witness of humility, minority and servanthood.*

*Through your intercession, Clare,
May the brothers and sisters of this Fraternity
Gaze, Consider and Contemplate the Incarnational
Christ in each other and those in their lives.*

*Through your intercession, Clare,
May the brothers and sisters of this Fraternity
show their concern for the poor through their
actions of generosity to those in need.*

*Through your intercession, Clare,
May the brothers and sisters of this Fraternity
live with JUBILEE JOY because of the Paul VI rule.*

*Through your intercession, Clare,
May the brothers and sisters of this Fraternity
continue the bonds of Fraternity beyond their
70 years of their founding and persevere into the
future with hope and unity.*



Stigmata of St. Francis: 3 Ways for Holiness

By Br. Vincent Mary Carrasco, O.F.M Cap.

In September, Franciscans throughout the world commemorate the day Francis received the Sacred Stigmata of Christ. One can say that this was God's way of answering the prayer of Francis. He asked God for two things. One, to let him experience the suffering Christ endured on the Holy Cross and two, for him to experience the love in which He did it. Receiving the Sacred Stigmata was an experience that led Francis to be totally transformed, leaving in his heart a marvelous fire in the remaining years of his life.

Minister's Message, continued from page 1

After three hours at Rahab's Sisters, the new volunteers were released to go home and reflect on the experience so as to discern a decision about making a six-month commitment. I went home and had so much to process. I couldn't settle down to sleep until late into the night. The next few days I was lost in thought as I tried to process my experience. I was truly out of my element.

There had been a table of donated items that were outside their program's parameters, which anyone could take at will. One basket had colorful foil wrapped items that I thought were small samples of shampoo. It wasn't until I really felt the packets that I realized they were condoms. Condoms just aren't part of my little Catholic parish world. It is one thing to know about transgender people as a concept, or an item in the news, and another thing to greet one as a sister. I wasn't prepared to see older Asian women who were homeless or the very skinny women who turned tricks on 82nd. It really showed me how disconnected I am from the lives of these women.

This experience of Radical Hospitality has changed me. I have had to acknowledge my discomfort and to recognize my limitations. Would I be able to give one Friday a month to Rahab's Sisters? Finally, after two weeks of prayer and discernment, I have accepted that I cannot make a six-month commitment. (My priority has to be my family and our fraternity.) But, I can help each 5th Friday, which happens about 4 times a year. And, I can offer to assist them behind the scenes with grant writing, etc. It has been humbling to know that I am not invincible.

Please keep those involved with Rahab's Sisters in your prayers. They are always in need of laundry soap and toilet tissue as well as personal items such as tampons, toothbrushes, toothpaste, travel size shampoo, travel size conditioner, and new underwear and socks. The volunteers offer each guest dignity and respect. The space they offer marginalized women is a vital service. It is a small port in a wild storm where women can hang out and be safe.

Peace and All Good,

Evelyn

According to the writings of Saint Bonaventure, Saint Francis was "led by divine providence to a high place apart called Mount La Verna." (*FAED II, Ch. 12*) Two years before his death, in what was his usual custom of fasting for 40 days in honor of Saint Michael the Archangel, Saint Francis would "experience more abundantly than usual an overflow of the sweetness of heavenly contemplations." (*FAED II, Ch. 12*)

In the days of the Exaltation of the Cross, Saint Francis was praying on the mountainside of Mt. La Verna and he saw a six-winged seraph, *fiery as well as brilliant, descend from the grandeur of Heaven*. Bonaventure writes, *as the vision was disappearing, it left in his heart [Francis] a marvelous fire and imprinted in his flesh a likeness of signs no less marvelous*. The Sacred Stigmata of the Crucified Christ were now embroidered into St. Francis and the mark of Christ's love were now visible to him and all who were around him. Here are some lessons from Francis' experience that can help us in our own journey towards holiness.

Be Marked.

Be Marked by the love of the Beloved. Bonaventure tells us that it was a custom of St. Francis to never rest from lifting himself up in prayer. He was always found in prayer, seeking the solitude of the quiet he would frequently go off to pray. He made himself available to God by his own desire to be transformed by God. He prayed out of perfect joy and perfect love, because of this, the very marks of Christ's wounds were engraved in him. The beauty is that God wants to make His mark in us, He wants to trace us with His love and respond to our reaching hearts. The mark may not be a physical mark but an indelible, unfading and enduring mark of love and unity. The challenge, is allowing God to transform our lives just like He did for St. Francis. If you haven't yet, allow God to make his Mark within you, and trust that through that mark, your life will be a fulfillment of His love, and a mark of discipleship. By this mark of love, we can enter into a relationship of prayer with Jesus Christ.

Gaze on the Crucified Christ.

When Francis witnessed the six-winged seraph, he immediately recognized the likeness of a man crucified.

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His hands and feet both extended in the form of a cross. At this, he eventually would learn that he would be transformed into the likeness of Christ crucified not by death but by the *enkindling of his soul*. Francis gazed on the Crucified Christ and it allowed him to be transformed. We can look on Christ crucified and recognize a poor, humble God who is the ultimate example of humility. The gaze for us is having an openness to God through the embrace of our hearts so that we too, can be transformed by the very seraphic spirit of God. It is a call to encounter God not only in the cross, but also in the suffering of our own humanity. By this gaze, we can have a real connection with those who are poor, those who are suffering, and those who are in fact, wounded in our own societies. It can also be a connection with ourselves who are often dead and broken from the effects of sin. In either one, the gaze on the Crucified Christ can guide us into a complete transformation out of ourselves and into the realm of the other, regarding their poverty, woundedness, suffering and lowliness with love. This is what St. Francis did. And it's what Jesus did!

"In my deepest wound, I saw your glory and it dazzled me." -St. Augustine

Look to the Cross

In Francis' experience of the six-wing seraph, not only did he see a man who had been crucified, but he saw a man who has fastened to a cross. In Francis's life, and even in today's Franciscan spirituality, the cross is a constant source of prayer. Francis had a deep love for the Cross and for him it was a reminder of when Christ first spoke to him at Damiano. The cross for us is where we can encounter God's love, it points us to the Resurrection and the truth that even in the most horrific and excruciating of deaths, God can still triumph. That example of the cross teaches us that despite death, chaos and violence there is in fact, glory, grace and peace. It reminds us that God is always near to us! Lastly, Bonaventure writes that the cross is a place where we can meet God and where the embrace of life with the cross can bring us to the happiness of our desires.

As we remember the Stigmata of St. Francis, may we always remember that Christ is present within us, wanting us to enter into His eternal glory. He places his mark within us and asks that we reach out to Him with a loving embrace in order that we be transformed just like St. Francis.

"Christ on the cross bows his head, waiting for you, that he may kiss you; His arms are outstretched, that he may embrace you, his hands are open, that he may enrich you; his body spread out, that he may give himself totally; his feet nailed, that he may stay there, his side open for you, that he may let you enter there."
-St. Bonaventure

Season of Creation September 1—October 4



A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation by Pope Francis

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your
tender love.
Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father's love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!

Amen.

Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi*



*This is the vigil of his passing and bears a special name — *Transitus*. The word is derived from the Latin meaning "crossing" or "going over."

Please join with Franciscans to
commemorate St. Francis' birth into eternal life.

Wednesday October 3rd at 7pm

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

10956 SE 25th Ave, Milwaukie OR

Light refreshment following





September 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.

Young People in Africa: 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 Blessed

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Bl. Beatrice of Silva
- 2 Bls. John Francis Burte, Severin Girault & Companions
- 4 St. Rose of Viterbo
- 17 Stigmata of Our Holy Father Francis
- 18 St. Joseph of Cupertino
- 20 St. Francis Mary of Camporosso
- 23 Finding the Body of St. Clare
- 26 St. Elzear of Sabran & Bl. Delphine

From Rome to Tacoma

September 21 – October 14

Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel: The Exhibition recreates the awe and wonder of arguably one of mankind's greatest artistic achievements and will let you experience this art from a new perspective.

With special expertise and care, the ceiling paintings from the Sistine Chapel have been reproduced using state of the art technology. For the observer to fully engage and comprehend the artwork, the paintings have been reproduced in their original sizes. Experience the overwhelming impression with the dimensions of the art, the closeness to the images, and the modern style of the exhibition. As a result, you'll be able to explore the artwork up close, which is impossible to achieve in the Sistine Chapel.

The exhibition is an innovative and unique interpretation of Michelangelo's timeless masterpiece. Guests who have already visited the Sistine Chapel will find a new way of observing the art. Visitors who have never seen the originals will be intrigued and inspired to visit the Sistine Chapel at some time in the future.

Tacoma Armory, 715 S. 11th St., Tacoma, WA
<https://tickets.broadwaycenter.org/>
 253-591-5894 or 800-291-7593

Treasurer's Report

by Jim Burns, OFS

Month ending July 31, 2018

Account balances	\$ 4461.99
General Income	\$ 280.00
General Expenses*	\$ 401.47

As of August 27, 2018

Account Balances	\$ 3291.99
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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

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Secretary

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