

Sandal Prints

St. Clare Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order
March 2019

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,

I am sad. My boss, the pastor of our parish, died unexpectedly a few weeks ago. After an intense period of communal prayer that included a memorial Mass, two wake services, an all-night Vigil for the Deceased and finally the funeral at the Cathedral with Archbishop Sample, I am trying to keep things on an even keel at the parish. Our retired priest-in-residence, who has enjoyed six months of hanging out with the parishioners, is having to hop into the administrator's position until a new pastor is assigned in July.

I am an agent of my pastor. My work is based on his understanding of the needs of the congregation and how best to bring Jesus Christ to them. Now that he is gone, I feel like the hole in the donut, but the donut is gone. So, as I live through my sorrow, I am having a hard time writing something meaningful to the fraternity. I am going to tell you about an incident that happened in Chicago a few years ago.

In December 2014 my daughter was coming to visit me in Chicago. It would be her first flight alone and only her second flight ever. I had only been in Chicago for a few months and hadn't mastered the "L" yet (My main exposure to it was on the television show *Emergency*.) I was downtown trying to find the Blue Line so I could meet her at O'Hare International Airport. I had my Google Maps on my phone, but I couldn't see the rail tracks anywhere.

After walking around a few blocks looking for someone to ask, I saw an older beggar woman on the street corner asking people for money. I figured that she was a local and would know about the Blue Line. When I drew close, she asked me for money, which I did not have. Before she turned to the next passerby, I asked her if she knew where the Blue Line was. She did! Turns out that the Blue Line in downtown is a subway, not elevated!!

Right before my eyes, I could see a transformation in her when I asked her for directions. She stood taller, spoke distinctly and with purpose and told me where it was. I had seen her as a valued resource, a person of worth and dignity. She wasn't the needy one; I was. I needed her and that gave her the respect she deserved. She wished me well as I headed in the right direction. Many homeless people have said that being invisible is one of the hardest things about life on the streets.

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Calendar

Gatherings

March

- 10 Fraternity Gathering
12:15 pm, Parish Center
Christ the King Catholic Church
11709 SE Fuller Rd., Milwaukie, OR
- 16 Book Study, 2:00 pm
Mike & Clare Reidy's home
- 25 Council Meeting, 5:00 pm
St. Joseph Catholic Church
6600 Highland Dr., Vancouver, WA

April

- 14 Fraternity Gathering
12:15 pm, Parish Center
Christ the King Catholic Church
11709 SE Fuller Rd., Milwaukie, OR

Birthdays

March

None this month

Profession Anniversaries

March

19 Giovanna Zanotto—55 yrs

Refreshments & Vespers

March 10, 2019

Jim & Lynne Burns, Barbara Allen

April 14, 2019

Potluck!



My experience with the beggar woman in Chicago taught me how simple it can be to see Jesus in the "other." It has truly impacted my understanding of being a minister.

Peace and All Good,

Evelyn

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 "MINDFULNESS".

The world needs peace but we cannot offer peace to the world if we lack inner peace ourselves, and mindfulness is a key ingredient to daily inner peace.

Psalm Fragment:

"The Lord has been mindful of us; he will bless us; ". For the month, practice being mindful in every activity you undertake. Avoid multi-tasking and focus on mindfully attending to one activity at a time. Notice how you are feeling as you are being "mindful".

Prayer for last month:

"God of peace, thank you for the gift of your great love and all that you give to us. Grant me the grace and the courage to live a life of mindfulness so that I may be faithful to the Gospels and to the mission of peace."

For the 7th month the theme is "HUMILITY".

In his Cantic of the Creatures, Francis writes: "Praise and bless my Lord, and give him thanks; and serve him with great humility."

Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less. It is knowing your place before God, and taking it. Being humble is a true knowing of yourself and your limitations. Humility is about being real and authentic with people and discarding the false masks. South African pastor, Andrew Murray once said, "Humility is perfect quietness of heart. It is to expect nothing, to wonder at nothing that is done to me, to feel nothing done against me. It is to be at rest when nobody praises me, and when I am blamed or despised. It is to have a blessed home in the Lord, where I can go in and

shut the door, and kneel to my Father in secret, and am at peace as in a deep sea of calmness, when all around and above is trouble."

When you have a modest view of your own importance, then God can enter into your littleness and create great and mighty works.

Psalm Fragment:

"And in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness; And Your right hand shall teach You awesome things." – Psalm 45:3-5

Reflection Question:

Where in your life do you need to humble yourself before the Lord and, before others?"

Prayer for this month:

Blessing (Given to Brother Leo at La Verna): May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord show his face to you and have compassion on you! May he turn his face to you and give you his peace! Amen.



open wide our hearts

the enduring call to love *a pastoral letter against racism*

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: March 21

Let Us Pray, asking Our Blessed Mother to intercede on our behalf:

Mary, friend and mother to all, through your Son, God has found a way to unite himself to every human being, called to be one people, sisters and brothers to each other.

We ask for your help in calling on your Son, seeking forgiveness for the times when we have failed to love and respect one another.

We ask for your help in obtaining from your Son the grace we need to overcome the evil of racism and to build a just society.

We ask for your help in following your Son, so that prejudice and animosity will no longer infect our minds or hearts but will be replaced with a love that respects the dignity of each person.

Mother of the Church, the Spirit of your Son Jesus warms our hearts: pray for us.

Source: Taken from Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love a pastoral letter against racism from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.



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 the OFS according to the life and important events of the Order.

Recognition of the Right of Christian Communities: That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

OFS: For the national fraternities of South Africa and for the CIOFS Presidency.

March Franciscan Saints and Blessed

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

Meet Me in the Desert

A Lenten Prayer

Lord of Lent, Lord of Easter,

As you went into the desert
So do I follow.

Putting aside that which distracts me
Grabs at me
Falsely claims me.

To search inside
To confront myself
My best, my worst
My good works and my sins.

And each time,
I find you there to call to me again
With words of challenge and words of mercy.

And as I fall to my knees,
in prayer, in fasting
in sacrifice and penitence,
Somehow, you have it in yourself to reach out and gently lift me.
To renew me.

To claim me as nothing of this world can claim me.

Meet me in the desert, Lord.
Claim me anew.

Amen

Source: Edward O'N. Hoyt/CRS. Copyright © 2015, Catholic Relief Services,

Treasurer's Report

by Jim Burns, OFS

Month ending January 31, 2019

Account balances	\$ 3221.92
General Income	\$ 165.00
General Expenses*	\$ 0.00

As of February 21, 2019

Account Balances	\$ 3386.92
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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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Vice-Minister

Tricia Fryer, OFS

Secretary

Barbara Allen, OFS

Treasurer

Jim Burns, OFS

Formation Director

Juan Urias, OFS

Councilors

Mike Reidy, OFS

To be filled

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Newsletter Editor

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

**Please help us keep our
mailing list current.** To change your mailing or email address, remove your name or to receive our newsletter electronically, contact Barbara Allen, rosessoap@gmail.com.