



THE CLARION

St. Conrad Fraternity, Order of Franciscans Secular
St. Margaret of Cortona Region
Hanover, Pennsylvania

November / December 2018

Pax et Bonum

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From the Desk of Sister Cecilia

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

There is no better season to appreciate the benefits of waiting than Advent. We are called to wait upon the Lord with courage and faith. At this time in the liturgical year, we remind ourselves of one of the basic ambiguities of our lives, that things are already present to us but not yet fully come. We are pilgrims who celebrate our destination while still journeying towards it. This special time is the Advent of the Lord, when we celebrate his arrival even as we still look forward to his coming.

As we contemplate the Incarnation during this Advent season, we see more deeply the depths of the love of our God for us. In his "Admonitions", Francis writes that the Father who dwells in "inaccessible light" is present in the Son through the love of the Spirit. "Each day he humbles himself as when he came from the royal throne into the Virgin's womb, each day he himself comes to us, appearing humbly." This is the mystery of the Incarnation, the Christ we meet in the Holy Eucharist.

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (Jn 1:14) As we enter into Advent, we pray for the grace to welcome our God as he already is in our lives. Jesus asks us to make our home in him as he makes his home in us. (Jn 15:4)

May our time of waiting for the celebration of Christmas be a joyful response to the Divine Presence within us!

In God's love,
Sister Cecilia, OSF

(Reprinted with permission from the November/December 2010 *Clarion*)

Minister's Message

The more I listen to the news lately, the worse I feel. The rhetoric seems so divisive, the positions of the Democrats and Republicans are so strongly held, the name-calling so outrageous, that I'm left just shaking my head and wondering about a society that has become so uncivil. "You cannot be civil with a political party that wants to destroy what you stand for, what you care about," Hillary Clinton said recently; while President Trump travels the country calling the press "the enemy of the people." The Brett Kavanaugh confirmation hearings were demoralizing, while politics at the state level is no more palatable.

When things begin to look bleak and miserable, it's a good time to take a step back and focus instead on the many joys and blessings God gives us each day. One day, Brother Masseo and St. Francis were on the road and, after having begged for food in a small town, sat by a spring looking at the meager fare. Brother Masseo was depressed and questioned how Francis could be so joyful over the pitiful amount of food. "Because we are so lucky!" said St. Francis. "But Father," said Masseo incredulously, "we have no tablecloth, no knife, no plates, no pitchers, no house..." Exclaimed Francis, "but everything has been supplied by God's providence – look at this bread we begged for, this fine white stone that serves as a table, and this cool clear water! Isn't it wonderful? So let us pray God to make us love with all our hearts that holy poverty to which He subjected himself from His birth until His death!" Francis' words completely changed Masseo's outlook.

St. Francis was a simple man, unschooled, who eschewed books and did not hold book learning in much esteem. In his day many of his more educated friars thought of St. Francis as a simpleton, yet he demonstrated such magnetism that he drew large numbers of men into a way of life unparalleled since the time of Christ. To focus only on his simplicity is to trivialize the man. Simplicity is nice but without passion, drive, courage and an ideological vision, little will be accomplished. Keeping his mind centered on God, through prayer, staying positive and seeing the blessings he possessed empowered him to act as few are able to do. Being uneducated and poor did not cause him to despair, instead he was excited to think, speak and act in ways that to this day are considered 'different' but were incredibly effective.

As we follow the events of our time, let's not get dragged down to an emotional fetal position thinking that we are powerless to change anything. St. Francis can be our model on how to not only cope but act positively and forcefully to effect changes in our society and our church while at all times living the gospel. While some of our leaders are 'going low,' we can be light to the world and demonstrate how everyone, leaders included, should be expected to act.

Pax et bonum,
Jeff Topper

Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, we beg you to send us many holy vocations, and to help those given such callings to respond freely, generously and faithfully. May their self-offerings and consecrations offer you fitting praise. Amen.

November Birthdays

No November Birthdays

November Profession Anniversaries

Mary Lou Gennaulla 11/2/1993
 Shirley Hewitt 11/4/2000
 Frank Klem 11/20/2016

November Necrology

Anna Corcoran 11/17/1990
 Pauline Figdore 11/20/1981
 Carolyn Hill 11/11/1999
 Betty McCormick 11/29/1990
 Dolores Pickell 11/7/1991
 Mildred Seymore 11/12/2002

Important Dates in November

Nov. 1 - All Saints Day (Solemnity)
 Nov. 2 - All Souls Day
 Nov. 4 - St. Charles Borromeo
 Nov. 11 - Veterans Day
 Nov. 17 - St. Elizabeth of Hungary
 Nov. 19 - St. Agnes of Assisi (sister of Clare)
 Nov. 21 - The Presentation of the BVM
 Nov. 22 - St. Cecilia (Sister's Feast Day)
 THANKSGIVING DAY
 Nov. 25 - Our Lord Jesus Christ the King

December Birthdays

Cathy Livelsberger 12/14

December Profession Anniversaries

Jackie Redding 12/6/1998

December Necrology

Gertrude Daylor 12/30/1977
 Francis Rang 12/30/1994
 Ruth Ratti 12/4/2016
 Charles Redding 12/23/1970

Important Dates in December

Dec. 2 - Fraternity Christmas Party
 Dec. 8 - Immaculate Conception of BVM
 Dec. 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe
 Dec. 15 - The Blessed Virgin Mary
 Queen of the Franciscan Order
 Dec. 25 - The Nativity of the Lord
 Dec. 30 - The Holy Family

Fraternity Prayer Vine

Please continue to pray for the health and the intentions of:

- José Barata
- Mary Barrick
- Pat Bilz
- Fr. Richard Forcier, ORM Conv
- Jessica – get well soon
- Mary Lou Gennaulla
- Concetta Glorioso-special intention
- Sherlynn Holland
- Mary Minor
- Jackie Redding
- Sr. Cecilia Reilly

Just a reminder: if you want your prayer need(s) added to the prayer vine, or if you wish to have your name removed, please let your editor know (717-637-2026).

Franciscan Obituary**Chester B. Barrick**

Hanover - Chester Burnell Barrick, 94, of Hanover, PA, entered God's eternal care on Sunday, October 21, 2018 at home with his loving family by his side.

Born October 14, 1924, in New Oxford, PA, he was the son of the late Chester J. and Ruth P. (Becker) Barrick. Chet was the devoted husband of Mary E. (Myers) Barrick with whom he shared seventy-two blissful years of marriage.

Chester attended Littlestown High School. As a veteran he served his country proudly in the United States Marine Corps from 1943-1946 during WWII. He established Chester B. Barrick Insurance Agency which he owned and operated for 44 years.

Chester was an active and faithful member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Hanover, PA. His other memberships included the American Legion-VFW Hanover Post 2506, BPOE Hanover Elks Lodge, Hanover Lions Club, and 4th Degree in the Hanover Knights of Columbus.

Chester created beautiful stained glass art including the stained glass windows in the Adoration Chapel in McSherrystown, PA.

Chet professed and became a Secular Franciscan on July 13, 2003.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions**November**

Universal: **In the Service of Peace**

That the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict.

December

Evangelization: **In the Service of the Transmission of Faith**

That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

Prayer at Gatherings

For November, we will pray the Liturgy of the Hours followed by a Rosary for our Fraternity. Please bring your breviaries.

There will be an Executive Council Meeting following the November Gathering. All officers please plan to attend!

December's gathering is our annual Christmas Party held, once again, at Jackie Redding's house at 6 Oak Street, Hanover. Mass will begin at 1 o'clock celebrated by Father Gotwalt. Please plan to attend.

Meeting Dates for 2019

- January 27
- February 24
- March 24
- April 28
- May 19
- June 30 – Annual Picnic
- July 28
- August 25
- September 22
- October 27 - Retreat
- November 17
- December 1 – Christmas Party

Final Thought