

# The Clarion



## St. Clare Fraternity December 2023

### Our Gathering

**Thursday, December 14, 2023**

#### Agenda

- ❖ Mass (in the church)
- ❖ Lunch w/ Raffle (*bring your own food & drink*)
- ❖ Business Matters
- ❖ On-Going Formation
- ❖ Evening Prayer

#### *A Gentle Reminder...*

If work, health reasons or significant family obligations hinder you from attending the gathering contact our Vice Minister, Marty Rendon and let him know.  
302-227-8163

#### EVENING PRAYER

(Try to prepare your book ahead of time)

St. John of the Cross

**1 vol.** pg.830

pg. 1436 (Reading, Responsory, Canticle Ant.)

pg. 696 (Canticle)

pg. 1425 (Intercessions) pg. 1342 (Prayer)

**4 vol.** pg. 886,

pg. 1467 (Reading, Responsory, Canticle Ant.)

pg. 669 (Canticle)

pg. 1453 (Intercessions) pg. 1247 (Prayer)

Hymn: Faith of Our Fathers

**1 vol.** pg. 1519 #31

**4 vol.** pg. 1466

Presider: Jim Mullen

Antiphonarian: Bev Stoner

Reader: Mary Ellen Tully

### Minister's Message

Brothers and Sisters of Penance,

Christmas is upon us, and this year we celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Seraphic Father's vision and display of the Persepio Francescano (Franciscan Nativity Scene), or the nativity re-enactment at Greccio. This was the first 'manger scene' ever, and precious few know its origin. Two weeks before Christmas in 1223 St. Francis enlisted the help of John of Velito to build the crib. Il Poverello had asked for and received permission from Pope Honorius III to create the living scene that was inspired by his time in the holy land in 1219 and 1220. He served as deacon at the Christmas Mass over the manger that night, chanting the gospel and then preaching. St. Francis intention was for the scene to make a lasting impact on those who saw it. Undoubtedly it did, and it continues to do so to this day. Thank you, St. Francis.

In the love of Francis and Clare,  
*Tom*





**Pennies & Nickels**

**Thank you...**

for your continued support of our Common Fund.

If you are ever unable to attend the gathering, send your donation check, payable to St. Clare Fraternity, to our treasurer:

**Andrea Lipchak, OFS**  
**41 Tiffany Drive**  
**Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971**



**Please bring non-perishable food items to donate to the food bank St. Edmond's parish supports**



We're having our raffle this month.

**Please, bring quality items!**

Why do we do this? To raise funds for our monthly support of the following organizations.

The Shepherd's Office  
Franciscan Missions

### Welcoming Ceremony

On November 9<sup>th</sup> we had The Introduction & Welcoming Ceremony for Sandy Paulin & Diane Zell as is customary before entering the Inquiry phase of formation.



Kate, Elena, Sandy, Diane, Tom & Nela

**Please continue to pray for all our fraternal sisters and brothers and for the special intentions of:**

- Janice & Dick McCarthy, ofs
- Linda Sciallo, ofs
- Frank Rega, ofs
- Bonnie Coté, ofs
- Kathleen Murphy, ofs
- Marty Rendon, ofs
- Joe O'Neill, ofs
- Judy Bennett, ofs
- Pat DuBois, ofs
- Mary McKeon
- Jim Mullen, ofs
- Nicole Meringolo, ofs
- Carolyn Protin, ofs



**We pray for our deceased relatives and friends and especially:**

- John Zell, ofs
- Mary Lou Zell, ofs
- Deacon Buddy Bianco, ofs
- Deacon Bob Leonzio
- Barbara Petrisko, ofs
- Bill Farrell, ofs
- Bill Walker, ofs
- Dee Matthews, ofs
- Laraine Hoffman, ofs
- Florence Bianco, ofs
- Celine Mallonee, ofs
- Alicia Bourne, ofs
- Ron Holland, ofs
- Fr. Ronald Pecci, ofm
- Lucy Deiaco, ofs
- Maury Robb, ofs



## December BIRTHDAYS

Marty Rendon	12/1
Jim Mullen	12/5
Pepper Tully	12/12
Joe O'Neill	12/25

## December PROFESSIONS

Andi Lipchak	12/12/2019
Loretta Hanley	12/12/2019
Nela Wintjen	12/12/2019
Kathleen Murphy	12/9/2021
Patty Derrick	12/9/2021
Maureen Ciano	12/9/2021
Pepper Tully	12/9/2021

## Our Chapter of Elections

### Coming Soon!



**March 14, 2024**



It's been nearly three years already and soon we will elect a new Council. Each brother and sister is **now** called to discernment! Is it your time to contribute your gifts to our family in this way? Who do you see in the fraternity that has talents to care for our community in a council position? Talk to them about it! Encourage each other! The description of each position is at the end of the newsletter. Please, read them and become familiar with them.



**Remember**  
**your prayer partner**  
**in your daily prayers**

## Scripture Study Coming Next Month

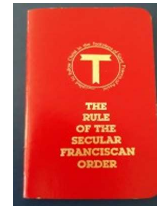
### **The Beatitudes and Francis of Assisi**

By: The Hagios Study

**Via Zoom**

Beginning on either January 8<sup>th</sup> (Mon.) or 9<sup>th</sup> (Tues.) AM or PM and lasting 8 weeks.

The cost of the book is \$20.00 The book will be available at our December gathering for viewing. If you want to participate, please contact Elena. I need to know ALL the days/times from above that you are available. We will choose the day/time when most are able to participate.



## The Rule - What we have promised

Chapter 2  
The Way of Life

6. They have been made living members of the Church by being buried and raised with Christ in baptism; they have been united more intimately with the Church by profession. Therefore, they should go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words. Called like Saint Francis to rebuild the Church and inspired by his example, let them devote themselves energetically to living in full communion with the pope, bishops, and priests, fostering an open and trusting dialogue of apostolic effectiveness and creativity.

**Reflection-** Sharing Christ's mission through life in the Church is the third point developed on the meaning of gospel living. By word and example, the Secular Franciscans bring to those around them the living Christ they have experienced. As it were, they become a living gospel for all to read. This evangelization is based on obedience to the Holy Spirit who inspires and forms the church, the body of Christ. So, the Secular Franciscans foster an openness to the spirit and creatively exercise their mission. Furthermore, they hear the call of the Spirit through loyalty, frank dialogue, and cooperation with the legitimate Church authority. This obedience makes ministry authentic and consistent without stifling their creativity.

*From Gospel to Life, The Rule with Commentary*  
 Benet A. Fonck, OFM  
 along with Natl. Spiritual Assts. Commission



## Looking Ahead...

### Christ Living in Me: Lent on LaVerna with St. Francis of Assisi - A teaching and journey

with Fr. Russel Murray, OFM

Saturday, **February 3, 2024** 9:30am - 3:00pm

Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America

1400 Quincy St. NE

Washington DC

Cost: \$30.00 (Lunch included)

Register by January 27, 2024 with Rita Colleran, OFS  
at [rlcolleran10@gmail.com](mailto:rlcolleran10@gmail.com)

### Day of Reflection for Inquirers and Candidates

Living a Penitential Life

with Fr. Stephen King, OFM Conv.

This special day is also extended to **all OFS members!**

Saturday, **February 24, 2024** 9:30am to 3:00pm

Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America

1400 Quincy St. NE

Washington DC

Cost: \$50 (lunch is included)

Register by February 17, 2024 with Rita Colleran, OFS  
at [rlcolleran10@gmail.com](mailto:rlcolleran10@gmail.com)

### St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Fraternity

Chapter of Mats

**September 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 2024**

Claggett Center in Adamstown, MD



### Our OFS Library

The library is **OPEN** for our December gathering!

Be sure to contact Nela by

**Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

if you want her to bring you something.

[Nelaad2239@hotmail.com](mailto:Nelaad2239@hotmail.com)

302-727-2919

### Future Fraternity Gatherings

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month

**Please make note!**

**2024**

January 11<sup>th</sup>

February 8<sup>th</sup>

March 14<sup>th</sup>

April 11<sup>th</sup>

May 9<sup>th</sup>

June 13<sup>th</sup> (St. Jude's)

July 11<sup>th</sup> (St. Jude's)

August 8<sup>th</sup> (St. Jude's)

September 12<sup>th</sup> (St. Jude's)

October 10<sup>th</sup>

### Laughing With St. Sarah



Brought to us by: Judy Bennett

### Council Members

**Minister:** Tom Carter 302-945-9392

**Vice Minister:** Marty Rendon 302-227-8163

**Secretary:** Kate Meire 302-698-0443

**Treasurer:** Andrea Lipchak 302-644-4434

**Formation Director:** Nela Wintgen 302-727-2919

**Councilor-Infirmarian:** Judy Bennett 302-260-9300

**Councilor-Newsletter:** Elena Spitzer 301-471-7487

**A MERRY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!!!**

# ST. CLARE FRATERNITY – DELAWARE

## **DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL**

### **COUNCIL**

#### **COMPOSITION:**

Minister  
Vice Minister  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Formation Director  
Councilor At Large  
Councilor - Infirmarian  
Spiritual Assistant

#### **DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL:**

1. To promote the initiatives for fostering fraternal life, for improving the human, Christian, and Franciscan formation of its members.
2. To make concrete and courageous choices, appropriate for the situation of the Fraternity, especially Apostolates.
3. To accept and admit to profession new members.
4. To animate and guide the Fraternity.
5. To establish fraternal dialogue with members in particular difficulties and adopt appropriate measures.
6. To receive requests for withdrawal and decide on suspension of a member from the Fraternity.
7. To decide on use of available funds.
8. To assign duties to councilors and/or other professed members.
9. To request the competent superiors of the four orders for suitable religious assistants.
10. To perform those other duties as identified in the Constitution and statutes.

### **MINISTER**

The Minister, as the primary person for the fraternity, shares co-responsibility with the Council to guide the fraternity. The Minister is expected to put into practice the decisions of the Council and will keep the Council informed about what he/she is doing.

#### **DUTIES:**

1. To call, preside and direct the meetings of the Council and Fraternity, to prepare an agenda for the meetings.
2. To convoke an election chapter of the Fraternity every three (3) years.
3. To prepare annual reports to be sent to the Council of higher level after it has been approved by the Council of the fraternity
4. To exhibit both in word and action a genuine commitment to the Gospel and Franciscan way of life.
5. To request, with the consent of the Council, the pastoral and fraternal visits, at least once every three (3) years.
6. To put into effect those acts which the Rule and Constitution refer to his/her competence.

## **VICE-MINISTER**

The Vice-Minister should be prepared to assist and support the Minister, and to assume complete responsibility for the Fraternity when the Minister is absent or sick. The Vice-Minister should possess qualities of leadership, allowing him/her to lead others.

### **DUTIES:**

1. To collaborate in a fraternal spirit and support the Minister.
2. To exercise the functions entrusted by the Council.
3. To take the place of the Minister in both duties and responsibilities in the event of absence or temporary impediment.
4. To assume the functions of the Minister when the office remains vacant.
5. To resume (temporarily) function of absent councilors.

## **SECRETARY**

The Secretary is someone who is “the right hand of the Council and the Minister”. He/she is responsible for recording the salient points of every meeting; accurate historically, and interestingly written. The Secretary is the historian and archivist of the Fraternity.

### **DUTIES:**

1. To record and complete the official acts of the Fraternity and of the Council.
2. To update and preserve records i.e. Fraternity roster, admissions, professions, deaths, withdrawals and transfers.
3. To provide pertinent important facts to the various levels as directed by the Council.

## **TREASURER**

The Treasurer is responsible for the common fund, contributions, and disbursements of finances of the Fraternity. The Treasurer is a permanent member of the Council.

### **DUTIES:**

1. To maintain and keep accurate accounts of all financial transactions of the Fraternity.
2. To report monthly to the Council as to the status of all those transactions.
3. To prepare with the Council the annual report to the region.
4. To send to the region the annual fair share contribution from the Fraternity.
5. To prepare the annual budget with the Council.

## **FORMATION DIRECTOR**

The Formation Director is the agent of information for all members, so that all brothers/sisters and candidates will be enlivened by the Holy Spirit to follow Christ in the pattern and rule that St. Francis gave. He/she must have knowledge of documents, general Constitution, OFS Rule, Vatican II and changes in Church and the Franciscan Order.

### **DUTIES:**

1. To coordinate the formative activities of the Fraternity.
2. To instruct and enliven the inquirers during the time of formation, the candidates and the professed.
3. To inform the Council of the Fraternity prior to profession concerning the suitability of the candidate for commitment to the Rule.
4. To assist the Minister in the ceremonies of Welcoming, Rite of Admission, and Profession.
5. To arrange the Retreat Day prior to Rite of Admission and Profession.
6. To arrange and apply a yearly schedule of ongoing formation.
7. To report monthly on the status of all in initial formation.

## **COUNCILOR AT LARGE**

The Councilor at Large serves by performing administrative and / or organizational duties assigned by the Minister.

### **DUTIES:**

1. To facilitate the completion and production of the Fraternity newsletter.
2. To organize the various rites celebrated by the Fraternity.
3. To facilitate the production of the programs and other materials for the various rites celebrated by the Fraternity.
4. To perform other administrative or organizational tasks as needed.

## **COUNCILOR – INFIRMARIAN**

The Councilor – Infirmarian is the primary contact with those Fraternity members who are sick and infirmed and represents the entire Fraternity in extending charity to those Fraternity members in need.

### **DUTIES:**

1. To accept all communications about the sick and infirmed (i.e. phone, e-mail, etc.).
2. To inform the entire community about the requests for prayers.
3. To visit or organize visits to the sick and infirmed when possible.
4. To report to the Council monthly.
5. To send appropriate cards and / or notes (sympathy, get-well, other special occasions).
6. To remember Fraternity members who have died in various Fraternity prayer services.
  7. To submit expenses for cards, postage, travel, etc. to the Treasurer.