

The Clarion



St. Clare Fraternity November 2023

Our Gathering

Thursday, November 9, 2023

Agenda

- ❖ Mass (in the church)
- ❖ Welcoming Ceremony (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



Remember to bring your brown Ritual book & Christian Prayer/Liturgy of the Hours.

Ordering of 2024 Guides for Liturgy of the Hours

S.J. Guide for Christian Prayer - Large Print - **\$5.00**
S.J. Guide for Christian Prayer - Regular Print - **\$3.00**
Franciscan-Roman Guide - **\$7.50**

Judy Bennett is taking orders and collecting money at our November gathering. Please, if possible, bring exact monies.

Minister's Message

Sisters and Brothers of penance,

Attendance at our Gatherings has been very good and gratifying over the last few months. Joining together, even for a short time, is uplifting to many of us who are glad to see the familiar, happy faces of others who have answered the call to the Third Order of Saint Francis. Unlike many other worthy groups in our Church, we are here because we were called to a vocation, the bond we share. We all struggle to keep conflicting obligations from keeping us from our Gatherings, though occasionally some events are beyond our control. I presumptuously speak for nearly everyone when I express my appreciation for your efforts to be an active Franciscan, living the Gospel and making Christ present in the world.

In the Love of Francis and Clare,

Tom



EVENING PRAYER

(Try to prepare your book ahead of time)

Feast of the Dedication of St. John Lateran

1 vol. pg. 1363

4 vol. pg. 1615

Hymn: The Church's One Foundation

1 vol. pg. 1574 #155

4 vol. pg. 1609

Presider: Rhona Prescott

Antiphonarian: Carolyn Protin

Reader: Marty Rendon



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.

We need quality items!

Please bring what you can.

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

The Shepherd's Office
Franciscan Missions

Greeting Card Ministry

We send cards to our brothers and sisters in fraternity who may not be well or have been away from our gatherings. It's a way to keep in touch and let folks know they are cared about.

Would you like to be a part of this ministry?

Contact Bev Stoner
ronbevstoner@gmail.com
302-645-1785

You're encouraged to contact one or more of our brothers and sisters below who have asked for our prayer.

Let's express our concern and support!

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

- Janice and Dick McCarthy, ofs
- Linda Sciallo, ofs
- Frank Rega, ofs
- Bonnie Cote, ofs
- Kathleen Murphy, ofs
- Rhona Prescott, ofs
- Marty Rendon, ofs
- Carolyn Protin, ofs
- Nicole Meringolo, ofs
- Andy Zampini, ofs
- Judy Bennett, ofs
- Maureen Ciano, 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



November BIRTHDAYS

Dianne Barbacano	15 th
Ellen Oneto	23 rd

November PROFESSIONS

Elena Spitzer	11/10/2011
Kate Meire	11/30/2001



Our OFS Library

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

Be sure to contact Nela by
Wednesday, November 8th
 if you want her to bring you something.
 Nelaad2239@hotmail.com
 302-727-2919



Remember
your prayer partner
in your daily prayers

Scripture Study Coming in the New Year

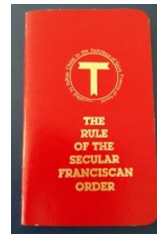
The Beatitudes and Francis of Assisi

By: The Hagios Study
Via Zoom

Beginning early January on either Monday or Tuesday. It will last 8 weeks.

The cost of the book is \$20.00

The book will be available at our November and December gatherings for you to view.



The Rule - What we have promised

Chapter 2
 The Way of Life

5. Secular Franciscans, therefore, should seek to encounter the living and active person of Christ in their brothers and sisters, in Sacred Scripture, in the Church, and in liturgical activity. The faith of Saint Francis, who often said, "I see nothing bodily of the Most High Son of God in this world except his most holy body and blood," should be the inspiration and pattern of their Eucharistic life.

Reflection- The Lord gives us the grace to fulfill any task he puts before us. If he has called us to Franciscans for the Church and the world by observing the gospel, we are certain that he provides the means to accomplish this vocation. One of the primary ways that his grace is manifested to us is through his own presence, which is always present in various forms for us to encounter and respond to. Through such interaction with the living and active person of Christ, our relationship with him becomes more intense, our commitment to the gospel is deepened, and our three-fold task of change of heart, community-building, and evangelization become more firmly our way of life.

Called to Proclaim Christ
Short Reflections on the SFO Rule
 Benet A. Fonck, OFM

Future Fraternity Gatherings

2nd Thursday of each month

Please make note!

2023

December 14

2024

January 11

February 8

March 14

April 11

May 9

June 13th (St. Jude's)

July 11th (St. Jude's)

August 8th (St. Jude's)



Pope Francis visiting Greccio

In honor of the 800th Anniversary of Greccio, Christmas 2023 at the Vatican will recall the **first ever manger scene**, created by St. Francis. The unveiling will be on December 9th.



Looking Ahead...

800TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRECCIO NATIVITY

National Celebration Zoom Event

Sunday

November 19, 2023

3:00pm

To receive an invite, send an email to:
nafacentenarytaskforce@googlegroups.com

** Save the Date**

St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Fraternity

Chapter of Mats

September 6th – 8th 2024

Claggett Center in Adamstown, MD

Laughing With St. Sarah



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 301-471-748

Let Me Tell You About Jimmy By Rhona Prescott

There has been quite a bit of publicity recently, over Shepherd's Office in Georgetown. I, for one, am deeply involved with their mission and ministry.

So let me tell you about one of the men who makes it all happen: Jimmy. Many years ago, a six-year-old boy who came from an unstructured home, declared to his parents, when in first grade, that he wanted to be baptized. Reluctantly, they, though unchurched, agreed. Pushing it, Jim then said he wanted to be baptized... Catholic. Figuring it didn't much matter, they said that would be fine. Picture this: Out of nowhere this little kid drops some heavy stuff on parents who don't spend much time with their children, but they have no idea how heavy this is and went along with it, to get the child out of their hair. Now frame that picture. Little Jimmy had become one of us, sacramentally. Was something supernatural in the works? Breakfast at home was kind of hit or miss. There was dry cereal in the cupboard. The kids could take it or leave it. Jimmy left it ... because there was daily Mass down the street, but he didn't mention that. Someone eventually noticed that this kid was always at Mass yet always hungry...and began passing him a snack before he ran to school. Taking things a bit further, Jimmy asked the nice priest if he could be an altar boy, pointing out he was there anyway and there was no server. Sure, why not, agreed the priest. With server duty came a friendship and mentoring. Holy Spirit at work. Years later, many years later, Jim had managed graduation and admission to Villanova in Philly. And... and ... he started seminary. Who would have guessed? That went well until a summer recess. Enter pretty girl. Uh oh. Jim saw his vocation was marriage. Maybe too fast. Two children later, the marriage crashed. Totally devastated, Jim blamed himself, gave everything to his family and walked away with only the shirt on his back. Homeless, jobless, directionless, life turned around and Jim was in a deep valley. There he found alcohol, body warming, mind numbing alcohol. There are some gray areas there, little memory. Slowly, he climbed the mountain. His charm and intelligence managed him work and shelter. One of the jobs was at a kind of store that catered to the poor. He took that store from borderline existence to profitable. Jim discovered he could write grants, manage people and that he had a heart for the homeless. And he met a Christian lady; this one was a "keeper". Which brings us to Shepherd's Office. Jim fell upon a "man of means" who wanted to open a shelter and needed a director. That was about five years ago. The two men, both committed Christians, did so... and it stands in Georgetown, DE today; Shepherd's Office on North Bedford St.



Blessed John Duns Scotus

Dates: 1265? – 1308

November 8th



John was born in Duns in the Scottish Borders, in late 1265 or early 1266. His name signifies that he was John, the Scot from Duns. He was the son of Ninian of Duns. Educated initially in the monastic abbeys of Melrose and Dryburgh, at 13 he began to study at the friary school in Haddington in Berwickshire. His paternal uncle Elias of Duns was elected Custos of Newcastle, which Custody contained all of Scotland, in 1278. At 15, John was admitted to the Order in Dumfries by his uncle, although he was below the canonical age of 18.

Tradition recounts that on Christmas night in 1281, while he was preparing for his religious profession, he had a vision of the Child Jesus appearing in his arms, reflecting, and firing his love for Jesus and his Blessed Mother. Having finished his studies, he was ordained a priest at the age of 25, on 17th March 1291 by Oliver Sutton, the Bishop of Lincoln in the Church of St. Andrew in Northampton. He was soon given the faculties to hear confessions, which at that time were not given automatically but were reserved to those trusted for their sound doctrine and good advice.

He went on to study in Oxford and then Paris and should have received his promotion as Regent Master in 1303 but was prevented from doing so because he supported Pope Boniface VIII in his conflict with King Philip the Fair of France. John's name is 19th on the list of "non-appellants" who took the Pope's side. He left Paris until the death of Pope Boniface tempered the dispute between the French monarch and the Papacy.

In November 1304 Gonsalvo of Spain, John's former teacher, wrote recommending him to the friars in Paris. He was received back to studies and on 26th March 1305 became Regent Master of the Franciscan school at the university of Paris. Here he constructed his Christocentric theology in which the incarnation of the Word is presented as the highest of God's works (*summum opus Dei*), willed from the beginning of creation, rather than as a remedy for sin. His defense of the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, is a consequence of this central position of Christ in creation. For Christ to be the perfect mediator of redemption, he must have mediated that redemption perfectly to at least one person. Indeed, he did, to his Mother, whom he protected from all stain of sin, even original sin, since it is more perfect to protect from sin altogether than it is to free from sin after it has been contracted. This doctrine he defended in Paris in the first months of 1307.

In July that year he left Paris for Cologne in order to reorganize the friars' studium there and to combat heresy. His febrile pace of work left him weak and vulnerable to the disease to which he succumbed on 8th November 1308, just 43 years old. Pope John Paul II confirmed the cult of Blessed John Duns Scotus on 20th March 1993. [1]

[1] F. Bracci and A. Pozzebon. *Frati Minori Santi e Beati*. Rome: Postulazione Generale Ordine dei Frati Minori, 2009. p. 101 – 105.