

The Clarion



St. Clare Fraternity March 2024

Our Gathering

Thursday, March 14, 2024

Agenda

- ❖ Inquirers meet with Instructor
- ❖ Mass (**in the church**)
- ❖ Lunch (**in the parish hall, downstairs**)
(bring your own food & drink)
- ❖ Election
- ❖ Evening Prayer

A GENTLE REMINDER...

IF WORK, HEALTH REASONS OR SIGNIFICANT FAMILY OBLIGATIONS HINDER YOU FROM ATTENDING THE GATHERING PLEASE CONTACT OUR VICE MINISTER, MARTY RENDON. 302-227-8163

EVENING PRAYER

(Try to prepare your book ahead of time)

Thursday of the 4th Week of Lent

1 vol. pgs. 973 & 355
 4 vol. pgs. 1583 & 318
 Hymn: O God, Our Help in Ages Past
 1 vol. pg. 1586 #182
 4 vol. pg. 1301
 Presider: Tom Carter
 Antiphonarian: Maureen Ciano
 Reader: Fr. William Cocco

Minister's Message

Brothers and Sisters of Penance,

So ends three great years for your servant leaders on the Council. Not great because of the Council, but because of you, the Fraternity; your faithfulness and commitment to the Franciscan charism, your constancy in support of the Fraternity, and your love for one another. I believe I speak for the Council when I say that serving you has been an honor and at the same time a humbling experience. Let me express my gratitude for those who have served on the Council with such commitment to every challenge. May the next three years continue to bring peace and good to all.

In the love of Francis and Clare,
Tom



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



Urgent Need Among Us!!!

From our sister, Nela

Sadly, with the economy being what it is today **Mary's House** (food pantry for Mary Mother of Peace Church) find themselves short of food for the many people in need. Every Monday we distribute bags of groceries from 9 AM to 12 noon. We used to serve 50 families but now that number has doubled. We used to be open every Monday but because the stock has been so low, we have to close one Monday a month. If you can please bring something to our next gathering to help stock the shelves again. We have plenty of canned vegetables. We are in dire need of the following:

Tuna, Cereals, Pasta Sauce, Pasta and Peanut Butter

Your help will be very much appreciated! If you prefer to donate cash, I will do the shopping for you.

Let's help fill the shelves!!

Chapter of Elections

At next gathering!



Preparations have been made. Our regional vice-minister Michael Huether, OFS and regional spiritual assistant, Br. Michael Meza, OFM will be with us. We've encouraged and nominated folks. Pepper Tully, our secretary of elections has organized our slate of nominees. STILL, the Spirit is working... Remember, before the election process begins, we will be able to nominate from the floor.

The description of each position is at the end of the newsletter.

To vote in the election, you must be present!! Please, make every effort to attend this gathering!!!

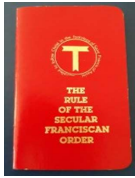
We pray for all our fraternal sisters and brothers and for the special intentions of:

Janice & Dick McCarthy, ofs
Linda Sciallo, ofs
Bonnie Coté, ofs
Fr. Rigo Azanwi, ofm, cap
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
Rhona Prescott, ofs
Vincent Bertone, ofs
Mary Ellen Tully, 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
Fr. Ronald Pecci, ofm
Lucy Deiacco, ofs
Maury Robb, ofs



The Rule - What we have promised

Chapter 2 The Way of Life

9. The Virgin Mary, humble servant of the Lord, was open to his every word and call. She was embraced by Francis with indescribable love and declared the protectress and advocate of his family. The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently.

Reflection- We get an insight into the way the Blessed Virgin Mary is the model for our gospel living when we reflect on the *Angelus*...

First, we pray: "The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary, and she conceived of the Holy Spirit." We acknowledge, along with Mary, the basic premise of faith: the Lord takes the initiative in working wonders and bringing about salvation. Thus, in response, we apply this principle by adopting a counter-culture lifestyle that proclaims that true wealth is God's revelation and our selfless service through love, as a result, we detach ourselves from any possession that blocks that revelation, for us and for others, and drains off the effect of our loving service. We refuse to buy into today's rampant consumerism, the "must have" sell-job of advertising or media or government, and the economic doctrine of any particular political system. In imitation of Mary, our lifestyle is complete openness to the Lord, unencumbered by a slavery to possession, power or pride.

Then we say: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word," we acknowledge, along with Mary, that God's revelation comes to completion when we surrender to him and let him penetrate our lives with his redeeming power. Thus, in response, we apply this principle by practicing a counter-culture style of obedience and dedication. God alone is the Lord of life, not money or power, not politics or business. Above any earthly citizenship, we pledge our allegiance to the person of God and use his message of the gospel as our primary charter, or constitution, for living. When earthly systems violate the tenets of the gospel, we stand up for the Word of God and against any travesty of his message, in imitation of Mary, we recognize the Lord God as the

motivating and generating force of life, rather than any earthly system.

Finally, we proclaim: "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." We acknowledge, along with Mary, that our cooperation with God's grace facilitates the presence of the Lord in this human dimension of ours. Precisely because the Lord is here, living and active among us, he renews the face of the earth and draws all people to himself. We, in response, apply this principle by adopting a counter-culture approach to morality. We take on the mission of Jesus Christ and live as he did instead of choosing a "me-istic," self-serving, self-proclaiming doctrine of self-pleasure, self-prominence, and self-reproagation. In imitation of Mary, we carry the Lord Jesus in our hearts and give birth to him time and time again by doing good. As other christs, as his own Mystical Body, we fulfill in our lives his own work: "The spirit of the Lord is upon me; therefore, he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and release to prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord" (Lk 4:18-19)

When we imitate Mary's earnest and confident prayer, we establish within ourselves a God-oriented direction for life. When we imitate her self-giving, we proclaim this life and message to a world in need of redemption.

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



March BIRTHDAYS

Kathleen Murphy	3/11
Pat Dubois	3/25
Andy Zampini	3/26
Nicole Meringolo	3/29

March PROFESSIONS

None



Looking Ahead...



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

St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Fraternity

2024 Chapter of Mats

September 6th – 8th

Claggett Center in Adamstown, MD

The Next 800 Years

Exploring where we have been, where we are
now & where we are going

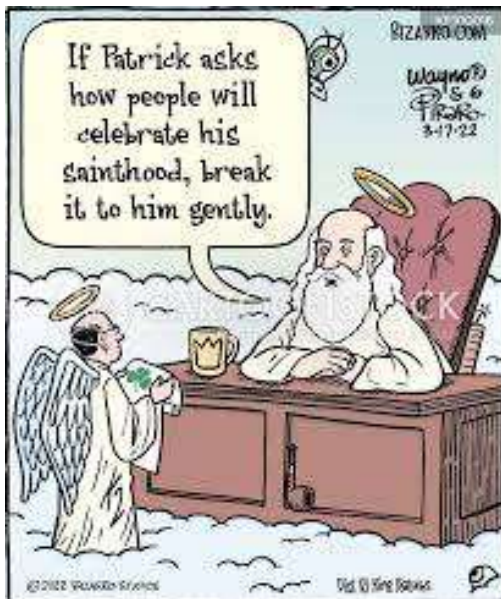
If you have not been to a Chapter of Mats, I
highly recommend experiencing it!! It's a time of
great joy being with so many fellow Franciscans.

Registration is now open!

See details in the *current regional newsletter*.
I (Elena) have registered and would love to see
you there!!

Laughing With St. Sarah

(Patron saint of laughter)



Future Fraternity Gatherings

2nd Thursday of each month

Please make note!

2024

April 11th

May 9th

June 13th (St. Jude's)

July 11th (St. Jude's)

August 8th (St. Jude's)

September 12th (St. Jude's)

October 10th

November 14th

December 12th

2025

January 9th

February 13th

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 CONTINUED BLESSED LENTEN SEASON
FOR ALL OF YOU!

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.