

The Clarion



St. Clare Fraternity January 2024

Our Gathering

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Agenda

- ❖ Inquirers meet with Instructor
- ❖ Mass **(in the parish hall)**
- ❖ Lunch upstairs in classrooms w/ Raffle
(bring your own food & drink)
- ❖ Business Matters
- ❖ Mini presentations about council positions
- ❖ Extraction of Saints, Maxum & Prayer Partners
- ❖ On-Going Formation (given by Fr. Cocco)
- ❖ 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)

Thursday of the 1st Week in Ordinary Time

1 vol. pg. 754

(Begin Volume III) 4 vol. pg. 780

Hymn: *For the Fruits of His Creation*

1 vol. pg. #37 pg. 1521

4 vol. pg. 779

Presider: Nela Wintjen
Antiphonarian: Andy Zampini
Reader: Judy Bennett

Minister's Message

Brothers and Sisters of Penance,

As with every new year, we review our spiritual journey of the previous year and begin to put together an itinerary for the year ahead. We evaluate the successful and not-so-successful personal efforts of the last twelve months and pencil-in entries to our 2024 to-do list, keeping the flexibility for course correction. That's why we use a pencil; if we ink it in and discard it, we spend too much time looking at what we did not do. Moving ahead, what should we consider for faith goals in 2024? With penance as the top priority, let us plan to spend more time in prayer and in Eucharistic adoration; more reading of Franciscan literature such as Thomas of Celano and St. Bonaventure and the Little Flowers of St. Francis; more frequent reconciliation and daily Mass attendance. There are so many paths available to us that focus is imperative, so sharpen your pencils and begin. And remember, to stand still is to fall back. Best wishes and prayers for a successful year!

In the love of Francis and Clare,
Tom



For Christmas we sent \$100.00 to both the Shepherd's Office and Franciscan Missions.

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

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
- Marty Rendon, ofs
- Carolyn Protin, ofs
- Andy Zampini, ofs
- Mimi Farrell, ofs
- Elena Spitzer, ofs
- Bonnie Coté, ofs
- Pat Holland, ofs
- Rhona Prescott, ofs
- Judy Bennett, ofs
- Kathleen Murphy, ofs



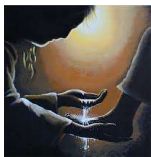
We're having our raffle this month. **Please, bring quality items!**

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

The Shepherd's Office
Franciscan Missions



Our Chapter of Elections
Coming Soon!



March 14, 2024



This is such a special time within each fraternity. Consider what our fraternity would be like if we had no council. Really ponder that notion... A council is a gift to the fraternity! **Each member** holds responsibility to discern this topic and to participate in the development of a slate of nominees. That means **YOU!** Is it your time to contribute your gifts? Who do you see in the fraternity that has talents to offer in caring for our community through 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 and become familiar with them.

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

Father Rigo Came to Visit

By Marty Rendon



We were so blessed to have Fr. Rigo with us at our December Fraternity Meeting! His reflections about the Christmas Crèche in Greccio by St. Francis were a wonderful contribution to our Advent journey.



January BIRTHDAYS

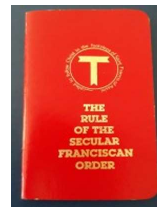
Connie Kemp-English	1/1
Cindy Downs	1/4
Fr. Rigo Azanwi, OFM Cap	1/25

January PROFESSIONS

Fr. William Cocco	1/9/2020
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Remember
your prayer partner
in your daily prayers



The Rule - What we have promised

Chapter 2 The Way of Life

7. United by their vocation as “brothers and sisters of penance” and motivated by the dynamic power of the gospel, let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the Gospel itself calls “conversion.” Human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily.

On this road to renewal the sacrament of reconciliation is the privileged sign of the Father’s mercy and the source of grace.

Reflection- Look at Francis. He wasn’t Assisi’s great public sinner, but still he had to get off his high horse and kiss the leper in order to achieve a new and decisive breakthrough in his relationship with God. It was no longer enough for him to follow the ordinary and expected religious practices of his day.

The same with us. Conversion isn’t just a once-in-a-lifetime experience or a good idea now and then. It is an ongoing program to critique and better our growth toward the Lord.

We can’t be content with a personal spirituality that is so narrow and set in its ways that it hasn’t had a face-lift in a few years.

We cannot in conscience bemoan changes in the liturgy or discipline of the church, complain about the activities or ideologies of certain groups or classes of people, or blame someone else besides ourselves for shortages or high prices, without first attempting to understand the reasons behind an issue or action, walking in the other side’s shoes for a while, and doing our part to improve a situation.

Yes, conversion means turning more closely toward the Lord. By the same token, it also means a greater sensitivity and consciousness for applying the gospel to interpersonal and social situations, to the political and economic issues of the day, and to the very personal questions of prayer and repentance.

When we pledge to “observe the holy gospel,” we likewise pledge a “radical interior change” from the deepest recesses of the heart to the farthest outreach of our involvements.

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



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 rcolleran10@gmail.com

Future Fraternity Gatherings

2nd Thursday of each month

Please make note!

2024

February 8th

March 14th

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

St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Fraternity

Chapter of Mats

September 6th – 8th 2024

Claggett Center in Adamstown, MD

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. Now is the
time to put it in your calendar!

Laughing With St. Sarah

(Patron saint of laughter)



Our OFS Library

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

Be sure to contact Nela by

Wednesday, January 10th

if you want her to bring you something.

Nelaad2239@hotmail.com

302-727-2919

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-Infirmary: Judy Bennett 302-260-9300

Councilor-Newsletter: Elena Spitzer 301-471-7487

A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!