

# The Clarion



## St. Clare Fraternity February 2024

### Our Gathering

**Thursday, February 8, 2024**

#### Agenda

- ❖ Inquirers meet with Instructor
- ❖ Mass **(in the parish hall)**
- ❖ Lunch upstairs in classrooms 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 PLEASE CONTACT  
OUR VICE MINISTER,  
MARTY RENDON.  
302-227-8163**

#### EVENING PRAYER

**(Try to prepare your book ahead of time)**

#### Thursday of the 5<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

1 vol. pg. 754

4 vol. pg. 780

Hymn: All Creatures of Our God and King

1 vol. pg. #14 pg. 1513

4 vol. pg. 896

Presider: Vincent Bertone

Antiphonarian: Jackie Boyd

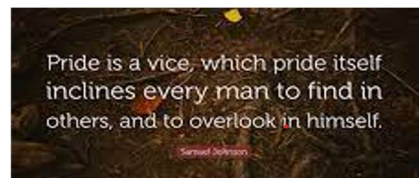
Reader: Fran Butler

### Minister's Message

Brothers and Sisters of Penance,

The tree of pride. If you have one in your faith orchard you already know that its fruit is bitter and uprooting it and burning it is the thing to do. But how? We've all come face-to-face with pride, and we know how devastating it can be as the prime cause of sin. Pride can cause one to sin in just about everything: Offenses against God and neighbor, both of whom we are commanded to love. The opposite of pride is humility, and not just hanging our heads and claiming to be unworthy servants. A good help in digging up the root of pride is the Litany of Humility written by Cardinal Merry de Val: <https://stfrancisnewtonparish.com/the-litany-of-humility/> And don't forget that each whack against this pride tree brings us closer to a deeper and more genuine love of one another.

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



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

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

- Janice & Dick McCarthy, ofs
- Linda Sciallo, ofs
- Marty Rendon, ofs
- Carolyn Protin, ofs
- Andy Zampini, ofs
- Mimi Farrell, ofs
- Elena Spitzer, ofs
- Bonnie Coté, 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



**Chapter of Elections**  
**Next Month!**



**March 14, 2024**



Our election is one month away!

**Please know, if you have been a member of Council in the past, you are eligible to be a council member now.** We are called to serve in these roles' multiple times in fraternal life!

Remember, our fraternity is always in need of **your** gifts! Who do you see in the fraternity that has talents to offer our community through a council position?

**Talk to them about it! Encourage each other!**

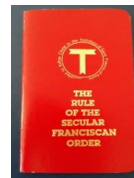
The description of each position is at the end of the newsletter.

**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 Deiaco, ofs
- Maury Robb, ofs

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

# Let's Celebrate



## The Rule - What we have promised

Chapter 2  
The Way of Life

### February BIRTHDAYS

Natalie Blakely	2/11
Mary-Anna Harvie	2/18
Jeri Pierce	2/20

### February PROFESSIONS

Vincent Bertone	2/11/1993
Marty Rendon	2/11/2017



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

### News from the Vatican



Pope Francis announces Year of Prayer (which began Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>) to prepare for the 2025 Jubilee. "Dear brothers and sisters, the coming months will lead us to the opening of the Holy Door, with which we will begin the jubilee." "I ask you to intensify your prayer to prepare us to live this event of grace well and to experience the power of God's hope. That is why today we begin a Year of Prayer."

*Pope Francis*

8. As Jesus was the true worshipper of the Father, so let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all they are and do.

Let them participate in the sacramental life of the Church, above all the Eucharist. Let them join in liturgical prayer in one of the forms proposed by the Church, reliving the mysteries of the life of Christ.

**Reflection-** Worship is given as one of the basic foundations of Franciscan gospel living in the Secular Franciscan rule. We cannot know Christ, seek his presence, and share his work in our own lifestyles and ministries, if we do not pray.

It is foolish and misguided to believe that we can renew the face of the earth without the intimacy with God that comes through prayer. It is equally off-track to believe that one's novenas and rosaries have nothing to do with peace talks, food prices, and integration in our school systems.

We pray to know God. We know God to know our own situation in both solidarity and opposition. We need to know our own situation to redeem it and bring it to the Lord. A creative and productive prayer life is one of the first steps in a long continuum of evangelization of peoples and systems. We cannot afford to relegate prayer to some forgotten corner in our renewal of society. Nor can we afford to disassociate our prayer from society's needs and maintain a humdrum, uninvolved style of worship.

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

**Grace** is when God gives us good things that we don't deserve.

**Mercy** is when He spares us from bad things we deserve.

**Blessings** are when He is generous with both.

Truly, we can never run out of reasons to thank Him.

**Contributed by our sister, Patty Derrick**



## Looking Ahead...

### 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 [ricolleran10@gmail.com](mailto:ricolleran10@gmail.com)



### National Centre for Padre Pio

Our sister, Mary-Anna Harvie brings to our attention the National Centre for Padre Pio in Barto, PA. They offer many opportunities via in person (a 3 hr. drive), their Facebook page and their YouTube channel including "live" Stations of the Cross virtually. As Lent approaches you may find an interest here.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/padrepioinc>

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/@padrepioinc>

Website: [www.padrepio.org](http://www.padrepio.org)

### St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Fraternity

#### Chapter of Mats

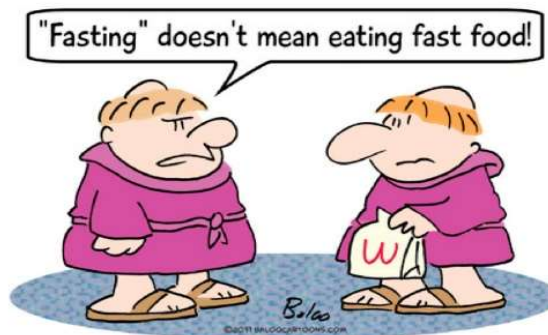
**September 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 2024**

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)



### Future Fraternity Gatherings

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

***Please make note!***

**2024**

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>

November 14<sup>th</sup>

December 12<sup>th</sup>

### 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 Blessed Lenten Season to All!

## How St. Francis Passed the Time of Lent

from *The Little Flowers of St. Francis of Assisi*

The true servant of Christ, St Francis, was in certain things like unto a second Christ given to the world for the salvation of souls. Wherefore God the Father willed that in many points he should be conformed to his Son, Jesus Christ, as we have already explained in the calling of his twelve companions, as also in the mystery of the holy stigmata, and in a fast of forty days which he made in the manner following.

St Francis, one day of the Carnival, was near the Lake of Perugia, in the house of one of his devout children, with whom he had spent the night, when he was inspired by God to go and pass the time of Lent in an island on the lake. Wherefore St Francis begged his friend, for the love of God, to convey him in his boat to an island uninhabited by man: the which he should do during the night of Ash Wednesday, so that none might know where he was; and the friend, because of the great devotion he bore to St Francis, agreed to his request, and conveyed him to the said island, St Francis taking with him naught but two small loaves.

When they had reached the island, his friend left him and returned home; the saint earnestly entreating him to reveal to no one where he was, and not to come and fetch him before Holy Thursday; to which he consented. St Francis being left alone, and there being no dwelling in the island in which he could take shelter, entered into a thick part of the wood all overgrown with brambles and other creeping plants, and forming as it were a kind of hut, there he began to pray and enter into the contemplation of divine things.

And there he passed the whole of Lent without drinking or eating save half of one of the small loaves he had taken with him, as we learned from his friend who, going to fetch him on Holy Thursday, found one of the loaves untouched and the other only half consumed.

*It is believed that St Francis ate this half out of reverence for our Blessed Lord, who fasted forty days and forty nights without taking any material food; for by eating this bit of bread he put aside the temptation to vainglory, and yet fasted forty days and forty nights in imitation of the Saviour.*

In later times God worked many miracles, through the merits of the saint, on the spot where St Francis had fasted so wonderfully, on which account people began to build houses and dwell there, and little by little a town rose up, with a convent called the Convent of the Isle; and to this day the inhabitants of that town hold in great respect and great devotion the spot in which St Francis passed the time of Lent.



**Statue of St. Francis on the (believed to be) spot where he arrived on Isola Maggiore.**

## **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.