

The Clarion



St. Clare Fraternity

SEPTEMBER 2020

“FOLLOW JESUS BY WALKING IN THE STEPS OF FRANCIS OF ASSISI, AND IMITATE HIS JOYFUL LOVE”

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We know that prior to his conversion, St. Francis was repulsed by the sight and smell of lepers. His conversion came when he was confronted by a leper and was moved to embrace him. This embrace changed his life. Francis says that what was once a disgusting sight for him became something sweet.

In his Testament, Francis writes:

“The Lord inspired me, Brother Francis, to begin a life of penance in this way: for when I was in sin, it seemed very bitter for me to see lepers. And the Lord Himself led me among them and I had mercy on them. And when I left them, what had seemed bitter to me was turned into sweetness of soul and body; and afterwards I lingered a little and left the world.”

Francis' focus went from self to a focus on other people and their needs and their suffering. Are we prepared to hug the lepers whom we encounter in our lives? Are we prepared to do so recognizing their God-given dignity? Will our intention be to do this out of love of our neighbor as Jesus asks?

As Secular Franciscans, we are so blessed to have Francis show us how to bring the Gospel to life and life to the Gospel!

Peace and Good!
Andy

Reminder

THANK YOU for continuing to support our
Common Fund!

As we remain in this time of ‘social distancing’
please send your monthly donation to:

Kevin Mumford, ofs
100 Ivywood Knob
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

September 10 – 1:00pm Zoom Gathering

Brother Rigo will present our on-going
formation...his topic will be
“Building Virtue Fosters Love for the Clergy and
All Even Amidst Sin”

The Zoom link for our Gathering is:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84695067009>

If you prefer to call in the number is:
1-301-715-8592; Meeting ID #846 9506 7009

*When we gather again, we will collect the
needed items for the Kent County Pregnancy
Help Center. (Hopefully that will be in October
at St. Edmond Church!) More information to
follow.*



Nicole Meringolo, ofs

OUR FRATERNITY GATHERINGS IN 2020

September 10
October 8
November 12
December 10

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Marinela Wintjen, ofs 09/03
Vincent Bertone, ofs 09/10
Tom Carter, ofs 09/23
Kate Meire, ofs 09/24
Jackie Boyd, ofs 09/28

SEPTEMBER PROFESSIONS

Beverly Stoner, ofs 09/14/2002
Ron Stoner, ofs 09/14/2002
Linda Sciallo, ofs 09/16/1988
Mimi Farrell, ofs 09/16/1987
Andy Zampini, ofs 09/17/1991

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

Florence Bianco, ofs
Rhona Prescott, ofs
Janice and Dick McCarthy, ofs
Linda Sciallo, ofs
Lucy Deiaco, ofs
Laraine Hofmann, ofs
Bonnie Coté, ofs
Carolyn Protin, ofs
Mimi Farrell, ofs
Judy Bennett, ofs
Nela Wintjen, ofs
Anne Betschart
Mimi Farrell, ofs
Mary Moran, ofs
Celine Mallonee, ofs
Pat Dubois, ofs
Ron & Bev Stoner's Prayer List
Kate Meire, ofs
Loretta Hanley, ofs

We pray for our deceased relatives and friends and especially:

John Zell, ofs
Mary Lou Zell, ofs
Deacon Buddy Bianco, ofs
Deacon Bob Leonizo
Barbara Petrisko, ofs
Bill Farrell, ofs
Bill Walker, ofs
Dee Matthews, ofs
Fr. Chris Posch, ofm

Our brother Frank Rega shares the following:

From *The Holy Mass*, by Fr. Michael Muller, CSsR.

History informs us how the Emperor Frederic II persecuted the holy Church of God. He accepted the services of the Saracens, the sworn enemies of the Christian religion. By fire and sword they laid waste the environs of Spoleto in Italy. They showed their hatred against the Catholic religion, particularly by destroying churches and convents.

Whilst they were besieging the city of Assisium, they tried to plunder and sack the convent of St. Damian, where St. Clare lived, and was abbess at the time. The holy virgin had no one to defend herself and her convent against these enemies of God and religion. So in her firm confidence in Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, she had herself carried, sick as she was, to the gates of the convent. In her hands she held the Blessed Sacrament, the God of armies.

As soon as the Saracens beheld in her hands the God of Infinite Majesty and Holiness, they were seized with terror, they trembled in every limb, their weapons fell from their hands, they turned their backs and fled. Had an army in battle stood before them, those fierce barbarians would have fought to the last; they would either have conquered or left their bleeding corpses on the plain. But when the holy virgin, St. Clare, stood before them bearing in her hands the God of armies, that God, who rules the lightning and the thunder, they could not bear the sight of His awful Majesty and they fled in terror from the face of their Eternal Judge.

St. Clare conquered, because Jesus, her divine Spouse, was with her; and as her enemies fled in terror, the heavens opened, she heard the sweet voice of her heavenly Bridegroom: "Do not fear, it is I, I will always watch over thee." Now would it not be ridiculous to say that a large army was panic-stricken and took to flight in great confusion at the sight of a piece of bread? It was not a

piece of bread, but our Lord Himself Whom St. Clare held in her hand and Who at her prayer, and to reward her faith and confidence, struck terror into the enemies of His religion and made them raise the siege in spite of themselves.