

The Clarion



St. Clare Fraternity

DECEMBER 2020

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

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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

December 10 St. Edmond Church

10:00: Candidates and Inquirers meet in Rooms 6 & 8

11:00: Mass

Fr. Rigo & Fr. Cocco will be our Celebrants
(Please remember to wear your mask and sanitize
your hands as you enter the Church.)

The orders for the 2021 Guide for Christian
Prayer will be available for pick-up.

We will dismiss after Mass.

OUR FRATERNITY GATHERINGS IN 2021

January 14
February 11
March 11
April 8
May 13
June 10
July 8
August 12
September 9
October 14
November 11
December 9

MINISTER’S MESSAGE

Dear Sisters and Brothers,
Over the years, you have heard me express awe in Mary’s response to God’s call. Mary’s “yes” changed the course of humankind.

Mary’s entire life was one of faith. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: “Throughout her life and until her last ordeal when Jesus her son died on the cross, Mary’s faith never wavered. She never ceased to believe in the fulfillment of God’s word. And so the Church venerates, in Mary, the purest realization of faith.”

As I reflect on Mary’s immediate and faith-filled assent to her calling, and her continued life of faith, I could not help think about what a wonderful example she provides for each of us today. While most of us consider ourselves to have a strong faith, we most likely have to admit that there have been times when we have been provided opportunities by God, and the word “yes” did not enter our mind at all. After all, our approach to this opportunity was the best approach – or so we thought.

Sometimes *our* will is not what God’s will is for us. Sometimes our pride, our stubbornness, or our blindness gets in the way. Sometimes we are doing all the talking and not doing any of the listening. Has this ever happened with you? I know that it has with me.

Believing is an authentically human act, but one that is possible only by grace and interior help of the Holy Spirit. In other words, in faith the human intellect cooperates with divine grace (see Catechism of the Catholic Church). During our life, we have many opportunities to say “yes” to God. We say “yes” at each of the sacraments we receive, we say “yes” as we say the Apostle’s Creed, we say “yes” each time we say “Amen” (Greek for “so be it!”). The question is – do we really mean yes when we say it? Do we truly assent to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

Certainly Mary, our blessed mother, is our role model. Her faith was resolute – her “yes” is the example for all of us. Do we have the courage to follow Mary’s example? Peace and Good, Andy



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Marty Rendon, ofs 12/1
Jim Mullen, ofs 12/5
Joe O'Neill, ofs 12/25

DECEMBER PROFESSIONS

Jerry Krauss, ofs 12/08/1956
Loretta Hanley, ofs 12/12/2019
Andrea Lipchak, ofs 12/12/2019
Kevin Mumford, ofs 12/12/2019
Nela Wintjen, ofs 12/12/2019

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 Deiacco, ofs
Laraine Hofmann, ofs
Bonnie Coté, ofs
Mimi Farrell, ofs
Nela Wintjen, ofs
Anne Betschart
Mimi Farrell, ofs
Mary Moran, ofs
Celine Mallonee, ofs
Nicole Meringolo, 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

Our brother Frank Rega shares the following:

From *The Thirteenth Greatest of Centuries*, by James J. Walsh (1907).

Finally there was the Third Order of St. Francis, which was to gather to itself so many of the distinguished people of the century whose occupations and obligations would not permit them to live the conventual life, but who felt that they must be attached by some bond to this beautiful sanctity that was entering into all the better life of the century. The Third Order was established so as to permit all the world to become Franciscans to whatever degree it considered possible, and to share in the sublime Christianity of the founder whom they all admired so much, even if they were not able to imitate his sublimer virtues.

Into this Third Order of St. Francis most of the finer spirits of the time entered with enthusiasm. We need only recall that Louis IX of France, the greatest monarch of the century, considered it a special privilege to be a follower of the humble Francis, and that St. Elizabeth of Hungary, the daughter of a king, the wife and mother of a ruling prince, gave another example of the far-reachingness of Francis' work. Dante was another of the great members of the Third Order and was buried in the habit of St. Francis, glorying in the thought of the brotherhood this gave him with the saint he loved so much.

All down the centuries since, other distinguished people in many countries of Europe were proud to claim the same distinction. Modern science is supposed to be unorthodox in its tendencies and electricity is the most recent of the sciences in development. Three of the great founders of electricity, Volta, Galvani, and Ampere, were members of the Third Order of St. Francis and at least one of them, Galvani, insisted on being buried in the habit of the Order six centuries after the death of his father Francis in order to show how much he appreciated the privilege. There is no one who lived in the Thirteenth Century who influenced the better side of people more in all the succeeding ages down to and including our own time, than the poor little man of God of Assisi.

Facts and Numbers

The Secular Franciscan Order is the largest canonical order in the Roman Catholic Church

In the United States: there are over 12,000 Secular Franciscans

Worldwide: there are over 300,000 Secular Franciscans

We are in over 119 countries

The Secular Franciscan Order makes up 90% of the Franciscan family.