

The Clarion



St. Clare Fraternity

MARCH 2021

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

MINISTER: Andy Zampini 302-354-6777

VICE MINISTER: Carolyn Protin 302-424-2441

Reminder

THANK YOU for continuing to support our Common Fund! Even though we are not meeting in person we are still supporting our Apostolates: St. John the Apostle Food Basket, the Franciscan Missions, and the Clermont Foundation

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

MARCH 11 1:00pm

Mass and Lenten Reflection at St. Edmond Church

(Please note the time change)

APRIL 8 11:00am

Mass at St. Edmond Church followed by the Chapter of Elections in the Parish Hall

OUR FRATERNITY GATHERINGS IN 2021

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,
Relationships bring out the best and worst of us....hopefully, more of the best!.

As I thought about relationships, I considered how our relationship with God affects our relationship with people and vice versa. I concluded that they are inextricably connected. When we are in right relationship with God, we are loving our neighbor more consistently. And when we are in right relationship with others, our relationship with God is in order.

This idea of being in right relationship with God and others is an excellent meditation for Lent or for that matter, any time throughout the year... and it is something that we can put into action.

For example, we can respect the dignity of all persons, we can be in solidarity with the poor, we can advocate for just social policies, we can be present to our families and to our Fraternity sisters and brothers, we can respect our environment, and we can see the value of every person, even those who are challenging to us.

I think if we do these types of things, we will find ourselves being close to God and close to our neighbor. Let us try to keep working on our relationship with God and with others – it will produce results that are life-changing!

Peace and Good!
Andy

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Laraine Hofmann, ofs 3/16
Pat DuBois, ofs 3/25
Andy Zampini ofs 3/26
Nicole Meringolo, ofs 3/29



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

Florence Bianco, ofs
Janice and Dick McCarthy, ofs
Linda Sciallo, ofs
Lucy Deiaco, ofs
Laraine Hofmann, ofs
Bonnie Coté, ofs
Mimi Farrell, ofs
Rhona Prescott, ofs
Celine Mallonee, ofs
Nicole Meringolo, ofs
Pat Dubois, ofs
Ron & Bev Stoner, ofs
Anne Betschart
Marty Rendon, ofs
Jim Mullen, ofs
Patty Derrick, 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:

The Total Lenten Fast of St. Francis for 40 Days. Made by the saint in 1211 AD on the isolated island of Isola Maggiore in Lake Trasimene in Central Italy not far from Assisi. The 40-day fast he made in 1224 on Mount La Verna, when he received the stigmata, was not a total fast, since Brother Leo brought him a little bread and water daily.

From *The Deeds of Blessed Francis and His Companions*:

Because Francis, that very real servant of Christ, was in some things another Christ given to the world, God the Father made this fortunate man conformed in many things to Christ, His Son, as was apparent in his venerable band of holy companions, in the wonderful mystery of the stigmata of the Cross, and the holy fast of forty continuous days.

At one time when Francis was near the Lake of Perugia, he was at Mardi Gras a guest of a man devoted to him. He asked his host to take him for the love of God to an island on the lake where no one lived and to do so during the night before Ash Wednesday so that no one would know about it. The host did this very eagerly because of the great devotion he had for Francis. He prepared his little boat at night and transported him on Ash Wednesday to the island. Saint Francis brought nothing for food except two small loaves of bread.

After he reached the island, he asked his ferryman to tell no one and to come back for him on Holy Thursday. Since there was no shelter there where he could rest, he crawled into a dense thicket where thorn bushes had formed an enclosure, and he stayed there immobile for the whole forty days, neither eating nor drinking.

His host came looking for him, as they had agreed, on Holy Thursday and he found that, except for part of one, the two little loaves of bread had not been touched. It is believed that Saint Francis ate part of one loaf so that with a little bread he would expel the poison of vainglory, and thus the glory of a forty day fast be reserved for the blessed Christ. Yet he did fast *forty days and forty nights* after the example of Christ.

In that place where Saint Francis did such remarkable penance, many miracles were performed through his merits. Therefore, people began to build and live on this island, and in a short period of time a large village and a house for the brothers were established there. The people of this village still show great reverence for that place where Saint Francis kept the Lenten Fast.

The Deeds of Blessed Francis and His Companions, by Ugolino Boniscambi, circa 1328 AD was original version of The Little Flowers of St. Francis.