

The Clarion



St. Clare Fraternity

St. Jude the Apostle Church
Lewes, DE
AUGUST 11, 2022

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

MINISTER: Tom Carter 302-945-9392
VICE MINISTER: Marty Rendon 302-227-8163
INFIRMARIAN: Judy Bennett 302-260-9300

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Brothers and Sisters of Penance,

Has sin died? Recently, one of my Catholic friends told me that he hadn't been to reconciliation in a long time, not for years in fact. He's faithful to Sunday Mass, and he receives the Eucharist regularly, so it started me thinking. A recent survey of Catholics revealed that seventy percent of them do not believe in the Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. If that is the case, then it would stand to reason that they might not consider reconciliation of great importance if the Eucharist is symbolic. If this is what they believe, we are suffering a catechetical disaster - they don't know that the Eucharist is the absolute center of our faith. Our Lord was not equivocating when he said, "This is my body . . . this is my blood." In any case, I think I was somewhat successful in gently helping my friend see what the Church teaches. Consider evangelizing Catholics, "the laborers are few."

Our Lady, Queen of the Angels, Immaculate Mother of God, Patroness and Queen of the Three Franciscan Orders, pray for us.

In Francis and Clare,
Tom

Important Reminders

ATTENDANCE AT THE GATHERINGS – All active members should make every attempt to attend the Gathering every month. If you are unable to attend due to illness, work or family obligations, please contact Marty Rendon at 302-227-8163

If you are unable to attend our Gathering, please send your donation for the Common Fund to:
Andrea Lipchak, ofs
41 Tiffany Drive
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

Our Summer Gathering location will be:
St. Jude the Apostle Church
152 Tulip Drive
Lewes, DE 19958-1689

*Please bring your Ritual Books

August 11 St Jude the Apostle Church

10:00am: Candidates and Inquirers meet with their instructors
11:00am: Mass
12:00pm: Lunch
1:00pm: Ongoing Formation: Guest Speaker
Regional Formation Director:
Rita Collieran

Evening Prayer

Evening Prayer II Feast of St. Clare of Assisi
(copies will be distributed)
Presider: Jackie Boyd
Antiphonarian: Fran Butler
Reader: Tom Carter



OUR FRATERNITY GATHERINGS IN 2022

August 11
September 8
October 13
November 10
December 8

AUGUST BIRTHDAY

Frank Rega, ofs 08/14

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

Lucy Deiaci, ofs
Bonnie Coté, ofs
Janice and Dick McCarthy, ofs
Linda Sciallo, ofs
Joe O'Neill, ofs
Nicole Meringolo, ofs
Pat Dubois, ofs
Frank Rega, ofs
Loretta Hanley, ofs
Rhona Prescott, ofs
Judy Bennett, ofs

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
Florence Bianco, ofs
Laraine Hofmann, ofs
Celine Mallonee, ofs
Alicia Bourne, ofs

Thank you, Fr. Rigo, for sharing the following:

The Importance of Blessing and my Responsibility as an Ordained Minister

Following my conversion to Catholicism, I proceeded to High School Seminary. At the seminary, the expectation was to attend diaconate and presbyteral ordinations of the Diocese. However, as a recent convert, I didn't quite grasp the teachings of the Church, nor did I adequately understand some of the rites and rituals I observed. In addition, my participation in most Catholic practices was more obligatory than free. Obligatory because acting out of obligation does not necessitate comprehension of the act to be exercised, whereas acting out of free will may reflect some understanding of the action.

One of the practices I observed was people lining up to receive blessings from the newly ordained, referred to as the first blessing. Interestingly, for all the years I have been Catholic, I have gone up to freshly ordained priests and deacons, requesting their blessings without knowing why I did it. It was a Catholic tradition, and as a Catholic, I ought to do the same. Despite my naive and perhaps irrational conclusion to the practice of receiving blessings from the newly ordained, I always imagined there had to be something more to the story.

After reading *The Priestly Blessing* by Stephen Rossetti, I have come to a fuller understanding and importance of receiving blessings from the newly ordained. As an ordained deacon and priest, I must understand what I do, especially as people approach me regularly requesting blessings. Rossetti states that "many of the faithful earnestly desire the blessing of a priest, especially in moments of need, and that they instinctively know that the priesthood carries a unique grace from God" (Rossetti 4). Although, before my ordination, I probably requested grace because of such instincts, my ordination has led me to a deeper consideration and study of my ministry. This interest in my ministry has made me realize that I have to be more conscious and ready to bless the people of God when they need it. When a priest or deacon blesses someone, it is a concrete instance of the Church herself exercising this duty. The blessing priestly or diaconal blessing becomes not just an option but a responsibility because we are ordained to be of service the God and the Church.

Furthermore, Rossetti underlines that "the act of blessing was understood as the imparting of vital power to another person, thus giving another a part of the blessing of one's soul originally bestowed by God" (Rossetti 8). The act of imparting vital power upon another informs me that the grace I received at ordination is not mine to keep but God's grace which needs to be bestowed upon his people. The founding of blessings in Holy Scripture, especially as early as the Old Testament, implies that it is not something new. As an ordained minister, I am partaking in a long-standing tradition. Considering that the blessing comes from God, "it was believed even among the Israelites that once a blessing was given, something concrete was transmitted and it could not be revoked" (Rossetti 16). Therefore, when a deacon or priest blesses God's people, they are truly blessed.

As a deacon and priest, I must be awake and available to everyone and anything God wishes me to bless during the day. These Spirit-inspired moments are easy to miss if I am distracted or caught up in my busyness. Being awake not just to humans but anything suggests that not only the people of God need His blessings but all of His creation. Going back to scripture, we see that not just humanity is fallen but all of creation because of the fall of humanity. Therefore, all of creation needs the Lord's blessings. Nevertheless, it is essential to discern through the power of the Holy Spirit when to bless since not everything or every situation is suitable for a blessing. We must never forget that the ultimate blessing of God is the blessing of salvation received when the Word became flesh.

Br. Rigo Azanwi, OFM Cap., Mdiv.