

## The Clarion



### St. Clare Fraternity January 2023

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

### **There will be no fraternity gathering this month!**

Beloved Deacon Phil Ricker of St. Edmond parish has passed away. A funeral and reception will be held at the church on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. Our space will be unavailable and many of our members will be attending. Please keep his wife and family in your prayers.

#### Council Members

**Minister:** Tom Carter 302-945-9392  
**Vice Minister:** Marty Rendon 302-227-8163  
**Secretary:** Kate Meier 302-698-0443  
**Treasurer:** Andrea Lipchak 302-644-4434  
**Formation Director:** Nela Wintgen 302-727-2919  
**Infirmary:** Judy Bennett 302-260-9300

#### Next Gathering Date

**Thursday, February 9, 2023**

We will have our annual rite of Extraction of Saints and receiving a maxim & prayer partner at our February gathering. To learn more about this Franciscan tradition see the article on the last page.

*Thank you* for continuing to support the Common Fund. Because we are not meeting this month, please donate next month for both January and February. 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**

The annual Fair Share payment to the regional fraternity will be coming due soon. Please donate a little more to the common fund if you are able.

#### Minister's Message



Dear Sisters and Brothers of Penance,

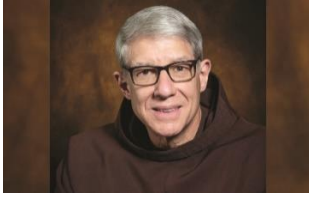
With the New Year comes a new challenge (not novel, is it?), but this challenge involves the very heart of Catholicism – the Holy Eucharist. Perhaps you're aware that 70% of Catholics do not believe in the True Presence in the Eucharist - if you did not know this you are allowed to be appropriately horrified. Why is this, and how long has this been going on? Some speculate that inadequate catechetical instruction is the root cause, and it has been going on for quite some time, perhaps back to the mid-1960's. In any case, the USCCB is embarking on a three-year campaign to turn this disbelief into love of the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus in the Eucharist. More to follow in coming months. Go here for more information: <https://tinyurl.com/2esrt7j7>

“Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life within you” (Jn 6:53)

In Francis and Clare,  
*Tom*

**Fr. Ronald Pecci, OFM**

7/24/50 – 4/12/22



Our much-loved former Spiritual Assistant from 2011-2017 passed into everlasting life in April of last year. Many of you have treasured memories of him. To read more about his life and legacy go here:

<https://hnp.org/fr-ronald-pecci-ofm-dies-in-connecticut>

Pray for his eternal joy!

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

- Janice and Dick McCarthy, ofs
- Linda Sciallo, ofs
- Lucy Deiaco, ofs
- Bonnie Cote, ofs
- Rhona Prescott, ofs
- Frank Rega, ofs
- Delizabeth Diaz-Martinez, ofs
- Nicole Meringolo, ofs
- Joe O'Neill, ofs



**Our Fraternity Gatherings in 2023**

***Please make note!***

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

**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
- Ron Holland, ofs
- Fr. Ronald Pecci, ofm



**January BIRTHDAYS**

- Connie Kemp-English, ofs 1/1
- Cindy Downs – Inq. 1/4
- Fr. Rigo Azanwi, OFM Cap 1/29

**January PROFESSIONS**

- Fr. William Cocco, ofs 1/9/2020



**From the National Fraternity**



Receive a daily email featuring, *in monthly rotation*, The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, the Admonitions of St. Francis, an article from the OFS General Constitutions, Little Flowers of St. Francis, a Franciscan quote and additionally, the Franciscan Saint of the day.

To subscribe, send a **blank** email to: [tau-daily+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:tau-daily+subscribe@googlegroups.com)

If you don't succeed there, send a request to [kdwofs@gmail.com](mailto:kdwofs@gmail.com)

## The Extraction of Patron Saints

### A little history...

Father Egidio Canil – *from Assisi Website*

*Did you know that a Saint for the entire year is an old tradition for the beginning of each new year in the Franciscan family?*

Usually, this happens on January 5 evening. Each community gets together and the Superior invites all to prayer to ask God for the protection of a saint who is then drawn at random as special patron for the new year. Every brother is given a small holy picture with the name written on the back of a saint who becomes from that moment his patron for the year. The same saint is also proposed as a model of life to know and to imitate.

A tradition mainly Franciscan but that is also found in other religious institutes and with the laity. The extraction of a patron saint is then often combined with other religious rites. In many convents it's preceded by the blessing with holy water and incense of local municipalities and cells of the monks. The Superior of the convent, along with the other monks, passes through the various rooms and cells to bear God's blessing for the whole year. In other places, such as in Malta, the extraction of the saints is matched to the extraction of two other names: those of a monk living and deceased to pray for during the year. In almost all the convents also the name of the saint is a combined maximum that contains a special effort to put into practice during the year.

Very often the extraction of the patron saints is done in the presence of the faithful gathered in the parish church. In some Franciscan churches of the saints, extraction is combined with the "kiss of the Child": an ancient folk tradition that takes place the day of the Epiphany. The parishioners, after kissing the picture with a child receive the name of the patron saint. Images are brought even to the elderly and the sick of the parish.

A patron saint, a saint to imitate, a saint to know is not just a beautiful tradition but also a push to live their lives with intensity and to walk the path of holiness.

## Laughing With St. Sarah (Patron saint of laughter)

**Genesis 21:6:** "And Sarah declared, 'God has brought me laughter. All who hear about this will laugh with me.'"



## Editor of The Clarion - Change

Our dear Judy (Bennett), the sisters and brothers of St. Clare fraternity **THANK YOU** for diligently and thoughtfully attending to our newsletter. You've brought needed information to our community for 12 years. What a run of service! We are grateful...

These are big shoes to fill and I, Elena Spitzer (newcomer to the fraternity) will do my best to serve the fraternity with the writing of our newsletter beginning with this edition. You may have noticed The Clarion looks a bit different here and there. Change, change. It's the only constant in life. Please bear with me as I learn to serve you. Peace...