

August 2025



Our Gathering

Thursday, August 14, 2025



**We are still gathering at
St. Jude
152 Tulip Dr.
Lewes**

Schedule

- ❖ Candidates meet with their instructor
- ❖ Mass (in the church at St. Jude)
- ❖ Lunch (in the religious education bldg.)
- ❖ Business Matters
- ❖ Guest Speaker – Jane Kurz, RN from Nurses & Neighbors
- ❖ On-going formation – Presentation of two saints by Pat Dubois & Maureen Ciano
- ❖ Evening Prayer

EVENING PRAYER

Evening Prayer I for the Solemnity of the
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

If using your phone, please use the *Divine Office* app.
(Printed copies will be available)

1 vol. Antiphons pg.1225, Psalms pg. 1368,
Reading, etc. pg. 1226
4 vol. Antiphons. 1316, Psalms pg. 1622,
Reading, etc. pg. 1316
Hymn: Hail, Holy Queen (on song sheet)
Presider: Judy Bennett
Antiphonarian: Vince Bertone
Reader: Tom Carter

2025 Theme

**The Omnipresence of the
Franciscan Way of Life**

Minister's Message

What Makes Clare So Special

St. Clare referred to herself, in her rule, as the “little plant” of St. Francis. She is often seen as the feminine reflection of St. Francis’ spirit, embodying a love for God and all creation, a deep devotion to Christ’s humanity and passion, humility, detachment, simplicity, and a genuine enthusiasm for life. These attributes did not diminish her humanity but, instead, enriched it.

Clare’s dedication to poverty was unwavering. She succeeded in convincing three of the century’s greatest popes to honor her commitment. When Pope Gregory IX offered to release her from her vow of absolute poverty, she responded, “Holy Father, absolve me from my sins but not from the obligation of following our Lord.”

St. Clare is recognized as the patron saint of many causes and professions, including eye disease, goldsmiths, laundry, television, bicycle messengers, good weather, needleworkers, remote viewing, and extrasensory perception.

It is a great honor that our founding Franciscans chose Clare as the namesake of our Fraternity. Her life and virtues serve as a guiding example for us all.

Kathleen



Formation, Formation, FORMATION!!!

By Rhona Prescott, Formation Director

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI

St. Clare is a spectacular saint in our Catholic Church and the patroness of our St Clare Fraternity. Her feast day is August 11th. St Clare's unwavering commitment to her faith, her radical renunciation of material wealth, and her influential leadership in fostering spiritual growth, still inspires people around the world. She founded the Poor Clare Nuns, an order of women who are discalced (wearing only sandals, year-round) and cloistered (living within a closed convent and focusing on contemplative prayer, day and night, and continuous fasting from all but the minimal intake of food). Clare considered silence a means of avoiding the tumultuousness of life and of committing any sins of the tongue, so, even now, the Poor Clares do not speak, except at prayer and by special permission. Chiara or Clare, was born into the royalty of Assisi on July 16, 1194, and became a lifelong follower of St Francis. She was expected to marry into wealth to enhance her family's standing, but chose, instead, a very different path. After hearing the preaching of St Francis, so touched was she that she fled from her home and secretly met with Francis at the Portiuncula Chapel, where Francis cut her beautiful long hair and dressed her in a rough penitential habit of drab color. Thus, she renounced any possible leaning toward any life but that of holy virginity and temperance. Together with St Francis, she founded the Order of Poor Clares which still exists today. Many years after Clare founded the Poor Clares, her two biological sisters and her widowed Mother also professed to her order of nuns. Mother Angelica was a Poor Clare, living a modern version of taming the innumerable sins of the tongue and focusing only on God, with her ministry of technical communication; the ETWN television and radio network. Clare is best known for her defense of her convent from invaders by carrying the Blessed Sacrament to the door, when death was imminent. She did this at least twice with the enemy quietly turning away. One especially notable event was her bringing a Monstrance containing the Eucharist to the door and raising it high, when the Saracens threatened to kill all of the nuns. St Clare is the patron saint of television, because when she became too ill to attend Mass, she saw the entire Mass projected on her bedroom wall! Clare died on August 11, 1253 and was canonized two years later by Pope Alexander IV.



PRAYER FOR THE INTERCESSION OF ST. CLARE

God of mercy, you inspired St Clare with the love of poverty. By the help of her prayers may we follow Christ in poverty of spirit and come to the joyful vision of Your glory in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Franciscan Family Gathering

Next month (Sept. 11th) we have our yearly potluck. For those who have struggled for any reason to attend our gatherings, we are praying you'll be able to come in September.

Do you need a ride?

Call Kathleen and she will try to make the arrangements.

We want and need to see YOU!

Everyone, be thinking about what wonderful food you will bring. And remember family members and dear friends are welcome.





To the following folks who
have volunteered to bring
desserts this month,
THANK YOU!!

Rhona Prescott
Kate Meire
Mary Moran
Bev Stoner



August BIRTHDAYS

Frank Rega 14th

September BIRTHDAYS

Nela Wintjen 3rd
Vincent Bertone 10th
Maureen Ciano 22nd
Tom Carter 23rd
Kate Meire 24th
Jackie Boyd 28th
Diane Zell 28th

August PROFESSIONS

none

September PROFESSIONS

Ron & Bev Stoner 9/14/2002

Giving for August



Nurses & Neighbors

Information by Rhona & Elena

Get ready to welcome Jane Kurz, RN PhD to our gathering this month. She will be sharing with us a new program she runs for unhoused people who visit the Community Resource Center in Rehoboth Beach. Jane offers blood pressure checks in a private setting and discussions about other obvious medical issues. She is not allowed to dispense any medicine, not even aspirin, so she gives advice and offers small denomination gift cards to stores that sell salve's, Tylenol, ace type bandages, and other health related sundries. Also \$4 bus passes so the people can access these stores. Jane can and does refer people with bigger issues to specialists at Beebe, La Red Health Ctr. etc., who provide in-depth care, without charge. Jane is sponsored by "Nurses & Neighbors", a non-profit composed of mostly retired medical personnel.

We can support Jane in this compassionate service to the vulnerable by helping stock her "medical bag" with the following:

4x4 Gauze Pads
Medical Tape
Band-Aids
Q tips

Ace Bandages (*small and medium*)
Hand Sanitizer (*small*)

Sunglasses (*inexpensive, metal rimmed preferred*)
Water Bottles (*Metal only, refillable*)

\$10 Gift Cards for CVS, Walgreen's or Dollar Tree
(*for medical items and over the counter medications*)

Please, bring what you're able to our
gathering next week!

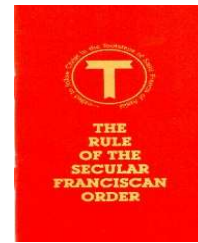
We pray for all our fraternal sisters and brothers and for the special intentions of:

Sandy Paulen, ofs
Fran Butler, ofs
Bonnie Coté, ofs
Kathleen Murphy, ofs
Carolyn Protin, ofs
Rhona Prescott, ofs
Judy Bennett, ofs
Nicole Meringolo, ofs
Pepper Tully, ofs
Patty Derrick, ofs
Loretta Hanley, ofs
Bev and Ron Stoner, 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
Laraine Hoffman, ofs
Florence Bianco, ofs
Celine Mallonee, ofs
Alicia Bourne, ofs
Fr. Ronald Pecci, ofm
Lucy Deiaco, ofs
Maury Robb, ofs
Diane Barbacano, ofs
Dick McCarthy, ofs
Linda Sciallo, ofs
Janice McCarthy, ofs



The Rule – **What we have promised**

Chapter Two -The Way of Life

25. Regarding expenses necessary for the life of the fraternity and the needs of worship, of the apostolate, and of charity, all the brothers and sisters should offer a contribution according to their means. Local fraternities should contribute toward the expenses of the higher fraternity councils.

Reflection – This paragraph points out that the voluntary contributions of the members finance the fraternity's spiritual and temporal needs and activities. The fraternity, according to its means and agreed-upon arrangements, also contributes to the support of the regional, provincial, national, and international fraternities. This paragraph is a contemporary application of the traditional Secular Franciscan values outlined in the very first rule that the members are responsible for taking care of their own in whatever way is necessary.

From Gospel to Life

The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order with commentary
Benet A. Fonck, OFM (coordinator)

Future Fraternity Gatherings

2nd Thursday of each month

Please make note!

2025

September 11th (St. Jude's)

October 9th

November 13th

December 11th

2026

January 8th

February 12th

March 12th

April 9th

May 14th

June 11th

July 9th

August 13th



from The Council

Retreat for St Clare and
St. Pope John XXIII fraternities

- To be held at the Poor Clares in Wilmington.
- Conducted by the Nuns and Brother Mike.
- Beginning around 10:30am until about 2pm
- Still working on a date

More info to come!



Pennies & Nickels



Thank you...

for your continued support of our Common Fund.

If you are 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

A GENTLE REMINDER...

**IF WORK, HEALTH REASONS OR SIGNIFICANT
FAMILY OBLIGATIONS HINDER YOU FROM**

**ATTENDING THE GATHERING,
PLEASE CONTACT OUR
VICE MINISTER, PEPPER TULLY**

973-809-2344

PEPPER32738@GMAIL.COM

Council Members

Minister: Kathleen Murphy 301-535-7011

Vice Minister: Pepper Tully 973-809-2344

Secretary: Mary Moran 302-644-1448

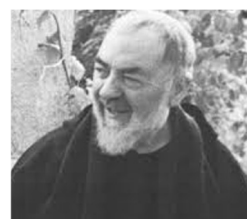
Treasurer: Andrea Lipchak 302-644-4434

Formation Director: Rhona Prescott 302-864-7280

Councilor: Tom Carter 302-344-1414



Looking Ahead



A Novena to St. Pio of Pietrelcina will take place
September 14th -22nd at the
National Centre for Padre Pio in Barto, PA. You'll
be able to view masses & activities on
YouTube.

Weekday's at 10:30am. Sunday's at 12:30pm

<http://www.YouTube.com/@PadrePioInc>

Novena Prayer to St. Pio:

<https://www.padrepio.ie/pray/>



The National Fraternity will celebrate the 800th
anniversary of St. Francis' creating the

Canticle of the Creatures

Sunday, October 5, 2024

3PM Eastern

via Zoom

60-75 minutes

Plans include a talk on the writing of the Canticle by
Justin Carisio, OFS, and a panel discussion on living the
Canticle. Justin is a professional writer with a particular
interest in the Early Documents, especially the writings
of Francis. He has collaborated with

Fr. Regis Armstrong, OFM Cap. Our panelists include
the current National Vice Minister Diane Menditto,
current International Councilor Mary Frances Charsky,
and previous Regional Vice Minister and JPIC councilor
for Mother Cabrini Regional Fraternity Mike Huck.

The invitation to register for the Zoom event will be sent
out about a month beforehand via our regional ministers
and regional formation directors. If you would like the
registration information to be sent directly to you, please
go to groups.google.com and request to be added to
"NAFRACentenaryContacts". If you are already on our
mailing list, you will get the information automatically.

Laughing With St. Sarah

(Patron saint of laughter)

