
Padre Pio Fraternity

Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region

Ongoing Formation

For the February gathering, done via Zoom of course, we continued our study of Marco Bartoli's book *Saint Clare: Beyond the Legend*. This began with a presentation led by Chris Peffley, OFS, and Dave Shick, OFS, followed by discussion in small groups.

At the age of eighteen Lady Clare rejected the culture of her noble family, leaving the world to become a penitent. Her conversion was what was known as *metanoia*, a profound spiritual transformation, also defined as the re-directing of thought which causes a change in behavior.

Lady Clare's first action was to sell all of her belongings (what would have been her dowry) and give all proceeds to the poor. Having the tonsure she'd received from Francis, and bereft of her aristocratic clothing, she was thus considered a "penitent." This meant, in those days, that she was under the protection of the Church, rather than the authority of the state. It took her much courage to leave, and to go on resisting the pressures of returning to her aristocratic family.

What can we learn from this example of St. Clare? How have our thoughts and deeds and conformed to those of Christ during our own conversions? What is our relationship to voluntary poverty? What is the Holy Spirit telling us to do or to stop doing?

As Franciscans, we know that conversion is not simply a one-time event, but an ongoing process. We are very blessed to have the example of St. Clare, who had a spectacular "one-time" event, followed by a life of ongoing penance which continues to inspire us to this very day.



Holy Father's Intentions for March – Sacrament of Reconciliation

Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

Suzie's Prayer Corner -

God and I stay in touch – a lot. Even when I think I am hiding away our precious Lord is holding me with tenderness and love! (Which I am reminded of with sheepish repentance)

Over and over again throughout the day God amazes me with moments of unspeakable beauty – opportunities to witness incarnations of Love. My husband. My children. Coworkers. Friends. The face of Christ in people whose names I do not know.

Upon waking my prayer is “Thank you for this day. Please help me to do your will in it.” The morning includes Morning Prayer, Father Bill’s reflection on the Gospel, the Franciscan meditation. Often heartfelt journaling. Walking the dogs I give praise for the natural world, and for my participation in it.

As I walk through the parking lot to work, I pray blessings on all those I will serve, those they love, and those who love them. All leaders, all workers, all in pain, all those on my prayer list. I end with “Lord, please remove from me all that interferes with Love, and fill me with your Holy Spirit that I may bring Your love to all those I encounter this day.”

The evening includes examination of conscience, gratitude for all the moments of grace, and evening prayer. Blessings and peace dear brothers and sisters!

-Theresa Flynn, OFS

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For JPIC:

Email Ellen Ferrone, OFS

For Oak City Cares and website:

Email Sharon Winzeler, OFS
<https://ofscentralinc.org/>

For CPO or Library:

Email Maureen Copan, OFS

For Hospitality:

Email Gladys Whitehouse, OFS

For Prayer Requests:

Email Deacon Phil Rzewnicki,
OFS

For Scrapbook:

Email Jeanette Cottone, OFS

For Sunshine:

Call Marge Zombek, OFS

For the Newsletter:

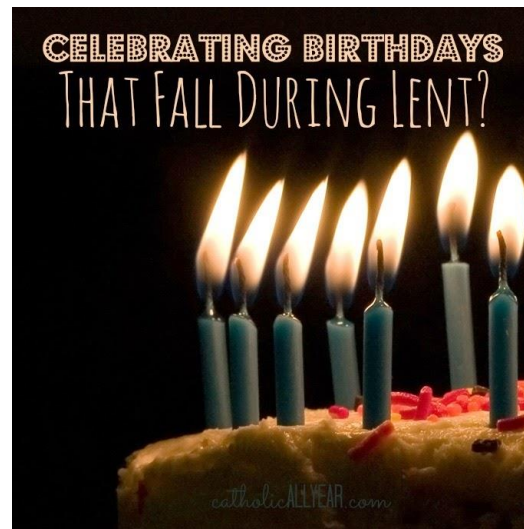
Zubair Simonson, OFS

Election Update -

We will at last be having our election, which shall be held in-person at St. Francis of Assisi Church, on March 28, 2021. Hopefully, the weather forecast will be just fine this go around, being Spring and all.

If you intend to attend the election, do keep an eye out for emails in the weeks leading up to our election date, that you may RSVP.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. And thanks also to those currently in the Council who helped keep everything running for the few months longer than they thought they would!



Charlotte Witosky, OFS – March 5

Christine Murray, OFS – March 12

Suzie Nelson, OFS – March 12

Sr. Susanna Boylston, OSC – March 21

Sr. Annemarie Dudek, OSC – March 24

March – Month of St. Joseph

1. Bl. Jean Kearney, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1653
2. St. Agnes de Prague, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1282
3. Bl. Innocent of Berzo, Priest, Capuchin, d. 1890
4. Bl. Martyrs of the Franciscan 1st Order of Gondar (Ethiopia), d. 1716
5. St. John-Joseph of the Cross, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1734
6. St. Colette de Corbie, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1447
7. Bl. Christopher of Milan, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1485
8. St. Jean de Dieu, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1550
9. St. Frances of Rome, Virgin, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1440
10. St. Catherine of Bologna, Virgin of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1463
11. Bl. John Baptist Righi of Fabriano, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1539
12. Bl. Louis Orione, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1940
13. Bl. Agnellus of Pisa, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1236
14. St. Catherine of Genoa, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1510
15. Bl. Louis of Casoria, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1885
16. Bl. Torello of Poppi, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1282
17. Bl. Mark of Montegallo, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1496
18. St. Salvator of Horta, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1567
19. Saint Joseph, Holy Day of Obligation for the Church
20. Bl. Hippolyte Galentini, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1620
21. Bl. Amedee IX de Savoie, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1472
22. St. Benvenute of Osimo, Bishop, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1282
23. Bl. Jeremy Lambertenghi, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1513
24. Bl. Catherine de Suede, Virgin, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1381
25. Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Day of Obligation for the Church
26. Blessed Didacus Joseph of Cadiz, Priest, Capuchin, d. 1801
27. Bl. Joseph-Sebastien Pelczar, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1924..
28. St. John of Capistrano, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1456
29. Bl. Jane Mary of Maille, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1414
30. St. Peter Regalado, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1486
31. St. Leonard Murialdo, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1900

Words of Faith by Padre Pio

Go to Joseph with extreme confidence, because I do not remember having asked anything from St. Joseph, without having obtained it readily.

<https://aleteia.org/2020/03/19/are-these-5-of-the-best-saint-quotes-about-st-joseph/>

Items of Interest:

-if anyone feels that the Spirit calling is calling him or her to take lead of the Sunshine apostolate, you're in luck: our fraternity will very soon be in need of your services! Just let anyone on the Council know that you are interested.

-if you're sick and tired of getting your hand cramped from writing checks, or if it just so happens that you've run out of checks, you're in luck: our fraternity now accepts donations via Zelle. The email address attached to our fraternity's bank account is secularppt995@gmail.com

-our fraternity fed 50 people at Oak City Cares on Feb. 27, and donated enough food for 100 people. When this happens, the food never goes to waste. The leftovers get donated to a group called the Church on the Woods, which gives to those who are homeless and living in the woods.

-the annual **Lenten H2O Project**, an international project to promote Christian solidarity, advocacy and financial support for poor communities without access to clean drinking water, is under way. The challenge is to abstain from drinking any beverage besides water, setting aside any money normally spent on sodas and coffees, for two weeks during Lent. The money saved may be contributed personally, as a family, or as a faith community to:

H2O Lenten Project 2020
c/o Claudia Kauzlarich
2007 Maverick Trail
Harrisonville, MO, 64701-1545



Our next gathering will be the election, at St. Francis Church, on March 28, 2021