



Pater Noster Fraternity

Queen of Peace Region

Newsletter – December 2018

St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church

Gonderinger Parish Center

16701 S St., Omaha, NE 68135

Vision:

“The Pater Noster Secular Franciscan Fraternity exists to bring Christ’s love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness to a world in need of God.”

Mission:

“The mission of Pater Noster Fraternity is to proclaim, and witness to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Inspired by the example of St. Francis and St. Clare, we strive to humbly serve all people, especially the poor and forgotten. We celebrate joyfully the gift of life in all creation and recognize God’s living presence in the world.”

Council Officers as of April 2018 – Please pray for them as they are praying for us.



Left to right:

SA: Sr. Mary Ann Schmieding, OSF

Councilor: Cecilia Padilla, OFS

Minister: Luis Antonio Alvarez, OFS

Vice Minister: Joseph Norman, OFS

Treasurer: Linda Mertz, OFS

Councilor: Kent Riesberg, OFS

Formation Director: Andrea Walther, OFS

Secretary: William Whipple, OFS

Saint of the Month



A member of the princely Roman family of the Colonna, Margaret was born in Rome, the capital of Christendom, in 1210. Very early in life, she lost both her parents. She was then placed under the guardianship of her two brothers, John and James. When she had grown to womanhood, her older brother insisted that she enter a brilliant marriage. But Margaret, whose name signifies pearl, held her virginity in such high regard that she was willing to sacrifice all the glamour of the world in order to retain it. She firmly refused to yield to her brother's plan, declaring that she would be espoused to none other than the immortal Spouse of souls. Her younger brother championed her resolution.

With two maids, Margaret withdrew to a quiet country house belonging to her family

Bl. Margaret of Colonna, Franciscan 2nd Order, a 'Poor Clare Sister'

Feastday: December 30

Attributes: Poor Clares habit

Birth: 1255 - Palestrina, Papal States

Death: 30 December 1280 (aged 25) Castel San Pietro, Rome, Papal States

Beatified: 17 September 1847, Saint Peter's Basilica, Papal States by Pope Pius IX

and situated in the mountains near Palestrina. There the group devoted themselves to practices of piety and penance, as well as to works of charity. They wore coarse garments, similar to those of the Poor Clares, and mapped out their daily routine as far as possible according to the strict rule of that order.

In her new life, Margaret's relatives caused her many trials and annoyances. But she considered them as marks of the love of her Divine Bridegroom seeking in this way to disengage her heart from the world so that she might belong to Him alone. And Christ our Lord actually appeared to her at this time and placed a crown of lilies on her head and a ring upon her finger.

Bl. Margaret of Colonna (continued)

In order to secure the merit of obedience, Blessed Margaret Colonna and her companions meant to join the Poor Clares of Assisi, who had already offered to receive them. But a grievous illness attacked Margaret and prevented her plan. Somewhat restored to health, she consulted her younger brother James in Rome, who had meanwhile become a priest and cardinal. At his suggestion, and with the approval of Pope Urban IV, Margaret turned the country house on the quiet mountain near Palestrina into a Poor Clare convent where she and several like-minded young women observed the Rule of St. Clare, as well as her continued infirmity, permitted it. Almighty God rewarded her pious zeal with many consolations.

Also favors of another kind were not wanting. Our Lord gave her an opportunity to taste a little of the sufferings He had endured. A wound opened in her right side and kept growing wider and deeper, causing her untold suffering during the last seven years of

her life. She thanked God for this favor up to the last day of her life. When that day came, she said before receiving Holy Viaticum:

“I thank Thee, dear Lord, for having permitted my body to become weak and infirm, so that I could the more freely return my soul to Thee.”

Assisted in her last moments by her brother James, and the prayers of her sisters, Blessed Margaret Colonna surrendered her soul into the hands of God on December 30, 1284.

Later, when the convent of Palestrina was transferred to Rome the sisters took with them the precious remains of their mother and foundress Blessed Margaret Colonna and had them entombed in their new convent of St. Sylvester. Innumerable miracles occurred at the grave of this holy virgin. In 1847 Pope Pius IX gave renewed approval to the veneration paid to her for centuries.

Blessed Margaret of Colonna, pray for us!

The Admonitions of St Francis of Assisi

Number 19 – We are as humble as God sees us – “in the sight of God”. On the humble servant of God

Blessed is the servant who does not consider himself better when he is complimented and praised by people, then as when he is considered vile, simple and despised because as much as a man is before God, that he is and no more. Woe to that religious who has been placed by others on a pedestal and who do not wish to come down voluntarily. But blessed is that servant, who is not promoted through his own choosing and always wants to be under the feet of the others.

Q1. If you want to “rate” yourself, why not profitably use Francis’ great examination of conscience statement: “*What a man is before God, that he is and no more.*”?

Q2. Is this a good norm for self-evaluation?

Q3. Does this statement reflect true wisdom?

Q4. Francis helps us put compliments and praise in proper perspective, which is?

Based on the study compilation by Fr. John Sullivan, OFM, 2004

Prayer requests and Praise reports:

-Andrea Walther: please pray for her husband Randy who is having surgery.

-Steve Carlson: please pray for healing for daughters - Elena, Lucia, and Maria.

-Dave Garrett: for my mother, Vera, who was admitted into the hospital for pneumonia. For my wife Marylou’s struggle with sleep and energy. For my daughter's struggle with her disabilities and children. For my son, Joshua’s addiction recovery and return to the Church. And please pray for me, I am having outpatient spine surgery to remove a cyst that is believed to be the root cause of my sciatica.

-For our Franciscan Families: those members who are ill and alone. For an increase of vocations to all Franciscan communities.

-For an end to abortion, euthanasia and all offenses against human life.

-For the recently departed, that they may be embraced in the arms of our blessed Lord, especially Francis, brother of Sr Mary Ann Schmieding, OSF. May he rest in peace and the perpetual light shine on him.

-For the innocent bishops, priests, deacons, and all who work for the kingdom of Christ, who are going to suffer for the sins of others.

-Praise be Jesus Christ! Luis’s wife, Jacqueline, her biopsy came back negative!

Calendar Of Events

Annual Meetings

October 3, 2019:

Transitus of St Francis of Assisi

St. John Vianney Catholic Church

Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Omaha, NE

On-Going Formation 2018 -

Clare of Assisi: A Heart Full of Love

December Chapter 8 - Transformation

Initial Formation 2018 -

The Franciscan Journey:

December Chapters 22 & 23

Monthly Meetings

Monthly Gathering - 3rd Sunday

(except in June due to Father's Day, then it is the 4th Sunday)

Initial Formation at 11:30 am

Potluck at 1:00 pm

On-Going Formation at 1:30 PM

Council Meeting - 2nd Tuesday of the month

(Except in December when the Advent Retreat will be held)

ADVENT RETREAT:

December 12, 2018

6 PM Pot Luck

7 PM Presentation

15625 S Street, Omaha, NE 68135