



# *Pater Noster Fraternity*

Queen of Peace Region

Newsletter – January 2019

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



Blessed Angela of Foligno was born in 1248 of a prominent family in Foligno, three leagues from Assisi. As a young woman, and also as a wife and mother, she lived only for the world and its vain pleasures. But the grace of God intended to make of her a vessel of election for the comfort and salvation of many. A ray of the divine mercy touched her soul and so strongly affected her as to bring about a conversion.

At the command of her confessor, Blessed Angela of Foligno committed to writing the manner of her conversion in eighteen spiritual steps.

"Enlightened by grace," Blessed Angela of Foligno wrote in this account. "I realized my sinfulness; I was seized with a great fear of being damned, and I shed a flood of tears. I went to confession to be relieved of my sins,

## Saint Angela of Foligno, T.O.S.F.

**Feastday:** January 4, 8 in the US

**Major shrine:** Chiesa di San Francesco  
Foligno, Perugia, Italy

**Birth:** 1248 - Foligno, Holy Roman Empire

**Death:** 3 January 1309, Age 60, Foligno, Papal States

**Beatified:** 11 July 1701 by Pope Clement XI

**Canonized:** 9 October 2013 by Pope Francis

**Patronage:** those afflicted by sexual temptation, widows

but through shame, I concealed the most grievous ones, but still, I went to Communion. Now my conscience tortured me day and night. I called upon St. Francis for help, and, moved by an inner impulse, I went into a church where a Franciscan Father was then preaching.

"I gathered the courage to confess all my sins to him, and I did this immediately after the sermon. With zeal and perseverance, I performed the penance he imposed, but my heart continued to be full of bitterness and shame. I recognized that the divine mercy has saved me from hell, hence I resolved to do rigorous penance; nothing seemed too difficult for me, because I felt I belonged in hell. I called upon the saints, and especially upon the Blessed Virgin, to intercede with God for me.

## **Saint Angela of Foligno (continued)**

"It appeared to me now as if they had compassion on me, and I felt the fire of divine love enkindled within me so that I could pray as I never prayed before. I had also received a special grace to contemplate the cross in which Christ had suffered so much for my sins. Sorrow, love and the desire to sacrifice everything for Him filled my soul."

About this time God harkened to the earnest desire of the penitent: her mother died, then her husband, and soon afterward all her children. These tragic events were very painful to her, but she made the sacrifice with resignation to the will of God. Being freed from these ties, she dispossessed herself of all her temporal goods with the consent of her confessor, so that being poor herself, she might walk in the footsteps of her poor Savior. She also entered the Third Order of St. Francis, and presently found herself the superior and guide of others who followed in her path. Many women joined her, even to the point of taking the three vows. She encouraged them in works of charity, in nursing the sick, and in going personally from door to door to beg for the needs of the poor.

Meanwhile, Angela became still more immersed in the contemplation of the Passion of Christ, and she chose the Sorrowful Mother and the faithful disciple John as her patrons. The sight of the wounds which her Lord suffered for her sins urged her to the practice of still greater austerities. Once Our Lord showed her that His Heart is a safe refuge in all the storms of life. She was soon to be in need of such a refuge.

God permitted her to be afflicted with severe temptations. The most horrible and loathsome representations distressed her soul.

The fire of concupiscence raged so furiously that she said: "I would rather have beheld myself surrounded with flames and permitted myself to be continually roasted than to endure such things."

Still, she called out to God,

"Glory be to Thee, O Lord! Thy cross is my resting place."

These painful trials lasted over two years, but then the purified and tried servant of the Lord was filled with great consolation. She obtained a marvelous insight into divine things and was very frequently found in ecstasy. For many years Holy Communion was her only food, until at last, completely purified, she entered into the eternal joy of the Supreme Good on January 4, 1310. Pope Innocent XII approved the continual devotion paid to her at her tomb in Foligno. He beatified her in 1693.

Blessed Angela of Foligno said, "To know oneself and to know God, that is the perfection of man; without this knowledge, visions and the greatest gifts are of no account."

*Saint Angela of Foligno, pray for us!*

<https://monasticmatrix.osu.edu/commentaria/mystical-journey-angela-foligno>

## The Admonitions of St Francis of Assisi

### Number 20 – Finding true joy and happiness

The good and the vain religious

Blessed is that religious, who do not find joy and happiness except in the most sacred words and actions of the Lord, and through them, he leads people to the love of God with joy and gladness. Woe to that religious who enjoys himself in his empty and useless words and through them leads people to laughter.

Q1. What should be the source of happiness for the religious (and hence for a member of the Secular Franciscans)?

Q2. How does this compare to the prayer: “My God and My All”?

Q3. Can it be said that the key principle here is that “God is all Good”?

### Prayer Requests and Praise Reports

-Steve Carlson:

- For my daughter Elena to return to the Church.
- For emotional healing for Elena and Lucia Carlson.

-Nancy Yount:

- For a friend's young daughter who has been told, there is nothing else they can do for her cancer.
- Prayers of support for 2 young evangelists who are rejoining their teams to evangelize to young people, one to NY and the other to TX. May the Holy Spirit guide them in this important work and keep them safe.
- For a young woman struggling to overcome sexual abuse as a child. May she find her way back to Jesus.

-Dave Garrett:

- for my mother, continuing recovery.
- 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.
- Praise for successful spine surgery and return to normal duties.

-Luis Alvarez:

- 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.
- 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.
- For an end to the partial government shutdown, to alleviate the suffering of those in need of funds.

## Calendar Of Events

### Annual Meetings

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

**Saturday, August 17, 2019:**

#### **Chapter of Mats**

Portiuncula Monastery  
22625 Edgewater Road  
Omaha, NE 68022

**Thursday, October 3, 2019:**

#### **Transitus of St Francis of Assisi**

St. John Vianney Catholic Church  
Blessed Sacrament Chapel  
Omaha, NE 68137

#### **On-Going Formation -**

Clare of Assisi: A Heart Full of Love  
January, 2019 Chapter 7 - Eucharist

#### **Initial Formation -**

The Franciscan Journey:  
January, 2019 Chapters 24 & 25

### Monthly Meetings

**Monthly Gathering** - 3rd Sunday

*(except in June due to Father's Day, then it is the 4th Sunday. Please **confirm** schedule before attending.)*

**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 April/December when the Lenten/Advent Retreat will be held)*

Pax et Bonum!

A Note regarding the Fair Share and the Common Fund was placed at the end of this Newsletter, at the request of the editor, with the intention to clarify the purpose and origin of Fair Share and the Common Fund. It caused concern and, probably, confusion to readers of the newsletter. The Note was removed by Luis Alvarez, OFS, Minister aka editor. In its place, the following has been inserted: I want to thank, Kathy Taormina, OFS, Regional SA for bringing it to my attention and including the relevant Articles from our OFS governing documents.

**COMMON FUND:**

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

**GENERAL CONSTITUTIONS, Article 30.3: In a family spirit, each brother and sister should make a contribution to the fraternity fund, according to each one's means, to provide the financial means needed for the life of the fraternity and for its religious, apostolic and charitable works. The brothers and sisters ought to provide the means necessary for supporting activities and the operations of the fraternities at higher levels, both by their financial assistance and by their contributions in other areas as well.**

**USA NATIONAL STATUTES, Article 18.7: The Local fraternity is responsible for contributing to the Regional Fraternity on a fair share basis from its common fund to underwrite the costs of that fraternity [cf. GC, Art. 30.3]. A fair share contribution is made based on the number of active or excused brothers and sisters, but not for those who are deemed lapsed.**

Notice the USA National Statutes, Article 18.7 in RED. The Pater Noster Fraternity Council had met for a planning/budget session, Saturday, 1/12/19, and the former Note was discussed at great length. The conclusion of that discussion was in line with the above Articles from our OFS governing documents. Simply stated, The Fair Share comes from the Common Fund and the fraternity is responsible for contributing the Fair Share.

I want to apologize for any and all unwarranted concern or confusion that the former Note unintentionally caused. If anyone has questions regarding this issue - direct them to me via email @ [lalvarez62@yahoo.com](mailto:lalvarez62@yahoo.com)

Thank you for reading the Pater Noster Fraternity Newsletter. We are always open to fraternal correction, advice, and encouragement.

Luis Antonio Alvarez, OFS

Minister - Pater Noster Fraternity