



Pater Noster Fraternity

Queen of Peace Region

Newsletter – March 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 us as we pray for you.



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



On the eve of the feast of the holy virgin and martyr Agnes, in the year 1205, a daughter was born to the king of Bohemia, Premislaus Ottokar I. St Agnes of Prague, she also received the name Agnes in baptism. Her mother, who was an aunt of St Elizabeth of Hungary, rejoiced when she noticed an admirable seriousness in her infant. At times she saw how St Agnes of Prague folded her little hands in the form of a cross, and then, as if absorbed in deep devotion, would lie quite still.

According to the custom of the time, the king's daughter was betrothed at the age of three years to the son of the Duke of Silesia, and hence was sent to the Salesian convent at Trebnitz, where St Hedwig was superior at that time, to be educated there. Her betrothed died after three years, and St Agnes of Prague was then taken to the

Saint Agnes of Prague, Virgin, O.S.C.

Princess, philanthropist, and abbess

Feast Day: 2 March

Major shrine: Monastery of St. Agnes
Prague, Czech Republic

Birth: 20 June 1211, Prague, Bohemia

Death: 2 March 1282, Age 70, Prague,
Bohemia

Beatified: 1874 by Pope Pius IX

Canonized: 12 November 1989, Vatican City,
by Pope John Paul II

Patronage: Czech Republic

convent at Doxan in Bohemia, where the seeds of sanctity which had been sown by St Hedwig budded forth in marvelous bloom. The child appeared to be destined for the heavenly Spouse rather than for an earthly one, but earthly monarchs renewed their suit for her hand.

Emperor Frederick II desired to secure St Agnes of Prague as the bride of his son and successor to the throne, Henry, and Agnes, who was now a mature young woman, was sent to the court of the German emperor. But when the union with Henry came to naught as the result of the prayers of the virgin, King Henry III of England sought her hand in marriage, and finally, even Emperor Frederick II himself, whose consort had meanwhile died. All the opposition raised by St Agnes of Prague, who desired to belong entirely to the Divine Bridegroom, seemed in vain.

Saint Agnes of Prague (continued)

Then she begged Pope Gregory IX to intervene, and as a result, she obtained her freedom. The emperor declared himself satisfied since Agnes chose not a human being but the God of heaven in preference to him.

Now, however, Agnes strove to embrace the religious state in order to achieve her union with the Divine Bridegroom. The fame of Poor Clare convents had reached Bohemia, and Agnes resolved, with the assistance of her brother, who had meanwhile ascended the royal throne, to establish a convent of Poor Clares in the capital city of Prague. Pope Gregory cheerfully gave his consent, and, at his command, St. Clare sent five sisters from the convent of St. Damian in Assisi, to Prague. Agnes and seven other young women of the highest ranks of society entered the new convent together with these sisters.

Within a short time Agnes distinguished herself among them as a model of virtue; in fervor at prayer, in obedience, in religious discipline, in self-denial, and in humility. The command of the pope to accept the position of abbess was a great trial for her humility; however, she obtained permission not to carry the title, but rather to be known as the "senior sister."

Holy zeal, similar to that of her holy mother St. Clare, characterized her vigilance regarding the observance of holy poverty; she declined the royal gifts sent to her by her brother, and would not tolerate that any sister possesses anything of a personal nature.

God blessed her with the gift of miracles; she recalled to life the deceased daughter of her brother.

Enriched with heavenly merits, she departed from this life in the odor of sanctity, to enter into eternal union with her Divine Bridegroom, on March 6, 1282, having served Him for forty years in the religious state. Devotion to her, which has existed since time immemorial, received apostolic sanction from Pope Pius IX, and her feast, which has long been celebrated in Prague on March 2nd, has been extended to the entire Franciscan Order.

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-agnes-of-bohemia/>

Saint Agnes of Prague, *pray for us!*

The Admonitions of St Francis of Assisi

Number 22: Accepting correction patiently

Blest is the servant who so patiently bears correction, accusation, and reproach from another person just as from himself. Blest is the servant who when reproached accepts it with graciousness, and humbly confesses and freely makes up for the fault. Blest is the servant who is not quick to excuse himself and humbly puts up with the revilement and reproach for the sin, when he has not actually committed the fault.

Q1. We often find this is hard to take, humanly speaking (our lower nature). Yet what example did Christ give us in trials?

Q2. Have you ever accepted blame willingly, even though you knew you did not do what was accused? Is this a purifying experience?

Q3. How does this compare to the message of Admonition #14?[see *Below*]

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 my sister, Karen, who is suffering with a rare form of dementia and her family
- for my brother Ken who has been diagnosed with PTSD
- for my son and daughter to return to the Church.

-Dave Garrett:

- For my daughter's struggle with her disabilities and children.
- For my son, Joshua's addiction recovery and return to the Church.

-Cecilia Padilla:

- For difficulties with unforeseen circumstances.

-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 innocent bishops, priests, deacons, and all who work for the kingdom of Christ, who are going to suffer for the sins of others.
- For the USA and the conversion of hearts of politicians who support the destruction of human life.

Kent Riesberg:

- For my daughter, **Janice**, who will be having a baby soon - health for both the mother and baby.

Joseph Norman:

- For my mother (Betty) and brother (Tom)

Calendar Of Events

Annual/Special Meetings

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

Spring Retreat:

»**April 10th, 2019**«

Sr. Mary Ann's Retreat House
15625 S Street
Omaha, NE

Pastoral/Fraternal Visitation

March 17, 2019

Welcome to Tim and Kathy
Taormina, OFS

Professions!!!!

June/July 2019

Monastery of St Clare
Date: to be determined

Chapter of Mats

Saturday, August 17, 2019

Monastery of St Clare
22625 Edgewater Rd.
Elkhorn, NE 68022

Transitus of St Francis of Assisi

Thursday, October 3, 2019

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

[Admonition 14 – On Poverty of Spirit
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the heavenly kingdom. There are many who in fulfilling their prayers and duties carry out many self-denials and afflictions on their bodies. But with a single word, that seems to

Monthly Meetings

Monthly Gathering - 3rd Sunday

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

Initial Formation at 11:30 am

Potluck at 1:00 pm

On-Going Formation at 1:30 PM

Council Meeting - 2nd Wednesday of the month

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

On-Going Formation -

Clare of Assisi: A Heart Full of Love
February, 2019 Chapter 8 - Power of the Spirit; and Conclusion

Initial Formation -

The Franciscan Journey:
February, 2019 Chapters 28 & 29

be an insult about their bodies or by anything else, which they might be deprived of, they immediately are shocked and disturbed. These are not poor in spirit; because he who is truly poor in spirit hates himself and loves those who strike him on the cheek.]