



# *Pater Noster Fraternity*

Queen of Peace Region  
Newsletter – September 2020  
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.”

**Come and share with us our Vision and Mission to Omaha and beyond!**

[Previous newsletters may be found on the Queen of Peace Regional Fraternity](#)

## **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 - resigned  
Richard Beal, OFS-(not in picture)  
appointed to complete term  
**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

## Saint Elzear of Sabran



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**Description:** Español: Elzeario de Sabrán.

**Date:** 22 January 2006

**Author:** Unknown

**Third Order of Saint Francis**

**Feast Day:** 27 September

**Birth:** 1285 Provence, France

**Death:** 27 September 1323 (aged 38) Paris, France

**Venerated:** Roman Catholic Church

**Canonized:** 1369 by Urban V

**Attributes:** crown, royal attire

St Elzear of Sabran was born in 1285 and belonged to a very noble family. His father was the head of the house of Sabran in southern France and count of Ariano in the kingdom of Naples. His mother was a woman of great piety, who, because of her charity to the poor, was known as the good countess. Elzear was her first child.

After his baptism she took Saint Elzear of Sabran in her arms and asked God to take him out of this world if He foresaw that the child would ever stain his soul by sin.

With his mother's milk he seems to have imbibed the spirit of piety, for from his babyhood he was always docile, gentle, and modest, without a trace of mawkishness in his piety. He was friendly towards everyone, and was particularly devoted to the poor.

When he was only 13 years old, Saint Elzear of Sabran undertook severe bodily mortifications in order to keep the flesh in subjection to the spirit.

Conforming to the wish of the king of Naples, who was also the Lord of Southern France, he married while still quite young, the Countess Delphina of the Glandeves family. On their wedding day both spouses vowed perpetual virginity, and persevered in living like brother and sister until death.

At the death of his father, Saint Elzear of Sabran, who was then only 23 years old, inherited his father's titles. He considered it his sacred duty to provide for the temporal, and above all, the spiritual welfare of his people. He was particularly solicitous that the laws of God and of the Church were observed in his dominions.

## Saint Elzear of Sabran (continued)

The poor were the special object of his solicitude. Every day 12 of them dined at the same table with him and the countess. There was remarkable calmness and self-possession in his demeanor. Personal injuries did not affect him. If anyone repeated to him anything uncomplimentary that had been said about him, he did not even ask who it was that said it, but merely replied: "Worse things were said about Christ."

Going to Italy in his capacity as count of Ariano, Saint Elzear of Sabran found that his Italian subjects were not all disposed to accept French domination. That lasted for several years. It was suggested to him that he deal severely with the offenders, but he would not consent. In four years he had won over the people by his gentleness and charity, and all looked up to him as to a father.

Upon his return to France his subjects there prepared a great feast for him. Delphina was especially happy, and the devout couple now joined the Third Order of St Francis in order to be still more intimately united to God. Elzear redoubled his acts of piety. He prayed the divine office every day as the priests do, scourged his body severely, and nursed the sick with as much charity and reverence as if he were actually performing these services to Christ Himself.

God granted him the gift of miracles, and he cured several lepers. By his prayers he also restored health to the son of the count of Grimoard, who was the saint's godchild. On this occasion Elzear told the father that his child would one day be elevated to one of the greatest dignitaries of the Church. The child later became Pope Urban V.

Although engaged in many works of piety, Elzear never neglected his temporal duties. He was obliged to spend several years at the court of the saintly King Robert of Naples, where he gave proof of his courage and talent as army chief and minister of state.

Sent to the court of Paris on matters of state, he was seized with a serious illness. With the same serenity which he had preserved throughout life, he prepared himself for death, made a general confession of his whole life, received the last sacraments with angelic devotion, and departed from this life in his 40th year on September 27, 1323.

Because of the numerous miracles that occurred at his tomb and the urgent request of the kings of France and Naples, Pope Urban V, his godchild, with great joy canonized him in the year 1369.

### Saint Elzear of Sabran quotes:

**"Go often to visit our amiable Lord Jesus Christ in the holy sacrament. Enter in spirit His Sacred Heart. You know that to be my constant dwelling. You will always find me there (in adoration)."**

[Roman Catholic Saints](#)

[Tradition In Action](#)

[Franciscan Media](#)

[Secular Franciscans USA](#)

[Youtube Video](#)

**Saint Elzear of Sabran, *pray for us!***

## The Admonitions of St Francis of Assisi

**Admonition 1:** – God Present in the Eucharist; profess this belief – On the Body of the Lord.

The Lord Jesus says to his disciples: I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me. If you knew me, you would also know my Father; and in fact you have known him and have seen him. Philip says to him: Lord, show us the Father, and that will suffice for us. Jesus says to him: For so much time I am with you and you have not known me? Philip, who sees me, sees also my Father. The Father dwells in inaccessible light, and God is spirit, and no one has ever seen God. So he can be seen only in the spirit, because he who gives life is spirit; the flesh does not produce that. But the son, who is equal to the Father, is never seen by anyone else than the Father -- similarly for the Holy Spirit.

Hence everyone who has seen the Lord Jesus according to his humanity and has not seen and believed according to the spirit and divinity that he is the true Son of God, are condemned. In the same way all who see the Sacrament, which is made holy through the words of the Lord upon the altar at the hand of the priest in the form of bread and wine, and do not see and believe according to the spirit and divinity, what is truly the most holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, are condemned.

With the strongest testimony, the Most High says: This is my body and my blood of the new Testament [which is poured out for many]; and who eats my flesh and drinks my blood, has life Eternal. It is the Spirit of the Lord, therefore who dwells in his faithful people, he it is who receives the most holy Body and Blood of the Lord. All others who do not have that same spirit and presume to receive Him, eat and drink judgment to themselves.

Hence: Sons of men, why continue with hardness of heart? Do you not recognize the truth and believe in the Son of God?

Look. Daily he humbles himself, just as when from the royal chambers he came into the womb of the Virgin; daily he comes to us in humble appearance; daily he comes down from the bosom of the Father upon the altar in the hands of the priest. And just as he showed himself to the holy apostles in true flesh, in like manner he shows himself to us in the Sacred Bread. And just as with their carnal eyes they only saw his flesh, yet in contemplating him with their spiritual eyes they believed him to be God. Similarly, we see the bread and the wine with our corporeal eyes, and firmly believe his most Holy Body and Blood to be living and true. And in this way the Lord is always with his faithful people, just as he says: I am with you until the completion of the world.

**Q1.** Since God is spirit, what is our necessary approach to Him?

**Q2.** How does Francis describe that we have two sets of eyes? What are they to be used for? Do I use both sets of eyes?

**Q3.** What are we to believe about the Eucharist? How necessary is this faith?

**Q4.** How did Francis apply this teaching to his own life?

**Q5.** How central to Francis' faith was this Eucharistic Sacrament?

**Q6.** Do you recall any other places in his writings that Francis expresses this concern?

## **Prayer Requests and Praise Reports**

- Lord, send more vocations to the OFS and other Franciscan Orders
- For the health of Patricia and William Whipple, OFS
- Richard and Maria Kim-Beal, OFS
- Charlotte Jones, OFS
- Joe and Wilma Kosch, OFS;
- Healing and cleansing of Holy Mother Church
- Healing for those suffering the effects of Cancer
- For Officer Mario Herrera and family

- For celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rule
- For Cecilia Padilla, OFS facing “unforeseen circumstances”
- For the children in our nation who strayed from the practice of their Faith.
- For the return of lapsed Secular Franciscans to full participation.
- For unity in our land and world during these turbulent times

## Calendar Of Events

### Annual/Special Meetings

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

#### Transitus of St Francis of Assisi

October 3rd

### Monthly Meetings

#### Monthly Gathering - 3rd Sunday

Exceptions: (Please confirm before attending.)

- \*Jun - Gathering is on the **4th Sunday**, due to Father's Day is on the 3rd Sunday
- **Aug - First gathering back in person at Saint Stephen the Martyr**
- Sep - Rite of Admission for Paul Reinhart

**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 -**

FRANCIS of ASSISI and the FUTURE of FAITH  
Chapter 13 - What does Rome Have to do with ASSISI? - First section pages 177 to 198

- The closing is from the Ritual for the following months: Feb., May, Aug, Nov.
- For Mar., June, Sep., and Dec. from the Liturgy of the Hours.
- For Jan, April, July, Oct. from the Liturgy of the Twelve Our Fathers - please bring your *Secular Franciscan Companion*

#### **Initial Formation -**

The Franciscan Journey:

- September 2020 Chapter 10