

St. Clare Fraternity

NEWSLETTER

June 2020

Our Council: Arlene Stewart, Minister Tom Brown, Vice Minister Katie Roberts, Formation Director Maryanne Sheofsky, Secretary Anne Pennsy, Treasurer Victoria Snyder, Councilor Brother Mike Tripka, TOR, Spiritual Assistant

Minister's Message

St. Francis on how to receive the Holy Spirit permanently.

“Furthermore, let us produce worthy fruits of penance. Let us also love our neighbors as ourselves. Let us have charity and humility. Let us give alms because these cleanse our souls from the stains of sin. Men lose all the material things they leave behind them in this world, but they carry with them the reward of their charity and the alms they give. For these they will receive from the Lord the reward and recompense they deserve. We must not be wise and prudent according to the flesh. Rather we must be simple, humble and pure. We should never desire to be over others. Instead, we ought to be servants who are submissive to every human being for God's sake. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on all who live in this way and persevere in it to the end. He will permanently dwell in them. They will be the Father's children who do his work. They are the spouses, brothers and mothers of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Almighty, eternal, just and merciful God,
Grant us in our misery that we do for your sake what we know you want us to do, and always want what pleases you;
So that, cleansed and enlightened interiorly and fired with the ardor of the Holy Spirit, we may be able to follow in the footsteps of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Peace and all good.

From our Formation Director

It has been a long time since we have been able to attend Mass and receive the Eucharist in our Church. Some of us may still need to stay home. I thought it might be a good time to contemplate the Eucharist. In “Live Like Francis,” page 119, reflection #27 “Eucharist: Contemplating the Mystery,” there are 14 “considerations that are offered for meditation, for preparation and thanksgiving after Mass.” These are taken from Christian Commitment by Father Karl Rahner.

How does the Eucharist and Spiritual Communion help you to be more like Jesus? How has "what you experience at Mass change your approach to daily living?"

"As we meditate on these profound mysteries, we may be moved to say with Francis:"

"O sublime lowliness, O low sublimity? That the Lord of the universe, God and the Son of God, should so humble himself as to hide under the tiny little form of bread for our welfare. Look, brothers, at the humility of God and pour out your hearts before him. Be humble yourselves so that you may be exalted by him."

OFS National & Regional News

Summer Seminar "Called to Act With Justice" July 9-12, 2020 Canceled due to Covid-19

"Study well the Gloria Patri [Glory be to the Father... prayer]; in it you will find the whole substance of the Scriptures." (St. Francis of Assisi)

St. Clare Fraternity News

FRATERNITY GATHERINGS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

May the Lord grant us peace! As this time, due to the spread of the Coronavirus, our gatherings as Secular Franciscans are cancelled because of the safeguards imposed nationally and locally

Happy June Birthday to: June 29th Frank McSteen

Franciscan Holy Days

June 12 Blessed Jolenta (Yolanda) of Poland (c. 1235 - June 11, 1298)

Blessed Jolenta of Poland's Story

Upon the death of her husband and the marriage of two of her daughters, Jolenta and her third daughter entered the convent of the Poor Clares. Her favorite devotion was the Passion of Christ. Indeed, Jesus appeared to her, telling her of her coming death. Many miracles, down to our own day, are said to have occurred at

her grave. **Reflection** Jolenta's story begins like a fairy tale. But fairy tales seldom include the death of the prince and *never* end with the princess living out her days in a convent. Nonetheless, Jolenta's story has a happy ending. Her life of charity toward the poor and devotion to her Franciscan sisters indeed brought her to a "happily ever after." Our lives may be short on fairy tale elements, but our generosity and our willingness to serve well the people we live with lead us toward an ending happier than we can imagine.

June 13 St. Anthony of Padua (1195 - June 13, 1231)

Saint Anthony of Padua's Story The gospel call to leave everything and follow Christ was the rule of Saint Anthony of Padua's life. Repeatedly, God called him to something new in his plan. Every time Anthony responded with renewed zeal and self-sacrificing to serve his Lord Jesus more completely. **Saint Anthony of Padua is the Patron Saint of** lost items, the poor, and travelers. **Reflection** Anthony should be the patron of those who find their lives completely uprooted and set in a new and unexpected direction. Like all saints, he is a perfect example of turning one's life completely over to Christ. God did with Anthony as God pleased—and what God pleased was a life of spiritual power and brilliance that still attracts admiration today. He whom popular devotion has nominated as finder of lost objects found himself by losing himself totally to the providence of God.

June 22 St. Thomas More (February 7, 1478 - July 6, 1535)

Saint Thomas More's Story His belief that no lay ruler has jurisdiction over the Church of Christ cost Thomas More his life. **Saint Thomas More is the Patron Saint of:** attorneys, civil servants, court clerks, lawyers, politicians, public servants. **Reflection** Four hundred years later in 1935, Thomas More was canonized a saint of God. Few saints are more relevant to our time. In the year 2000, in fact, Pope John Paul II named him patron of political leaders. The supreme diplomat and counselor, he did not compromise his own moral values in order to please the king, knowing that true allegiance to authority is not blind acceptance of everything that authority wants. King Henry himself realized this and tried desperately to win his chancellor to his side because he knew More was a man whose approval counted, a man whose personal integrity no one questioned. But when Thomas More resigned as chancellor, unable to approve the two matters that meant most to Henry, the king had to get rid of him.

June 30 Blessed Raymond Lull (c. 1235 – June 28, 1315)

Blessed Raymond Lull's Story

Raymond worked all his life to promote the missions and died a missionary to North Africa. He became a Secular Franciscan and founded a college where missionaries could learn the Arabic they would need in the missions. **Reflection** Raymond worked most of his life to help spread the gospel. Indifference on the part of some Christian leaders and opposition in North Africa did not turn him from his goal. Three hundred years later Raymond's work began to have an influence in the Americas.

PRAYING THE RULE

O Lord, our God, we intend to make present the charism of our Seraphic Father Francis in the life and mission of the Church, in various ways and forms, but in life-giving union with one another. By our profession, we pledge ourselves to live the Gospel in the manner of St Francis by means of our Rule approved by the Church (Arts. 1-3). Help us, we pray, so that daily we may:

† Observe the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of St. Francis, going from Gospel to life and life to the Gospel. (Art. 4)

† Seek to encounter the living and active person of Christ in our brothers and sisters, in Sacred Scripture, in the Church and in the liturgical activity. (Art. 5)

† Go forth as witnesses and instruments of the Church's mission among people, proclaiming Christ by our life and words. (Art. 6)

† Conform our thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by the radical interior change which the Gospel calls "conversion," making use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on the way to renewal (Art. 7)

† Let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all we are and do. (Art. 8)

† Imitate the Virgin Mary's complete self-giving in her openness to the Lord's every word and call. (Art. 9)

† Fulfill faithfully the duties proper to our various circumstances in life. (Art. 10)

† Seek the proper spirit of detachment and purify our hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power. (Art. 11)

† Acquire the purity of heart needed to set ourselves free to love God and our brothers and Sisters. (Art. 12)

† Accept all people as your gift, Lord, and an image of Christ. (Art. 13)

† Exercise our responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of service. (Art. 14)

† Be in the forefront of promoting justice by the testimony of our human lives and by courageous initiatives. (Art. 15)

† Esteem work both as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption and service of the human community. (Art. 16)

† Cultivate the Franciscan spirit of peace, fidelity and respect for life in our families, striving to make it a sign of a world already renewed in Christ. (Art. 17)

† Respect all creatures, animate and inanimate “as bearing the imprint of the Most High.” (Art. 18)

† Be bearers of peace and messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance as, immersed in the resurrection of Christ, we serenely tend towards Sister Death and our ultimate encounter with you, our Father (Art 19).

All this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Brother. Amen.

[Proposed by Cyndy Garwood, O.F.S., adapted from Fr. Liam McCarthy, O.F.M. by Deacon Dave & Thérèse Ream, O.F.S., Revised July 2017]