

St. Clare Fraternity

# NEWSLETTER

October 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

As we celebrate the Feast of our Seraphic father, St. Francis, let us take a moment to reflect and renew the commitment of our own profession to observe the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following in the footsteps of St. Francis who made Christ the inspiration and center of his life. As Secular Franciscans we should devote ourselves to careful reading of the Gospel; going from gospel to life and life to Gospel.

Franciscan life is a high calling. But if God has given us this vocation, he will also give us His grace to carry it out. Our whole lives are an ongoing conversion, an attempt to open us up to God more and more.

So, let us then thank the Lord for calling us to the Secular Franciscan Order and ask pardon for all our shortcomings and weaknesses to the Gospel life and against the Rule. Let us strive to be more faithful.

One of the most striking things Francis said concerning humility; "A man is what he is in the sight of God and nothing more." If we are humble before God, we cannot be conceited before others. St. Bonaventure said, "I must consider myself below others, not because I am certain that I am, but because I am more certain of my unworthiness than I am of theirs."

Father, you helped Saint Francis to reflect the image of Christ through a life of poverty and humility. May we follow you Son by walking in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi, and by imitating his joyful love

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy; O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to*

*love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

With God all things are possible.

## From our Formation Director

Be sure to read *La Probecita*. It is packed full with relevant topics for our time. There's an "at home" Transitus service, an excellent article from Fr Christopher, a formation article about JPIC and "making choices in harmony with their faith" (from Article 15 of our Rule), an article about forming our conscience, definition of what it means to be a Secular Franciscan and more. Mary Nelson, our regional formation director, has invited us to join her in a Zoom meeting on Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> "to discuss Article 15 of our Rule, for prayer, and discussion of the issues posed by the upcoming election." If anyone wants help with Zoom, please let me know.

The plaque on our new statue of St. Francis reminds us to love all of God's creation; people included. We need to love ALL people and pray for them. Article 19 of our Rule states "Mindful that they are bearers of peace which much be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon. Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others."

We can all use more love, peace, joy and hope in our lives and promote this in the lives of others. Let's reflect on how God is asking us to do this and then, ask God for the grace to do it.

## St. Clare Fraternity News

### Blessing of the Statue of St. Francis at Sts. Cosmas & Damian

This Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, the feast of our Seraphic Father, is the day chosen by Msgr. Riccardo for the blessing of our beautiful statue of St. Francis. The blessing will happen right after the 11:00 am mass. Our Minister, Arlene, asks members of St. Clare Fraternity to gather in the church parking lot around 11:45 am.

### October Rosary for Opioid Addiction

Our fraternity will join in spirit for the recitation of the rosary at **11:00 am on Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**.

## Happy October Birthday to:

*October 25<sup>th</sup> Brother Mike Tripka, TOR*

## Prayer Requests

Prayers have been requested for the following people:

Vicky Snyder; Tony Agnello; Ruth Colonna; Michael Passiniti; Fr. Terry Adams; Kim Horner; Irene Phillips; Kathy and Jay Burke; for the repose of the soul of Fran Dickey; and all intentions we hold in our hearts.

## Franciscan Feast Days in October

- 1 Franciscan Crown Rosary
- 3 Transitus of St. Francis
- 4 Our Holy Father Francis
- 6 St. Mary Frances of the 5 Wounds
- 10 St. Daniel and Companions
- 11 St. John XXIII
- 12 St. Seraphin of Montegrano
- 18 Bl. James of Strepar
- 20 Bl. Contardo Ferrini
- 21 Bl. Josephine Leroux
- 22 St. Peter of Alcantara
- 23 St. John of Capistrano
- 26 Bl. Bonaventure of Potenza

## FRANCISCAN CROWN (or Seraphic Rosary)

On October 1<sup>st</sup> Franciscans celebrate the Crown Rosary. This rosary consists of seven decades in commemoration of the seven joys of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Annunciation; Visitation, Birth of Our Lord, Jesus, Adoration of the Magi, Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple, the Resurrection of Our Lord, the Assumption, the Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven. This devotion is in use among the members of the three orders of St. Francis.

Around the year 1422 a young novice who had been received into the order had been accustomed to adorn a statue of the Blessed Mother with a wreath of fresh and beautiful flowers as a mark of his piety and devotion. Once in the novitiate he could not continue this practice and so he decided to leave the order. The Blessed Virgin appeared to him and prevented him from carrying out his purpose. She then instructed him how, by reciting daily a rosary of seven decades in honor of her seven joys, he might weave a crown that would be more pleasing to her than the material wreath of flowers he had placed on her statue. From that time the practice of reciting the crown of the seven joys became general in the order. Source: The Daily Tau

## Selected FRANCISCAN PRAYERS

Glory and praise be to you, most loving Jesus Christ, for the most sacred wound in your own side. By that holy wound you made know your infinite mercy, O most gentle Jesus, I ask you that, having redeemed us by baptism from the stain of original sin, do now by your precious blood which is offered and received throughout the world, deliver us from all evils, past, present, and to come. By your most bitter death give us a lively faith, firm hope, and a perfect charity, that with our whole hearts we may love you with all our soul and strength. Make us persevere in your service, firm and steadfast in good words, so that we may be always able to please you, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. *St. Clare of Assisi*

Most high, glorious God enlighten the darkness of our minds. Give us a right faith, a firm hope, and perfect love so that we may always and in all things act according to your perfect will. Amen. *St. Francis of Assisi*

Stay with me, Jesus, for it is getting late and the day is coming to a close. It is necessary to renew my strength, so that I will not stop along the way and for that, I need you. I fear the darkness, the temptations, the dryness, the cross, the sorrows. O how I need you, my Jesus in this night of exile! Stay with me tonight, Jesus in life with all its dangers, I need you. Amen. *St. Padre Pio*

## What is the center of Franciscan Spirituality?

Father Angelus Shaughnessy, OFM, asked a group of men visiting a Franciscan seminary “What is the center of Franciscan spirituality? The men gave various answers such as “humility,” “simplicity,” etc. Father told them “**The center of Franciscan Spirituality is Christ Crucified.**”