



"FROM GOSPEL TO LIFE AND LIFE TO GOSPEL"

ST. CLARE FRATERNITY NEWSLETTER

St. Clare Fraternity, Stafford Springs, CT

August 2025

MAY GOD GIVE YOU PEACE!



Thanks to all who were able to attend our Transitus for St. Clare. What a blessed time!

Watch for an email from Sandy about when our Transitus will be broadcast on the Archdiocese of Hartford Crossroads TV program.

SPECIAL CENTENTARY of the CANTICLE CELEBRATION!

Please see page 5 for information on a day celebrating the Canticle hosted by our dear Franciscan Missionary Sisters in Holyoke. We will discuss details at our gathering.



**"What you hold,
may you always
Hold.
What you do,
may you always
do
and never
abandon."**

St. Clare of Assisi

FRATERNITY LIFE

Monthly Gatherings:

Fraternity Gathering
Saturday, August 23—10 a.m.
St. Edward Parish Center
Hospitality—Laraine

Fraternity Gathering
Saturday, September 27—10 a.m.
St. Edward Parish Center
Hospitality—Barbara

Please remember our Common Fund



St. Clare of Assisi, Patroness of our Fraternity

OUR FRATERNITY COUNCIL:

Minister: Sandy Comarella, OFS

Vice-Minister: Zofia Fitzgerald OFS

Secretary: Nancy Rudek, OFS

Treasurer: Joe Comarella, OFS

Formation Director: Corinne Lorenzet, OFS

Councilors Diane Garabedian, OFS

Barbara Peirola, OFS

Spiritual Assistant:

Father John Koziol, OFM Conv

CONTACT US:

comsandy@cox.net

POPE LEO'S

PRAYER INTENTIONS

August 2025

FOR COMMON COEXISTENCE

Let us pray that societies in which coexistence seems more difficult will not give in to the temptation of confrontation on ethnic, political, religious or ideological grounds.

September 2025

FOR OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ALL CREATION

Let us pray that, inspired by St. Francis, we may experience our interdependence with all creatures, loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

OFS INTENTIONS

August 2025

For the national fraternities of Paraguay and Brazil and for the Pan-African Congress in Uganda.

September 2025

For the national fraternities of New Zealand, Australia, Slovakia and USA.

Thoughts from your minister:

Friends,

What a fabulous month! We began the month by celebrating with our Franciscan friars and friends the Feast of Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula. We continued to celebrate with them in our Transitus service and the Feast of St. Clare. Yesterday we celebrated the Feast of Maximilian Kolbe and will end the month celebrating both Louis IX, king and patron of the Third Order and Saint Junipero Serra. With the Church, we celebrated the Transfiguration of our Lord, today the Assumption of Mary and next week, the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. And within our fraternity, we celebrate two powerful witnesses to our gospel life as we celebrate the anniversaries of Dede (25 years) and Nancy Rudek (10 years).

As I look at all these celebrations and feasts and professions, through them all, I see hope and love woven through each one. None of our saints had the perfect life. We know how our father Francis wanted more than anything to be a soldier, how he left his family and future to follow the gospel, and how he battled illness. St. Clare, from a noble family, also left the comfort of her home to follow Francis, the gospel and our Savior. She too battled illness and both of them had to vigorously defend their rules of poverty before they were approved. And finally, Maximilian, who loved our Mother Mary so deeply that he founded the Militia of the Immaculata, gave up his life for another in the Auschwitz concentration camp on the eve of the solemnity of the Assumption.

Today we celebrate the love of a Son for His Mother. For me, it's been easy to focus on our Queen on the universe and of peace, our Lady of Good Counsel. I sometimes forget that first and foremost, Mary was the mother of Jesus - a very young woman who had the courage to say yes to a future she didn't completely understand, to a path she couldn't see, to the hope of the world to come. Mary was a mother who taught her Son to pray, who held him, who wiped away His tears. Mary was a mother who in love, in hope and faith followed her Son to the Cross and held Him in her arms after He died.

As we continue to celebrate Mary on the Feast of her Immaculate heart, let us always remember the words of St. Maximilian - "Never be afraid of loving Mary too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did."

Grace, peace and hope! Sandy

FRATERNITY MATTERS

INVITE A FRIEND: At our gathering in May, we talked about planting the seeds of a vocation to the OFS. One idea is to invite someone in whom we see a "Franciscan heart" to our June gathering. So...who will YOU invite?

A REMINDER: Our monthly gatherings are a "privileged time" of fraternity and community. A time for us to share and grow together in our Franciscan vocation. If you cannot attend a gathering, and are not permanently excused, please contact one of the council members to let us know you will not be attending. Thank you.

MAY WE BE INSTRUMENTS OF PEACE Continue to pray for peace in the Ukraine and the Holy Land, Haiti, the Sudan and all those places in the world torn apart by war, civil unrest, violence and fear. Please pray also for peace and unity in our country.

FEAST DAYS

August 11—Clare of Assisi (Greta)

August 14—Maximilian Kolbe

*August 15—Assumption of Mary,
Mother of Jesus*

August 22—Queenship of Mary

*August 25—Louis IX of France, Pa-
tron of the Third Order*

September 4—Rose of Viterbo

WE PRAY FOR:

*Vocations to all branches of the
Franciscan family, especially to the
vocation of priesthood.*

*Healing for fraternity members Ma-
rie, Nancy R., Nancy L., DeDe ,
Rich, Lynn, Greta , Anne, Marion,
Carolyn, Pat, Charlotte, Mabel , Al-
bert*

*Healing for : Father Jude, Brother
Vincent, Ginny, Tom Stauffer,
Ronald C., David D., Patty, Bob G.,
Gayle, Robert, Frank, Emily , Alison,
Jan, Laraine D., Kirk, William, Har-
ry, Bob, Guy, Koren, John, Mary,
Clare, Kerry*

*For an end to the wars in Ukraine
and the Holy Land and all places
suffering from tyranny, violence and
corruption*

*For an end to the gun violence in our
country*

For all migrants and refugees

*Peace, healing and justice in our
country and in the world*

In thanksgiving for all our blessings.

AMEN.

FORMATION

A REFLECTION ON THE CANTICLE OF THE CREATURES (CONT.)

*This month we continue to reflect on Father Christopher Panagoplos', TOR,
teaching on the Canticle. We will read it in small pieces so that we can reflect
more deeply on his thoughts.*

Francis sees himself—as a brother—in union with all of creation, and expresses this communion in terms of brother and sister. Francis manifested by his very being, and by his behavior what was inside him and made him alive. He communicated meaning. His body language, his attitudes and actions are amplified by the spoken and written word, accessible to us through witnesses. Our only access to the “language” of Francis is through two sources of written texts: stories from those who knew him, influenced by him, interpreted him; and writings of Francis himself, centered not on his person or behavior, but on that which inspired him.

And so, let us consider The Canticle that constitutes the strongest and most authentic “speech,”— the vocabulary, syntax, the various styles used, and the manner of address—coming in contact with the language of Francis that is both puzzling and vivid, speech he identifies with that of God. Francis' mother tongue was the Italian Umbrian dialect, close to Latin. He knew the songs of the French troubadours, expressing himself in his moments of enthusiasm. The son of a rich merchant, he learned to read and write Latin, the principal language of communication at the time. All of Francis' writings, including the two autographs (The Praises of God and the Letter to Brother Leo) were written in Latin, except for The Canticle of Brother Sun in Italian, for the edification of the laity [Thadee Matura, OFM, The “Language” of Francis in His Writings].

(cont. on page 4)

OUR RULE of LIFE

PROLOGUE: EARLIER EXHORTATION OF SAINT FRANCIS TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF PENANCE

In the Name of the Lord!

Chapter One: Concerning those who do Penance

All those who love the Lord with their whole heart, with their whole mind, with their whole strength (Mk 12:30) and love their neighbor as themselves, who hate their bodies with their vices and sins (Mt 22:39), who receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and who produce worthy fruits of Penance:

O how happy and blessed are these men and women while they do such things and persevere in doing them, because the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon them (Is 11:2) and make its home and dwelling place (Jn 14:23) among them, and they are children of the heavenly Father whose (Mt 5:45) works they do, and they are spouses, brothers and mothers of our Lord Jesus Christ (Mt 12:50).

REFLECTION on the Canticle OF THE CREATURES *(cont.)*

The Canticle is a song of faith, more theological than poetical, written not in admiration of creation, but in adoration of the Creator. Francis wrote it during his last illness, when he was close to death, to express his faith that God's plan of salvation extended far beyond this earthly life. In it, Francis lists the most obvious works of the Creator, the things that we see and feel all around us all our lives. Yet he does not make explicit mention of Christ and His redeeming death.

Nevertheless, Francis teaches us that, by coming on earth, Christ has given everything and everyone in history a radically new orientation, which is a profound insight of faith by Francis into the real nature of all creation. The sacrifice of his own will entailed an even more radical surrender to God's will. And the result of this new and extremely painful growth process may have been the crisis during the night in the cell of mats at San Damiano, with the tribulation of the mice. It seems that Francis finished this canticle just before his death by adding the verses on peace and death. He was suffering greatly, (his illness, dissension of the friars, stigmatization), but the Lord consoled him by allowing him to see that he was being called to eternal life [Raoul Manselli, "Francis of Assisi and Lay People Living in the World"].



From this standpoint The Canticle acquires a deeper meaning as prayer. Although Francis does not interpret the mice as a temptation of the devil, in the end his interpretation is not all that different, and it is to his words that we must turn once again. We can easily reconstruct them if we reflect on the circumstances in which The Canticle was composed. One morning, after a night of extreme suffering caused by his eye sickness and the mice running through his cell of mats, he was consoled toward dawn by a heavenly vision assuring him of his eternal salvation. Many of us have experienced nights of sickness and insomnia. The mice that were tormenting him must have seemed to him a symbol of that evil, elusive but relentless, which eats away at creation. The wolf, which had become gentle at his prayer, had deluded him into believing that he had escaped into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. But now it took only a tiny and treacherous creature, one he could not tame, to serve as a cruel reminder of evil's overwhelming power over people. The darkness of the night, together with that of his own painful blindness, joined with the darkness of his spirit to form a single sad and

CANTICLE OF THE CREATURES

This year, as we celebrate the Centenary of the Canticle of the Creatures, each month a member of the Regional Formation Team will share meditations on a verse of the Canticle. Spend some time with the meditation, and make it your own by adding your own reflections.



*Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give pardon for Your Love,
And bear infirmity and tribulation.
Blessed are those who endure in peace
For by, You, Most High, shall they be crowned.*

St. Francis knew how important it is that we learn to forgive. It takes hard inner work to be able to pardon others. Only when we learn to forgive can we be set free. We can then begin to live in right relationships with one another and all of God's creation. We can be free to fall in love with all the beauty of this world. We can begin to understand we all belong to each other, and that we are all connected.

May we continue to walk in peace and pray for the grace to always forgive!

Marilyn Pinto, OFS

800th Anniversary OF THE CANTICLE OF THE CREATURES

10 Years SINCE LAUDATO SI'

on care for our common home
"Mother Earth"

A TIME FOR HOPE AND ACTION



AUGUST 30TH, 2025
09:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Assisi
1039 Northampton St, Holyoke,
Massachusetts 01040

About Our Creation Event!

We warmly invite you to join us for our Creation event as we celebrate the 800th anniversary of St. Francis' writing of the Canticle of the Creatures and 10 years since Pope Francis' Laudato Si' Encyclical. The day will be packed with activities to bring awareness and inspire adults and children to care for Mother Earth. The event is **FREE** and open to all.

JOIN US!

Event Highlights

Welcome Activities | 9:00 AM ◀

Complete registration and check out the information table while enjoying some light refreshments

Creation Encounters | 9:30 AM ◀

Awareness is key- Immerse yourself in interesting conversations and participate in activities about caring for Mother earth, our common home

Eucharistic Celebration | 12:00 PM ◀

Join us for Mass "Praised be You, my Lord"

Reception (Lunch) | 2:00 PM ◀

Savor a delightful array of snacks and beverages available throughout the event.

Ecological Way of the Cross | 3:00 PM ◀

Let's raise the Cross of Christ, Mother Earth belongs to God. Let's ask for strength and unity to care for our common home

Planting Activity | 4:00 PM ◀

Take action- Participate in the planting plants activity

Must RSVP by August 23rd | Email Franciscansistersofassisi@gmail.com

Volunteers needed! | Donations are welcome to help with some of the event expenses.

Our fraternity will have a carpool to this celebration of the Canticle of the Creatures hosted by our Franciscan Missionary Sisters in Holyoke!

We will discuss details at our August gathering.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP by August 23rd to the email address on the flyer, or let Corinne or Sandy know.

Praise be You O Lord!!!!

NATIONAL PRAYER for VOCATIONS to the SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

O Good and Gracious God, God of mercy,
compassion, generosity and love,

As we live our lives today in the model of St. Francis, choosing daily to live the Gospel life,

Help us to help others to recognize their vocation as a Secular Franciscan that you have already planted in their heart.

Help us, so that together we may all work to bring the Gospel to life.

AMEN!



Marian R. Crosby, OFS

St. Clare,
Pray for us!
From our
Transitus on
August 10th.

