



# "FROM GOSPEL TO LIFE AND LIFE TO GOSPEL"

## ST. CLARE FRATERNITY NEWSLETTER

St. Clare Fraternity, Stafford Springs, CT

July 2025

**MAY GOD GIVE YOU PEACE!**

FRATERNITY JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE  
To ST. STANISLAUS BASILICA, a Jubilee site

Saturday, July 26th

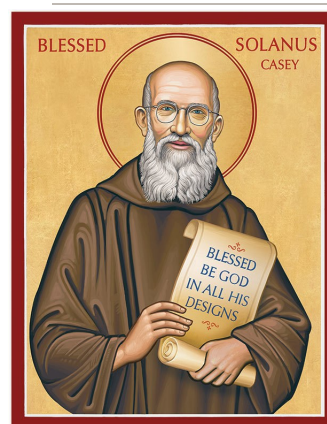
Mass, Tour of the Basilica, Lunch

Confessions will be available

Carpool will leave St. Edward at 9:00 a.m., return between  
3:00-3:30.

Our pilgrimage will be our fraternity gathering for July. The  
fraternity will provide wraps for lunch, we ask that you bring  
chips or desserts to share.

This is a wonderful opportunity to participate in the Jubilee  
Year of Hope. Please let Sandy or Corinne know if you will be  
attending by Monday, July 21st.



*"The best gift  
anyone can  
give  
a friend  
is to pray  
for him."*

**Blessed Solanus Casey**

**Patron of our Region**

**Feast Day—July 30**



### **FRATERNITY LIFE**

**Fraternity Gathering**  
**Saturday, July 26**  
**Trip to St. Stan's Basilica**  
**See details above**

**Sunday, August 10**  
**Transitus of St. Clare**  
**St. Edward Church—6:00 p.m.**

**Fraternity Gathering**  
**Saturday, August 23**  
**St. Edward Hall—10:00 a.m.**

**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

July 2025

#### FOR FORMATION IN DISCERNMENT

Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life, and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

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.

### OFS INTENTIONS

July 2025

For the national fraternities of Bolivia, Nicaragua, Hungary and Vietnam and for the IV OFS-YouFra European Congress in Spain.

August 2024

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

### *Thoughts from your minister:*

Friends,

On Sunday, April 20, 2025, Pope Francis gave his final "Urbi et Orbi" message from Saint Peter's Square, the day before he died. Like so many of his messages, his final message was one of Christ's love, hope, and forgiveness. In a world torn apart by war and violence, poverty, the destruction of the family and creation, Pope Francis once more told us to hope - to hope in the resurrection, to hope in our God, to hope that peace is possible, to hope in each other, especially the stranger. On his final Easter Sunday, he dared us to believe:

"Love has triumphed over hatred, light over darkness and truth over falsehood. Forgiveness has triumphed over revenge. Evil has not disappeared from history; it will remain until the end, but it no longer has the upper hand; it no longer has the power over those who accept the grace of this day."

As pilgrims of hope, we travel to the basilica of Saint Stanislaus later this month, which has been named a pilgrimage site. Let us walk with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as we tour the basilica and find hope for our homeland and food for our people. Like Moses and the Israelites, let us hope for freedom in our faith and our families. Like Isaiah, Ezekiel, John the Baptist, and even Jonah, let us show that the kingdom of God is at hand. With the 12 apostles, sent out two by two to preach, let us bring that Good News to all that we meet. As we journey through the last half of our Jubilee Year of Hope, may we greet the leper with St. Francis, calm the wolves in our lives, share our cloaks and always sing of the goodness of God's creation, because hope never disappoints.

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 next 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

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*July 14—Francis Solano (Greta)*

*July 15—Bonaventure*

*July 21—Lawrence of Brindisi*

*July 30—Blessed Solanus Casey,  
Patron of our Region*

*August 2—Our Lady of the Angels,  
Portiuncula (Albert)*

*August 11—Clare of Assisi*

## 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, Wyatt, Father Pat*

*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

### THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT EXEMPLIFIED IN OUR RULE (PART 2)

*The Formation Friday article of June 6, 2025, asks us to see how the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are present in our Rule. This month we will reflect on the re-maining Gifts of the Spirit.*

As a reminder, our Rule:

- Spells out the way the Spirit wishes us to do God's will
- Tells us how God desires us to live
- Faithfulness to the Rule and Constitutions help us to build up God's Kingdom (as we are called to do through our Baptism).

**For your consideration**—the Fruits of the Spirit and our Rule

**First of all**—Articles 4, 14 and 19 ask us to be open to the action of the Holy Spirit. Then:

**Long-suffering:** Articles 10 and 19

+We follow the “poor and crucified Christ, witness to him even in difficulties and persecutions.”

**Mildness:** Articles 9 and 11

+We live in the “spirit of the Beatitudes.”

**Faith:** Articles 4, 5, 10 and 14

+We express our faith in Jesus: “Christ, the gift of the Father’s love, is the way to him, the truth into which the Holy Spirit leads us, and the life which he has come to give abundantly.”

*(cont. on pg. 4)*

## OUR RULE of LIFE

Our Rule of Life ends with the following quotation from The Testament of St. Francis:

*“May whoever observes all this be filled in heaven*

*with the blessing of the most high Father,*

*and on earth with that of his beloved Son,*

*together with the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.”*

**REFLECTION:** In what specific ways do I see living our Rule of Life as a blessing? Take time to thank God today for the gift of vocation to the Secular Franciscan way of life.



## THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT EXEMPLIFIED IN OUR RULE, Part Two (cont.)

### Modesty: Article 11

+We “purify our hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power.”

### Self-restraint: Article 11, 12

+We “acquire purity of heart” in order to “set ourselves free” in order to “love God and our brothers and sisters.”

### Chastity: Articles 6, 12

+We follow the teachings of the Church, “...devote themselves energetically to living in full communion with the pope, bishops, and priests...”

### For reflection:

- +When people look at you, which fruits of the Holy Spirit are evident? Give an example.
- +How does our Rule help you to demonstrate these fruits of the Spirit?
- +Which fruits of the Spirit would you like to cultivate? Why?
- +Which of the fruits of the Spirit are difficult for you to manifest? Can you pinpoint why that might be?

*Formation Friday is the work product of the National Formation Commission of the Secular Franciscan Order-USA.*



## CANTICLE OF THE CREATURES

*We take a break this month from reflections on the Canticle from the Regional Formation team.*

*Father Christopher Panagoplos, TOR, one of our National Spiritual Assistants, has written a wonderful teaching on the Canticle. We will read it in small pieces so that we can reflect more deeply on his thoughts.*

St Francis was no theologian. If we were to ask him what God was, our hope for a learned answer would be dashed. Francis was a witness to the living God. All we can require of such a witness is that he should describe what he experienced, what he heard, saw and felt, assuring us that his experience was not merely fantasy, but a reality that had turned his life around.

So, Francis is a witness when he stands before us as an example of what God can do in us. At the same time, Francis is an acute reminder of God's richness and goodness, for which we hunger. When we make a conscious effort to respond to God, I believe that our lives, too, would be turned around. In this way, Francis shows us clearly that God is present among us, recovering the joy of feeling we are loved with an infinite love. By the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives of faith, we see living proof that authentic humanity flourishes when we are one with God's creation reflecting God's richness and goodness in our lives [Julio Mico, OFM Cap., "The Spirituality of St Francis: Francis' Image of God"].

Approaching the God Francis knew, we touch what is fundamental as we journey through life. Life, in fact all of creation, reflects the presence of God. God is to be praised through all of creation, and is expressed most clearly in "The Canticle of Brother Sun." The sun gives light, and its radiant beauty is for Francis a likeness of God. This sun which shines on the good and bad alike reflects the love and fidelity of God's reconciling love.

