



"FROM GOSPEL TO LIFE AND LIFE TO GOSPEL"

ST. CLARE FRATERNITY NEWSLETTER

St. Clare Fraternity, Stafford Springs, CT

November 2023

MAY GOD GIVE YOU PEACE!

MASS and an ADVENT REFLECTION **with FATHER JOHN**

Saturday, December 16, 2023

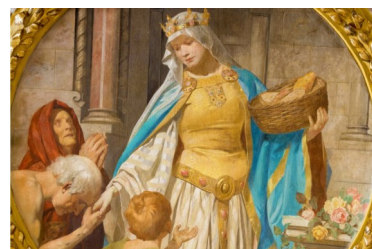
Mass— 10:30 a.m.

Reflection by Father John

Lunch

We hope all fraternity members will be able to attend.

Please invite your family and friends to join us!



**"We
must
give
God**

**what we have,
gladly
and with
joy."**

St. Elizabeth of Hungary
Patroness of the Third Order
Feast Day—November 17



FRATERNITY LIFE

Monthly Gatherings:

Saturday, November 25, 2023
St. Edward Parish Center—10:00 a.m.
Hospitality—Corinne

Christmas Gathering
To be discussed at our November
gathering

Please remember our Common Fund

OUR FRATERNITY COUNCIL:

Minister: Zofia Fitzgerald, OFS
Vice-Minister: Diane Garabedian, OFS
Secretary: To be announced
Treasurer: Mabel Armelin, OFS
Formation Director: Nancy Rudek, OFS
Councilors Ray Kuehl, OFS
Spiritual Assistant:

Father John Koziol, OFM Conv

CONTACT US:

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St. Clare of Assisi, Patroness of our Fraternity

POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS

November 2023

For the Pope

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

December 2023

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

OFS INTENTIONS

November 2023

For the CIOFS presidency.

December 2023

For the unity of the OFS and YouFra in the world.

Thoughts from your minister:

Peace and all good,

What a beautiful feeling to wake up in the morning and see God's creation.

We should never take anything for granted, for in the blink of an eye things can change. Please let us give thanks for all that we have and give what we can to those who are in need.

As Father Mike says, "I'll pray for you, please pray for me."

May God bless you and keep you safe.

Love and Peace,

Zofia



Fall clothing drive for Cornerstone. Many thanks to all from the fraternity and St. Edward Parish who donated.

Continue to pray for peace in the Ukraine and the Holy Land.

Mary, Queen of Peace, Pray for Us.



FRATERNITY MATTERS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16—ADVENT MASS, REFLECTION and LUNCH—Mark your calendars for this wonderful opportunity offered to us by Father John. See page 4 for details. This is a great time to **INVITE A FRIEND!!!**

CHRISTMAS GATHERING & CRECHE SERVICE— will be discussed at our November gathering.

FEAST DAYS

November 17—Elizabeth of Hungary, Patroness of the Third Order (Marie)

November 19—Agnes of Assisi

November 26—Leonard of Port Maurice (Nancy R)

November 28—James of the Marche (Nancy L)

November 29—All Saints of the Seraphic Order

WE PRAY FOR:

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

Healing for fraternity members Marie, Nancy R., Nancy L., DeDe, Rich, Lynn, Greta, Anne, Marion, Carolyn, Pat, Charlotte, Mabel, Albert

Healing for : Father Jude, Brother Vincent, Brother Paschal, Ginny, Tom Stauffer, Ronald C., David D., Santo, Patty, Bob G., Gayle, Robert, Frank, Emily, Alison, Jan, Laraine D., Kirk, William, Harry

Claire, Koren, Ron S., Sherry Ann & Olivia, special intention, Paul & Amy, Thomas & Pamela S.; Patricia B.

For an end to the wars in Ukraine and the Holy Land

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 the blessings we have received.

FORMATION

*Welcome, Sister Death
Praying for Our Deceased
Brothers and Sisters*



Artist: Francisco de Zurbarán

During the month of November, the entire Church prays for the dead. St. Francis meditated on Sister Death throughout his life. Toward the end of his earthly life, he spoke of Sister Bodily Death in the Cantic of the Creatures.

“Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death, from whom no one living can escape. Woe to those who die in mortal sin. Blessed are those whom death will find in Your most holy will, for the second death shall do them no harm.” [FA: ED vol 1, p. 158]

Our Rule and Constitutions ask us to remain in communion with our deceased brothers and sisters.

Rule, Article 19: Since they are immersed in the resurrection of Christ, which gives true meaning to Sister Death, let them serenely tend toward the ultimate encounter with the Father.

Rule, Article 24: It should adopt appropriate means for growth in Franciscan and ecclesial life and encourage everyone to a life of fraternity⁴². This communion continues with deceased brothers and sisters through prayer for them.

GC, Article 27.2: Secular Franciscans should commit themselves to create in their environment and, above all, in their fraternities, a climate of faith and hope so that “Sister Death” may be regarded as a passage to the Father, and all may prepare themselves with serenity.

(continued on page 4)

Formation Friday, November 3, 2023

Diane Menditto

OUR RULE of LIFE

Chapter Two: The Way of Life

Article 9. The Virgin Mary, humble servant of the Lord, was open to his every word and call. She was embraced by Francis with indescribable love and declared the protectress and advocate of his family. The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently.

REFLECTION: Advent, which is quickly approaching, gives us many opportunities to reflect on Mary’s YES to God, and to imitate her in the YES we gave to God at our professions.

Welcome Sister Death (cont.)

There is a tradition in the Catholic Church dating back to Pope Clement XII in 1736 who encouraged all Catholics to pray Psalm 130, also known as the "De Profundis" followed by the short prayer, "Eternal rest grant unto them, Oh Lord,..." for all of our deceased brothers and sisters in Christ.

To ponder and discuss with a prayer partner or in fraternity throughout the month of November:

- +How do you remember in prayer the deceased members of your family?
- +How does your fraternity (local, regional, and national) remember our deceased members?
- +Share some thoughts on how your local fraternity might celebrate a Rite of Remembrance for your deceased members.

Challenge: This month, pray the De Profundis (Psalm 130) for all those who have died, especially those who have no one to pray for them.

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

WE REMEMBER ...

November is a time for remembering all the Saints and Souls that have gone before us. On November 5th, the Franciscan Family commemorates all the Deceased of the Seraphic Order, and on November 29th all the Saints of the Order.

Let us take a moment to pray for the deceased members of our fraternity

Anna Welch (6/11/1997)

Gerry Mon (6/18/2003)

Doris Boisseau (9/25/2006)

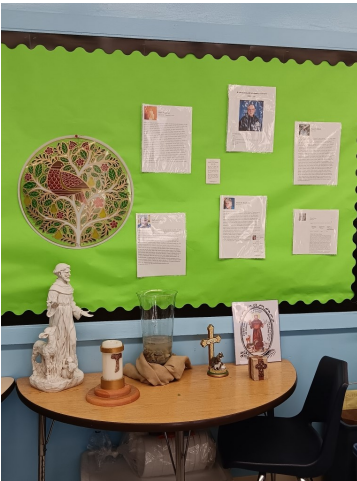
Florence Brisson (8/5/2017)

Barbara Morin (3/23/2018)

Bernice Armstrong (8/8/2018)

Nancy Bilyak (5/21/2022)

Jeanne Bouthillier (5/18/2023)



And our Franciscan Brother and Spiritual Assistant

Dennis Sokolowski, OFM Conv. (8/24/2023)

"Since they are immersed in the resurrection of Christ, which gives true meaning to Sister Death, let them serenely tend toward the ultimate encounter with the Father."

OFS RULE, Article 19