



"FROM GOSPEL TO LIFE AND LIFE TO GOSPEL"

ST. CLARE FRATERNITY NEWSLETTER

St. Clare Fraternity, Stafford Springs, CT

October 2023

MAY GOD GIVE YOU PEACE!



TRANSITUS
October 3, 2023



***"Consult not
your fears but
your hopes and dreams.
Think not about
your frustrations,
but about your
unfulfilled potential."***

***Pope Saint John XXIII
Secular Franciscan***



FRATERNITY LIFE

Monthly Gatherings:

Saturday, October 28, 2023
St. Edward Parish Center—10:00 a.m.
Hospitality—To be announced

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

Please remember our Common Fund
Common Fund

OUR FRATERNITY COUNCIL:

Minister: Zofia Fitzgerald, OFS

Vice-Minister: Diane Garabedian, OFS

Secretary: Carolyn Drouin, OFS

Treasurer: Mabel Armelin, OFS

Formation Director: Nancy Rudek, OFS

Councilors Ray Kuehl, OFS

Spiritual Assistant:

Father John Koziol, OFM Conv

CONTACT US:

860-559-8078

zofiafitzgerald@yahoo.com

St. Clare of Assisi, Patroness of our Fraternity

POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS

October 2023

For the Synod

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit toward the peripheries of the world.

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.

OFS INTENTIONS

October 2023

For the OFS emerging fraternities and those in difficulties.

November 2023

For the CIOFS presidency.

Thoughts from your minister:

Peace and all good,

Last week we have had some warm and beautiful days. I hope that you all have had the chance to go out and enjoy God's creation.

As I look back at the Transitus of St. Francis, I am reminded of what he saw and what he felt. He knew the beauty of all that God has made. Francis taught us that all we need is God's love, and that we are nourished and protected. That is all we need.

Francis saw God's love in the beauty of the trees, flowers and animals. He felt God's love through the beautiful songs in the wind and rain, and even in the silence. Francis felt God's love all around him.

May we embrace the beauty as Francis did. Go outside and feel God's love.

Love and Peace,

Zofia

Continue to pray for peace in the Ukraine.

Mary, Queen of Peace, Pray for Us.



FRATERNITY MATTERS

REGIONAL CHAPTER—SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2024. Please consider attending our regional chapter, to be held at St. Pius X in Middletown from 10-3. We will be celebrating the Rule of 1223, and have invited Friars and Franciscan Sisters to join us in this Franciscan family event! More details at our fraternity gathering.

INVITE A FRIEND!!! Know someone who has a Franciscan heart? Please invite them to a gathering! Let's work at not being the Church's best kept secret!!!

FEAST DAYS

October 22—Pope Saint John Paul II

*October 23—John of Capistrano
(Carolyn)*

October 26—Peter of Alcantara

*November 8—Blessed John Duns
Scotus (Diane)*

WE PRAY FOR:

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

*The repose of the soul of Chrissy
Bilyak and comfort for her family,
especially DeDe and Diane*

*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, 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.*

AMEN.

FORMATION

BEING Peace

© 2018 National Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission

Secular Franciscan Order, USA

*(Editor's note: As we continue to pray for peace in the Holy Land,
Ukraine and all other parts of the world where violence and civil unrest
exist, this month we focus on the Franciscan dedication to peace.)*

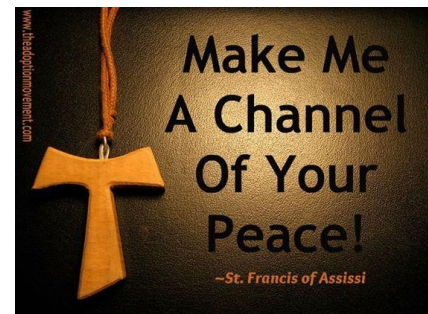
In his Testament, Francis tells us that "the Lord revealed a greeting to me that we should say: 'May the Lord give you peace.'" Saint Bonaventure recalls, "At the beginning and end of every sermon [Francis] announced peace; in every greeting he wished for peace."

Both Francis and Clare greeted the people of Assisi with Pace e Bene! Peace and Good! As Franciscans, peace must be at the center of all our comings and goings.

Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI says, "Peace concerns the human person as a whole, and it involves complete commitment. It is peace with God through a life lived according to his will. It is interior peace with oneself, and exterior peace with our neighbors and all creation."

He also says, "Like Francis, always start with yourselves. We are the first house that God wants to restore. If you are always able to renew yourselves in the spirit of the Gospel, you will continue to assist the pastors of the Church to make more and more beautiful the Church's face, that of the bride of Christ."

(cont. on p. 5)

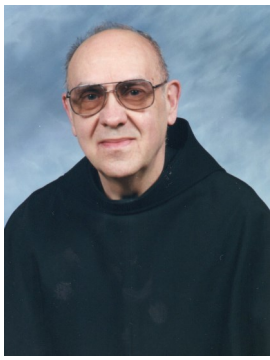


OUR RULE of LIFE

Chapter Two: The Way of Life

Article 8. As Jesus was the true worshipper of the Father, so let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all they are and do. Let them participate in the sacramental life of the Church, above all the Eucharist. Let them join in liturgical prayer in one of the forms proposed by the Church, reliving the mysteries of the life of Christ.

REFLECTION: In this time of Eucharistic Revival, have I made an effort to attend daily Mass as I am able? How often do I stop by church for a visit with our Eucharistic Lord? Do I pray the Liturgy of the Hours daily?



REMEMBERING BROTHER DENNIS ~ Sandy Comarella

When I first saw Brother Dennis, he was walking around the parking lot of the church in a flannel shirt and a pair of workpants and I wondered if we had hired another sexton. As I got to know him better I came to see what a gentle, joy-filled servant of St. Francis he was.

One of my first experiences with Brother Dennis was following a parish council meeting when one of the members couldn't get his car started. I offered to give him a ride home but to my chagrin, my car wouldn't. Well, the other member quickly found a ride home before everyone else left.

Luckily, Brother Dennis came out to be sure everyone was all set. Not only were cell phones not a life staple back then but Joe was home with 2 kids he would have had to drag out at 9 o'clock at night. Not only did Brother Dennis jump my car but he followed me all the way home to make sure I got there safely.

As I began to get more involved with St. Edwards, I began to get to know the Franciscan friars we were so blessed with. Sure at one point Father Tom cleaned off my car after a particularly snowy Mass. However, one time while I was sitting with Father Richard on the steps of the friary, I looked up to see Brother Dennis washing my car.

When we took a group of young parishioners to World Youth Day 2002, the friars had arranged the use of a local church's grounds so the teens could have one free afternoon to relax. When we arrived and noticed the lawn wasn't mowed, Father Richard turned to me and said if Brother Dennis was there he would be riding the lawn mower.

Another time, my kids helped him stuff the Sunday bulletins - which I'm sure he took a picture of - he wanted to thank them so he went into the friary and got them a jar of peanuts and a bottle of diet coke. The kids were 4 & 10 years old. He often took pictures of my kids for me to send to Joe as he was on active duty for a year.

But that was Brother Dennis - he loved to take care of our grounds, our church, and our parishioners and he did it filled with Franciscan joy.

Rest in peace, Brother Dennis!!



A Franciscan Family Gathering!

On October 8, at Father Michael Heine's invitation, members of 5 fraternities gathered at St. Paul Church in Kensington for Mass and a simple meal. It was a blessing to be with Father Michael, Father John Koziol, and the Friars who minister at St. Paul's, as well as our brothers and sisters.



Maintaining a connection with the First Order is so important, and we are grateful for Father Michael's commitment to strengthening these relationships.

Mark your calendars for next year's gathering on Sunday, October 6th!

BEING Peace (cont.)

OFS Rule, Article 14

Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively. Mindful that anyone "who follows Christ, the perfect man, becomes more of a man himself," let them exercise their responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of service.

OFS General Constitutions, Article 19.1,2

1. *Rule Paragraph 14* Secular Franciscans should always act as a leaven in the environment in which they live through the witness of their fraternal love and clear Christian motivations.
2. In the spirit of minority, they should opt for relationships which give preference to the poor and to those on the fringe of society, whether these be individuals or categories of persons or an entire people; they should collaborate in overcoming the exclusion of others and those forms of poverty that are the fruit of inefficiency and injustice.



Greta shares this prayer:

Take my hand, O Blessed Mother

Hold me firmly lest I fall;

I grow nervous while walking and

Humbly on thee call.

Guide me over every crossing,

Watch me when I'm on the stairs

Let me know that you're beside me,

Listen to my fervent prayers.

Bring me to my destination

Safely along the way,

Bless my every undertaking

And my duties for the day.

And when everything creeps upon me

I'll never fear to be alone,

Once again, O Blessed Mother,

Take my hand and lead me home.

AMEN.



Happy 90th Anne!

On September 9th, Anne's family held a 90th birthday party for Anne. Members of our fraternity were present to celebrate with her!

May God continue to bless you Anne!

MASS and an ADVENT REFLECTION

with FATHER JOHN

Details at our October gathering