



“FROM GOSPEL TO LIFE AND LIFE TO GOSPEL”

ST. CLARE FRATERNITY NEWSLETTER

St. Clare Fraternity, Stafford Springs, CT

October 2025

MAY GOD GIVE YOU PEACE!

As part of Franciscan month, we will be visiting the Faith Formation classes (grades K-8) on Sunday, October 26th. Classes begin at 10:20. We will be introducing them to St. Francis. We will split the children into two groups...K-4 and 5-8. We will need lots of help, so please plan to attend.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to visit with the Confirmation students. We will be putting together bags for them, including prayer cards (Francis, Carlo Acutis, Pier Giorgio Frassati) and medals of Francis and Clare.

Help us to spread the word on our Franciscan way of life.

We'll discuss further details at our October gathering.

FRATERNITY LIFE

Monthly Gatherings:

Fraternity Gathering
Saturday, October 25—10 a.m.
St. Edward Parish Center
Hospitality—Corinne

Fraternity Gathering
Saturday, November 22—10 a.m.
St. Edward Parish Center
Hospitality— volunteer needed

Please remember our Common Fund



St. Clare of Assisi, Patroness of our Fraternity

***“Consult not your
fears but your
hopes and dreams.***

***Think not about your
frustrations, but your
unfulfilled potential.***

Pope St. John XXIII

Secular Franciscan

Feast Day—October 11

OUR FRATERNITY COUNCIL:

Minister: Sandy Comarella, OFS

Vice-Minister: Zofia Fitzgerald OFS

Secretary: Nancy Rudek, OFS

Treasurer: Joe Comarella, OFS

Formation Director: Diane Garabedian,
OFS

Councilor: Barbara Peirola, OFS

Spiritual Assistant:

Father John Koziol, OFM Conv

CONTACT US:

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POPE LEO'S

PRAYER INTENTIONS

October 2025

FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE DIFFER- ENT RELIGIOUS TRADI- TIONS.

Let us pray that we believers of different religious traditions will work together to defend and promote peace, justice and human fraternity.

November 2025

FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

Let us pray that people tempted by suicide will find in their community the support, assistance and love they need and open themselves to the beauty of life.

OFS INTENTIONS

October 2025

OFS: For the national fraternities of Great Britain, France, Croatia and Cuba and for the Asia Oceania Congress.

November 2025

For the CIOFS Presidency and YouFra, for the national fraternity of Cuba.

Thoughts from your minister:

Friends,

In September, we celebrated the Season of Creation, joining with the world's 2.2 billion Christians in prayer and action to care for our common home. The Season began with the World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation and ended on the October 4th, the feast of St. Francis, and the theme was "Seeds of Peace and Hope".

From those seeds, we rightfully flow right into October which founder Brother Gregory Cellini is hoping will be designated as Franciscan Month. The website, [Franciscan Month | Celebrating Saint Francis of Assisi](#), is a great resource for learning about the mission of Franciscan month to "celebrate the charism of the Franciscan way of life and provide perspective on living this way in today's world". It goes on to state that the theme of Franciscan Month is "building a world of kinship while recognizing our connectedness within our common home - one family in solidarity and community, fraternitas, and harmony - in the spirit of Francis and Clare".

In exploring the website, I found so many great posts that can be explored throughout the year - from "A Blessing of Animals", teachings from Murray Bodo, OFM, reflections on St. Clare, a calendar of activities. I especially liked the post from Christopher Heffron called "Follow the Sound of the Troubadour".

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FRATERNITY MATTERS

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

October 12—Carlo Acutis

October 22—Pope Saint John Paul II

*October 23—John of Capistrano
(Caroline)*

October 26—Peter of Alcantara

November 1 - Feast of All Saints

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

*November 9—Feast of Dedication of
the Basilica of St. John Lateran*

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, Jared*

*For an end to the wars in Ukraine
and the Holy Land and all places
affected by war and violence.*

*For the Confirmation students at St.
Edward Church*

*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.

FORMATION

REFLECTION ON THE NATIONAL THEME:

“GO INTO THE WORLD AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS.”

(MK 16:15)

Formation Friday—Friday, October 10, 2026

At the OFS USA National Chapter held recently in Maryland, it was decided that the national theme for 2025-2028 will be “Go into the world and proclaim the Good News.” The National Priority for the same time period will be “Living the Gospel.” This week we give a broad overview of how the theme and priority line up with our Rule. Over the next three years, we will spotlight various aspects of both.

As Secular Franciscans, we are invited to live the Gospel in our daily lives, embodying the teachings of Christ and St. Francis of Assisi. This theme encourages us to reflect on how we can actively engage in evangelization and witness to the Gospel through our actions and words.

Building Relationships: The OFS Rule emphasizes the importance of building relationships based on love and respect. **Article 13** of the Rule states, “As the Father sees in every person the features of his Son, the firstborn of many brothers and sisters, so the Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ.” By fostering genuine connections with others, we create opportunities to share the Good News and invite others to experience the love of Christ.

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OUR RULE of LIFE

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

Chapter One: Concerning those who do Penance *(cont.)*

O how glorious it is to have a holy and great Father in heaven! O how holy, consoling to have such a beautiful and wonderful Spouse! O how holy and how loving, gratifying, humbling, peace-giving, sweet, worthy of love, and, above all things, desirable: to have such a Brother and such a Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who laid down his life for his sheep (Jn 10:15)

REFLECTION: Francis can never seem to find enough adjectives to describe and glorify God. When you think of God’s love for you, what adjectives come to mind?

"GO INTO THE WORLD AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS." (cont.)

Engaging and Inspiring Others to Seek God: **Article 6** of the Rule calls us to "go forth as witnesses and instruments of the Church's mission among people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words." Our lives should be a testament to our faith, inspiring others to seek God and explore their own spiritual journeys. Through our actions, we can demonstrate the transformative power of the Gospel and encourage others to embrace a life of faith.

Forming Ourselves: The Rule also emphasizes the importance of ongoing formation and personal growth. **Article 7** states, "United by their vocation as 'brothers and sisters of penance,' and motivated by the dynamic power of the Gospel, let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the Gospel itself calls 'conversion.'" By continually forming ourselves, with the help of the Spirit, in the teachings of Christ and the example of St. Francis, we become better equipped to share the Good News with authenticity and conviction.

Attracting Others to Our Way of Life: Our way of life as Secular Franciscans should be attractive to others, drawing them to the beauty of the Gospel. **Article 16** of the Rule encourages us to "esteem work both as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption, and service of the human community." By integrating our faith into our daily activities and demonstrating the joy and fulfillment that comes from living the Gospel, we can attract others to our way of life and inspire them to follow Christ.

Rebuilding the Church: St. Francis was called to "rebuild my Church," and this call extends to us as well. **Article 4** of the Rule reminds us that "Secular Franciscans should devote themselves especially to careful reading of the gospel, going from gospel to life and life to the gospel." By living out the Gospel in our communities and participating in the life of the Church, we contribute to its renewal and growth.

Involved in the Activities and Challenges of the World: As Secular Franciscans, we are called to be actively involved in the world, addressing its challenges with faith and hope. **Article 15** of the Rule states, "Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives." By integrating faith and action in our daily lives, nurturing hope, and sowing seeds of transformation, we can make a positive impact on the world and bring the Good News to those in need.

The theme "Go into the world and proclaim the Good News" invites us to live out our vocation as Secular Franciscans with renewed zeal and commitment. By building relationships, engaging and inspiring others, forming ourselves with the help of the Holy Spirit, attracting others to our way of life, rebuilding the Church, and being involved in the activities and challenges of the world, we can effectively proclaim the Good News and fulfill our mission as followers of Christ and St. Francis.

For discussion or to answer in your journal

- Re-read the items listed above supporting our national theme. How can you and your fraternity carry out these aspects of our theme and Rule?
- Which other articles of our Rule encourage us to "go into the world and proclaim the Good News?"
- Challenge: After discussion with your fraternity, suggest ideas for living the gospel and evangelizing others.

*Inspired by the **National Priorities and Theme task force**. Other research was assisted by Microsoft Copilot.*

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

Thoughts from your minister: (cont.)

In the post, he shares his prayer on St. Francis' pain and joy:

Pray

God of all saints,
Your beloved, Francis of Assisi,
understood physical and spiritual pain
in ways that I may never know.
Yet it did not rob him of joy.
Rather, it was the reason for it.
He greeted the day with an open heart
and spread your message of love
and peace with joyful abandon.
Let me borrow a chorus from his song
and share joy and light wherever I go.
God, I know, is in the notes.
Amen.



Act Life is hard, but it's also beautiful, funny, and wholly worthwhile. Share this prayer with somebody who's forgotten that.

I know in my own journey following Jesus that I often need help adapting the path of Saints Francis and Clare to today's world. I am grateful for the wisdom, experience and love of mt Franciscan family to help me on my way.

Grace, peace and hope, Sandy

Transitus

October 3, 2025



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