



"FROM GOSPEL TO LIFE AND LIFE TO GOSPEL"

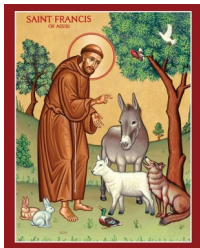
ST. CLARE FRATERNITY NEWSLETTER

St. Clare Fraternity, Stafford Springs, CT

September 2023

MAY GOD GIVE YOU PEACE!

Mark your calendars
for these Franciscan
Days!!



Transitus of St. Francis

Tuesday, October 3rd

6:30 p.m. St. Edward Church

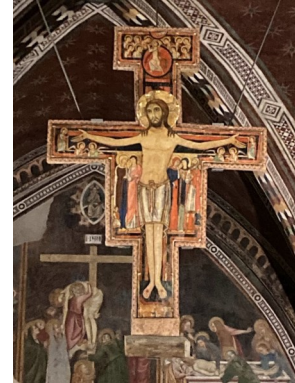
Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 7th

12 noon St. Edward Church

Mass & Meal with Father Michael Heine

Sunday, October 8th—see p. 4 for details



**"The
Cross
is the
school
of
love."**

St. Maximillian Kolbe

The feast of the Exultation of the
Cross is September 14th.

FRATERNITY LIFE

Monthly Gatherings:

Saturday, September 23, 2023

St. Edward Parish Center—10:00 a.m.

Hospitality—To be announced

Saturday, October 28, 2023

St. Edward Parish Center—10:00 a.m.

Hospitality—To be announced

Please remember our Common Fund
Common Fund



St. Clare of Assisi, Patroness of our Fraternity

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

POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS

September 2023

For people living on the margins

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

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.

OFS INTENTIONS

September 2023

For the national fraternity of the Netherlands

October 2023

For the OFS emerging fraternities and those in difficulties.

Thoughts from your minister:

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ,

Seems like September is the start of the year. Well, it's a beginning for me in this new role. As I look to see all the things that God has given me, it just seems right to say Yes.

When the Holy Spirit whispered in my ear, I had asked again, "Me"? And the answer, again, was Yes. So, from that day on, I've prayed on my Yes. Isaiah 41:13 says "Do not fear, I will help you."

All of us walk differently. Some are fast and focused on where they are going. Some walk slow and take the time to look around. Some may even have fun and skip! Some might even walk backwards to remember where they have been. We are all on the same journey to the same place.

So, with the help of the Holy Spirit, let's walk together and enjoy each other's company along the way.

Love and Peace,

Zofia

Continue to pray for peace in the Ukraine.

Mary, Queen of Peace, Pray for Us.



FRATERNITY MATTERS

REMEMBRANCES of BROTHER DENNIS: Brother Dennis was a wonderful presence at St. Edward Parish, and a great supporter of our fraternity. Please write down your remembrances of him, and either bring them to our September gathering or email them to Corinne (corlor@cox.net) for inclusion in our next newsletter.

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

FEAST DAYS

September 18 –Joseph of Cupertino

*September 23—Pio of Pietrelcina
(Carolyn)*

*September 26—Elzear & Delphina
(Charlotte)*

*October 4—Our holy Father Francis
of Assisi (Albert)*

*October 11—Pope St. John XXIII
(Joe)*

WE PRAY FOR:

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

*The repose of the soul of Brother
Dennis*

*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*

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

For an end to the war in Ukraine

*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

Reflections on The Cross of San Damiano

By Patrick McNamara, OFM, Cap.
Formation Friday, April 7, 2023

I look to the Cross, I gaze upon its figure,
I wait, I listen, I hope.

Will you speak, will you move, will I be moved.

Will you once again touch the heart of one who seeks.
Of one who questions, of one who seems so lost.

Will you embrace the soul, as you did that of Francis.
Will you take it to Yourself.

Will you give it peace, give it comfort, give it love

This soul waits, listens, prays for such grace.
This soul seeks the Love from the Lover.

It wavers. It stumbles. It falls.

Your gaze looks down, embraces all.
Takes all, Loves All. Your Grace heals, accepts.

Again you respond, Again you Love.
Again you speak to a searching and troubled heart. I turn.
I continue the journey. I continue in Hope.
I too have heard you Speak.

(continued on page 4)

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

OUR RULE of LIFE

Chapter Two: The Way of Life

Article 7. United by their vocations 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”. Human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily. On this road to renewal the sacrament of reconciliation is the privileged sign of the Father’s mercy and the source of grace.

REFLECTION: Do I think of myself as a “brother or sister of penance”? What does that mean to me? How willing am I to commit to the work of daily conversion? How often do I receive the grace of reconciliation?



An Invitation from the Minister Provincial of the Our Lady of the Angels Province, Conventual Franciscans

Sunday, October 8, 2023 ~ 2:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Church, Kensington CT

Father Michael Heine, the Minister Provincial of the OLA Province, would love to gather with the Secular Franciscans from the fraternities in our region who are bonded to the Conventual Friars. This is the first time this type of invitation has been extended to us. Father Michael sincerely wants to strengthen the bonds between the Friars and the Seculars. We hope that our fraternity will have a strong turnout!



The San Damiano Crucifix

Formation Friday, April 7, 2023

**Most High And
Glorious God, Bring
Light
To The Darkness Of My
Heart!
Give Me Right Faith,
Certain Hope,
And Perfect Charity.
Lord, Give Me Insight
And Wisdom
So I Might Always
Discern
Your Holy And True
Will.**