



The Unstoppable St. Clare of Assisi

“Don’t be afraid. Trust in God,” Clare often said to her sisters and, undoubtedly, to herself as she faced her many trials. Her actions were powered by courage, perseverance, determination, and above all, trust in God.

From that night on Palm Sunday when she escaped from her home to marry the Poor Christ, to the day before her death, when Pope Innocent IV finally approved her Rule, she lived the Gospel: “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and then come and follow me.” (Matthew 19:21)

For Clare the “one thing necessary” was the privilege of poverty. This was her identity. This is what she treasured. This was her love for the Poor Christ; to suffer what He suffered and to accompany others in their suffering with compassion and love.

“Love that does not know of suffering is not worthy of the name,” is a Clare quote.

By not being afraid and trusting in God, Clare was unstoppable. This, “the little plant” of Francis grew into a tree with deep roots and strong branches, following the Gospel in absolute poverty, without property as a means of support and only relying on the care of the brothers and trust in God.

Clare’s determination to have her Rule approved was the beginning of a religious order of women dedicated to following the Gospel in absolute poverty.

Clare is now known as the co-founder of the Franciscan Movement and the foundress of the Second Order, the Poor Clares.

On August 11, St. Clare’s Feast Day, may we ask for the courage to unlock and gaze intently on the Christ that is within us and live a Gospel life.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Pre-Profession Retreat Fri. Aug.11 and Sat. Aug 12 “Hearing God’s Call and Discerning His Will” Schedule

Friday, August 11, 2023

6:00 - 6:15 pm Welcome and Fellowship
6:15 - 6:30 pm Opening Prayer
6:30 - 7:30 pm Six Ways to Find God’s Calling in Your Life
7:30 - 7:45 pm Reflections by Brother Gordon
7:45 - 8:00 pm Break
8:00 - 8:45 pm Four Basic Forms of Prayer
8:45 pm Closing Prayer

Saturday, August 12, 2023

9:00 - 9:45 am Continental Breakfast and Fellowship
9:45 - 10:00 am Opening Prayer
10:00 - 11:00 am Discerning God’s Will - Part 1
11:00 - 11:15 am Break
11:15 am - 12:15 pm Discerning God’s Will - Part 2
12:15 - 1:15 pm Lunch and Personal Reflection
1:15 - 1:20 pm Welcome and Introduction of Guest Speaker, Padre Peralta
1:20 - 1:45 pm - Father Jose Luis Peralta, OFM
1:45 - 2:30 pm Discussion and Q&A
2:30 pm Closing Prayer

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Council Meeting - Fri. Aug. 18 10 am
Gathering - Sun. Aug, 27 2:00 pm

Formation Schedule - Inquirers

Aug. 2 - Scripture in the OFS Life
Aug. 15 - Vatican II - OFS Rule and Constitution

Two-Month Financial Statement 2023		
	MAY	June
Monthly Donors	13	17
INCOME		
Regular Contributions	605.00	790.00
Endowment Interest	50.57	52.25
Exceptional Income (Raffle/ Donations/Foundation Books: St. Francis of Assisi	35.00	200.00 80.00
Subtotal for Exceptional Income	35.00	280.00
TOTAL INCOME	690.57	1122.25
Transfer from Savings		
TOTAL DEPOSITED	690.57	1122.25
EXPENSES		
Recurring Expenses:		
Spiritual Assistant Stipend	100.00	100.00
Council Administration Supplies		14.80
Infirmarian Team (Misc. Exp.)		
Formation Expenses		186.43
Newsletter Administration Supplies/Printing	60.30	39.00
Newsletter Postage	37.80	37.80
Website Fee		
Apostolate: Poor Clare’s (Donation)	100.00	100.00
Apostolate: Franciscan Friar (Donation)	75.00	75.00
Fair Share to Regional		
Contingency Fund (Transfer to Savings)	50.00	50.00
Subtotal Recurring Expenses	423.10	603.03
EXCEPTIONAL EXPENSES		
Subtotal Exceptional Expenses (Yearly PO Box Fee)	248.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	671.10	603.03
BEGINNING BALANCE	6519.15	6538.62
ENDING BALANCE	6538.62	7057.84
CONTINGENCY FUND		
Beginning Balance	3645.44	3696.53
Transfer from Expenses	50.00	50.00
Earned Dividend	1.09	
Total Contingency Fund	3696.53	3746.53
		2



Message from the Spiritual Assistant ***

Dearest sisters and brothers in St. Francis,

As you undoubtedly remember, Jesus was once asked: “Which is the greatest (most important) Commandment?” And, you recall Jesus’ answer: “...Love the Lord...with all your heart...soul...and mind. ... And the second is like it: “...love your neighbor as your self” (Matt. 22:36-4). Beautiful words, but *very* challenging.

It would be most beneficial if we Christians murmured these words while leaving the door of our home or car. For *that* matter, use it while opening the door to participate in the monthly Gathering.

And those of us Franciscans who are Professed, may use a more intense version: “Yes! This is what I want [with all my heart].”

May we continue to apply the Lord’s blessings to our lives in order to better our dedication of living “From Gospel to Life, and Life to Gospel.”

Br. Gordon Boykin, O.F.M.

— S.A. Fraternity Spir. Asst.

“ Let the love you have in your hearts
be shown outwardly in your deeds.”

St. Clare of Assisi

Profession Anniversary

Abraham Placencio 8/24/2014



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August Birthdays

Nancy Singh Aug. 13

Ann Sims Aug. 20

Frances Lucero Aug. 22

Irma Lente Aug. 27

St. Anthony Fraternity Gathering - July 23, 2023

by Frances Lucero

Our July 23, 2023, the fraternity meeting was awesome, as always! Gathering at the Prayer Chapel at “A Becoming Place”, we lifted our hearts in prayer as Rena Xuereb and Felicie Trucio led us in the Liturgy of the Hours Evening Prayer.

Gathering back at the Lounge Area, Israela Garcia, our Minister, presented the schedule for the Pre-Profession Retreat in preparation for Adrian Montoya’s and Felicie Trucio’s profession. The retreat will be held at the Franciscan Friary on August 11th and 12th 2023. (See: Calendar of Events p. 2.)

Israela also announced that the Poor Clares in Roswell will be celebrating the 75th year of their foundation in Roswell. The Poor Clares invite us all to join them on Monday, November 13, 2023 at 9:00 am in a solemn Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by His Eminence Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke . Whether or not you are able to attend in person , or through prayer and thanksgiving for this most joyful occasion of celebrating God’s goodness for the Poor Clares’ foundation, the St. Anthony Fraternity extends a great congratulations to them! We are grateful for their friendship, prayers, and example.

On-Going Formation

The Union of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary

We had two beautiful formation sessions. The first one was on how the Heart of Mary leads us to the Heart of Jesus, and the second one was on the Precious Blood of Jesus. How blessed we are to have such a great Blessed Mother who said “yes” to bring our salvation to us and now daily continues to reach out to bring us her son and our salvation.



She brings us to the school of Mary in her rosary and teaches us about her son’s life which leads us to Heaven. During our formation sessions we had great discussions about our blessings and obligations as Catholics and Franciscans. One of the discussion questions was:

How do we prepare our ourselves to receive Jesus’ REAL presence in the Eucharist?

We read from the admonitions of St. Francis as a way to prepare. . . “Behold daily He humbles Himself as when from His “royal throne” He came into the womb of the virgin; daily He Himself comes to us with like humility, daily He descends from the bosom of His Father upon the altar in the hands of the priest. . . “so we, seeing bread and wine with bodily eyes, see and firmly believe it to be His most holy Body and true and living Blood. And in this way our Lord is ever with His faithful, as He Himself says: ‘Behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world.’ ”

We read and discussed other admonitions, and from the 19th century book , The Golden Manual, we learned that ”We shall obtain every thing from the Father and the Holy Spirit through the Heart of Jesus, and we shall obtain everything from the Son through the Heart of Mary. The Heart of Mary is so intimately in union with the Heart of Jesus that one cannot be separate from another. If we desire to deepen our love of God, go first to Mary and she will lead us along the surest path to the Heart of her Son.”

This Article was sent to Regional on 7/3/2023 for publication in the Tiilma

St. Anthony Fraternity Initiates an Additional year of “Ongoing Formation for the Newly Professed”

By Linda Williams OFS and Frances Lucero OFS

Our Formation Director Rena Xuereb along with our Formators Marilyn Migliarini, Carol Ann and Ed Dzienis have been providing an awesome formation for us here at St. Anthony Fraternity in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

After four plus years, I thought that my formal formation was complete, but I was wrong. Rena informed our group that there was another year needed to recap what we had learned. This additional year was to enable us to use the rule St. Francis gave us and share his gift with others. As a result of Rena’s suggestion, three of our newly professed groups: Consuelo Chavez, Felis Otero-Armijo (Professed 2018) Regina Lubeck, Frances Lucero, (2020), Bill Parras, Linda Williams (2022) merged to join the class. We met once every four months for a year to read and discuss Lester Bach’s book, What it Takes to be an OFS Franciscan. This year enabled us to work together and get to know each other better.

It is one thing to know the rule and other components of our Secular Franciscan vocation but another thing to know how to put into practice our given gifts with others. In L. Bach’s words, “Special growth and integration of the Rule in daily life is a necessity.”

We are extremely grateful for our Secular Franciscan formation and the support from our St. Anthony Fraternity. Based on our experience during this additional year we recommend that all Fraternities with newly professed Franciscans use the What it Takes to be an OFS Franciscan book to strengthen vocations. In addition, the General Constitution - Article 44.2 states: “The fraternity has the duty to give *special attention* to the formation of the newly professed and of the temporarily professed, to help them become fully mature in their vocation and develop a true sense of belonging”.

Father Lester Bach, OFM Cap has provided the textbook: What is Takes to be an OFS Franciscan - The Time after Profession. The textbook includes seven Chapters on elements of our Franciscan spirituality with discussion questions. It can be purchased through:

Smoky Valley Printing

PO Box 189

Lindsborg, KS 67456

Phone: 785-227-2364

Email: svprinting2364@gmail.com

Minister's Message



Brothers and Sisters in Francis,

As we prepare for our Pre-Profession Retreat and for the Profession of our brothers and sisters, may we enkindle in our hearts the fire of the Holy Spirit which we receive through the call of our Heavenly Father and the outstretched hands of Jesus and Francis.

We also rely on the guidance of our Mother. In the Marian Antiphon: **“Virgin most prudent, whither have you gone forth, shining as exceedingly as the dawn? Daughter Zion, you are all beautiful and sweet, lovely as the moon, bright as the sun.”**, we can imagine the blazing fire in the heart of Mary. The brightness of her “sun” and “Son” is not like the scorching, fiery heat we have been experiencing this summer. It is a fire that burns, but never burns out – does not consume us, but it consumes us... May God be praised!

Please keep the Candidates in your prayers: Adrian Montoya and Felicie Truscio from our own St. Anthony Fraternity and Stanley Robb and Rebecca Griego from St. Francis Fraternity in Santa Fe.

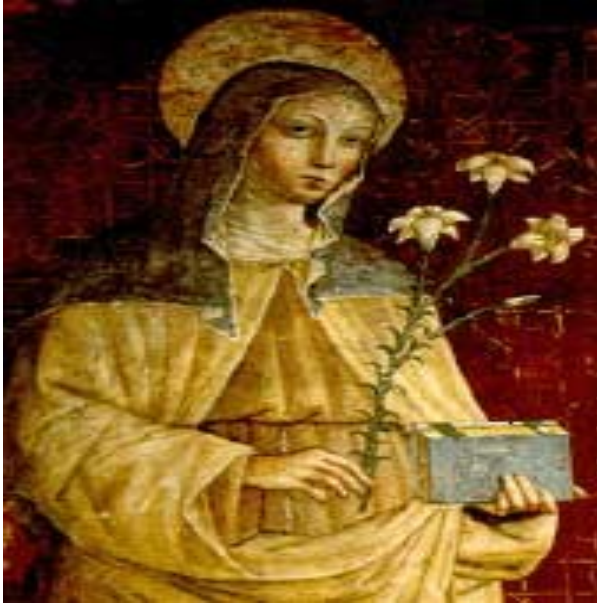
God's peace to all,

Your servant minister, Israela

Our Thanks to Hospitality Group 1 for providing the meal for our Fraternity Gathering on August 27!

Ernestine Sedillo, Connie Jo Martinez, Tommie Page, Bill Parras, Ed and Carol Ann Dzienis, Felis Armijo, Consuelo Chavez, Martha Ramirez, and Lisa Barczak

thank
you



Prayer Requests

We ask you to pray for:

- ◆ Our sick and home-bound brothers and sisters and those in the Fraternity who minister to them.
- ◆ The St. Francis Fraternity of Santa Fe and the St. Anthony Fraternity as they come together to accompany the Candidates: Stanley Robb, Rebecca Griego, Adrian Montoya and Felice Trucio in their Pre-Profession Retreat.



An Invitation from Br. Gordon

All are welcome to the Solemn Profession Ceremony for Friar Noe Alfaro-Casas on Friday, August 11 (Feast of St. Clare) ; Mass @ 7 pm at Holy Family; reception in parish hall to follow.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May he show His face to you
and be merciful to you.
May He turn His countenance to you
and give peace to you . . .
I bless you during my life and after
my death, as I am able.
I bless you out of all the blessings
with which the Father of
mercies has and does bless
His sons and daughters
in heaven and on earth,
and with all the blessings
a spiritual father and mother
have blessed and bless their
spiritual sons and daughters . . .
May the Lord always be with you
and may you always be with
Him. Amen.

Saint Clare

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**St. Anthony Fraternity
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Our Mission Statement

We, the fraternity of St. Anthony, inspired by the vision of St. Francis, commit ourselves to the Gospel as our Way of Life; “Going from Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel”. We believe that we are called to be renewed continually through the celebration of the Eucharist and go forth to rebuild the Church through our witness.

We are the Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis (The Secular Order) in the United States of America. We live our vocation in Our Lady of Guadalupe Empress of the Americas Region. Our Franciscan Community is the St. Anthony Fraternity located in