

The Clarion Newsletter of St. Clare Fraternity, OFS

Meeting every 4th Sunday @ 12:30 PM

St. William's Ministry Center, Naples, Florida

January 22, 2017, Issue #15

Minister's Message

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we are now in the second week of the New Year, it is an appropriate time to ascertain how faithful we have been to our "New Year Resolutions", provided, of course, that we have made some resolutions. Like many people, my resolutions in the past soon fell by the wayside and were ignored. But this year, I have approached this task with greater determination. For starters, I decided to keep a daily spiritual journal (#1) and wrote out my seven resolutions on the first two pages, so that I could be periodically reminded. Only one of those resolves might be considered quite mundane, and I wouldn't be surprised if many of you had this one on your list as well, namely, "to eat less, to exercise more and to get my weight down to a desirable level." (#2) That really is spiritual, since it will call for a good deal of self-discipline and mortification which, of course, are good for the soul.

I am fast approaching my 80th birthday, and quite naturally, I have a heightened awareness of my mortality and that I am on the "home stretch." And so, my most important resolution is a determination, with the grace of God, to grow in contemplative prayer (#3), something to which we are all called and which, after all, is the best preparation for a happy death. With that in mind, I intend, God willing, to spend time every day in front of the Blessed Sacrament and to be more devoted to Divine Mercy (4).

For most of my life, I have led with my head rather than with my heart. I need to become a more loving person in all my dealings with everyone, not just my wife, my family and my friends. (#5) I need to use my time more wisely (#6), avoiding the insidious negative influences so prevalent in much that is available on TV, in the movies, on the internet, and in printed literature of all sorts.

At my age, it is no surprise that I cannot do many things that once were second nature to me. This is, of course, quite humbling. I naturally have more aches and pains, regularly grieve the loss of loved ones and friends, meet frustrations and opposition on a more regular basis, and run up against my own inadequacy more often than I would have anticipated. And so, I am resolved to accept pain, sorrow, frustration, etc. as an opportunity to sanctify my sufferings by uniting them with the infinite merits of Christ (#7) so that I might not only be a better Christian but also a much better Secular Franciscan.

I'm sure that your resolutions are every bit as good as mine. I pray that God will help you to be faithful to your resolutions and I hope that you will pray for me as well. May God continue to bless our Fraternity with peace, unity, love and abundant vocations.

Your brother and servant in Christ, Bill



Fraternity Council

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Our Lady of Lourdes

The First Apparition - Thursday, February 11, 1858:

After dinner on the Thursday before Ash Wednesday, Bernadette's mother told her children that there was no more wood in the house. Bernadette and her sister, Toinette, and a neighbor friend, Jeanne Abadie, went to the river Gave to gather wood. They had to cross a canal of cold water. Fearing that she would have an asthma attack, Bernadette stayed on the bank, and the other two girls



crossed the stream and picked up wood under the grotto until they disappeared along the Gave. Bernadette heard a great noise like the sound of a storm, but nothing was moving. She was frightened and stood straight up, losing all power of speech and thought. She turned her head towards the Grotto of Massabielle and saw in the opening of the rock a rosebush, one only, moving as if it were very windy. Almost at the same time, there came out of the interior of the grotto a golden-colored cloud, and soon afterwards, a Lady, young and beautiful --exceedingly beautiful -- the likes of whom she had never seen, came and placed herself at the entrance of the opening above the rosebush. She looked at Bernadette and immediately smiled and signaled her to advance, in a way that a mother motions her child to come near. Bernadette took out her rosary and knelt before the Lady, who also had a rosary on her right arm. When Bernadette tried to begin saying the rosary by making the sign of the cross, her arm was paralyzed. It was only after the Lady had made the sign of the cross herself that Bernadette was able to do the same. As Bernadette prayed the rosary, the Lady passed the beads of her rosary between her fingers, but remained silent. She did recite the Gloria's with her, however. When the recitation of the rosary was finished, the Lady returned to the interior of the rock and the golden cloud disappeared with her.

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/resources/mary/popular-marian-devotions/our-lady-of-lourdes/>

Upcoming Events

Feb. 2 at 7:00 Parish Center
St. Agnes Peace and Justice Committee -
Human Trafficking

April 28-30 - Regional Elections

Jan. 23 – February 26, 2017



Birthdays

Feb. 6 – Michael Stuart
Feb. 25 – Bill Roche'



Profession

Jan. 24 – Jeanne Sachs
Jan. 25 – George Chami
Feb. 2 – Christine Pekar



Prayer from Pope Francis

Being a Christian isn't just following the commandments, but means being in Christ, thinking like him, acting like him, loving like him; it means letting him take possession of our lives and change them, transform them, free them from the darkness of evil and sin.

Please Pray For

- * Roy Eidem, OFS
- * Janet Eidem, OFS (caregiver)
- * Bob Kowalski, OFS
- * Bill Roche OFS
- * Virginia (Ginny) Kronyak,
Deacon Bob's daughter
- * Jim and Cyndi and the repose
of the soul of their son, Danny.
- * Our new President Elect, Donald
Trump
- * Ed Duff
- * Jiga Piasecki
- * Gisela Schwab
- * Michael Stuart
- * Carol Gillispie
- * Bob and Christine Pekar

Prayer

I asked for health, that I might do greater things;
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things...
I asked for riches that I might be happy;
I was given poverty, that I might be wise...
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of
men;
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of
God...
I got nothing I asked for, but everything I hoped for.
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were
answered.
I am among all men most richly blessed.
—Reflection found on a dead Confederate soldier

Franciscan Saints

Jan. 23 St. Francis DeSales

27 St. Angela Merici

30 St. Hyacintha Mariscotti

31 St. John Bosco

Feb. 4 St. Joseph Leonissa

5 St. Jane of Valois 19 St. Conrad Piacenza

6 St. Peter Baptist and Companions

7 St. Colette and St. Egirole-Marie de St. Joseph

13 St. Eustochium of Messine

18 St. Bernadette Soulirous

22 St. Margaret of Cortona

Vulnerable Like a Bird 1/3/17 Henry Nouwen

Life is precious. Not because it is unchangeable, like a diamond, but because it is vulnerable, like a little bird. To love life means to love its vulnerability, asking for care, attention, guidance, and support. Life and death are connected by vulnerability. The newborn child and the dying elder both remind us of the preciousness of our lives. Let's not forget the preciousness and vulnerability of life during the times we are powerful, successful, and popular.

January Gathering

Right of Welcoming - Anne Marie Hovancsek,
Luca Hickman, Margie DeFrancesca, Lamia
Chami and Linda Palmer Friedman.

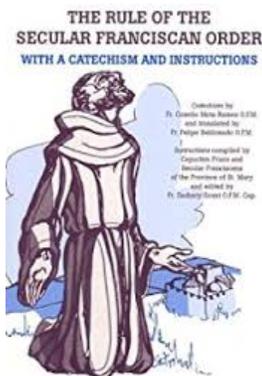
Hospitality

Main Dish – Jeanne Sachs

Dessert and Beverage – Cindy Phillips

Formation

Sheila Solomon



Treasurer's Corner St. Clare Fraternity Financial Report, Dec. 2016

Beginning Balance	\$1,940
Income:	
Common Fund	\$565
Fair Share Received	\$55
Liturgy of Hours Sales	\$55
Expenses:	
St. Matthews House Donation	\$200
Ending Balance	\$2,415

Thank you for your generosity.

If you are unable to attend the meeting please send your monthly donation to my attention at:

St Clare Fraternity
c/o Patricia Gagnon, OFS
23 Grouper Dr.
Naples, FL 34112

The Rule

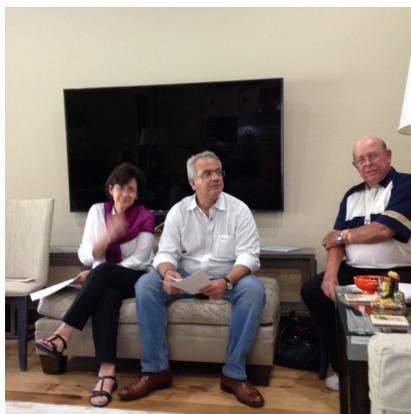
Article 11: Trusting the Father, Christ chose for Himself and His mother a poor and humble life, even though He valued created things attentively and lovingly. Let the Secular Franciscans seek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs. Let them be mindful that according to the gospel they are stewards of the goods received for the benefit of God's children. Thus, in the spirit of the Beatitudes, and as pilgrims and strangers on their way to the home of the Father, they should strive to purify their hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power.

News Brief

A report by the Center for Applied Research in Apostolate at Georgetown University shows that the Catholic Church is one of the most culturally diverse institutions in the United States and that Catholic institutions and ministries need to adapt and prepare for growing diversity. The report, released November 15, was commissioned by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church in 2013. Its goal was to help identify the size and distribution of ethnic communities in the country.

St. Anthony Messenger, January 2017, page 11

Fraternity Christmas Party 2016



Pictures courtesy of Jeanne Sachs