



## THE CLARION

St. Conrad Fraternity, Order of Franciscans Secular  
St. Margaret of Cortona Region  
Hanover, Pennsylvania

September / October 2018

Pax et Bonum

Jeff Topper, OFS, Minister ..... (717) 637-2026  
José Barata, OFS, Vice Minister ..... (443) 293-7334  
Judy Topper, OFS, Secretary ..... (717) 637-2026  
Cathy Livelsberger, OFS, Treasurer ..... (717) 225-1360  
Kathy Clagg, OFS, Formation Dir..... (443) 293-2755  
Sister Cecilia Reilly, OFS, Spiritual Asst.(410) 239-7138

### **From the Desk of Sister Cecilia**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I had the joy of meeting many of you at our recent monthly meeting. It is always a delight to come together and share our faith and friendship as Franciscans.

At our meeting we reflected on the recent news which has tarnished the image of the priesthood. The flaws of human nature are not confined to any particular group.

The priests who engaged in abusive acts need our prayers. But the many faithful, dedicated priests who are not caught up in this web of sinfulness are also in need of our encouragement and support.

Let us also include in our prayer the vulnerable hurting young people who need healing and direction in their lives.

May God bless you always.

Love,  
Sister Cecilia

**Minister's Message**

It seems odd to me that in today's world many people no longer believe in the Devil. Maybe that's because when most of us have encountered evil in our lives, it's been through the actions of human beings. Gossip, lies, theft, adultery, vandalism, and road rage are just the beginning of what could be a very long list. It's just a matter of time before each of us will have another brush with evil and we have no way of knowing when.

So does evil come only from human beings or do evil beings actually exist? The bible tells us: Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon. The dragon and its angels fought back, but they did not prevail and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The huge dragon, the ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world, was thrown down to earth, and its angels were thrown down with it. (Rev. 12:7-9) Jesus said, "I have observed Satan fall like lightning from the sky." (Luke 10:18)

Evil beings, then, do exist but how is it that evil seems to come to us through people? Just like the angels, both good and bad, God has given people free will. Every day we are faced with many choices; whether to do God's will or our own. We get to choose whether to do good or evil, whether to sin or not; and every one of our decisions has consequences. When I was quite a bit younger I remember seeing a cartoon that showed a person with a little angel on one shoulder and a little devil on the other. Each was trying to persuade the person to do something; the angel wanted a good deed, the devil a bad deed. This image seems to sum things up nicely.

One of the favorite wiles of Satan is to create friction among people, as in the following instance, related by St. Bonaventure: One day St. Francis went to the city of Arezzo. There was a lot of dissention and unrest there and the city was beginning to fall into ruin. Francis beheld the demons dancing with joy on the walls of the city, and exciting in the hearts of its people the fire of hatred against each other. Calling to him Brother Sylvester, a man of dove-like simplicity, he said, "Go to the gate of the city, and in the name of Almighty God command the devils, in virtue of holy obedience, to depart immediately." The Brother hastened to fulfil his orders, and cried out in a loud voice, "All you evil spirits who are gathered together in this place, I command you, in the name of Almighty God and of His servant Francis, depart hence." No sooner had he uttered these words than the discordant voices were hushed, the people's angry passions were calmed, and peace was restored to Arezzo. The pride and jealousy of the infernal spirits had threatened the ruin of the city, but the wisdom of the humble Francis saved it from destruction.

As we see from this story, evil can threaten not only individuals, but whole towns, cities, and countries, as well; even the Catholic Church. Sadly, we have all heard recently of predatory priests preying on innocent children

and getting away with it for years. It's been said that evil immerses things in a fog of confusion, which creates doubt and paralysis. As the church seeks to cast off this fog and take permanent and decisive action, we need to pray. Pray for those priests, pray for the many, many good priests, pray for the children, and pray for our church leaders. Brothers and Sisters we need to proclaim through our prayers, as Brother Sylvester did long ago, "in the name of Almighty God and of His servant Francis, evil - depart from our church." Let us commit to more deeply living our vocation as brothers and sisters of penance.

Pax et bonum,  
Jeff Topper

### **Holy Father's Prayer Intentions**

#### **September**

Universal: **Young People in Africa**

That young people in Africa may have access to education and work in their own countries.

#### **October**

Evangelization: **The Mission of Religious**

That consecrated religious men and women may bestir themselves, and be present among the poor, the marginalized, and those who have no voice.

### **Prayer for Vocations**

Heavenly Father, we beg you to send us many holy vocations, and to help those given such callings to respond freely, generously and faithfully. May their self-offerings and consecrations offer you fitting praise. Amen.

### **Attendance at the Gathering**

All active members should make the Gathering a priority. If you are unable to attend, please contact one of the council members. We are a family and, naturally, become concerned when we don't hear from one of our brothers or sisters.

### **Prayer at Gatherings**

For September, we will pray the Liturgy of the Hours. Please bring your breviaries.

October's gathering is our annual spiritual retreat at the Aisling House in Manchester. Please plan to arrive between 9 and 9:30am on Sunday, October 28.

**September Birthdays**

Jeff Topper..... 9/26

**September Profession Anniversaries**

Pat Bilz .....9/23/2001

**September Necrology**

Helen Bunty .....9/28/1979

Rosella Elsesser .....9/28/1977

Catherine Gross .....9/15/1983

William Muller.....9/21/1997

**October Birthdays**

Chester Barrick..... 10/14

**October Profession Anniversaries**

Mary Barrick.....10/27/1996

**October Necrology**

Rev. Clair Anstead, TOR ....10/22/1988

Verena Deller .....10/9/1982

Mary E. Sheeley .....10/16/1990

**Important Dates in September**

Sept. 3 - Labor Day

Sept. 8 - Nativity of the Blessed Virgin

Sept. 14- Exaltation of the Cross

Sept. 15- Our Lady of Sorrows

Sept. 17- Stigmata of St. Francis

Sept. 18- St. Joseph of Cupertino

Sept. 23- Saint Padre Pio of Pietrelcina

Sept. 23- Finding of the body of St. Clare

Sept. 29- Archangels – Michael, Gabriel

And Raphael

**Important Dates in October**

October 4 - Feast of Our Holy Father Francis

October 7 - Our Lady of the Rosary

October 8 - Columbus Day, observed

October 11- Feast Divine Maternity of Our Lady

October 18- St. Luke, Evangelist

October 23- St. John of Capistrano

October 28- Sts. Simon &amp; Jude, Apostles

October 31- Halloween

**Fraternity Prayer Vine**

Please continue to pray for the health and the intentions of:

- José Barata
- Chet Barrick
- Mary Barrick
- Pat Bilz
- Fr. Richard Forcier, ORM Conv
- Jessica – get well soon
- Mary Lou Gennaula
- Concetta Glorioso-special intention
- Sherlynn Holland
- Mary Minor
- Jackie Redding
- Sr. Cecilia Reilly

Just a reminder: if you want your prayer need(s) added to the prayer vine, or if you wish to have your name removed, please let your editor know.

**Final Thought**

A poster read: “God is dead” – Nietzsche.

The graffiti underneath read: "Nietzsche is dead" - God.