



Our Lady of the Rosary
Secular Franciscan Fraternity
Williamsburg, Virginia

August 2017
www.olrsfo.weebly.com

Minister's Reflections
By Terry Carlino, OFS

On Palm Sunday in 1212 an eighteen-year-old girl, along with her aunt, who was acting as her chaperone, and another companion went to the Portiuncula, that small church also known as Saint Mary of the Angels. She was met on the road by a group of friars led by St. Francis, bearing torches. At the little chapel she exchanged her fine robes and jeweled belt for rough wool and a rope decorated with knots. Her long tresses were cut by Francis' scissors. He sent her to join the Benedictines at San Paulo, though eventually she took up residence in a small dwelling next to the chapel at San Damiano, which had been built by the friars of St. Francis' order.

Eventually abbesses, cardinals and popes visited the Poor Ladies of San Damiano to see this woman who had founded a new order under the rules written for them by Francis. She never left San Damiano yet her influence extended over the whole of Europe and eventually the whole world. After Francis' death she wrote her own rule for her ladies of Francis' Second Order.

Twice she protected Assisi from attack, through prayer which resulted once in disheartenment of the enemy and once through a divine storm which again drove the enemy off. She fought efforts to soften the rule under which the sisters lived, and resisted many who sought to endow them with property, instead counting on divine providence to see them from side to side.

On August 9, 1253 Pope Innocent IV declared by papal bull that the sisters would live under the rule she had written. Two days later, on August 11, 1253 she died. Within two years she was declared a Saint. Within the next decade her order was renamed the Poor Clares, in her honor.

Clare in her life heroically embraced Sister Poverty. She left everything to join her beloved spouse Christ. Like our Father Francis, Clare inspires us in our own Rule to follow the Gospel Life and, as she did, to care for others through works of mercy, petitioning of the powerful and, most of all, through prayer.

Vice Minister's Corner
By Bea Sanford OFS

NO GREATER TRUTH!

YES, so grateful for this great gift of God himself!

"Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is an escape from the anxieties and demands of this world. As soon as I walk into the chapel and kneel down, I am overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude and thanksgiving that the Lord would invite me to be with Him. To be in His presence is life altering. This is where our love began, and this is where it continues to grow. There is a peace there that is actually tangible.... I find that after some time in prayer, my breathing slows, my heart stills, and there is a slight vibration within me. Everything around me fades as I rest in the presence of the Trinity, the Angels, and Heaven itself. Jesus' love is different from any love I have ever felt on this earth. His love is full and complete; I could rest in Him forever."

Wendy Mc Mahan

Adoration is available from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham located at 520 Richmond Road in Williamsburg. O come let us adore Him and receive the peace, grace and abundant blessings of spending time with the Lord.

SAVE THE DATES

- **THE FR. JAMES LEE RIZER OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IS SPONSORING A PILGRIMAGE TO THE FRANCISCAN MONASTERY IN WASHINGTON DC**
- Date: October 7, 2017
- Depart: Saint Bede Catholic Church, 3686 Ironbound Rd Williamsburg
- Visit: Franciscan Monastery and the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception
- Cost- Between \$45-\$50 per seat.

To reserve your spot, contact Gerald Dellasala geraldfdellasala@hotmail.com





The Greater Hampton Roads Cursillo is hosting **A CURSILLO WEEKEND FOR WOMEN** at the Williamsburg Retreat Center in Toana beginning Thursday, October 19 at 6:30 pm. and ending on Sunday, October 22 at 5:00 p.m.

According to their website <http://www.ghrcursillo.com> Cursillo (coor-SEE-yo) is a movement through which one's spirituality may grow, be developed, lived, and shared. The goal of Cursillo is the goal of the Church: to bring all to a deeper understanding of the teachings of Christ. The Cursillo community is one, which gives support and encouragement, empowering the renewed Christians (Cursillistas: coor-SEE-yees-tas) to persevere in carrying out their Baptismal promises. The cost is \$200 which covers meals, lodging and supplies. If you are interested, visit their website or contact Bea Sanford @ bsanford07@gmail.com for more information

The Holy Father's prayer intention for August:

"That artists of our time, through their ingenuity, may help everyone discover the beauty of creation."

Our next meeting

August 20 At St. Bedes - Father Walsh Room
Members gather at 1:00

Happy Birthday



Ed Gerhard 8/1
Carol Folsom 8/19
Terry Carlino 8/30

The Feast of St. Clare **August 11th**

St. Clare of Assisi was born in Assisi on July 16, 1194, as Chiara Offreduccio, the beautiful eldest daughter of Favorino Sciffi, Count of Sasso-Rosso and his wife Ortolana. Tradition says her father was a wealthy representative of an ancient Roman family and her mother was a very devout woman belonging to the noble family of Fiumi.

As a young girl, Clare dedicated herself to prayer. At 18-years-old, she heard St. Francis of Assisi preach during a Lenten service in the church of San Giorgio and asked him to help her live according to the Gospel. On Palm Sunday in 1212, Clare left her father's home and went to the chapel of the Porziuncula to meet with Francis. While there, Clare's hair was cut off and she was given a plain robe and veil in exchange for her rich gown.

Clare joined the convent of the Benedictine nuns of San Paulo, near Bastia, under Francis' orders. When her father found her and attempted to force her back into his home, she refused and professed that she would have no other husband than Jesus Christ. In order to give her the greater solitude she desired, Francis sent Clare to Sant' Angelo in Panzo, another Benedictine nuns' monastery.

Clare's sister Catarina, who took the name Agnes, joined her at this monastery. The two remained there until a separate dwelling was built for them next to the church of San Damiano.

Overtime, other women joined them, wanting to also be brides of Jesus and live with no money. They became known as the "Poor Ladies of San Damiano." They all lived a simple life of austerity, seclusion from the world, and poverty, according to a Rule which Francis gave them as a Second Order. St. Clare and her sisters wore no shoes, ate no meat, lived in a poor house, and kept silent most of the time. Their lives consisted of manual labor and prayer. Yet, they were very happy, because Our Lord was close to them all the time.

San Damiano became the center of Clare's new order, which was then known as the "Order of Poor Ladies of San Damiano." For a brief period of time, the order was directed by St. Francis himself and by 1216, Clare became the abbess of San Damiano. Ten years after Clare's death, the order became known as the Order of Saint Clare.

While serving as the leader of her order, Clare defended them from the attempts of prelates to impose a rule on them that more closely followed the Rule of Saint Benedict than Francis. Clare was so devoted and dedicated to Francis that she was often referred to as "alter Franciscus," or another Francis. She encouraged and aided the man she saw as a spiritual father figure, and took care of him as he grew old.

Following Francis' death, Clare continued to promote her order, fighting off every attempt from each pope trying to impose a rule on her order that would water down their "radical commitment to corporate poverty."

In 1224, an army of rough soldiers from Frederick II came to attack Assisi. Although very sick, Clare went out to meet them with the Blessed Sacrament on her hands. She had the Blessed Sacrament placed at the wall where the enemies could see it. Then on her knees, she begged God to save the Sisters.

"O Lord, protect these Sisters whom I cannot protect now," she prayed. A voice seemed to answer: "I will keep them always in My care." In that moment, a sudden fright struck the attackers and they fled as fast as they could without harming anyone in Assisi.

St. Clare became sick and suffered great pains for many years, but she expressed that no pain could trouble her. So great was her joy in serving the Lord that she once exclaimed: "They say that we are too poor, but can a heart which possesses the infinite God be truly called poor?"

On August 9, 1253, Pope Innocent IV declared Clare's rule would serve as the governing rule for Clare's Order of Poor Ladies. Two days later, Clare died at 59-years-old. Her remains were placed in the chapel of San Giorgio while the church dedicated to her remains was being built. At Pope Innocent's request, the canonization process for Clare began immediately, and two years later in 1255, Pope Alexander IV canonized Clare as Saint Clare of Assisi.

The construction of the Basilica of Saint Clare was finished in 1260, and on October 3, 1260 Clare's remains were transferred there and buried beneath the high altar. Nearly 600 years later, her remains were transferred once again to a newly constructed shrine in the crypt of the Basilica of Saint Clare. Her body is no longer claimed to be incorrupt.

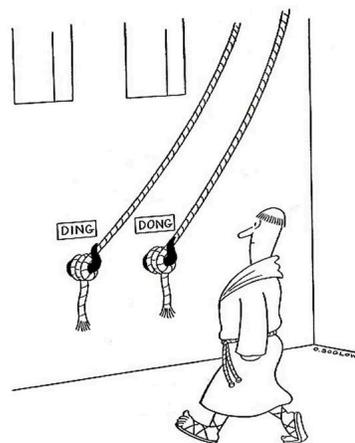
The Order of Poor Ladies was officially changed to the Order of Saint Clare in 1263 by Pope Urban IV.

St. Clare was designated as the patron saint of television in 1958 by Pope Pius XII, because when St. Clare was very ill, she could not attend mass and was reportedly able to see and hear it on the wall in her room.

She is also the patroness of eye disease, goldsmiths, and laundry.

Clare is often pictured carrying a monstrance or pyx, to commemorate the time she warded off the soldiers at the gates of her convent with the Blessed Sacrament. St. Clare's feast day is celebrated on August 11.

Franciscan Humor



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