



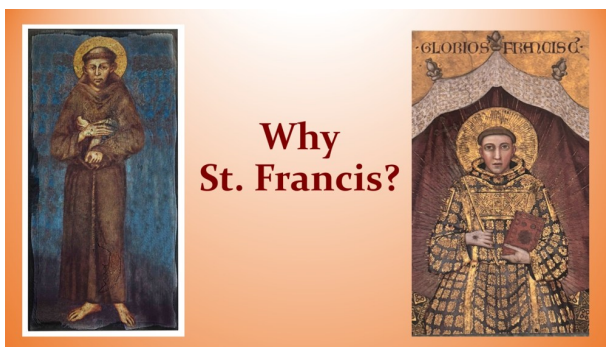
"FROM GOSPEL TO LIFE AND LIFE TO GOSPEL"

ST. CLARE FRATERNITY NEWSLETTER

St. Clare Fraternity, Stafford Springs, CT

June 2026

MAY GOD GIVE YOU PEACE!



Why
St. Francis?

As we continue to celebrate the Jubilee Year of St. Francis we reflect on his life, and what it means in ours!

Thurs., June 25th—6:30 pm -St. Edward Church. Invite others to join us!!!



St. Clare of Assisi, Patroness of our Fraternity

FRATERNITY LIFE

Monthly Gatherings:

Fraternity Gathering
Saturday, June 27, 2026—10 a.m.
St. Edward Parish Center
Hospitality—Greta

Please remember our Common Fund



**"Jesus Christ
feeds us thus
every day with
Gospel teachings
and the
Sacraments
of the Church."**

St. Anthony of Padua

OUR FRATERNITY COUNCIL:

Minister: Sandy Comarella, OFS

Vice-Minister: Zofia Fitzgerald OFS

Secretary: Nancy Rudek, OFS

Treasurer: Joe Comarella, OFS

Formation Director: Diane Garabedian, OFS

Councilor: Barbara Peirola, OFS

Spiritual Assistant:

Father John Koziol, OFM Conv

CONTACT US:

comsandy@cox.net

POPE LEO'S

PRAYER INTENTIONS

June 2026 -FOR THE VALUES OF SPORTS

Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity and personal growth.

July 2026 -FOR RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

OFS INTENTIONS

June 2026

For the national fraternities of Ecuador, Venezuela, Belgium and Switzerland.

July 2026

For the national fraternities of Congo Brazzaville and Indonesia.

Thoughts from your minister:

June jogs my memories. I can still remember the excitement of the last day of elementary school. I remember the anticipation and just a little bit of fear at graduation as the speakers told us how the whole world was ahead of us and just waiting for our dreams. I remember the exhilaration and the unknown as a new bride facing a lifetime commitment ahead of Joe and I. As I attend the last school days or the graduations and weddings of friends or family members, and I listen to the speeches and possibilities, I'm reminded of promises.

Jesus promises us that He will be with us always. Pretty simple. He will be with us when we're a 6th grader getting out of school with a whole summer ahead. He will be with us as a brand-new graduate with a whole life that we've planned out. He'll be with us as we walk down the aisle or onto a perfect beach sunset to say I do. But He is also with us when we fall and break our arm; when we can't find a job and the rent is overdue. Jesus is with us when our lifetime "I do" no longer is; whether through death or infidelity, it just isn't anymore. Jesus is with us when the promises are faded then broken. Jesus promised us that He will be with us always and He is.

This month we celebrate the feast day of Saint Anthony of Padua, one of my favorite saints. Saint Anthony, a follower of Saint Francis, is known as the patron saint of lost items, lost people and lost faith. When I need a reminder of His promise, when I'm feeling too tired or overwhelmed, or someday just a little old, I ask Saint Anthony to help me find that promise again. May he always help you find yours.

Grace, peace and hope.

Sandy

FRATERNITY MATTERS

A REMINDER: Our monthly gatherings are a "privileged time" of fraternity and community. A time for us to share and grow together in our Franciscan vocation. If you cannot attend a gathering, and are not permanently excused, please contact one of the council members to let us know you will not be attending so that your absence may be appropriately recorded. Thank you.

MAY WE BE INSTRUMENTS OF PEACE Continue to pray for peace in the Ukraine, the Holy Land, Iran, Haiti, the Sudan and all those places in the world torn apart by war, civil unrest, violence and fear. Please also for peace and unity in our country.

FEAST DAYS

June 13—Anthony of Padua (Diane)

June 18—Ven. Matt Talbot OFS

June 30—Raymond Lull (Esperanza)

July 1—Junipero Serra (DeDe)

July 4—Elizabeth of Portugal

July 10—Veronica Giuliani (Carolyn)

July 14—Francis Solano (Greta)

July 15—Bonaventure (Helen)

WE PRAY FOR:

Vocations to all branches of the Franciscan family, especially to the vocation of priesthood and the OFS

For the repose of the soul of Ray Kuehl

Healing for fraternity members Marie, Nancy R., Nancy L., DeDe, Rich, Lynn, Greta, Anne, Marion, Carolyn, Pat, Charlotte, Mabel, Albert, Rich

Healing for: Father Jude, Brother Vincent, Tom, Ronald C., David D., Bob G., Laraine D., Koren, Mary, Clare, Kerry, Jared, Kevin, Tracey, Angela, Samantha

For an end to the war in Iran, Ukraine and in all places affected by war, violence, and the lust for power.

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 our blessings.

AMEN.

FORMATION

"Unless a grain of wheat falls..."

Reflections from a Pilgrimage

As you know, I was blessed to be able to go to Assisi in March to venerate the bones of St. Francis. The theme of the veneration was "San Francesco Vive!" "St. Francis lives!" Myself, along with the 370,000 other pilgrims who came to Assisi from late February to late March, experienced the WHY of this theme.

As I approached the tent to begin my "pilgrimage", there was a sign that said *"We 'remember' the death of St. Francis, but 'celebrate' his life"*. Our centenary this year is the EASTER of St. Francis, not just the Transitus.

We had to book tickets (free) ahead of time for a slot to venerate the relics. I had a choice..."self-guided" or "friar-led". Of course I chose friar-led! As I entered the tent with the others in my time slot, we, about 50 of us, were seated in an area to wait. I was seated between a mother with a son of about 12, and a daughter (around 50) with her 90 year-old dad. They told me their stories. Of how the boy wanted to come, and the dad too!

And then one of the mothers asked me ..."You wear a Tau...are you a Franciscan? Why Francis?"

WOW. Brought home to me why I was here.

(cont. pg. 4)

OUR RULE of LIFE

PROLOGUE: EARLIER EXHORTATION OF SAINT FRANCIS TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF PENANCE

Concerning those who do not do Penance (cont.)

And you think you will possess this world's vanities for a long time, but you are deceived because a day and hour will come of which you give no thought, which you do not know, and of which you are unaware when the body becomes weak, death approaches, and it dies a bitter death.

REFLECTION: None of wants to think about the fact that we will all die at a time known only to God. Do I live my life as a "pilgrim and stranger", or do I cling to my vanities?

As we walked towards Francis' remains, the walls of the lower basilica were lined with the verses of John 12:24-26—"...unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies..."

Francis "fell" by stripping himself of everything. His first dying was in choosing to descend, to become a "lesser", to lose everything, trusting that the void in his life would be filled with the life that is Christ.

The dead grain becomes a strong root that brings new life. Francis, because he was stripped, became a root. By not possessing anything, he could sustain more. The void in his life gave room for new relationships.

The seed that was planted by Francis brought about abundant life in the fraternity that grew from it.

Seeing the bones of St. Francis was an experience that is hard to put into words...for they were not just "bones", but in my mind, it was Francis, alive, inspiring me.

Although it's been several months since I've returned, I still have much to "unpack", and my reflection continues. In closing, I share some of these thoughts with you.

- Does Francis live in me? And, not just Francis, but Jesus. How does Jesus live in me today?
- What do I need to let go of, let drop to the ground, so that new seeds may be rooted and grow?

Perhaps my/our challenge this year is "Why Francis"? Why has God given me, you, the gift of this particular vocation? And as we answer this question for ourselves, can we live it out in a way that truly says to others ST. FRANCIS LIVES!!!! And more importantly...CHRIST LIVES!!!!

Corinne

NATIONAL PRAYER for VOCATIONS to the SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

O Good and Gracious God, God of mercy,
compassion, generosity and love,

As we live our lives today in the model of St.
Francis, choosing daily to live the Gospel
life,

Help us to help others to recognize their
vocation as a Secular Franciscan that you
have already planted in their heart.

Help us, so that together we may all work
to bring the Gospel to life.

AMEN!

Marian R. Crosby, OFS



OFS Prayer for Vocation— June 2026

For those OFS brothers and sisters who
experience crisis in vocation.

SAVE THE DATES!

**Saturday, July 18— Jubilee Year
of St. Francis Pilgrimage to St.
Stanislaus Basilica**

**Monday, August 10—Transitus
of St. Clare**

**Invite your friends to join us
and find out why we follow
Jesus in the footsteps of St.
Francis!**