



“FROM GOSPEL TO LIFE AND LIFE TO GOSPEL” ST. CLARE FRATERNITY NEWSLETTER

St. Clare Fraternity, Stafford Springs, CT

March 2026

MAY GOD GIVE YOU PEACE!

We are still collecting items for our Blessing Bags project. We will discuss when we will assemble the bags at our March gathering.

Thank to everyone who was present at our visitation, and Lenten reflection. It is always a blessing to be with each other. We look forward to receiving Joe’s report, which we will share with all.

Volunteers are needed for snacks for March and April. Please let Sandy know if you can help.



**“The Lord revealed
to me
this salutation,
that we should say:
‘The Lord give thee
peace.’”
St. Francis
From his Testament**

FRATERNITY LIFE

Monthly Gatherings:

**Fraternity Gathering
Saturday, March 28, 2026—10 a.m.
St. Edward Parish Center
Hospitality—Volunteer needed**

**Fraternity Gathering
Saturday, April 25, 2026—10 a.m.
St. Edward Parish Center
Hospitality—Volunteer needed**

Please remember our Common Fund



St. Clare of Assisi, Patroness of our Fraternity

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:

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POPE LEO'S

PRAYER INTENTIONS

March 2026

FOR DISARMAMENT AND PEACE

Let us pray that nations move to effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

April 2026

FOR PRIESTS IN CRISIS

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that their communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

OFS INTENTIONS

March 2026

For the national fraternities of Korea, Chile, Albania, Malaysia, Singapore and Japan.

April 2026

For the success of the meeting of the CIOFS Secretariate of Formation and the national fraternities of Hong Kong-Macau, and CIOFS Presidency.

Thoughts from your minister:

Friends,

In 1967 Pete Seeger released his remake of "Strangest Dream" under the title "Last Night I had the Strangest Dream", a folk-song by Ed McCurdy written in 1950 as a prelude to the Korean War. The opening verses "last night I had the strangest dream I ever had before. I dreamed that all the world agreed to put an end to war" sang out in protest to the Vietnam war that had just recently started, a war that was urging the world to join in. Being pretty young, I didn't understand the death and destruction happening 8,500 miles away, nor the devastation and scars to our Mother Earth. I'm not sure the world really did. Seventy-six years later, I wonder how much we've learned. The targets have changed. The weapons are faster and cause more destruction. The areas are more densely populated, with the poor once again suffering the most, the marginalized being pushed even farther outside the margins. And our Mother Earth continues to bear burden of the devastation and the scarring.

Quite prophetically, Pope Leo XIV's prayer intention for March calls for the Catholic Church to pray together for disarmament and peace - "particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence." And so, I pray with Pope Leo. But I still wonder how can my prayer from Stafford Springs help stop a war in the Middle East, or the Ukraine? How can my prayer change the hearts of world leaders who right now are convinced that war is necessary, that war is the only possible solution, even though Pope Francis warned us three years ago that "no one wins with war; each life lost represents defeat"?



(cont. page 3)

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 and the Holy Land, 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

March 19—Saint Joseph

March 25—Feast of the Annunciation

March 28—Catherine of Genoa

April 4—Benedict the Moor (Greta)

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 souls of Ginny Kuehl and James Smart (minister, Korban Fraternity)

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

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

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

For the Confirmation students at St. Edward Church

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.

If you have names that you would like added to the prayer list, please contact Corinne.

Thoughts from your minister (cont.)

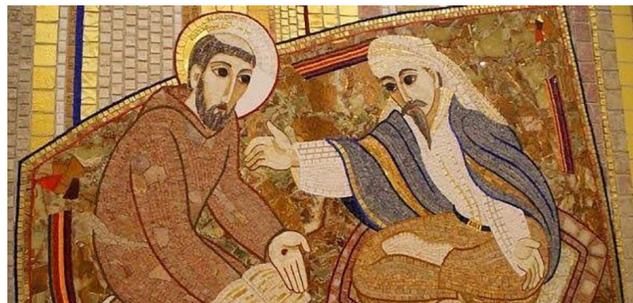
Despite St. Francis' early desire to be a great knight, his greatest victories in times of war were won without a spear or a sword but with dialogue, with prayer, with poetry, as he declared, "Blessed are those who endure in peace," even as his world was plagued by religious conflicts, class wars, and the Crusades. Perhaps in this time of war and conflict, we need to be more like the king of Nineveh, sitting in ashes and sackcloth, fasting and praying. Perhaps in times of war, we need to remember what Francis came to know - that God alone is the source of peace. Perhaps that's why he always greeted others with "May the Lord give you Peace."

In the second verse of "Strangest Dream," McCurdy wrote, "They all joined hands and bowed their heads and grateful prayers were prayed."

They prayed. And so, I pray. I pray with Pope Leo. I pray with the Blessed Mother. I pray with St. Francis and St. Clare and St. Maximilian Kolbe. I pray with each of you. I pray that our Lenten prayers may be lifted up to an Easter of peace and healing in our world, in our church and in our hearts. I pray for a strange dream.

Grace, peace and hope,

Sandy



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.)

See, you blind ones, deceived by your enemies: the flesh, the world, and the devil, because it is sweet for the body to sin and it is bitter to serve God, for every vice and sin flow and proceed from the human heart, as the Lord says in the Gospel.

REFLECTION: During this Lent, let us take time to examine our hearts, and to do penance for those vices and sins that we know exist there.

**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— February 2026

For the light of the Holy Spirit to guide the
members of OFS local fraternities and councils
responsible for helping discern true vocation.

**Prayer to the Franciscan Family
from the letter by Pope Leo**

*Saint Francis, our brother,
you who eight hundred years ago
went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace,
intercede for us before the Lord.
You recognized true peace
in the Crucifix of San Damiano,
teach us to seek in Him
the source of all reconciliation
that breaks down every wall.
You who, unarmed,
crossed the lines of war
and misunderstanding,
give us the courage to build bridges
where the world raises up boundaries.
In this time afflicted by conflict and division,
intercede for us
so that we may become peacemakers:
unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace
that comes from Christ.
Amen*

FROM THE ADMONITIONS of ST. FRANCIS

Where there is charity and wisdom,
there is neither fear nor ignorance.

Where there is patience and humility,
there is neither anger nor disturbance.
Where there is poverty with joy,
there is neither greed nor avarice.

Where there is rest and meditation,
there is neither anxiety nor restlessness.

Where there is fear of the Lord to guard an
entrance,
there the enemy cannot have a place to enter.

Where there is a heart full of mercy
and discernment,
there is neither excess nor hardness of heart.

St. Francis of Assisi, pray for us.

St. Clare of Assisi, pray for us.

