



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

St. Clare Fraternity, Stafford Springs, CT

November 2025

MAY GOD GIVE YOU PEACE!

FRATERNITY CALENDAR

November 2025– January 2026

Please mark your calendars for these dates:

Monday, November 17—Franciscan Solidarity Day—see
Formation section

Friday, December 5—12 Noon Mass—St. Edward
Celebrating the anniversary of our Fraternity
establishment

Saturday, December 20—Mass at 9:00 a.m., followed
by reflection by Fr. John



FRATERNITY LIFE

Monthly Gatherings:

Fraternity Gathering
Saturday, November 22—10 a.m.
St. Edward Parish Center
Hospitality— Corinne & Sandy

Next Regular Fraternity Gathering
Saturday, January 24, 2026—10 a.m.
St. Edward Parish Center
Hospitality— volunteer needed

Please remember our Common Fund



**“We are
made
loveless
by our
possessions.”
St. Elizabeth of
Hungary**

Patroness of the OFS

Feast Day November 17th

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

St. Clare of Assisi, Patroness of our Fraternity

POPE LEO'S

PRAYER INTENTIONS

November 2025

FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

Let us pray that people tempted by suicide will find in their community the support, assistance and love they need and open themselves to the beauty of life.

December 2025

FOR CHRISTIANS IN CONFLICT CONTEXTS

Let us pray that Christians living in contexts of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, may be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

OFS INTENTIONS

November 2025

For the CIOFS Presidency and YouFra, for the national fraternity of Cuba.

December 2025

For a better collaboration between OFS and YouFra in the world, for the national fraternity of France.

Thoughts from your minister:

Friends,

I can see a lot of November in our scripture readings this month. Cold, bare trees and often kind of dreary. Snow flurries on November 10th? We've had below average temperatures, bitter wind but clear skies, bright sunshine, a spectacular supermoon and the chance to see the Northern lights. Through all of it the whisper of "be ready", you don't know when winter is coming.

In our first readings we hear the words from the Book of Wisdom. We move to the readings from the book of Maccabees to the often perplexing visions in the book of Daniel. All carry messages stern but necessary as they challenge us to examine and feed our own faith, just like those cold fall rains, necessary for spring growth. In our Gospel, we hear of chaos, the cleansing of the temple, Jesus weeping over Jerusalem, future persecution. Over and over the message to be vigilant, stay awake!

But throughout the month are scattered beacons of hope and light, days of sunshine and nights with countless stars, when we celebrate saints like St. Elizabeth of Hungary who, after losing her husband, her home, her wealth continued to serve the poor, the sick, the aged as a Secular Franciscan. We celebrate Christ the King who even from His Cross offered forgiveness to the penitent thief. Jesus gives us the parable of the gratitude of the one leper who returned in thanksgiving after his healing. And while we should certainly carry that same gratitude and Thanksgiving in our hearts each and every moment of our days, as a nation we set aside an entire day to say thanks to our God and our country.

Along with St. Francis, we pray "Bless and praise my Lord all creatures, and thank and serve Him in deep humility".

Happy Feast Day of St. Elizabeth of Hungary. Happy Thanksgiving.

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. 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

November 17—Elizabeth of Hungary, Patroness of the OFS

November 19—Agnes of Assisi (DeDe)

November 26—Leonard of Port Maurice (Anne)

November 28—James of the Marche (Lynn)

November 29—All Saints of the Seraphic Order

WE PRAY FOR:

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

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, Ginny, Tom Stauffer, Ronald C., David D., Patty, Bob G., Gayle, Robert, Frank, Emily, Alison, Jan, Laraine D., Kirk, William, Harry, Bob, Guy, Koren, John, Mary, Clare, Kerry, Jared

For an end to the war in Ukraine and in all places affected by war, violence and destruction caused by war.

For the Confirmation students at St. Edward Church

For an end to the gun violence in our country

For all migrants and refugees

For those who will benefit from our collection for Cornerstone

Peace, healing and justice in our country and in the world

FORMATION

International Day of Secular Franciscan Solidarity

November 17, 2025 Feast Day of St. Elizabeth of Hungary

(from presentation prepared by our National Formation Commission)

November 17th has been designated as the International Day of Secular Franciscan Solidarity. We'll explore what it means to live in solidarity with others—through the examples of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, the Patroness of the Secular Franciscan Order, and modeled after St. Francis of Assisi, whose life modeled deep compassion, humility, and unity with all people and creation.

Solidarity means standing with others—not just in words, but through real connection, empathy, and action. It's about recognizing that we're part of one human family. Solidarity includes unity and mutual support within a group, sharing in the joys and struggles of others, and acting for the common good, especially for the vulnerable

St. Francis saw every person and creature as a brother or sister. He lived in simplicity to be close to the poor. He embraced peace, dialogue, and service to others. St. Francis lived solidarity by choosing poverty and walking alongside the outcast. He saw Christ in the leper, the beggar, and even in animals and nature—showing radical unity with all.

Solidarity in action, in the Franciscan way involves listening with compassion and presence, serving without expecting reward., advocating for justice and peace and living simply to allow others to simply live.

To live like Francis is to go beyond charity—it's about sharing in another's experience. Whether it's feeding the hungry, protecting the earth, or comforting a friend, Franciscan solidarity means living love.

(cont. on page 4)

OUR RULE of LIFE

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

Chapter One: Concerning those who do Penance *(cont.)*

Holy Father, in your name (Jn 17:11) save those whom you have given me in the world; they were yours and you gave them to me (Jn 17:6). The words that You gave to me I have given to them, and they have accepted them and have believed in truth that I have come from You and they have known that you have sent me (Jn 17:8).

REFLECTION: St. Francis centered much of his spirituality on Scripture. What Scripture passages are important in your spiritual journey?

St. Elizabeth of Hungary's Life

Elizabeth of Thuringia, was a princess of the Kingdom of Hungary and the landgravine of Thuringia. Elizabeth was the daughter of King Andrew II of Hungary and Gertrude of Merania. In 1221, at the age of fourteen, Elizabeth married Louis; the same year he was enthroned as landgrave, and the marriage appears to have been happy. Elizabeth was married at the age of 14, and widowed at 20. After her husband's death, she regained her dowry, using the money to build a hospital where she herself served the sick. She became a symbol of Christian charity after her death in 1231 at the age of 24 and was canonized on 25 May 1235. She is venerated as a saint by the Catholic Church. She was an early member of the Third Order of St. Francis, and is today honored as its patroness.

St. Elizabeth's Spirituality

St. Elizabeth lived a life of humility despite her royal status. She was known for her extensive charity and would secretly take bread from the palace to feed the poor. When her husband, King Louis, encountered her on one such occasion and questioned her, the bread in her cloak transformed into a bouquet of roses. The miracle impressed Louis and converted him to support Elizabeth's charitable work, which had previously been met with disapproval from his family. St. Elizabeth's life mirrored what we hear in Matthew's Gospel (25:31-40): feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger. St. Elizabeth was known for her works of mercy, founding hospitals, feeding the hungry, caring for the sick and lepers.

How can we live the Legacy of St. Elizabeth?

St. Elizabeth is a model of lay holiness. Her solidarity with the poor, migrants, and the sick, and her care for all God's creation lead to her being named patroness of the Third Order. We, as followers of St. Francis and St. Elizabeth, can apply her teachings in practical ways such as volunteering, advocacy for justice, living ecological solidarity with all of creation (Laudato Si), and being in solidarity with the global OFS fraternity. In these ways, we give witness to our OFS Rule of Life.

For your reflection:

Which aspect of St. Elizabeth's life speaks to you most?

How can we live solidarity practically in our fraternities?

What challenges do we face in following her example today?

What strikes you most about Elizabeth's way of living the Gospel?

Prayer:

Devoted servant of Christ, you chose a life of humility and service despite your royal birth. Through your love for the poor and sick, you showed us the true meaning of charity and faith. Help us to follow your example, serving others with compassion and bearing life's trials with patience.

We ask for your intercession to guide us in living lives of holiness and love. May we, like you, care for those in need and always seek a deeper relationship with Christ through our acts of mercy and kindness.

Amen.



WE REMEMBER...

"...the faithful shall abide with him in love..." (Wis 3:9)

November is a time for remembering all the Saints and Souls that have gone before us. On November 5th, the Franciscan Family commemorates all the Deceased of the Seraphic Order, and on November 29th all the Saints of the Order.

Let us take a moment to pray for the deceased members of our fraternity

Anna Welch (6/11/1997)

Gerry Mon (6/18/2003)

Doris Boisseau (9/25/2006)

Florence Brisson (8/5/2017)

Barbara Morin (3/23/2018)

Bernice Armstrong (8/8/2018)

Nancy Bilyak (5/21/2022)

Jeanne Bouthillier (5/18/2023)

Brother Dennis Sokolowski, OFM Conv., Spiritual Assistant (8/24/2023)



"Since they are immersed in the resurrection of Christ, which gives true meaning to Sister Death, let them serenely tend toward the ultimate encounter with the Father."

OFS RULE, Article 19

ANOTHER DATE for your CALENDARS

**Sunday, January 4—Creche Service followed by
Fraternity Christmas Gathering**

12 noon, St. Edward Church

Details to be discussed at our November gathering.

Please invite family & friends!



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

