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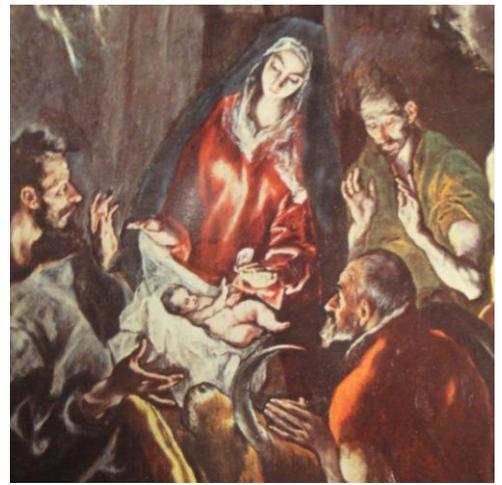
239-262-0867

My dear brothers and sisters and friends of the St. Clare Fraternity,  
May God give you His peace and fill you with his love!

Our joyous season of Christmas is now passed but we must not forget the marvelous mystery of the Incarnation which was at the heart of that celebration, but also continues to be the central truth of our great hope of salvation in Christ. The Incarnation was central to the faith of our founder, St. Francis, and no one in all of Christianity has better focused our attention on the preeminent importance of this mystery than our fellow Franciscans, St. Bonaventure and Blessed Dom Scotus. Knowing that God willed from all eternity to become one with our humanity through the person of His beloved Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, has made all the difference in our relationship with God. We never have to wonder if, in false pride, we are overreaching our natural limitations in trying to make contact with God. It is now clearly evident that He has taken the first move and is even more interested than us in establishing a familial relationship with us. If God is so in love with all mankind, how can we discriminate who we will love and not love, since God loves everyone and is present in everyone. When we love another, it ought to be God or the image of God that we love in that person, otherwise we might be deceiving ourselves and actually loving our reflection in that person or what we perceive to be that person's benefit to us. Love, if it is not selfless, is a sham because it is necessarily self-serving. God, on the other hand, always manifest Himself, and especially in the person of Christ, as being self-sacrificing love. Why else would God allow His beloved Son to come as a helpless, totally dependent child? And why else would Christ spend his entire life as a servant leader, more concerned about the needs of others than himself.

What a great depth of gratitude we owe to our Blessed Mother Mary. First for her fiat, but also for her faithfulness in rearing and protecting Him and for finally staying faithful to Him in love till the very last, suffering with Him under his cross. This past month we celebrated four major feast of our Blessed Mother. This month starts off with the Feast of Mary, Mother of God. Our great joy is that at His death, Jesus gave to us His own Mother to be our mother. Do we truly understand what that means? Jesus wants His mother to mother us as she mothered Him. That means to nourish us, to protect us, to encourage us, to help us, etc. Many saints, recognizing Mary as our spiritual Mother, have said that while we are in this life, we are in the spiritual womb of Mary, and that it is her task to form us into the image of her son, Jesus. All I can say to that is "fiat", let it be done. May Jesus and Mary bless all of us, and may their love and grace surround us during this coming year.

Your brother and servant in Christ,  
Bill



## The Clarion Newsletter of St. Clare Fraternity, OFS

Meeting every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday @ 12:15PM

St. William's Ministry Center  
Naples, Florida

Jan 2014 Issue #127

## Franciscan Saints

JANUARY 20 [Bl. John Baptist Triquerie](#), priest, martyr, I Ord.  
23 [St. Marvanne Cope](#), virgin, OSF  
24 [St. Francis de Sales](#), bishop, doctor, III Ord., founder  
27 [St. Angela Merici](#), virgin, III Ord., founder  
29 [Bl. Roger of Todi](#), religious, I Ord.  
30 [St. Hyacinth of Mariscotti](#), virgin, III Ord.  
31 [St. John Bosco](#), priest, III Ord., founder

FEBRUARY 1 [St. Veridiana](#), virgin, III Ord. [Bl. Andrew of Segni](#), religious, I Ord.  
4 [St. Joseph of Leonessa](#), priest, I Ord.  
6 [Sts. Peter Baptist, priest, and companions](#), martyrs [Martin of the Ascension, Francis Blanco, priests; Philip of Jesus, cleric; Francis of St. Michael, Gonsalvo Garcia, religious; seventeen tertiaries], I and III Ord.  
7 [St. Colette of Corbie](#), virgin, II Ord.  
8 [St. Giles Marv of St. Joseph](#), religious, I Ord.  
15 [Transfer of the Body of St. Anthony of Padua](#)

The ill of our Fraternity need our prayers: Ed Duff; Isabel, Frances, Roy; Elizabeth Marie, Carol, Christine, Pepsi,

### January Birthdays:

Jan. 26 – Kathleen Ahern RIP  
Jan. 26 – Helen Kruk RIP  
Jan. 26 – Jadwiga Piasecki

### February Birthdays:

Feb. 6 – Michael Stuart

### Jan. Anniversary of Profession:

Jan. 25, 2004 – Georges Chami  
Jan. 24, 2010 – Kathleen Ahern  
Jan. 24, 2010 – Jeanne Sachs

### Feb. Anniversary of Profession:

Feb. 2, 2013 – Christine Pekar

[Deacon Robeert C. Kronyak, OFS](#)

[Spiritual Assistant](#)

## Franciscans Forming!

Happy New Year!

Reflecting upon the great gift of having Fr. Regis Armstrong OFM celebrate liturgy each day, for two weeks, at the Poor Clare Monastery of San Damiano, leading up to midnight mass and beyond to the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God on Jan 1<sup>st</sup>...what a blessing to behold the extraordinary grace of weaving a tapestry of praise, encouragement, love and respect for these holy women of God and their consecrated lives.

“Justice will flourish in His time and fullness of peace forever”.

Father used this responsorial psalm refrain to begin the journey... to ponder, meditate and glean the “essence which comes from the poverty” the Sisters embrace each day... “Christ is our justice” and “Christ shows us what it means to be human...” Father also considered that day’s O Antiphon: Come O Adonai leader of ancient Israel, giver of the law to Moses on Sinai.

“The burning bush on Mt Sinai, a wonderful symbol of Mary, burning with love, never consumed and you too, dear Sisters, living day after day after day as poor contemplatives showing the fullness of peace and the mystery of God’s love by your quiet unassuming life which challenge us all to show God to one another and be contemplatives ourselves by stepping back from the ordinary activity and contemplating the love of God.

The never ending adventure of life and the never ending adventure of Love!”

We are constantly blessed with living and meditating on that never ending adventure of love in raising our 4 year old daughter. She was delighted the other day to receive a six inch hand held flag. We were walking down the side walk of a busy street and she was in the stroller, waving the flag towards the people as they drove by... She recollected our instruction, years earlier: when we see the flag of our country, to pray for our country and also for a change of the hearts of those that support abortion in any way. She said that she was waving the flag to encourage the passing passengers to likewise do the same. During a lull in the traffic she mused on the fact that on the top of the flag there was a point on the shaft of the handle that made it look like the spear in which Herod’s soldiers killed the newborns of Bethlehem. WOW!!! Out of the mouth of babes... Let us all pray for our country and in the words of the first Psalm: “Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread... but their delight is in the Law of the Lord, and on His Law they meditate day and night.” Lord, help us to follow the right way... for as Mother Teresa pointed out there can be no peace if we don’t love the most poor and vulnerable, the unborn in their mother’s womb.

May God Bless your Spirit with Peace and all Good!

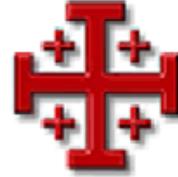
Bob and Christine

## Hope for Haiti

Hope for Haiti will accept unused prescription drugs for treatment of the poor which are **non-expired ones only!** Please keep them in mind before flushing or tossing, neither of which are good solutions.



Fr Regis, a blessing for us all!!!



Janet Eidem – Gleaning (Originally published 6/2011)

## **A Letter from Padre Pio**

My Dearest Daughter,

Jesus resigns in your heart to overwhelm it with His holy love! I am sorry I do not have adequate answers to all of the questions you asked in your last letter. Please forgive me for being brief in answering you, I am in bed sick for three days, but generally I assure you to be calm in regard to condition of your spirit, it is pleasing to God. I cannot really believe and absolve you from meditating solely because it does not seem to you that you are reaping any benefits. The holy gift of prayer, my good daughter, it is in the right hand of the Savior; and in such measure that you will be empty of your own corporal love and will, and be instead rooted in holy humility, the Savior will thus communicate it to your heart.

## Formation

The Formation team met at the Eidem home on Friday, January 10th to prepare for the possible 6 people who have expressed interest in our Franciscan way of life. If you were not able to attend the meeting and want to actively participate in Formation at any time in the next three years you will be truly welcome. We ask that all brothers and sisters pray often for the action and inspiration of the Holy Spirit to enlighten those soon to be in formation, as well as the team.

## Community Pregnancy Centers

Don’t forget the mothers and babies any gift of diapers or clothes are greatly appreciated.

## ROSARY DONATIONS

Please donate Rosary beads that are not being used (even those in need of repair). Bring them to the next meeting. Georges will get them to the Rosary makers for distribution.