



**The Clarion Newsletter**  
**Of**  
**The St. Clare Fraternity, OFS**  
April 15<sup>th</sup> 2016 issue 143

Meeting every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday @ 12:30 PM  
St. William's Ministry Center  
Naples, Florida

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**Supplies Coordinator – Bob Kowalski**

**Librarian – Sheila Solomon**

**Historian – Bob Kowalski**

**Music Ministry – Janet Eidem & Jeanne Sachs**

**FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK**

To my dear brothers and sisters in the St. Clare Fraternity,

On Monday of his week (4/4) I had the pleasure of participating in the celebration of the feast of the Annunciation at Ave Maria University together with Carol Bart, Jeanne Sachs, Sheila Solomon and Bob Kowalski.

The 5 p.m. Mass, with Bishop Frank Dewane as the celebrant, was offered for God's blessings on our Fraternity.

In his homily, the Bishop spoke of devotion to Our Blessed Mother and emphasized the words of the Angel Gabriel: "Nothing will be impossible to God." He urged us to seek out the "Gabriels" in our lives who reveal to us God's will, and also, to turn to God in the most troublesome times of our life, when it seems that we are faced with insurmountable barriers, knowing full well that to God these obstacles are of no consequence at all.

Through most of my active years before retirement, I had a very average devotion to Our Blessed Mother. I said the Rosary almost every day and celebrated most of the major Marian feast days. After retirement, my parish had an active Legion of Mary group and I joined them, having been a member before when I was 16. A year later, I made the Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary as advocated by St. Louis de Montfort. If one were to ask me what single factor has most transformed my life since then, I would say, without hesitation, that it has been this devotion to Our Blessed Mother. Jesus, through Mary, has led me in several directions that I could never have anticipated.

It led me one year later to join the Secular Franciscans and to begin at the age of 62 my pursuit of a Master Degree in Pastoral Theology at the Rice School. (Continued on page 2)

The following year I entered the diaconate program for the Diocese of Venice, and was very active in that program for the next four years.

Meanwhile, I also assumed the leadership of many functions within my local parish involving the youth, adult faith formation and scripture study, and I remain very active in all of the above to this very day. I firmly believe that Mary has been, and continues to be, the guiding force that continues to obtain for me God's special blessings.

The commentary to Rule 9 says: "Devotion to Mary has always been a hallmark of the Franciscan calling, both as a way of expressing love for her and as an important way of finding Jesus himself." As we approach the month of May, a month especially set aside for devotion to our Blessed Mother, let us all strive to become more devoted to her and to "express our ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently." Consider making your own Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary. You have no idea what great blessings it might hold in store for you. Pope Saint John Paul II never regretted his total consecration. In fact, he chose as the motto of his papacy "Totus Tuus" (totally yours). How wonderful it would be if we could all be faithful to that motto! Your brother and servant in Christ,  
Bill



## From the Franciscan Book of Prayer

You are fair, O Mary,  
And the stain of original sin is not in you.  
You are the glory of Jerusalem;  
You are the joy of Israel;  
You are the honor of our people;  
You are the advocate of sinners, O Mary

Our Lady of the Angels,  
Virgin most prudent,  
Mother Most loving,  
Pray for us,

Intercede for us with Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*(Grant for us in our St. Clare Fraternity and for all in the world who are suffering in any way, peace and hope and please give us the joy of your gentle and giving heart)*

AMEN

### Salutation Of The Blessed Virgin

( by Saint Francis of Assisi )

Hail Holy Lady most holy Queen,  
Mary Mother of God.  
Chosen by the Father in heaven  
consecrated by Him.  
With His most beloved Son and  
Holy Spirit comforter,  
On you descended and still remains  
fullness of grace  
And every good.

Hail His palace and His robe,  
Mary Mother of God.  
Hail His handmaid lowly and pure,  
Loving servant of the Lord.  
Hail holy virtues given by God  
to all the faithful in the world,  
So that no longer we faithless be,  
And may become the  
servants of the Lord. - AMEN

# ***Our Fraternity life***

## **Celebrations**

### **Birthdays**

**Happy and wonderful and great and  
one more time and many  
more, from all of us,  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

May 11<sup>th</sup> Bob Kowalski

May 28<sup>th</sup> Christine Pekar

### **St. Clare Fraternity Profession Anniversaries**

**WOW!!**

Marge Ryther *PROFESSED 54 YEARS 1962*

Pepsi Lachowyn *PROFESSED 29 YEARS 1987*

Carole Gillespie *PROFESSED 16 YEARS 2000*

***The St. Clare Fraternity is so blessed to have such dedication and the love that these members bring to us. Thank You Ladies from all of us and may God bless you all forever.***

***Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ of The St Clare Fraternity.***

#### **Fraternity notes:**

***Our Spiritual assistant, Deacon Bob Kronyak has left for the summer months and returned to South Carolina with his wife Helen. We already miss them both.***

## ***The Franciscan Saints and Blessed of May to be remembered***

*May 10<sup>th</sup> St. Ivo of Brittany, III Ord.*

*May the 16<sup>th</sup> St. Margaret of Cortona, III Ord.*

*May 28<sup>th</sup> St Mariana of Jesus of de Paredes, virgin, III Ord.*

*May 30<sup>th</sup> St. Ferdinand king, III Ord.*

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Friday April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup> Regional  
Conference at San Pedro**

**May “up in the air” (waiting for  
information)**

**Thurs. June 30<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup> XIX  
Quinquennial conference**

**Tues. Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> to Sun., Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> NAFRA  
Conference at San Pedro**

**We should try to attend as many of these as possible we have a lot to contribute and share. And we have a need to stay abreast of any new ideas coming from everywhere.**

**There are a number of things and dates occurring during the upcoming summer months that are in flux. Keep posted to our Minister Bill for current up to date information.**

***Last but not least; we have to keep in our prayers all of our fellow Fraternity brothers and sisters who may be suffering silently and be available to help them in a moment’s notice if we can.***

## **A Larger Knowing - Richard Rohr - April 3, 2016**

Francis and Clare of Assisi are two prime examples of people who chose to live on the "edge of the inside" rather than front and center and who understood life as participation.

True contemplatives surrender some of their own ego boundaries and identity so that God can see through them, with them, and in them--with a larger pair of eyes. It is quite simply a higher level of seeing; it is deep consciousness.

True contemplatives surrender some of their own ego boundaries and identity so that God can see through them, with them, and in them--with a larger pair of eyes. It is quite simply a higher level of seeing; it is deep consciousness.

When we see things in a unitive way, in conscious union with the eyes of God, what we see is qualitatively different. Basically, it is no longer self-referential but very expansive seeing because we are participating in the larger reality of God, which is Love. This changes everything. This is what the true contemplative is seeking, and thus seeing, day after day.

*Comment from the editor: We live in the world as Secular Franciscans and experience life as it really is. Life as the laity of the Catholic Church is complex and many times confusing and in our attempt to be contemplative we must not run from that reality.*

### **Short Articles**

Flexibility - Henri Nouwen - March 16

Trees look strong compared with the wild reeds in the field. But when the storm comes

the trees are uprooted, whereas the wild reeds, while moved back and forth by the wind, remain rooted and are standing up again when the storm has calmed down.

Flexibility is a great virtue. When we cling to our own positions and are not willing to let our hearts be moved back and forth a little by the ideas or actions of others, we may easily be broken. Being like wild reeds does not mean being wishy-washy. It means moving a little with the winds of the time while remaining solidly anchored in the ground. A humorless, intense, opinionated rigidity about current issues might cause these issues to break our spirits and make us bitter people. Let's be flexible while being deeply rooted.

## **Peace Be with You**

Each of them – alone

Cowering together in an upper room

Full of memories, emptied of hope

Each snarling smugly at women's talk

Of dazzling angels and an empty tomb

Each believing only in their own  
unbelief

Each clinging to the other

As sheets to a fevered corpse gone cold

Eleven dead men less one buried

And still – He comes

“Peace Be With You!”

Wounded hands and wounded feet

A pierced heart but not a barb at  
unbelief

“Peace Be With You!”

His gift balm soothing blistered souls

Each knows themselves – forgiven

He breathes on them, frees these  
captives

Sends them out into the lighted night

Each of them – together

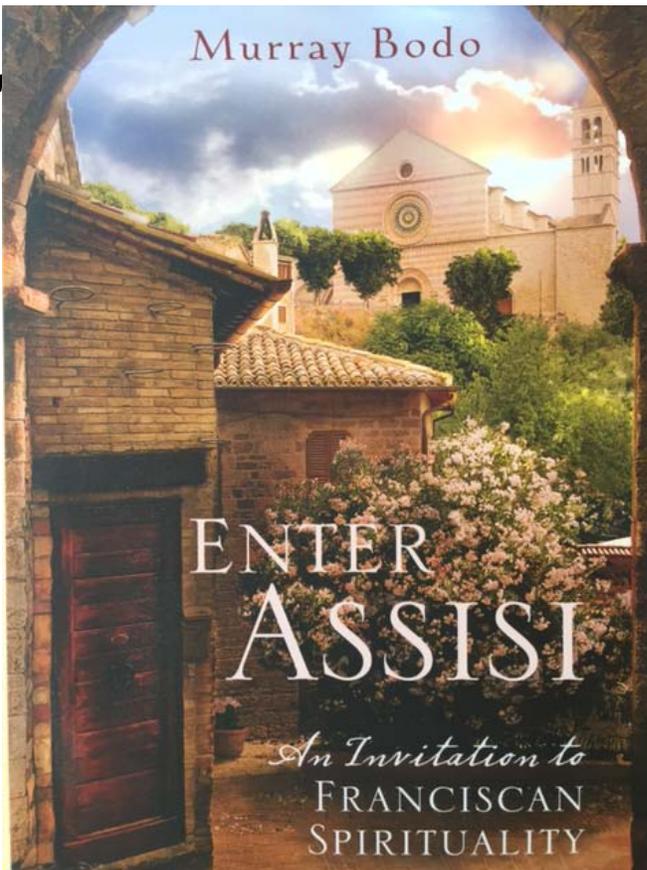
—Fr. J. Michael Sparough, S.J.

## **WRITING OUR OWN STORY**

Franciscan Media published Murray Bodo's masterpiece tribute to Assisi and the Franciscan life, *Enter Assisi*, in 2015. For one who has visited St. Francis's beloved town, reading this book or listening to the book read by Fr. Bodo in CD form, will instantly transport him or her back to the experience. Those who have not been blessed to have gone will find a rich journey nonetheless. *Enter Assisi* is spiritually uplifting and instructional in the ways we strive to walk our promises as Franciscans. The stories told are exquisitely personal, studded with universal food for the soul. Fr. Murray uses the gates of the city to tell his story and those of St. Francis and St. Clare. I found his telling of the time when he wrote *The Journey and the Dream* fascinating and revealing in the ways he trusted his talent to God and St. Francis for that emerging and now classic work. I highly recommend *Enter Assisi* for your own growth and edification, knowing that it does not disappoint.

Submitted by:  
Janet Eidem

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***fraternity. Please keep these stories coming. We need to recognize that every day we are given the opportunities to act.***

***There are so many people in need today and we, without even noticing it, are probably helping or relating to someone.***

***Every encounter with another person or any created thing is our chance to act as St Francis and St Clare did. When we tell these stories they will inspire us.***

**If anyone is having trouble receiving the Newsletter let me know and I will correct it**

**If anyone in the St. Clare Fraternity would like to have a hard copy of the Clarion Newsletter for any reason; no printer, no computer, or they are broken please let me know and I will see that you get a copy of it.**

**I want to give you all something to think about. You get up in the morning; make yourself a cup of coffee, sit down at the dining room table and you pick up the Clarion Newsletter to read. Or**

**before you go to sleep at night you would like to sit in your comfortable chair, have a cup of tea, a cookie or two and read the Clarion Newsletter.**

**Remember this Newsletter is about us and we are a Fraternity family we all care for each other.**

**Your publisher and editor**

**Bob Kowalski**