

OFS



ALTAR E-VENTS

AUGUST

2019

PUBLISHED BY OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGIONAL FRATERNITY
OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER IN THE U.S.A.

CONNECTING OUR SECULAR FRANCISCAN
MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

Celebrating 40 Years of the Approval of the 1978 Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order



Come and gather with other Franciscans to observe, participate and celebrate together.

If your fraternity or church has planned a gathering or special event, please send me your information for e-publication by the 25th of the preceding month.

**DEADLINE FOR THE
SEPTEMBER ISSUE
IS AUGUST 25th**

Send event listings to:
Anna Pedreiro-Geraci, OFS
Publications Editor

acpg@aol.com



MARK SUBJECT LINE: OFS E-VENTS

WHEN THERE ARE NO FRATERNITY EVENT LISTINGS RECEIVED FOR A PARTICULAR MONTH, OFS E-VENTS WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED FOR THAT MONTH.

Be sure to subscribe to our
REGIONAL YOUTUBE CHANNEL

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/
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**OUR LADY
OF THE ANGELS
REGIONAL
COMMUNICATIONS**

The TROUBADOUR MAGAZINE
OFS E-VENTS NEWSLETTER

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region.org/](http://www.ourladyoftheangelsregion.org/)



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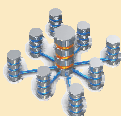
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FROM
**LETTER FROM
ST. CLARE
OF ASSISI
THIRD LETTER
TO ST. AGNES
OF PRAGUE**



**“PLACE YOUR MIND BEFORE
THE MIRROR OF ETERNITY!**

PLACE YOUR SOUL IN THE BRILLIANCE OF GLORY!

AND TRANSFORM YOUR ENTIRE BEING

INTO THE IMAGE OF THE GODHEAD ITSELF

THROUGH CONTEMPLATION

SO THAT YOU TOO MAY FEEL

WHAT FRIENDS FEEL IN TASTING

THE HIDDEN SWEETNESS THAT,

FROM THE BEGINNING,

GOD HIMSELF HAS RESERVED

FOR HIS LOVERS.”

OFS Fraternity EVENT



**Most Holy Name Fraternity
Little Falls, New Jersey**

TRANSITUS PRAYER IN REMEMBRANCE OF CLARE OF ASSISI



**HOLY NAME FRATERNITY
473 Main St., Little Falls, NJ**

**Monday, August 5, 2019
at 7:00 p.m.
in chapel (rectory building)**

**We cordially invite your
fraternity to join with us in
this most holy prayer honoring
St. Clare's passing.**

**To better accommodate all those
who will attend, please RSVP (via
email) by July 31, 2019.**

RSVP email return to:

Joseph Wickham, minister: jdwickhamofs@optimum.net



OFS Fraternity EVENT



*Immaculate Heart of Mary Fraternity,
Saints Elizabeth and Louis Fraternity*

&

*St. John's Fraternity
213 West 30th Street
New York, New York*

Invite You To Our

Annual Secular Franciscan Order Retreat
at Bishop Molloy Retreat House
to be given by

Fr. John Baptist Riordan, O.F.M. Cap.

on

“Becoming Instruments of God’s Peace.”

August 23, 24, & 25, 2019

Cost: \$215.00 for stay-in and \$125.00 for commuter.

Make check payable to: St. John's Fraternity.

If you are planning to attend, please make reservation as soon as possible.

Contact **Patria Fausto, 917-796-4393**

Space is limited.

OFS Fraternity EVENT

**A S S U M P T I O N F R A T E R N I T Y
1 4 3 F I R S T S T R E E T
W O O D - R I D G E , N E W J E R S E Y 0 7 0 7 5**

Assumption Fraternity joyfully announces that they will celebrate the Rite of Profession on Friday, August 16, 2019 | 7:30 p.m. in the Church.

The Council has decided that GERARD ADUBATO make his permanent and definitive commitment to the Gospel Life according to the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

The Council invites all who wish to witness this rite to join us in a spirit of prayer and community. May the Lord bless us with peace and all good.

OFS Fraternity EVENT

**S T . F R A N C I S O F A S S I S I F R A T E R N I T Y
5 0 L O D I S T R E E T
H A C K E N S A C K , N E W J E R S E Y 0 7 6 0 1**

Our 24th annual Brunch.

Sunday, September 8, 2019 | 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Join us for excellent food, guest speaker and lots of fun.

Tickets are \$20 per person.

RSVP Diane Menditto if you are interested

diane.menditto@gmail.com

BLESSED JOHN DUNS SCOTUS

***LOVING OVER KNOWING:
A HEART-CENTERED APPROACH TO UNDERSTANDING GOD.***

PRESENTED BY FR. JOE SCHWAB, OFM

Date: Thursday, August 15, 2019

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: Blessed John Duns Scotus Library

125 Thompson Street, New York, NY 10012

All are welcome. If you plan to attend, we ask that you *RSVP*
Siobhan O'Dwyer, OFS at: smdfranciscanlibrary@gmail.com



FR. JOE SCHWAB, OFM, Executive Director of the Franciscan Renewal Center, has a Master of Theology degree from the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley, CA. He lived in Guatemala City to complete his Master's thesis about education among the impoverished. He holds certifications in Contemporary Spirituality from the Kino Institute, a Theology Update Certification from the International Study Centre at Canterbury, England, and in Pastoral Ministry from the University of Notre Dame.

Presently, Fr. Joe is a staff member of Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs and Director of the Franciscan Renewal Center, Scottsdale, AZ.

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2019

Sr. Mary Elizabeth Imler, OSF will speak about St. Clare:

Reading the Tavola of St. Clare:

Leadership Ideas from Her Sacred Journey



SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Peace be with you and your fraternity!

Formation is a the top priority of the Region and the entire Secular Franciscan Order (OFS). As part of our outreach to the local fraternities, the regional formation team will be hosting a formation workshop entitled, **Theological Reflection: Connecting Faith and Life on September 21, 2019.**

Theological Reflection is an essential part of formation, both initial and ongoing. It is a way of connecting faith and life, and is a component of spiritual discernment. The workshop is intended for all local Formation Directors, Spiritual Assistants, Formation Team members or those interested in serving on formation teams. The purpose of the workshop is to learn the basics of theological reflection so that you can incorporate it into your fraternity's formation program.

The workshop presenter will be Br. Kip Ledger, OFM Cap. He is a Spiritual Assistant in the St. Katherine Drexel Region and Postulant Director of the Capuchin Province of St. Augustine in Philadelphia. We are grateful that Br. Kip will be leading the workshop.

The workshop will be held **Saturday, September 21, 2019** at **St. Francis of Assisi Church Hall, 50 Lodi St., Hackensack, NJ.** We will begin with **coffee and registration at 9:00 a.m.** As always, we ask that you bring a **"brown bag" lunch.**

We thank St. Francis Fraternity for hosting the day. Please see the attached flyer for more information about the workshop including the day's schedule. Out of **courtesy to our host fraternity**, please let me know how many will be attending from your fraternity **by September 14th.** You may e-mail or call me at: edwojo@yahoo.com or 201-895-0942.

Thank you for your service to the order. I look forward to seeing you Sept. 21st.

Peace and All Good,

Ed Wojciechowski, OFS
Regional Formation Director,
Our Lady of the Angels Region

OLTAR Formation Workshop AGENDA

REGISTRATION - (9:00 - 9:30 a.m.)

OPENING PRAYER (Divine Office) and INTRODUCTIONS - (9:30 - 10:00 a.m.)

FIRST SEGMENT – PURGATIVE (10:00 - 11:15 a.m.)

Input - Introduction to Theological Reflection

Franciscan Lectio

How it differs from traditional Lectio Divina

Bringing everything back to scripture

Franciscan Moral Reflection

How am I being called as a follower of Christ to bring forth

the Beauty - Goodness - Harmony - Justice in this situation?

BREAK - (11:15 - 11:30 a.m.)

SECOND SEGMENT – ILLUMINATIVE (11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

Reflective - Going from Life to Gospel

Individual reflection exercise Write in Journal-reflect

What Bible story/which section of the Rule does this situation bring to mind?

What is God asking you to do or not to do?

BROWN BAG LUNCH - (12:30 - 1:15 p.m.)

THIRD SEGMENT – UNITIVE (1:30 - 2:30 p.m.)

Praxis – Going from Gospel to life

Large Group Sharing

Each person shares his or her thoughts and reflections from the

second segment and what is going to be their next step/action

Bringing Theological Reflection into Initial and Ongoing Formation in your fraternity

CLOSING PRAYER - (2:30 - 2:45 p.m.)

ADDITIONAL FORMATION MATERIALS

A limited number of the book,

“THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION - CONNECTING FAITH AND LIFE” by Joye Gros, O.P.

will be available for purchase at the workshop.

Workshop Info

September 21, 2019
9 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

St. Francis of Assisi
Church Hall
50 Lodi Street
Hackensack, NJ

RSVP by Sept. 14

Ed Wojciechowski, OFS
edwojo@yahoo.com
201-895-0942

What is Theological Reflection?

Theological Reflection is an essential part of formation, both initial and ongoing. It is a way of connecting faith and life, and is a component of spiritual discernment. In this workshop, you will learn the basics of theological reflection and will apply what you've learned in an individual journaling exercise.

Who should attend?

This workshop is intended for all local Formation Directors, Spiritual Assistants, Formation Team members or those interested in serving on formation teams. The purpose of the workshop is to learn the basics of theological reflection so that you can incorporate it into your fraternity's formation program. The workshop is not intended for those in Initial Formation.

What should you bring to the workshop?

- A Bible
- A copy of the Essential Documents of the Secular Franciscan Order
- Paper, Pen or Pencil for the journaling exercise
- A brown bag lunch



Workshop Presenter - Br. Kip Ledger, O.F.M., Cap.

Brother Kip Ledger is originally from North Brookfield, Massachusetts and has been a Capuchin Franciscan Friar for 20 years. He has studied at Trinity University, Washington Theological Union, and has a certificate of Professional Youth Ministry from the Arch-Diocese of Baltimore. At present he participates in a training program for Spiritual Assistants in the St. Margaret of Cortona Region, is a Spiritual Assistant in the St. Katherine Drexel Region and is the Postulant Director of the Capuchin Province of St. Augustine in Philadelphia. He is a talented musician, has composed music and has recorded on a few CD's.

**SAINT PIO
COMES TO THE
ARCHDIOCESE
OF NEW YORK**

**SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 22, 2019
FROM 9 AM TO 4:45 PM
MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 23, 2019
FROM 9 AM TO 6 PM**



**CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST
213 WEST 30TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10001**

For information about the public veneration, please call (212) 564-9070, or send an email to christinthecitynyc@gmail.com

A mass in honor of Saint Pio will be celebrated at **6:30 P.M. on Monday, September 23, 2019**, by **The Most Reverend John O'Hara**, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of New York

SPONSORED BY THE

SAINT  **PIO**
FOUNDATION

St. Clare of Assisi

NOVENA

St. Clare was one of Francis' first followers and founded the Second Order of Franciscans, known today as the Poor Clares. In honor of St. Clare, we have been invited to pray a nine-day on-line novena with the Sisters of the Franciscan Monastery of St. Clare in Cincinnati, Ohio, beginning August 2 – 10, culminating St. Clare's Feast Day August 11. Sr. Vickie Griner, OSC, leads the prayers recorded at the Franciscan Monastery of St. Clare.

St. Clare was a remarkable woman who left her privileged family in 1212 to embrace a life of prayer and poverty, form a religious community and inspire a movement that continues to this day. She identified with Francis' gospel vision, and together they forged a spiritual partnership that blossomed into a great religious family. Her Feast Day is August 11 and she is the patron saint of clairvoyance, eye disease, goldsmiths, good weather, needle workers, and television.

Click on the button by each day to follow along with Sr. Vickie Griner, OSC, or read the prayers at your own pace.



Day 1 – As you pray for your personal intentions, please pray for all people praying this Novena around the world.

Day 2 – Let us pray together for the poor, forgotten, desperate and lonely around the world and in our neighborhoods.

Day 3 – Today let us pray for all those suffering from broken relationships and family struggles.

Day 4 – As you pray for your personal intentions, please pray that God's light shines within each of us and we radiate that light to others.

Day 5 – Today we pray for our youth to be safe, loved and to know God.

Day 6 – Let us pray for all those suffering with mental illness and their families.

Day 7 – Please remember to pray for Pope Francis and all our spiritual leaders.

Day 8 – Pray that we will trust in God's voice and promises even when it is not convenient for us.

Day 9 – As you pray for your personal intentions, please remember those who are dying and those grieving the loss of a loved one.

S SAINT CLARE

Clare was born around 1193-1194 and grew up in an aristocratic, well-respected family in Assisi, Italy. Her father was a knight, and her mother was of noble lineage. Her family home was adjacent to the Cathedral of San Rufino.

When Clare was only a teenager, she heard Francesco Bernardone (St. Francis) preach in the piazza of the cathedral. She was immediately moved by his vision of Gospel life. For his part, Francis had heard about Clare and wanted to meet her. Over a period of more than a year, she and a companion met with Francis to learn more about his manner of living the Gospel. She joined Francis on Palm Sunday night in March of 1212 and with him founded a community of women intent on following in the footsteps of the poor crucified Christ through a life shaped by poverty, contemplation and community. Their mission was to rebuild the Church through the witness of their way of living the Gospel in Community.

Clare is not as well-known as some other medieval women, but she is the first woman to have a Rule for a religious community approved by the Church.

She directed the "Poor Ladies" (the name by which her community was known in medieval times) from its beginnings until her death in 1253.



continued from page 12

OF ASSISI

Clare was a woman in love with Christ, and she wanted all people to know the joy of union with him. She did not emphasize poverty for the sake of poverty, but poverty as a way to union with the Lord. She wanted nothing to hold her back from embracing Christ, her Beloved One. Clare advised other women about following Christ, and one of those women was Agnes of Prague, to whom she wrote:

"May you go forward securely, joyfully, and swiftly, on the path of prudent happiness, not believing anything that would dissuade you for this resolution or that would place a stumbling block for you on the way, so that you may offer your vows to the Most High in the pursuit of that perfection to which the Spirit of the Lord has called you."

Second Letter to Agnes of Prague 13-14

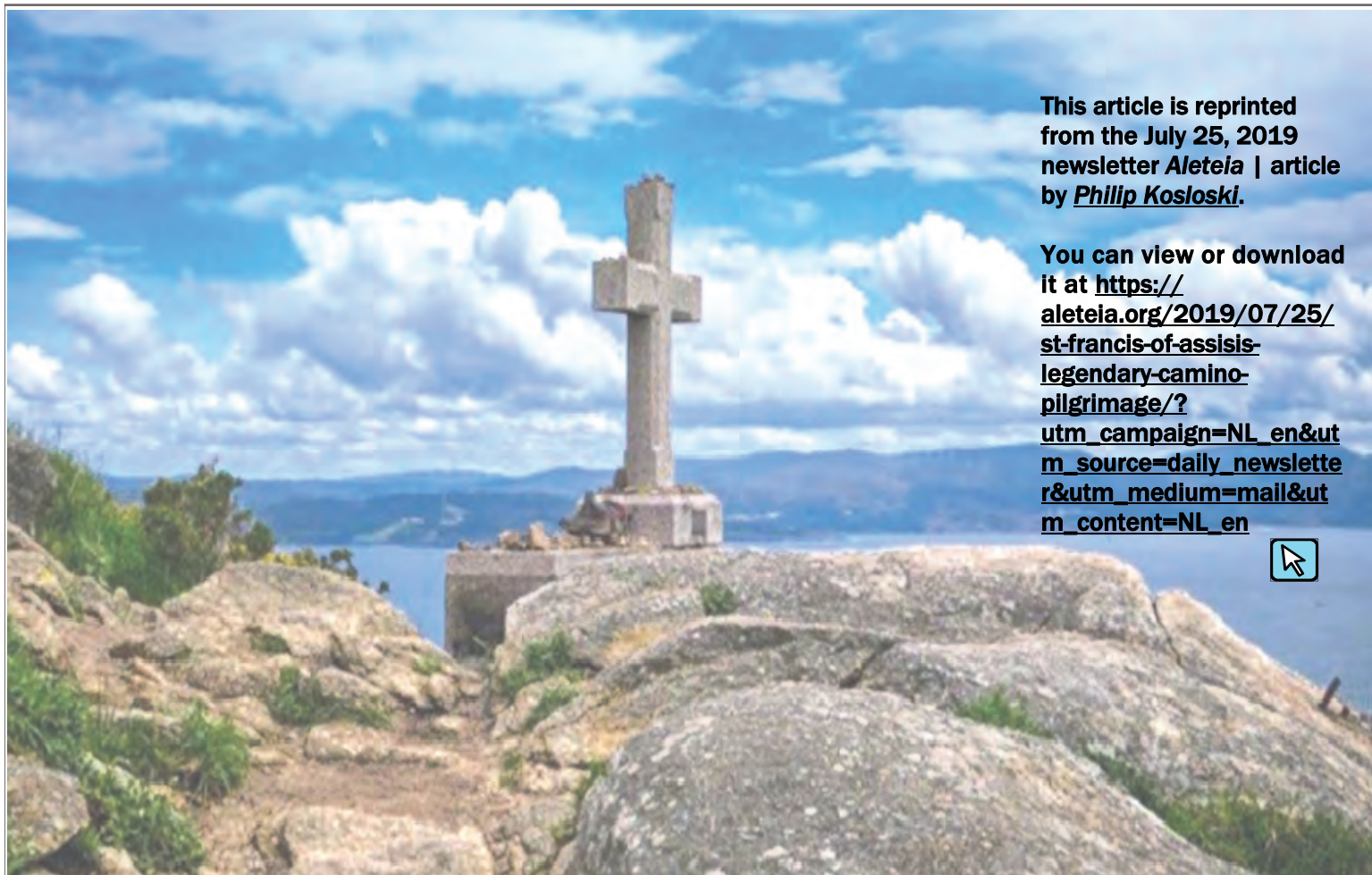
Clare allowed herself to be transformed by the love of Christ she experienced in her life. Soon others joined her, and together they shaped a life of prayer, poverty, penance and community that enabled them to embrace the poor Christ in love. It was a life in which they found freedom and peace in Christ.



ST. CLARE OF ASSISI • 1194-1253

Learn more about the Poor Clares at the Franciscan Monastery of St. Clare on their website: [PoorClaresCincinnati](http://PoorClaresCincinnati.com)





This article is reprinted from the July 25, 2019 newsletter *Aleteia* | article by *Philip Kosloski*.

You can view or download it at https://aleteia.org/2019/07/25/st-francis-of-assis-legendary-camino-pilgrimage/?utm_campaign=NL_en&utm_source=daily_newsletter&utm_medium=mail&utm_content=NL_en



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ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI'S LEGENDARY CAMINO PILGRIMAGE



ACCORDING TO LOCAL TRADITION, ST. FRANCIS WALKED FROM
ITALY TO SPAIN ON THE FAMOUS CAMINO DE SANTIAGO
PILGRIMAGE ROUTE.

continued from page 14

Among the many famous pilgrims who have walked to the burial site of St. James the Apostle in Spain is reportedly St. Francis of Assisi. It is said that in 1214 St. Francis embarked on a long journey to Spain early on in the development of his new religious order.

The legend of St. Francis' pilgrimage is largely based on a passage from *The Little Flowers of St. Francis of Assisi*, a popular account of his life written during the 14th century. It is even claimed that St. Francis founded multiple monasteries on his return journey.

In the first beginning of the Order, when there was as yet but few brothers and no convents established, St. Francis went, out of devotion, to San Giacomo di Galicia, taking with him Brother Bernard and one or two other brothers. As they traveled on together, they met by the way a poor sick man. St. Francis, moved with compassion at the sight of his sufferings, said to Brother Bernard: "My son, I will that thou stay here, and take care of this sick man." And Brother Bernard, meekly falling on his knees, received the order of his revered father and remained behind, whilst St. Francis and the others proceeded to San Giacomo.

On arriving there, they spent the night in prayer in the Church of St. James, and God revealed to St. Francis how he would found many convents all over the world, and how his Order would increase and multiply into a great multitude of brethren. After this revelation St. Francis began to found convents in that country.

This account is questioned by most historians, as it may have been based on second-hand oral traditions rather than any historical research.

Writer Nora Hamerman for the [Catholic Herald](#) also gives another story that has been passed down over the years regarding St. Francis' pilgrimage to Spain.

Tradition says that a poor local family hosted St. Francis during his pilgrimage in 1214. When Francis asked the family's father to build a monastery he replied that he had no funds. The humble man from Assisi led him to a treasure buried at a nearby hermitage. A Benedictine monastery gave them the land to build the monastery in exchange for an annual basket of fish, which the friars continued to remit until the end of the 18th century.



continued from page 15

Regardless of its veracity, various sites along the Camino are associated with St. Francis, and there even exists a [Camino di Francesco](#) that follows a path similar to what St. Francis might have taken during the 13th century.

Considering the poverty and humility of St. Francis and his desire to do penance for his sins, it is possible that St. Francis did walk the Camino. Not all of the stories may be true, but some of them could provide evidence of the saint's rigorous pilgrimage.

St. John Paul II reminded us of the spiritual impact of pilgrimages when he visited [Santiago de Compostela in 1988](#). His reflection reveals some of the possible motives St. Francis may have had and encourages us to seek our own pilgrimage of faith.

Pilgrimage has a very deep spiritual significance; it can represent in itself an important form of catechesis. The Church — as the Second Vatican Council reminded us — is, indeed, a people of God on the march, “in search of a future and permanent city” (cfr. Lumen Gentium, n. 9).

In the world today there is a revival of the practice of going on pilgrimage, especially among the youth. Today, you are among those more inclined to experience a pilgrimage as a “way” to interior renewal, to a deepening of faith, a strengthening of the sense of communion and solidarity with your brothers and sisters and as a help in discovering your personal vocation ...

During the pilgrimage days, try to recapture the spirit of the pilgrims of old, courageous witnesses to the Christian Faith. As you journey on, learn to discover Jesus, who is our Way, Truth and Life.





2019 DATES: SEPT. 7, OCT. 5, NOV. 2, DEC. 7

1ST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

PLACE: OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL CHURCH

230 East 90th Street (between 2nd & 3rd Avenues), New York, NY 10128

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.— Holy Hour | 9 p.m.— Performance

CONTACT: catholicunderground@gmail.com 

COST: Free admission.

PARKING: Discounted Parking at GGMC Parking garage located at 245 East 90th St., (directly across the street from the church, for \$12 with Catholic Underground parking validation sticker. Valid from 5 p.m. — 1 a.m. Additional charge for SUVs.



Catholic *Underground* is an apostolate of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. It is a direct response to a call that began with Pope John Paul II. He said that because the Gospel lives in conversation with culture, we must be fearless in crossing the cultural threshold of the communication and information revolution now taking place.

THE FIRST PART OF THE EVENING IS EUCHARISTIC ADORATION and begins with Vespers (Evening Prayer). This is the universal prayer of the Church — prayed by the Catholics throughout the world in every time zone and in every language.

After Vespers, there is a time of simple praise. This provides a window for each person to personally encounter Jesus Christ. The beauty of the darkened Church illumined by candles helps us enter the mystery of our Lord's presence in the Eucharist. Holy Hour ends with solemn Benediction.

THE SECOND PART OF THE EVENING SHOWCASES PERFORMANCE BY CATHOLIC ARTISTS. Here you'll experience the "new evangelization." This includes music, poetry, visual art, dancers, film, drama, etc.

WE END OUR EVENING as we began, with the prayer of the Church.

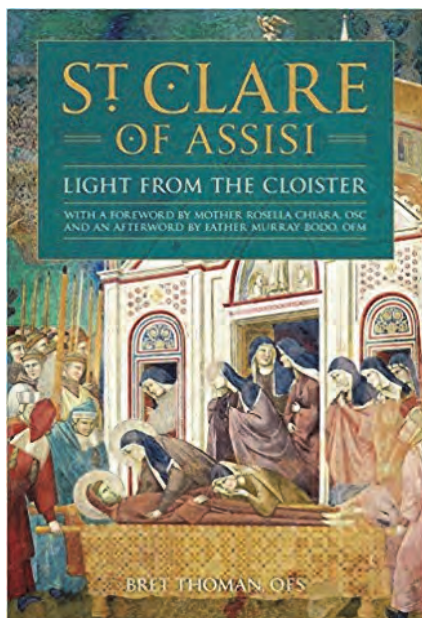
COMPLINE: (Night Prayer) is simple and beautiful. It concludes with a hymn to Our Lady.

“

One of the most successful gatherings we have in the Archdiocese happens on Saturday evenings in a midtown parish and attracts a thousand or more young adults who come for prayer before the Eucharist. Confession, song and especially good company with those who share deep Catholic values in a culture and city that can indeed be at times antagonistic. The name of their gathering is revealing — Catholic Underground! That's the new minority who give their bishop so much hope! May their tribe increase! ”

TIMOTHY CARDINAL DOLAN (Catholic New York)

PUBLICATION



Author Bret Thoman, OFS, draws upon his profound knowledge of original sources, his familiarity with the places where she lived and breathed and changed the world, and his own Franciscan spirituality, to bring to life, like never before, the story of St. Clare of Assisi, who continually—in imitation of Our Lord and Francis—sought to make herself lesser or minor. In the process, in another of God’s “divine paradoxes,” she became a giant, not only of her Age, but of all time.

Tenaciously attached to poverty, she became rich as only the saints are; docile and obedient, she stood up to her aristocratic family and later, princes of the Church in following the path upon which God had set her; frail and vulnerable, she caused Saracen invaders to turn tail and run . . . merely by prostrating herself before the Blessed Sacrament; and though not learned in either theology or canon law, she became the first woman to write a Rule for a new religious community.

St. Clare truly was a “light from the cloister” not only for her era but for all time. Meet her as never before in these pages and, in what is sure to be a profoundly spiritual reading experience, let her light shine upon you.

Available at:

[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) 

TAN BOOKS <https://www.tanbooks.com/index.php/st-clare-of-assisi-light-from-the-cloister.html>



Hardcover: 264 page, \$24.95 plus shipping

Publisher: TAN Books (July 25, 2017)

ISBN-10: 150510971X • **ISBN-13:** 978-1505109719

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.8 x 8.8 inches

PUBLICATION

For All The Saints: St. Francis's Five Point Plan for Salvation

by Deacon Tom Bello, OFS

320 page perfect bound first edition written by Deacon Tom Bello, OFS.

Spiritual, Fraternal, and Personal Reflections for Information, Formation, and Transformation in the Secular Franciscan Order.

SKU/UPC: 978-1-61956-561-6

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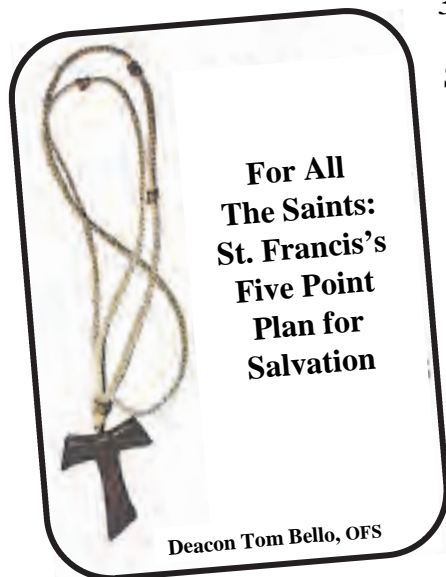
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The SUMMER 2019 issue of CIOFS' VOX FRANCISCANA is now available.

- This is a CIOFS International publication.
- Available 2x per year — Online only.
- Available in English, Spanish, French & Italian

LET THE OFS WORLD OPEN UP TO YOU.

THIS 24 PG. ISSUE FEATURES:

- YouFra at World Youth Day • Wells for Africa
- Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Rule
- OFS action around the world • X Latin America Congress
- Reflections on Francis and the Sultan
- Editor: Robert Stronach, OFS, NAFRA PR co-chair
Photographer, writer and designer.

Download the current *pdf* English version of the issue at: [http://www.ciofs.org/portal/en/library/others/844-](http://www.ciofs.org/portal/en/library/others/844-vox-franciscana-summer-2019/file)

[vox-franciscana-summer-2019/file](http://www.ciofs.org/portal/en/library/others/844-vox-franciscana-summer-2019/file)



Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Rule

reprinted from the Summer 2019 newsletter VOX Franciscana | article/photos: Robert Stronach, ofs

“

We must remember that 40 years ago we received a gift – not only a text, but a confirmation of being part of a family, an organic union and a way of life: a life that is lived in fraternity, a reciprocal life with the members of the Order and the Franciscan Family...Every celebration has its fruits. If a celebration doesn't bring fruits, it is not a true celebration. One fruit is the growth of our gratitude toward God. We must always be mindful that all good comes from God and we must thank God. If gratitude does not grow in our hearts, we have not understood that God is the source of all goodness. ”

Tibor Kauser, OFS, Minister General





A crowd of Secular Franciscans and friars from several countries converged on the Seraphicum on March 24 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Rule. At right is Minister General Tibor Kauser, OFS.



“ Secular Franciscans are the vast majority of Franciscans. They live immersed in the things of the world, and without their contribution, it is not possible to convert and restore the world to Christ, in its most intimate and vital ways. The laity and seculars are therefore essential. For this reason, the First, Second and Third Orders of St. Francis must rediscover the meaning of the common mission, each coordinating with the other two Franciscan Orders. It is an essential mission in God’s plan for Franciscans. ”

Benedetto Lino, OFS



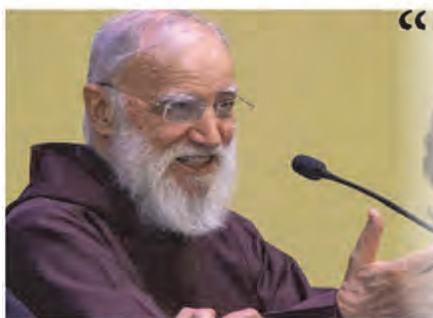
“ I firmly believe that, based on the experience of these first 40 years, the future of formation in the Order must be oriented towards being. By only doing, without being, the Order will not mature, and gradually regress to a simple and tired routine. ”

Encarnación del Pozo, OFS



“ All this, that is written in the Rule we professed, is a demanding journey, a response to the crucified love of Jesus. We cannot stop only at an intellectual adherence to the contents of the Rule, we must move on to its concrete implementation. From the Gospel, it means from Christ, to life, and from life to the Gospel. Here the authenticity of our vocation and our commitment is played out. ”

Michèle Altmeyer, OFS



“ What does the famous word metanoia mean? What is true repentance and true contrition? Literally, the word means a change of thought, of the way of seeing and judging things, a mental revolution. But it is not a question of abandoning a previous way of thinking ... to form a somewhat more spiritual and evangelical one. True metanoia is abandoning one’s way of thinking and marrying our way of thinking to that of God -- seeing oneself and one’s life as God sees them. ”

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap.