

# Monastery of St. Clare

Summer 2016

*May almighty God bless you. May God look upon you with mercy and give you peace.  
– Blessing of St. Clare*

**“Ah, Mercy. This is the name of God.”** (Pope Francis)

How wonderful, a holy year of Mercy! Pope Francis has said that “Mercy is the very name of God”.



In the beatitudes Jesus tells us “Blessed are the merciful; they shall obtain mercy.” In her writings, Saint Clare often refers to God as the Father of Mercy. Jesus is the Divine Mercy and each of us is called to walk in his footsteps living and growing in intimacy with God and in loving merciful relationship with all creation.

How can we abide in mercy in our day to day lives?

Throughout the day, we your Poor Clare Sisters beg God's mercy for all in our world including you and your loved ones. We know that God hears and answers our prayers so we cannot cease praying, even though it may falsely seem at times that misery trumps mercy. We must hold fast to faith, for our good God will in the end prevail, as the psalmist tells us, “God's mercy endures forever.”

Our Holy Mother Clare calls us to “be lovers of our souls and the souls of our sisters and brothers.” Indeed this is a Clarian call to be relentless in prayer and action focused on spiritual wholeness and holiness both of our own souls and the souls of all people. We can do this by realizing we

ourselves are imperfect sinners. Grace impels us however to seek mercy and reconciliation through prayer and sacrament; availing ourselves of God's forgiving mercy.

The very essence of God and the potential to live lives of mercy abides in us all. By not being afraid to look deeply into our hearts and when necessary, to say with humility and faith, “Sister, I am sorry, can you forgive me?” Or, responding with



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A Message From

Our Abbess

Sr. Carolyn Forgette, osc

Summer, 2016



To all our dear Friends who support us in so many ways, greetings once again from your Poor Clare Sisters of Travelers Rest. Since you are so much a part of our family, we are eager to share with you all the small and not so small bits of news that surround our daily living here at the monastery.

You know from our spring and fall appeals that we hardly have to breathe a word about what is needed at the monastery and God answers our prayers through you our generous friends. The many dilapidated recliners that needed replacement have been taken care of. Some good recliners made their way from your living rooms or guest rooms to our monastery and they are right at home here. The rest were purchased with your generous donations for this purpose. Now we pray for you not only as we gather in chapel many times a day, but also while relaxing with our feet up!

Your response to our discernment about whether or not to pursue having solar panels installed has encouraged us and we have taken the first steps in this process. (See the solar update on page 3).

Soon we will be looking forward to celebrating the feast days of our two wonderful founders and patrons: St. Clare and St. Francis. As we prepare for these celebrations each year we grow in our appreciation of being part of the worldwide Franciscan family. In August and October we join with our brothers and sisters all over the planet in thanking God for these two great saints and mentors. We hope you will join us.

Four years ago we shared with you in this communication that Sr. Nancy and I were elected to serve on the leadership team of the Eastern Federation of Poor Clares. At our recent Federation Chapter my term as president and Sr. Nancy's as councilor came to an end. I am pleased to report that Sr. Nancy will continue serving the federation as she was reelected to the council. I know she will appreciate your prayers in this important endeavor.

Another tidbit of news regarding Sr. Nancy is that she will be celebrating her Golden Jubilee this fall. Stay tuned for details.

During this Jubilee year of Mercy, I have been the recipient time and again of God's loving mercy and kindness manifested through others. As we continue on this journey of mercy, may we be that and more for one another.

So grateful to be your sister,

*Sister Carolyn*

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humility to someone, "Yes, I forgive you." This humble exchange is a palpable way of abiding in mercy.

Ah, Mercy! This is the name of God. May the God of mercy bless each of us and make us instruments of love,

healing and peace to all of creation.  
—Sr. Kathy Delancey, osc

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## Poor Clare Chronicles

**April**—Our community hosted a weekend workshop entitled, "God's Extravagant Love." Sr. Nancy Shively, osc and Sr. Christa Marie Thompson, osf led fourteen people in a celebration of our Franciscan charism. It was so well received, we are planning to present another workshop next year!



Some of the GEL workshop attendees: Mary Ellen Sullivan, Kay Mikulik, Thoy Smith, and Weldon Mikulik.

**June**—Srs. Carolyn, Nancy, Bernadette Marie and Maryann attended the Joint Federation Chapter Meeting of Poor Clares in Darien, Illinois.

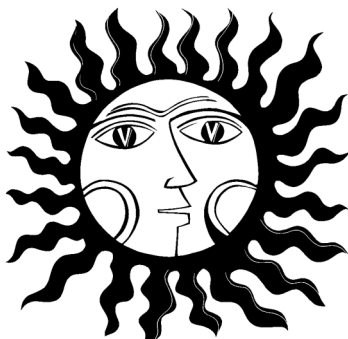


Our new Holy Name Federation Council: Sr. Jane Sorenson, osc from Great Falls, MT; Sr. Nancy Shively, osc from Travelers Rest, SC; Sr. Anne Bartol, osc (President) from Langhorne, PA, and Sr. Etta Patton, osc and Sr. Donna Paladino, osc from Chesterfield, NJ.

**July**—Sr. Sharon will attend a Vocation Directors Orientation Workshop in Chicago, IL, hosted by the National Religious Vocations Conference.

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## Update on Our Solar Project



We have signed a contract with Hannah Solar (Atlanta) and have an interconnection agreement completed with Duke Power. Final designs are in process followed by ordering parts; construction will hopefully begin in late July and will take a few weeks. We are making progress on raising the necessary funds; we still need \$50,000. If you would like to contribute, we would appreciate it!

Franciscan Monastery of St. Clare  
37 McCauley Road  
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Celebrating the Year of Mercy  
Dec. 8, 2015—Nov. 20, 2016  
Please join us in prayer!

## Upcoming Events

### THE TRANSITUS OF ST. CLARE

Wednesday Evening  
August 10, 2016  
Adoration—4:30 PM  
Transitus—5:00 PM

### EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATION SOLEMNITY OF ST. CLARE

Thursday Morning  
August 11, 2016  
9:00 AM



### THE TRANSITUS OF ST. FRANCIS

Monday Evening  
October 3, 2016  
Adoration—4:30 PM  
Transitus—5:00 PM

### EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATION SOLEMNITY OF ST. FRANCIS

Tuesday Morning  
October 4, 2016  
9:00 AM