

Monastery of St. Clare

May almighty God bless you. May God look upon you with mercy and give you peace.

The Blessing of St. Clare

Summer 2018

"ABUNDANT, EXTRAVAGANT LOVE"

On the grounds of the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center in Graymoor, New York, is an enigmatic sculpture of Francis and Jesus. For those who seek truth and authenticity in their spiritual lives, I believe this sculpture reflects the essence of our Christian faith and Franciscan charism.

Questions arise as we meditate on the art. There is desire here, yet what is the desire of Jesus and what is the desire of Francis? Is Francis embracing or lifting the crucified Jesus down from the cross, or is the transformed Jesus lifting Francis up in a loving embrace? The sculpture invites us into a fuller understanding of our faith and Franciscan charism.



In the beginning was Love. Love the Father, Love the Son, and Love the Spirit, in a relationship of triune oneness, created from nothing or chaos all that is, was and will be. In all of creation, past, present and future, each one-of-a-kind masterpiece reveals a facet of the personality of the Trinity. For those who desire to know God, to know true reality, creation is the beginning point.

Realize that every rose petal that ever was and ever will be, is unique. Each one gives us a glimpse into God's beauty, God's softness, God's gentleness, God's colorfulness, God's sweetness, God's fragrance. Realize the fertile genius and resurrection power of God revealed in every seed that sprouts from the ground. God loves and cares for each of God's masterpieces as if it is the only one to love.

Creation is the household of God's love. Brother Sun and Sister Water give to Sister Mother Earth

who in turn gives forth plants to nourish all creatures. All creatures live and work together in harmony and in living in their true nature, give back to God all of God's honor, glory, praise and love. This is the loving relationship of life in God's household.

God's consummate creation is man and woman. We are made in God's image, with the capacity to know and be at home with God. Love Loves Love. Trinity, unity. This is a life-changing revelation!

How did we miss this?

Love does not insist on the other's love; Love invites and woos, and waits. The ultimate revelation of God to us is the Incarnation. In the birth of Jesus, we see the fullness of God's design for humanity. We are reminded that in the beginning we were created to enter into loving union with God and live in God's love with all of God's creation. The capacity for men and women to live in God's presence, in God's creation and in oneness with God as intimate Friend is revealed to us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, the "Son of God." Jesus shows us the face of Love; extravagant in poverty, abundant in suffering, transcendent in dying, and restoring in rising from the dead.

Look again at the sculpture and get a glimpse of the abundant, extravagant love of God and a taste of Franciscan spirituality.

Sr. Sharon of Jesus, osc

*A Message From
Our Abbess
Sr. Carolyn Forgette, osc*



Dear Friends,

This Summer News Letter brings you fond greetings from each of your Poor Clare Sisters. We treasure being able to stay in touch with you in so many ways, this one included.

Recently Sisters Nancy and Kathy Ann and I returned from a federation meeting held in Belleville, IL just across the river from St. Louis. Our brother Fr. Dominic Monti, OFM gave us three presentations on the development of the rule and order of St. Clare. The wealth of information shared was more than interesting. It was encouraging because it reminded us that Clare and our early sisters did not have a smooth path to tread, but always they came through in joy, love and fidelity to their vocations and to the Church, aware of how loved they were by God. As Clares today we desire to live up to their example.

Speaking of example, one of the highlights of this celebration of 60 years as federations was a slide show Sr. Kathy Ann prepared on the history of our two federations. As pictures of the sisters who have gone before us, on whose shoulders we stand came on the screen, you could hear the love and appreciation of those present in the sighs of pleasure at seeing so many of our “heroes.” We are grateful to Sr. Kathy Ann for this long labor of love.

On August 11, the feast of St. Clare we will celebrate an even more important labor of love of Sr. Kathy Ann: her fifty years of vowed life as a Franciscan! We hope that those of you at a distance will join us in spirit for this double celebration. See the details at the end of this newsletter with the times for our celebrations of Eucharist on the feast, Saturday, August 11 and of Clare’s passing (The Transitus) on the afternoon of August 10.

This past April we had an opportunity to share a little of the “mystery” or our life during our two week Monastic Immersion Experience. Three women shared life with us at the monastery, joining us for prayer, work and rubbing shoulders together in everyday love lived out.



Monastic Immersion Experience



“God’s Extravagant Love “ workshop

In May Sr. Nancy shared the foundation of Franciscan spirituality in a weekend workshop entitled “God’s Extravagant Love.” Some of you participated in this presentation or the ones held in the past, so you know how excited we get to share the overwhelming love of God as experienced in all of creation.

You may not think of your generous donations to us as concrete examples of God’s love for us through you, but that is the overwhelming truth. Once again in your response to our Spring Appeal where we shared our need to purchase a new car you came forward with generous acts of love which will now enable us to purchase the transportation we need. Please know how grateful we are.

It is with thanks to God for **each of you** that I close this letter.

Your grateful sister,

Sister Carolyn

A New Way to Share in Our Mission

A life of prayer offered for the needs of our sisters and brothers throughout the world.

We experience your sharing in our mission in so many ways: your financial gifts, your inkind gifts, volunteering your services to us, praying with us, your friendship and your faith in our life of prayer.

We are grateful for your interest in remembering your Poor Clare sisters in your estate planning. The most common forms we are able to accept are:

1. Bequests

Bequests comprise property that is bequeathed in a will. Bequests are 100% tax deductible for federal and state estate taxes and may place your estate in a lower estate tax bracket.

Please consider including a bequest clause naming the ***Franciscan Monastery of St. Clare*** as a beneficiary in your will. Three ways to word that clause are:

- To donate a percentage of your estate (___% of my estate.)
- To bequeath a specific dollar amount (\$___specific dollar amount).
- To bequeath the residue of Your Estate is another option. Residue refers to whatever is left after other bequests have been granted

2. Charitable Gifts of Life Insurance

A charitable gift of life insurance may be appropriate for some donors who have an existing policy they no longer need, or when a donor wishes to purchase a new policy naming a charity such as the ***Franciscan Monastery of St. Clare*** the irrevocable beneficiary. This is a way for donors to insure their future annual fund gifts.

3. Retirement Plans

This gift can be made by the donor as a charitable gift designating the ***Franciscan Monastery of St. Clare*** as the Retirement Plan Beneficiary.

With all planned gifts...



- ♦ We recommend you work directly with your financial planner, tax advisor or attorney for specific guidelines based on your financial situation.
- ♦ Thank you for joining us in our mission and life of prayer for God's people and whatever type of gift you plan to make it is important to use our legal title: ***Franciscan Monastery of St. Clare***.
- ♦ If you would like more information or would like to discuss your Planned Giving plans with us, contact Sr. Nancy in the Development Office (Tel: 864-834-8015 or Email: nancy@poorclaresc.com).

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Upcoming Events

Transitus of St. Clare

Friday, August 10

4:30 pm Adoration

5:00 pm Transitus



Solemnity of St. Clare

Saturday, August 11

9:00 am

Eucharistic Celebration

Fr. Jim Nero, OFM

Presider

(Reception following)

Eucharistic Celebration

Sunday, August 12

9:00 am

Fr. Jim Nero, OFM

Presider