

Monastery of St. Clare

Fall 2022

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

Blessing of St. Clare

Celebrating New Life



*See, I am creating something new;
do you not perceive it?*

*In the wilderness, I make a way;
in the wastelands, a river (Is 43:19)*

My dear friends,

If you are near enough to “hang out” with us, you’ve noticed some new faces around here this past year. In November we will celebrate the one-year anniversary of Sr. Wylie’s arriving “home”! The photo below shows Sr. Dawn, the former abbess of the monastery in Duncan, BC and Sr. Marguerite, former abbess of our monastery in Memphis, TN, both of which closed recently. These losses have been painful for our sisters who had to make those courageous decisions, let go of so much that they held dear and undertake the complex steps to complete the closings.

However, with the passage of time, God has revealed the other side of the ongoing paschal mystery of life. We in Travelers Rest have been blessed with Sisters Marguerite, Claudia and Wylie who are breathing new life into our community as they are receiving new life.

In addition, Mary Alice (Missy) began her postulancy with us in early February and is acclimating very well to the rhythms of our Poor Clare life and adding her own personal touch to our daily life. It is such a joy to witness God’s marvelously creative ways of bringing new life!

We were also extraordinarily blessed to have a community retreat in September with Fr. Joe Chinnici, OFM, a renowned Franciscan scholar who fed our souls with wisdom and gave us new insights into how

the Franciscan/Clarian life can impact our 21st century world.

I am immensely grateful to let you know that because of your generous response to our Fall Appeal we have a new hot water heater, have ordered a new HVAC water source heat pump and a new kitchen floor! You are amazing and we are in awe of and humbled by your response to our every need. We pray your every need will be met too in God’s gracious time and love.

As you probably know we have been looking for a part time cook since May; this was a difficult decision because we have several good cooks among us, all of whom enjoy cooking. However, because many of them have other responsibilities (abbess, formation director, development director, Federation President) it was becoming more difficult to manage everything. We realized we needed help and having a part time cook seemed to be the best way to free up our “human resources,” so we don’t lose our focus on our primary responsibility – praying for the many needs of our world. God has answered our prayer in an amazing way - a story for another time, but as of early October we are enjoying the culinary art of a talented couple two days a week!

One more thing before I close; we invite you to join us for Eucharist on **Thanksgiving Day at 11:00 a.m.** and **Christmas Vigil Eucharist on Saturday, December 24 at 4:30 p.m.** Our good friend and brother, Fr. Bob Menard, OFM will celebrate with us. With an ever-grateful heart,

Sr. Nancy.



Srs. Dawn, Marguerite, Wylie and Claudia

On Sept. 11th we had a double reunion when Sr. Dawn Marie Kling, on her way to join the Rochester Franciscans in Minnesota, came for a visit. She had started her Poor Clare journey with Srs. Marguerite and Claudia in Memphis, TN and then later transferred to the Poor Clares in Duncan, BC where she lived with Sr. Wylie. It was a graced time to reflect together on how God had led us through the pain of closing the Memphis and Duncan Monasteries to the joy of being welcomed into our new communities.

-Sr. Wylie

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Every exit is an entry somewhere - Tom Stoppard
Cada salida es una entrada en otro lugar.



We were blessed to have Joe Chinnici, OFM, in September for a retreat on the theme of contemplation and community.

Father suggested that living in a time of flux can be addressed in three ways: communion with each other, with God, and with one's own self. We witness to others through communion.

We were asked to reflect: How do we see? One with a contemplative gaze sees things differently and the goal is to see all creatures as God sees them. God is constantly feeding us with presence. Do we sense it? -Sr. Maryann



Fr. Joe with Srs. Claudia, Maryann & Rucia.



Many of us do "spring cleaning" each year to prepare for Easter. This autumn we are doing "fall cleaning" as well, and we need your help! (No heavy lifting or scrubbing required.)

We have created a new database that contains the names, addresses,

telephone numbers, and birthdays of our friends, volunteers, donors, and Mass attendees. We use this information to send you newsletters and thank you letters and to create birthday lists, so that the sisters can say special prayers for you on your birthday. This information is only for the sisters' use; we will never share it with anyone else.

We've cleaned up mailing addresses but know that we have some incorrect email addresses, telephone numbers, and birthdates. For example, there are some cases where, for a married couple, we

aren't sure if a birthdate is the husband's or the wife's, and we want to pray for the right person on the right day!

Can you help? Here is the information we'd like to clean up.

- Telephone #(s), person associated with each #, and whether the # is home, cell, or work
- Email address(es) and person associated with each address
- Birthdate(s) and the name associated with each birthdate (you don't need to include the year if you don't want to!)

Also, if you want to receive newsletters and/or thank you letters via email, please let us know. (Unless you request electronic delivery, we will continue to use US mail.)

You can send this information

to info@poorclaresc.com. Thank you for helping us with our "fall cleaning"!

-Sr. Susanna