

Monastery of St. Clare

Fall 2024

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

800th Anniversary of the Stigmata of St. Francis

This year, our Franciscan family is celebrating the 800th anniversary of St. Francis receiving the stigmata while in prayer at La Verna in Tuscany, one of his favorite places of solitude. This happened toward the end of his life, in 1224.



Pope Francis, in his address to a group of Franciscan friars last April, noted that in receiving the marks of Christ's wounds in his body, Francis realized in a very real way the truth that "a Christian is part of the 'body of Christ' not in name alone, but in reality."

The stigmata were a divine sign of Francis's transformation into the likeness of Christ, a likeness that he sought all his life. Yet he didn't take pride in these wounds; rather, he tried his best to hide them even from those closest to him.

What meaning do the stigmata have for us today? Pope Francis told the friars that the Stigmata are reminders of the pain Jesus suffered for love of us. As we are loved, we in turn are called "to be forgiven bearers of forgiveness, to be healed bearers of healing." We are called to bring to the Church and the world "a little of that immense love that drove Christ to die on the cross for us."

Think about that for a moment; what immense love Christ has for us! Can we absorb that and pass it forward? There are so many people in our lives and in our world who are "stigmatized," who bear the scars of suffering, of injustice, of life's hardships.



St. Francis Receiving the Stigmata,
Domenico Veneziano (c. 1445/1450).
National Gallery of Art. Public Domain.

St. Francis can be our model and companion on our own life's journey. Rather than letting ourselves be discouraged by life's difficulties, we can, like Francis, overcome our fears through our knowledge of and faith in God's love for us. St. Francis' last words to his brothers were: "I have done what is mine to do; may you do what is yours to do."

Friends, may we heed these words with our hearts and begin yet again. Our world is in desperate need of what our Franciscan hearts have to offer. Let us each do what ours is to do — and together we can make a difference.

Blessings and love to you,

— Sr. Nancy

Remembering Sr. Marguerite

June 21, 1942 — July 23, 2024



As a child



Confirmation

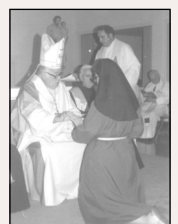
Marguerite was born and raised in New York City. She attended Catholic schools, where she excelled in music, becoming such an accomplished pianist that she won music scholarships not only for high school but also for college.

In college, Marguerite first began hearing God's call. In her own words, her life took a series of "twists and turns" following graduation; she taught high school religion, worked for the Social Security Administration, and completed a Master's degree in theology from Loyola University. During her time at Loyola, she became interested in the House of Prayer movement, and in 1972, the Bishop of Memphis invited her to start a House of Prayer on the grounds of the Poor Clare Monastery in Memphis. She visited the monastery and soon realized that God was calling her to be a Poor Clare nun. She entered the community the following year.

Sr. Marguerite held many positions in the monastery, including organist, bookkeeper, sacristan, bursar, and abbess. When the Memphis monastery closed in 2019 and she and Sr. Claudia moved to Travelers Rest, she continued to help with bookkeeping as long as she was able. Regardless of the task at hand or the condition of her health, she lived a life of prayer and thanksgiving, grateful for God's love and eager to share His love with others.



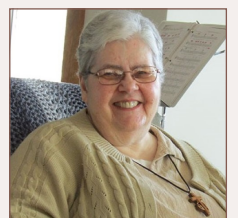
First Profession (1975)



Solemn Profession (1978)



Working at the Social Security Administration



In Travelers Rest

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. (1 Jn 4:15)

Return Service Requested



Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures.
—Francis of Assisi

Thank You, Brothers!



Fr. David & Fr. Tran

Our dear brothers, Fr. David Phan, ofm, and Fr. Tran Nguyen, ofm, generously celebrated weekday and Sunday Vigil Masses for us these past months. We are grateful beyond words for their help and for the sacrifices they made to be with us; both serve Our Lady of La Vang parish in Greer and minister to the Vietnamese Americans across the state. Thank you, brothers!



Prayer Request Box in the lobby

Would you like us to pray for you or a loved one?

We always welcome requests for prayers; it is our sacred duty to pray

for the needs of the world and all those in it.

To submit a prayer request:

- Email us at prayer@poorclaresc.com
- Use the enclosed envelope
- Call us at 864-834-8015
- Drop a note in the box in our lobby

Join us for Holiday Masses

Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 28th: 9 am

Christmas Day
Wednesday, December 25th: 9 am

All are welcome!



Hens and Roosters and Chicks, Oh My!

For many months, a rooster and several hens have been making daily visits to our yard; they walk over from our neighbor's farm. We enjoy them, and they in turn feel comfortable here, so comfortable that two of the hens nested on our grounds: one in a wheelbarrow in our carport and the other behind some bushes. We kept careful watch over them and were delighted when the chicks started to hatch. Our neighbor collected the first brood (we were concerned for their safety, since they were out in the open), but the second brood left the nest faster than she could get them. We were able to witness the mother teaching her 12 chicks how to peck for food and often saw the whole family scratching and eating together. You wouldn't believe how excited Poor Clares get when there are chicks in the yard!



A chick from the first brood

These experiences remind us that there is new life emerging all around us; there is beauty, if we keep our eyes and hearts open. This can be challenging when we are suffering or are seeing others suffer, but new life and beauty can inspire hope and help us preserve the peace that Christ gives us (see Phil 4:8-9). When we have hope and peace, we can offer hope and peace to others. Our world needs all the peace that we can share.

