

# Monastery of St. Clare

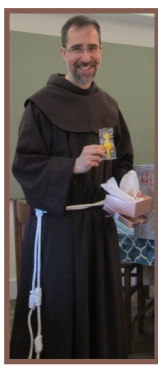
Spring 2025

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

## St. Francis Gave us Brothers, a Gift that Keeps on Giving!



Fr. Jim Nero, OFM



Fr. Charlie Smeich, OFM (left)  
& Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM (right)



Fr. Albert Haase, OFM

As you read elsewhere in this newsletter, we extended an invitation to the Friars of the U.S. to come and join us for a period of R & R and to celebrate Eucharist with us.

Since October 1<sup>st</sup>, we have been richly blessed by the presence of our brother Friars Jim Nero, John Quigley, Jerome Wolbert, Albert Haase, Jerry Bleem, Charlie Smeich, and Carl Langenderfer. Three of them have scheduled second visits, so we are “booked” until Easter. By the time you read this, we will more than likely have received other “reservations” as the word spreads that this is a great B&B!!

St. Francis and St. Clare would be pleased to see the legacy of their relationship continuing today. In her last Testament, Clare wrote “I commend and leave my sisters, both those present and those to come, to the successor of our blessed father Francis,” reminding her sisters that Francis “bound himself, both personally and through his religion, always to have the same loving care and special solicitude for us as for his own brothers.”

We are most grateful for the generosity and sacrifice our brothers are making in providing for us, not only by celebrating Eucharist, but also by offering us the gift of their presence and friendship!

— Sr. Nancy



Fr. John Quigley, OFM  
also offered a workshop  
on St. Francis



Fr. Carl Langenderfer, OFM



Srs. Pia and Mary with Fr. Jerry Bleem,  
OFM at our Christmas Day dinner

### SPRING APPEAL

As most of you know, last summer we embarked on a new adventure of inviting the Friars of Our Lady of Guadalupe Province (which covers the whole U.S.) to come and join us for a couple of weeks or a month and celebrate Eucharist for us daily, and especially Sundays. Our local brothers Fr. David Phan, OFM and Fr. John Tran, OFM very generously came and celebrated with us four days a week and two weekends a month, but their other responsibilities prevented them from being able to do more. Our local diocesan clergy are spread very thin and are not able to preside on a regular basis.

In our invitation to our brothers, we offered a lovely place to live, home-cooked meals, plenty of time for rest, study, reading, or writing plus a stipend and the use of a car (provided by one of our benefactors) in exchange for being available for daily Eucharist.

#### **Thank you for warming our hearts ... & more!**

Thanks to you, we will be able to replace the heat pumps for our chapel; they have been failing, so the chapel has been cool in winter and hot in the summer. We and the people who worship with us are most grateful! Your gifts will also help us replace another failing unit serving sisters' bedrooms. Thank you so much for your generosity, kindness, and support!



Sr. Bernadette by one  
of the new units

As you can see in the article above, so far, the response has been most enriching and beyond our expectations. However, the expenses of transportation and stipends are significant, though extremely worthwhile. Having Eucharist is a priceless gift and an essential part of our life of prayer.

We would appreciate your help in meeting this need. We only have the courage to humbly ask because we have learned to trust that you will do what you can when we simply place a genuine need before you. Thank you for that trust and for your generosity!

— Sr. Nancy

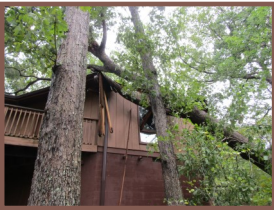
Return Service Requested



The Lord gave me some brothers.  
*—Francis of Assisi*

### Helene's Visit

Hurricane Helene swept through the South Carolina Upstate September 26<sup>th</sup>– 27<sup>th</sup>, and we, like nearly everyone in the area, had damage to our property. We were more fortunate than many of our brothers and sisters, and for that, we give thanks. We know that there are a lot of people still suffering from the destruction wrought by this storm, and we continue to hold them in our prayers.



We lost over 25 trees, but the only building damaged was our retreat house, La Foresta. A large tree fell onto and *into* the house; no one was hurt, thankfully. Repairs have taken over four months, but we are grateful that

there wasn't more damage.

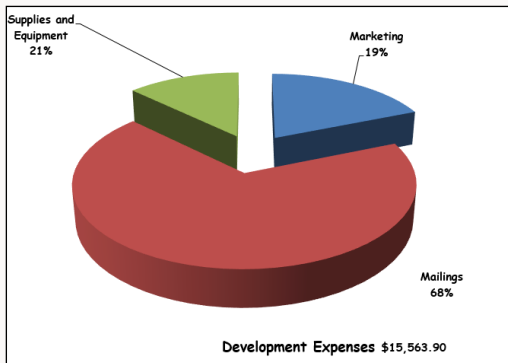
The good news is, by the time you read this newsletter, La Foresta should be open again! If you would like to reserve the house for a retreat, please email [retreat@poorclaresc.com](mailto:retreat@poorclaresc.com).

### Traveling Clares

In late November, Srs. Maryann and Nancy traveled to Huehuetenango, Guatemala, to visit our Poor Clare sisters. Our monastery assumed sponsorship of this community when the Memphis monastery closed, and so Sr. Nancy went to conduct an unofficial visitation. She and Sr. Maryann were thrilled to be able to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with the sisters and thoroughly enjoyed their time in Huehue. This spring, we look forward to returning the sisters' kind hospitality when we welcome Sr. Agnes and Sr. Ana Maria for a visit to Travelers Rest.

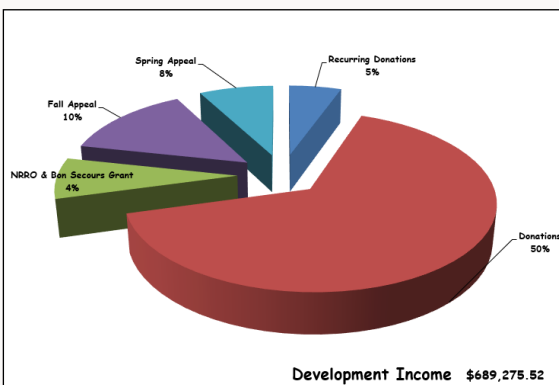


Srs. Nancy and Maryann with Srs. Benedicta and Conchy



### Development Report

We are humbled and deeply grateful for your continued support of our life of prayer. Last year, our Development Expenses (most of which are postage) remained stable. While we didn't receive any bequests in 2024, we were able to meet our needs through your generous donations. Know that your Poor Clare sisters appreciate whatever you can give, and, as St. Francis commanded, we "use with discretion the alms which the Lord gives us," alms that come through you, our friends and benefactors. We are very aware of how the rise in the cost of living has affected all of us and are truly grateful for your support. Thank you!



### Triduum Schedule

**Holy Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**  
 5:30 pm — Eucharistic Liturgy

**Good Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**  
 8:30 am — Morning Prayer  
 3:00 pm — Liturgy

**Holy Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**  
 8:30 am — Morning Prayer  
 5:00 pm — Evening Prayer

**Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**  
 6:00 am — Vigil Service  
 9:00 am — Morning Prayer  
 4:30 pm — Evening Prayer

**Celebrant:**  
 Fr. Mick Joyce, OFM Cap.