

# Monastery of St. Clare

Spring 2026

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

## A Jubilee Year of St. Francis

Dear Friends,

We are happy to share with you some good news that stirs our hearts: Pope Leo has declared 2026 a Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi, in recognition of the 800th anniversary of his death. The Jubilee Year runs from January 10, 2026 to January 10, 2027.

During this special Year of St. Francis, anyone who visits a “Franciscan conventual church or place of worship anywhere in the world dedicated to Saint Francis or connected to him for any reason” may receive a plenary indulgence.

Our times are not very different from those in which Francis lived, and precisely in light of this, his teachings are perhaps even more valid and understandable today. When the virtual takes precedence over the real, social discord and violence are part of everyday life, and peace becomes more uncertain and distant every day, may this Year of Saint Francis urge us all, each according to our own possibilities, to imitate the *Poverello* of Assisi.

### Our Spring Appeal

Do you find it difficult sometimes to ask for help when you need it? We find ourselves in that position increasingly as we grow older. Once again, we come to you with our mendicant hearts, sharing our vulnerability. We are doing some serious soul searching, honestly facing how we can provide all the things we will continue to need, but are less able to do by ourselves. In the last few years we have begun to hire a part-time cook, a weekly cleaning service to clean the communal parts of our monastery, and landscaping services.

We now realize we need to do more outsourcing, but the projected expenses are daunting. Things like food service, maintenance assistance, altar bread distribution and development are some possibilities. We are presently blessed with good health, energy and a strong “Can do” spirit! We are wisely trying to plan for our aging gracefully! Will you help us? We trust you will give what you can to this appeal.

May this spring and summer be especially graced for you and your family. Please know that we hold you in our hearts and prayers always as we walk through our day. Gratefully, Sr. Nancy



Prayer to St. Francis:

*In this time afflicted by conflict and division, intercede for us so that we may become peacemakers: unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ.*

— Pope Leo XIV

### Join me in Gratitude to God!

Dear Friends in Christ,

I come before you with my heart full of gratitude for the prayers you offered for me during my illness with kidney failure. God heard your prayers. A friend came forward and offered me his kidney, and I had surgery on November 25, 2025.

I would be ungrateful if I didn't come to you and thank you.

It has been a long process, but in God, everything is possible. Your support, your love, and prayer have made me what I am now. In return I am praying for you.

It would have been difficult to be alone on this journey, but you companioned me and that made all the difference. Thank you for being there for me. God bless you.

— Sr. Mary Pia



### Ways to support us

Save a stamp! If you would like to make a donation, you can now do so online. Scan the QR code below or enter the URL to go to “Donate” page on our website. From there, you can donate securely to our Spring Appeal, make a general donation, be a recurring donor or support a specific ministry. Some of our friends and supporters have become biweekly, monthly, or quarterly donors, and these regular gifts help us plan and budget. If you are not a monthly donor, would you consider becoming one? It's easy to do this online.

We know that not everyone can do this, and we certainly understand. We are grateful for all ways that you support us!



[poorclaresc.com/donate](https://poorclaresc.com/donate)

Return Service Requested



The Lord revealed a greeting to me that we should say:  
 "May the Lord give you peace."  
 —St. Francis, Testament

### Prayer Remembrance Cards

Did you know that we make prayer cards? You can request them to let your loved ones know that you and the sisters are praying for them. Each card is made by hand, using artwork created by one of our sisters. The message inside can be customized for the occasion and recipient. We offer designs that can be used for memorial and sympathy cards, birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, "get well" wishes, and many other occasions.



You'll find images of our cards on our Website; the URL is below. You can also request cards from this page.

[poorclaresc.com/prayer-remembrance-cards](http://poorclaresc.com/prayer-remembrance-cards)



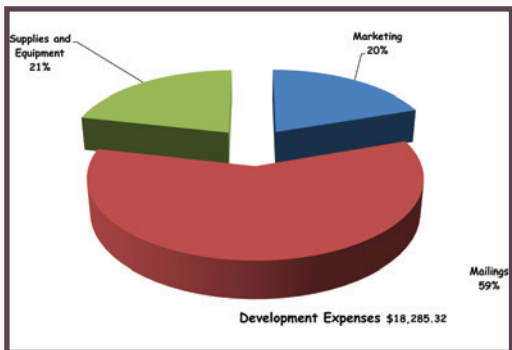
Fr. Gilberto Cavazos-González, OFM & Fr. Dan Reed

Visiting Priests

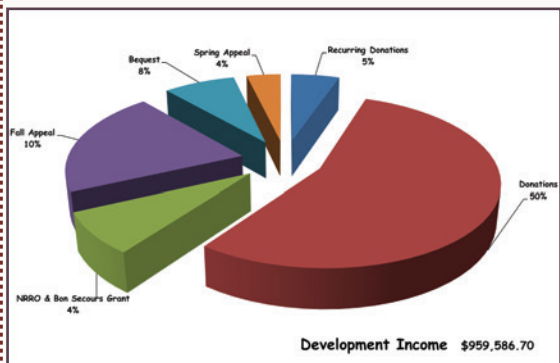


Fr. Emmet Murphy, OFM

We've been so blessed by — and are so grateful for — the priests who've visited us and celebrated Mass for us. Here, we're featuring three of these fine men, each photographed by our weaving of St. Francis. May God bless them and their ministries!



### 2025 Development Report



### Our deep gratitude to you

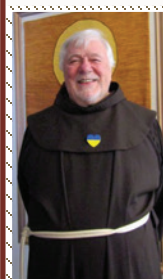
"May the Lord always be with you, and may you always be with Him."  
 — Blessing of St. Clare

We are humbled by and so very thankful for your support of our life of prayer. Last fall, when we appealed to you for help with rising medical expenses, you responded with alacrity and tremendous generosity. With your help, we've been able to meet our needs, and we can't thank you enough. In these challenging times, we certainly don't take your support for granted and are committed to being good stewards of the gifts we receive. For example, Development expenses last year were higher due to rising postage costs, so we are trying to do more online. In all that we do, we give thanks for you. You are truly blessings to us. God bless you!

### Fr. Tom Hartle, OFM

Many of you will remember Fr. Tom Hartle, the friar who celebrated Holy Week with us in alternate years. We were so sad to learn of his passing on February 5, 2026.

Fr. Tom was a dear friend to us. For many years, he was the Religious Assistant to our Federation, overseeing elections and ministering to the sisters. A wise, gregarious, and kind man,



he was famous for the joy with which he lived his life and for his generosity. May he rest in peace in the embrace of our Lord. We will miss him!