

Monastery of St. Clare

Fall 2026

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

For Everything, there is a Season



Dear Friends,

As you will read inside, we have had some newsworthy events happening, some jubilant and happy, some difficult and sad. That's real life, isn't it?! Most recently, we celebrated Sr. Kathy's Golden Jubilee of being a Franciscan; 50 years of service to God's people! What a gift!

We are still rejoicing in the special celebration of Sr. Susanna's Solemn Profession on the Feast of St. Clare! And we are still feeling sad about our difficult but necessary decision to discontinue our ministry of distributing altar breads, which has been a long tradition. It has been one of our sources of revenue so we will be counting on God's providence and your generosity to make up the difference.

Due to a generous gift of 2000 greeting cards, we will be selling them; they are beautiful — and Franciscan! When one door closes, another often opens! Praise God!

We pray for you; be sure to take time to enjoy the beauty of Autumn and give thanks!

Asking God's blessings,

— Sr. Nancy

The End of our Altar Bread Ministry

Since 1955, when our founding sisters arrived in Greenville to establish the first Poor Clare monastery in South Carolina, we have been supplying parishes with altar breads. This ministry has been a way to share our life of prayer with others in the Diocese of Charleston and beyond. Eucharist is central to our Poor Clare life, and supplying parishes with hosts for Eucharist has been our sacred privilege for the past seventy-one years.



Sisters baking, c. 1956

In the early years, when our monastery was located on Pleasantburg Drive, the sisters baked the altar breads, cut them by hand, and packaged them. Every sister was involved in preparing and shipping the breads. Funds received from this altar bread ministry were the sisters' primary means of support. Over time, baking and cutting the breads became too time and labor-intensive, and we switched to distributing pre-baked hosts from the Cavanagh company.

We find ourselves at another crossroads of change, and change is always difficult.

We are trying to be realistic as we plan for our future. Distributing altar breads — which requires lifting and moving heavy boxes — has now become too labor-intensive for us. We have had to make the painful decision to discontinue this ministry, which has been a long-time source of revenue for us.



Sister cutting bread into circular wafers, c. 1956

At one time, there were many monasteries of contemplative nuns that baked altar breads; there are very few now. Commercial companies can make the breads faster and more economically. Similarly, there used to be many monasteries that distributed pre-baked hosts; there are fewer now. Parishes have more options, including religious goods stores, when they need hosts.



Sr. Annemarie packing boxes recently

This is the end of an era for us. We are so grateful for the faithful support of our altar bread customers, and we will continue to pray for all the parishes we've served. May God bless them all!

Our Fall Appeal

Like everyone, we are tightening our belts (or, our cords!) in response to rising prices. We are also mindful of the loss of revenue from our altar bread ministry. We are therefore trying to reduce expenditures, and in particular, our electricity bills. In 2016, we installed solar panels, which provide 40% of our energy needs. Recently, however, the inverter failed; this is the device that converts the solar energy to the type of electricity that we can use in the building. With the loss of the inverter, our electricity bills have surged. It will cost \$9,000 to replace it; a 5-year maintenance contract for the whole solar array costs \$8,000 and would help us prevent the problems we've recently experienced. We humbly ask for your help in raising \$17,000 so that, over time, we can save many times that amount in reduced electricity bills. Thank you for anything you can do to help!

Franciscan Monastery of St. Clare
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You are holy, Lord, the only God, and Your deeds are wonderful.
—St. Francis, "Praises of God"

A Golden Jubilee in a Jubilee Year!

On October 4th, in this Jubilee year of St. Francis, our Sr. Kathy celebrated her Golden Jubilee as a Franciscan! Initially, she was a Franciscan Sister of Baltimore and ministered to the poor in that city for 25 years. In 2001, after discerning a call to contemplative life, she became a Poor Clare, continuing her ministry to the poor through prayer. Please join us in thanking her for 50 years of service to the Church and to all God’s people!



Sr. Kathy with her brother & mother on her profession day, Oct. 4, 2006



One of her many talents: drumming!



New: Greeting Cards

In addition to our individually-customized prayer remembrance cards, we now offer greeting cards for nearly every occasion. These are available on site only and are in a display rack just off the lobby. The suggested donation is \$1.00. We thank the generous benefactor who donated them and encourage you to check them out!

A friendly reminder: we now accept online donations. You can make a gift, respond to our appeal, or request a handmade prayer remembrance card using a credit card, PayPal/Venmo, or bank transfer. All transactions are secure. Save a stamp!

poorclaresc.com/donate

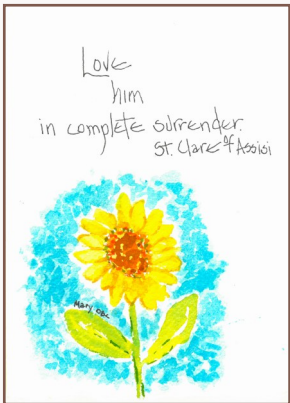


Online Giving

Sr. Susanna makes her Solemn Profession

On August 11th, the Feast of St. Clare, Sr. Susanna made her permanent, lifelong profession of the vows of poverty, chastity, obedience, and enclosure in the Order of St. Clare. Family members, members of our faith community, and

other religious, including members of all three Orders of the Franciscan family attended this joyous occasion. Join us in giving thanks for her consecration to God and His Church!



Prayer card for Sr. Susanna's profession; artwork by Sr. Mary



Fr. Charlie Smiech, OFM, blesses Sr. Susanna after her profession



Closeup of the image of St. Clare, done in "Assisi stitch," on the altar cloth

(Right) During the singing of the Litany of the Saints, Sr. Susanna prostrates herself before the altar as a sign of her complete surrender to God



THANK YOU SO MUCH!

We are humbled by and deeply grateful for your generous response to our spring appeal. Thanks to you, we will be able to hire someone to help us with tasks that, as we've grown older, have become more and more difficult for us to do. We are assessing our needs and will have more information to share about our outsourcing plans soon. In the meantime, **thank you!!**

New Faces: Recent Visiting Friars

Garret Edmunds, OFM

Mark Soehner, OFM

