

OFS



AUGUST

2017

PUBLISHED BY OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGIONAL FRATERNITY
OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER IN THE U.S.A.

CONNECTING THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN
COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

800TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF ST. BONAVENTURE'S BIRTH 2017 – 2018



Come and gather with other Franciscans to observe, participate and celebrate together.

If your fraternity or church has planned a gathering or special event, please send me your information for e-publication by the 25th of the preceding month.

**DEADLINE FOR THE
SEPTEMBER 2017 ISSUE
IS AUGUST 25th**

Send event listings to:

Anna Geraci, OFS
Publications Editor

acpg@aol.com

MARK SUBJECT LINE: OFS E-VENTS



WHEN THERE ARE NO FRATERNITY EVENT LISTINGS RECEIVED FOR A PARTICULAR MONTH, OFS E-VENTS WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED FOR THAT MONTH.

THE PORTIUNCULA INDULGENCE

AUGUST 2

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2017 REGION CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETINGS



CHAPTER OF MINISTERS

ELECTIVE CHAPTER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2017

8:30 a.m. — 3:30 p.m.

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH
50 LODI STREET, HACKENSACK, NJ**



PRAYER FOR OFS LEADERSHIP

Give us, O God,
leaders whose hearts
are large enough to
match the breadth of
our own souls and give
us souls strong enough
to follow leaders of
vision and wisdom.

In seeking a leader, let
us seek more than our
own enhancement; though
enhancement we hope for
more than security for
our own plans and vision;
though security we need;
more than satisfaction for our
own selfish wants; though
many things we desire.

Give us the hearts to
choose and follow the
leader who will work with
other leaders to bring
Your will to the agenda
and help us to fulfill it.

Give us leaders who
lead us to virtue without
seeking to impose
their own version of
virtue on others.

Give us leaders who
will provide for the
advancement of our Order
without dictating to others
to achieve it.

Give us insight enough
ourselves to choose as
leaders those who can
tell strength from power,
growth from greed,
leadership from
dominance and real
greatness from the
trappings of grandiosity.

We trust You, Great God,
to open our hearts to
learn from those to whom
You speak in different

tongues and to respect
the life and words of
those to whom You
entrusted the good of
other parts of this globe.

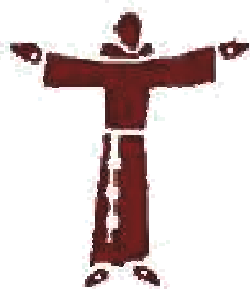
We beg You, Great God,
give us the vision as
Secular Franciscans
to know where holy
leadership truly lies,
to pursue it diligently,
to ask it to respect the
integrity of every person
in the entire Order.

We ask these things,
Great God, with minds
open to Your word
and hearts that trust in
Your eternal care.

Amen.

Written by
FR. KEVIN QUEALLY, TOR

2017 REGION CALENDAR
FRATERNITY SPECIAL EVENTS



IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY FRATERNITY
SAINTS ELIZABETH AND LOUIS FRATERNITY
&
ST. JOHN'S FRATERNITY

213 WEST 30th STREET • NEW YORK, NEW YORK



INVITE YOU TO A WEEK-END RETREAT AT:

Bishop Molloy Retreat House, 86-45 Edgerton Blvd.
 Jamaica Estates, NY 11432 • Phone: 718-739-1229

The Art of Letting Go
Living the Wisdom of St. Francis
Retreat Master: Fr. John Baptist Riordan, OFM Cap.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2017 AT 5:30 P.M.

TO SUNDAY, AUGUST 27 — NOON.

COST:

\$210.00 FOR STAY-IN

\$120.00 FOR COMMUTER

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO ST. JOHN'S
 FRATERNITY — SPACE IS LIMITED.**

FOR RESERVATIONS

CONTACT:

PATRIA FAUSTO: 917-796-4393

ESTER LOPEZ: 201-286-2270

DIRECTIONS TO THE RETREAT HOUSE BY SUBWAY: Take **F train** to Jamaica - 179th St. (*last stop*)
 Walk from Jamaica 179th Street to Retreat address: 86-45 Edgerton Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11432

2017 REGION CALENDAR

FRATERNITY SPECIAL EVENTS

St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity

LOCATION: St. Francis Church, 308 Jefferson Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030

CONTACT: MARY CAROL CAIEZZA, OFS • E-MAIL: mcaiezza8@gmail.com



We invite all the fraternities in the Region to join us.
We'd be very happy if any of our brothers and sisters would join us.

**FRANCISCAN DAY OF PARDON
LITURGICAL CELEBRATION
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2017
7:00 P.M.**

Visiting Friar, **Fr. Karun, OFM Cap,**
will offer Holy Mass and Confession.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS
PRAYED ON FIRST FRIDAYS
FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M.**

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY prays the
Stations of the Cross every First Friday,
at 6:00 p.m. followed by Holy Mass.

St. Francis Fraternity

LOCATION:

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
CHURCH HALL
50 LODI STREET
HACKENSACK, NJ 07601

CONTACT:

DIANE MENDITTO, OFS
160 OVERLOOK AVENUE
APT 16-F
HACKENSACK, NJ 07601
C: 201-446-0667

Email:

Dianefmdfm@aol.com



**22ND ANNUAL FRATERNITY BRUNCH
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2017
11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Sponsored and prepared by the Secular Franciscans.
Join us for delicious food, good company and an excellent
speaker. Always a hit!

☞ R.S.V.P. required if planning to attend.

Tickets are \$18.00 per person. Checks can be made to:
St. Francis Fraternity and mailed to Diane Menditto's address.
The fraternity will hold the tickets for you at the door.



DATE: SEPTEMBER 2, OCTOBER 7, 2017 (1ST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH)
PLACE: OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL CHURCH
 230 East 90th Street (between 2nd & 3rd Avenues), New York, NY 10128
WHEN: 7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
CONTACT: catholicunderground@gmail.com 
COST: Free admission all are welcome.
PARKING: Discounted Parking at GGMC Parking garage located at 245 East 90th Street, (directly across the street from the church, for \$10 with Catholic Underground parking validation sticker. (Valid from 5:00 p.m. — 1:00 a.m.) Additional charge for SUVs.



Catholic Underground is an apostolate of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. It is a direct response to a call that began with Pope John Paul II. He said that because the Gospel lives in conversation with culture, we must be fearless in crossing the cultural threshold of the communication and information revolution now taking place. **THE FIRST PART OF THE EVENING** is Eucharistic Adoration and begins with Vespers (Evening Prayer). This is the universal prayer of the Church — prayed by the Catholics throughout the world in every time zone and in every language.

AFTER VESPERS, there is a time of simple praise. This provides a window for each person to personally encounter Jesus Christ. The beauty of the darkened Church illumined by candles helps us enter the mystery of our Lord's presence in the Eucharist. Holy Hour ends with solemn Benediction.

THE SECOND PART OF THE EVENING showcases Catholic artists. Here we experience the “new evangelization”. This includes music, poetry, visual art, dancers, film, drama, etc. **WE END OUR EVENING** as we began, with the prayer of the Church. **COMPLINE** (Night Prayer) is simple and beautiful. It concludes with a hymn to Our Lady.

“ One of the most successful gatherings we have in the Archdiocese happens on Saturday evenings in a midtown parish and attracts a thousand or more young adults who come for prayer before the Eucharist. Confession, song and especially good company with those who share deep Catholic values in a culture and city that can indeed be at times antagonistic. The name of their gathering is revealing — Catholic Underground! That's the new minority who give their bishop so much hope! May their tribe increase! ”

TIMOTHY CARDINAL DOLAN
 (Catholic New York)



SAINT PADRE PIO COMES TO THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

SAINT PATRICK CATHEDRAL

5th Ave, New York, NY 10022

For information about the public veneration, please call (646) 537-7830 ext. 828, or send an email to SylviaRivas@saintpatrickscathedral.org.

For additional information about the tour, please call (203) 416-1471, or send an email to info@saintpiofoundation.org.



Come and venerate the official relics of Saint Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, in this first US tour to celebrate the 130th anniversary of Saint Padre Pio's birth, and the 15th anniversary of his canonization.

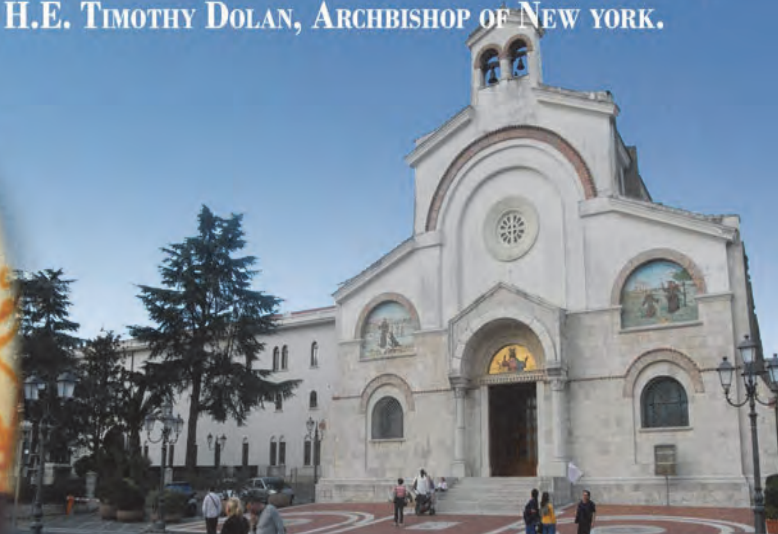
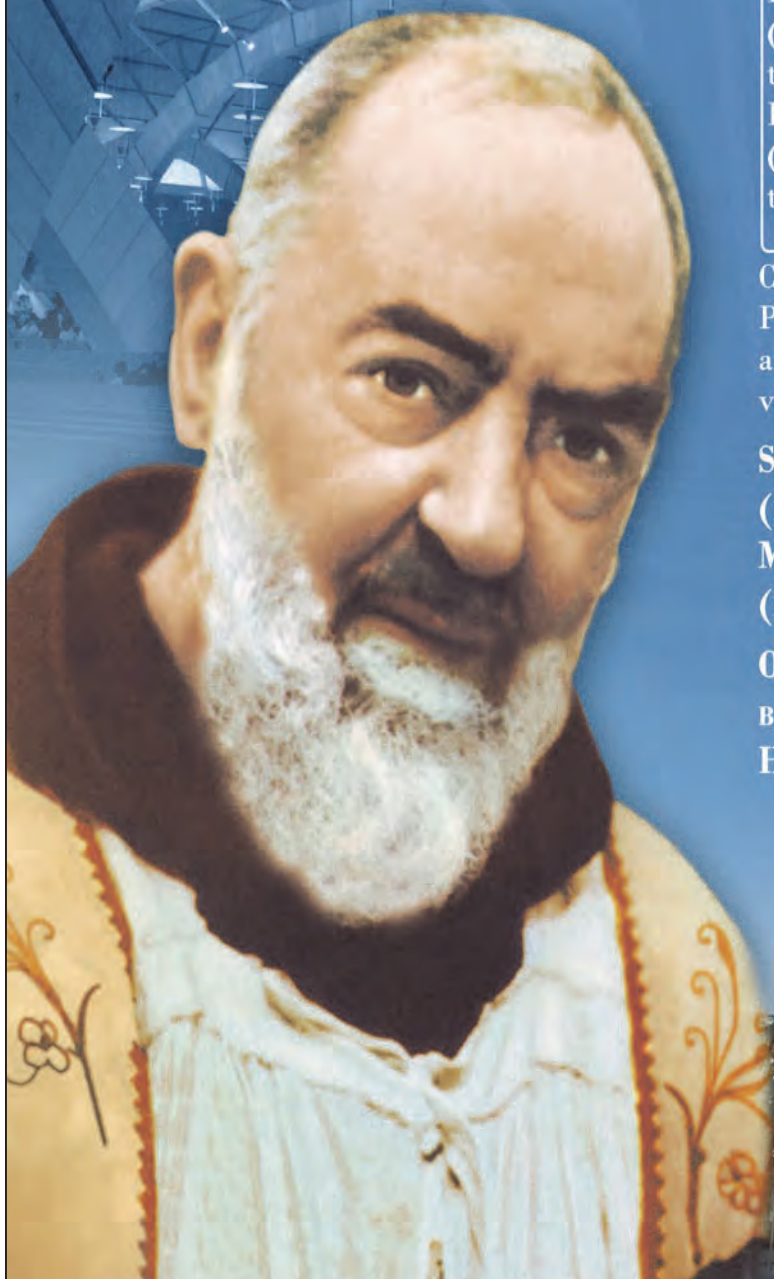
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

(FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M.)

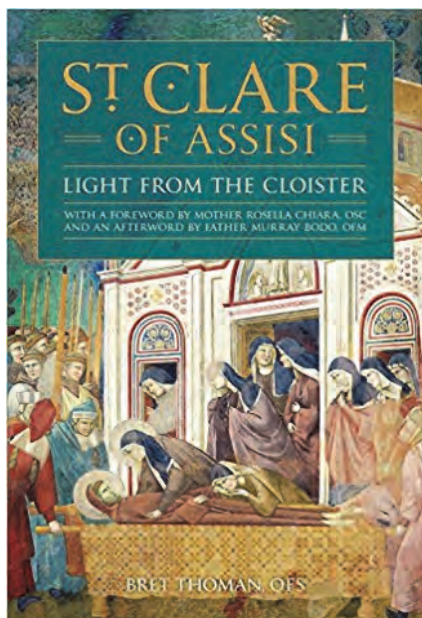
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

(FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M.)

ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2017, AT 10:15 A.M., WILL BE CELEBRATED A MASS IN HONOR OF SAINT PADRE PIO BY H.E. TIMOTHY DOLAN, ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK.



NEW PUBLICATION



Author Bret Thoman, OFS, draws upon his profound knowledge of original sources, his familiarity with the places where she lived and breathed and changed the world, and his own Franciscan spirituality, to bring to life, like never before, the story of St. Clare of Assisi, who continually—in imitation of Our Lord and Francis—sought to make herself lesser or minor. In the process, in another of God’s “divine paradoxes,” she became a giant, not only of her Age, but of all time.

Tenaciously attached to poverty, she became rich as only the saints are; docile and obedient, she stood up to her aristocratic family and later, princes of the Church in following the path upon which God had set her; frail and vulnerable, she caused Saracen invaders to turn tail and run . . . merely by prostrating herself before the Blessed Sacrament; and though not learned in either theology or canon law, she became the first woman to write a Rule for a new religious community.

St. Clare truly was a “light from the cloister” not only for her era but for all time. Meet her as never before in these pages and, in what is sure to be a profoundly spiritual reading experience, let her light shine upon you.

Available at:

[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



TAN BOOKS <https://www.tanbooks.com/index.php/st-clare-of-assisi-light-from-the-cloister.html>



Hardcover: 264 page, \$24.95 plus shipping

Publisher: TAN Books (July 25, 2017)

ISBN-10: 150510971X • **ISBN-13:** 978-1505109719

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.8 x 8.8 inches

NEW PUBLICATION

For All The Saints: St. Francis's Five Point Plan for Salvation

by Deacon Tom Bello, OFS

320 page perfect bound first edition written by Deacon Tom Bello, OFS.

Spiritual, Fraternal, and Personal Reflections for Information, Formation, and Transformation in the Secular Franciscan Order.

SKU/UPC: 978-1-61956-561-6

\$10.00 plus Shipping: \$4.99 (Fixed Shipping Cost)

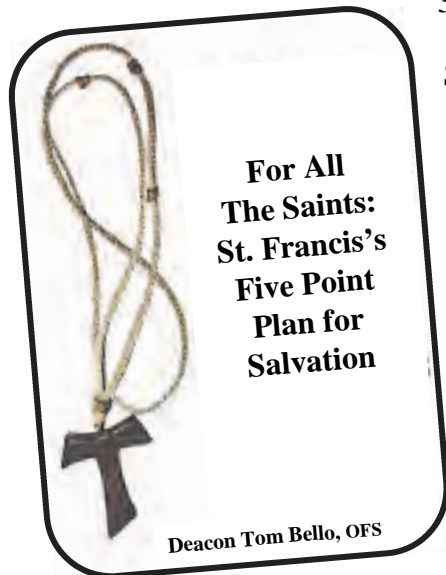
Available at:

TAU PUBLISHING

315 East Watkins Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Phone: 602-300-1074

Website: <http://vesuviuspressincorporated.com/tau-publishing>



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI AND GREAT PARDON



August 2nd is a special day to all Franciscans as it recalls the small Assisi church that became the foundational home of the Franciscan family – the *Portiuncula*. The Portiuncula Indulgence has miraculous origins. Legend states that on a night in July 1216, Francis was praying in the little church. He was asking for the forgiveness of sins of all mankind. Suddenly a brilliant light shone all around, in great splendor Jesus and Mary appeared to him.

Jesus spoke to him: “Francis you are ardently zealous for the good of souls. Ask Me what you want for their salvation.” Regaining his composure, Francis responded: “Lord, I, a miserable sinner beg you to concede an Indulgence to all those who enter this church, who are truly contrite and have confessed their sins. I also beg that Blessed Mary, your Mother, intercede on behalf of this grace.”

Jesus answered: “It is a very great thing that which you ask, but you are worthy of even greater things. I accept your request, but want you to go to my Vicar, to whom I have given the power to bind and loose in Heaven and on earth, to ask him on my behalf for this Indulgence.”

Francis and his companions hastened to Pope Honorius III and implored him to proclaim that everyone visiting the church and confessing their sins with a contrite heart would be granted a full pardon of his sins.

Plenary Indulgences were very rare in those days and were certainly not granted for just visiting a little church.

Astonished at this strange petition, the Pope hesitated to grant it, but Francis convinced him that Jesus Christ himself wished it. Having received papal approval, the Saint did not wait for any written document, but hastened to Assisi and when he reached the Portiuncula announced the good news:

“Friends, the Lord wants to have us all in Heaven!”.

The Portiuncula Indulgence is the first *plenary* indulgence that was ever granted in the Church. Before then, indulgences were only partial and only a partial remission could be obtained by them. Since then, the Portiuncula Indulgence can only be obtained on the 2nd of August, the Feast day of Our Lady of the Angels.

The conditions to obtain the Plenary Indulgence of the Forgiveness of Assisi for oneself or for a departed soul are:

- Sacramental Confession- to be in God’s grace (during eight days before or after.)
- Participation in the Holy Mass and Eucharist.
- Visit to a Catholic Church or Chapel (ideally a Franciscan Church).
- Recitation of the Apostles Creed, the Our Father and a prayer for the Pope’s Intention.

The Portiuncula Indulgence is a grace not to be missed, not only for you, but for the many suffering souls in Purgatory.

Mark your calendar for the Feast of Our Lady of the Angels on August 2nd and tell every one of the magnitude of this gift. Once again, we see the unfathomable Divine Mercy of God. In the words of St. Francis,

“O my Brothers and Sisters,
I want you all to go to Heaven!”

FRANCISCAN SAINTS AND BLESSEDS CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 2 Our Lady of the Angels -
the Portiuncula Indulgence
- 4 St. John Baptist Mary Vianney -
Priest, Franciscan -
Third Order Secular
- 7 Bl. Agathangelus and Cassian,
Capuchin priests and martyrs
- 8 St. Dominic, priest and Founder
of the Order of Preachers -
Feast
- 11 St. Clare of Assisi, Foundress of the Poor Clares - Feast
- 13 Bl. Marco of Aviano, Capuchin priest - Optional Memorial
- 14 St. Maximilian Marie Kolbe, Franciscan priest and martyr - Memorial
- 17 St. Roch, Franciscan - Third Order Secular
- 18 Bl. John Louis Loir, Protase Bourdon and Sebastian Francos,
Capuchin priest and martyr of Rochefort - Optional Memorial
- 19 St. Louis of Toulouse - Bishop, Franciscan
- 21 Pope St. Pius X
- 23 Bl. Bernard of Offida, Capuchin brother - Optional Memorial
- 25 St. Louis IX of France -
King and Patron of the Third Order - Feast



S

AIN'T CLARE OF ASSISI

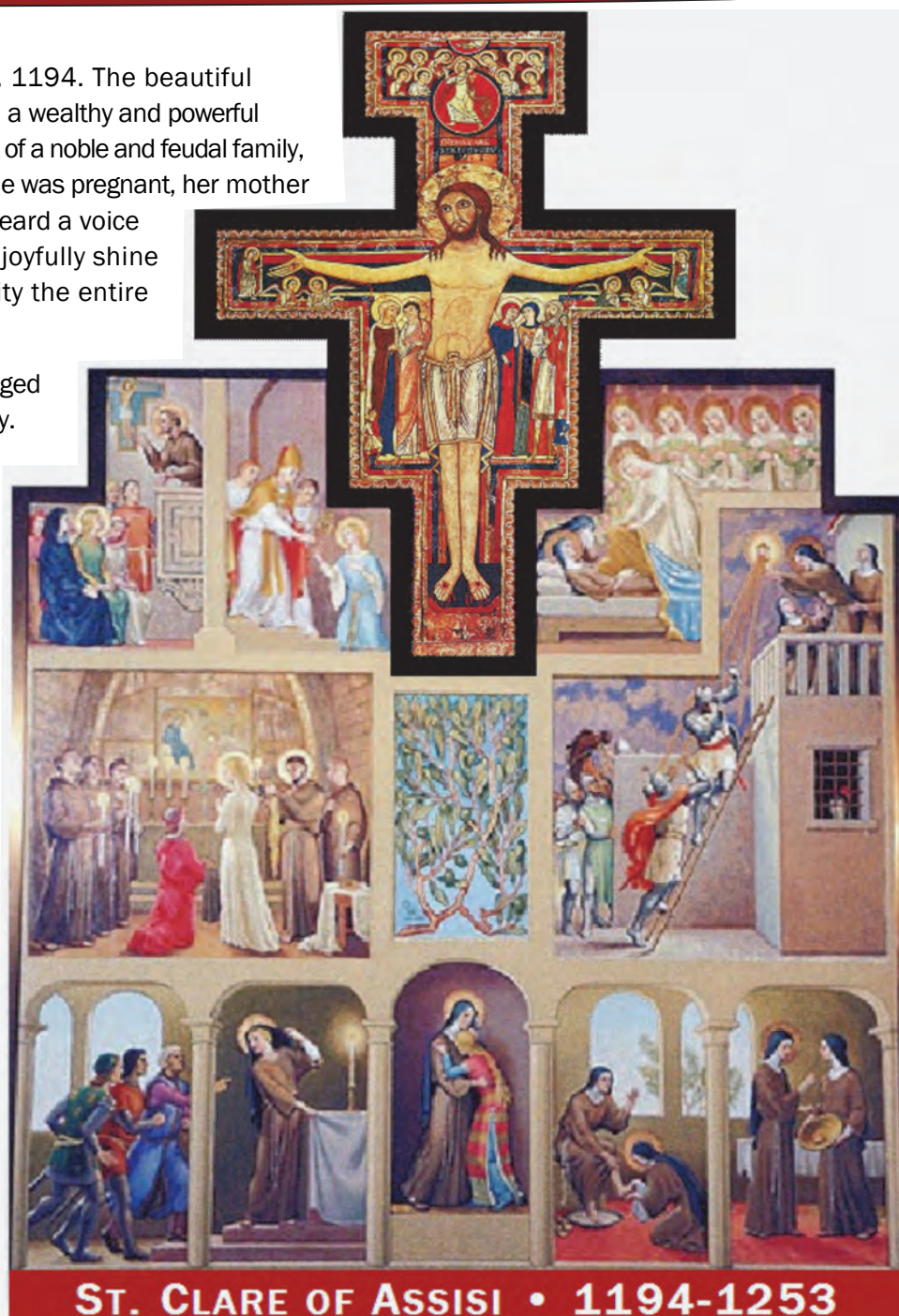
Chiara was born in Assisi on July 16, 1194. The beautiful eldest daughter of Favarone Offeduccio, a wealthy and powerful nobleman and his wife Ortolana, a descendant of a noble and feudal family, who was a devout Christian woman. While she was pregnant, her mother was praying for a safe delivery when she heard a voice say, "Be not afraid woman since you will joyfully shine a light that will illumine with greater clarity the entire world."

When she was 15 years old, her family arranged a marriage for her, but Clare refused to marry. When Francis gave away all his possessions to follow Jesus in poverty and prayer, Clare felt herself drawn to follow his example. She was moved by the dynamic preaching of Francis who became her lifelong friend and spiritual guide.

On March 18— Palm Sunday in 1212, Clare left her home and was met on the road by the friars carrying torches. In the poor little chapel called the Portiuncula, she was consecrated to the Lord through the hands of Francis. She received a rough woolen habit, exchanged her jeweled belt for a common rope with knots in it and sacrificed her long tresses to Francis' scissors.

She was placed in the convent of the Benedictine nuns of San Paulo, near Bastia, under Francis' orders. When her father and uncles located her, they immediately stormed it in rage determined to force her back home, but she refused. Clinging to the altar of the church, she threw aside her veil to show her cropped hair and professed that she would have no other husband than Jesus Christ.

In order to give her greater protection, Francis sent Clare to Sant' Angelo in Panzo, another Benedictine monastery. Sixteen days later, Clare's sister Catarina, joined her at this monastery and took the name Agnes, They remained there until a separate dwelling was built for them near the church of San Damiano.





Over time, other women joined them; they lived a simple life of great poverty, austerity and complete seclusion from the world, according to a Rule which Francis gave them as a Second Order. For a brief time, the order was directed by St. Francis himself. At age 21, Francis obliged Clare under obedience to accept the office of abbess, one she exercised until her death. Known as the Poor Ladies of Assisi, the nuns went barefoot, slept on the ground, ate no meat and observed almost complete silence. Their lives consisted of manual labor and prayer. Later Clare, like Francis, moderated this rigor: "Our bodies are not made of brass." The greatest emphasis, of course, was on gospel poverty. They possessed no property, subsisting on daily contributions. When even the Pope tried to persuade Clare to mitigate this practice, she showed her characteristic firmness: "I need to be absolved from my sins, but I do not wish to be absolved from the obligation of following Jesus Christ."

Following Francis' death, Clare continued to promote her Order, fighting off every attempt from each pope trying to impose a rule on her order that would water down their "radical commitment to corporate poverty." Contemporary accounts glow with admiration of Clare's

life in the convent of San Damiano in Assisi. When she came from prayer, it was said, her face was so shining it dazzled those about her. Her deep holiness and great wisdom were such that popes, cardinals, and bishops often came to consult her—Clare herself never left the walls of San Damiano.

Clare's deep union with the Lord and persistent prayers were often rewarded by miracles.

On a Friday in September 1240, a regiment of Saracen soldiers in the pay of Frederick II of Sweden came to attack Assisi. Clare had the Blessed Sacrament placed on the walls of the convent when it faced attack by invading Saracens. Prostrating herself before the Lord, she spoke tearfully to her Christ: "Does it please you, O God, to deliver into the hands of these pagans the defenseless children I have nourished with Your love? I beseech You, dear Lord, protect these whom I am now unable to protect." Suddenly a voice like that of a child resounded in her ears from the tabernacle: 'I will always protect you!' 'My Lord,' she added, 'if it is Your wish, protect also this city which is sustained by Your love.' Christ replied, 'It will have to undergo trials, but it will be defended by My protection.' Raising her face bathed in tears, Clare comforted the sisters: 'I assure you, daughters, that you will suffer no evil; only have faith in Christ.' At that moment, a sudden fear struck the attackers and they fled as fast as they could without harming anyone.

St. Clare experienced her own "multiplication of the loaves" when on another occasion, she fed 50 sisters and all the Franciscan friars with a single loaf of bread. Once a very heavy door came off its hinges and fell on top of her, but when a number of sisters in a panic rushed to lift it off, instead of finding her crushed, she was not harmed at all and said it felt no heavier than a blanket. The sick were cured when she made the sign of the cross over them. At times when she meditated, the sisters saw a rainbow aura surrounding her.

One Christmas Eve, Clare was too ill to rise from her bed to attend Mass. Although she was more than a mile away she saw the Mass on the wall of her dormitory. So clear was the vision that the next day she could name the friars at the celebration. It was for this miracle that she was named the patroness of television in 1958 by Pope Pius XII.

St. Clare suffered serious illness the last 27 years of her life, but expressed that no pain could trouble her. On August 9, 1253, Pope Innocent III declared Clare's rule would serve as the governing rule for Clare's Order of Poor Ladies. Two days later, Clare died at 59. At Pope Innocent's request, the canonization process for her began immediately and two years later in August 1255, Pope Alexander IV canonized her as Saint Clare of Assisi.

St. Clare is also the patroness of eye disorders, goldsmiths and laundry.

PRAYER TO ST. CLARE OF ASSISI

O glorious Saint Clare!
 God has given you the power of
 working miracles continually and
 the favor of answering the prayers
 of those who invoke your assistance
 in misfortune, anxiety, and distress;
 we beseech you, obtain for us from
 Jesus, through Mary, His Blessed
 Mother, what we beg of you so
 fervently and hopefully, if it be for
 the greater honor and glory of God
 and for the good of our souls.
 Saint Clare Pray For Us. Amen.



CIOFS MONTHLY OFS—YOUFRA PRAYER INTENTIONS

TO EMPHASIZE COMMUNION WITH THE POPE, WE OFFER THE HOLY FATHER'S MONTHLY INTENTION AND AN OFS INTENTION, BASED ON THE LIFE AND MAJOR EVENTS OF THE ORDER.
THE LOCAL FRATERNITIES WILL PRAY FOR BOTH.

2017

April	<p>Universal: For young people, that they may know how to respond generously to their vocation, seriously considering the possibility of consecrating themselves to God in the priesthood or in consecrated life.</p> <p>OFS: For the National Fraternity of Venezuela, the Philippines and for the fifth Asia-Oceania Congress.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>
May	<p>For evangelization: For Christians in Africa that they may give a prophetic witness of reconciliation, justice and peace in imitation of the merciful Jesus.</p> <p>OFS: For the National Fraternities of Romania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>
June	<p>Universal: For the leaders of nations to commit themselves to put an end to the arms trade, which leads to so many innocent victims.</p> <p>OFS: For the National Fraternities of Italy, Malaysia-Singapore and the Netherlands, and for the Project Africa Formation Workshop in Abidjan-Ivory Coast.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>
July	<p>For evangelization: For our brothers and sisters who have strayed from the faith, that through our prayers and witness of the Gospel, they can rediscover the closeness of the merciful Lord, and the beauty of Christian life.</p> <p>OFS: For the National Fraternities of Capo Verde, Hong Kong, China, Indonesia, Bolivia and Pakistan.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>
August	<p>Universal: For the artists of our time, may they, through the works of their genius, help everyone discover the beauty of creation.</p> <p>OFS: For the Project Africa Formation Workshop in Yaoundé-Cameroon, the National Fraternities of Egypt, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, Denmark, Chile and Ireland.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>
September	<p>For evangelization: For our parishes, let them be animated by a missionary spirit, and become places where faith is shared and where they are witnesses of charity.</p> <p>OFS: For the National Fraternities of Peru, Lithuania and Spain.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>
October	<p>Universal: For those in the labor market, may they all be assured of respect and protection of their rights and may the unemployed be given the opportunity to contribute to the building of the common good.</p> <p>OFS: For the National Fraternities of Belarus and Thailand.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>
November	<p>For evangelization: For Christians in Asia, as they bear witness to the Gospel in word and deed, let it be conducive to dialogue, peace and mutual understanding, especially with those who belong to other religions.</p> <p>OFS: For the CIOFS Presidency, the General Intermediate Chapter, our departed brothers and sisters, and the Malawi National Fraternity.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>
December	<p>Universal: For the elderly, may they be sustained by families and Christian communities, and may they work together in wisdom and experience to transmit the faith and to educate the new generations.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>