



Minister: Robert Pekar
Vice Minister: Janet Eidem
Secretary: Jeanne Sachs
Treasurer: Gisela Schwab
Director of Formation: Jadwiga Piasecki
Councilor at Large: Kathleen Ahern
Councilor at Large: Roy Eidem
Spiritual Assistant: Deacon Bob Kronyak
Editor: Doris Kowalski
E-mail: doriskowalski@aol.com

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I was recently reading an article from the New York Times about the yearly amnesty given to a designated turkey which would have been the guest of honor at the White House Thanksgiving meal. It had caused me to ponder how Caiaphas sought to pardon Christ when he called out to the people, in the tradition of releasing one condemned criminal in honor of Passover. The people chose to offer Barabbas clemency over Jesus, whom they clamored to have crucified...I chuckled when I read a recent letter sent to the president of PETA: "As I'm sure you know, 'to pardon' means 'to exempt a guilty party from punishment.' We would like to propose a more appropriate term for the event: 'spare.' The difference between 'spare' and 'pardon' may seem slight, but as you know, our language choices have a lasting influence on the way that we, as a culture, view the action described. These turkeys, as well as the millions of turkeys slated to be violently killed for the holidays, are innocent bystanders, not criminals. It would be more accurate to 'spare,' or refrain from harming, them..."

Jan. 22nd marked the 39th anniversary of the "legalization" of abortion, during the entire 9 months of gestation, in our country. Roe v Wade was one of the tools that were used to hoist this sad chapter in our Nation's history upon us. We, living in the midst of this deplorable decision have all paid a great price by the senseless slaughter of over 4000 babies each day during this modern Holocaust. Their blood must cry out to their heavenly Father as Abel's did. What can we do? Certainly pray for those involved, for those able; a number of us go to the abortion clinic on Mondays, when they are performing abortions to pray on the sidewalk. This good practice of our Fraternity was suggested by our previous Minister, Ed Duff. A prayerful witness does lend to some sort of accountability to the actions people are choosing. Some women turn around and decide to keep their babies. We as a Fraternity also support them with free ultra sounds, pregnancy tests, diapers, car seats and cribs by the assistance we give to the local crisis pregnancy center.

Let us also remember those condemned criminals on death row awaiting execution...wouldn't it be nice if the President would pardon one of them instead? Or even do away with the death penalty itself? Some people seem to be more concerned with the baby whales and turtle which are all wonderful parts of God's creation but are not human beings in the image and likeness of God our Heavenly Father. **Con't.**



The Clarion Newsletter Of St. Clare Fraternity, OFS

**Meeting every 4th Sunday @ 12:15PM
St. William's Ministry Center
Naples, Florida
January 2012 Issue #106**

Upcoming Franciscan Feast Days

Jan. 25 – Conversion of St. Paul
Feb 2 – Presentation of the Lord
Feb. 22 - Ash Wednesday

The ill of our Fraternity need our prayers: Ed Duff; Bill Acini;
Isabel, Frances, Roy; Elizabeth Marie, Carol

January Birthdays:

Jan. 26 – Kathleen Ahern
Jan. 26 – Helen Kruk
Jan. 26 – Jadwiga Piasecki

January Anniversary of Profession:

Jan. 24 - Kathleen Ahern – 2010
Jan. 24 – Jeanne Sachs – 2010
Jan. 25 – Georges Chami - 2040

Upcoming OFS Events

Sun. Jan. 22 – 12:15 Regular Monthly Gathering at St. William
Sat. Feb. 4 – Profession Mass at 10AM at OLQM
Sat. Feb. 11 – Monthly Praying Meeting-Host TBA
Tue. Feb. 14 – Council Meeting
Sat. Feb. 25 – Lenten Retreat – Ave Maria University, Fr. Francis Paola, OFM
Sun. Feb. 26 – 12:15 Regular Monthly Gathering at St. William
Sat. Mar. 24 – Leaven XVIII Conference at San Pedro Parish, North Port
July 3-8 – Quinquennial in Chicago

Minister Musing Con't.

Francis teaches us to embrace the lepers in our lives to truly find the Christ hidden within and amongst us. This can be challenging indeed, we are all faced with people who are not very lovable... Please Lord let us in this Year of Faith, as proclaimed by our Holy Father Pope Benedict, step outside of our comfort zones and love our neighbor as ourselves. No matter what manifestation our neighbor comes to us, let us see you Lord, so that we may love You above all things and serve you on our journey, in the midst of your Kingdom!

May God Bless your Spirit with Peace and all Good!
BOB

Deacon Robert C. Kronyak, OFS
Spiritual Assistant

As we begin the New Year one of the first things we think about in the Resolutions we are going to make to help us live the Gospel way and turn away from our sinful ways. On the Tuesday morning after New Year's Day the Office reading is from Paul's letter to the Colossians. He says "Put to death, than the parts of you that are earthly" 3:5. "But now you must put them all away: anger, fury, malice, slander, and obscene language out of your mouths. Stop lying to one another, since you have taken off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed, for knowledge, in the image of its creator: 3:8-10. Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so much you also do. And over all these, put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. 3:12-14.

When I reflect back on the resolutions that I made in the past, it seems to me that I make the same resolutions every year. I choose my weakest points and try to work on them and fail. After reading the letter of St. Paul to the Colossians I made the decision to make this my resolution for the New Year. So this year I am not going to make a resolution to stop doing something, and work on doing that Paul says in Chapter 3:12-14. Put on them, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience (this is the hardest for me), bearing with one another and forgiving one another, as the Lord has forgiven you, so much you also do. And over all these put on Love, that is, the bond of perfection.

May God Give You His Peace, Deacon Bob

Janet Eidem - Gleaning

Humility comes from the Latin word "humus", fertile ground. The fertile ground is there, unnoticed, taken for granted, always there to be trodden upon. It is silent, dark; and yet it is always ready to receive any seed, ready to give it substance and life. The more lowly, the more fruitful, because it becomes really fertile when it accepts all the refuse of the earth. It is so low that nothing can soil it, abase it, humiliate it; it has accepted the last place and cannot go any lower.

Anthony Bloom, *Living Prayer*

Spiritual Reading for the January Gathering:

Gospel – Mark 1:14-20

FROM YOUR EDITOR

May God Bless You and Your Families in this New Year!!!

Crisis Pregnancy Center of Naples

Don't forget the mothers and babies at The Crisis Pregnancy Center of Naples, they appreciate our generosity.

ROSARY DONATIONS

Please donate Rosary beads that are not being used (even those in need of repair). Bring them to the next meeting. Georges will get them to the Rosary makers for distribution.

Hope for Haiti

Hope for Haiti will accept unused prescription drugs for treatment of the poor which are non-expired ones only! Please keep them in mind before flushing or tossing, neither of which are good solutions.

