



HORIZONS OF HOPE

Fixing the world with hope.

SISTERS OF ST. CLARE, EASTERN REGION FALL 2017

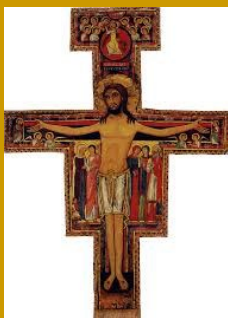
Dear Friends,
We desire peace – for ourselves and for our world. As world leaders search for “the way to peace,” St. Francis of Assisi might say instead, “peace is the way.” The prayer of St. Francis offers the inspiration we need so much today:

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring love.
Where there is offense, let me bring pardon.
Where there is discord, let me bring union....*

Let us reflect upon that prayer – and what it means to each of us personally – as we celebrate St. Francis’s Feast Day on Wednesday, October 4.

In Christ,

Sr. Lucia Brady, O.S.C.
for the Sisters of St. Clare



The Power of Assisi...bring back lost souls to Christ

A Joyous Celebration of St. Clare’s Feast Day

Many thanks to all who joined us at the wonderful celebration of the feast of St. Clare on August 11 at St. John Vianney Parish in St. Pete Beach, FL. As has become our tradition, Fr. Ailbe O’Murchu from Ireland was the main celebrant of the Mass of Thanksgiving and Msgr. Muldoon, Msgr. Dee and Fr. Jose “Joy” Colina of St. John Vianney parish, concelebrated. Fr. Ailbe’s homily offered the reflection “Let go, let God.” The beautiful music was lead by the parish music director. Special thanks go to the gracious and hospitable volunteers and many others who saw to it that there was a wonderful reception and delicious refreshments for our many guests. We wish to thank each one who participated in the celebration and making it such a special day for we Sisters!



New Name Reflects our Ministry

Our Sisters of St. Clare community in the central Florida area has been referred to as the “Sisters of St. Clare Florida Region.” Our other Sisters of St. Clare in the United States has been referred to as the “Sisters of St. Clare, California Region.”

In 2007, Sr. Christa Rowe of our Florida Region accepted an assignment to minister to the elderly, to the ill and to those suffering from HIV at the Ministry of Caring in Wilmington, Delaware.

Since that time and she has been joined in the community by two of our Sisters: Sr. Amparo Cruz Melgar and Sr. Bernadette Breen. We also hope that they will soon be joined by another of our Sisters, Sr. _____. To reflect that significant presence of the Sisters of St. Clare in Delaware, our recent Chapter has decided that the Sisters presence in Florida and Delaware should be referred to as the “Sisters of St. Clare, Eastern Region.”

Sr. Lila Is Inspired Once Again by Her Visit to Medjugorje



This summer, Sr. Lila Dempsey was able to take a trip that she had wanted to take for almost 30 years – her second “pilgrimage” to Medjugorje. Asked why the trip was important to her, Sr. Lila explains:

“Back in 1981, six (6) young people reported seeing an apparition of the Virgin Mary with a child in her arms in on the hill Crnica, on the place called Podbrdo, that is now Bosnia and Herzegovina. For several years these children, now grown, reported seeing daily apparitions of the Blessed Mother. Thirty-six (36) years have passed since the apparitions began, yet “Medjugorje” is still going strong with millions of people coming every year to pray.

“I was first there thirty years ago when Pope St. John Paul II said that Medjugorje was the ideal Catholic place of worship. Every evening crowds of people came for confession with about thirty priests hearing in different languages. Pope St. John Paul II also said that if he were not Pope he would be there hearing confessions.

“Our Lady tells the visionaries to pray until it becomes a joy. Only this way each will discover peace in their hearts and souls and this will bring contentment. We must pray for people who do not know the love of God and continue to pray because prayer becomes the salvation of the people.

“Although Pope Francis is suspicious about ‘apparitions’ in general, on May 13, 2017, Pope Francis declared that the original visions reported by the children are worth studying in more depth. But please keep in mind that since 1981, over 40 million people of all faiths, from all over the world have visited Medjugorje and have left spiritually strengthened and renewed. As for me, I wanted to experience this once again.



IN MEMORIAM

Betty Burns Noel Clare Liberta Guarini
Michael Gucken Mary Loughlin Cathy O’Hare
Joan O’Hare Jim Prior, SFO
Ling Uhlendorf Ed Vallar
Veronica (Ronnie) Windishman

On earth, may He increase His grace and virtues...In heaven may He exalt and glorify you...from Clare’s 3rd letter to Blessed Agnes of Prague

Please remember in your prayers our deceased friends and benefactors, including the following who recently passed away

Sister Phyllis reflects on her various ministries



For many years I have ministered in many different roles in parish life, both here in the US and in the Missions in Central and South America. Ministry gives me life. Ministry gives me more than I can ever give to others. I am not sure how God does this, but to minister to another is to be ministered to.

I have for years been part of parish ministry to the Sick and Homebound parishioners. A few years ago, I began a new chapter in my journey by becoming a chaplain. I am now part of a team of Chaplains at Bay Care / Morton Plant Mease hospitals. I meet people at one of the most vulnerable times in their lives by spending time at the bedside of the sick, injured and dying. At times it is a happy situation, such as the birth of a baby or a successful surgery. Other times it is a sad experience when a difficult or terminal diagnosis has just been shared or a patient is dying. Some of my patients are mentally ill. I spend time with the patients, their families and the staff giving emotional and spiritual support.

For those patients who are actively dying it is a time to sit and be present to them and their

families. All of my patients have their story, their journey through life, and their relationships, families and friends; most have questions and fears. I try to be with them and accompany them as they find their answers to the meaning of life and what they hope for at the end of their life and for eternity.

My understanding of the Spirit of St. Clare - how I am to be a follower of St. Clare - is by attempting to bring God into every situation. Many times this means praying with the patient, their family or staff as they are comfortable. I am with people from many different cultures, different ages, and different Faith Traditions. Sometimes I am with a patient who has given up on God, are angry with God or who has never experienced the gift of Faith. With these patients I try to be with them wherever they are - finding peace in the goodness in themselves and the goodness around them.

Witnessing God working in people's lives is so amazing. Being allowed the privilege of walking with God's Children on their journey is truly a gift, sometimes a painful one but always a gift.



*“Totally love Him, Who gave Himself totally for your love.”
St. Clare*



*May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May He show His face to you and be merciful to you.
May He turn His countenance to you and give you peace.
May the Lord be with you always, and
Wherever you are, may you be with Him always. Amen
The Blessing of St. Clare*

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SISTERS OF ST. CLARE
EASTERN REGION
FALL 2017

Cherish The Ladies is Coming to Clearwater

Sunday, February 11, 2018
Joanie Madden and the Cherish
the Ladies band be in Clearwater
Florida to present an afternoon of
outstanding entertainment and
music.

SAVE THE DATE



Internationally Acclaimed Irish-American Band
to Present a Concert Benefitting the Sisters of St. Clare