



HORIZONS *of* HOPE

Fixing the World with Hope

Sisters *of* St. Clare, Eastern Region | 2019 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Many thanks to all who joined us at the wonderful celebration of the feast of St. Clare on August 10th at St. Jerome Church in Largo, FL. Father Ailbe O'Murchu was the main celebrant at the Mass of Celebration and Father Tom Morgan, St. Jerome's Pastor, concelebrated.

Fr. Ailbe's homily reflected on the partnership of St. Clare and St. Francis in service to the poor and marginalized. He added that Clare and Francis were instruments of justice and peace in a world of turmoil, each operating independently on a journey of faith and love of Christ. Fr. Ailbe invited each of us to be "Ambassadors of Christ" every day of our lives. When we choose to be "Christ-like" by bringing the spirit of the Lord to those we encounter each day, justice and peace become the language of love and mercy.

In welcoming the congregants to the feast day celebration, Fr. Tom shared his fond personal recollections of being nurtured and educated by the Sisters of St. Clare while he was a student at St. Lawrence School in Tampa. Sister Kathleen Luger and Erica DeCeglie, Assistant Music Director of the St. Jerome Parish, provided the beautiful music.

We send our special thanks to the gracious volunteers 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 a special day for the Sisters!

Sr. Lucia Brady, OSC
For the Sisters of St. Clare



News About a Few of the Sisters

Sr. Christa Undertakes New Ministry in Philadelphia

Ask Sr. Christa Rowe, and she'll be the first to tell you: She loves working with Seniors.

Having been born and raised in Clearwater, Sr. Christa left Florida several years ago to take part in the Ministry of Caring in Wilmington, Delaware. Not only has she been involved with the elderly at Ministry of Caring but she also worked with the Sacred Heart "Housing for Seniors" in Wilmington.

Sr. Christa's desire to minister to Seniors has recently beckoned her across the Delaware River from Wilmington into Philadelphia. She now serves as the Program Director of the Foster Grandparent's Program, a part of the Office of Civic Engagement of Volunteer Services for Older Philadelphians. The Grandparents' Program is the oldest Volunteer program in the Philadelphia area, having been established by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965.

The Grandparents' Program seeks to pair people of limited income over 55 years of age who are committed to building inter-generational relationships with a child between the ages of 3 to 7. Although the program may be structured to provide greatest benefit to the participating children in their formative years and, although the Seniors may receive a modest stipend, Sr. Christa explains that the Seniors seem to find that their greatest reward is their relationship with their "little new best friend."



Sr. Christa

We Wish Sr. Lila Well in the Harold's Cross Community

Sr. Lila Dempsey, who retired from her ministry at St. James Parish in Port Richey, has accepted an invitation to join the Sisters of St. Clare community in Harold's Cross, Dublin. Of course, Sr. Lila misses her many friends in Florida, but she is very excited to see her friends and other Sisters of St. Clare in Ireland.

Sr. Lila says, "I will visit the sick around Dublin and I'm especially happy to be able to continue my painting and other art. Also, because Harold's Cross is actually an 'urban village' on the south side of Dublin, I will be able to get around by walking or via public transportation; going out and about here will be much easier than when I lived in Palm Harbor."

Sr. Lila especially wants to thank all of you for your prayers and your financial support for her retirement and health care.



Sr. Lila

IN MEMORIAM

*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,
including the following who recently went home to the Lord:*

Etta Farrelly
(sister of Sr. Cecilia)

Paddy Moran
(brother of Sr. Elizabeth)

Doug Hunt
(dear friend and benefactor of the Sisters)

John Irwin
(long-time supporter of the Sisters)



Sister Therese Offers a Comforting Presence to All and Asks for Prayers

Sr. Therese Carolan is often asked what she likes best about being a Sister of St. Clare. Sr. Therese will usually pause and say, "That's hard to explain, but I'll give it a try."

"As a pastoral assistant at St. Michael The Archangel Parish for the past fourteen years I am involved in many ministries. A large part of my day involves ministering to our sick and homebound parishioners, taking them the Eucharist, and praying with them. I find this to be a great privilege. I not only visit parishioners in their homes, but I also visit them in hospitals and hospices; praying and comforting them and their families is immensely fulfilling.

"Our outreach program at St. Michael's is very active. I am involved in facilitating grief support groups, reaching out to those who have lost a loved one, and journeying with them in their grief. Again, it is a privilege that I am grateful for. I have also been involved in the Faith Formation program for about thirteen years. It gives me great joy to pass on the faith to young people.

"As a religious working in a parish, I find the most important thing is just to be available to people in their need. Most of the time that mainly involves listening deeply, sharing some words of comfort with them and, of course, praying for them.

"I would like to ask for your prayers for my sister, Dorothy, who is battling late-stage cancer."



Sr. Therese

Many Thanks *to all who have helped with our events and publications!*

For several years, many good friends have helped us spread the word about our Sisters and our ministries via newsletters, invitations, special events, our website, and our calendars. It is amazing to think of how many wonderful people have lent a hand at one time or another. Although this article doesn't contain a photo of every one of you, please know we have been truly blessed by each person who has helped in any way!



Fernando Valladares



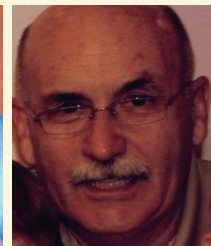
Jim Allen



Bernadette Moriarty



Pete Pandolfo



Ed Park



Susan Petersen



Judy Scullin



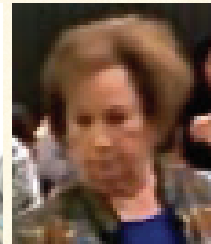
JoAnn Bannon



Trudy Morrell



Grace Berardi



Mary Lou Holle



Barbara Austin



Dolores Cassavant



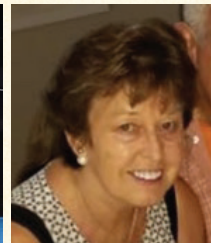
Deb Bosler



Claire Pandolfo



Bill Bannon



Mary Park



Lelie Ycaza



Our friends at Cramer Marketing in Amarillo, Texas
Mitch Khoury, Luz Jimenez, Stephanie Cramer, Tammy Lard



Fran Moore



Kathy Baldwin



Marilyn Allen

Sisters of St. Clare

St. Francis House
11235 Apache Place
Largo, FL 33774

Save the date and tell your friends!

JOANIE MADDEN & CHERISH THE LADIES *A Celtic Christmas Show*



Join us and enjoy the outstanding Celtic Christmas Show by the internationally-acclaimed ensemble, Joanie Madden and Cherish the Ladies!

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

The James B. White Performing Arts Center
on the Clearwater Central Catholic High School campus
2750 Haines Bayshore Road
Clearwater, FL 33760



Doors open and the Silent Auction/ Raffles
will be available at 6:00 pm ~ Show time is 7:00 pm



\$35 per person, Open Seating
Proceeds will support the retirement needs
of the Sisters of St. Clare, Eastern U.S. Region