



# The Cord



## The Council

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St. Francis Fraternity  
Hackensack, NJ

**Fraternity Gathering** in Church Hall **Thursday, June 13, at 6:30**

**Initial formation** class will be held at promptly at **5:00 PM** in the Church Hall

**This month we welcome Alessandra, Rosellina and Vivian who will become Inquirers**

**Ongoing Formation: St. Clare of Assisi: Her Writings**

**Current Apostolate:** **SMALL SCHOOL SUPPLIES and CASH** for gift cards begins  
*(No notebooks please!)*

**Sweet reminder:** Lucy Stamilla and Ed Atwood

**Closing Prayer:** Diane Menditto

**Health and Welfare:** Karen Ferrari and fam; Alice LeForest; Polanco fam.; Jim & Eileen Ferrara; Pat Franz; Harry Henky; Rosemary LoCascio; Toni LoSquadro; Angie Mariniello; JoAnn Rean; Fr. John Salvas, OFM Cap.

**Special Intentions:** F. Cavallo; Tumminia family; T. Gassenheimer; K. Ferrari; Pat Moclair; Diane Menditto

**Family Members:** M. Ferrari, D. Ferrari, Fr. Sylvester, Chelsea Rose Ferrara, Fr. Damian, Vincenzo Quasarano, Fr. Pius, Stefani Pedone, Joe Savoia, Sara Tripodi, Karen (Lucy's niece), Charlie Zoccoli, Rosemarie Henky, Franz family, Kathleen McGee (Harry's daughter), Cheyenne Travers; Maureen Cox

**Apostolate of Prayer:** Please pray for those on the **PRAYER LIST** and for their intentions.

**Statue of our Lady** June: Mimma LoMuscio; July: Alessandra Panuccio; **Aug: OPEN**; Sept: Domenica Panuccio; Oct.: Angie Mariniello; Nov: JoAnn Rean; Dec. Frank Cavallo

**BIRTHDAYS:** **June 6:** Laura Buda; Stefani Pedone; **15:** Flora Hand; **30:** Cono Spinelli; **July 6:** Jim Ferrara;

**Correspondence:**

**Mark your calendar:**

- The next **council meeting** is June 24th at 6:30 in the Church Hall
- **June 15:** Cluster initial formation class in Paterson
- **Regional Retreat August 2-4** Reserve early! (Form on region website)
- **September 8:** Brunch
- **September gathering:** Packing school supplies and writing notes
- **September 21:** Formation workshop (Formation directors, teams and all interested)

LOOK

**PLEASE BEGIN TO BRING IN SMALL SCHOOL SUPPLIES (NO NOTEBOOKS) AND CASH DONATIONS TO BUY GIFT CARDS AND COVER POSTAGE.**

*Travel-size toiletries are always needed at the shelter all year-round.*



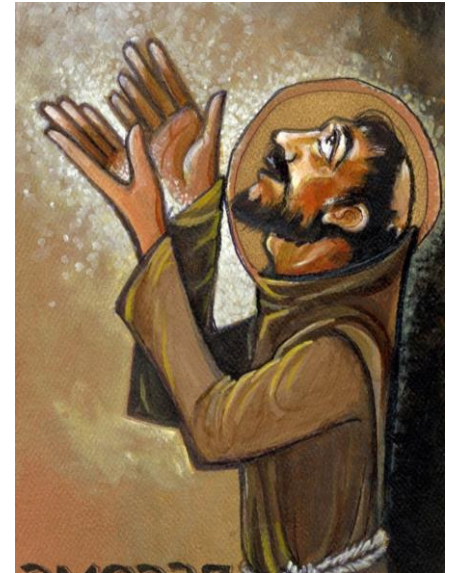
**Prayer from the Ceremony of Introduction and Welcoming**

O Lord our God, you have shown us your wisdom and love, and you have called us to follow you. May Alessandra, Rosellina and Vivian who are inquiring into the Secular Franciscan Order be inspired and strengthened by your grace and the support of this community. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Did you know that...

...In reading the writings of St. Clare, particularly her letters to Agnes of Prague, we find that she offers very few intellectual or practical formulas for making progress in the life of prayer. The most obvious aspect of her prayer: its never-ending fascination with the person of Jesus. Simple as this seems, it underscores the profundity of her understanding of life as a continuous relationship with Christ which expresses itself in unceasing prayer. (Franciscan Intellectual Tradition.)

...it's a great idea to pick an article from the Rule and see how we can live it in our every-day lives. How about Article 5 this month?



**Please keep our Aspirants and our Candidate in your prayers**

<b><u>Common Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Good &amp; Welfare</u></b>	<b><u>Fair Share 2019-2020</u></b>
Balance forward: \$956.58 Income: \$40.00 Expenses \$171.44 (Includes \$100 Fair Share allocation)  Ending Balance \$825.14	Balance forward: \$244.50 Contributions: 26.00 Current balance: \$270.50	Balance forward: \$145.00 Com. Fund Allocation: \$100 Fraternity contributions: 100.00 Current Balance: \$345.00  Still \$45.00 for candidates and professed members

You may contribute toward your 2019 Fair Share at any time.

## Apostolate of Prayer list June 2019

**Holy Father's Intentions for June: The Mode of Life of Priests** That priests, through the modesty and humility of their lives, commit themselves actively to a solidarity with those who are most poor.

John Amato, Sr.	Marie Dragan	Rosemary Jackson	OLTA Region & REC	Frank Spina
Dianne Ambrose	Edwin Fehrs.	Jill	Laura O'Grady	Spinelli Family
Ed Atwood	Ethan Fehrs.	Jill	Brian & Lynn Ortale Fam..	SPIRITUAL FIGURES/LEADERS
Meghan B.	FB friends	John (sp. int.)	PAGE FAMILY INTENTIONS	Sri Lanka terror victims
Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI	Ferraras	Josef	Padre Pio Pr. Grps. Int.	St. Anne's Frat. Ints.
Mary Bittner	Karen Ferrari (sp. int.)	Justin	Marie Palazzone	St. Francis Youth
Bittner Family	FERRARI FAM. INTENTIONS	Kate (sp. int.)	Jan Parker	St. Anthony of Padua Frat Ints
Zoila Blacio	Michael Ferrari	Violetta Kos	Patsy and family	St. Jos. Maint. Dept.
Pete Blake.	Maria Ficken	Susan Ledger	Serafina Pedone	St. Thomas More Frat. ints.
BLESSING BOARD INTS.	Bob & Patty Fitzsimmons	Alice LeForest	Stefani Pedone	Jen Stepanek.
Rita Bloom	Flora's intentions	Paula Leichtman	Maria Pedreiro (family)	Esther Stewart
BOYCE FAMILY INTS.	Robert Fox..	Leonard (Matt)	Josephine Pedulla.	St. John Vianney intents.
Jim and Sunny Brennan	Pope Francis	Licamelli Family intentions	Ron Pihokker	Stigmata Friars
BROS. & SISTS. OF PRAYER	Franz Family	Rosemary LoCascio	John Platti (Linda)	Stigmata Provincial Council
California Fire victims	FRAZZA FAMILY INTS.	Bro. Lombardo (sp. Int.)	Joe Polifrone	Sts. Francis & Clare Fraternity
Carmela Barbieri Buda.	Fr. Dan G.	Guillermo López	POOR CLARE prayer list	Tara Suplicki
Silvio Buda Family.	Gabriel	Toni LoSquadro	PRIESTS, FRIARS & SISTERS	Fr. Sylvester
Pat Cantelmo	Jean Garofalo	Fr. James M.	PUBLIC FIGURES	Syrian Christians and churches
Deacon Ed Case	Trudy Gassenheimer (sp. int.)	Mary M.	Puerto Rico	Tau Cross Region (all ints.)
Sean Case	Genaro and Alicia	Carl Magnifico	Q committee	Cheyenne Travers
Rosalie Cauceglia	Carol Gentile	Kathy Magnifico	Joanne Rean	Silvio & Rachel Travia Family.
Rossana Cavalli	GEORGE FAMILY INTS.	Angie Mariniello	Regina Pacis (all ints.)	William Turner Family.
Rose Cincotta..	Anna and Joe Geraci	Jackie Marlow.	Region sp. Int.	Susan Upshur
Lucille Clapps	Vincent & Maria Giambona, Sr.	Mary Therese and daughter	Ada Rivera's intentions	Marie Vasta (All intentions)
Fr. Damian Colicchio	Paul Gonzalez (family)	Fr. Frank McHugh (sp. int.)	Roman Catholic Church	Victims of abuse
Colleen.	Denise Goodman	John McHugh	Lois and Alyssa Roszko	Victims of floods and hurricanes
Gloria Colombo	Nance Gorni	Ed McManus (family)	Madeline Rousseau (Jerry)	Victims of terrorism
Joe Coralluzzo's ints.	Linda & Tim Griffith	Fr. Meena (Sp. Int)	Joe Ruggiero	Victims of violence & hatred
Mark D.	Carlos & Rosa Guerrero	Middle Eastern Christians	Bro. John Russo	Lois Viola
Lee D'Arminio	Elaine Hedtke	MILITARY: LIVING & DECEASED	Annette Salvadeo	Diane Vitale
May D'Arminio	Harry Henky	Misty's ints.	Fr. John Salvias, OFM Cap.	Danuta W.
P. Davis.	Rosemarie Henky	Pat Moclair ( Sp. Int.)	Baby Sam.	Bill & Carmel Watson Fam.
Dave (Helen)	Ralph & Frances Henry.	MOG lapsed and excused	San Damiano Frat. Ints.	Barbara Robb Whalen..
Deacon Joe's group int.	The Homeless & the Lonely	Mother Seton Grp. Ints.	Pino Scordo.	Kathleen White
Demas Family.	Hospital Intentions	MS intentions	Andrew Shontz.	Anna Z.'s sp. intentions
Diane (Sp. int.)	Immigrant & refugee children	Bill Mulqueen (Anne)	Joe Slachetka (Myke & fam.)	Charlie Zoccoli
+Marie DiDino	Rose Ingoglia	NEC	Pastor Greg Smith (Alayne)	
Divine Mercy Fraternity Ints.	Inquirers, Aspirants & Candidates	Fr. Nick (sp. Int.)	Monica Smith..	
Dolores's Intentions	IPRAY INTENTIONS	NFC	John & Mary Smythe.	
Dorcas	Iraqi and Coptic Christians	James & Lola Norton Fam.	Pat Spana	

### "Rebuild My Church"

We have heard the message of our Lord and Savior just as St. Francis did while praying in front of the San Damiano Cross. And so, we Pray:



IN THE NAME OF  
THE FATHER, Our Creator, THE  
SON, Our Savior,  
THE HOLY SPIRIT, Our Sanctifier ...

ABBA, FATHER! Thank You for the gift of our life and the wonders of Your creation.

We ask You to inflame the hearts of our brothers and sisters, especially the young, to "Seek Your Face."

LORD JESUS, You are our Shepherd. We thank You for showing us the way, for taking up the cross and conquering death. May we have the grace necessary to take up Your cross

in order to bring back the members of our Catholic family who have strayed from the church.

O HOLY SPIRIT, may we be strengthened by the knowledge that You will always be with us.

We pray for Our Holy Father, the clergy, religious and lay people.

Inspire and strengthen all of us so that through our prayers, love and sacrifices, we may be able to reach out to our brothers and sisters and bring them back to the fold.

Only with Your help can we Rebuild Your Church so that, united, we may praise You forever.

We ask all this through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, St. Francis, St. Clare and all Your Saints. Amen

**St. Clare's Second Letter to Agnes of Prague** (*Please take some time to read and meditate on this letter. Bring it with you to this month's gathering.*)

Agnes of Prague was a princess who, although she received many offers of marriage, remained a virgin. In 1232 she obtained property from her brother for the erection of a hospice, which she built and turned over to the administration of the Crosiers of the Red Star. She also obtained land for a convent to house the "Poor Ladies" and a residence to satisfy the needs of the Lesser Brothers who would act as chaplains. When the building was completed, Agnes wrote to Clare and the Holy See, asking permission to establish the Order of St. Damian in Prague and requesting sisters from Italy for the purpose.

Many of the writings we have from St. Clare were letters she wrote to Agnes (whom she never met in person) encouraging her in her spiritual life. We only have Clare's letters, those written in reply by Agnes have been lost.

By reading Clare's letters, we hear her voice across the ages and become aware of her spirituality and her influence on our lives as Franciscans.

**The Second Letter to Agnes of Prague (1235)**

<sup>1</sup>To the daughter *of the King of kings*, the servant *of the Lord of lords*, <sup>Rv 19:16</sup> the most worthy spouse of Jesus Christ, <sup>Lk 17:10</sup> and, therefore, the most noble Queen, Lady Agnes, <sup>2</sup>Clare, *the useless* and unworthy handmaid of the Poor Ladies, greetings and may you always live in the highest poverty.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>3</sup>I give thanks to the Giver of grace from Whom, we believe, every good *and perfect gift proceeds*, <sup>Jas 1:17</sup> because He has adorned you with such great titles of virtue and decorated you with signs of such perfection, <sup>4</sup>that, since you have become such a loving imitator *of the Father of all perfection*, <sup>Mt 5:48</sup> you might be made perfect and that there might be no imperfection in you for His eyes to see.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>5</sup>This is that perfection with which that King will join you to Himself in the heavenly bridal chamber where He is seated in glory on a starry throne,<sup>c</sup> <sup>6</sup>because you have despised the splendor of an earthly kingdom and considered of little value the offers of an imperial marriage. <sup>7</sup>Instead, as someone zealous for the holiest poverty, in a spirit of great humility and the most ardent love, you have held fast *to the footprints* <sup>1 Pt 2:21</sup> of Him to Whom you merited to be joined in marriage.

<sup>8</sup>But since I know that you are filled with virtues, I will spare my words and not burden you with needless speech, <sup>9</sup>even though nothing seems superfluous to you if you can draw from it some consolation. <sup>10</sup>But because *one thing is necessary*, <sup>Lk 10:42</sup> I bear witness to that one thing and encourage you, for love of Him to Whom you have offered yourself as *a holy* and pleasing *sacrifice*, <sup>Rom 12:1</sup>

<sup>11</sup>that you always be mindful of your commitment<sup>a</sup> *like another Rachel* always seeing your beginning.<sup>b</sup>

What you hold, may you hold,

What you do, may you do and not stop.

<sup>12</sup>*But with swift pace, light step, unswerving feet,*

so that even your steps stir up no dust,<sup>c</sup>

<sup>13</sup>*may you go forward*

securely, joyfully, and swiftly,

on the path of prudent happiness,

<sup>14</sup>*believing nothing,*

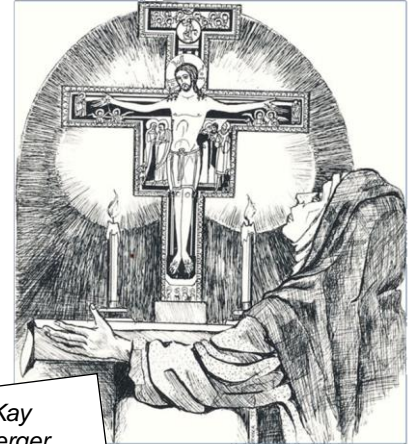
agreeing with nothing  
that would dissuade you from this commitment  
*or would place a stumbling block* for you on the way,  
so that nothing prevents you from *offering*  
*your vows to the Most High* in the perfection  
to which the Spirit of the Lord has called you.<sup>d</sup>

<sup>15</sup>In all of this, follow the counsel of our venerable father, our Brother Elias, the Minister General, that you may walk more securely in the way of the commands of the Lord.<sup>e16</sup>Prize it beyond the advice of the others and cherish it as dearer to you than any gift. <sup>17</sup>If anyone has said anything else to you or suggested any other thing to you that might hinder your perfection or that would seem contrary to your  
divine vocation, even though you must respect him, do not follow his counsel.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>18</sup>*But as a poor virgin*  
embrace the poor Christ.

<sup>19</sup>*Look upon Him Who became contemptible for you,*  
and follow Him, making yourself contemptible in this world  
for Him.

<sup>20</sup>*Most noble Queen,*  
gaze,  
consider,  
contemplate  
desiring to imitate Your Spouse,



Artist: Sr. Kay  
Frances Berger,  
OSF

*[Who] though more beautiful than the children of men* became, for your salvation, the lowest of men, was despised, struck, scourged untold times throughout His entire body, and then died amid the suffering of the Cross.

<sup>21</sup>*If you suffer with Him, you will reign with Him.*  
weeping with Him, you will rejoice with Him;  
*dying* on the cross of tribulation *with Him,*  
you will possess heavenly mansions with Him  
*among the splendor of the saints*

<sup>22</sup>and *in the Book of Life* your name will be called glorious among  
the peoples.

<sup>23</sup>Because of this you shall share always and forever the glory of the kingdom of heaven in place of what is earthly and passing, and everlasting treasures instead of those that perish, and you shall live forever and ever.

<sup>24</sup>Farewell, most dear Sister and Lady, because of the Lord, your Spouse; <sup>25</sup>*commend* me and my sisters *to the Lord* in your fervent prayers, for we rejoice in the good things the Lord works in you through His grace. <sup>26</sup>Remember us warmly to your sisters as well.

\*\*\*\*\*If you would like to read all four letters, you may do so on this excellent website—**The Franciscan Intellectual Tradition**

<https://www.franciscantradition.org/clare-of-assisi-early-documents/the-second-letter-to-agnes-of-prague/223-ca-ed-1-page-47>