



"See Christ,
Be Christ,
Share the Vision"

Immaculate Conception Fraternity

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Mishawaka, IN 46546

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sa.org](http://immaculateconceptionsfousa.org)

Fraternity Council

Linda O'Neil, OFS, Minister
Cindy Pilot, OFS, Vice Minister
Frank Vargo, OFS, Formation
Pam Walerko, OFS, Secretary
Sue Daly, OFS, Treasurer

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Contact: Frank Vargo, OFS

Librarian/Archivists:
John Cheeseman, OFS

and

Immaculate Conception Fraternity

Mishawaka, IN

[Francis'] highest aim, foremost desire . . . to follow the teaching
of our Lord Jesus Christ and to retrace His footsteps
completely . . . (FA:ED, Vol. 1, p. 254)"



August 13, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

"Christ, the gift of the Father's love, is the way to him, the truth into which the Holy Spirit leads us, and the life which he has come to give abundantly. Secular Franciscans should devote themselves especially to careful reading of the gospel, going from gospel to life and life to gospel (RULE, Chapter 2: #4)."

Here are some important updates for you:

1. **BIDING FAREWELL:** During the past week, Chris and Sarah Beiting, OFS, have completed their move to Forest City, Iowa. Their last moments here in the area were marked by their cat's "hide and seek" antics". Chris's last memo revealed the following last minute antics of the four legged critter: *"Shortly after sending you the last email, the cat crawled out of her hidey hole to check on us. While Sarah distracted her, I walked up the hiding spot. So, she finally had nowhere to hide! I even managed to get her to take one of her Mickey Finn pills by crushing it in some tuna water. Alas, that didn't help—Sarah says she fussed all the way to Iowa. But we're all here, safe and exhausted."* Their new home address is 445 South Clark Street, Forest City, Iowa. Thanks for your presence among us, Chris and Sarah, know that you will be greatly missed and you always be greatly loved.
2. **WEBSITE:** Please treat yourself to our emerging website — the fruits of labor and love by Cynthia Nikolai, OFS, one of our Candidates. Little by little, Cindy is adding the information needed and that we would like to have available to us. The first page is very much in progress and you may check it out at this web-address:

<https://www.immaculateconceptionsfousa.org/>

Cindy is working from the East Coast where she is caring for her parents, teaching, and working on our lovely website. She has been helped by a dear friend of hers, Jane Lockhart, who put the wireframes together. Check back from time to time as new information, photos, and other connections are added. This is promising to be a website to be proud of and which will be an inspiration to many.
3. **AUGUST GATHERING:** As announced by Linda O'Neal, an August gathering will take place on August 15 at St. Thomas Church in Elkhart. Please refer to Linda's letter for details. The rules for wearing a mask, social distancing, and bringing your own food apply, as well as non-attendance if you are not feeling well or are at risk health wise.
4. **FORMATION CLASSES:** are not allowing the pandemic to keep them from growing and deepening in the formation of the Franciscan life. They have mastered the art of ZOOM and are continuing their journey. Thanks to their Formators for the extra work involved with setting up the classes and I'm sure the blessings of St. Francis are with you for your generous gift to the Franciscan Order.

"The family that prays together and plays together stays together".

Sarah Belisle, OFS

Activities Coordinator:
Sue Daly, OFS, and Team:
Ruthie Carrillo, Jenny and
Jeremy Hunter, Mary Jane
Chase.

Women of Hope:
Coordinator: Sue Daly, OFS,

HOSPITALITY DESK:
Ray Daly
Jerry Harker, OFS
Sarah Belisle, OFS

REFRESHMENTS:
Anita Harker, OFS, and
Team

Thanks and God bless to early arrivals who help with windows, doors, passing out papers, etc. etc. You are a priceless gem to any fraternity!

Same for those who "tear down" and clean up at the end! You, too, are gift to fraternity!

Everyone in our Franciscan family should be helping somewhere, somehow. Where are you showing your helping hands?

3. **ST. FRANCIS CONVENT** is looking for a full time dish washer for heavy pots, pans, and kitchen ware. Requires mopping kitchen floor and delivering food to food serving areas. Ten days in a two week period including every other weekend. Hours are 7:00 a.m. — 3:30 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. — 7:00 p.m. Contact Sr. Jennifer at 574.259.4327 for application.

4. **PRAYER INTENTIONS:**

- ◆ Tim Short: Prayer to St. Blasé for healing of throat issues.
- ◆ Sandy and Charlie Maichen for ongoing health problems.
- ◆ Teachers, students and parents facing "back to school" difficulties and painful decisions due to the pandemic: may their decisions protect the health of each and every young person and faculty member.
- ◆ For those searching for an effective and safe vaccine, that their efforts may bear fruit for the health of the entire world.
- ◆ For doctors, nurses, and front line workers and their safety and protection.
- ◆ For the police officers and fire personnel protecting our cities: may they be protected from harm.
- ◆ That those causing unrest, violence, and mayhem in our cities may be brought to both interior and exterior peace as well as to justice.
- ◆ As peacemakers, may we Franciscans be on the front lines of offering to others what St. Francis asks us to do. Namely, "Wherever you are, greet each other with 'The Lord give you peace' ."
- ◆ For all those persons in leadership positions in the Church, in the world, in our country: may the Wisdom of the Holy Spirit guide them for the good, the health, and the safety of all those in their care.
- ◆ For all the members of our families who may be suffering in any way.
- ◆ That we may recall that "all lives matter" from conception until natural death and that the "culture of death" may be eradicated in all its forms.
- ◆ For our faithful departed brothers and sisters: may they rest in the peaceful arms of the Lord of Life.



"To see beyond an image, to hear beyond a sound, to smell beyond an odor, to taste without tongue, and to touch without contact; those actions open the doors of contemplation. To know questions, not answers, to reach in and reach out, contemplation seeks to encounter the deepest part of the Other – and the Self – where boundaries blur and the heart opens completely to Love. "

(Today's One Word is a reflection in homage to St. Clare of Assisi, and an attempt to share my deepest respect, admiration, and love for all of my Poor Clare Sisters, who spend their lives in contemplation. Fr. Jack Clark Robinson, OFM)."

*Love Him totally
who gave Himself totally for your love.*

St. Clare of Assisi

August 2-11, 2019
Novena and Solemnity of St. Clare

*Dear Sue & Immaculate Conception
Fraternity*

During our August 2-10 novena and her solemnity, August 11, we ask our Holy Mother St. Clare's intercession for all the intentions closest to your heart. Although we are not able to have a public novena this year, the list of needs we place in our seraphic Mother's care is weightier than ever: an end to the pandemic; a return to respect for the dignity of each person; wisdom in our November elections and a healing of so many divisions, whether between nations, in families or within the Church.

We are happy to share that Ruthann entered as an aspirant on August 2. Please pray for her and us!

A blessed feast of St. Clare,

Mother Miriam

and your Kokomo Poor Clare Sisters

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Due to the pandemic, we in Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity could not meet for our annual Unity Day — something we all look forward to each year. During that time we always take up a collection for our fraternal Sisters of St. Clare in Kokomo. Our Immaculate Conception Fraternity Council approved a donation to the sisters and these notes reflect the gratitude of Mother Miriam and our Poor Clare Sisters.



God love & bless you for
your \$100 donation! We
ask our Mother St. Clare to
share her love of the holy
Eucharist with each of
you. Gratefully and
Prayerfully,

A wonderful, humorous, delightful letter from our Chris Beiting. Just had to share it with you!

Well, Sr. Agnes,

You're probably the only person I know who'll appreciate this.

Things have been going so smoothly with the move, I've been waiting for the second shoe to drop, and today I guess it did. We moved our stuff into the new place, and got a double whammy— several pieces of furniture got destroyed or damaged in the move, and there was a leak in the trailer, soaking some boxes of books.

To my horror, one was the box labeled "Books, Franciscan". Once I found it was wet, I ripped it open at once, thinking, 'Not the three-volume collection of sources in hardback! Not that! Anything but that!!!'

The good news was — spared! Plus Index and the St. Clare companion volume as well. YAY!

But . . . the old one volume Marion Habig "Omnibus of Sources" got wet.

And worse . . . my Franciscan Book of Saints got wet!

You know, the one with the Kelly Freas Illustrations?

Aaaagh!

Oh, the humanity ! Oh, the Franciscanity!

The Habig I could survive without, but the Book of Saints? Nooooooooooooo.....

On the upside, neither book got too wet, so if I let 'em dry off, maybe in a hot car. I'm hopeful I can save 'em. Or maybe I could find a friendly librarian with the conservation resources of a university library. Hmm, where could I find one of those, I wonder?

Pax et bonum

Chris Beiting

Note from the Editor: this enjoyable missive came from our brother Chris Beiting — a "hard core" Franciscan if there ever was one. And for those of you who might not know this detail, the "friendly librarian" to whom he refers is his lovely and precious wife, Sarah, who has accepted that kind of position at a college there in Iowa. Moving anywhere is never easy, so it's a hallmark of Franciscan joy to see some humor in what goes seemingly upside down.