



# *Saint Clare Fraternity*

# *The Clarion*

**MAY 2017**

## **MINISTER'S MESSAGE**

*May is a special month in which we honor Our Blessed Mother! St. Clare Fraternity is sponsoring a May crowning at the beginning of the 10:00 Mass on the first Sunday of May.*

*The following Sunday is our fraternity meeting where we will review the history of the Franciscan Crown Rosary, and then we will pray the seven-decade rosary. St. Francis had a special love for Our Lady, who is patroness of our secular order.*

*Please come to one or both of the events and show our love for the Mother of Jesus and our spiritual mother. We look forward to seeing you then.*

*Let us keep each other in prayer.*

*Pax et bonum  
Sue*



**H**ail, holy Lady,  
most holy Queen,  
Mary, Mother of God,  
ever Virgin.  
You were chosen by the Most High  
Father in heaven,  
consecrated by Him,  
with His most Holy Beloved Son and  
the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.  
On you descended  
and still remains all the fullness  
of grace and every good.  
Hail, His Palace.  
Hail His Tabernacle.  
Hail His Robe.  
Hail His Handmaid.  
Hail, His Mother.  
and Hail, all holy Virtues,  
who, by grace and inspiration  
of the Holy Spirit,  
are poured into the hearts  
of the faithful  
so that from their  
faithless state,  
they may be made  
faithful servants of God  
through you.

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI,  
"Prayer to Mary  
the Mother of Jesus,"**

**ST CLARE FRATERNITY**  
241 St. Clare Drive  
Crowley, TX 76036

### **FRATERNITY OFFICERS**

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**Regular Meetings - Second Sunday of the Month  
Starting at 2 pm in the St Francis Village Chapel**

*Please feel free to bring a snack – if you are not able – come anyway as there is always plenty.*

**Council Meetings – Second Sunday of the Month – Starting at 12:30 pm in the St Francis Village TV Room**

**Formation Meetings – Second & Third Saturdays of the Month – Starting at 10 am in St Francis Village Dining Room**



## MONTH OF MARY

The month of May is the "month which the piety of the faithful has especially dedicated to Our Blessed Lady," and it is the occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world [pay] to the Queen of Heaven. During this month Christians, both in church and in the privacy of the home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, too, the benefits of God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance" (Paul VI: Encyclical on the [Month of May](#), no. 1).

This Christian custom of dedicating the month of May to the Blessed Virgin arose at the end of the 13th century. In this way, the Church was able to Christianize the secular feasts which were wont to take place at that time. In the 16th century, books appeared and fostered this devotion.

The practice became especially popular among the members of the Jesuit Order — by 1700 it took hold among their students at the Roman College and a bit later it was publicly practiced in the Gesu Church in Rome. From there it spread to the whole Church.

The practice was granted a partial indulgence by Pius VII in 1815 and a plenary indulgence by Pius IX in 1859. With the complete revision of indulgences in 1966 and the decreased emphasis on specific indulgences, it no longer carries an indulgence; however it certainly falls within the category of the First General Grant of Indulgences. (*A partial indulgence* is granted to the faithful who, in the performance of their duties and in bearing the trials of life, raise their mind with humble confidence to God, adding — even if only mentally — some pious invocation.

Excerpted from *Enchiridion of Indulgences*.

### The Month of Mary and the Popes

The pious practice of honoring Mary during the month of May has been especially recommended by the Popes. Pius XII made frequent reference to it and in his great Encyclical *on the Sacred Liturgy (Mediator Dei)* characterized it as one of "other exercises of piety which although not strictly belonging to the Sacred Liturgy, are nevertheless of special import and dignity, and may be considered in a certain way to be an addition to the liturgical cult: they have been approved and praised over and over again by the Apostolic See and by the Bishops" (no. 182).

Paul VI wrote a short encyclical in 1965 using the [Month of Mary](#) devotion as a means of obtaining prayers for peace. He urged the faithful to make use of this practice which is "gladdening and consoling" and by which the Blessed Virgin Mary is honored and the Christian people are enriched with spiritual gifts" (no. 2).

In May of 2002 Pope John Paul II said, "Today we begin the month dedicated to Our Lady a favorite of popular devotion. In accord with a long-standing tradition of devotion, parishes and families continue to make the month of May a 'Marian' month, celebrating it with many devout liturgical, catechetical and pastoral initiatives!"

Excerpt from *Catholic Culture* at [https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/05\\_1.cfm](https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/05_1.cfm)





## Devotion to Mary

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the Mother of the Church and therefore the example, as well as the guide and inspiration, of everyone who, in and through the Church, seeks to be the servant of God and man and the obedient agent of the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit, as Pope Leo XIII reminded us, is the soul of the Church: All the activity and service of the members of the Church, beginning with the supreme participation of the Blessed Mother in the work of the Church, is vivified by the Holy Spirit as the body, in all its activities, is vivified by its soul. The Holy Spirit is the Paraclete, Advocate, and Comforter which Christ Himself sent to be our consolation in the sorrowful mysteries of life, our source of moderation in the joyful mysteries of life, our added principle of exaltation in the glorious mysteries of life.

So He was for the Blessed Mother; so also He is for the least of us; so also He is for the rest of the Church, even for those who are its unconscious but conscientious members.

Wherever there is faith there is the example of Mary, because she lived by faith as the Scriptures remind us....

If, then, piety is the virtue which binds us to the sources of all life, to God, to our parents, to the Church, to Christ, certainly Christian piety binds us, in grateful love, to Mary — or our acceptance of Christ and of the mystery of our kinship with Him is imperfect, partial, and unfulfilled.

— *Cardinal John Wright*

*Excerpt from Catholic Culture at*

[https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/05\\_1.cfm](https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/05_1.cfm)

### An Act of Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Mary, Mother of God and Virgin, I choose thee this day for my queen, patron, and advocate, and firmly resolve and purpose never to abandon thee, never to say or do anything against thee, nor to permit that aught be done by others to dishonor thee. Receive me, then, I conjure thee, as thy perpetual servant; assist me in all my actions, and do not abandon me at the hour of my death. Amen. — *St. John Berchmans*

### Devotions to the Mother of God

*Regina Coeli (Queen of Heaven)*

*The Rosary*

*Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
(Litany of Loretto)*

*The Brown Scapular*  
-- Fr. William G. Most

### Marian Documents

*Act of Consecration of the World  
to the Immaculate Heart of Mary*  
— John Paul II

*Act of Entrustment to the  
Blessed Virgin Mary*

*On Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary  
(Marialis Cultus)* — Paul IV

*On Reciting The Rosary (Ingruentium  
Malorum)* — Pius XII

*St. Louis de Montfort's Consecration to  
Mary* — Fr. William G. Most

*The Necessity and Extent of Devotion to  
Mary* — Fr. William G. Most

*The Holy Spirit And Mary*  
— Dwight P. Campbell





## Mary and Our Spiritual Life

In our observance of the Marian month we should take into account the season of the Liturgical Year which largely corresponds with the fifty days of Easter. Our pious exercises could emphasize Our Lady's participation in the Paschal mystery and in Pentecost with which the Church begins. The pious exercises connected with the month of May can easily highlight the earthly role played by the glorified Queen of Heaven, here and now, in the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. The following practices which are recommended by the Magisterium are offered as suggestions for honoring Our Lady during Her month.

 **The Regina Coeli** - The ecclesial community addresses this antiphon to Mary for the Resurrection of her Son. It adverts to, and depends on, the invitation to joy addressed by Gabriel to the Lord's humble servant who was called to become the Mother of the saving Messiah.

 **The Rosary** - Also called the Psalter of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Rosary is one of the most excellent prayers to the Mother of God. Thus, "the Roman Pontiffs have repeatedly exhorted the faithful to the frequent recitation of this biblically inspired prayer which is centered on contemplation of the salvific events of Christ's life, and their close association with the Virgin Mother."

 **Litanies of the Blessed Virgin Mary** - These consist of a long series of invocations to Our Lady, which follow in a uniform rhythm, thereby creating a stream of prayer characterized by insistent praise and supplication.

 **Consecration and Entrustment to Mary** - The Roman Pontiffs have frequently expressed appreciation for the pious practice of "consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary" and the formulas publicly used by them are well known. Louis Grignion de Montfort is one of the great masters of the spirituality underlying the act of "consecration to Mary". He "proposed to the faithful consecration to Jesus through Mary, as an effective way of living out their baptismal commitment."

 **The Brown Scapular and other Scapulars** - The scapular is an external sign of the filial relationship established between the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Mount Carmel, and the faithful who entrust themselves totally to her protection, who have recourse to her maternal intercession, who are mindful of the primacy of the spiritual life and the need for prayer.

 **Medals** - These are witnesses of faith and a sign of veneration of the Holy Mother of God, as well as of trust in her maternal protection. The Church blesses such objects of Marian devotion in the belief that "they help to remind the faithful of the love of God, and to increase trust in the Blessed Virgin Mary."

 **The "Akathistos" - Hymn** In the Byzantine tradition, one of the oldest and most revered expressions of Marian devotion is the hymn of the "Akathistos" — meaning the hymn sung while standing. It is a literary and theological masterpiece, encapsulating in the form of a prayer, the universally held Marian belief of the primitive Church.

Excerpted from the *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy*

Excerpt from *Catholic Culture* at [https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/05\\_1.cfm](https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/05_1.cfm)



## FOCUS FOR THE MONTH - *The Litany of Loretto*

[The Litany of the Blessed Virgin](#) – also called the Litany of Loreto—is one of the many Marian litanies, or praises of Mary, composed during the Middle Ages. The place of honor it now holds, in the life of the Church, is due its faithful use at the shrine of the Holy House at Loreto, which, according to tradition, was the small cottage-like home where the Holy Family had lived and which was miraculously transported by angels, in 1291, from the Holy Land to its present location in Loreto. It was definitely recommended by Pope Clement VII and approved by Sixtus V in 1587, and all other Marian litanies were suppressed, at least for public use.

Its forty-nine titles (fifty, or fifty-one, or even more, in some versions: with "Mother of the Church" and "Mother of Mercy" and being the 'official' 'newcomers' in recent times and which are included on the Vatican website version) and invocations set before us Mary's exalted privileges, her holiness of life, her amiability and power, her motherly spirit and queenly majesty. Reflection on the titles of the litany, therefore, will unfold before us a magnificent picture of our heavenly Mother, even though we know little about her life.

In form, the Litany of Loreto is composed on a fixed plan common to several Marian litanies already in existence during the second half of the fifteenth century, which in turn are connected with a notable series of Marian litanies that began to appear in the twelfth century and became numerous in the thirteenth and fourteenth. The Loreto text had, however, the good fortune to be adopted in the famous shrine, and in this way to become known, more than any other, to the many pilgrims who flocked there during the sixteenth century. The text was brought home to the various countries of Christendom, and finally it received for all time the supreme ecclesiastical sanction.

Sixtus V, who had entertained a singular devotion for Loreto, by the Bull "Redditori" of 11 July, 1587, gave formal approval to it, as to the litany of the Holy Name of Jesus, and recommended preachers everywhere to propagate its use among the faithful.

Excerpted from [The History of the Litany of Our Lady](#)

Excerpt from *Catholic Culture at*

[https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/05\\_1.cfm](https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/05_1.cfm)

## Franciscan Connections

### NATIONAL FRATERNITY SFO

<https://www.nafra-sfo.org/>

### LOS TRES CAMPAÑEROS REGIONAL

<http://lostrescompaneros.org/>

### INTERNATIONAL FRATERNITY

<http://www.ciofs.org/>

### FRANCISCAN RULE

<https://www.nafra-sfo.org/OFSrule.html>

### GENERAL CONSTITUTIONS

<https://www.nafra-sfo.org/GC2000.doc>

### NAFRA STATUTES

[https://www.nafra-sfo.org/OFS\\_National\\_Statutes\\_FINAL\\_07\\_24\\_13\\_OFS\\_withSignatures.pdf](https://www.nafra-sfo.org/OFS_National_Statutes_FINAL_07_24_13_OFS_withSignatures.pdf)

### NAFRA GUIDELINES

<https://www.nafra-sfo.org/NationalOFSGuidelines/>

### TAU – USA (WINTER 2016)

[https://www.nafra-sfo.org/tau-usa/articles/winter16/Issue\\_Num\\_90\\_winter\\_16.pdf](https://www.nafra-sfo.org/tau-usa/articles/winter16/Issue_Num_90_winter_16.pdf)

### ALL THINGS FRANCISCAN

[http://www.dmoz.org/Society/Religion\\_and\\_Spirituality/Christianity/People/Saints/F/Saint\\_Francis\\_of\\_Assisi/](http://www.dmoz.org/Society/Religion_and_Spirituality/Christianity/People/Saints/F/Saint_Francis_of_Assisi/)

### THE FRANCISCAN ARCHIVE

<https://franciscan-archive.org/index2.html>

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ST. CLARE'S FRATERNITY



## Franciscan Calendar – May – The Month of Mary

01. Saint Joseph the Worker
02. Saint Athanasius
03. Saints Philip & James
04. Blessed Michael Giedroyc
05. Saint Hilary of Arles
06. Saints Marian & James
07. Saint Rose Venerini
08. Saint Peter of Tarentaise
09. Saint John of Avila
10. Saint Damien de Veuster of Moloka'i
11. Saint Ignatius of Laconi
12. Saint Nereus & Achilleus
13. Our Lady of Fatima

**Formation Meeting – Dining Room @ 10 am**

14. Saint Matthias

**Council Meeting – TV Room @ 12:30 pm**

**Fraternity Meeting – Chapel @ 2 pm**

15. Saint Isidore the Farmer
16. Saint Margaret of Cortona
17. Saint Paschal Baylon
18. Saint John I
19. Saint Theophilus of Corte
20. Saint Bernardine of Siena

**Formation Meeting – Dining Room @ 10 am**

21. Saint Cristóbal Magallanes & Companions
22. Saint Rita of Casia
23. Saint Gregory VII
24. Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi
25. Saint Bede the Venerable
26. Saint Philip Neri
27. Saint Augustine of Canterbury
28. Venerable Pierre Toussaint
29. Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat
30. Saint Joan of Arc
31. Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary



### CANDIDATES (GRP #1)

The Candidates next formation class will be Sat May 13, at 10 AM in the dining room. We will be reviewing two chapters in the Franciscan Journey book - Chapters 24-25 - The Gift of Work, and In their Family - pages 258-268.

### NEW CANDIDATES (GRP #2)

The Candidates next formation class will be Sat May 20, at 10 AM in the dining room. We will be reviewing Chapter 11, The SFO Rule beginning on page 122 in the Franciscan Journey book.

### WELCOME NEWCOMERS

God bless you all as you start your Franciscan journey and discernment.

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The bread you store up belongs to the hungry; the cloak that lies in your chest belongs to the naked; the gold you have hidden in the ground belongs to the poor." ~ St. Basil the Great.

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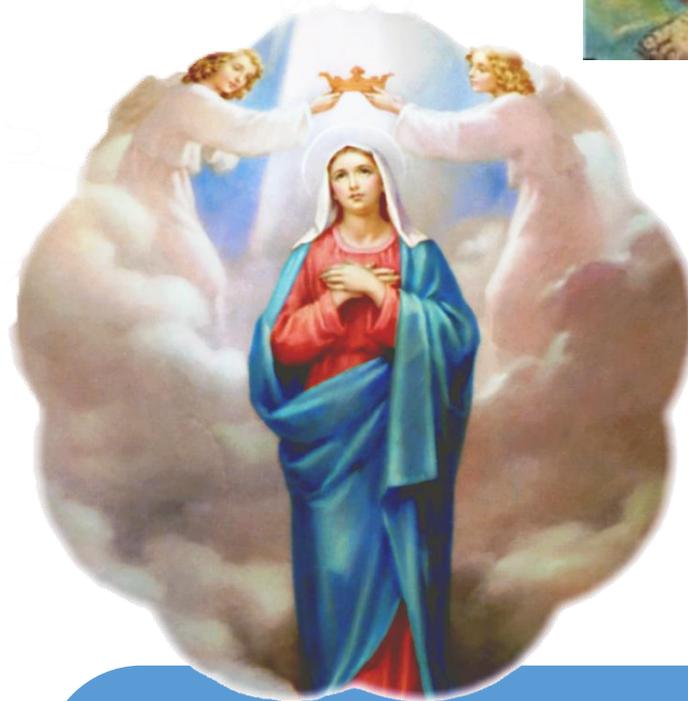
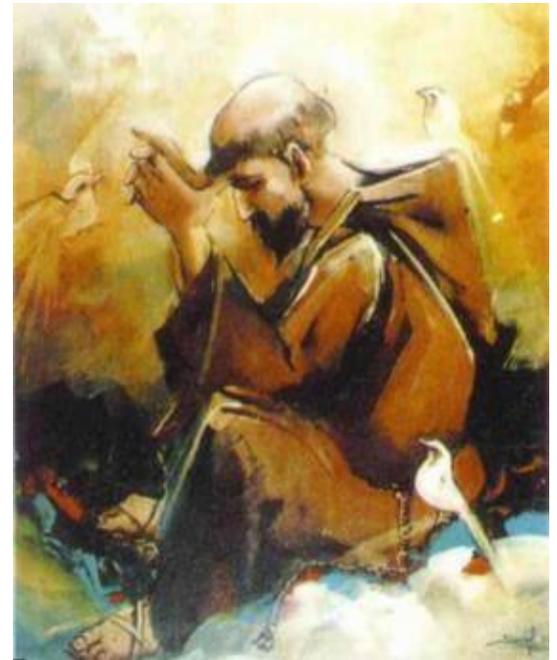


PRAYERS FOR  
OUR SICK

Margaret Aldrich  
Richard Block  
Chuck Brewer  
Dayle Brewer  
Howard Covey  
Fr. Ricardo Duffy  
Ann Felton  
Frances Hudson  
Al Kelsey  
Br. Lester Kochlin  
Jo Kuffel  
Fr. Lambert Leykam  
Fr. Bob Leonhardt  
Ellie Markovich  
Mary Mazotti  
Bob Palmer  
Diana Gutierrez Pierson  
Hulda Sellingsloh  
Vickie Stanford  
Vince Staszak  
Carol Sweeney  
Betty Tighe  
Louise Traylor, and  
Mary Wallace.

ALSO PLEASE REMEMBER

Catherine Khalid is in  
Waterford Nursing Home,  
6799 Granbury Road  
And Francis Hudson is in  
Garden Terrace,  
7500 Oakmont.



*Let us give ourselves to the Immaculata [Mary]. Let her prepare us, let her receive Him [Jesus] in Holy Communion. This is the manner most perfect and pleasing to the Lord Jesus and brings great fruit to us." Because "the Immaculata knows the secret, how to unite ourselves totally with the heart of the Lord Jesus... We do not limit ourselves in love. We want to love the Lord Jesus with her heart, or rather that she would love the Lord with our heart.*

*- St. Maximillian Kolbe*



## THE LORETO LITANIES

Lord have mercy.  
Christ have mercy.  
Lord have mercy.  
Christ hear us.  
Christ graciously hear us.

God, the Father of heaven,  
**have mercy on us.**

God the Son, Redeemer of the  
world,  
God the Holy Spirit,  
Holy Trinity, one God,

Holy Mary,  
**pray for us.**  
Holy Mother of God,  
Holy Virgin of virgins,  
Mother of Christ,  
Mother of the Church,  
Mother of divine grace,  
Mother most pure,  
Mother most chaste,  
Mother inviolate,  
Mother undefiled,  
Mother most amiable,  
Mother admirable,  
Mother of good counsel,  
Mother of our Creator,  
Mother of our Saviour,  
Mother of mercy,  
Virgin most prudent,  
Virgin most venerable,  
Virgin most renowned,  
Virgin most powerful,  
Virgin most merciful,  
Virgin most faithful,  
Mirror of justice,  
Seat of wisdom,  
Cause of our joy,  
Spiritual vessel,  
Vessel of honour,  
Singular vessel of devotion,

Mystical rose,  
Tower of David,  
Tower of ivory,  
House of gold,  
Ark of the covenant,

Gate of heaven,  
Morning star,  
Health of the sick,  
Refuge of sinners,  
Comfort of the afflicted,  
Help of Christians,  
Queen of Angels,  
Queen of Patriarchs,  
Queen of Prophets,  
Queen of Apostles,  
Queen of Martyrs,  
Queen of Confessors,  
Queen of Virgins,  
Queen of all Saints,  
Queen conceived without  
original sin,  
Queen assumed into heaven,  
Queen of the most holy  
Rosary,  
Queen of families,  
Queen of peace.

Lamb of God, who takest  
away the sins of the world,  
**spare us, O Lord.**

Lamb of God, who takest  
away the sins of the world,  
**graciously hear us, O Lord.**

Lamb of God, who takest  
away the sins of the world,  
**have mercy on us.**

Pray for us, O holy Mother of  
God.  
**That we may be made  
worthy of the promises of  
Christ.**

Let us pray.  
Grant, we beseech thee,  
O Lord God,  
that we, your servants,  
may enjoy perpetual health of mind  
and body;  
and by the intercession of the  
Blessed Mary, ever Virgin,  
may be delivered from present  
sorrow,  
and obtain eternal joy.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

