



Christmas 2012

*“Look . . . at the poverty of Him who was placed in a manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes. O marvelous humility! O astonishing poverty! The King of angels, the Lord of heaven and earth is laid in a manger!” (Lk 2:7)
— Clare’s 4th Letter to Agnes of Prague (4LAg 19-21)*



Peace and Blessings to All our Friends and Family,

May our loving God bless each of you and your families this Advent and Christmas season as we journey together and await the birth of Jesus. We have much to be grateful for, and much to pray for, given the events of these past months.

We write to you as our country continues to deal with the after-effects of Hurricane Sandy. We pray that all those affected will have the resources they need during this time to heal and to rebuild. We also pray for eternal rest for all those who lost their lives, and comfort for those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

Our 800th Anniversary celebrations concluded on August 11 with the Feast of St. Clare Mass at St. Clement’s Parish here in Cincinnati. We are grateful to all who helped to make our year-long celebrations so grace filled. In these past 22+ years here in Cincinnati, we have come to know so many of you, and, as we pray for all the needs and intentions of our world, we share our life of prayer and contemplation with you.



Fr. Jeff Scheeler, ofm, presides at Mass



Friends and benefactors fill St. Clement’s Church



We sing the blessing of St. Clare to all

Since our last letter, we have had a few special visitors to the Monastery. In July, Sr. Teresa, a Poor Clare from our Jeju Island, South Korea Monastery, arrived and spent three months with us. Also in July, composer Cathy Tisel Nelson came to the Monastery and taught us one of her Clare songs – “Chiara Lumen Christi.” A recording of this song is featured in our YouTube slideshow presentation of our 800th Anniversary Mass (check it out at poorclaresincincinnati.org). In September, Bishop Binzer presided at Mass and visited with us.



Sr. Teresa from Jeju Island carries the relic of St. Clare



Composer Cathy Tisel Nelson visited and we learned a new St. Clare hymn



Bishop Binzer presided at Mass on September 21, 2012

On October 6, we held our 9th annual **Run for the Nuns** at Harbor Point in Winton Woods. It turned out to be a beautiful day, albeit a little chilly for those cheering on the walkers and runners. We thank our sponsors, coordinators, volunteers, and especially the participants for making this such a fun-filled family event.



Runners and Walkers begin. . .



Runners and Walkers making good time. . .



Participants await awards and prizes. . .

We have had many faithful sponsors and supporters of the **Run** throughout the past nine years, and we thank you for your generosity. But recently, possibly because of the difficult financial times, we have seen a drop in sponsorship. As a result, we have decided it is time to turn our energies in other directions for development. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue our discernment process.

Our Community Retreat this year was led by Fr. Tom Hartle, ofm. On the last day of the retreat, Fr. Tom left us with some very moving comments. We share them with you:

- † Persistence in prayer nurtures our desire for God.
- † We need to be attentive to that desire for God, and use that desire as a spiritual antenna in our lives.
- † Desires are not mere wishes – in our desires, we meet God and our souls expand.
- † Prayer is the construction of our desires.
- † We must go into the depths of our heart – where our desires are – and call out to God.
- † Desire is the compass of our lives, and prayer focuses our direction.
- † For this, we need silence and solitude – here is where God dwells.
- † If we can name our desires, and let these desires become prayer, then grace enters in!

The Holy Spirit takes root in our heart in such a way that God becomes intimately present.

Thank you for making our lives of contemplation and prayer possible. May God be intimately present to you this Christmas.
Your Poor Clare Sisters, *Anna Marie, Ann, Dianne, Doris, Luisa, Pia, Rita and Vickie*

P.S. Our e-mail accounts on the website were corrupted. Please use the following new e-mail address: poorclareprayers@gmail.com . We apologize for any inconvenience this has caused.

Prayer Requests: _____

Gift in Memory of: _____

Gift in Honor of: _____

Occasion: _____

Memorial, Anniversary, Birthday, etc.

E-mail: poorclareprayers@gmail.com

Website: www.poorclarescincinnati.org

We will send an announcement of a memorial or honorary gift, without mentioning the amount to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

