



1212 - San Damiano, Italy

Feast of St. Clare 2012

*Celebrating 800 Years of Poor Clare Life
1212 - 2012*



2012 - Cincinnati, Ohio USA

“The form of life of the Order of the Poor Sisters that Blessed Francis established is this:

*to observe the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, by living
in obedience, without anything of one’s own, and in chastity.”*

– The Form of Life of St. Clare (FlCl 1:1)

Dear Friends,



Clare receives a palm
from the Bishop of Assisi

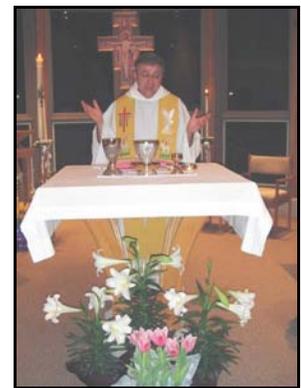
We rejoice in sharing with you our *Feast of St. Clare 2012 letter*. We have so many things to be grateful for as we celebrate the 800th anniversary of our founding. In 1212, on Palm Sunday, Clare left her family home and joined Francis and his brothers at the church of the Portiuncula. Clare became the first woman to join the Franciscan movement, becoming the first of Francis’ “Poor Ladies,” and thus establishing what we call today the Order of St. Clare (“OSC”). We are grateful for our vocation to Poor Clare life. In remembrance of that Palm Sunday in 1212, when the Bishop of Assisi left the altar and presented Clare with a palm, Father Murray Bodo, ofm, presented each of us with a palm before our procession into the Chapel.



Sr. Luisa receives a palm
from Fr. Murray Bodo, ofm

Our Holy Week and Triduum were especially prayerful as we journeyed with Jesus, waited with Mary, and, at the Easter Vigil, celebrated our Risen Lord. Father Dan Havron, ofm was our celebrant for the Easter Vigil Mass. As we listened to his joyful singing of the Easter Exultet, none of us expected that within a few weeks he would be rejoicing with the Risen Lord in Heaven.

After our Pentecost Retreat and celebration, we began final preparations for our 800th anniversary gathering at St. Bonaventure University. We are grateful for all those who helped us plan this celebration, especially for those organizations whose grants made it possible for us to travel to New York and celebrate.



Fr. Dan Havron presides at
the Easter Vigil

Our celebration was combined with our inter-federation meetings and elections, so we were able to celebrate with our Poor Clare sisters from all over the U.S. and Canada, as well as Italy and Guatemala. We were privileged to have Sister Maria Chiara Stucchi, osc, our Poor Clare sister from Cortona, Italy, with us for a few days here in Cincinnati before traveling to St. Bonaventure’s and hearing her presentation. Some of our sisters from Travelers Rest, South Carolina also stopped by on the way to St. Bonaventure, giving us an opportunity to laugh and share with each other before completing the trip to St. Bonaventure, New York. We are grateful for all who participated and celebrated with us, making it a truly joyous Franciscan family event.

We are also grateful to all the sisters who dedicated the past few years to Federation activities – both our Mother Bentivoglio Federation and our sister Holy Name Federation – especially our own Sisters Dianne and Mary Pia, who