

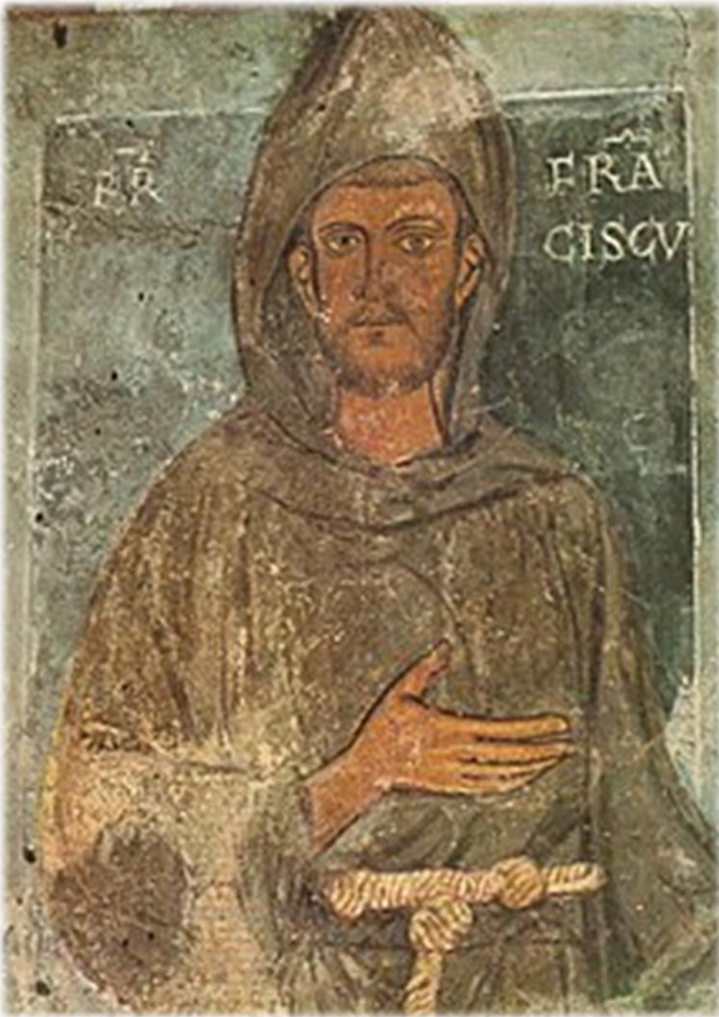


The Franciscan Sisters of Christ the King

1409 E. Meyer Blvd. Kansas City, MO 64131

traditionalosf.org

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From time to time, we must write about St. Francis. We cannot help but observe that as St. Francis so closely imitated Christ, so he must also suffer misunderstanding as Christ suffered it. Why have so many people reduced St. Francis to a pious ecologist, a zealous philanthropist, or, worst of all, a limp-wristed vagabond? Father Augustine, O.F.M. Cap. points out in his book *Some Loves of the Seraphic Saint* that as modern man has lost the sense of the supernatural, so has he lost the sense of who St. Francis was.

Having observed many writers in England loving and describing the “other” St. Francis, Father Augustine quotes Dom Ancar Vonier, O.S.B. as having said “How many of his admirers were mistaken as to his true significance. They regard him as one of the most lovable of men, himself an ardent lover of humanity for humanity’s sake. This is not Francis. St.

Francis was, before all, a man endowed with a mighty supernatural power because he was filled with that great wealth of spiritual things, because he had that great hope, that wonderful vision of heavenly things, because he had seen Christ. This is the St. Francis of Catholicism, whereas the Francis proposed to us by those writers to whom I have alluded is little better than a Buddhist.” (page 159)

St. Francis wrote the poem “Canticle of Brother Sun,” not as an earth-worshipping pantheist praising nature itself, but as a son praising God his Father and the Creator of all things. He expressed in poetry his deep sense of God’s love, just as theologians study this divine love in treatises. St. Francis saw, as few ever have, the kindly fatherhood of God revealed in creation. This paternal love of the Creator made St. Francis feel kinship with all creatures, but his poetry was a beautiful and powerful outpouring of his overwhelming love for God. As one author correctly implied, St. Francis was a living poem.

After his conversion, St. Francis’s life followed the path of uncompromising imitation of Christ, which led him from crib to cross to tabernacle. Fr. Augustine describes the crib, the cross, and the tabernacle as central in the Saint’s life as he closely followed the life of Our Lord. His “Lady Poverty,” a personification of the First Beatitude, he served faithfully in imitation of Christ. God emptied Himself for us, taking on the ignominy of the cross. (Phillipians 2:1-14) St. Francis would do nothing less than follow, leading one author to name his excellent biography *Francis of the Crucified*.

What would St. Francis say and do today? As Fr. Augustine wrote in 1944: *[H]e would emphasize in a special manner reverence for bishops and priests, obedience to the Roman Pontiff [we must now add in all things Catholic,] loyalty to the Church...he would sing even more frequently “The Praise of the Crucified...” and [would] plead for liberation from spiritual tyranny, for freedom from personal sin, for a return, not to shadowy Christianity but to Catholic unity, to the true Church and the real Christ. And should any poor, beaten, broken wretch say that he has nothing to return for all his merciful love except [his misery,] the Seraphic Saint would reply: Even on this the Crucified Lover would smile. (pages 160-161.)*

The real St. Francis, with his Christ-like life and wounded hands, would say and do whatever would give God alone glory and offer true hope to the world.

Sr. Marie Raymund (2nd from left) took her first vows with the SSPX Sisters in June. She is pictured with her parents, the Wilsons, and with her blood Sisters, our Sr. Mary Elizabeth Rose (right) and Sr. Marie Laurence (left.)



We had a chance to go fishing while attending Ordinations in Virginia. In 45 minutes, we caught three trees and one fish. Sister had never been fishing before. Her technique was to cast in a lure and sing to the fish as she reeled it in. It worked! This was a catch-and-release pond, so "brother fish" is still swimming free!



Having read our newsletter about spray-painting our rusting white van, the Benedictine monks from Silver City, NM gave us their 2010 Honda Odyssey. It was their newest vehicle, and now it is our newest vehicle. The van solves a lot of our logistical problems, and we are very grateful for the monks' solicitude for us!



Shortly after our ceremony, we visited the Saint Vincent de Paul Kateri Scout annual camp. Part of our visit always includes a guided tour of each camping area, including an inspection of the inside of each tent.

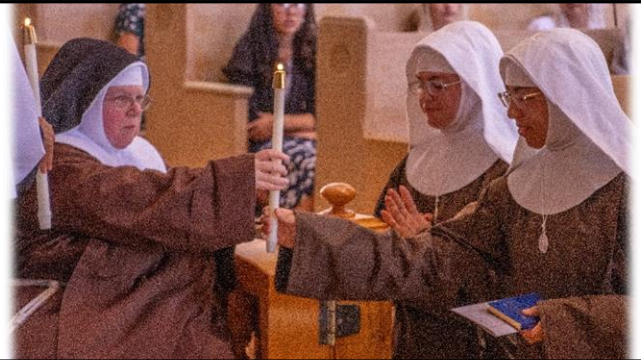


Congratulations to our former student, newly ordained Reverend Father Joseph Brauner! Father said Mass for us over the summer and preached excellent sermons. He has moved on to his first duty station in St. Mary's, KS.

Three groups of girls spent a few days with us over the summer to get an idea of what life is like as a Sister. They prayed with us, helped us with projects and recreated with us.

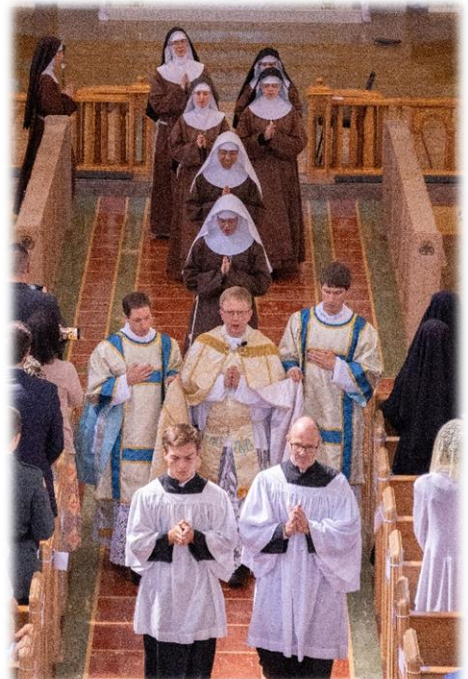
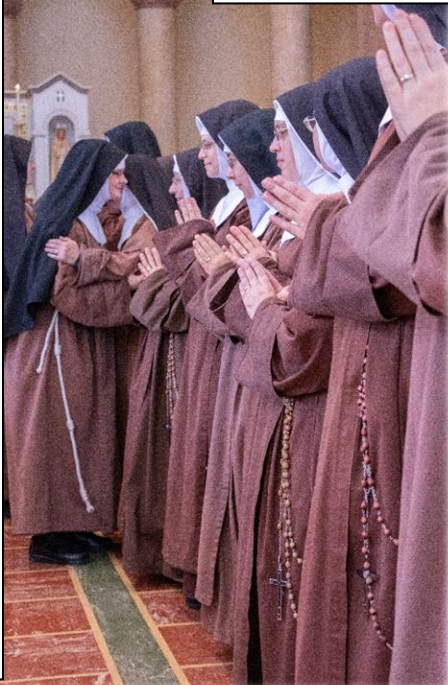


Our Annual Ceremony



Our new novices are Sr. Maria Bernardine of the Holy Name of Jesus (above, receiving the candle), named for St. Bernardine of Siena, and beside her Sr. Catherine Marie of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, named for St. Catherine Labouré.

This August 2nd, three Sisters renovated their vows and two postulants took the habit. After ascending the steps of the altar, the Brides of Christ received the tonsure from the hand of Fr. Daniel Themann, current District Superior of Australia and this year's retreat master (top left.) After changing into the habit, the new novices received the rule and office book from the hand of the superior, as well as a lit candle. At the end of the ceremony, the Sisters exchanged the Pax with the new novices and those who had just renovated their vows.





Thank you to the High School girls who came twice this summer to help us!



This summer, both new and experienced teaching Sisters reviewed teaching methods together.



Sister Cook demonstrates the left and smoothness of operation of a new can opener in this “canned” photo, which is a re-enactment of what actually took place just before Sister Photographer could run and get the camera. A benefactor sent us this can opener from our new **Wish List**, started at the urging of a friend of the community. Here is a QR code that you can scan, which will take you to the list. We hope to update the list on Saturdays. Items listed are immediate needs. Thank you to all those who have donated items!



Thank you, Holy Infant of Prague! With the help of a boost from large benefactors, we can now pay for the window project mentioned in our last newsletters. This project will take over a year to complete. **We are in need of assistance with routine operating expenses and basic maintenance projects.** If you cannot provide financial support, remember that you are also a benefactor when you pray for us!



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