



St. Elizabeth Mission Society

A Ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY

All Souls' Day - November 2, 2015

Francis and Clare: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Legacies

"Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." – 1 John 3:2

Dear Friend,

In September, I was blessed with the beautiful gift of making pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome, Italy. As I walked in the footsteps of Saints Francis and Clare, I reflected on their lives and was profoundly impacted by the sacrifices they made and legacies they left. Both were "ordinary" people. Although they came from wealthy families, like many people throughout time, they questioned their purpose and the source of their real worth.

We don't see the courage, pain and fear that the human Francis and Clare went through. We just see the end result - a movement of love, peace, humility and joy, all in an embrace of those who are poor. Both saints had to overcome obstacles and make life-changing decisions. Francis' father imprisoned him at home because Francis sold his cloth to raise money to repair the San Damiano church. Clare would have married, had children and enjoyed the safety that came with being a noblewoman. They both gave up all of their possessions so they could be truly free to do God's work. They didn't pretend that they themselves performed miracles. What they were really doing was asking for the intercession of the Holy Spirit. God was incarnate in them. Through the grace of God, He moved in Francis and Clare.



Basilica of St. Francis, Assisi

God spoke to Francis in a dream, telling him to abandon his dreams of glory as a knight and return to Assisi. The statue depicts a young, humbled Francis afraid of the reception he would receive and unaware that he would soon heed another of God's calls, which was to serve the lepers, the poor and the outcast.

Departed Loved Ones to Be Remembered

Please remember the following persons on All Souls' Day and all the Masses offered during the month of November at the St. Elizabeth Motherhouse Chapel in Allegany, NY.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
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On November 2, the Church celebrates All Souls' Day, a special day of remembrance. In Catholic theology, the day commemorates all those who have attained the Beatific Vision in Heaven. Christians who celebrate this day believe that there is a prayerful, spiritual bond between those in Heaven and the living.

According to Fr. George W. Rutler, noted author and pastor of St. Michael's Church in New York City, saints have been in most ordinary circumstances and went unnoticed until they were canonized. While Saints Francis and Clare didn't exactly go unnoticed, who could have predicted that Franciscan spirituality would be so influential in the lives of millions of people of all faiths and walks of life over the last 700+ years?

Fr. George also writes that "All Souls' Day follows All Saints' Day as a reminder that there still is a chance for many, perhaps most, Christians to join the ranks of the saints in the ineffable joy of being with God forever in the Beatific Vision. Purgatory is a blessed state of preparation for that."

On All Souls' Day and throughout the month of November, Mass and prayers are offered at St. Elizabeth Motherhouse in memory of our departed loved ones. We would invite you to remember your loved ones by placing their names on the form provided and returning it to us.

While in Assisi, I prayed for you and your intentions, and I thanked God for all that you do to help our Sisters minister to those who are poor in Jamaica, Brazil, Bolivia and the U.S. As always, your gifts help further the work of our Sisters in their call to live out the teachings of the Gospel.

Many blessings to you during this special time of remembrance,

Laura C. Whitford

Laura Whitford
President, St. Elizabeth Mission Society



The spirit of **Santa Chiara** is still very alive in Assisi, as seen in this sidewalk chalk drawing. Pilgrims visit the San Damiano Church where Clare lived with her order of "Poor Ladies." Pictured is the lovingly-marked site of her death in the small dormitory in 1253.



*In Loving Memory –
Sr. Maureen Dorr, OSF*

Sister Maureen ministered to guests at Trinity Café, one of the Mission Society's funded organizations, which serves meals to the homeless and hungry in Tampa, FL. For 14 years, for four days a week, she tirelessly prayed with, listened to and touched every guest.

What is your legacy?

Please consider including the St. Elizabeth Mission Society in your estate planning. Naming us as a beneficiary in your will, life insurance policy or retirement plan will further our work for future generations.

Please accept the enclosed donation in remembrance of my departed loved ones. In their names, may the needs of those who are poor Jamaica, Brazil, Bolivia and the U.S. be met by the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany.

I am enclosing my gift of: ___\$200 ___\$100 ___\$50 ___\$25 ___Other

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Ph _____

*Donations can also be made on our website,
www.franciscanhope.org, using PayPal.*