



Dear Friends,

We are writing as co-chairs of the Poor Clares of Montana Advisory Board to thank you for your impressive support of the mission of the Poor Clares in Montana, and to ask for your help as the community grows in an exciting way.

Our beloved sisters' lives witness a joyful dependence on the Providence of God. Under the Rule governing their lives, and the Constitutions governing the Order, their community is sustained only by the generous contributions of its supporters. We are humbled to see the community's needs met by the generosity shown by you and other supporters. God has worked through this generosity, to allow them to dedicate their lives to their one essential mission - continual prayer for us and the people of the world.

Over the past several years, the community has discerned its next step - to invite two professed Poor Clare sisters from St. Mary of the Angels Monastery in Mwanza, Tanzania. Based on careful examination of the experience of other monasteries who have joyfully accepted new members from the same community in Tanzania, the sisters have discerned that they should do so as well. This is an exciting time for the community, and for all of us. We eagerly await the new sisters - our sisters - who will bring with them so many new and important gifts to our community.

We are writing to request you consider sponsoring one or both of our new sisters, through contributing the costs of processing immigration paperwork and travel expenses. We have determined that each sister will require approximately \$5,000 for this process. In addition, consider the community's added expense associated with additional members. Although the community lives quite simply, there will be added food, medical, utility and other expenses associated with each new member. Please consider increasing the amount you normally provide. We trust you will prayerfully consider these requests, and respond with the faith and generosity of spirit you have consistently shown in the past.

Like all who encounter the generous gift that the Lord has given us in a contemplative community living in our midst, we have become convinced that the continuing witness of Saints Francis and Clare to simplicity, to dependence on God, and to a life of joyful prayer is a necessary healing balm to the confusing, conflicted and challenging times we live in. Please join us in holding our Poor Clare community up financially as it takes an important step to continuing its ministry to the people of Montana and the world.

Sincerely,



Glenn E. Tremper  
Advisory Board Co-Chairs



Fawn Waranauskas

## Welcoming New Sisters

As laid out by the co-chairs of our Advisory Board, we are looking forward to the arrival of Sisters Mary Pia and Mary Francis in the near future. We are in awe of their brave, adventurous spirit that will bring them to a culture on the other side of the world, one very different from all that they have known until now.

What these sisters will share with us is the experience of leaving family and friends, and the communities we lived in and loved, to bring our life of prayer as St. Clare lived it to a "new land." We expect that they will find, as we did, a life both challenging and deeply rewarding.

In St. Clare's own lifetime, many monasteries were founded all over Italy and in other countries. The missionary spirit lives on in our day, as the daughters of Clare continue reaching out to share the charism of Saints Clare and Francis with the rest of the world.



## "Hospitality" Statue of St. Clare

In the stories about Saint Clare there are references to how she welcomed people to the monastery and prayed with them. There are also instances of how she cared for her sisters: washing their feet, attending to the sick, and making sure there was enough food for them. On one occasion, the visiting Pope asked her to bless the bread that the community was about to eat. As St. Clare reluctantly blessed the bread, the sign of the cross appeared on each loaf.

We are looking forward to having our statue of St. Clare soon. It will be placed at the entrance of our building. This statue has features which remind us of Clare's service to the people of her time. It also speaks of who we are as the Poor Clares of Montana. Our life of prayer is the best way we serve you. However, the hospitality we offer is also important. St. Clare will be welcoming all visitors to the monastery, as we do. She holds her Rule which we follow as faithful daughters, and she holds the bread of hospitality that we desire to hold out to you whenever you enter this monastery. All are welcome! We hope to have this statue blessed on the Feast of St. Clare.

## Morning, Evening Prayer with the Sisters

As a part of the Year for Consecrated Life, we invited the public to join us for Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, June 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>. Those people who joined us expressed surprise that they could pray with us and that each time was so short. They are correct; the Liturgy of the Hours (or the Divine Office) is not a long prayer. Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer each take about 15 to 18 minutes to pray. The idea is to consecrate the time to God.

Did you miss the opportunity to come? You are still invited to join us anytime. We pray Morning Prayer at 8:15 am and Evening Prayer at 5:15. The Liturgy of the Hours (the Divine Office) is not just our prayer. We join in the official prayer of the whole Church.

## Christian Meditation Workshop

In our last few newsletters you read about the Christian Meditation groups meeting at the monastery. Are you curious? Do you wonder if Christian Meditation is right for you? We will host a workshop on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> entitled, "Introduction to Christian Meditation" from 10:00 to 3:30. Registration fee is \$10.00. Sign in will begin at 9:30 with talks beginning at 10:00. Bring a bag lunch and we will provide beverages. All are welcome; bring a friend! Want a sneak preview? Check out [www.wccm.org](http://www.wccm.org).

Come and celebrate the Solemnity of St. Clare with us!  
Mass will be celebrated on August 11 at 5:30 p.m.  
here at the Monastery of St. Clare.  
Light refreshments to follow.

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