

Classic Franciscan



Marie Amore, SFO

Spirit and Life of a Digital Troubadour: Marie Amore

By Julia Pearson, SFO
Human Interest Editor

"... even to your old age I am He, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save." Isaiah 46:4

Marie Amore has walked her adult life in the spirit and flavor of St. Francis of Assisi. A word of wisdom remembered throughout her life is to read one book about St. Francis each year. **St. Francis of Assisi: A Biography**, written by the Danish author, Johannes Jorgensen, "drew me to St. Francis," says Marie when remembering some of her earliest Franciscan readings. She recalls crying when she reached the end of the book. Marie was professed in the Secular Franciscan Order in the St. Bonaventure Fraternity in Detroit, Michigan in 1950.

Marie and her husband, John, had lives immersed in the Secular Franciscan Order. John was fraternity minister. Marie served on all levels of the fraternity, as well as serving as National Vice Minister several terms, and two six year terms as International Councilor.

Sister Death came for John in 1987. The gifts John and Marie's marriage gave to the world were their nine children: Ida Marie, Rosalie, Leonard, Joseph, John, Mark, Robert, Mary, and Paul. Currently there are twenty-two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren in the family.

Having eighty birthdays pass, Marie continually exercises her spiritual muscles. She keeps nearby a self-compilation that she entitled: **Buck Up!** It's a small, purchased "brag book" that she has filled with prayers, scripture, and quotes from spiritual readings that connect her with God. She has a pure heart and eyes that see the Little Poor Man in so many people: friars, individuals she has met through her involvement with the SFO, and has a smile and prayer for and with each of them.

Five years ago Marie was instrumental in the re-activation of the Troubadours of St. Clare Fraternity in Clinton Township, Michigan. On the lists of saintly patrons & patronesses, St. Clare of Assisi is one of the designated patronesses of television. This harkens back to a story of the end of St. Clare's life, when she was too ill to attend Mass and the service would display at the end of her cell.

Marie Amore could easily be recognized as a digital troubadour in St. Clare's footsteps. In 1994, the SFO National Minister of the United States, Richard Morton, SFO, recognized a need for a phone line where anyone needing information about the Secular Franciscan Order could get personal and accurate answers. In 1995, Marie was appointed to the new service of National Vocation Minister, and a dedicated phone line was placed in her home: 1-800-FRANCIS. "A joy and a privilege," according to Marie, she has sent over 13,000 responses to inquiries from the 1-800-FRANCIS phone line through the postal service as well as email. She continues this ministry today.

As a member of the SALT (Spirit and Life Team) team, the effort to enhance the spirit and life of Secular Franciscans and their fraternities in the United States, Marie works with others through presentations, personal and communal reflective time, and practical applications of the Gospel. More information about SALT and what it offers to individual Secular Franciscans can be found at: spiritandlife.catholicweb.co

Our Secular Franciscan Order has been blessed by the more than sixty years of her dedicated service. Marie Amore is indeed a Classic Franciscan.