

Francis, Clare & Healing

When you receive this issue of *The Harvest* the feast of St. Francis of Assisi will be right around the corner, on Thursday, October 4th. He is the patron saint of all members of the Franciscan family, including the various orders of Friars, Poor Clares, Women and Men Religious, and Secular Franciscans, so it is a day of Franciscan celebration. To get ready for the feast I have been browsing through the writings by St. Francis and about him. In Murray Bodo's book, *Tales of St. Francis* I picked out one of my favorite *Tales* because it relates not only to Francis, but to Clare and all of us.

Brother Maseo, who was received by Francis himself, found that he was not happy and at peace like the other brothers. He was afflicted by frenzied outbursts, and deeply disturbed in mind and heart. One day he went to Father Francis for help, but the Holy Father sent him instead to the Lady Clare. He did not explain why, but only said that, in her touch Maseo would find healing.

Now the Lady Clare, in obedience to Father Francis, gladly received Maseo, even though he began to scream as soon as she opened the door. She made the Sign of the Cross on his forehead, telling him to retire and sleep in the place where she was accustomed to pray. There he fell into a deep sleep. And when he awoke he was completely cured of his madness and returned to Francis.

In this short story we see the trust that Francis had in Clare and her deep regard for him. He knew she would do all she could for Brother Maseo. She, in turn, after blessing Maseo, placed her trust in God. Nor would she take any personal credit for the healing. Instead, she wanted Maseo to let go of the fears and concerns for his condition and rest in God's loving arms. He awoke cured because of his total trust in Clare, in Francis and in God.

As followers of St. Clare and St. Francis we, too, receive many requests for prayer for healing of physical and psychological ills. Since true healing is consistent with peace of mind and heart, my prayer for individuals is always for both.

Our chapel is indeed a place of healing and peace. You are invited to come here whenever you want to experience it. If you are in Great Falls for any reason, please don't hesitate to stop by for a visit. It is never an imposition; rather it is a joy to have people share our chapel.

The fact that our monastery is in the shadow of Benefis Hospital and not far from Peace Hospice and the Clinics, is not a coincidence. We chose this location because it was ideal for a monastery in so many ways. Each time the Mercy Flight passes over our monastery we are reminded of our ministry to pray for the sick and all who ask for our prayer.

May you know God's healing love and peace!

Sister Maryalice Pierce, OSC