

**Reflection by Georgene L. Wilson, OSF  
on  
Feast of the Congregational Title:  
Franciscan Sisters Daughters (Sons) of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus  
and Mary**

**Eucharistic Liturgy  
Our Lady of the Angels Chapel – Wheaton, IL**

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**Good Afternoon.**

**We gather today in this Eucharistic Liturgy  
to remember in word and ritual,  
in symbols and presence,  
the wisdom of M. Clara Pfaender in naming us  
*Franciscan Sisters, Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.***

**And I,  
in, and through this reflection,  
hope to ponder with you some inquiries, some possibilities,  
about how it is that each of us, individually,  
and all of us, communally,  
can embody this title and be  
a living and loving presence in the heart of our world  
through word and as a sacrament of perpetual loving.**

**Imagine with me.....**

**Mother Clara,  
having heard the call of the Spirit  
to leave the Sisters of Christian Charity,  
and having courageously and secretly  
obtained a bishop's permission to found a new community,  
is then faced with choosing a name, a title,  
for the new community's mission and ministry.**

**This title has to be large enough  
to enfold all the diversity of the God's ways,  
while being a personal guiding light  
for the community's members  
as they breathe into an unknown future.**

**This name has to invite her and her companions to  
BE A PERPETUAL PRESECE OF LOVE  
for all persons and for all creation.  
The title has to BE A SENDING FORTH OF COMPASSION  
through her and her companions to the heart of the world.**

**This naming of her Community as Franciscans  
has to imbue each one of them  
to accept the nearness of God to them at all times.  
She was well aware that it would be easy  
to hold such nearness, such love,  
in the tabernacle or in a monstrance.**

**But her heart desires  
that the name for the congregation  
will also embrace  
the love of the person or persons  
before herself or her sisters  
in each now encounter.**

**Naming or calling her companions the Franciscan Sisters;  
Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary  
would have to mark each of them  
as one who would contemplate the mystery  
of being loved personally  
by the Holy Hearts of Jesus and Mary and each other.**

**And, accepting that they are so loved,  
the title will mark them as a relational community:  
kindred with each other and all others,  
as servants  
that see with the heart and love unconditionally.**

Mother Clara must have known,  
perhaps through her contemplation of the ways  
of Jesus and Mary and St. Francis and St. Clare,  
that “heart” is a verb.

Blessing the Community with the name HEART;  
inviting all to BE LIKE  
THE HEARTS OF JESUS AND MARY,  
would charge the community  
to be an energy of exchanging mystery and ministry.

She hopes that the name of the community will call herself  
and each of the sisters’ hearts  
to turn perception into communion  
...a common union  
,...a One-ing of heaven and earth.

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And so our inquiring, our pondering with M. Clara  
brings us to know NOW,  
as her prayer revealed to her THEN,  
that we are  
*Franciscan Sisters (Brothers),  
Daughters (Sons) of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.*

This title that we celebrate today, OUR NAME AND OUR WAY,  
Symbolizes and commissions us to be  
the unconditional love and compassion  
of our Infinite God  
living in the finiteness of each of us.

Our name embodies our call  
to be perpetually the Christ Present  
in each now of our living forth a blessing  
into the heart of the world.

I invite all of us to continue pondering how we are our living title!

Be It So. Amen.