

**"CROATIAN WOMAN"**  
BRANCH NO. 1 CHICAGO



**"HRVATSKA ŽENA"**  
GRANA BROJ 1, CHICAGO

*Not for profit humanitarian and cultural society*

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February 2021

Dear Friend,

Who would have ever thought that in March of last year we would all be dealing with a pandemic that turned all of our lives upside down? It was a very difficult year for all of us and despite the Covid-19 Pandemic, most of us are trying to find ways to celebrate the New Year with family and friends be it virtually or in small groups. Being together and sharing a simple memory or moment brings such comfort and joy to us all. Like many other organizations last year we were unable to host our annual fundraising events such as Palm Sunday Luncheon or our annual Fashion Show. We miss seeing all of you and experiencing those events together as a community.

Our fundraisers are our primary source of support and in turn we have been able to help so many wonderful families and organizations in need. This year we are hoping to help the Poor Sisters of St. Clare in Zagreb. It has been an extremely difficult year for the Sisters as they were hit with the earthquakes in Zagreb and the pandemic. Attached you will find a letter in both Croatian and English describing the needs of the Poor Sisters of St. Clare. We are working with our priests to help raise funds so that the sisters can repair the damage to their church. The church has been a place that people can gather in both good and difficult times and is a place to share their faith. In these difficult times it is faith that brings us all closer together and kindness that really can make a difference in the lives of others.

We know that many wonderful organizations are seeking your support this time of year. Croatian Woman Branch 1 Chicago ensures that 100% of every dollar you donate goes directly to helping the families or organizations we serve both here in the US and in Croatia.

Your generosity will brighten the Poor Sisters of St. Clare during this difficult time. It would be amazing to provide them with comfort in knowing that we are all willing to assist them. Your contribution will spread love and care and help us to alleviate some of the burden that the Poor Sisters of St. Clare are experiencing.

Please forward your donation to Croatian Woman Branch 1 Chicago 4848 S. Ellis Avenue Chicago, IL 60615. In this New Year we focus on gratitude and we are thankful for you. We are grateful that you care enough to help our sisters in need.

We would like to wish you and your family a Blessed 2021. Stay Safe and Be Well.

With Gratitude,  
The Board of Directors  
Croatian Woman Branch 1 Chicago  
Hrvatska Zena Grana Broj 1 Chicago

# PONEŠTO O SESTRAMA KLARISAMA

Sestre klarise upoznao sam kratko po svome dolasku u Zagreb na teološke studije. Odmah na početku oduševile su me svojom otvorenošću i - za sestre koje žive u strogoj klauzuri - poznavanjem duha vremena u kojem živimo. Uskoro sam shvatio da ta njihova mudrost nije od ovoga svijeta, nego od Boga kojemu vjerno služe kroz rad, molitvu i žrtvu i koji im daje da mogu tako jasno različiti dobro od lošega.

Red sestara klarisa ili Red siromašnih gospođa jedan je od najstrožih redova u Katoličkoj Crkvi. Osnovani su ga sveti Franjo Asiški i sveta Klara sa ciljem da sestre koje se Bogu predaju po ovome načinu života budu molitvena pluća cijeloga franjevačkoga pokreta. To znači da ono što franjevci i sestre franjevke otvorenoga tipa čine na raznim poljima apostolata uvijek prate svojom molitvom upravo sestre klarise. Sestre žive u istinskom siromaštvu i po strogom molitvenom rasporedu. 6 puta na dan okupljaju se na molitvu. U 3 sata poslije ponoći ustaju na prvi molitveni čas, a upravo molitva i zajednički rad određuju njihov način života.

Sestre u zagrebačkom samostanu u Mikulićima rade intezivno kao krojačice. U njihovim radionicama nastaju najljepše krsne haljine i sveto misno ruho. Duhovni su dom tisućama vjernika u našem glavnome gradu. U svojoj crkvi okupljaju stare i mlade, učene i neuke, trudnice i ostavljene majke, napuštenu djecu i siromahe. Žive skromno, u postu i molitvi predajući sebe kao žrtvu za druge.

U potresu koji je pogodio Zagreb teško je stradao samostan sestara klarisa i njihova samostanska crkva. Klauzurni zid koji dijeli samostan od vanjskoga svijeta je potpuno srušen. Jedan veći dio samostana se nalazi na klizištu i samo je pitanje vremena kada će se urušiti. Sestre su bile primorane zaustaviti brojne svoje aktivnosti, a naši zajednički prijatelji mi svjedoče da su uvjeti života u samostanu sv. Klare ispod svake razine.

U ovakvoj situaciji odlučili smo se okrenuti vama, dragi naši prijatelji. Želja nam je pomoći obnovu samostana onoliko koliko to možemo. Hvala *Hrvatskoj Ženi - Grana br. 1 Chicago*, koja je pristala i u ovim novim prilikama organizirati ovu akciju. Ona je ne samo hvalevrijedna, nego i uistinu potrebna i siguran sam od Boga blagoslovljena. Sestre klarise u Zagreb je doveo ni manje ni više nego blaženi Kardinal Stepinac. Njegova je želja i nakana bila da one svojom molitvom bdiju nad našim narodom i našom Domovinom. Mi sa svoje strane sada želimo učiniti što je moguće da ovoj Kardinalovoj želji omogućimo da raste i razvija se pa da nam sestre klarise i dalje budu duhovna snaga na putu života. Da će to tako biti govore i brojna duhovna zvanja koja sestre imaju u svojem porušenom samostanu. Bog daje i ondje gdje se čini da je sve stalo. Svaki vaš dar je velik i od srca vam zahvaljujemo na tome. A sestre već sada mole za vas i na vaše nakane.

fra Antonio Musa

## ABOUT POOR SISTERS OF ST. CLARE

I first met the Poor Clares Sisters shortly after my arrival in Zagreb. Right at the beginning they surprised me with their openness and – especially for sisters living in a closed monastery – with the understanding of the spirit of the times in which we live. I soon realized that this wisdom of theirs is not of this world, but from God whom they faithfully serve through work, prayer, and sacrifice, from God who gives them that they can so clearly distinguish good from evil.

The Order of the Poor Clares is one of the strictest orders in the Catholic Church. It was founded by St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clare with the purpose that the sisters who surrender to God in this way of life be the prayer lungs of the entire Franciscan movement. This means that what the Franciscans and Franciscan Sisters of the open type do in the various fields of the apostolate is always accompanied by the prayer of Poor Clares. The sisters live in true poverty and on a strict prayer schedule. They gather for prayer 6 times a day and they get up for the first prayer hour at 3 AM.

The sisters in Zagreb monastery in Mikulići work intensively as seamstresses. The most beautiful baptismal dresses and Holy Mass vestments are being done by these sisters. Their church is the spiritual home of thousands of believers in our Capital. In their church they gather old and young, educated and less educated, pregnant and abandoned mothers, abandoned children and the poor. They live modestly, fasting and praying, sacrificing themselves for others.

In the earthquake that hit Zagreb the Sisters' convent and their church were severely damaged. The cloister wall separating the monastery from the outside world has been completely demolished. A large part of the monastery is on a landslide and it is only a matter of time before it collapses. The sisters were forced to stop many of their activities, and our mutual friends testify to me that the living conditions in the monastery of St. Clare are below each level.

In a situation like this we have decided to turn to you, our dear friends. We want to help rebuild the monastery as much as we can. Thank you to *Croatian Woman - Branch no. 1 Chicago*, which agreed to organize this humanitarian project in these new circumstances. This fundraiser is not only praiseworthy but also truly needed and I am sure blessed by God. The Sisters were brought to Zagreb by Blessed Cardinal Stepinac. His wish and intention was for them to watch over our people and our Homeland with their prayers. For our part, we now want to do what is possible to enable this Cardinal's desire to grow and develop, so that the Sisters continue to be the spiritual strength of our people on the path of life. Numerous spiritual vocations that the sisters have in their ruined convent also show that this will be the case. God gives even where everything seems to have stopped. Every gift of yours is appreciated and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for it. And the sisters are already praying for you and your intentions.

Fr. Antonio Musa

Samostan sv. Klare  
Kvaternikova 167  
10000 ZAGREB

Zagreb, 24. travnja 2020.

### **Dragi naši prijatelji i dobročinitelji,**

U nedavnom potresu koji je zahvatio zagrebačko područje (22. ožujka 2020.), oštećena je i naša samostanska zgrada i ponešto crkva.

Prema brzom pregledu službenog statičara, stariji dio samostana ocijenjen je kao privremeno neuporabiv, a crkva je ocijenjena kao uporabiva s preporukom, tj. ne preporuča se okupljanje ljudi dok se ne poprave dva napukla stupa. Potreban je detaljan pregled svega, koji de uslijediti kada dođemo na red, jer je puno prijavljenih šteta, još u težem stanju nego je kod nas.

Ono što već sada možemo jest da se našu staru kuću ne isplati popravljati, a možda čak i nije moguće. Naime, kada su sestre kupile kuću 1969. godine, već je tada bila u veoma lošem stanju: zapuštena i na nekim mjestima jako oštećena i ruševna. No njezina je konstrukcija bila čvrsta i sestre su je učvrstile željeznim traverzama i osposobile za stanovanje. Ne znamo točno godinu gradnje spomenute kuće, no vjerojatno joj je starost stotinjak godina. Spomenuti stari dio samostana sadrži sljedeće prostorije: podrum s radionama i vinarijom (on je u dobrom stanju); sobe za primanje gostiju (govornice, 3 prostorije), vjeronaučnu dvoranu (1 prostorija); veliku šivaonu i garderobu (2 prostorije); novicijat (dio samostana za sestre koje su u odgoju, 5 prostorija); samostanski arhiv i ured (2 prostorije); zajednička soba (za sastanke sestara); i tavan.

Dok čekamo ponovni stručni pregled, procjenu i savjet što nam je poduzeti, prinuđene smo prikupljati sredstva za popravak štete. Ono što već sada možemo jest popraviti oštećenja u crkvi. To nam je i najvažnije, kako bi se vjernici sa sigurnošću mogli okupljati na vjerska slavlja. Što se tiče popravka stare kuće ili gradnje nove, za to trebamo prikupiti mnogo sredstava.

Stoga se obraćamo vama, našim prijateljima i dobročiniteljima, koji ste nam uvijek pomagali svojim darovima, da biste nam pomogli u prikupljanju sredstava potrebnih za obnovu samostana. Svjesne smo ekonomske krize koju osjeća svaki stanovnik svake države, zato računamo s malim darom od srca kojeg će Gospodin umnožiti. Uz to, preporučamo se u vaše molitve da nikada ne iznevjerimo svoj franjevački poziv malenosti i siromaštva.

Moleći za vas, vaše obitelji i za vaše duhovne i materijalne potrebe, od srca vas pozdravljaju vaše uvijek zahvalne sestre klarise iz Zagreba.

s. M. Ivana Dolinar, opatica