



For Immediate Release  
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Contact: Catherine Wynn  
chatcat141@gmail.com

**Clare Gallery: *Beyond the Subject* works by Fr. Michael Reyes, O.F.M.**

Hartford, CT — The Clare Gallery presents *Beyond the Subject*, works by Fr. Michael Reyes, O.F.M. This exhibition runs from March 1 to May 23. Large-scale paintings grace the Gallery with highly textured surfaces combining varied elements such as oil paint, paper, and metal leaves. Brush strokes are aggressively applied, which enables color to dance across the canvas. Textured edges create reflections and shadows playing with two- and three-dimensionality. Fr. Michael will join us virtually for [Slow Art Day](#) on Saturday, April 2 to guide you through a reflective program, while you are in our gallery viewing the work. Slow Art Day was founded in 2010. It is a worldwide event with a simple mission, “to help more people discover for themselves the joy of looking at and loving art.” Registration and details for Slow Art Day will be posted on the Clare Gallery website. Join us for a closing reception on Sunday, May 22, 1–3 p.m. The public is welcome to visit the Gallery to view the artwork—If unvaccinated, masks are required. If vaccinated, masks are optional but encouraged.

Fr. Michael Reyes is a Franciscan Friar from Holy Name Province. Holy Name Province is a branch of the worldwide Catholic fraternity of the Order of Friars Minor. It was founded by St. Francis of Assisi in 1223. The friars live where they minister; which for Fr. Michael was in New York City and is now in Allegany, NY. They believe in the good of all living things, “Pax et bonum; Peace and all good” and work to meet people where they are with the spirit of love and humanity.

As a Franciscan artist, Fr. Michael is always trying to find a way to connect with the humanity in all of us. He offers this reflection on the influence of art, “Paintings are equivalent to a person’s signature. The power of images surpasses the limitations of language. My paintings challenge and inspire; they offer faith and life lessons without saying a word. With art, you can reach out to everyone, no matter their cultural and educational background or what language they speak.”

Fr. Michael Reyes, O.F.M., was born in the Philippines surrounded by his multicultural family. Spanish, Filipino, Chinese, and English were languages and cultures influencing the way he sees the world. He moved to the United States when he was 16 years of age. He decided to become a Friar Minor in 2008 and became an ordained priest in January 2016. Presently, he lives and serves with the Friar fraternity at Saint Bonaventure University. More information can be found on [his website](#).

The Clare Gallery primarily features exhibitions that emphasize world religions or interfaith themes, as well as social justice themes, on either a global or local level. The Gallery is housed in the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry at 285 Church Street, Hartford, CT. The Center is part of St. Patrick–St. Anthony Church, a vibrant and active downtown faith community.

The Clare Gallery’s hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, and Sundays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The Gallery is open to the public, masks are required. Free parking is available directly across from the church, and the facility is handicapped accessible.