



For Immediate Release
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Clare Gallery new exhibit *Saints Alive*

Hartford, CT — Clare Gallery opens its fall schedule with the exhibition, *Saints Alive*, work by Franciscan Friar, Fr. John Quigley, OFM. In the work, an artistic lens is placed on the stories of saints and the medium of printmaking—specifically woodcuts. Most of the artwork, in this exhibition, was created for *Saint Of the Day*, by Fr. Leonard Foley, OFM, commissioned by St. Anthony Messenger Press. Fr. John wants the saints to be depicted in contemporary light, hoping his audience makes connections with the saints and their stories. The exhibition runs from September 2 to October 7, with a virtual artist talk Thursday, October 6, 7–8 pm on Zoom. Registration for the virtual talk is required.

Woodblock printing can be technically challenging. Artists must understand how to define their subject matter with essential shapes, texture and high contrast. Additionally, the work must be produced in reverse to print successfully. Fr. John's images are powerful impressions, bold and strong in their visual presence. This commitment to woodblock printing only strengthens the dynamism of his concepts.

As a member of the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor (OFM), Fr. John became an ordained priest in 1972 and has nearly 50 years of experience working in social justice, as well as leading spiritual retreats. He started in New Jerusalem (Cincinnati) in 1974. In 1980, he was Coordinator for the Cincinnati Franciscan Order for Justice, Peace, Care of Creation for North American. During this time, he published *Mustard Seed*, an international Franciscan social justice monthly periodical. In 1988, he moved to Rome, Italy, bringing his peacemaking talents to the international Franciscan Friars community, where he was deeply involved in justice and peacemaking. In 1999, Fr. John moved to Geneva, Switzerland, to become the Director of Human Rights Work for Franciscans International at the United Nations. Currently, Fr. John conducts retreats, parish missions and pilgrimages to Rome and Assisi, Italy.

Fr. John's background in the arts encompasses graphic arts and design. He studied printmaking, sculpture and painting. He has designed various chapels, and offices, and has illustrated numerous books and periodicals. On his retreats, Fr. John combines art and spirituality, leading his participants in expressive art processes to explore self-expression, healing and growth. Since 2010, he has exhibited his work at his Cincinnati, Ohio, studio and at a collection of Artists for Social Justice in Cincinnati.

Fr. John has traveled to many places in the world. In his work, he wishes to share other people's stories of struggle: "What I really love to do is bring people into a deeper level in their own world, and help them to connect, because there are a lot of people who have a wonderful sensitivity to social justice, but they just don't know where to go. I love to bring that together." More information can be found at his website: fatherjohnquigley.com

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. Free parking is available directly across from the church, and the facility is handicapped accessible. Masks are recommended for entry.