



Our Fraternal Scoop



Summer 2023 • Quarterly Publication



MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL MINISTER

Pax et Bonum

Wow! Did the last few months go by as quickly for you as it did for me? Couldn't believe it, when I realized it was time to try and offer some thoughts for you. But this is what came to mind because of the events in our region over the last several months that I'd like to share with you. I read in Hebrews 3:13 "Every day, as long as this "today" lasts, keep encouraging each other..."

As the days go by, do you ever find you may need that bit of encouragement? And where do you get it? Well, the last few months I felt I needed some for one reason or another. And I wanted to find a safe place to receive it. Because that meant I had to share a part of myself. Can you guess where that place was? Of course, from our Franciscan brothers and sisters! I hope that each of you have personally discovered that you can find the needed encouragement or support, for whatever reason, from your Regional Executive Council (REC) or anywhere in our Franciscan family. I know that I have.

I am hoping that you also realize, as well as each of our fraternity councils, that you can find support and encouragement not only from the REC but in your own council and in the fraternity members themselves. Sometimes when having to ask for support, you may find it isn't the easiest thing you have to do. I don't think that anyone likes to have to ask for help/support. But just think, the person you find to support you may be that single sunbeam that drives away those shadows. And you in turn, can be that sunbeam too - for someone else.

Remember, You Are Loved! Julianne





CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR CIOFS MINISTER

Rome, May 22th, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
May the Lord give you his peace!

This year we have started the celebration of the Franciscan Centenaries (2023-2026), which has to inspire us to get back to the origins, to give thanks to God for the gifts we receive through Saint Francis and through our vocation. The way of life to which God has invited us enriches us and inserts us into a big family which is our spiritual home. Celebration is always somehow a remembering and thanksgiving for the time we could live and for those many things we have received during this time. These years have to be a time for us to give thanks to God for these gifts, to learn more about our Seraphic Father St. Francis, and thus grow both individually and also in our fraternities together with our brothers and sisters. This will make us feel home.

At the feast of Pentecost, we should focus on the work of the Holy Spirit in Saint Francis, and how the Holy Spirit intends to guide us through the example of our Seraphic Father who always lived and did everything under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. I kindly invite you all to contemplate this in order to discover the works of the Holy Spirit in you, especially during this significant period of time. This is how we can deepen our vocation, strengthen our dedication to our mission, and live the spirituality of Saint Francis in a more personal way; let me say, 'let him into our lives in a deeper sense'.

I would like to share with you some scattered thoughts, seeking and finding the traces of the Holy Spirit in our life. These scattered thoughts are about penance, fraternity, mission, servant leadership, celebration.

The very first thing that came into my mind is **penance**. We had been called 'brothers and sisters of penance', and Saint Francis has happily embraced this expression, which represents closely not only the religious friars and sisters, but us, seculars, too.

What a treasure it is that our Rule begins with the encouraging words of Saint Francis! *He calls blessed "all those who love the Lord with their whole heart, with their whole soul and the gift of fear: to withdraw from all ill-doing and live quietly in awe of thy eternal majesty.*

These are the things for which we petition. Grant them for the honor of thy holy name, to which, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, thanksgiving, renown, and lordship for ever and ever.

Amen.10mind, with their whole strength (Mk12:30) and

*love their neighbors as themselves, (Mt 22:39 2) who hate their bodies with their vices and sins, who receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and who produce worthy fruits of penance."*¹ He calls all of them blessed, "because the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon them (Is 11:2) and make its home and dwelling place (Jn 14:23) among them, and they are children of the heavenly Father whose (Mt 5:45) works they do, and they are spouses, brothers and mothers of our Lord Jesus Christ (Mt 12:50)."² What a great treasure it is to give home to the Holy Spirit, what a dignity it is to be "the temple of the Holy Spirit"³!

Our way of life is "performing fitting fruits of penance because YOU KNOW THAT we shall soon die. Give and it will be given to you. Forgive and you will be forgiven. If you do not forgive people their sins, the Lord will not forgive you yours. Confess all your sins. Blessed are those who die in penance, for they shall be in the kingdom of heaven."⁴

We often think about penance, as a negative thing that means giving up something, it means restriction, becoming poorer, weaker. But how could something that bears fruits be negative? The Holy Spirit is always positive. Let us think about penance as a gift of the Holy Spirit, present in our life, in which we bring fruits, in order to enrich both ourselves and our neighbors! This is how the Holy Spirit will rest upon us. I pray that all of us may discover this fruitful meaning of penance again.

The second word which is so close to the works of the Holy Spirit is **fraternity**. Those brothers and sisters, who are in the same fraternity, starting with the local fraternities to the international fraternity, are gifts from God, as Saint Francis makes us remember in the Testament: *and the Lord gave me some brothers*⁵. Saint Francis, filled with the Holy Spirit, lived his life with the real freedom of the children of God. This freedom isn't something that we can take for granted, and it isn't something that we can achieve. It is the gift of the Holy Spirit, that allows us to enjoy the freedom which makes us find our proper place in the world, in creation. Having one common father of all of us, who created "all creatures, animate and inanimate, which bear the imprint of the Most High"⁶, means that we all are brothers and sisters. Understanding and believing this is a gift of the Holy Spirit. This has led Saint Francis to look at all his brothers as gifts from God. We must do the same. Our brothers and sisters are the gifts from God and our fraternities are being brought together, guided and animated by the Holy Spirit. We can live our fraternal

1 St. Francis: Letter to the Faithful I.

life only if we respect this and find the works of the Holy Spirit in all that we do in the fraternity and for the fraternity. I pray that those brothers and sisters who, at this moment, may not be considered as gifts from God, be filled with the Holy Spirit to experience the goodness of the heavenly father, who created all of us, and by whom we all are brothers and sisters. And I pray that those fraternities which do not presently feel the freshness and inspiration in fraternal life, may be guided by the Holy Spirit and get back to the refreshing fountain of life.

The third thing I would like to mention is our **missionary service**. How many times have we read, that Saint Francis did something "inspired by the Holy Spirit"! His missionary spirit to spread the Gospel was very deep and strong. *During the course of the eighteen years which by then had passed, his flesh rarely or never had any rest, as he traveled through many distant regions, so that the willing spirit, the devout spirit, and the fervent spirit which dwelt within him might scatter the seed of the word of God everywhere.*⁷ We too, have to strive to ask the Holy Spirit to inspire all of us, so that we may have the same willing spirit, devout spirit and fervent spirit, that Saint Francis had. Our presence in the world, our work among the people, our apostolic mission need these virtues, which come from inside. They depend on them. What matters in our service is not the quantity of what we do, but the way we do it. To let others see who we are, to let others see the Holy Spirit, to spread the Gospel is much more important than the meters, pounds, numbers or even the hours. The seed of the word of God can be scattered only with this willing, devout and fervent spirit. I pray that each brother and sister, and each fraternity, which does not have this spirit yet, or has not found his way, be filled with the Holy Spirit and find his proper missionary service. Also, for those who are serving but are facing some uncertainty or tiredness, may they rediscover their mission and be filled by the Holy Spirit.

The fourth thing to be mentioned is the servant leadership. During the period of the last General Chapters the International Fraternity has learned, shared and projected a lot about the idea of servant leadership. But we all, who are in any of the services at any level, must always remember, how Saint Francis experienced it. He, as the leader of the Order, wanted to be a servant and not a leader, because for him the Holy Spirit was the real General Minister. "With God," he would say, "there is no preference of persons, and the Holy Spirit, the general minister of the Order, rests equally upon the poor and simple."⁸ Therefore, we have to listen to the voice of the poor and simple, especially of those among us, because often their voice is the voice of the

Holy Spirit, their cry is the cry of the Holy Spirit, their request is the request of the Holy Spirit. I pray that each one of us, who has a service of leadership may be attentive and obedient to the calls of the Holy Spirit, who is – as Saint Francis said – the real general minister of the Order.

The last thing I would like to call your attention to is to find your way back to the real spirit of celebration. Celebration is always joyful, and with a grateful spirit. The Holy Spirit is the spirit of joy, the spirit of sharing and welcoming, the spirit of thanksgiving, the spirit of unity. When we celebrate these centenaries, we should remember the great deeds and gifts from God, give thanks for them, and do all this with a joyful heart opened to God and to each other. I also invite you to re-kindle that fire which was set in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, when we first felt called to be Secular Franciscans. May these years be for us the time to go back to our roots, give thanks to God in a joyful spirit! May these years be for us the time to strengthen the fraternal spirit at all the levels of our Order! Learning about our past and living intensely in the present will give us the hope to a great future. I pray for all the fraternities, especially for the local fraternities all over the world, that they may celebrate these centenaries in a joyful spirit, having "the Spirit of the Lord and Its holy activity"⁹.

Finally, I invite all of you to pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit, together with Saint Bonaventure, and I am sure that God will grant us the spirit of renewal, the spirit of strength, the spirit of unity and the spirit of joy.

We beg the all-merciful Father through thee, his only-begotten Son made man for our sake, crucified and glorified for us, to send upon us from his treasure-house the Spirit of sevenfold grace, who rested upon thee in all his fullness:
the spirit of wisdom, enabling us to relish the fruit of the tree of life, which is indeed thyself;
the gift of understanding: to enlighten our perceptions;
the gift of prudence, enabling us to follow in thy footsteps;
the gift of strength: to withstand our adversary's onslaught;
the gift of knowledge: to distinguish good from evil by the light of thy holy teaching;
the gift of piety: to clothe ourselves with charity and mercy
; the gift of fear: to withdraw from all ill-doing and live quietly in awe of thy eternal majesty.
These are the things for which we petition. Grant them for the honor of thy holy name, to which, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, thanksgiving, renown, and lordship for ever and ever.
*Amen.*¹⁰

⁸ 2Cel CXLV

⁹ RB 10:8

² St. Francis: Letter to the Faithful I.

³ 1Cor. 6:19

⁴ Fragment found in a Manuscript in the Worcester Cathedral

⁵ St. Francis: Testament 14.

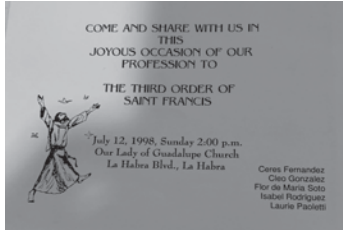
⁶ OFS Rule 18

⁷ 1Cel2 IV

Tibor Kauser
CIOFS General minister



JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



Ceres Fernandez OFS 25 years as a Secular Franciscan

Ceres was professed July 12, 1998 and celebrates her 25th Jubilee anniversary this year. She is a member of St. Margaret of Cortona fraternity in Las Vegas, NV.

Ceres was born in Butuan City, Philippines. She is married to Carlito and their

children are Carlos II and Carlo Antonio. They have 4 grandchildren: Matthew, Grace, Charysma and Audrey. Ceres is a hospice nurse and enjoys gardening and taking walks.

This is Ceres Franciscan journey:

I first heard of the Secular Franciscan Order from John Michael Talbot when I attended his concert at Southern California Renewal Communities (SCRC) in Anaheim. I went to SCRC conferences almost every year since around 1990. Looking for a Franciscan group was not easy. No internet and google at the time. I searched for a long time. I called a Franciscan parish in Los Angeles and Torrance, got referred to some people but never got a reply. I would forget about this calling but the "soft tugging in my heart" would come back each year. Then on the feast of St Francis I went to a church in Fullerton before work. The priest during homily mentioned the Secular Franciscan Order of which the lector was a member. And of course, that got my attention. The lector was Dan Medina! Of course, I chased after him. He turned out to be the Minister of Our Lady of Guadalupe fraternity in La Habra which was only 15 minutes from my house. He later became the Regional Minister of St. Francis Region in Southern California. Thus, the long journey started of being an inquirer, candidate and finally professed member of the Secular Franciscan Order.



My formation took years. We didn't have the books and guidelines we now have. It took a lot of patience and perseverance. I wanted to transfer to another fraternity nearby because I wanted to satisfy my lust for knowledge. At that time, I was reading a lot of books on spirituality and autobiographies of the saints and I felt I was not filled. But I wanted to stay with the group that God gave me and I feared of going against God's will. I thank God for the lessons I learned in this group at Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Habra. My journal of 7/798 written days before profession said this: "Throughout my formation I grew from anxious inquirer to mature candidate, from what I can get to what I can give. I was unaware of His gentle hand teaching me patience and humility as well as perseverance."

My profession was joyous with Fr. William Brand, OFM as celebrant. My immediate family and close friends came. My friends at St Gregory the Great parish also attended and became our impromptu choir. My sister from New York, who later became a secular Franciscan herself, flew in.



Today working as a hospice nurse in Las Vegas, I bring God's compassion, love and care to the patients I see and touch. I pray for them and their families especially when death is imminent. I consider being a hospice nurse as a ministry. As St. Francis' Letter to All the Faithful says "we are mothers when we carry Him in our heart...and give birth to Him through holy manner of working..."



Our St Margaret of Cortona fraternity in Las Vegas is a caring, loving but struggling fraternity in terms of membership. We are confident that with St Francis' prayers we will increase in number and will shine brighter than the Strip! God bless! Yours in St. Francis, Ceres OFS

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Cosette Schaaf, OFS 25 years as a Secular Franciscan

Cosette celebrated her 25-year jubilee as a Secular Franciscan on March 25, 2023. For those 25 years she has been a member of the Pope St. John XXIII Fraternity.



My dear Franciscans,

I appreciate the kindness of commemorating my 25th Jubilee as a Secular Franciscan. I was born in Orange, California. I am married, 42 years, to Doug. We are blessed with three children: Daughter Emily and Mike, daughter Bridget and Ananda, and three grandchildren and son, Joseph. There are two other precious souls with Our Lord that we lost at 3-4 months within the pregnancies. I am so grateful to God for my work as a homemaker, and all my work. I provide music (piano) for Sunday Masses, and I like helping to tend to the animals we have, chickens, ducks, turkeys, working in our garden, and harvesting from the fruit trees. But now, for the past year and a half, my sister and I take turns staying with our 93-year-old mom in Anaheim, CA, for a month at a time as she is on hospice.

I discerned I wanted to be a Secular Franciscan a little while after a friend came over to my house and remarked about our little St. Francis shrine outside. She asked if I'd like to be a Secular Franciscan, and then she explained about it. It was a few months later that I received a surprise inspiration to go ahead and look into it...(Honestly, I wasn't even thinking about it!). Diana, my friend, must have been praying for this! She is now 30 years a Secular Franciscan.

It is a great honor that the date of my profession is on the feast day of the Annunciation-for love of Mary, and in honor of St. Francis' love for Mary. Some of my family came from CA. I just remember being SO JOYFUL!...truly a grace from Mary! I was professed with two others, one of whom is deceased and the other, unfortunately, is lapsed.

I love being in the Franciscan family. Having a Franciscan vocation enriches my life to follow Our Lord Jesus more nearly day by day through the Liturgy of the Hours, penance, Franciscan retreats, meeting with the fraternity members at the gatherings, and when I can incorporate the ways Francis lived his life in simplicity and joy into my own life. I wear the Tau often because Francis embraced its' meaning of the crucified Lord and penance.

Our neighbors have a wolf dog, Suki. He comes to our gate nearly every morning to get a treat from Doug. He growls and barks and shows his big teeth to our dog of 70 pounds. Suki's size makes our dog look small! I am very afraid of Suki, but not Doug! Doug will get an old sandwich and go out the gate with it, sit on the bench and put his hand out. Then Suki sits, too, and puts his giant paw in Doug's hand to shake hands. Doug then gives him the sandwich and walks him home. Doug has another name for him though; he calls him "Gubbio", like Francis and the wolf at Gubbio! Francis wasn't afraid. I wish I was not afraid of Suki. Someday, God-willing.

I would like to thank all the Secular Franciscans from the past and present who have been with me on this journey during these 25 years. Some have gone home to Our Lord, but I remember well their smiles, laughter, voices and guidance like it was today. I remember the kindness, hugs and inspirations from many of you in the Region and, of course, from my dear fraternity members. I pray that I can do the same as you have done for me.

Cosette Schaaf, OFS



MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL FORMATION DIRECTOR

My local fraternity, Saint Francis, sometimes uses the months of July and August for planning and prep work. We don't all agree that this is best. Our National Fraternity recommends (and has recommended for years) that fraternities continue meeting through the summer in order not to suffer lag-time in the autumn. Whoever has enough time together? So, at St. Francis we will do both--use our Council Time to plan and work hard to be ready for plenty of new work in September and partner with some volunteers to produce fraternity experiences in July and August for everyone who can attend. In the future we will no longer take "summer breaks" and I hope this extra effort will bear good fruit.

I have observed that fraternities who put in the most effort generally enjoy the best results. But so many things work against us. Without trying to make a list I'd like to point out that "narrow plans yield thin results..." If we don't work hard and try hard in the planning times, how can we look forward to a vibrant, connected and Gospel-based community that can support our lay-Franciscan lifestyle? While many things can slow or inhibit our progress, poor results don't usually come from immediate or unforeseen events. We fail or fall short because we fail to plan, or don't plan far enough, with large vision and the great hope of our faith.

As community servants we are charged with the task of collecting ideas, having conversations, building bridges and including everyone. It isn't enough to say which day we will have meetings, or which times. The snacks we bring aren't essential to our success. We need to consider what we intend to do, say, share and explore, not only at our next meeting, but in the many meetings to follow during the year. There should be a current to our meetings. We should also know where each of our members is at, spiritually and formatively. Not everyone is at the same place. Are some going home hungry...?

Who has the courage to really serve at the table of fraternity? We need people who can cook up ideas. We need others who can cut and carve, knead and season. We need someone to plate our ideas in attractive ways, recipes that encourage our members to taste new things, try new flavors. At the same time, we need regular offerings of "Grandma's Favorites"--the old recipes we've loved for generations. Clearly, the care and feeding of a fraternity is complex. It is also real work.

Please understand that in every fraternity, members are welcome in the kitchen. Our Council meetings and Formation Teams aren't closed to your questions and ideas. We need them to avoid the trap of "doing it the same way" ... every year.

Our Order allows for lots of variety, while suggesting certain "healthy diets" of formation. If you, your Formation Team or any members of your Fraternity have questions, comments or ideas, please send them to us on your Regional Team. That's what we're here for--to help. This summer, let's begin with The Essentials. Beyond Formation Journey and our F.U.N. guidelines, what do our people need? How can we "spice up" our formation menus? What have you been wanting to try but maybe don't have a good recipe for?

For our Regional Retreat in July, I'll warm up some pots and pans. What are we hungry for...?

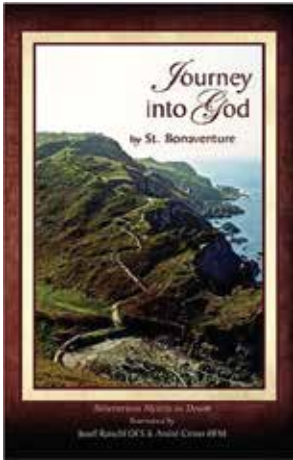


MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL JPIC ANIMATOR

How to become a person of peace and justice?

Whether we are currently filled with gratitude and calm, juggling multiple activities and commitments, or seeking God's will in the face of conflict and injustice in the face of conflict and challenges - Prayer and Contemplation are the answer. *

**Article 8 ...let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all (we) are and do.*



A group from our Region recently completed the week long “Soul’s Journey Into God” Retreat at the CASA led by Josef Raischl, ofs and Andre Cirino, ofm - based on St. Bonaventure’s work

St. Bonaventure was elected the 7th general minister of the Order of Friars Minor in 1257 during a time of division and conflict within the OFM community (Reminds me of life in America today). Feeling unsettled and finding himself in deep need of peace and guidance, he withdrew to Mount LaVerna. It was there he encountered the peace that “surpasses understanding” (Phillippians 4:7).

“...the external world is of little significance unless our interior mirror is cleansed and polished...”

Journey into God, by St. Bonaventure, translated by Raischl & Cirino, 2012, page 23

REFLECTION:

- What clouds my “interior mirror,” making it difficult to find the finger of God in all things?
- How do I fall short of being “peaceable even with those who despise peace?” pg 18



NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY FRATERNITY Tucson, AZ

How to Follow Francis When Losing Your Gathering Location

As Franciscans we are often subject to changes in our Fraternities, and we have to become creative in how we handle things. St. Anthony Fraternity in the last four years has had to move our gathering location three times.

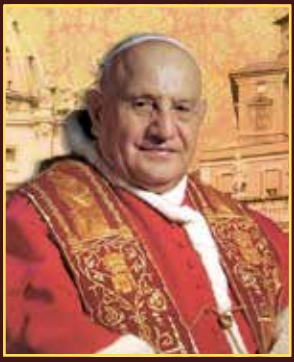
But we are not the only ones facing this type of issue. Other fraternities around the country have encountered this same issue. Recently, a Franciscan couple from my prior Fraternity in Georgetown, Texas visited us. They shared the parish where the Fraternity was established in 2011, was no longer willing to share their facilities with non-parish groups. After discussion and attempts to locate a new home, they became creative.

Knowing the church was celebrating a 3-year Eucharistic Renewal, they developed an educational presentation on the Eucharist. A past minister approached the Austin bishop with the idea of allowing their fraternity to present this program to parishes in the Austin Diocese. The bishop approved and communicated this program to each parish and encouraged them to take advantage of this presentation. The plan was once a month they would present this Eucharistic program at a parish, then invite those who cared to stay to “Come and See” their Ongoing Formation for the month and if still interested to stay and experience their general meeting. What a way to evangelize and provide opportunities for those Franciscan minded parishioners to join us!

This was a way to let each parish know about the Secular Franciscan Order and for them to experience just who we are and what we do. This also provided a location each month to hold their meetings, as they wander from parish to parish. Hopefully, at some point they will find a welcoming parish to call their home.

What a great idea, thinking outside of the box and following some of our early Franciscans brothers as they wondered from town to town.

Submitted by Sharon Masterjohn, OFS (Formation Director)



NEWS FROM POPE ST. JOHN XXIII FRATERNITY Yuma, AZ



Millie

We celebrated Millie Quijano's Welcoming Ceremony on April 16, 2023. We are all praying for her as she journeys toward Candidacy and ultimately Profession. Congratulations!



Frances, Millie and Diana



Members and Sister Janet Rose, OSF Spiritual Assistant



On May 20-21 Immaculate Conception invited us to a Ministry Fair. We had four people sign- up who were interested in exploring what Secular Franciscans are all about. We invited them all to come and see at our Gathering. On Sunday, May 21, 2023 Benjamin Saenz, OFS our Councilor-at-Large- and his wife Ana visited us here in Yuma. It was a very blessed Gathering and day for us. We feel grateful to belong to the St. Thomas More Region.



NEWS FROM ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA FRATERNITY Las Vegas, NV

On Sunday April 30, a Regional Executive Council “delegation” travelled to Las Vegas to perform the Pastoral and Fraternal visitations for St. Margaret of Cortona fraternity. Julianne Hartzell, OFS and Bill Neu, OFS were respectively the Fraternal and Pastoral Visitators. Steve (our chauffeur) and Cathy Roszhart, OFS joined them. Brother David Buer, OFM, our Provincial Spiritual Assistant also attended. Fruitful dialogue and convivial fellowship was enjoyed by all. Meet our brothers and sisters:



Please remember in your prayers the professed members who are working hard with the Regional Executive Council to keep their fraternity active. Please also pray for their 5 new aspirants who will start their Orientation by Zoom July 25. May God send His Holy Spirit among them to encourage and guide them in their journey. Submitted by Cathy Roszhart, OFS Regional Vice-Minister



NEWS FROM PEACE FRATERNITY Scottsdale, AZ

To our brothers and sisters!! Blessings from Peace Fraternity

**How quickly three months flies by.
Peace Fraternity has had such a beautiful busy time.**



I would like to spotlight Linda Gibson OFS today.

Linda professed in 2014 and has served Peace fraternity faithfully wherever needed. She was our presenter for Ongoing Formation in April and did a beautiful job.

Linda shared that she had a love for St Francis and that helped her decide she wanted to become a Secular.

In 1980 she chose Oct 4th to get married to her best friend, St Francis' feast day!!

Linda Gibson presenting Blessed Carlo Acutis

Linda felt drawn to the simple, loving way that St Francis and St Clare chose to follow Jesus. She felt she was being called to follow in their footsteps. She grew close to her sponsor, John, who was minister at the time. Although that John died a few years ago; she continues to pray daily for him. John was an active member at her church and welcomed her into the OFS family. She is challenged by what course to follow in this broken world and what is the Holy Spirit asking her to do. She believes prayer is a big need and loving God, the Blessed Mother and the saints. She knows caring for her family and never giving up hope along with prayer is the strongest way to follow God and listen for his calling to do what He needs of her. She said the most rewarding part of joining the Secular Franciscans is being a part of the OFS family and bringing Jesus to others. Little ways become big ways when you serve others.

The Franciscan Renewal Center celebrated the ordination of Father James Seiffert OFM in May. What a special sacrament to witness! Our own John Lomeli, OFS, Formation Director for Peace Fraternity served a special part working right alongside of our Bishop throughout the ceremony. (Such a natural)

Several of us attended the Professions of our brothers and sisters from St. Francis fraternity at St. Mary's Basilica in June. It was beautiful hearing the words in both English and Spanish.

Till next time.



John Lomeli, OFS and Deacon Herve
OFM Affiliate, Spiritual Assistant



NEWS FROM ST. FRANCIS FRATERNITY Phoenix, AZ

On June 10th, nine members of St. Francis Fraternity made their profession before family, friends, and fraternity members, during a bi-lingual ceremony. Please pray for all our newly professed.



From left to right: Spiritual Assistant: Fr. Micah Muhlen, OFM; Christina Blair, OFS; Rosario Gómez Yánez, OFS; Justina Kwapy, OFS; Heriberto Prudencio, OFS; María Elena Prudencio, OFS; Alejandro Mayorga-Cruz, OFS; Maria de Rosario Cornejo-Mayorga, OFS; Rita Blair, OFS; Ed Blair, OFS; Minister: Tom McNamara, OFS; Formation Director: Dan Medina, OFS.

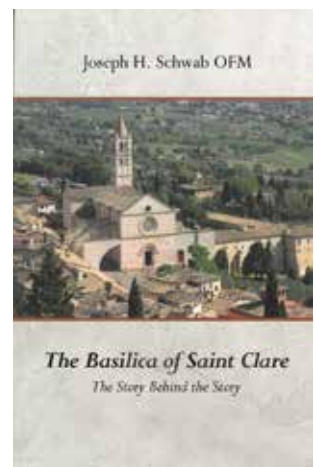
Last Mass and “letting go” Mass at St. Mary’s

On June 24th and July 1st, Mass was offered by the friars at St. Mary’s as they returned the church to the diocese. Bishop John Dolan, and Auxiliary Bishop Eduardo Nevares, joined the St. Mary’s community, members from our Region, friends, and family in celebrating the last masses. On June 24th, Bishop Dolan presided over the Mass, and the symbol of the keys to St Mary’s was passed to the Bishop. On July 1st, Fr. Michael Wheldon presided over the Mass while both Bishops assisted at the altar. A walk through the special places was joined by the congregation ending at the altar. Everyone was allowed to kiss the altar and join the friars for a light lunch in the friary.



Fr. Joe Schwab, OFM, has written a book on the Basilica of St. Clare in Assisi. It is a short book on sale at the Books and Blessing Bookstore at the Franciscan Renewal Center.

Check it out while there for the Regional retreat!





**NEWS FROM
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY FRATERNITY
Scottsdale, AZ**

Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity has had wonderful things happening.

On June 10, 2023, we joyously welcomed three Candidates into our Fraternity.

God has blessed us with John Anthony, Julia, and Marlene.

Also, we have a very talented member who has given us an excellent website
<https://ourladyoftherosaryofs.org/>

God is Good, All the time, God is Good!

Submitted by Jane Massion, OFS Vice-Minister



NEWS FROM ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FRATERNITY Surprise, AZ

In the last newsletter, I mentioned that since last October our fraternity has welcome 4 new and already professed members who transferred from other regions.

All of them are already very active when they come to gatherings and 3 out of 4 are signed up to attend our Regional Retreat.

Please welcome them!



Mary Jane McSparran, OFS



*Diane and Deacon
Richard Carmody, OFS*



Doralee Tayler, OFS

Submitted by Cathy Roszhart, OFS.



NEWS FROM ST. CLARE OF ASSISI FRATERNITY Phoenix, AZ



The crowning of Mary was the focus of our May Gathering, where everyone individually offered a rose to our Blessed Virgin Mother



We were delighted by the visit and singing of Br Steven Gerard OFS



We also had our Pastoral Visitation by Patrick Mowrer, OFS, SA



Followed by the Franciscan Crown Rosary prayed in 7 different languages: Japanese, Filipino, Thai, Czech, Polish, Spanish and Latin...

And of course, celebration was not over without a birthday cake for our May celebrants!!!





NEWS FROM BL. FRANZ JÄGERSTÄTTER FRATERNITY Flagstaff, AZ

*Greeting from your brothers and sisters
of the north.*

Every three years, when we have a new election, the new council prays and comes up with a fraternity goal that follows the Franciscan Tradition and challenges our Franciscan family to strive to follow the ways of Francis. This year the goal is as follows: “For each fraternity member, in a spirit of service, to initiate encounters with the marginalized by living the example of Matthew 25:31-40; and commit to caring for creation by increasing their efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle”. Our goal is then tied into ongoing formation, keeping these words on the top of our minds and taking root in our hearts. For example, our ongoing formation this month was on the Eucharist through Franciscan eyes. It is the partaking of the meal and the gift of Jesus being in our lives that moves us in service of others and creates a desire to care for the world around us, seeing all things as a vestige of God and our relationships with our sister mother earth and all her creation.



We, as a Fraternity, have adopted a section of road in our town and 4 times a year, spend the morning walking the street and cleaning up the trash as well as recycling products left around the street. We usually walk in pairs or threes digging through the landscaped bushes, separating landfill from recycle, have fun fraternal conversation, as well as greeting people along the way, many who are without a home and are living on the street.



This also includes getting involved with the sustainable division of the city in cleaning up the Rio De Flag, a storm channel that often floods with the monsoon rains or quick melting of the snow. Debris from the burn scars up in the mountains come down and clog up our culverts, forcing the water to go over the embankment and then covering the road, making it impassable. We find it a great way to interact with the locals of Flagstaff as well as promote who we are as Franciscans. Sometimes, afterwards, we head up to a locally owned breakfast venue for continued time to gather and share. Being attentive of and cleaning up our little city of Flagstaff is one simple way of caring for God's creation.

Submitted by Patrick Mowrer, OFS Spiritual Assistant

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE REGION

2023 - November 12 - St. Clare of Assisi fraternity Triennial Elections

2024 - Sept 17-22 - NAFRA Chapter - Franciscan Renewal Center, Scottsdale AZ

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE NATION

July 29 – Aug. 2, 2026 21st Quinquennial in Lexington, KY

SUBMISSION DEADLINES AND PUBLICATION DATES

October 1 Deadline for Article Submission

October 15 Publication of “Our Fraternal Scoop”

VISIT BOTH WEBSITES OFTEN FOR NEWS AND VALUABLE INFORMATION

National Website:

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/>

Regional Website:

<https://www.stmregionofs.com/>

Questions/Submissions:

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