



Our Fraternal Scoop



Spring 2023 • Quarterly Publication



MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL MINISTER

**Pax et Bonum –
Greetings of love my dear Franciscan Family!
And a Happy and Blessed New Year to each of you!**

What a wonderful way to start the New Year by being able to begin our regional newsletter. This is actually something that many in our region have been asking for, for quite some time. And thanks to the work and commitment of Cathy Roszhart, OFS, our Regional Vice-Minister, along with fraternity member, Stan Sisson, OFS, we are able to bring this to you. Thanks Cathy and Stan!

Do you ever write or email news to a family member? They can be miles away or right next door. It is just a wonderful way to communicate with each other. And for me, receiving them helps me to not forget those important things! My hope and perhaps dream and prayer is that this will become our Franciscan family way of sharing – something that worked, something that was learned from a project which can be the good, bad or ugly. It is a wonderful way that we can learn from and support each other. After all, that is what family is all about. And we are part of the Franciscan family. This blows my mind when I think about how large we actually are!!

In reading your year-end reports, I have learned a lot of what you, each fraternity family, feels are the strengths, challenges and the assistance that perhaps the Regional Council can provide. I don't think you would be too surprised about the things we share and the things where we are different. Reminds me of a family!!

In reading these, I want to leave you with a quote from Pope Francis.

"In families, there are difficulties, but these difficulties are overcome with love. Hate doesn't overcome any difficulty. Division of hearts doesn't overcome any difficulty. Only love is capable of overcoming difficulties. Love is a festival. Love is joy. Love is to keep moving forward."

The Regional Council and the Regional Executive Council are always here for you. You just need to ask. And remember that you are loved as a fraternity and as individuals.





CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR CIOFS MINISTER

Rome, December 20th, 2022

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

Every feast, every celebration is different, none of them are the same, but this is very much true for the Christmas of this year, for many reasons. There are many wounds in our life caused by war, natural disasters, or other tragedies of life. But when we are going to celebrate Christmas this year, we have a lot of things to give thanks for, too, in spite of our concerns that shadow our life.

Look at Jesus who was born in Bethlehem, in a difficult moment of history, in a poor place. Is it more difficult for us to live today than it was for him? Is it less comfortable for us? Are there more wars today? Are we poorer than he was? Should we move more from one place to another than he had to? Are we suffering of more persecutions than he had to? I invite you to remember all this, and to remember those who still today have the same hard conditions of life. Do not think about Christmas as a cozy feast, but let us make it a feast of being children of God.

Let's discover the Jesus in the other who deserves our worship, asks for our helpful service, awaits our presence and attention. We will also have many things to do while serving others. Let us not look at why it will be difficult to do, but at the joy of being involved in something good, together. Let Christmas deepen our vocation and mission, and inspire all of us to strengthen our dedication, move us to solidarity.

Next year we are going to begin the series of Franciscan Centenaries, first giving thanks to God for the Rule of Saint Francis and for the celebration of Christmas in Greccio, which opened the eyes of many to the endless love of God. I invite all of you to live these celebrations not only by remembering some significant moments in the life of Saint Francis, but look at these events as great possibilities to renew our faith, to renew the way we live our rich

Franciscan charism. Please, find that way of celebration that fits the best to your fraternities, to the circumstances of life where you are living, so that you can live your vocation and mission more gratefully, more completely, in a renewed way.

In line of these celebrations which we begin next year, I'd like to invite you all again to come and participate at the Chapter of mats in 2024. It will be a privileged moment for the Secular Franciscan Order to meet, to rejoice, to pray together, to let God enrich all of us with an experience that might be once in a lifetime.

At the end I'd like to turn to all those sisters and brothers of us, who have been suffering of the consequences of war, natural disaster, financial difficulties, family problems, illness, or any other hardships. I feel a special affection and closeness to all of you, and I would like to encourage you all, that in spite of every difficulty, God is in control, he knows us and knows our problems. He is on our side, together with us. This is why he decided to come, in human likeness; and found human in appearance¹ to redeem the world and to show the glory of God in spite of all difficulties and all sufferings.

My dear Brothers and Sisters, I will bring all of you in my heart to Christ in a special way through my prayers, giving thanks to God for each and all of you. May God give peace to us all, in our hearts and in the world.

I send to you, to your families, to your fraternities my best wishes for a holy and peaceful Christmas and for the New Year.

Your minister and your brother.

Tibor Kauser
CIOFS General minister





MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL CO-SPIRITUAL ASSISTANTS

Profession: A Gift of the Spirit

Summary of chapter on Profession from FUN manual and the Ritual Part I, chapter three.

As we reminisce over the past Advent, Christmas, and New Year's practices and encounters, we might ponder on our profession. Certainly, 2023 will bring professions to some of our Candidates in our St. Thomas More Region's local fraternities. It is always, a good time to pray about upcoming professions and to pray about how we live our profession. Take some time as we begin 2023 to invoke the Holy Spirit to help us reflect on how we are living our profession and how we are preparing those who will be professed this year.

When reading Fr. Richard Trezza's, ofm translation of Br. Felice Cangelosi's presentation on "Profession in the SFO: Gift and Commitment" I am again grateful for the Holy Spirit moving in our lives. We are called by the Holy Spirit. For a moment we may think profession happens because of our hard work and efforts and tasks, etc. However, it is the Holy Spirit moving within us, calling us to the Secular Franciscan Order. How has the Holy Spirit moved you to this point in your initial formation? Or if you are professed, how has the Holy Spirit moved you since you consecrated your lives to God, following St. Francis's example?

We have completed the readings, wrote the responses, conversed with others in initial formation discussions and classes, participated in days of recollections and seminars and devotedly attended retreats, fraternity gatherings, and other Franciscan related activities, volunteered at appropriate fraternity related events and prayed progressively more than when we began initial formation and now it is time to profess. We may think of it as a checklist of sorts. All these actions, although important in our development and knowledge of our Secular Franciscan Order, offer only a small part of our preparation of profession. None of those actions would have been completed if we did not allow the Holy Spirit to move us and guide us. We did nothing to earn it. We just need to believe that the Holy Spirit is at every step of our spiritual journey when our hearts are open.

Grace: We have received a gift of the Holy Spirit; what we do with that gift is up to us. Profession is not only a joyful occasion we all want to celebrate, but also, according to Fr. Felice, transformational. At Profession our "Lord speaks to the Professed and the Professed

Continued MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL CO-SPIRITUAL ASSISTANTS

speaks to the Lord in intimate ways that bind the two together for life.” We are professing or committing or dedicating ourselves to a way of life that is gospel centered. The grace we receive is to help live that Christ-centered life every moment of every day. We will not live this life without God’s grace – the Holy Spirit is essential to our lives. During Profession, the Holy Spirit is called for those being professed, like the invocation prayer at Mass upon the bread and wine so that they be transformed into the body and blood of Christ. We have been chosen. God has a plan for us and although it is a mystery, God will reveal His plan for us through our brothers and sisters of Francis.

Action: Profession is an action of the Church. It is an ecclesial act because the “Church is the body of Christ; its head and its members.” It is “God’s saving plan in time for us.” Profession in Kairos time, not just a specific time, but it is God’s time. Profession belongs to “God’s eternal plan, something that exists in the continuum of the Church’s time” – a “transformational” experience – a “life changing” result in God’s time. How have you been transformed?

Fraternity: Profession takes place with fraternity because the fraternity is a visible sign of the Church. According to Fr. Felice, it is “the fraternity assembled and in union with the Spirit celebrating the mystery of salvation revealed and communicated to us in Christ.” And the fraternity is the recipient of a cherished gift in the persons of the newly Professed. The local fraternity minister states “I receive you into this fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order”. Belonging to the Order brings obligations and responsibilities as well as rights and yet we depend on the Holy Spirit at every step. We are called to live out our Baptismal promises, consecrating our lives to God in all we do. At times this may be easy for us and other times it is with great emotional, physical, spiritual or intellectual hardships that we continue to live the Gospel life. Profession is more than the date of the event - it is daily living the lives we asked to live for the rest of our lives, not without hardships and concerns, but never with hopelessness. We ask for the Holy Spirit to come on the day of profession and every day of our lives so that we continue to desire what we stated during our profession mass.

The local fraternity is a visible sign of the Church, a community of faith and love (Ritual, page 22). Do we pledge ourselves to spend our efforts to make the fraternity a genuine ecclesial and living Franciscan community? How do each of us contribute to making our fraternity an ecclesial and living Franciscan community? What does an ecclesial and living Franciscan community look like?

Submitted by Susan Simeone, OFS



MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS

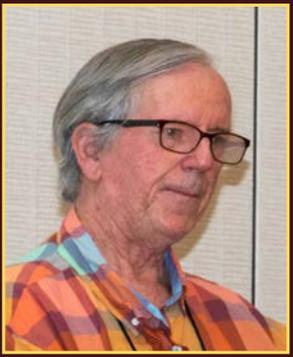
Brothers and Sisters,

If we are to welcome God and his peace, we cannot stand around complacently, waiting for things to get better. We need to get up, recognize the moments of grace, set out and take a risk. We need to take a risk! Today, at the beginning of the year, rather than standing around, thinking and hoping that things will change, we should instead ask ourselves: “This year, where do I want to go? Who is it that I can help?”

So many people, in the Church and in society, are waiting for the good that you and you alone can do, they are waiting for your help.

Today, amid the lethargy that dulls our senses, the indifference that paralyzes our hearts, and the temptation to waste time glued to a keyboard in front of a computer screen, the shepherds are summoning us to set out and get involved in our world, to dirty our hands and to do some good. They are inviting us to set aside many of our routines and our comforts in order to open ourselves to the new things of God, which are found in the humility of service, in the courage of caring for others.

Brothers and Sisters, let us imitate the shepherds: let us set out with haste!



MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL FORMATION DIRECTOR

Happy New Year, Everyone!

Thank you to all who have worked hard to get our Regional Newsletter up and going. I especially want to thank all our “reporters” who send news from our local fraternities. It can be a hard job and it takes a commitment, but your efforts bear good fruit.

Vocations to our Order are like seeds on the desert. Our stories are the rain that makes these seeds sprout and grow. First people hear that we exist. Then they ask good questions: who are we? What do we do in the world? How do we support and share our Church community? What can we bring that others can't?

By considering our answers and how they fill needs, people begin to think it's possible to contribute, to explore, to discover Christ and to link up with the Holy Spirit and God's mission in the world. All of these things encourage people to “come and see”, to sit in on Inquiry gatherings, to take a chance on Candidacy. If you've worked in Formation, you know how these things catch on. Suddenly it's not our work, but God working in them. We just run along, trying to keep up with their joy and excitement.

The Secular Franciscan way of living is not merely to preserve Catholic traditions, but to constantly seek, serve and adjust to changing needs of our world. We believe that all humans need God. But how can we share God without sharing ourselves, our stories, our hopes and successes? How can we truly allow God to help us if we don't also share our mistakes, our confusions and doubts, perhaps even our fears?

With everyone trying so hard, there's no doubt that a seed falling among us will find good, deep soil in which to grow, thrive and bear fruit. So pile on the stories! Tell us where you are, what's happening around you, how you feel and think, and what you need. We are one family, embraced in Christ by the Holy Trinity. We belong. And whatever we ask for in faith, God will give us. Can't wait to hear from you!

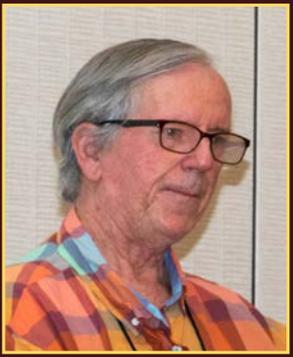
What do I think of Fraternity Life?

It's not what I expected. When I joined the Secular Franciscan Order I thought “At last! Here is flesh of my flesh and bone of my bones!” Actually, I thought “Here are people who think like me and act like me...” So, about a year after I made my profession, I walked into my fraternity gathering and thought “Who are these people and what have they done with my fraternity...?” That day was the beginning of my journey...

We Are Not a Club: Our “rule” is not a list of do's and don'ts.

It doesn't keep score get a good grade and you're “in”; get a poor grade and you're in the principal's office. We don't have a secret handshake. The Tau we like to wear doesn't mean we're special or superior. We don't have one kind of politics, or eat one kind of food, or drive one kind of car. What works for me is not “the way” for everyone. When I go home, I don't take off my Franciscan Hat and put it in the closet until next meeting...

We Are Part of The Church: We have a job to do. It's not for everyone. Our job is to know the Gospel and live it in the heart of the world; no sanctuary, no sheltering chapel or church, just our naked heart exposed to the world. Whoever we are, wherever we go, we bring the Church with us. The Church tells us what's right and wrong. Sometimes we don't understand. Sometimes we don't agree but we are always agreeable, never rude. Reading and studying we learn that



Continued MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL FORMATION DIRECTOR

our Church is a lot smarter, a lot kinder and a lot more sincere than we knew. We learn and we grow... smarter, kinder and more sincere. We get better at doing our job...

We Are Part of Our World

- One Franciscan is a corporate executive. He has a Crucifix on the wall in his office. People walk in and see it and think “Hmm. This man has values and he knows how to live them...” It sets the stage for every encounter and every decision.
- Another Franciscan is a nurse. She can't wear her Tau on string because of safety regulations. She wears a Tau pin instead. Patients see it as she works and ask her about it. What does it mean? Why does she wear it...? She tells them it makes her happy. Then she smiles. They feel better. In a time of uncertainty and discomfort, they feel safer...
- A Franciscan takes part of her retirement and travels to Washington each summer to talk with Congressmen and Senators. Sometimes they duck out, leaving an Intern to take her appointments. She talks to anyone who will meet with her. I ask her, “Does it work?” “If they're breathing and conscious,” she says, “they get the message.”
- A Franciscan tells me about working in the river villages of South America. He raises money to buy medicine and books for the clinics, books for the schools. He gives them whatever he can beg, borrow or buy. “It's all the same he assures me. “If aman has two shirts and another has none...” Then he looks at me. “Do you want to help?”

You Are Invited: Franciscan Profession is not our goal, it's our beginning. When you were baptized, you were invited to join Jesus in his ongoing work, caring for the world in every way. Secular Franciscans go everywhere and do everything, following our Lord as he moves and works among us, healing the sick, caring for the poor, setting the world free. It's an ongoing celebration of grace. You are invited. Becoming a Franciscan is just one way of accepting. There are as many ways as there are people. Don't worry about how; you'll find your way.

Maybe the Franciscan Order diverse, difficult, challenging, often confusing, filled with wonderful surprises, huge with history, always accompanied by Christ, poor but joyful, loving simplicity, caring for our planet maybe this path suits your shoes. Try it for a while. Try walking beyond the books and policies. Try coming to life in the world, alert for its people in all their joy and pain. There's nothing Christ can't use to help people, and with your help he can find new ways.

But you'll have to grow and you'll have to grow up. You'll have to “put away the things of a child” and take on an adult job... for the rest of your life. That's the deal. Jesus doesn't want part time helpers. He wants real friends and companions, people with ideas, people who believe in the mission, people who seek the Gospel with every cell and fiber of their being, every day, 24/7. He seeks people who are willing to love.

What do I think of fraternity life? Why do I choose love instead of hate, peace instead of war, justice instead of oppression, giving instead of hoarding, and doing all this “with others of like mind?” I guess this path just suits my shoes.

Submitted by Tom McNamara, OFS



MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL JPIC ANIMATOR

Peace and all Good!

Wishing you all a grace-filled year of blessings and joy!

You asked for it – we listened!

Here is one response to fraternity requests for better communications with YOUR Regional Council.

During the year, I hope to share with you some background about:

- **where** the name JPIC came from,
- **what** “Integrity of Creation” means and **why** we should care,
- **how** this all relates to our daily lives as Franciscans living in the world today.

I also hope to:

- Build relationships with each Fraternity Minister and Council
- Inspire the designation of a JPIC Animator in each Fraternity
- Keep you connected with programs and resources offered by National JPIC Leadership

Ultimately, the Gospel calls each of us to:

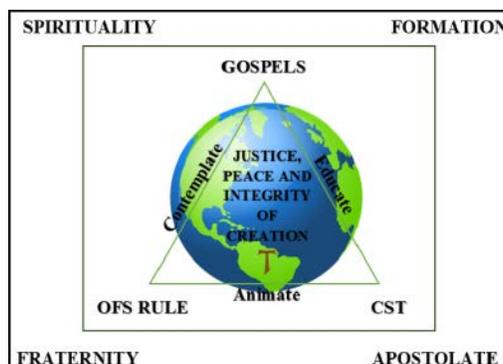
- Become people of **Peace**,
- who bring **Peace** to a fallen world in need of healing
- and a return to ‘right relationship’ which is another word for **Justice**

We recognize this includes ‘right relationship’ with God’s **Creation** – and care for the common good of people and the planet.

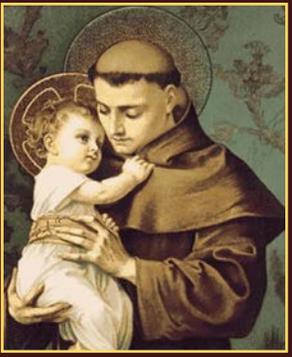
Pax et Bonum

Submitted by Dot Himes, OFS

Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation



An Apostolic Commission of the OFS-USA since October 2007



**NEWS FROM
ST. ANTHONY FRATERNITY
Tucson, AZ**

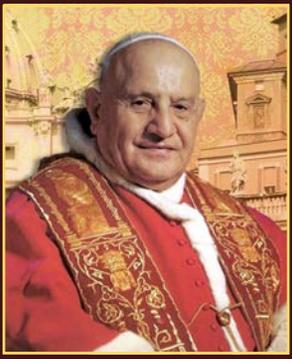
*Our thoughts ought by instinct to fly upwards from
animals, men and natural objects to their creator.
If created things are so utterly lovely, how gloriously
beautiful must He be who made them!
The wisdom of the worker is revealed in his handiwork.
Anthony of Padua*

Blessings from Saint Anthony Fraternity to all the members of Saint Thomas More Region! St. Anthony Fraternity was canonically established in 1941 and is the second oldest fraternity in the region and the State of Arizona . We have 25 professed active members who meet each month on the second Sunday of the month in prayer, service, formation, and fellowship. Our apostolate is the Poverello House in Tucson, Arizona. We recently lost our ability to meet at SantaRosa de Lima Mission on the Old Pascua Village in Tucson. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe purchased the land off of Grant and I-10. The House and Senate passed the Old Pascua Community Land Acquisition Act which allows the Yaqui Tribe to protect their historical heritage and allows the community to develop a casino in the old Century Park Theater. The church hall will only be used for Pascua Community Cultural Events, as the tribe owns the church.



The members of St. Anthony ask you all to pray that we find a new host and home for our gatherings.

Submitted by: Benjamin F. Saenz, ofs, Minister



NEWS FROM POPE ST. JOHN XXIII FRATERNITY Yuma, AZ

Yard Sale fosters Franciscan spirit of Giving

On December 2nd and 3rd, the members of Pope St. John XXIII fraternity held their annual yard sale. Everyone cleaned out their closets and drawers.

Maria Jo, one of our Inquirers graciously offered her home to host it. We had students from Yuma Catholic High School and the CCD Confirmation students volunteer to help us set-up while also earning service hours. I thought it would be a good way to expose the young adults to the world of secular Franciscans. We had five students volunteer and I think they enjoyed it as much as we did or even more! They were such a big help. We had Susana Godinez, one of our candidates, the queen of yard sales (nickname I gave her) helping with the pricing. She was a natural, convincing people to buy what they didn't even need! Of course, she had her cheerleaders helping her, Ignacio Godinez, her husband who is a candidate, and Deacon Paul, who is from Alaska. Him and his wife Mary Beth are winter residents in Yuma. They were guests at our last gathering. Buyers were very generous. We plan to make a donation to a charity with what we earned from the sale. The fraternity will decide at the next Gathering in February what charity. Our gracious host, Mary Jo also cooked for us both days of the sale! she made us some delicious Korean soup (see picture) and it hit the spot on a cold cloudy day. Sister Janet Rose, FSCC our Spiritual Assistant brought a homemade baked pie made by sister Ann Mary, OFS, to sell. Our other Inquirer, Joan Johnson also baked items to sell at the yard sale. Overall, it was a very successful and blessed day! We made \$782.50 in sales, had fun, met lots of new people and made new friends. Thank you, St. Francis of Assisi for interceding for us!

In January, we have our annual Epiphany Pot Luck Party. Our gracious host will be Frances Garcia, OFS who also helped us set-up for the yard sale as she has many years of experience.

Submitted by Denise Carrasquillo, OFS Minister





NEWS FROM PEACE FRATERNITY Scottsdale, AZ



DON'T FORGET THE REASON FOR THE SEASONS!!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!!!

Peace fraternity celebrated the close of 2022 with a Christmas party for members and their families. Rather than a regular potluck, once the vice-minister announced she planned to roast 2 turkeys, members quickly filled in with mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, stuffing, cranberries, corn pudding, green bean casserole, fresh bread and, of course, pumpkin pie, pecan pie, tiramisu, and cookies. What a beautiful blessed feast! Everyone was asked to wrap a Christmas ornament to exchange. Attendance was wonderful and much laughter and conversation filled the afternoon. Our Lady of Angels Church rector, Father Page, lead us in prayer as he joined our celebration. The President of The Franciscan school of Theology in San Diego, Father Garrett Galvin, OFM, also accepted an invitation to join us, bringing along the new vice president. Deacon Herve, the Spiritual Assistant for Peace Fraternity supplied trombone Christmas music. It was such a joyous event.

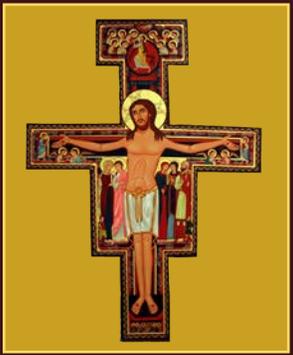
Peace Fraternity is busy gearing up for 2023. We are excited and are planning to set up after mass, tables outside of church to hand out information on the Seculars; mostly though we want to create an awareness of what a Franciscan Secular represents and what our mission is. We hope to welcome visitors to visit us and feel they can ask questions feeling no pressure. It could open people to discernment on whether it is something they want to explore for themselves.

We have also begun talking about ideas to serve our community. Our secretary, Kathy, suggested we each bring a non-perishable item for the Andre house to our meetings. Betty, the vice-minister, is forming plans for all who want to come together and make gallon size bags for the homeless. We also look around and see all the difficulties people around the world are experiencing and hope through prayer and other acts of kindness we can bring a little peace and relief to all our brothers and sisters.

Submitted by Betty Holler, OFS, Vice Minister



NEWS FROM SAN DAMIANO FRATERNITY Glendale, AZ



The San Damiano fraternity was formed over 30 years ago in Glendale, AZ. The members currently meet at St Helen's Catholic Church on the first Sunday of the month. It is a prayerful as well as a generous fraternity, giving where and when we can to different Apostolates. In November we collect canned goods for the St Vincent de Paul, and in December we gather socks and blankets for Andre House.



With our latest election of November 2021, our minister Mike Hart and vice minister Cheryl Groeper continue their good work and leadership.



Our long-time spiritual assistant Deacon George Koch passed away October 2021. His absence is deeply felt as he had been part of the fraternity for decades. You could find him quite frequently quietly protesting outside the Glendale abortion clinic. And so, we are pleased to to have a newly formed Spiritual Assistant in Linda Ressler. Her contributions to each gathering are heartfelt.

Virginia Vollmer has been the fraternity formation director since 2017. She began the 2022 ongoing formation with the lessons created by Father John Sullivan, OFM (these can be found on the National website Keeping Our Focus on St. Francis of Assisi – Secular Franciscan Order – USA (secularfranciscansusa.org)). The topics have been interesting and the discussions lively. Virginia has recently retired - good thing since a new aspirant will start Orientation in February. As she gained free time, God sent us inquirers

Submitted by Virginia Vollmer, OFS.



NEWS FROM OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY FRATERNITY Scottsdale, AZ

During the November gathering, the fraternity observe the Welcoming ceremony for 3 new members Julia, John and Marlene.

In December, we all began, as always, praying the Liturgy of the Hours. We followed with the Story of Greccio which has become a tradition and a favorite.

We marvel at the story which depicts Francis as beginning the tradition of having the Nativity remind us of the Birth of Jesus. How essential it is at Christmas all over the world.



Besides having an enjoyable Potluck, we decided to include a blind gift exchange of gifts costing less than \$10.00. All were placed into a large black bag and numbers passed out for all to go in order in picking from the bag. It really was a fun time.

Submitted by Jane Massion, OFS

Congratulations to the new council elected January 14, 2023

Robert Bundy, OFS - Minister

Jane Massion, OFS - Vice-Minister

Kathy Smith, OFS - Secretary

Marie Phillips, OFS - Treasurer

Carol Bundy, OFS - Formation Director

May God bless them for their service of animating and guiding their fraternity.



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

HISTORY OF ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA

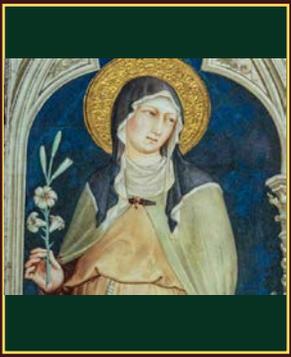
St. Patrick's fraternity in Las Vegas was established following a visit in January 1954 by Father Brendon Mitchell, who gave a parish mission there. In February, that same year he gathered 13 postulants to begin formation for the Secular Franciscans. On March 14, 1954, these first postulants became novices and a year later on March 21, 1955, they were all professed. Tom McNamara, believes that St. Patrick's fraternity was considered established at the start of this forming group.

On December 31, 1993 after a council meeting and discussions, St. Patrick fraternity was deactivated owing to its inability to elect a council. A year later, efforts were underway to reactivate the fraternity under the name of St. Margaret of Cortona, a process that took about 5 years.

However, in the National Database the date recorded for the Canonical Establishment of St. Margaret of Cortona is listed as April 15, 2022.

(Information above collected from our regional archives by Tom McNamara on April 24, 2020). Anyone with more information is welcome to contact Cathy Roszhart, OFS at croszhart@gmail.com

Submitted by Cathy Roszhart, OFS



NEWS FROM ST. CLARE OF ASSISI FRATERNITY Phoenix, AZ

Meet St Clare of Assisi Fraternity. This is our story

Fr Francis Hoorman, a diocesan priest and pastor of Corpus Christi church in Ahwatukee, had a desire to welcome a Franciscan Fraternity at the parish. A true Franciscan at heart, he expressed this aspiration to Dcn Phil and Susan Simeone. The Simeone's explained to him that a Franciscan fraternity is not parish based and needs to be canonically established; However, they were willing to investigate this possibility. There was an interest and need for a fraternity in this area because the closest Franciscan Fraternity was St Francis Fraternity, at St Mary's Basilica in Phoenix. Dcn Phil and Susan spoke to St Francis Council; they realized that there were at least 5 who would like a fraternity in our part of town, Ahwatukee, (south area of South Mountain, Phoenix). St Francis Fraternity helped and guided them in this endeavor. Through a process of brainstorming names, and realizing that St Clare respected St Francis and wanted to follow in his footsteps, they adopted the name of a woman of nobility who gave up all worldly possessions to serve others in her life, one who worked toward establishing their own Rule, which was granted on her death bed. Thus... this forming fraternity was named St Clare of Assisi Fraternity.

In 2001, St Clare of Assisi Emerging Fraternity was created under the sponsorship of St Francis Fraternity with the following Council members: Amor Obispo OFS, Eden Lee, OFS, Dcn. Phil Simeone, OFS, Susan Simeone, OFS, and Pat Benedict, OFS. And after moving through the stages of fraternity formation, St Clare Fraternity became canonically established in May 2008. In November 2008, the first elected Council members came about with Ron Muller OFS –Minister, Pat Brown OFS, Bill Garofalo OFS, Susan Simeone OFS and Dcn Phil, OFS.

As with other Franciscan fraternities in the region and the world, we do have our Mission and Vision that guide us into the present through the future. It is our Vision to be “committed to personal growth through studying and living of the Gospels and Franciscan writings. Like Francis, we are called to move into the larger community and share our prayer and spirituality with others. Our life as a fraternity reflects the joy, the spirit of poverty, the support of family, penance, evangelization, and ecumenical outreach, according to the spirit of Saint Francis and his devotion to the Trinity. “

Today, St Clare has moved to a “larger community” of 34 professed which include 3 Commissioned Spiritual Assistants and 3 Spiritual Assistants in internship. Currently, there are 6 Inquirers and 7 Candidates II.

Submitted by Abby Catalan, OFS



The Seed:
The Fraternity Patron
and first-class relic.

We come from different parishes – Holy Spirit in Tempe, St Ann's in Gilbert, St Tim's in Mesa, Christ the King in Mesa, St Rita in Show Low, to name a few; and members residing in South in Casa Grande; East in Apache Junction, West in Avondale (our SA) and North up to Pine Arizona and White River Havasupai. We are culturally diverse, members speaking in different languages: Spanish, Filipino, English, Native American - Athabaskan (Apache), Polish, Japanese and Thai.

“We are many parts, but we're all one body, and the gifts we have, we are given to share...”

And above all, we are all FRANCISCANS!!!



St Clare Fraternity Canonical Establishment, May 08, 2008. Included with the members are Br. Bob Brady OFM, Fr. Francis Hoorman, CC Pastor and Fr. Joe Schwab, OFM



The Future: The Orientation group for 2022



The Present: 2020-2023 Council Members on Christmas fellowship meal



NEWS FROM ST. FRANCIS FRATERNITY Phoenix, AZ

After regions were established across the United States, St. Francis was recognized as a fraternity in 1940. It is the oldest, continuously active fraternity in our region.

We meet the third Sunday of the month in the lower hall of St. Mary's Basilica.

We have a new council elected in September, so it is relatively new. Our formation program is held prior to the gathering.

We are a bilingual fraternity, having 7 Spanish speakers who are second year candidates.

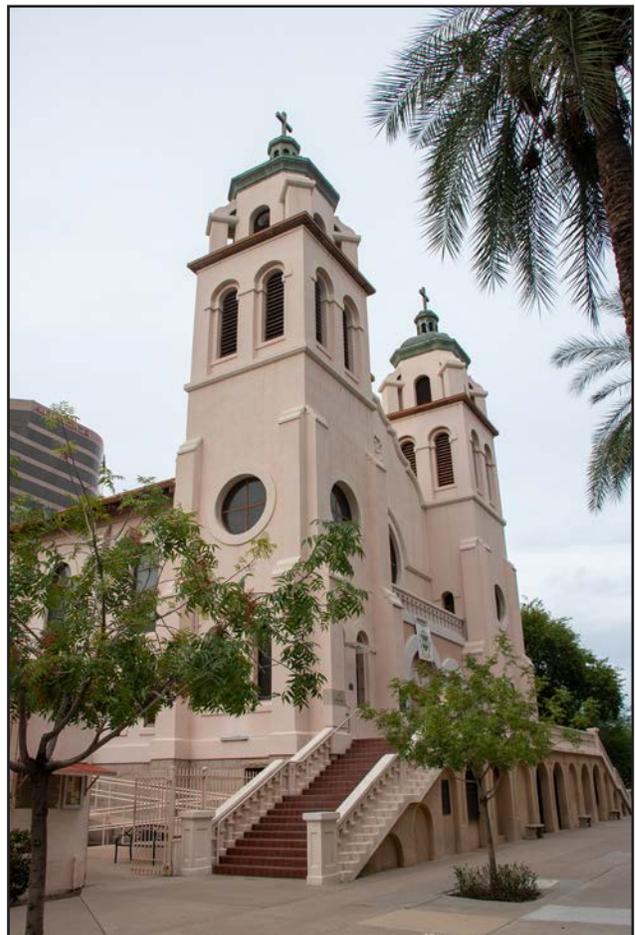
Our newsletter is called the Franciscan Crown and is published once a month. We are currently in the process of updating our website. St. Francis is the sponsor for the OFS with the YouFra group that meets at St. Mary's and occasionally interacts with the young adults on their projects, such as Andre House.

In December, we sponsored a family through St. Vincent de Paul. It was a mother and three young children. We provided gifts and food for their Christmas celebration. Donations were collected from the fraternity to cover the cost of the gifts. This is one way we help St. Vincent. Another is that we have members bring non-perishable items with them to the gathering. This is added to the party at St. Mary's.

Submitted by Rosemarie LeClercq, OFS



St. Francis Council members: (Left to Right) Fr. Micah Muhlen, OFM (SA), Ila Sowins-Dunmire OFS, (Treasurer), Tom McNamara, OFS (Minister), JoAnne McNamara, OFS (Vice-Minister), Adelle Arellano, OFS (Secretary) and Dan Medina, OFS (Formation Director)



St. Mary's Basilica, downtown Phoenix



NEWS FROM ST. DAEGUN ANDREW KIM FRATERNITY Chandler, AZ

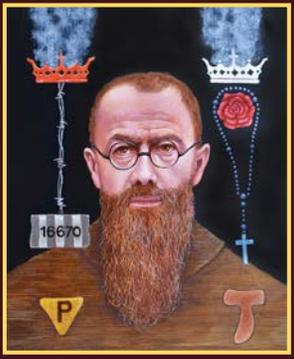
Our fraternity welcomes five inquiries, Stephen Ku, Euna Ku, David Lee, Clara Suk, and Joseph Francisco Pyon, in July 2022.



Members of St. Daegun Andrew Kim Fraternity held their Annual Christmas Party Gathering Sunday, December 18, at the St. Columba Kim Korean Community Church in Chandler and shared delicious food, played a Corn Hole game, and answered the Quiz from the Formation Director. Please remember all the members of St. Daegun Andrew Kim as they prepare for their Triennial Chapter of Elections scheduled for Sunday February 19. May God pour His Holy Spirit upon them as they discern their willingness to accept nominations and elect a council to animate and guide their fraternity.

Submitted by Michael Nam, OFS





NEWS FROM ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FRATERNITY Surprise, AZ

A blessed New Year filled with Peace and JOY to all!

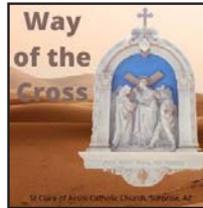
A blessed New Year filled with Peace and JOY to all!
The members of St. Maximilian Kolbe thank God for all the blessings He showered on our fraternity in 2022 and are ready to face 2023 with much hope and enthusiasm!

The fraternity recently celebrated the 5th anniversary of our Canonical Establishment on December 9. It is with much joyfulness that we witnessed the profession of two of our members last June and welcomed 2 new members who transferred from other fraternities. At this time, we only count one Inquirer who is discerning to be admitted in the Order as a Candidate. Being the only member in our Formation class, makes Barb very special as she gets a lot of attention from our Formation team.

At the end of January, St. Clare of Assisi Church in Surprise, our gathering venue, is offering a Ministry Fair. We plan on taking advantage of this opportunity to attend and share our Franciscan way of life with all parishioners. We will invite anyone interested to attend a Come and See shortly after that.

Over the past couple of years and since the Pandemic, our members have created many presentations and prayer services that we offer via Zoom to all our brothers and sisters in St. Thomas More region.

We plan to do so again in 2023. What a wonderful opportunity for all of us to gather and pray together, although not in person, as we strengthen our bonds of unity and fraternal dialogue as well as for better communication.



Please mark your calendar as we will start our Zoom presentations starting Friday February 17 at 5:30 pm with a Franciscan Penance Service Prayer.

Also, we will again invite you to join us during Lent every Friday (Feb. 24 thru March 31) at 5:30 p.m. to pray the Stations of the Cross together.

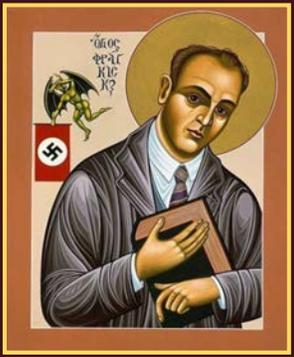
We will send the Zoom invitation to all the local Ministers who in turn will forward the email to all their members. If, for some reason, you don't get one, email roszhart@gmail.com and we will send the invitation directly to you.

We look forward to journey through Lent with you and throughout the whole year as well!

“Praying the Stations of the Cross is a powerful way to help people contemplate the journey of Jesus to the cross and its significance for our lives. The Stations of the Cross is a mini-pilgrimage allowing us to engage all of our senses, heart, mind and body. “

Deacon Dave & Thérèse Ream, O.F.S

Submitted by Cathy Roszhart, OFS.



NEWS FROM BL. FRANZ JÄGERSTÄTTER FRATERNITY Flagstaff, AZ

Greetings from Northern Arizona!

Blessed Franz Jägerstätter Fraternity continues to be a vibrant and active Fraternity. Currently we have thirty-two active members, three candidates and two affiliates! We are blessed to have a new group of people seeking to start orientation and initial formation this Spring. Our gatherings are a wonderful combination of the four components - prayer, business, formation, and of course social time. Formation is the foundation of who we are, and our Formation topics continue to be pertinent to our Rule of Life and address relevant issues in line with the signs of the time such as immigration, ecumenism, poverty, etc...

We did take a little break at our December 2022 gathering for some holiday fun. We had our first potluck since 2020, played password, and ended with some caroling. Our formation topic this day focused on the Incarnation and how love, not sin, is the reason Jesus came to be with us, Emmanuel. This is essential to our Franciscan understanding!

We want to take the opportunity in this first Regional Newsletter to introduce our patron. Blessed Franz was a husband, father, Third Order Franciscan, and a World War II Conscientious Objector who died for his faith. He is a martyr. Blessed Franz Jägerstätter was born in 1907 in St. Radegund which is in Upper Austria. When the Nazis took power in Austria in 1938, Blessed Franz refused to cooperate with them due to his religious conscience and in accordance with the commandment to love God and one's fellow man. He refused to do military service with armed combat because "you should obey God before men". Even though Blessed Franz volunteered to do medical service, he was condemned to death in Berlin for "undermining military morale" and beheaded in Brandenburg an der Havel on August 9, 1943.

While imprisoned, Blessed Franz Jägerstätter wrote several letters to his wife Franziska which have been saved. From these letters we see his deep faith, his love for family, and especially his love of God:

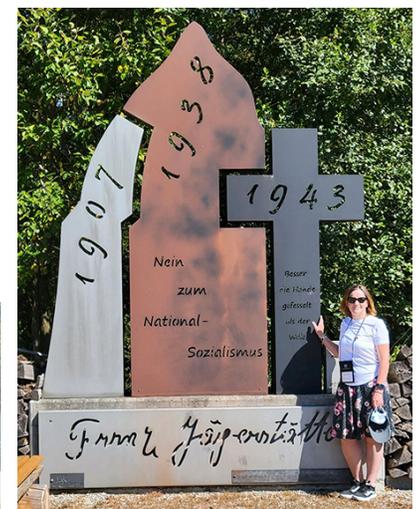
"Now I shall write down a few words here, just as they come from my heart. Even though I am writing them with bound hands - yet that is still better than if my will were bound. Neither prison, nor bonds, nor even death are able to separate a person from the love of God, to rob him of his faith and free will. God's power is invincible."

Some of our Fraternity members have visited the Jägerstätter home in Austria over the years and met his wife (also an OFS,

now deceased) and daughters (one of three is still living). Our Fraternity continues to communicate with the parish of St. Radegund and the Jägerstätter Haus Museum which are both part of our ongoing Apostolate.

There is beautiful film about the life of Blessed Franz Jägerstätter called A Hidden Life. It is a quiet contemplative film worth watching. Our Fraternity plans to host an evening at San Francisco de Asis Parish in Flagstaff on the life of Blessed Franz Jägerstätter in May. Stay tuned for more details. May the Lord give you peace.

Submitted by Bridget Durham, OFS Minister



KICK OFF OF 8TH CENTENARY

The next few years will be a time for us to recall some important events from the last years of St. Francis's life. In particular, from 2023 to 2026, the Secular Franciscan Order will commemorate a very significant Franciscan Centenary.



This Centenary is meant to be a multifaceted event in which several anniversaries will be celebrated. It will take place at different stages in order to observe the 800th anniversaries of the Rule, the Christmas at Greccio (2023), the Stigmata (2024), the Canticle of the Creatures (2025), and the Easter of Francis (2026).

This series of anniversaries will give us a valuable opportunity to remember, in a vivid and inspiring way, the evangelical charism that the Holy Spirit awakened in the Church through St. Francis.

We would like to celebrate this Franciscan Centenary in a profound communion as a family, in all the countries and contexts of the world in which we are present.

The National Executive Committee is starting our planning for the OFS-USA. A task force has been convened to help with planning national events. We will share details with you all in the near future. Stay tuned!

May the participation in these events enrich our vocations and spread the joy of Christ's Gospel throughout our communities.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE REGION

- February 19 St. Daegun Andrew Kim Triennial Election Chapter
March 3-5 Regional Visitation at the Franciscan Renewal Center
April 23 Blessed Franz Jägerstätter Pastoral and Fraternal Visitations
July 14-16 Regional Retreat at the Franciscan Renewal Center

SUBMISSION DEADLINES AND PUBLICATION DATES

April 1 Deadline for Article Submission

April 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:

Please contact: Cathy Roszhart, OFS

croszhart@gmail.com or 309-825-2900