

Our Fraternal Scoop

Summer 2026 -Quarterly Publication



Mission:

Our Fraternal Scoop, a publication of the Saint Thomas More Regional Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order of the United States, is a vital communication link between all members throughout the regional fraternity. The articles within the publication, while sharing the Secular Franciscan charism and vision, are intended to share news between the Regional Executive Council and local fraternity about various events and activities. Our goal is by everyone contributing to the newsletter, that it will foster fraternal closeness.



MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL MINISTER

My oh my!! Where has the time gone? It is June already and I feel like I just had the chance to write to you. (Have you noticed that I am trying to send fewer emails?) ☺

I just finished reading the evaluation forms of our weekend retreat! Wow!!! Looking at those it was a success! Everyone there it seems is ready to go into the world and proclaim the Good News. And YES, we are already planning our retreat for 2027, that is next year. ☺ So NOW is the time to mark your calendars so that you can be sure and attend. The 2027 Regional Retreat is June 11 – 13, 2027. We already have a Retreat Master. It will be Sr. Renita Brummer, OSF. She is a Franciscan Sister of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and earned a MA in Franciscan Studies from St Bonaventure University. And while I am at it, our next Regional Council meeting is – September 26, 2026. You are all invited to those meetings as a guest. It is always good to see what is happening in our region at those meetings. I am pretty sure they are like your council meetings and you should be attending those too!

I want to leave you with a thought. Since this is the Jubilee Year of St. Francis it will be great if you take a few moments and go to our Regional and National Websites, to learn how God is calling you to “Live Like Francis.” Here is a question to think about.

Our world needs peacemakers, bridge builders and messengers of Christ’s love.

How are you called to live like Francis?



UPDATE ON THE FAMILY FROM VENEZUELA

URGENT PLEA FOR SUPPORT

A Family Update: With Faith, Gratitude, and Hope

First of all, it is a pleasure to greet you and remind you how enormously grateful we are to each and every one of you for the support and human warmth with which you have embraced us; from the bottom of our hearts, you make us feel right at home. May God bless each of you with much life and health.

We wanted to share with you how our journey has been lately. This time continues to be a long race to achieve the stability and peace of mind that we so deeply long for while we continue our immigration process. Unfortunately, the first lawyer we had did not help us as she should have: she did not do her job well, there were too many inconsistencies in the stories, and a great lack of communication on her part, which led us to the hard news that our asylum was denied.

Faced with this, we found ourselves in the urgent need to look for a new lawyer to submit an appeal. With a lot of effort, we were able to pay for the start of the contract; the appeal has already been submitted and is currently in progress. Sustaining ourselves between legal payments and rent without a steady job has been a very difficult challenge, but we keep all our trust placed in God; He is good, and we continue to trust in His plans.

Despite the storms, we have been doing well, and there are many blessings to celebrate:

School progress: The four children are doing very well in school and have advanced a lot with the language. They have passed important exams such as the AZELLA test and other evaluations of English as a second language. They are thriving in every way!

Great achievements: Fabiana already had her graduation and is moving on to 9th grade, and little Eithan, who is 4 years old, also moved up a level!

New milestone achieved (Our move): In October of last year, we managed to move to a new apartment. We moved close to Rico, of course, because we are not going to leave him alone! He is not going to get rid of this noisy family that came into his life that easily (hahahaha). Rico has been the family that this country gifted us; we are so grateful to have found him and, honestly, I think he also needed to find us, he had too much silence in his house! I take this opportunity to ask for a big round of applause for Rico and for his brother Herman, excellent people and wonderful human beings. In reality, all of you are; we are deeply grateful to have met you and for all your help.

A big scare overcome: With Eithan, we went through a very big scare, as he was in the hospital due to febrile seizures. Since then, his health has become more delicate and he gets sick often, so we strive twice as hard to take care of him and protect him.

Job stability: In the economic area, I (Alejandra) managed to find a job where I have been for two months now, and thanks to God, that has helped us tremendously to sustain ourselves with the rent. In the midst of everything, I remain focused on raising them by example. I am teaching my children to help their neighbor: whenever we can, we give something to eat and drink to the homeless, and they love to collaborate. I will firmly make sure to leave good people in this world.

We continue to face the road with much faith and hope. The easy road is not always the best one, so I am grateful for every difficulty, because I know it has made me grow more as a person.

May God protect you all. We hope to see you again very soon.

With immense affection,

Osal Fajardo Family



Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Peace and all good.

We would like to provide an update regarding the Venezuelan family that many of you have generously supported with your prayers and financial assistance.

The family entered into a contract with an immigration attorney to appeal their case, making a \$1,000 down payment followed by monthly payments of \$500. They were able to maintain these payments for three months. Unfortunately, after the father lost his job, the family faced significant financial hardship and had to prioritize rent and basic utilities. As a result, they fell behind on their legal payments over the past nine months, accumulating an outstanding balance of \$4,500.

We are grateful to share that the mother recently secured full-time employment at the Arizona State Veterans' Home as a housekeeper, beginning two months ago. The father continues to seek steady employment while taking on occasional jobs as they become available.

In speaking with their attorney, the law firm has expressed a willingness to keep the current contract open under the following condition: the family must pay \$2,000 toward the outstanding balance and then resume monthly payments of \$500. If they are unable to meet this requirement, they would need to enter into a new contract—either with the same firm or another—resulting in the loss of the payments they have already made.

Please continue to keep this family in your prayers during this challenging time. If you feel moved to assist financially to help them remain on their current legal pathway. You can Zelle funds directly to family send via Zelle (Edixon Osal via 602-394-8223).

Thank you for being instruments of peace, hope, and charity.

Peace and blessings,

Rico

If you feel called to reach out to the Osal-Fajardo family, here is their mailing address:

Edixon Jose Osal and Family
4715 N Black Cyn Hwy, #2096
Phoenix, AZ 85015

REGIONAL RETREAT

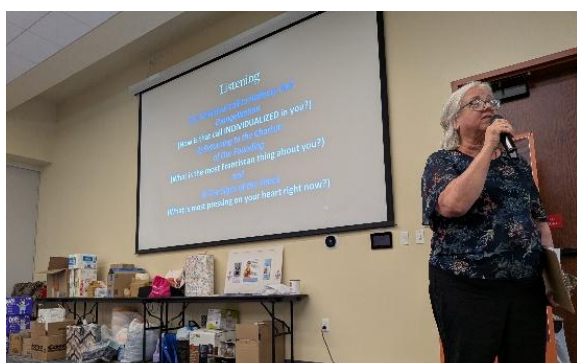
Our annual regional retreat was held at the Franciscan Renewal Center May 22-24, 2026.

The Retreat Planning Committee lead by Joan Nordstrom did a fantastic job putting on this special gathering that about 100 members attended.

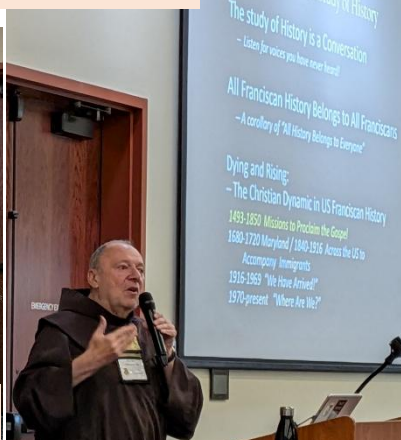
GO INTO THE WORLD AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS



Father Jack Clark Robinson, OFM, our retreat master gifted us with several beautiful presentation throughout the weekend, all so insightful and relevant to our Franciscan history and charism.



Our service project this year was to gather donations for Casa St. Gianna and Life Choices Women's Clinic.



Thanks to the generosity of many, the Silent Auction was again, this year, a great success.



Mark your calendars for our next Regional Retreat June 11-13, 2027

A Reflection about the retreat:

From Lucy Ibarra, OFS

Hello my brothers and sisters,

I am new to this region. I have moved from California. Finding a new Fraternity has not been easy for me.



There is not any another way to become family until you spend time with them. This past Regional Retreat in May proved to be a life changing experience for me both with my profession as a Secular Franciscan and as a child of God.

I am one that often looks for signs. Both my parents were Franciscans for over 60 years before going to heaven, I know they were there with me this weekend.

When I arrived on Friday I was greeted by wonderful Franciscans. Walking the grounds, the beauty of nature all around us. My father's favorite color was yellow and loved growing cactus, my mother loved hummingbirds so of course that was all around me this weekend.

My profession has always been important to me but somehow moving and leaving my fraternity of 19 years was hard. I have not been active for almost 16 months (long story). But God would not have that. God put Franciscans in my path about 4 months ago and he led me to St Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity. I was told of this Regional Retreat and signed up right away.

Not knowing many people, just the ones I met during a Franciscan gathering, I said Lord your will be done. Oh, my goodness, I met so many wonderful Franciscans on this weekend and most important I know that St Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity will be my new home. In California I was also a Spiritual Assistant and was going to give that up here, but I will go where the Lord leads me. Thank you Fr. Jack for showing us the history of our Order and I am very excited to be part of it.

I guess what I want to really say is you don't know what an impact you make on someone by just sitting down and sharing. A lot of times for our meals I went to an empty table but before you knew it, I was surrounded by loving caring Franciscans sharing their stories and making me feel welcomed and knowing I am at home.

Blessed be the name of Jesus!

Lucy Williams, OFS

MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT



My Franciscan Sisters and Brothers,

It is hard to believe that Easter has come and gone. I pray Lent was a rewarding experience and fulfilled your Lenten commitments. During Lent St. Francis would retreat to an island and spend 40 plus days alone by fasting and praying. Lent prepares us for Easter and a New beginning. Our churches sparkle for it recently is cleaned, decorated with fresh flowers, candles, and at the Vigil Mass with the fire, the readings, new water blessed, and the Baptisms and Eucharist. Christ is risen Alleluia. Many young and old walk into the waters of Baptism and come out of the water a new person. It is a new beginning for us as well. We renewed our Baptismal Promises and sprinkled with Easter water reminding us of our own Baptism. I pray your Easter was a time of prayer and celebration, Pentecost, the Churches beginning, was celebrated during our Regional Retreat at The Casa (FRC). What a blessing to experience the gifts which Fr. Jack Clark Robinson, OFM shared with us. This whole season beginning with Ash Wednesday to Pentecost is a renewing experience for us. Let this past season move us into new things in our lives which we can share with the rest of our world.

As regional Spiritual Assistant, I make Pastoral Visitations. I observe a Fraternity Council Meeting and the Gathering. I do not say anything unless invited or I ask permission to say something. My focus is their individual and Fraternity Apostolates; how often they meet for it; I observe on-going formation, the agenda of a gathering and I speak to the Spiritual Assistant and pay close attention to the reflection a Spiritual Assistant shares. My report gives a step-by-step account of the agenda in a gathering. Then write about it.

In The Secular Franciscan rule tells us we are to live the Gospel life. It is what I look for in my visit to a fraternity. Recently, I was the Pastoral Visitor to Blessed Franz Jägerstätter in Flagstaff. It was a rewarding moment for me when the Formation Director spoke about the Creation Summit, a one-day event held on April 11, 2026, at The Diocesan Pastoral Center, in Phoenix. Their focus was dear to me, "Dignity and Peace." A week later, I gave a talk to our Spiritual Assistants at Corpus Christi Parish on April 18th centered on the Dignity of Human life and showed a video from "Friar Time" with Fr. David Convertino, OFM and his guest speaker Dr. Michele Dunne, OFS called "The State of the World." I shared with them my thoughts concerning my own family and what they experienced upon their own entry into the country. It was easy for them, but it may not be for others who may be looking for new beginnings. As I stated earlier when one goes down into the waters of Baptism, they rise a new person changed completely new with a new beginning in life. It is what the Creation Summit was saying "Dignity & Peace."

I pray you all have a cool summer and enjoy the gifts that God has given each of us.

Peace,

Fr. Micah



MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL FORMATION DIRECTOR

A blessed summer to you all. I was fortunate enough to be invited to walk part of the Camino de Santiago this past May with my brother. We began in Le Puy and after nine days of trails, roads, paths and cobblestone streets that ran through the farmlands, hills, mountains and medieval towns with churches of the 12th century, we ended up in Conques.

There was so much to take in along the way: the countryside, cows grazing in open meadows, the pilgrims who filled the trails with the tapping of walking poles. But in all the beauty, through all the old churches, one thing stuck out so clearly – Our Blessed Mother, Mary. She was everywhere. In the center of the town of Le Puy, Our Lady, Mother of France, sits on top of a volcanic rock called Rocher Corneille. She stands 75 foot tall with her son in her arms. You can't miss her. There is also the famous 5th century Black Madonna there. Each town had their own images of the Virgin. Of course there is the famous Cathedral of Notre Dame.



Our pilgrimage started at the Cathédrale Notre-Dame-de-l'Annonciation. There was standing room only, the church being filled with pilgrims. After a blessing from the priest, all the pilgrims and the church community recited the Hail Mary.

All this brought to mind Article 9 of our Rule. "The Virgin Mary, humble servant of the Lord, was open to his every word and call. She was embraced by Francis with indescribable love and declared the protectress and advocate of his family. The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently." It calls us to view the Virgin Mary as our model and mother of our faith.

St. Francis himself honors her in his Salutation of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

Hail, O Lady, Holy Queen, Mary,
holy Mother of God,
who are the Virgin made Church,
chosen by the most Holy Father in heaven whom
he consecrated with His most holy beloved Son
and with the Holy Spirit the Paraclete,
in whom there was and is all fullness of grace
and every good.

Hail His Palace! Hail His Tabernacle!

Hail His Dwelling! Hail His Robe!

Hail His Servant! Hail His Mother!

And hail all You holy virtues which are poured into
the hearts of the faithful through the grace and
enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, that from being
unbelievers, You may make them faithful to God.

Take time to ponder the words of this beautiful salutation and pray with gratitude for Mary, our mother and model, that gave us Jesus as our brother.

What qualities or attributes of Mary most move you? How do you imitate those qualities and attributes in your Secular Franciscan life? How are you saying yes?

St. Thomas More, patron saint of our region.

His Feast Day is June 22.



St. Thomas belongs to that class of Tertiaries who have grasped the true spirit of their Seraphic Father. It is a spirit of deep-seated piety and of contempt for the world, as well as of unswerving fidelity to Holy Church practiced in an exceptional degree and sealed with one's blood.

His father was a knight. Thomas was born in London in 1480. Having been a very devout youth, he became a lawyer. His services were constantly in demand, but nevertheless he always found time to attend holy Mass daily and to perform other pious practices. As the father of a family, he was concerned that his children should be reared in the fear of God. He became famous for his book entitled *Utopia*. By means of his "Kingdom of Nowhere" he scourged in fine satire the evils that were eating their way into the Church and the State.

Through Henry VIII he became attached to the royal court and was finally appointed Lord High Chancellor. The time had now arrived in which the Tertiary was to manifest how sincerely he had grasped the spirit of the Saint of Assisi. As was to be expected, even as a statesman Thomas More continued to make his accustomed religious practices. He set aside every Friday as a day of introspection. His charity was without limit.

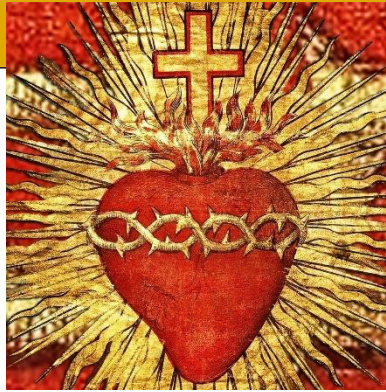
He experienced special delight in serving the priest at holy Mass, and he received holy Communion daily. He was told, by way of reproach, that it was unbecoming for a layman with so much work to do and so many distractions to communicate daily. But he replied: "You are advancing the very reasons for the need of frequent holy Communion. If I am distracted, Holy Communion helps me to become recollected. If opportunities are offered me each day to offend my God, I arm myself anew each day for the combat by the reception of the Eucharist. If I am in special need of light and prudence in order to discharge my burdensome duties, I draw nigh to my Savior and seek counsel and light from Him."

But it was not long before his doom was sealed. Blinded by unholy passions, King Henry divorced his lawful wife and married Anne Boleyn, a lady in waiting at the court. When Rome justly condemned his adulterous act, the king severed his connections with Rome and set himself up as the head of the Church in England. Whoever disapproved of his conduct was doomed to die.

The first person who opposed the king was his loyal chancellor, Thomas More. He was cast into prison. There he wrote a pamphlet entitled *Death Endured for the Faith Need Cause No Fear*. When his wife endeavored to persuade him to give up his opposition and prolong his life, he asked her just how long she believed he would still live. She answered, "At least twenty years." "Indeed!" said Thomas More. "Had you said a few thousand years, that might make a difference. But surely even he would be a poor merchant who would run the risk of losing an eternity for the sake of a thousand years." He was beheaded on July 6, 1535.

Pope Leo XIII beatified this great Tertiary, and Pope Pius XI canonized him on May 19, 1935.

HOW CAN WE BE LOVE?



Our goal, as Secular Franciscans, is to take on the servant-leadership model in which those who are responsible respectfully guide, support, offer assistance, listen, dialogue, allow compromise, and, most importantly, lead the members with love and in prayer to help find solutions.

Am I a full-time Franciscan (24 hrs.-a-day. 365 days a year)
or am I a once-a month Franciscan gathering attendee?

WE ARE LOVE when we...

- listen to each other and practice fraternal dialogue
- fully live in the moment, aware and mindful of our focus
- offer unconditional love to all around us
- give generously of our time and talents
- show patience and care for others (and ourselves)
- transform our prayers into actions
- practice gratefulness and thoughtfulness
- courageously profess the Truth, JOY and Love of God
- understand that true Love can only be centered on Christ
- teach by example as Christ taught us
- persevere when times get tough

Only people who know God's love will be able to love themselves and others.

A Joyful Invitation to Serve the Youth:

A Message from our Regional YouFra Animator

Why This Matters Now

At the St. Thomas More Region retreat, Father Jack Clark Robinson, OFM, reminded us that the Franciscan way is still a gift for the Church and the world. He invited us to share the joy of the Gospel, live the simplicity of St. Francis, and help rebuild the Church alongside young people in Franciscan history. As the new Youth Animator for St. Thomas More Region, I left that retreat with hope and a renewed desire to help YouFra grow. Article 24 of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order calls us to foster communion within the Franciscan family, especially with young adults. That call remains before us today.

Why This Is a Grace-Filled Moment

During this final Franciscan Centennial in the Easter of Saint Francis, from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027, we are being given a grace-filled moment to respond. Others have prepared the soil; now we are called to plant and tend with prayer, encouragement, and loving outreach to young adults. Saint Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 3:6, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth." For YouFra to grow, fraternities need Youth Animators who can help this ministry take root. The first step can be simple: pray for young adults, share the hope of YouFra in your fraternity, and offer the welcome and joy that help them feel at home.



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How You Can Respond

Will you join this ministry of accompaniment? In Matthew 13:23, listen with an open heart, and consider whether the Lord may be calling you to take this next step.

If so, please contact Maria Tiznado, m.c.tiznado64@gmail.com, text or call 602-318-0432.

1226 Year of St. Francis 2026

Commemorating the
800th Anniversary of the Death
of Our Holy Father St. Francis of Assisi

How to gain the Jubilee Indulgence in the Year of St. Francis at Our Lady of Solitude Chapel:



Take part in Jubilee Year of St. Francis Events here at the Monastery. Subscribe to our e-newsletter for event announcements. Sign up in the vestibule of the Chapel or via desertnuns.com.



Outside of these events, the indulgence may be gained during a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Solitude Chapel in the following way;

- Spend time in pious meditation and raise prayers to God so that, following the example of St. Francis, sentiments of Christian charity towards one's neighbour and authentic wishes for harmony and peace among peoples may spring up in your hearts. Conclude your time of prayer with recitation of the Our Father, Creed and invocations to Our Lady, St Francis, St Clare and all the Saints of the Franciscan Family.
- Fulfill the normal conditions for gaining a plenary indulgence: detachment from all sin, Sacramental Confession, Holy Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Pope.

Bi-Annual Regional Fraternity Council Meeting

Our next Regional Fraternity Council (RC) meeting is scheduled for **Saturday September 26, 2026** at the Franciscan Renewal Center. All members of the Regional Executive Council (REC), all the local Ministers (or their delegate) and all the Spiritual Assistants currently appointed to a fraternity are expected to attend.

Our meeting will start promptly at 9:00 am and will end by 3:00 pm.

The agenda will be sent to you at a later date.

We will share lunch together and we will need to turn a lunch count by mid-August. Please know that all are welcome. Lunch cost for observers is \$18.50 to be paid to our Regional Treasurer on the day of the RC meeting. However, please let your Minister know so that we can add you to the lunch count.

The Spring 2026 issue of TAU-USA newsletter:

https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/TAU-USA_119_spr_26.pdf

Send updates to our Regional Database Manager



For any updates in the database (change of address or phone number, new members and dates at each stage of formation (Aspirant, Inquirer, Candidate and Professed member)

Please remember to email our Regional Database Manager: Amy Sperry, OFS
9261962a@gmail.com



MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL JPIC ANIMATOR

**Artificial
Intelligence:
Friend or Foe?**

“Why AI? Why Now?”

[What Is Magnifica Humanitas and why should you care?](#)
- [Vatican News](#)

“Some might ask: why is the Pope writing about technology? Shouldn't the Church focus on prayer, sacraments, and salvation?...

The proclamation of the Gospel, (Pope Leo) insists, cannot overlook the concrete lives of people...

AI... is already deciding who gets a bank loan, who gets called for a job interview, what news you see, what content your children encounter, and increasingly, who lives and who dies on battlefields. These are not technical questions. They are human questions. And human questions are the Church's business.”

(Underlining mine – Dot)

MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS

(Magnificent Humanity)

ENCYCLICAL LETTER OF THE HOLY
FATHER LEO XIV

ON THE CARE OF THE HUMAN PERSON
IN THE TIME OF ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE
15 May 2026

**I am so jazzed about this encyclical!
Franciscan overtones abound!**

Gospel to life references, the call to rebuild, attention to the poor and marginalized, value of faithfulness to daily acts of face-to-face human caring, importance of dialogue (referencing both St. Francis and Pope Francis' meetings with Muslim leaders of their times), and more.

Resources to explore this document:

- [Infographics - Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development](#) English & Español (see sample page 1 of 5 next page)
- [Pastoral Kit - Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development](#) –English & Español “...intertwines the Word of God, the Social Doctrine of the Church, and the concrete experience of daily life.” Interactive. Reflective. Includes child/youth sections. Great for individual or ongoing formation – or any small group.



“...In practice, however, technology is never neutral, because it takes on the characteristics of those who devise, finance, regulate, and use it. Therefore, the primary choice is not between a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to technology, but rather between constructing Babel or rebuilding Jerusalem... (No. 9) (cf. Gen 11:1-9; Nehemiah)

With the same faith as Mary, let us become “weavers of hope” in our world, sharing who we are and what we have, so that the presence of Jesus may grow among us and his Kingdom take shape. (No. 245)



**Today's new issues
(res novae):**

- Artificial Intelligence
- Digitalisation
- New technological capabilities

Risks:

- ⚠ Concentrated power (often in private hands)
- ⚠ Automated decision-making
- ⚠ Loss of human control



“What direction should we choose as people and as a human community?” MH₄

TWO ROADS AHEAD OF US:

Babel

Humanity without God
Uniformity
Dehumanisation

Jerusalem

God at the centre
Diversity as a source of richness
Brotherhood / Collaboration



“Never has humanity had such power over itself.” MH₆

The Tower of Babel Syndrome

- Profit before people
- Reducing people to mere data
- Growing inequalities
- Loss of dignity



Choose “Nehemia's way”

- build together
- Dialogue
- Listening
- Inclusion
- Shared responsibility



“No one can single-handedly bear the weight of the challenges the world is facing.” MH₁₃

4 PILLARS FOR BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

1



Relationship
with God

2



Accepting
human
limitations

3



Shared
responsibility

4



Language
that unites



“When human dignity is threatened by new forms of dehumanization, ours is the pressing duty to remain profoundly human. We must lovingly safeguard the grandeur of humanity bestowed upon us, the splendor of which no machine can ever replace.” MH₁₅

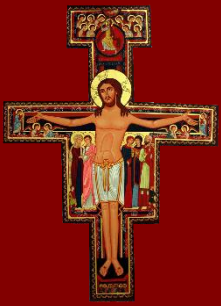
**Let us not build another Tower of Babel;
let us become builders of communion!**



DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING
INTEGRAL
HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT

www.humandevlopment.va

NEWS FROM SAN DAMIANO FRATERNITY Glendale, AZ



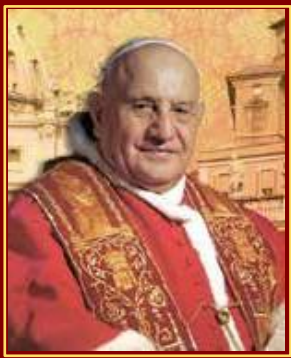
The May gathering of the San Damiano fraternity was busy and joyful. After praying the Liturgy of the Hours, we held our annual crowning of Mary. We usually have one of the ladies crown her as we sing the hymn “Immaculate Mary”.

This year we asked Mark Mitchell to do the honors. He was surprised, but well pleased. We think the rest of the gentlemen of the fraternity will want their turn as well.

Last year, Maribel Cano of Manos y Maiz held a presentation for the fraternity about the Arizona farmworkers: the work they do to bring food to our tables, their needs and concerns. We elected to add the organization as an apostolate. Each May we will gather clothing, electrolyte beverages, and other items of need.



Maribel paid us a visit at the May gathering to update the fraternity and to pick up items for donation. We collected a couple dozen of men’s long sleeve shirts, which is of great need at this time. And almost a case of Liquid IV and Gatorade, which is always a need of the workers, especially as the weather gets warmer. We continue to learn and appreciate what it takes to have fresh produce. May we add the farm workers to our daily prayers.



NEWS FROM POPE ST. JOHN XXIII FRATERNITY Yuma, AZ

Pope St. John XXIII Fraternity has been very busy this year. On March 14, 2026 we had our yard sale. It was great. We had help from Sister Mary Teresa's students from Yuma Catholic High School helping us set up, sell and take down everything that was left over and boxed to send over to Crossroad Missions to be sold at their second-hand store.



On March 21, 2026 we had a Life Rosary at Pioneer Cemetery at the Monument for the Unborn which was installed by the Knights of Columbus. Father Thomas and Deacon Olea along with the Secular Franciscans from Pope St. John XXIII Fraternity and the FIAT young adult group participated in the rosary for the unborn.



Then on April 18, 2026 we had a special Jubilee Mass for Rosie Roman, OFS who celebrated 25 years as a Secular Franciscan. Father Emilio officiated the Mass. Then we had a brunch at the house of our Franciscan Frances Garcia, OFS. Everyone came to help celebrate that special day with Rosie.



We celebrated the Rite of Admission for Becky and Javier Negrete at our Gathering on April 19, 2026 and a Welcoming Ceremony for Victoria Rodriguez. We are so blessed to be growing as a fraternity.

Then on May 17, 2026 we had three observers come and see what Secular Franciscans are all about at our Gathering. This was from the fruits of the Ministry Fair where we made our presence known and had parishioners sign up.





NEWS FROM ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FRATERNITY Surprise, AZ

During our monthly gathering, Sunday April 26, the fraternity welcomed 4 new Inquirers as they have expressed an interested in our Franciscan way of life. May they be inspired by God's grace and the support of our community as they continue their formation.



Obdulia Mayoral, Ally Castillo, Thomas Price and Sue Fourby



17 members of our fraternity
attended the Regional Retreat.

What a joyful gathering!



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

After much deliberate discernment, our fraternity has decided to postpone our election, scheduled now for August 31. The process has been a practice of patience, and we are confident that the results will prove fruitful, for the best of the fraternity.

Our apostolate with Catholic Charities continues, as we donate necessary items to their organization, to serve the unhoused and other needy individuals and families. At our next gathering, at the specific request of Catholic Charities, we will provide them with supplies of men's' underwear.



One of our professed members unfortunately had to undergo a serious emergency surgery, and we all have been pre-occupied with prayer for her recovery. Fortunately, after an extended hospitalization, she is now recuperating at home.



NEWS FROM PEACE FRATERNITY Scottsdale, AZ

Greetings from Peace Fraternity!

We have had members dealing with illnesses over the past few months. We pray together along with many others. We have seen healing and are so thankful. God is good!

Alternating people have shared stories of Franciscan Saints. We love learning about their lives. When we hear and read what they did, we know we can do so much more without being persecuted.

As a review for the Professed and those who are in some stage of the journey. John Elder, our Minister, designed slides of the lessons from the Journey Book. Life is a continuing conversion.

Peace had a record attendance at the Regional Retreat in May. Friar Jack Robinson was the presenter. All I can say is WOW! He was great. A big thank you to the Committee! Below photo is of Peace attendees. (Four of whom are candidates and 2 who are in orientation.) Hopefully we can bring back that energy to our Fraternity.

Formation has been going well.

Below is a photo of John Lomeli, our Formation Director helping Anna, one of the candidates.



Wishing all of you many blessings and health as we go into the hot summer.



NEWS FROM ST. CLARE OF ASSISI FRATERNITY Phoenix, AZ

St. Clare of Assisi Fraternity has been very blessed and continues to grow, welcoming new members with a variety of interests and gifts. In May, we celebrated Our Lady with a May Crowning. We were able to pray the Franciscan Crown Rosary in seven different languages, representing the diverse membership of our fraternity. Those languages included English, Spanish, Hopi, Polish, Japanese, Vietnamese, and Filipino. In June, we also have five members advancing to Candidate II in their formation journeys: Mercy Ann Flint, David Harney, Kathleen Hicks, "Ann" BangLai NguyenLe, and Monica Ramirez.



Because the fraternity has been blessed with such growth, this year we have focused on expanding our apostolates and outreach while providing members with more opportunities to serve the community as a fraternity. We desire to make the fraternity more visible in the community, spread the Gospel, and introduce more people to Franciscan spirituality. As part of this effort, we launched our newest apostolate at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC). Located in Tempe, Arizona, FMSC works with global partners to deliver food to the most vulnerable. Our inaugural visit was on May 19, 2026. Fraternity members and loved ones gathered to pack ManaPack Rice meals to be distributed to children in some of the most impoverished areas around the world. Our service contributed to the packing of 30,456 meals for hungry children in just one shift! The packed food is lovingly sent off with prayers, and 99.7% of meals reach their destination.



NEWS FROM ST. CLARE OF ASSISI FRATERNITY Phoenix, AZ (continued)



Many St. Clare members also attended the St. Thomas More Region annual retreat. This year's theme, "Go into the world and proclaim the Good News," was timely and resonated with our efforts to expand our apostolates and opportunities to serve as a fraternity.

Following the retreat, we plan to distribute a survey to collect information about members' talents and service interests so we can better focus our efforts to truly go out and proclaim the Good News.



Congratulations to our Jubilarian, Susan Simeone, OFS who was recognized at the retreat for the 25th anniversary of her profession!



NEWS FROM BL. FRANZ JÄGERSTÄTTER FRATERNITY Flagstaff, AZ

Greetings from Northern Arizona!



The Diocese of Phoenix offered a wonderful “Creation Summit” which several of our members attended. Speakers included two religious sisters who spoke of how the change in climate has and is affecting the poor in Sudan and our border with Mexico. Another speaker talked about how rising heat in Phoenix is taking its toll on the lives of the elderly and the poor. The number of deaths went from 84 in 2015 to 645 in 2023. Last year, 430 people died from the heat; the number is down due to the increase of churches and city locations that offer volunteer cooling stations throughout the Phoenix valley. Sadly, not one Catholic church was involved in this.

We welcomed four new members through the Rite of Welcoming this past March: Christine Leverington, Orlando Marquez, Margaret Brown, and John Stalker. They have begun the inquiry and orientation sections of formation. Thanks to the Nordstroms who have offered their home as our meeting place and have facilitated the formation sessions. The four will be ready for candidacy this summer if they so choose. Keep all those entering the formation process throughout our region in your prayers!



NEWS FROM BL. FRANZ JÄGERSTÄTTER FRATERNITY Flagstaff, AZ (Continued)

June 13th is profession day for 3 new members: Al and Katherine Caccavale and Jim Valek. Profession will be at the 8:15 daily Mass at San Francisco de Asis Catholic Church. All are welcome. A little gathering will take place immediately following.

These three Candidates attended a pre-profession retreat in April at the house of our council minister, Bridget Durham. The topic dove deeply into the three “Yes, this is what I want” statements. Members of the council were presenters who took the three questions from the Rite of Profession, gave a reflection on each, and then gave time for personal journaling to ponder the reflection questions.

We closed with a hearty lunch.



Article submitted by Patrick Mowrer OFS, Formation Director

Special Pilgrim Reflection: In the Footsteps of Blessed Franz and Franziska Jägerstätter

In May 2025, a group of pilgrims traveled to Austria to walk in the footsteps of Blessed Franz Jägerstätter, who gave his life rather than betray his faith during the rise of Nazism in World War II. Following the witness of Franz and his wife, Franziska Jägerstätter, the pilgrims reflected on courage, conscience, and faith.

Read about the lasting inspiration of the Jägerstätters in this article by Bridget Durham OFS, Catherine Golski, and Toni Maconi OFS. [Blessed-Franz-Jagerstatter-Pilgrimage.pdf](#)



NEWS FROM ST. FRANCIS FRATERNITY Phoenix, AZ

Sharing Faith

What gift do we bring into the world, if not our faith?

Saint Francis shows us how faith changes and fulfills everything. Even the tiniest act of kindness becomes powerful in Christ. As we journey through our world, Franciscans stop and say hello to people along the way. To those who are hungry we say "Hello!" To those who are sick or in prison we say "Hello!" Our greeting says, "We are family. How can I help you...?"

Helping can be as simple as listening, sharing a cup of coffee. Our kindness says, "Here is a gift! Here is the spirit of Saint Francis!" In fraternal life we strive to meet the world as our family, to share our gift of faith, and to grow in service to everyone. There are no Strangers here...!



Celebrating Faith

Franciscans celebrate! Since the last Newsletter we all celebrated the wonder of Holy Week and the marvelous Season of Easter. In these celebrations we celebrated Mary at our May Gathering with a May Crowning and a Crown Rosary en Español y en Inglés. We celebrate our member anniversaries, special events, the lives of those who have gone before us, marked with the sign of faith, holidays, liturgies large and small, adventures of daily living (who went to the doctor *this month*...?) In this way we know our needs, we keep in touch, we recognize how we are each doing and where we could use a hand. Such knowledge helps us find ideas and make future plans. Big or small, our celebrations of life draw energy and renewal from our journeys. They give us hope, wonder, sometimes a little sadness, but always the assurance that wherever we go, God is with us.

A Living Faith

The past few months have been filled with the light and activities of Lent, Holy Week and Easter. All of these call us to renewal and service. At Saint Francis our Tech Committee has bloomed, reformatted a couple of times, and taken hold of the challenges of sharing faith with modern technology. Our Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation group is forming and will begin monthly dialogues on current issues and events; not to seek "the right way" but to discuss and understand "the many ways" Franciscans see, hear and serve our world. Our Youth Team has attracted young parishioners to explore their experience of Church. We are *hugely inspired* by the works our members have been quietly doing for years, including a food pantry which is experiencing growing demand. May God continue to bless us all with the Spirit of fraternity. ¡Que la paz y la bondad los bendigan a todos!

(To learn more or share comments, email Tom McNamara, OFS.
trmcnamara@yahoo.com)



Luz (Cookie) Torres, OFS



NEWS FROM
ST. DAEGUN ANDREW KIM FRATERNITY
Chandler, AZ



NEWS FROM OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY FRATERNITY Scottsdale, AZ

May Crowning



Our fraternity gathered this May to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary with a simple and heartfelt May Crowning. In the spirit of St. Francis, we offered flowers and prayer, recognizing Mary as our model of humility, joy, and openness to God.

Linda Madrid, our Spiritual assistant, placed the crown upon the statue of Mary's head. The crown upon Her statue reminded us of her faithful "yes" and her constant guidance toward Christ. For us as Secular Franciscans, this moment renews our commitment to live the Gospel with the same trust and generosity Mary showed. The celebration strengthened our fraternity bonds and invited us to entrust our lives and our Franciscan journey to Mary's gentle care.

Ongoing formation, on the Joys and Sorrows of Mary, was presented by Cheryl Cook.

Peace and Joy,

Article submitted by Tom Raimundo OFS, Vice Minister

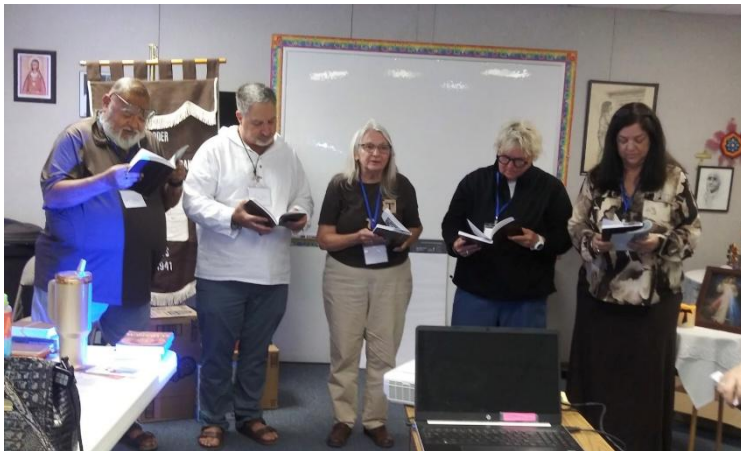


NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY FRATERNITY Tucson, AZ

Celebration after Celebration

We are GROWING in THREE different ways.

New Life is always exciting especially when it occurs in the springtime. Andrea Facundo and husband Trevor Kortman and brother Elias welcomed Lucas Marshall on April 1. Andrea transferred to St Anthony's fraternity just over 3 years ago, a month before the birth of Elias. We are giving them a late Baby Shower celebration on Sunday May 17.



At our April 12th gathering we celebrated Sherri Brown and Laura Olesen moving from Orientation to Inquiry.

Picture is during the Rite of Admission. Left to right, Minister Benjamin Sienz and Vice Minister/Formation Director Doug Esch, their formator Betty Nelson Sherri Brown and Laura Olesen.

Newest Candidacy member

May 17 we are all excited to celebrate Maria Corral's Rite of Admission. Doug Esch will stay on as her formator during her Candidacy journey.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE REGION

August 30 – St. Margaret of Cortona fraternity Triennial Chapter of Elections

September 20 – Francis fraternity Triennial Visitations

September 26 – Regional Fraternity Council Meeting (see page 12 for more information)

Mark your calendars for our next Regional Retreat June 11-13, 2027

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE NATION

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINES AND PUBLICATION DATES

T September 1

Deadline for Article Submission

T September 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

Please remember to notify your council and Database manager of any changes of mailing or email addresses, and new phone numbers.

REMINDER: (A great way to foster your personal Ongoing Formation!)

To receive a daily email featuring, in monthly rotation, The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, the Admonitions of St. Francis, an article from the OFS General Constitutions, the USA National Statutes, Little Flowers of St. Francis, a Franciscan quote, and additionally, the Franciscan saint of the day. (This is not a discussion list.)

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