

Our Fraternal Scoop

Spring 2026 -Quarterly Publication

ST. THOMAS MORE REGION



Secular Franciscan Order


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! Did 2026 start off with a bang  or what! It seemed like there was so much to do ~ reports, locally and nationally, budgets and preparing for a National Visitation. Or maybe your fraternity is getting ready for an election. I have heard that your new year may have started in much the same way! I guess there is never any rest for any of us. But now we are all working like a well-oiled machine. Now it is time to breathe and take time for “now it is time to do what is ours to do.”

Some of you may have had the opportunity to attend the weekend in January when we were able to join others who were of the “Third Order”. It was so rewarding to be able to spend this time with our other brothers and sisters, whether they are Carmelites, Dominicans, or Franciscans. And we may approach our lives in a different manner, but we are all one, brothers and sisters, in so many ways. I am hoping that we can do this again next year.

I just have to share with you something that I have been feeling lately. Our Region is able to do what it does because of all of you/us! I KNOW things aren't always easy and mistakes may be made. But how else would we learn? AI says: “Learning occurs when one actively acknowledges, analyzes, and takes responsibility for errors, turning them into opportunities for growth, skill improvement, and increased resilience.”

And as St Francis said, “I have been all things unholy. If God can work through me, He can work through anyone.” Have you yourself ever felt that way? I know that I have and perhaps continue to do so.

“May the Lord bless you and keep each of you. May He show his face to you and be merciful to you. May He turn His countenance to you and give you Peace.”

And remember: You are loved!

Julianne

THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER!

<https://stthomasmoreregion.regfox.com/st-thomas-more-regional-retreat-2026>

ST. THOMAS MORE ANNUAL REGIONAL RETREAT will be held at the FRANCISCAN RENEWAL CENTER MAY 22-24, 2026

National theme for 2025-2028 is:

GO INTO THE WORLD AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS

it seems fitting to make it also the theme for our Retreat this year.



REMINDER:

*A **Silent Auction** will take place.*

***Book Exchange** Table for all to bring and share their books with others.*

***Service Project:** Life Choices Women's Clinic and the clinic's home that supports women's housing, Casa St. Gianna. Please bring cash or toiletries, baby supplies, and household items such as toilet paper and cleaning supplies for their new home, Casa St. Gianna.*

SEE RETREAT FLYER on Regional Website FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please register early. We would love to see everyone on May 22-24th.

Cost of Registration:

\$260/pers. Double Occupancy **OR** \$285/pers. Single Occupancy
(Includes Retreat Program, 2 nights lodging, dinner Friday, 3 meals Saturday, and 2 meals Sunday)

\$160/pers. for commuters Friday through Sunday (Includes retreat program, all meals but no lodging)

\$100/pers. for commuters for Saturday only (Includes Retreat Program and 3 meals)



Meet our Retreat Master: Father Jack Clark Robinson, OFM

Father Jack Clark Robinson, OFM is the Director at Santa Barbara Mission Archive Library. He has taught at Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio as well as at the Franciscan Institute at St. Bonaventure University. At present, Father teaches as an adjunct professor at the Franciscan School of Theology. He is the author of *Franciscan Friars: Coast to Coast*, 2019.

Father Jack is a storyteller who loves nothing more than meeting, hearing, and sharing with others the stories that make us who we are as people, Catholics, and Franciscans. He has been doing that since about six weeks after he was ordained among Native Americans in Jemez Pueblo, New Mexico - and that was over 40 years ago. Those adventures of sharing the stories have led him to Singapore and Australia, as well as among his Capuchin, Conventual and OFM brothers, Poor Clare and TOR sisters and brothers and sisters of the OFS from the time that they were inquirers and novices to the time they celebrated Golden Jubilees. And he still feels that he is the one who is blessed the most by these encounters!

Presenting

GO INTO THE WORLD AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS

In the past...

How have Franciscans gone out and proclaimed the Good News in the US in the last 200 years or so?

In the present...

How are we proclaiming the Good News now, but even more importantly, where in our world, culture, local community, fraternity, is the Good News most needed?

In the future...

What am I going to take away from the retreat as a personal commitment to proclaiming the Good News?
How am I going to energize my local fraternity, my local parish/faith community to proclaim the Good News?

HURRY!

RETREAT REGISTRATION

CLOSES MAY 1ST

<https://stthomasmoreregion.regfox.com/st-thomas-more-regional-retreat-2026>

Questions: Please contact: Joan Nordstrom, OFS nordstromjoan@gmail.com

MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT



My dear Franciscan sisters & brothers,

Peace be with you!

Every morning and evening I join the friars in our community at the Franciscan Renewal Center for prayer; we gather in our small chapel to pray Morning and evening prayer. We are a community of three and we gather for prayer everyday unless we have commitments which prevent us. If one of us is missing, we still pray. However, prayer does not end there. During the day I will go off by myself. I will walk, pray, and meditate on the readings for mass. The winter days allow me to be outside and enjoy the beauty of these days, and prayer keeps me focused. It is easy to get distracted. In the evening when I am waiting for a ride to go to a meeting or enjoy dinner with friends will walk over to the Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine and have a conversation with Mary. These days of winter are enjoyable with the coolness of the day and make it pleasant for one to walk. When younger I would hike the desert. But when summer arrives, it all changes the harshness summer heat moves me inside. I then spend time at the mall walking and meditating and become one of the older folks one sees in a mall with a bottle of water, white sneakers, moving quickly as a body allows praying to the God I love.

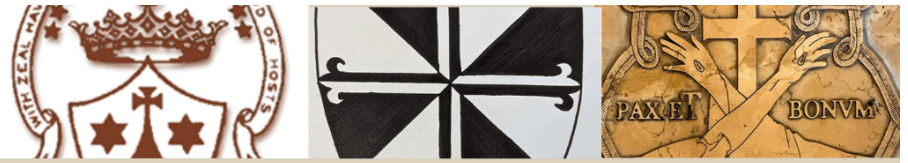
I usually keep you updated on the happenings of being a Regional Spiritual Assistant. Our Spiritual Assistants are doing fine. We meet monthly discuss a chapter in the handbook, share how their Fraternity is doing. Allow each of us to speak on perhaps some difficult moments. We have three great folks moving along quite well in the process of becoming Spiritual Assistant.

Let me back to my thought. We are in Lent. Almsgiving, Fasting, and Prayer should be our purpose and focus. We are Franciscans what are you doing? Almsgiving how are you helping your community, your parish, your Fraternity? Fasting, the church says if 59 and over you need not fast but, younger than 59 Ash Wednesday and Good Friday all you need to observe. As Franciscans, during the week, take a day to fast; do you? Prayer, what I listed above is my normal day to day. What is your normal day to day of spending time with God; could we be doing more? The Church has made Lent very easy for us. But it also has given us the opportunity to do more. Do we? Some of our readings during Lent states that we should go beyond what is required of us. Example read Matthew 5:20-26.

Peace,

Fr. Micah

THIRD ORDER CONFERENCE OF THE LAITY IN ARIZONA



Carmelite, Dominican, and Franciscan laity in Arizona

A few months ago, Fr. Augustine Hilander, O.P., a Dominican Friar from the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, initiated this idea of a Third Order Conference in Arizona and contacted the leaders of the laity for the Carmelites, Dominicans and Franciscans. Together with the other denomination leaders, our Regional Minister, Julianne Hartzell agreed on a time, place and agenda.

The gathering took place at the Franciscan Renewal Center on Saturday January 24, 2026. That day, after a welcome opening statement from Fr. Augustine and some introductions, we all together prayed the Divine Office. The next item on the agenda was a presentation from Fr. Page Polk, OFM. Mass was celebrated at 11:00 am by Fr. Augustine, followed by lunch.

The afternoon panel included our own Julianne Hartzell, OFS, Jean Brown, OCDS and Mr. Brian White, OP

There were 90 people in attendance: 40 Franciscans, 10 Carmelites and 35 Dominicans as well as one Benedictine sister and one Benedictine Oblate. Sr. Ginger, the diocesan vicar for religious also attended with 2 inquirers.



MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL FORMATION DIRECTOR



Happy Lent. Seems ironic, doesn't it? Lent doesn't appear to be a happy time: giving up this and that, fasting from foods or habits, the extra rosary in the morning or 30 minutes of contemplation time during your favorite TV show, and the almsgiving, what charities to give to this year.



As we heard in the first Sunday of Lent, like Jesus, it is our 40 days in the desert. Well, we all know what that is like, living right in the middle of the desert. But is this image more than just sand, rocks and some prickly plants, and don't forget the snakes.

This image of a desert gives us a picture of being alone and isolated. It is place to go and encounter God. Yet doesn't Lent seem to be focusing more on the things we do and our fasting, almsgiving and prayer. Is this the way Jesus spent his 40 days? Scripture says that Jesus was "led by the Spirit", in other words he was not going out alone. Nor are we to do it alone. Like the Israelites that fled Egypt into the desert, God was with them, providing for them (of course they had to complain a bit). The God of all Creation presented himself along the way. Lent is a time to allow God to encounter us.

I have found myself doing the same things year after year for Lent. Is this the year to be different? In the gospel from the Second Sunday of Lent, we hear a voice from above that says, "Listen to him." Maybe this year we stop worrying about all that we have to give up, and find the voice of God in those places we don't expect, those little deserts where we might not expect to find God or God finding us: the grocery store, out walking in the morning, the drive to work, a book that I enjoy reading.

As we continue to develop and form our Franciscan lives, we look to St. Francis. Francis honored the traditional 40-day Lent before Easter, as well as additional Lenten periods in summer and early fall, devoting himself to extended prayer, solitude and abstinence. Br. Jim Sabak, OFM, shares that for Francis, and us, Lent can be a time of celebration as well as penance. St. Francis of Assisi focused on seeking forgiveness as well as an openness to encountering God. Not everything was dour for the saint who awakened environmental consciousness and celebrated the wonder of God's work and presence in the natural world. Br Jim concludes, saying, "Following Francis' many struggles and disappointments, we see that he never despaired to the point of giving up on God, on faith, and on himself. Lent each year reminds us to do the same. As we recall once again this Lent the great events that won for us so great a salvation, we are called and challenged to see and experience the true way to live as a believer in the world as Francis did, with a determination to do what God shows us – that we must do as God showed Francis." . . . Listen to Him.

REGIONAL FRATERNITY COUNCIL MEETING AND TRIENNIAL VISITATIONS



Your Regional Fraternity Council met Saturday March 7 for their bi-annual meeting at the Franciscan Renewal Center. This gathering was also the occasion of our triennial Visitations. Our National Minister Jane DeRose-Bamman, OFS delegated National Councilor, Corinne Lorenzet, OFS to conduct the Fraternal visitation.

Fr. Marek Stybor, OFM Conv., President-in-turn for the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants conducted the Pastoral Visitation.



The Regional Executive Council met Friday night ahead of the RC meeting. Saturday, Ministers or their delegate and Spiritual Assistants joined us.

During our meeting, Regional Animators received their appointment. Maria Tiznado, OFS is our new YOUFRA Regional Animator as she replaces Linda Ressler, OFS. Amy Sperry, OFS is officially appointed Regional Database Manager, replacing Cathy Roszhart, OFS.

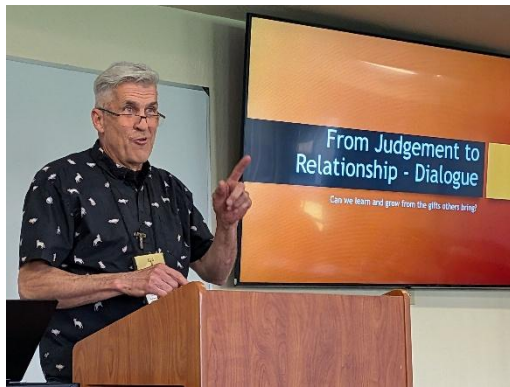


Dot Himes, OFS has agreed to continue as Regional JPIC Animator and Tom McNamara, OFS will remain the Regional Archivist for another term.



We were blessed to meet Fr. Tadeusz Brzozowski, OFM Conv., a missionary friar from Kenya who shared some thoughts during our meeting.

Regional Formation Director, Patrick Mowrer, OFS offered a meaningful Ongoing Formation presentation prior to the business part of the meeting.



Please pray for the Servant Leaders of St. Thomas More Regional Fraternity Council That they may always make wise decisions for the good of our Order.

1226

2026

Year of St. Francis

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.

FRATERNAL ACCOMPANIMENT: Reviving St. Margaret of Cortona Fraternity

What happens when a local fraternity is struggling to hold an election because the membership is aging, homebound and being affected with serious health issues? What happens when the fraternity is no longer viable because they do not have a Council?

What happens is that the Regional Executive Council (REC) needs to reach out to the last Active members and consider all the options available. One option could sadly be to deactivate the fraternity. A fraternity without a council is not viable for very long. Another option can be that the fraternity becomes a cell group of an active fraternity with the condition that the members attend the gatherings in that fraternity. A third option involves Fraternal Accompaniment, when a fraternity seeks helps from another fraternity or the REC.



St. Margaret of Cortona fraternity in Las Vegas, NV was such a fraternity. About 10 years ago, affected by a decreasing membership, a devastating accident and major health and aging issues, not the mention weathering through COVID, the fraternity was faced with a very hard decision. After much dialogue and prayerful consideration, St. Thomas More REC entered into an agreement with the Active members of St. Margaret of Cortona to offer them temporary Fraternal Accompaniment. Among the Active members of the fraternity were 5 women who were eager, some to start and others to continue Formation. Several members of the REC, agreed to serve as the Formation team.

On June 28, 2023, the first class was scheduled and the members met monthly by Zoom until September 2025. Kathy Crowley, OFS, Angie Freeman, OFS, Sue Kowalski, OFS, Colleen Malloy, OFS and Pat Stoy, OFS made their profession Saturday October 18, 2025 at St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church in Las Vegas, NV during a Mass.

At this time, the REC is guiding the fraternity through the process of their upcoming Council Elections scheduled for Sunday May 31, 2026.

Let's pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire all the voting members to elect the leaders St. Margaret of Cortona fraternity will need for the next 3 years. Let us pray also for all our fraternities to remain active and vibrant with the spirit of Francis.

The International Statute Articles 56-58 for Fraternities in Difficulties states the following regarding Fraternal Accompaniment. The REC should visit and stay in contact with the local fraternity and assign an OFS Councilor and/or a neighboring fraternity to assist the troubled fraternity. After a fraternal and/or pastoral visit, the Councilor makes a report to the REC who will decide actions to be taken. Documentation throughout the process is critical. The Councilor and/or accompanying fraternity will offer formation in cooperation with the SA and report regularly in writing to the REC and fraternity council. The accompanying fraternity (or REC) serves as the local council, including admissions and professions. The Accompaniment term should be three (3) years, with a possible year extension. The goal is to arrive at a determination for the future of the fraternity in difficulty.



MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL JPIC ANIMATOR

Someone in the region asked about the responsibilities of a local Councilor for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) in their fraternity. This was Dot's answer:

There is a lot of variety among fraternities with regards to how JPIC plays out. No one does everything. The idea is to keep the idea of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation /Care for Creation in mind.

In practice, I see JPIC Animators/Councilors:

- Attending council meetings to stay informed of Council plans - and to express ideas and plans they may have (for example, having a way to mark the Season of Creation, or a Stations of the Cross for the unborn or migrants, etc.).
- Forwarding information, they receive from me/Regional or National - then maybe at a future gathering bringing it up for discussion, prayer, or as an fyi for personal prayer/action.
- Helping organize both ongoing and/or periodic apostolates with our Franciscan Spirit (home visits or calls to the homebound or ill, volunteering at soup kitchens, etc.).
- As an example of Care for Creation - looking into what recycling options are available in your neighborhood - bringing in a bunch of various pieces of (clean) trash and ask - Is this recyclable - yes or no? And discuss why/why not? Why does it matter? When we throw stuff 'away' where really is 'away'? Pope Francis talked about us and our 'throwaway culture'. What can we substitute for current 'throwaway' items? Are we respecting our Creator when we use more than we need?
- Praying with the Seasons of Lent, Advent through the lens of justice and 'helping bring about a more fraternal and evangelical world. What is going on in the world today? How can we bring our Franciscan gospel-based charism to be a voice for the voiceless and a witness for human dignity at all stages of life no matter what the circumstances?

Each fraternity is very different and what works for one may not for another. It depends in part on the age, abilities, interests, and needs in each area.

There is a JPIC Animators Handbook available - kind of long and overwhelming at first - but with a lot of good background, perspective and ideas regarding the nitty gritty and the prayerful Spirit of JPIC. Don't want to overwhelm anyone. A person can be in the position without feeling they need to read the manual through line by line. There's also a section in the FUN manual used by Formators about JPIC.

Please refer to page 12 of our Regional Guidelines, the closest thing we have to job descriptions. Then give the Holy Spirit room to move.



Secular Franciscan Order - USA

H2O Project

The Lenten H2O Project is an easy way for our entire fraternity to take collective action for the poor who have no access to clean drinking water. During Lent, whenever you would normally buy a coffee or soda, have water instead, and put aside the money saved. Also make a note to focus on and appreciate the clean water that is so available to us, say a prayer, and think of our brothers and sisters who live without clean tap water. Lent is the promotion, but contributions are accepted all year. One member said "I will just add up my coffee cost for all of lent, and send in a check to match that." Use Apostolic creativity!



Lord, may we never again take for granted a drop of Sister Water, "so precious and pure," so necessary to our bodies, and integral to all life on our sister Mother Earth.

May we never tire in our efforts to assist those who are deprived of clean water to obtain a steady supply, and always strive for their dignity and health, as much as for our own.

And may we always praise you, whose creation is miraculous and beautiful beyond our understanding. Amen

Photo of a completed well for a family in the Bolivian Altiplano, funded by an H2O Project grant. (Jan. 29, 2026.) "It is truly a miracle for people who have been drinking from an improvised well, or simply an open pit where the animals also drink (while sometimes walking in the water), to have a protected groundwater source that has easy access for their family." Jason Obergfell, of Suma Jayma Project

Please send all contributions to:

**H2O Lenten Project,
c/o Steve Roszhart OFS
National Treasurer
20487 N 263rd Dr.
Buckeye, AZ 85396.**



Make the check payable to:

OFS-USA

with 'H2O Project' in the memo line.

Thank you for your contributions!

Last year, your donations helped bring clean water to:

- two families on the Bolivian Altiplano,
- deep well drilling at a Franciscan school in a remote area of Kenya,
- and well drilling in Tanzania.

On behalf of these communities, thank you!



Call to Franciscan Accompaniment

December 11, 2025

Fellow Secular Franciscans,

In solidarity with Pope Leo XIV, our bishops, and all the Church, Secular Franciscans are called to be present in society in this moment. We've heard from seculars across the country about their distressing experiences, including members who are US citizens carrying their passports with them and refraining from speaking Spanish in public. Fraternity members have stopped attending regional gatherings. Others are afraid to go to church or their court appointments, or even to leave their homes. These are firsthand accounts.

The Church's response can be read in the US Bishops' "special message,¹" of November 12, containing statements of grief, lamentation, disappointment, and concern, but also encouragement, hope, and prayer. Striving for peace regarding this delicate situation, the bishops "pray for an end to dehumanizing rhetoric and violence, whether directed at immigrants or at law enforcement," and they insist that "*Human dignity and national security are not in conflict. Both are possible if people of good will work together.*"

Our Rule (Article 15) challenges us to act courageously for justice. At the same time, we must be bearers of peace and seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue (Article 19). OFS members have reported that they are answering this challenge in many regions, with courtroom or legal assistance, education, family support, donations, food drives, etc. A JPIC-based process at the fraternity level would be to assess local needs, and identify a gap that the members can fill as an apostolate. The JPIC office of the OFM province, Our Lady of Guadalupe, has a list of suggested activities.

Also, the USCCB has been very clear in asking for support from lay Catholics for *Comprehensive Immigration Reform*. Catholic elements of reform are listed here. Most urgently, the right to *due process* must be reestablished. Suspending this fundamental right (which also exists in canon law) is a grave threat to justice, and to human dignity.² "Apparent ethnicity" can legally be one "relevant factor" for immigration stops,³ but according to our catechism, this is unjust.⁴ Advocating for the poor, the maligned and marginalized, is holy, prophetic work. The USCCB offers resources to develop Christ-centered policy in support of immigrants.

Please join us in prayer for hearts to be changed for a greater dialogue for a long-term solution.

***To the God of our ancestors, who freed the Israelites,
Give us the grace to assist our brothers and sisters from other lands
And follow your command to welcome the stranger
With actions that are peaceful, loving, and visible.***

***We ask this in the name of your only Son Jesus, who lived as a migrant in Egypt
and who, when reading in the synagogue, announced the freedom of the captives. Amen***

In Christ's peace,

The National Fraternity Council of the Secular Franciscan Order USA

Go forth as witnesses... proclaiming Christ by our Life and our Words. (OFS Rule Article 6)

¹ <https://www.usccb.org/resources/USCCB%20Special%20Message%20on%20Immigration.pdf>

² OFS General Constitutions #22, "... They should take clear positions whenever human dignity is attacked by any form of oppression or indifference. They should offer their fraternal service to the victims of injustice."

³ *Noem v. Vasquez Perdomo*: https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/24pdf/25a169_5h25.pdf

⁴ Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1935



Actions of Franciscan Accompaniment:

The list below is adapted from a resource provided by the JPIC office of the OFM province, Our Lady of Guadalupe, which has offered assistance in hosting events. Our Regions have seen small and growing efforts at accompaniment with courtroom processes. Some OFS leaders have partnered with other groups to sign up for court attendance. This can include observation at the court, communicating with relatives, etc. Also, some members have joined the groups that are assisting immigrants with plans for family if detained, knowledge of their rights, referring legal assistance, etc. There is need for collective action by fraternities in the form of apostolates, but there is also need for individuals to “do what you can, where you are.”

May God grant success to the work of our hands, done in the name of Jesus, who gave us our instructions in Matthew 25:31” For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, **36** I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

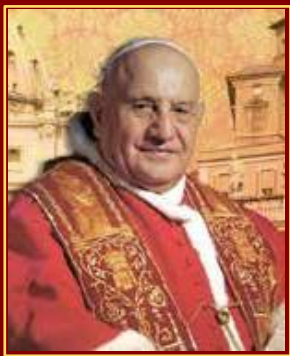
Categories of suggested actions:

- Address direct needs Offer spiritual and pastoral support, as well as financial support.
 - Assist those who are shut in (shopping, etc.)
 - Assist with emergency plans
 - Offer sanctuary when legal

- Offer legal resources and support (Do not offer legal advice unless you are a lawyer.)
 - Provide “Know your rights” training
 - Accompany people to court hearing and ICE check-ins
 - Share legal connections and ask lawyers to share resources
 - Register parishioners when arriving as immigrants
 - Advocate for change Contact officials and leaders with letters, calls and emails
 - Build collaborative relationships with leaders and officials to change policy
 - Contact the USCCB

- Witness on their behalf Prayers of the faithful
 - Pray at ICE offices and detention centers
 - Submit opinion editorials to media outlets
 - Share stories that reveal the humanity of immigrants

Contact Joe Makley at: Joe.sfo@pioneerstreet.com



NEWS FROM POPE ST. JOHN XXIII FRATERNITY Yuma, AZ



Once again we started the year off with the celebration of The Feast of the Epiphany on January 4. We had a potluck luncheon as part of our Gathering at the home of our Franciscan Sister Frances Garcia, OFS. The Sisters of Christian Charity joined us as well as several guests. As you can see there was much fun had by everyone including the Sisters! Games were played and there was a white elephant gift exchange.



At the February Gathering birthdays were celebrated for those who had a February birthday. We are preparing for our March yard sale on the 14th. Due to many activities taking place last year, we were not able to have our yard sale in November or December so it was moved to March 14, 2026.



Article submitted by Denise Carrasquillo, OFS (Minister)



NEWS FROM ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FRATERNITY Surprise, AZ

With great joy the members of St. Maximilian Kolbe fraternity witnessed the admission of Anthony Weber, Janet Weber, and Michael LaFata into the Secular Franciscan Order, during our monthly gathering on March 22nd.

Philip Brocker, our Minister received Anthony, Janet, and Michael into the Order. Spiritual Assistant Bill Neu offered a reflection after the Gospel reading. Jeff Persson, Formation Director presented Anthony, Janet, and Michael with a copy of the Rule and a Tau.

Let's remember our new candidates in our prayers and sustain them by your witness.



On another happy note, four members recently started Orientation. These beautiful smiles already reflect pure Franciscan JOY!



Two of our new aspirants are a mother and daughter!



Meet Sue Fourby, Obdulia Mayoral, Allyson Castillo and Thomas Price.

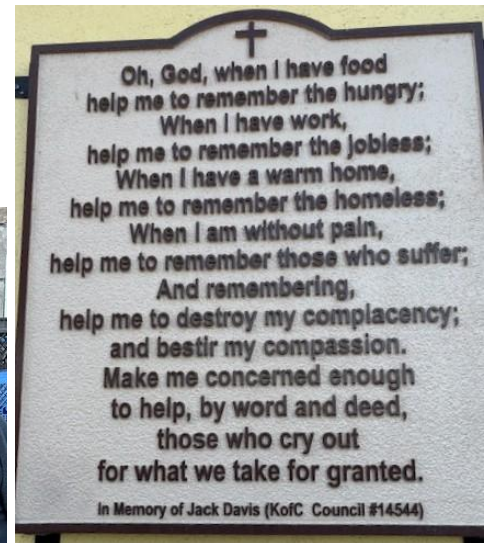


NEWS FROM ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA FRATERNITY Las Vegas, NV

Our Fraternity Apostolate is “to serve the poor and homeless of Las Vegas in association with Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada and the Las Vegas Catholic Worker”. Catholic Charities provides a wide range of social services which include food services (through Meals on Wheels and an inhouse

Dining Room), a Food Pantry, and an Emergency Men’s Shelter at their downtown facility. The Catholic Worker operates predominately as a street ministry. Food is cooked in a historic downtown home, assembled by volunteers, and distributed three days a week in an open lot where those in need gather.

Our Fraternity hoped to find a common apostolate in which all our members could consistently participate together. Las Vegas has a high number of homeless people (7,906 identified in a point-in-time count in 2024, although other estimates suggest over 16,000 (according to reports from *Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care*).



Seeing the homeless frequently on our streets and keeping in mind our Franciscan Charism of loving and serving the poor, we were happy to choose this apostolate.

Everyone is free to sign up online for volunteering in person with Catholic Charities in their various services. In addition, we have a Monthly Donation Schedule for Catholic Charities of needed items which we will bring to each Fraternity meeting. For example, in March baby diapers, and in April men’s new socks will be donated.



Volunteering with the Catholic Worker entails early rising! At 6:00 AM volunteers gather to pray, then in assembly-line fashion put hot and cold food in bags, and drive to an empty lot for distribution. Frequently, the queue of folks waiting may exceed 100. After handing out food the best part of the morning is talking individually with people, learning a little about their lives, and seeing Christ in them.

Article submitted by Sue Kowalski, OFS



NEWS FROM PEACE FRATERNITY Scottsdale, AZ

Greetings and Lenten Blessings from Peace fraternity.

I am struggling with it being already Lent; It seems yesterday was Christmas. On the other hand, we are preparing for the Resurrection of Jesus! What a beautiful time knowing we are loved so much that God wanted a way that we could rise again too. Our Christmas party was such a lot of fun! Smiles everywhere and lots of great food and conversation. Each year just gets better and better.



This year should fly by also with the regional retreat coming up soon and not long after that, the Quinquennial in Kentucky. A friend of ours shared with us that about 50 miles from Lexington, there is an enormous ark built in shape and size of Noah's Ark. It has 3 floors of history and the story of Noah's Ark made real. On the third floor they have designed to be similar to what living quarters for Noah and his family may have been. It is called Ark Encounter. How exciting to see the bible and history brought to life in such an amazing way. It sounds like an absolutely beautiful and educational event. The Ark itself is a work of art. What an exciting family vacation. Go to the website to really understand what it is. If you can work it in while in Lexington; it looks more than worthwhile.



Article submitted by Betty Holler, OFS (Vice-Minister)



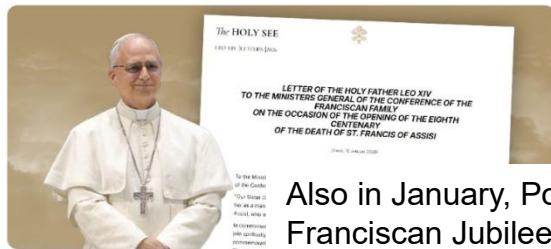
NEWS FROM ST. CLARE OF ASSISI FRATERNITY Phoenix, AZ

On December 13, 2025, Corpus Christi Catholic Church hosted its annual “Night of the Nativities,” an event which celebrates Christ’s birth through various nativity scenes on loan from parish families. St. Clare of Assisi Fraternity was at the event, and sponsored a large Nativity scene that was on display for all to see. Refreshments were served, and a beautiful atmosphere was created, in the model of the first Nativity scene created by St. Francis of Assisi over 800 years ago.



On December 14, 2025, we held a Ceremony of Welcoming for inquirers who expressed interest in continuing their journey as Secular Franciscans.

We welcomed Nan Talahongva, Kate MacDonald, Kent Bell, Tami Carroll, and Linda Flaherty-Biggs.



At our January gathering, we took the time to reflect on our Franciscan Journey, led by Margie Kesler, our Formation Director. The theme of the reflection was, “My Franciscan Journey: Where Have I Been? Where Am I Going?” which resulted in beautiful sharing by our members.

Also in January, Pope Leo XIV declared this year a Franciscan Jubilee Year as it is the 800th Anniversary of the Transitus of St. Francis this year. Pope Leo has conferred an Apostolic blessing upon all who will commemorate the anniversary of St. Francis meeting sister death.



At the February gathering, we reflected on Franciscan Evangelization, including strategies to share the Gospel (Articles of the Rule 4,5,6 & 7). Additionally, Maria was able to share another of her popular musings on Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation!



NEWS FROM BL. FRANZ JÄGERSTÄTTER FRATERNITY Flagstaff, AZ

Greetings from Northern Arizona!

Enjoy this glimpse into our fraternity life over the last six months!

September 2025

We celebrated Corda Pia (Loving Hearts), which is a sung devotional celebration of the Stigmata of Saint Francis of Assisi

Our Spiritual Assistant, Linda Ressler OFS, was officially installed



October 2025

Three days of celebrating St. Francis of Assisi with Transitus, Blessing of Animals, and providing hospitality after the masses



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

December 2025

Our Fraternity Retreat, led by Esther Stewart and Joe Goitia



January 2026

Annual Epiphany Party hosted at Regina Johnson's house

February 2026

Affiliate Renewal for Kate Golski



Looking forward to what the next six months have in store, including our Regional Visitation in April and a Profession in June, God willing!

Pace e Bene.



NEWS FROM ST. FRANCIS FRATERNITY Phoenix, AZ

Saint Francis Fraternity at St. Mary's Basilica

Hello, Everyone! May God bless your fraternities and lead you in his way of peace and good!



We had a wonderful Christmas celebration. Our Hispanic members shared the wonderful traditions of *Las Posadas*, with plenty of treats, music and laughter. Since the holidays, things have settled into a quieter rhythm of formation and service.

Our Fraternity gatherings have grown with the inclusion of new visitors, including a Spiritual Assistant visiting Phoenix from out of state. We've also been able to keep in touch with members who have left our area for a variety of family and career opportunities.

Along with growing in our fraternity we are also growing in our Council. We have added several Council Assistants. Our Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Assistant works with both national and regional leaders to create programs in social and community issues. Our Infirmarian reaches members who are isolated by illness and personal needs. Our Youth Services Assistant will guide our Council in strategies to reach out to Youth and Young Adults and introduce them to Franciscan values. Our search for a Technology Assistant has yielded a whole Team to establish and maintain our online presence. And finally, we have found an energetic leader to organize our hospitality needs at gatherings, retreats and other Fraternity events. Having these assistants allows our elected Councilors to focus on assigned tasks while building variety and servicing the needs of our members.

We will begin studying the tradition of Common Prayer. These "lessons" will provide opportunities to explore the books and ask questions. If anyone is interested, we have a small community sharing Morning and Evening Prayer daily on ZOOM. Email Rosemarie (jewel.li.0603@gmail.com) for more information and a link.

We are planning to celebrate our Rite of Profession at St. Francis Fraternity in January, 2027. If you would like to do this jointly, please contact our Formation Director, Carmen Duron (cduron@cox.net) for information.

While we meet to discuss and work on needs, events and opportunities, we keep in mind that we are called to live the Gospel boldly and openly, so that others, attracted to the light, may find their way to Christ. This is accomplished mostly by the love and faithfulness we share in our Franciscan way of life. Keep that Good Fire burning! And if you get the chance, drop by for a visit. Our Gatherings begin at 2:30 pm on the third Sunday of most months in the basement of Saint Mary's church. Parking is underground off Fifth Street, just north of Monroe. There are local garages in the neighborhood or you can reach us on the Light Rail!

Bienvenido!

Article submitted by Tom McNamara, OFS (Minister)

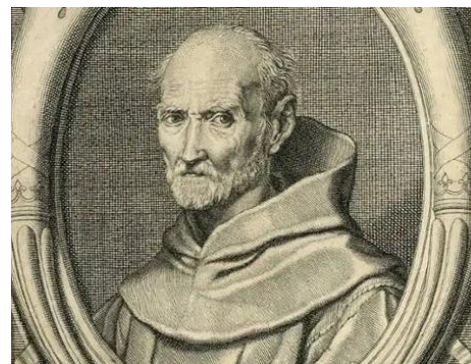
DID YOU KNOW?

St. Patrick's Day has a Franciscan connection!



The Franciscan connection to St. Patrick's Day lies in the shared, deep-rooted tradition of Celtic spirituality, which aligns with Franciscan values of embracing nature as a reflection of God and emphasizing a, intimate, humble relationship with the Divine. While St. Patrick predates the Franciscans by centuries, their, shared, theology of love for creation creates a spiritual link.

Luke Wadding, a 17th-century Irish Franciscan friar, was instrumental in establishing St. Patrick's Day as a universal feast day in the Catholic Church. Wadding founded St. Isidore's College in Rome, which trained Irish priests, and played a significant role in promoting Irish saints, securing the Feast of St. Patrick (March 17) in the Roman Breviary.



Key details regarding the relationship between St. Patrick and the Franciscans include:

Feast Day Establishment: Luke Wadding (OFM) successfully petitioned for the inclusion of St. Patrick's feast in the Church's official calendar in the early 17th century.

Shared Spirituality: Both Celtic (associated with St. Patrick) and Franciscan traditions emphasize a profound, personal, connection with God and a, deep, reverence for all creation as brothers and sisters.

Theological Similarities: Both traditions often moved away from, strict, ransom-based views of atonement, focusing instead on the, loving, transformative, power of God.

Franciscan Promotion: Wadding, a key figure in the Irish Counter-Reformation, recognized the importance of honoring the patron saint of Ireland to support Irish Catholics under British suppression.

Modern Connection: Today, St. Patrick-St. Anthony Parish in Hartford, CT, is run by Franciscans, highlighting a continued connection between the saint and the order.

Cultural Focus: Franciscan media frequently highlights St. Patrick's life, focusing on his missionary work, his conversion experience during slavery, and his dedication to evangelizing Ireland.

Nature Appreciation: Like St. Francis's love for animals, the Celtic tradition, championed by Patrick, sees the natural world as a, sacred, space and a, direct, manifestation of God's, presence.

Contemplative Approach: Both traditions promote a contemplative, and, meditative, approach to spiritual, life.

While not a direct historical link, the spiritual bond between the Irish faith and Franciscan ideology is significant.

The Irish Franciscan who gave St. Patrick his feast day

By Ray Cavanaugh

Published March 17, 2016 in the National Catholic Register

St. Patrick's Day is now a big celebration on multiple continents, but how did it get going? Patrick, who died in 461 A.D., didn't launch the festivities himself. Instead, it was a 17th-century Franciscan priest, Luke Wadding, who made sure that Patrick was given a feast day. This day, of course, developed into a riotous yearly tribute -- surely more celebratory than Wadding intended.

The pious Wadding was born on Oct. 16, 1588, in the city of Waterford, on Ireland's southeastern coast. Entering a wealthy and well-connected family, he received a fine classical education and became fluent in Latin as a child. Hardship came his way at age 14, however, when both of his parents died.

An older brother took charge of his situation and sent him to an Irish seminary in Lisbon, Portugal. There he began a novitiate at age 17 and was ordained by the Franciscan Order as a priest at age 25. He later relocated to Spain, where his eloquence and erudition won him the attention of King Philip III, who sent him as part of a delegation to Rome.

In Rome, he would make his greatest impact. He established the College of St. Isidore, which educated Irish priests who left Ireland because of anti-Catholic suppression by the British. Many of these students would become martyrs upon returning to their homeland.

When organized Irish rebellion arose in the 1640s, Wadding supported the cause, arranging for thousands of pounds of ammunition and bundles of money to be sent to Ireland. After some initial success, the Irish rebels were crushed mercilessly by the forces of England's Oliver Cromwell.

Though Ireland as a nation was being oppressed to a severe degree, Irish scholars on the European continent were beginning to carve their niche. Leading the way was Wadding, who wrote abundantly, producing some 50 volumes as an author or editor.

Among this corpus of scholarship was a treatise on the Immaculate Conception, a 16-volume work on the Middle Age theologian John Duns Scotus, and an eight-volume history of the Franciscan order.

Yet all of these writings combined would not prove as influential as Wadding's efforts to make March 17 an official feast day. This day had received some recognition since the 10th century. "But the commemoration was not widespread, even in Ireland," according to James Doherty's article "A Saint Becomes an Occasion," written for [the Irish heritage website The Wild Geese](#).

Wadding used his influence to have Patrick and his March 17 feast day inserted into the church calendar. Such official recognition was, according to Doherty, the "major impetus in the creation of St. Patrick's Day as we know it."

Of course, this contribution would take years to unfold. During his lifetime, Wadding was viewed largely as a scholar and a voice for the Irish in Rome. Reportedly, he received votes to become pope during the papal conclaves of 1644 and 1655. This would make his case as close as the church has come to having an Irish pope. It's very possible that Wadding would not have wanted the papacy.

Continued...

He rejected offers to become a bishop and even intercepted and suppressed a petition (discovered after his death) that recommended him for the cardinalate. "His preference always was for the quieter pastures of scholarship and research," according to *Father Luke Wadding*, a commemorative volume released in 1957 by the Franciscan friars.

But the "quieter pastures" of scholarship can be tiring in their own right, especially when combined with constant ecclesiastical duties. Wadding's physical health was strained often, and he was beset by violent recurring headaches for much of his adult life.

Following a brief illness, he died in Rome on Nov. 18, 1657, at age 69. The last 40 years of his life had been spent in Italy, and the overwhelming majority of his years were spent outside a homeland for which he so mightily had campaigned.

The 1913 Catholic Encyclopedia says that every year Wadding had commemorated March 17 with "great solemnity." In the fullness of time, though, St. Patrick's Day would become anything but solemn.

The first organized celebration took place in 1737 and was conducted by Boston's Irish Charitable Society. The New York City parades arrived in 1762, and such festivities soon spread to Philadelphia.

The early-1800s saw celebrations in New Orleans; the mid-1800s saw them in Chicago and San Francisco; and the late-1800s saw celebrations in Kansas City, Mo.

Not until the 20th century, would St. Patrick's Day parades occur in Ireland, where March 17 was acknowledged more as a day of religious obligation. In fact, until recent decades the pubs in Ireland actually were kept closed on March 17. Such was never the case in America, where St. Patrick's Day began as a declaration of Irish American identity, but often devolved into inebriate mayhem.

The March 19, 1860, edition of *The New York Times* ran a piece titled "St. Patrick's Day," which relates that: "The policemen had their hands full. Business was lively at the Tombs [the Manhattan Detention Complex]. An unbroken procession defiled through its doorways." Among this procession were "drunken women with infants in their arms" and "men argumentatively disposed to establish logically the fact of their own sobriety."

Despite these hiccups, the festivities not only would endure, but would surface in some unexpected locations. These days, St. Patrick's Day merriment takes place in Russia, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore, among other faraway lands.

In fact, the celebrations actually have gone beyond the planet. In 2011, on board the International Space Station, astronauts -- floating in the air and attired in green -- played the flute and tin whistle.

Amid the spreading revelry, the day's key contributor (aside from Patrick himself) tends to go overlooked. Outside of his native Waterford, most Irish are unaware of Wadding. However, he has received some recent notice: In October 2015, the *Irish Voice* newspaper ran an editorial on Wadding titled "Waterford man who created St. Patrick's Day is now long forgotten."

But the "forgotten" Wadding's perennial contribution continues to grow. Undoubtedly, it has gone far beyond what the devout Franciscan had in mind.

NEWS FROM ST. DAEGUN ANDREW KIM FRATERNITY Chandler, AZ



A Reflection: The Path of Holiness by Francis Cho, OFS

“Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be the slave of all.” (Matthew 20:26–27)

Jesus tells His disciples that He did not come to be served, but to serve.

St. Francis, in humility, called himself “a servant among the servants of God” and lived a life of service for his brothers and sisters. As Christians, we seek to live in the truth, shining the light of freedom and blessing upon the world. We are disciples who carry a mission to serve with joy and beauty. Those who live a life of service are called “apostles of peace.” The Lord’s servants must value the Holy Spirit and faith, but they must also keep a good character and an

The Church community does not belong to any one individual. All of us are the “little Church,” called to be used as apostles of the Lord. Even if knowledge and skills abound, without goodness and virtue, one is not fit to be a leader or a servant. When talent outpaces virtue, a person can become arrogant and act as if the Lord were their servant. In the end, those who serve only themselves cannot become servants of God. The work of God—that is, apostolic activity—is not something that can be easily accomplished by human knowledge and ability alone.

Perhaps our lives reflect and contain the world we have seen, heard, and experienced, shaped according to our own measure. But my destiny is not something merely given; it is determined according to God’s providence and my actions. A righteous person cannot live if they commit sin, yet even a wicked person can live if they repent. The past does not determine the future; even if one has lived a dark past, one can be renewed through present actions. Therefore, faith and humility free us from ourselves, help us recognize the gifts God gives us, and become the source of hope that enables us to look toward a brighter future in an imperfect reality.

No one lives in this world without anxiety and fear. Because imperfect human beings live in an imperfect world, they cannot make themselves perfect. But when we pray in our daily lives, we can discover God’s love, and amid human fatigue, we can see the mystery of God. Ultimately, in the Lord’s love, we can return from the finite to the infinite—from this life to the eternal life in God’s kingdom.

Today as well, the special spirituality of Franciscan formation is to walk the path of discipleship joyfully in grace, desiring to be transformed by love and to resemble and love the humble Christ like St. Francis. Like Francis, we must humble ourselves and courageously accept who we are, just as we are, so that we may overcome our limitations. Even now, in the spiritual battle, we must overcome the forces of evil and our enemies, and become instruments of peace that win victory each day through faith and prayer, the Word of God, and a life centered on the sacraments. On this journey toward the Paschal celebration, we must erase hardened speech and expressions, set aside selfishness and self-righteousness, and live as brighter and renewed Christians through repentance, forgiveness, and hope.



Francis and
Kyongza Cho, OFS

**NEWS FROM
ST. DAEGUN ANDREW KIM FRATERNITY
Chandler, AZ (Continued)**

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL!**

Minister: Pun Sung (Stephen) Ku, OFS

Vice-Minister: David Lee, OFS

Secretary: Euna (Irene) Ku, OFS

Treasurer: Kyougmi (Clara) Suk, OFS

Formation Director: Michael Nam, OFS

Councilor-at-Large: Jay C. Pyon, OFS

Councilor-at-Large: Hyunjoo Yong, OFS

Councilor JPIC: Jung Le Kang, OFS

The fraternity held their Triennial Election Chapter on Sunday March 15. Our Regional Minister Julianne Hartzell, OFS delegated Cathy Roszhart, OFS Vice-Minister to preside over the election and the Pastoral Witness was our Regional Spiritual Assistant, Father Micah Muhlen, OFM.

Art Crisostomo, OFS from Saint Clare of Assisi fraternity is currently assigned as Spiritual Assistant.



NEWS FROM OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY FRATERNITY Scottsdale, AZ



MEET THE NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL!

"...Amen, I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20

The fraternity held their Triennial Election Chapter on Saturday March 14.

- Minister: Linda Raimundo, O.F.S.
- Vice-Minister: Tom Raimundo, O.F.S.
- Treasurer: Cheryl Cook, O.F.S.
- Secretary: Marlene Stigsell, O.F.S.
- Formation Director: Julia Torrassa, O.F.S.



We thank the Regional Executive Council members: Fr. Micah Muhlen, OFM our Ecclesial Witness, Julianne Hartzell, OFS our Presider and Carmen Duron, our appointed Regional Councilor for facilitating the elections. Please pray for our new council and their service.

Linda Madrid, OFS is currently assigned as Spiritual Assistant for Our Lady of the Rosary fraternity.

In the picture from left to right:

*Cheryl Cook, OFS;
Tom Raimundo, OFS;
Linda Raimundo, OFS;
Fr. Micah Muhlen, OFM;
Julianne Hartzell, OFS;
Linda Madrid, OFS;
Julia Torrassa, OFS
and Marlene Stigsell, OFS*



Peace and Joy,
Nancy Brady, O.F.S.



NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY FRATERNITY Tucson, AZ

The Extraction of St. Francis. This is a very old custom within the Franciscan Community. Our fraternity used the short prayer service from St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity we found on the internet when searching for St. Francis Extraction.

Joanne Bowling's daughter, who belongs to a Fraternity in a northern state shared this old practice with the council last year, so this is our first-year learning how the Extraction affects our life as Franciscans. We randomly selected from 5 baskets different information explained below.

We believe that God speaks to us in many ways. He reveals himself in the Sacred Scriptures of the Bible. We can also learn of His will for us as we consider the lives and words of the holy men and women, we call **The Saints**. **There are many we believe** are special and are our spiritual friends who pray to God with us and for us.

First, we randomly pick a patron saint for the year, as well as a special scripture quote that is selected at random from a collection of saints names and maxims. The saying from the saint may well offer you a word of comfort or a challenge to growth in the coming year. We are challenged to learn about the saint who is your patron for the year, looking him/her up on the internet for a very old saint or reading a biography of the individual if there is one available. Then you pray that God may show you how to emulate some aspect of that saint's quest for God.

Second, we randomly selected a prayer partner from the basket of members' names who you include in your daily prayers, for the year. You can let the person you pick be aware that you received their name or not.

Third, we selected a deceased members name from the basket, to also pray for their soul for the year. The name was provided from our Fraternity Record book.

Fourth, we chose a typed saying from St. Francis, with the book and chapter it was found.

Fifth, we chose from the last basket a "virtue."

My virtue was "Spirit of fear of the Lord", my Franciscan saint was Blessed Andrew of Segni, a first Order Lay Brother from 1302.

I can say from my personal experience I am finding this practice has impacted my spiritual and practical conversion. For more information contact our Minister, Benjamin Saenz.

Renewed Commitment to printing TAU-USA Newsletter

Members across the country have expressed concern about not receiving printed issues of TAU-USA, the national newsletter. Two years ago, printing and mailing of the TAU was reduced from three or four to one issue a year because of increasing costs, with the remaining issues available only digitally.

Editor Caroline Yandell, OFS, presented research on ways to reduce publishing costs while maintaining quality. She is committed to producing more print issues within the approved budget of \$40,000, ensuring that all members who would like a printed issue receive one.

She suggested the best way to reduce costs is to ask fraternity members if they would like to receive their issues digitally instead of by mail. That would reduce printing and postage costs and allow those who need the printed version to receive theirs in the mail.

Caroline said a request sent to members in her region resulted in the majority opting out of the print edition. She encouraged regional ministers to ask local ministers to poll their fraternities and adjust the TAU delivery preferences in the database.

The Database team has been conducted a campaign in our region for the past 3 years and many members in St. Thomas More have now elected to receive TAU-USA electronically. Out of 262 Active members who are eligible to receive the newsletter we now have 164 who have elected to receive it by email.

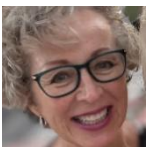
We continue to raise awareness of this huge expense and to ask each member of our region to please consider ways to reduce waste and also help us save money:

- Promptly notify the Database Manager of your local fraternity of a change of address and a change of status. In turn that person needs to promptly inform the Regional Database Manager, so that copies of the newsletter do not end up being sent to the wrong address.
- Consider cancelling your subscription of a hard copy delivered to your mailing address and instead elect to receive an email notifying you that the latest edition of the TAU-USA is available to read online.

Please note, there is an option of receiving the newsletter in Spanish.

Also, if a married couple, both active candidates or professed members of the Order receive 2 hard copies, they may request to receive a single copy.

Lastly, if a member is not fluent in English or Spanish and doesn't read the newsletter, they may consider cancelling their subscription all together.



For any updates, please contact our new Regional Database Manager: Amy Sperry, OFS 9261962a@gmail.com

To read the last issue of the TAU-USA, please go to https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/TAU-USA_118_win_26.pdf

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE REGION

April 26 – Blessed Franz Jägerstätter fraternity Triennial Visitations

May 22-24 – Regional Retreat - Franciscan Renewal Center, Scottsdale AZ

May 31 – St. Margaret of Cortona fraternity Triennial Chapter of Elections

June 14 – Peace fraternity Triennial Visitations

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE NATION

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINES AND PUBLICATION DATES

† July 1	Deadline for Article Submission
† July 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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If you don't succeed there, send me an email request at kdwofs@gmail.com

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