



Our Fraternal Scoop



Summer 2024 • Quarterly Publication



MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL MINISTER

I don't know about you, but the last several months have gone by slowly and yet so fast. I guess it is what you compare it to. Our Region has had elections, visitations, loss of loved ones and friends, health concerns, and the list can go on. For a eulogy I presented, I used the words from St. Francis: "I have done what is mine to do, now do yours." You see no matter what happens it is not the end but only a change in our way of life.

Now you may be asking, why in the world did she start that way? Well, there is a method to my madness. You see it all revolves around the Holy Spirit and YOU as part of a family! I can be so overjoyed about what I see happening in our region/family... fraternities working hard to be able to remain as a fraternity... offering of self to others... taking the time to just listen...But with any family there are concerns, though they may only belong to me. They revolve around communication with each other, not just by reading emails. (And I know I probably send enough or even too many!)

So, I'm going to "communicate" what I am thinking. I'm going to use "we" instead of you, because I need to answer these myself. Do we find the necessary time to devote to our Franciscan way of life? (We did make a commitment, just like in a marriage.) Are there things we need to let go of Are we afraid to take on a responsibility that requires extra of our time? Do we help others by getting their needs answered? Have we learned how to listen to the Holy Spirit and build a relationship with God? And I'm sure you can ask more questions yourself.

But even with all of those questions, I KNOW the best part of all is that "WE" have each other ~ our Franciscan family. That we can and are able to set examples of the gospel by the life we walk. And I know who I can go to if there is ever a need – especially for prayer. Bottom line, even with some concerns we may have I think/feel we can be so thankful for our Franciscan way of life and FAMILY!

As said by Pope Francis:

"It is not enough to say we are Christians (Franciscans).

We must live the faith, not only with our words, but with our actions."



MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS TO COMEDIANS:

Dear friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you, and to express my gratitude to those in the Dicastery for Culture and Education who have organized this meeting.

I hold you in high esteem as artists who express yourselves through the language of comedy, humour, and irony. Among all the professionals working in television, cinema, theatre, print media, with songs, and on social media, you are among the most loved, sought after, and popular. Certainly, it is because you are very good at what you do, but there is also another motivation: you have and cultivate the gift of making people laugh.

In the midst of so much gloomy news, immersed as we are in many social and even personal emergencies, you have the power to spread peace and smiles. You are among the few who have the ability to speak to all types of people, from different generations and cultural backgrounds.

In your own way, you unite people, because laughter is contagious. It is easier to laugh together than alone: joy opens us to sharing and is the best antidote to selfishness and individualism. Laughter also helps to break down social barriers, create connections among people, and allows us to express emotions and thoughts, contributing to building a shared culture and creating spaces of freedom. You remind us that homo sapiens is also homo ludens! For playful fun and laughter are central to human life, to express ourselves, to learn, and to give meaning to situations.

Your talent is a precious gift. Together with a smile, it spreads peace in our hearts and among others, helping us to overcome difficulties and cope with everyday stress. It helps us find relief in irony and go through life with humour.

I like to pray daily with the words of Saint Thomas More: “Grant me, O Lord, a good sense of humour”. I ask for this grace for every day because it helps me approach things with the right spirit.

You also succeed in bringing about another miracle: you manage to make people smile even while dealing with problems and events, large and small. You denounce abuses of power; you give voice to forgotten situations; you highlight abuses; you point out inappropriate behaviour. You do this without spreading alarm or terror, anxiety or fear, as other types of communication tend to do; you rouse people to think critically by making them laugh and smile. You do this by telling stories of real life, narrating reality from your unique viewpoint; and in this way, you speak to people about problems, large and small.

Dear friends, may God bless you and your art. Continue to cheer people up, especially those who have the hardest time looking at life with hope. Help us, with a smile, to see reality with its contradictions, and to dream of a better world! With heartfelt sentiments, I bless you; and I ask you, please, to pray for me.



MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL FORMATION DIRECTOR

REGIONAL ELECTION APPEAL

St. Thomas More Regional Council is preparing for our next triennial Regional Executive Council elections which will be held on February 8, 2025 at the Franciscan Renewal Center.

Investing in Service

Service is an underlying gospel principle of “Franciscanism” and an integral part of the Rule. "Mindful that anyone 'who follows Christ, the perfect man, becomes more of a man himself,' let them exercise their responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of service." (Rule, Art. 14). When given responsibilities, it is by the very nature of our vocation as followers of Francis, that we are called to fulfill them in the spirit of service. Flowing from the general call of all Franciscans to serve, most of us have been asked to take on a particular form of service, that of being a leader, a presider, one having a role of authority in our various provinces and at the national level. We are at the same time both servant (minister) and leader (presider), hence the term servant-leader. Not self-proclaimed and power hungry, but people called forth by the community to serve the community and to provide the leadership necessary to help the community reach its ultimate potential.

Richard Morton, National Vice Minister, sfo National News Vol. 1, No. 1 (July 1, 1987).

It interests me how relevant the old articles from our National Newsletters can be. This reflection appeared in the first numbered issue of our National Newsletter (sfo National News became TAU-USA) In his article, published thirty-six years ago, Richard Morton explains an essential concept of Secular Franciscan life: our leadership isn't about power or control, it's about service and it's about helping others grow.

We are not an unchanging service group that specializes in just one area. Service is our way of living. By vocation, every Secular Franciscan should be engaged in some form of service, suited to our age, background, skills and abilities. Our devotional life, our daily prayers and our continuing studies exist to help us serve the needs of people around us, real people in a real and constantly-changing world.

Secular Franciscans don't wait for others to create a Big Program. When we see a need, we serve that need. It can be as simple as holding a door, smiling, asking people how they are doing, how we can help. Or it can become a life-work, teaching villagers in

MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL FORMATION DIRECTOR *CONTINUED*

Africa, building clinics in Ukraine, or helping people in Hawaii recover after a wildfire. Often there is work we just can't do, but we can make prayer our job, asking God to send laborers into the world.

Our Church, at the Second Vatican Council, asked all of its religious Orders to carefully consider how they came to exist, and to recover our original inspiration. We Seculars came to exist when Saint Francis, in his love for people and through his strength at prayer, showed us a Gospel way to live. This is our vocation. This is how we serve and pray, every day.

Please take some time to consider your calling. We should each ask ourselves regularly how we are doing. Have the needs we serve changed? Do we require new training? Has our service helped us grow and explore our faith? Have we made friends? Is the world a better place because we have been here...?

And one more thing, when we need it, do we ask for help...? Sometimes all people need is to be asked to pitch in and suddenly you have a crowd. Whatever people can give, honor their gift. Say thank you. Share a burger. Take time to rest and be renewed. Go to workshops but don't let them replace action. Argue the issues. Listen to what everyone is saying, even the people you don't agree with. Get perspective. Get a background. Change your mind when you need to. Let God come in and change your heart. In the end, God will ask us what we did with our life. Let's work to show him the greatest return for his investment.

Tom McNamara, ofs
Formation Director, St. Thomas More Region

Therefore, I am asking our sisters and brothers who are two years or more professed, to discern placing your name on the 2025 – 2028 nomination slate for a position on the regional council.

In the meantime, please visit our Regional Website - (Resources/Regional Guidelines) at <https://www.stmregionofs.com/regional-guidelines> for information regarding the positions on the council and the duties for each office

**REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS
FEBRUARY 8, 2025**

As Franciscans, it is not so important what we offer, but rather the willingness to offer whatever opportunity to serve that God chooses to give us.

We are all given a particular station in life which best enables us to fulfill God's will. It is within this context of our individual circumstances that we are asked to faithfully execute our duties. The method by which we are to serve is given to us quite simply in the gospel. If we are to progress "from Gospel to Life," we must heed these Words: "Love one another as I have loved you" (Jn 13:14). Everything we do in the Church, our homes, the market place, the fields and in our communities must exemplify his love.

~ Karol Morton, OFS, Called to Make Present the Charism (SFO Resource Library)

After prayerfully considering who might be able to serve our Regional Fraternity for the next 3 years, look for an email from our Nomination Committee Chair Benjamin Saenz, OFS at Benjamin.saenz@gmail.com

Keep in mind the timeline below:

October 8, 2024	Nominating Committee solicits nominations from all eligible members
November 8	Deadline for returning Nomination Forms to Nominating committee Nominating Committee sends Notice of Nomination
December 8	Deadline for returning Acceptance letter and resumé
January 8, 2025	Resumés of nominees sent to voting members
February 8	CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS

In preparation for our elections, please include the prayer below in your daily devotion.

**Almighty, most high and supreme God,
Father, holy and just Lord, King of heaven and earth:
We give you thanks for yourself.
Of your own will, you created all things spiritual and physical,
Made us in your own image and likeness and gave us a place in Paradise,
Through your only Son, in the Holy Spirit.**

**We trust in you and we ask for your light
so that we may choose those who will properly serve
Our fraternity through their servant leadership.
Help us to select those who are able to animate
And guide us by their example,
Their virtues and prudent decisions,
So that the Gospel of Jesus in the spirit of St. Francis
May come alive in our fraternity. Amen**

APOSTLATE VENEZUELAN FAMILY NEWS

Dear brothers and sisters Christ of the St. Thomas Region and Fraternities

I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. The Venezuelan family would like to express their profound gratitude for the unwavering support you have shown them during these challenging times. Your prayers and generosity have been a beacon of hope in their journey.

As we mark a significant step in their legal endeavors, Edixon secured legal representation with the Juarez Law Firm. Following the signing of the contract in March, Edixon has actively engaged in the process. Their initial meeting with lawyers focused on gathering pertinent information about past residences, children's educational history, and extended family details. After other in-person meetings, the lawyers have started the application process for alyssum. Currently, they are getting their biometrics completed with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Next step will be their interview with USCIS. With these crucial steps already behind them and another on the horizon, they are trying to navigate the process with diligence and optimism.

The financial support provided by your kind contributions has been instrumental in this progress. The total funds raised amounted to \$4,395 +250. After expending funds for legal fees and expenses related to obtaining a birth certificate from their home country, and monthly installments, the remaining balance stands at \$1,955.86. This remaining amount is earmarked for five more installments.

The Juarez Law Firm has agreed to a service fee of \$8,500, with a deposit of \$1,000 already made, and three-monthly installments, leaving an owed balance of \$6,450. The family is committed to fulfilling this financial obligation through monthly installments of \$350.

The children are in good spirits. Summer school just ended in June, and they are looking forward to their one-month summer break. Carmen requested that I create a list of back-to-school items needed. I shared it with Cathy Roszhart via a Google Sheet to streamline assistance efforts and avoid duplication of donations. If you need access to the sheet, you can provide me or Cathy with your email. Alternatively, if people prefer to contribute financially, you can send it to my Zelle account via my cell phone number. Please state in notes the purpose of the donation. Any funds not specified for essential items will be allocated to the legal fund. Several persons have been donations in kind, such as booster seats. And we have purchased some lunch boxes with some of the donations.

Your continued support and prayers are invaluable to the Venezuela family as they navigate this complex process. Together, we can make a difference in their lives and uphold the spirit of community and compassion that defines us. We will continue to keep the fraternity and the region updated on their progress and milestones. As we move forward, we remain hopeful and strengthened by the solidarity of our community.

Peace and All Good.
Richard "Rico" Rivera, OFS Affiliate
(602) 628-7502 <- text will receive quickest response.
RicoStatGuy@hotmail.com





MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL JPIC ANIMATOR

Signs of our Times: Extreme Heat – *the poor & vulnerable suffer the most*

Most of the year, we love living in the Southwest... except for the intense summer heat, drought and wildfires.

“In 2023, Arizona experienced its hottest summer since record keeping began more than 100 years ago...” asserts the state’s first Extreme Heat Preparedness Plan.

It continues: “**Extreme heat is a complex disaster** that, left unchecked, impacts public health, economic productivity, quality of life, and the environment.”

As Franciscans, we care for people and the planet. Some folks we know directly (a homebound elder), others indirectly (the laborer who picked my salad greens.) We can see plants wilting, the earth drying up.

A 2023 US Census study showed that “Nearly 1 in 4 people living in the United States are socially vulnerable and have low resilience to extreme heat exposure.”

These are our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We have all known the long loneliness and...the only solution is love and ...love comes with community.

Dorothy Day

“Servant of God” peer Pope John Paul II

Care For Creation, Care for the Poor”

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/>



Signs of Hope

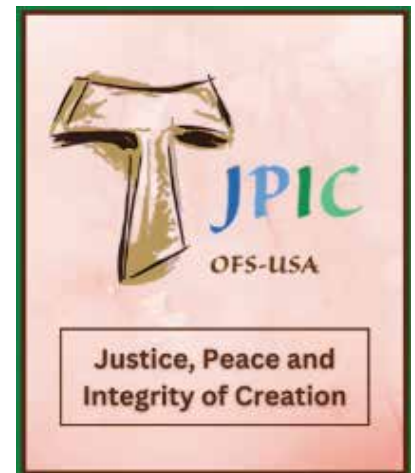
For immediate relief, I’m aware of the cooling & respite centers and hydration stations available in Maricopa County and the City of Tucson – both have interactive maps to find locations that may need volunteers (like us!) – or where we may direct people in need.

Maricopa County Donation Centers could use: water bottles, light colored long sleeved T- shirts, socks, underwear, lip balm, sunscreen, hats, lotion, and prepackaged snacks.

Call 2-1-1 or visit <https://azmag.gov/Programs/Heat-Relief-Network> to find the nearest place to donate cash or above items.

When travel and heat prevent regular forms of contact, how do you keep in touch with vulnerable fraternity members during the summer Phone calls, texts, emails? Liturgy of the Hours by ZOOM or phone call? Book clubs? Other?

Peace and good, Dot Himes, OFS



ANNUAL REGIONAL RETREAT

The Region retreat was wonderful! It was so well-attended that it was more like a convention. I couldn't get around to everyone!

Our three Presenters were tremendous, challenging and inspiring, each in their own different ways. We took lots of notes and promised each other to give time to reflecting and sharing. I was particularly grateful for Bishop Dolan's talk on "Being Christ". He gave us a deeper and more meaningful sense of our place in Church life, but also emphasized the importance of rest and renewal, something we can talk about in fraternity. He was very, very pleased to accept our Region's gift of a wall-sized Tau made by Cindy Runyon, OFS, who lives and works in Reno, Nevada. You can see samples of Cindy's work at the Books and Blessings shop at Franciscan Renewal Center.

Craig and Theresa Abernathy, owners of Books and Blessings at the Franciscan Renewal Center, donated several items to our fundraising auction, which was very successful and fun. Our member's joyful spending at the Bookstore, was deeply appreciated. Way to go, St. Thomas More region!

Many things took place alongside our presentations and prayer services. We discussed problems, explored opportunities and shared ideas and resources. We learned a lot, and came away with many questions and understandings to unpack. Just a hint: this year looks to be shaping up as a year of Eucharistic exploration and growth. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the Retreat successful, and thanks to everyone who encouraged me to continue in my own work. Look for more stories from our Region!

Now, right in the middle of our joy came the sudden and alarming news of the attack on former President, Donald Trump. It gave real perspective to Bishop Dolan's call for us to "be Christ in the world." It is our vocation to go out, find the persons who our world rejects, restricts, and denies, and invite them to love and live with Christ in the center of our world. We do not create a perfect world—that has been promised. We work to create a better world, especially for those who are excluded. When people act in violence and hatred, they are acting from such severe poverty of spirit that they can't imagine another path. We live to show them the way. So, we talk about our faith, we share our stories of conversion and we reveal the richness of knowing Christ, even as we suffer our worries and fears. Don't be afraid. Christ goes ahead of us, clearing the path. Our job is to keep walking, keep inviting, keep forgiving and accepting others before we are perfect.

God will keep his promises. What we proclaim, we will become. We are a light for the world and hope for those living in darkness. Amen! Amen! So be it...!

All present were challenged and encouraged by the engaging presentation from our keynotes: Most Reverend John P. Dolan, Fr Garrett Galvin, OFM, Fr Marek Stybor, OFM Conv and our National JPIC Animator Joe Makley, OFS (by Zoom)

(please see links below for Joe Makley's notes of his presentation)

[Joe Makley Notes - English.pdf](#)

[Joe Makley Notes - Spanish.pdf](#)



Linda Ressler coordinated our Group Service Project. Many hands filled blessing bags, Saturday afternoon with piles of donated items the members of our region brought to the retreat.





Later these bags were delivered to the St. Vincent de Paul facility to be offered to our homeless brothers and sisters.

Beautiful baskets and many items were donated for our Silent Auction and the lucky winners of our raffle took home great prizes.



Saturday evening, Patrick led a fun, Franciscan version of the 1% Club game.

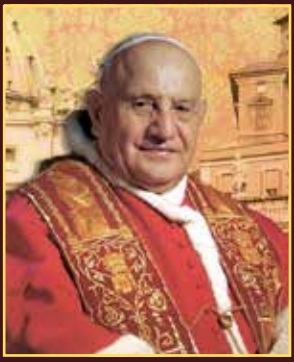


Lastly, we all together recognized our brother Bill Neu with a Ceremony for the 25th anniversary of his profession.



Sunday, many attended the community weekend Mass at Our Lady of the Angels Church where Father Garrett Galvin celebrated the Eucharist. All in all, it was a well-rounded schedule which included several breaks as well, to take the time to mingle and visit with each other.

Special thanks to our Retreat Coordinators: Patrick Mowrer, Linda Ressler and Betty Holler for all their time and efforts in gifting our region with an inspiring, most enjoyable and fun weekend.



NEWS FROM POPE ST. JOHN XXIII FRATERNITY Yuma, AZ

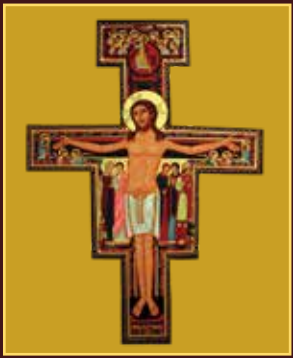
On May 16, 2024 Pope St. John XXIII Fraternity in Yuma, AZ celebrated the Profession of Ignacio Godinez, OFS and Susana Gutierrez, OFS. Father Emilio Chapa celebrated the Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Parish. It was beautiful and very emotional for everyone but especially the Professed. We had a nice celebration after at the home of our Franciscan sister, Frances Garcia, OFS. It will truly be a day to remember. May our newly professed and our entire fraternity continue on our journey of conversion in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi.



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Article submitted by Denise Carrasquillo, OFS (Minister)





NEWS FROM SAN DAMIANO FRATERNITY Glendale, AZ

Each May the San Damiano fraternity honors our Mother Mary with a crowning and the singing of Ave Maria. Each year we ask one of our members to do the crowning. This year our formation director Virginia Vollmer had the honor.

The fraternity has been meeting at St Helen's Catholic Church for many years. The parish is celebrating their 50th year in October. As part of the celebration, they are creating a photo album inviting all parishioners and ministries to submit pictures. The organizers invited San Damiano to be part of the celebration. We've considered it an honor to be part of the parish, and so said yes to the invitation. We took a group photo during our June gathering and submitted it for the photo album. We thought the entire region would like to see the fraternity as well.



Article submitted by Virginia Vollmer, OFS (Formation Director)



NEWS FROM PEACE FRATERNITY Scottsdale, AZ

Meet KATHY (MARY KATHLEEN) STEFANOV OFS



An interview with Kathy

What do you remember about the start of your Formation?

I was looking to find a fraternity while living in Florida. I found one, but they met during my work hours. A couple of years later one of the residents in the 55+ community where I worked came into my office. She mentioned her Franciscan group was meeting Saturday night!! I almost jumped with joy! Rosemary Andrew invited me to go with her.

Shortly after, I started formation. Along my journey, my husband passed and then my mother. It was a very sad time, but my fraternity family kept me busy and in their prayers. My brother, then invited me to visit him in Buckeye, Arizona. He was looking for a home closer to his job. I went with him and his wife to look at homes. Soon they invited me to come and live with them. I was ready to profess soon in Florida. I was spinning at this point trying to figure out what I should do. My brother and sister-in-law took me to the CASA in Scottsdale...and my heart knew that I wanted to move here. St Francis led me to Our Lady of Guadalupe at the Casa. My church in Florida was Our Lady of Guadalupe. I returned to Florida to be professed and then moved to Queen Creek. My brother and sister-in-law had purchased a home with a Casita "just for me". I transferred to Peace Fraternity and began a new chapter of my life. I was soon asked to be secretary for the fraternity, although I was reluctant; my blessed sister, Judy Zene, walked me through everything. My fraternity family has enriched my life so much! There is no problem we need to go through alone. There is so much wisdom and love shared by everyone in our group. We share the Candidates' journeys with excitement and love and have a desire to support them along the way. I feel I have been Franciscan my whole life and I am so grateful to God, Our Lady, and St Francis for leading all of us to this beautiful time in our lives. Love and Peace and all Good!

Kathy

Stayed tuned next time for the introduction of our seven new inquirers! Till then,

Article submitted by Betty Holler OFS



NEWS FROM OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY FRATERNITY Scottsdale, AZ

Apostolate ministries have been very important to the members of our Fraternity. In the past we have sent Andre House plastic bags of needed daily items, several times. Also, the Amazon Leper colony requested post cards to the patients housed there. They appreciated the friendly notes addressed to them as not forgotten and prayers being sent their way.

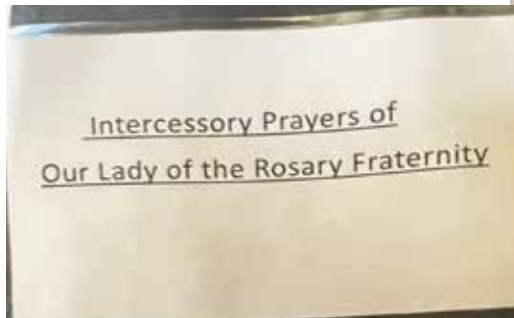
Cheryl Cook OFS is in touch with the Father Richard Frechette CS, who is in Haiti as a Passionist Priest and became an MD to be of more help.

Father has a need for shrouds made from white pillowcases for children and single white sheets for adults. We add to the many that are sent for the people to be buried in. They are sent with a cross and doves sewn on the front. People are so poor that they cannot afford a wooden box for burial. Sewing shrouds has become our Apostolate. Pictured here is Cheryl Cook OFS and Fr Fricchette CS, a Passionist Father, and D.O.

If anyone has extra white pillowcases or sheets – think of Haiti and send to Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity, please.



We have also a Prayer Ministry that includes people who need prayers and are prayed for daily. This includes those mentioned by the Region. This has gone on for many years now. The needed prayers are sent to the volunteer who log names into a special book.



St Vincent de Paul is our second Apostolate. Food is needed everywhere. These are our priority Apostolates and we do want to share.

Blessings Always,

Article submitted by Jane Massion, OFS



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

Fraternity Apostolate

On April 18th our Fraternity had the privilege of bringing dinner and clothing donations for the needy and homeless at the Poverello House in Henderson, NV. Providing daytime hospitality (meals, showers, laundry facilities and clothing) for both men and women, this home provides a respite from life on the streets. We enjoyed our time at this special place and the people we met (a special thanks to Lance Meifert, the Coordinator). It is truly a Franciscan mission.



New members



Farewell Ceres Fernandez



We have 3 members who are in the process of transferring to our Fraternity: (Right to Left) Donna Acquaviva, Marlene Mirante, and Gloria Ruiz. Carol Trantanella (Left) is Gloria's sister and our frequent guest. We welcome the dynamic spirit these members bring!

We will sadly miss Ceres, who has been a part of our Las Vegas Fraternity for 12 years. She served as Treasurer amidst her many other "jobs". She is moving to Colorado to be with family. Her generosity, loving spirit, and warm smile always lit up our gatherings.



"Our Franciscan Backbone"

(Left to Right) Sandy Sirgo, Karen Mitchell, Ann Tao, Wayne Tao, and Loretta Klem. These folks have supported and served our Fraternity consistently through their insights and gifts of leadership and commitment.



NEWS FROM ST. CLARE OF ASSISI FRATERNITY Phoenix, AZ

At our **March gathering**, Monica McEvoy shared a reflection on the “Worthy Fruits of Penance.” These fruits include Prayer, Praise, Humility and Charity. Let us all deepen our Franciscan bonds by taking to heart this reflection.



Our **April gathering** featured Kaitlyn Santos of Abortion Dialogue Academy who made a presentation on the work that her organization is doing at ASU and throughout Arizona. Kaitlyn shared her personal story, as well as the mission of the Abortion Dialogue Academy.

Our **May gathering** featured fraternity members honoring our Blessed Virgin Mother with a May Crowning ceremony in which members placed roses in the presence of Our Lady. We followed our celebration with the International Franciscan Crown Rosary, using seven languages for the seven decades - Thai, Polish, Tagalog, Japanese, English, Spanish, and Kolkani. It was truly remarkable to unite in prayer with the “Our Father” and “Hail Mary” spoken in so many different languages!



Our JPIC representative, Maria Tiznado, presented a colorful display entitled, “Everyone Belongs” in honor of World Children’s Day. Maria had requested that fraternity members do a 54-day novena for the purpose of starting a YouFra group at Corpus Christi, and we invoked the prayers of Blessed Gerard of Lunel, whose feast day is May 25 to help us in our mission.



NEWS FROM ST. FRANCIS FRATERNITY Phoenix, AZ

On April 14th, we continued our monthly Coffee and Donuts and Masses to help introduce the Secular Franciscan Way of Life to Mary's community. We decided to do this on a quarterly basis in an attempt to let our Franciscan Face be visible. This is one way we can keep in focus with the community and perhaps to spread the word about our vocation.

During our May meeting, a special occasion in our fraternity, we crowned Mary with the Franciscan Crown, a tradition that binds us together. We then blessed and encouraged all the mothers in our fraternity, a gesture of our shared values and respect for the family.

In June, the council met with Father Glen to discuss how the fraternity might be able to help with OCIA. We are encouraging people to take part in events at St. Mary's. These are listed in the newsletter and discussed during our meeting. We were also planning our candidate retreat, which would occur in August.

On July 11th, a fire broke out on the San Carlos Reservation, destroying homes and memories. During our Regional Retreat, we collected \$300.00, which I mailed to Fr. George Madhu. I want to thank everyone who was able to contribute. However, there is still much need. If you would rather send gift cards, Father is suggesting Walmart as people will need clothes and other things. If you are sending a check, make it payable to the following:

San Carlos Catholic Church
c/o Fr. George Madhu
P. O. Box 28
San Carlos, AZ 85550

Please write in memo "for the fire relief fund".
Thank you in advance, and may God bless you.

Also, Bill Neu was recognized at our retreat for his 25 years of profession. We honored him for his many years of service to the Region and our Order. He received many hugs following the ceremony.

Article submitted by Rosemarie LeClercq, OFS





NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY FRATERNITY Tucson, AZ

JOYFUL FRANCISCAN PROFESSION IN TUCSON

St. Anthony's Fraternity celebrated the Profession of Doug Esch, OFS on April 6, 2024, at San Xavier del Bac Mission Church in Tucson. Father Ponchi Vasquez, OFM, celebrated the mass. Attending were the active St. Anthony fraternity members as well as the Franciscan Sisters and Brothers living at the mission. Many of Doug's family, friends and coworkers also joined us in celebrating his profession. Doug teaches English at Buena High School in Sierra Vista. Doug's coworkers were excited to see him profess, as he shared his joyful Franciscan journey with them over the last three years.

Doug was presented with a candle, Gospel book, San Damiano Cross and Tau from the Fraternity. After the ceremony those in attendance enjoyed a meal at the Karichimaka Mexican Restaurant.





NEWS FROM ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FRATERNITY Surprise, AZ

DAY OF RECOLLECTION

The council of our fraternity organized a Day of Reflection for Saturday May 11. It was well attended as 18 members drove



up to St. Joseph Catholic church in Mayer where Rita Cummins is a parishioner and had invited us to use their facility.

Jeff Persson, our Formation Director offered a beautiful presentation and reflection on the Stigmata of Francis as Franciscans around the world this year commemorate this event on the 800th anniversary of our Seraphic Father receiving the wounds of Christ. There were time of prayer and reflection and we shared lunch together.

Many of us were able to remain and pray a rosary with the congregation and attend Mass all together.

WELCOME CEREMONY FOR 2 NEW INQUIRERS!

It is with great joy that we welcome Anthony “Tony” Milanez during our May 26 gathering and Doug Avann during our June 23 gathering together.



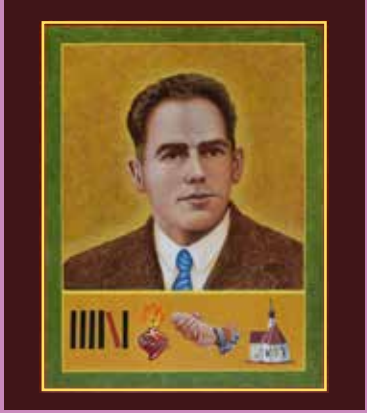
OUR NEW COUNCIL!

Our fraternity held their Triennial Election Chapter during the June 23 gathering. Our presider was our Regional Minister Julianne Hartzell and our Pastoral Witness, Bill Neu. Phillip Bocker was reelected Minister for a second term, as was Jeff Persson as Formation Director. Trish Persson is now our Vice-Minister. Doralee Tayler will replace Trish as Secretary. Deacon Richard Carmody accepted to be elected Treasurer in place of Steve Roszhart. Phyllis Smith is our new Councilor-at-Large. And last but not least, Rita Cummins is our new Councilor-JPIC replacing Cathy Roszhart. Deacon Ed Mirasol from San Damiano fraternity remains our Spiritual Assistant.



May God bless all of named above, good and faithful servants for their willingness to guide and animate our fraternity for the next 3 years!





NEWS FROM BL. FRANZ JÄGERSTÄTTER FRATERNITY Flagstaff, AZ

Warm Summer Greetings from Northern Arizona

A HUGE WELCOME to our newly professed Secular Franciscans from Blessed Franz Jägerstätter Fraternity on May 18, 2024.



We are blessed and excited to share our fraternity pilgrimage to New Mexico. In May, we traveled to nine sacred missions and pueblos. We were warmly greeted by local guides and dedicated parishioners who allowed us to tour, inquire, gaze, and pray the Liturgy of the Hours. A few pilgrim testimonials:



Pictured left to right: Janine Anderson OFS, Barbara Reed OFS, and Tom Reed OFS



“Our pilgrimage to northern New Mexico contained many blessings for the 22 of us who went: time together, laughing, telling stories, and strengthening our fraternal bonds. Our purpose in going was to explore the influence of the early Franciscan friars who came to that area. What stood out to me was the deep cultural spirituality of the residents of the pueblos. This spirituality and “religion” preceded the friars and the Catholicism that they brought by many centuries and is deeply ingrained in the pueblo people. The pueblo residents explained how their people integrated Catholicism with their nature-based spirituality thus bringing to us their deep love of our Mother Earth within a Catholic context.” Esther Stewart

“This pilgrimage brought me closer to my Native American brothers and sisters. A wonderful time of learning, understanding, respecting and connecting. And hanging out with my Franciscan brothers and sisters for four days- priceless!” Amy Sperry



“I am inspired, renewed, and touched with love when our Franciscan sister, Tina Valek, recounted her experience while in solitude in the Stations of the Cross Prayer Garden at the Cathedral Basilica in Santa Fe. She recalled being deeply moved while she sat with the bronze sculptures depicting the Passion of Christ presented in a unique and profound way.” Jennifer Reyes

“It was a joyful time to meet and pray with our fellow Secular Franciscans from Santa Fe.” Jan Zoucha



Pax et Bonum

Submitted by
Jennifer Reyes OFS





NEWS FROM ST. DAEGUN ANDREW KIM FRATERNITY Chandler, AZ

St. Daegun Andrew Kim Fraternity members held their Annual Spring Picnic on Saturday, April 13, at the Lost Dutchman State Park in Apache Junction, AZ. All attending members prayed the Saturday morning prayer together and shared delicious food, including a Korean BBQ.



After lunch, we practiced the line dance for the Korean OFS Congress of North and South America, which will be held at Casa on September 26, 2024. I am deeply grateful to God for providing a happy time for all members of our Fraternity in this precious place.

Just as small streams of water gather to form a big river, I hope our little Franciscan spirituality will come together to change the world. I hope it will be an opportunity for all of us to participate more actively and dedicate ourselves to it.

Also, our fraternity members voluntarily cooked and served Korean food to all our parishioners after Sunday mass on April 14, 2024.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE REGION

September 17-22 - NAFRA Chapter - Franciscan Renewal Center (FRC)

October 19 - Regional Fraternity Council Meeting – FRC

November 10 - Saint Anthony Triennial Chapter of Elections

November 10 - Saint Clare of Assisi Triennial Visitations

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE NATION

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINES AND PUBLICATION DATES

December 1 Deadline for Article Submission

December 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 Roszart, OFS roszart@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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