



Our Lady of Indiana

Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity

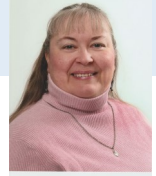


November 2021

“Sharing the Vision”

Volume 8, Issue 5

A Reflection on *Memoriale Propositi*



Our Regional Prayer

Holy Virgin Mary, there is no one like you born in the world among women: Daughter and Handmaid of the most high, sovereign King, the heavenly Father, Mother of our most holy Lord Jesus Christ, Spouse of the Holy Spirit.

Pray for us with St. Michael the archangel and with all the powers of the heavens and with all the saints together with your most holy beloved Son, Lord and Teacher.

When I was asked to write a column based on the Rule of 1221, otherwise known as *Memoriale Propositi*, I thought, “OK. I like to read and compare other Rules to the current version of our Rule. This will be interesting.”

Interesting was an understatement! If you haven’t read it, please do. It is not only a chance to read an earlier version of our Rule, but to see a different culture and mindset than our own. It may seem trite, but in order to know who we are now, it is good to see who we were and what was expected of us from the beginning.

What is in this Rule is, first, an emphasis not only on simplicity of dress but to put a limit on how much could be spent. It would be comparable to requiring someone now to spend no more than \$2 on a shirt.

Second, all that fasting and abstinence! Let’s be honest here. We tend to find abstinence on the Fridays of

Lent and fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday a challenge. If I were in front of a group doing this reflection as a presentation, I would ask for a show of hands as to how many of us give up the same thing for Lent every year. Let’s face it; we’re not very enthusiastic or creative about fasting or abstinence. Yet it was extensively expected of every one of us in the 13th century.

Third, all seven of the daily Offices were to be prayed daily. A lot of days, because of our hectic schedules (including mine), we’re lucky to “do” Morning and Evening Prayer. I confess; I am ashamed of myself when I remember that my daughter, a Carmelite nun, prays all seven of the Offices every day and loves it! We should love our prayer times

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Primitive Rule for Brothers and Sisters of Penance — 1221



The Primitive Rule of Life of the Brothers and Sisters of Penance, “*Memoriale Propositi*” was written in 1221 by Hugolino Del Conti di Segni. The Original text is lost. What follows is a general approximation based on “*Supra Montem*” of 1289 of Nicholas IV, (a Franciscan) and contains the approved penitential practices of the time. Fresco of Hugolino at the left, is in St. Gregory’s Chapel at Speco, Italy

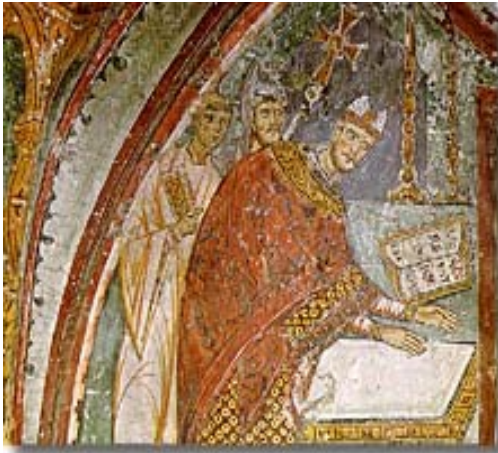
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*Here begins the Rule of the Continent
 Brothers and Sisters: In the Name of the
 Father and of the Son and of the Holy
 Spirit. Amen.*

CHAPTER I: DAILY LIFE 1. The men belonging to this brotherhood shall dress in humble, undyed cloth, the price of which is not to exceed six Ravenna soldi an ell, unless for evident and necessary cause a temporary dispensation be given. And breadth and thinness of the cloth are to be considered in said price.

Continued from page 1

a Religious Order. Dismissal from the brotherhood was only because a member was proven to be "incorrigible" after attempts to get that member to reform.

Finally, there was an annual requirement of money to be paid. Dare we say the "D" word: dues? Yet that was what it amounted to.

These are some of the things that I did see. Here's the one (to me, huge) thing I really didn't see.

Apparently, the only requirements to join the Order were that "the ministers shall carefully inquire into his standing and occupation, and they shall explain to him the obligations of the brotherhood, especially that of restoring what belongs to others. And if he is content with it, let him be vested according to the prescribed way, and he must make satisfaction for his debts, paying money according to what pledged provision is given. They are to reconcile themselves with their neighbors and to pay up their tithes." (Article 29) With our current emphasis on initial and ongoing formation, this seemed rather clinical and somehow empty to me. Formation, as we engage in it now, is about coming to understand who we are, as Secular Franciscans, and then discerning what we are to do to live that out. I had to acknowledge two things about myself here. First, I, like every-

one else, am a product of my time. I/we live in a literate/educated society; they did not. They didn't have the blessings of easily accessible education and books to read. Second, that thought was the teacher in me that is so much a part of who I am. They wouldn't have understood that in 13th century Italy.

In the 8th centenary of *Memoriale Propositi*, it is good to take this look back. It gives us a glimpse of where we started as an Order. Then, we can begin to see the journey our Order has taken to get to where we are now. We stand in a continual present moment. What has already been shapes who we are now. Where we have been and where we are now point us to where we are going next. This means change, which is not always easy. Change forces us to look at who and where we are now and choose who we want to become and where we want to go. It takes courage, perseverance, and above all, faith in the One Who calls us on this journey.

I wonder, 800 years from now, what those who call themselves Secular Franciscans (or whatever name may be theirs at the time) will think of the journey our Order has taken. We really can't even imagine – any more than those first brothers and sisters could imagine 800 years ago what this Order would be like now.

So to my brothers and sisters on our common Franciscan journey now, may the Lord give you peace!

Your little sister, Barb

Elections Results of OFS General Chapter — 2021



Tibor Kauser, OFS, of Hungary has been re-elected minister general of the Secular Franciscan Order. He now begins his second six-year term.

Mary Stronach, OFS, of the United States of America is the new vice minister general.



Mary is a former USA international councilor who has been serving with the Order's Presidency as an interpreter and as a member of the Formation Commission.

They lead the "little fraternity" of the Presidency of the International Council of the OFS (CIOFS).

They were elected during the Order's General Chapter in Rome, Italy, held Nov. 13-20, 2021. ([Photo Gallery](#).)

Also elected were seven Presidency councilors serving different areas of the world, plus a Presidency councilor representing Franciscan youth (YouFra). They are:

- Francis Park, OFS (South Korea): Asia-Oceania
- Adolph Assagba, OFS (Togo): Francophone Africa and islands.
- Eremenciana Chinyama, OFS (Zimbabwe): English and Portuguese Speaking Africa.
- Dina Shabalina, OFS (Ukraine): North Europe.
- Noemi Riccardi, OFS (Italy): Southern Europe and the Mediterranean.
- Ana María Raffo, OFS (Peru): Central and North America (reelected).
- Silvia Noemí Diana, OFS (Argentina): South America (reelected).
- Luis Félix Chocojay, OFS (Guatemala), YouFra.

The new CIOFS Presidency was confirmed by the president of the elective session, Fr. Massimo Fussarelli, OFM minister general, during the celebration of a mass of thanksgiving at the Basilica of Saint Sebastian in Rome.



Learning to Read

"It's just ice," she said,
small finger tracing
the letters on the page,
young face intent.

"Just ice?" I inquired.
(no blizzard to confuse?)

I guess that would be enough,
I thought, to send all cascading
through gates and over brides-
a liminal slalom,
an iceberg calved for change.

Light glinted through the frosty panes,
returned my eye from inner landscapes
to pale freckles and bright eyes.

"Oh!" she crowed, delighted,
her fingers wagging insight,
"That's right — it's really
justice."

—Sr. Felicity Dorsett, OSF
Professor Emeritus
University of St. Francis

From Whence and Why the "Rule of 1221", *Memoriale Propositi*



This year, members of both the Regular and Secular branches of the Third Order of St. Francis, have

been asked to read, study, and reflect on the "Memoriali Propositi", the "Primitive Rule of Life of the Brothers and Sisters of Penance." It was the original rule written by Hugolino Del Conti di Segni, at the request of St. Francis for those members of the laity, both men and women, who wished to live in the manner, style, and spirit of Francis.

Hugolino knew that, like Innocent III, one of the best antidotes to the heresies eating at the fabric of the Church, was the movement started by St. Francis and it included the laity who wanted to follow him in a penitential life style.

The original text of the 1221 document by Ugoilino has been lost, but we do have a general approximation of its content based on the Rule given by Nicholas IV (a Franciscan elected to the papacy). He composed "Supra Montem" in 1289, and it contained approved penitential practices of the time.

Raffaele Pazzelli, TOR, gives a quick overview of the document by identifying some of its content:

1. "The rule is strict and demands vocation and dedication, it contradicts the values of the world by renunciation."

Some areas addressed are dress, entertainment, dancing, abstinence, fasting, prayer, reception of the sacraments, examination of conscience, religious instruction.

2. "... it demands a life of prayer and a more intense sacramental

life than is required of 'plain Christians'."

3. Brother and Sisters of Penance, "... will exercise in a very special way the main Christian virtues, beginning with justice and charity."

(All quotations are from "St. Francis and the Third Oder", by Raffaele Pazzelli, TOR, ©1989, Franciscan Herald Press, Chicago, IL)

In speaking of the Franciscan Third Order, St. John Paul II wrote: "Heirs of that great movement of evangelical life which the *poenitentes de Assisio* embrace, learn to live your vocation . . . as brothers and sisters of penance with an enlightened sense of conversion and of continuous renewal."

In any case, both the Secular and Regular branches of the Third Order of St. Francis have been blest beyond belief by (1) the promulgation by St. Pope Paul VI, on June 24, 1978, of "The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, and (2) the promulgation on December 8, 1982, of "The Rule and Life of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis" by St. John Paul II.

How penitential are YOU?

There is no intention here to belittle the Rule of 1221, but how would you be with the following?

" . . . outer garments must always be without open throat . . ."

" . . . fur garments of lamb's wool only . . ."

"They are to fast daily . . ."

"They are not to take up lethal weapons, or bear them about, against anybody."

"And every member is to give the treasurer one ordinary denar (about \$3.62—\$10.00 depending on composition of coin)."

"Brothers and sisters ejected as incorrigible are not to be received in it again except as it please the saner portion of the brothers."



2. They shall wear their outer garments and furred coats without open throat, sewed shut or uncut but certainly laced up, not open as secular people wear them; and they shall wear their sleeves closed.

3. The sisters in turn shall wear an outer garment and tunic made of cloth of the same price and humble quality; or at least they are to have with the outer garment a white or black underwrap or petticoat, or an ample linen gown without gathers, the price of an ell of which is not to exceed twelve Pisa denars. As to this price, however, and the fur cloaks they wear a dispensation may be given according to the estate of the woman and the custom of the place. They are not to wear silken or dyed veils and ribbons.

In this lifetime . . . always Pilgrims . . .

Congratulations to the members of ST. CHARLES FRATERNITY who are settling into their new home in Avilla — an "almost half way" gathering place between Fort Wayne and Angola. The following announcement is from Katie Herendeen, OFS, Minster:

Growth and Change

Our fraternity has been growing, thanks be to God! Growth means change and we have had to learn to live with change, especially with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic. The fraternity has continued to live fraternity with Zoom meetings and just recently started to meet in person the last three months. Several years ago, the Council decided to start meeting in both Fort Wayne and Avilla to accommodate those driving from the north of Fort Wayne. When I first professed, we were meeting at the University of St. Francis in the Campus Ministry building. I really loved meeting there. It felt homey. We were able to be in a room that sometimes was crowded with our sisters and brothers. Then the University decided to re-purpose that building to their needs. We started to meet in Doermer Building. It was more handicapped accessible, but still had issues with the configuration. We were meeting in a classroom and we could not have storage there, so all our supplies were taken home and brought back. More than half of the things the fraternity are still in the basement of the Campus Ministry building and have not been seen for over three years by anyone. As I write this, we are removing our things from that building and will be looking at them so we can use them for our benefit.

The other growth we have is that we have so many new vocations from the north of Fort Wayne. There are seven brothers and sisters from the Angola/Fremont/Coldwater area, four from the Avilla/Kendallville area, and one from Churubusco. There is one from the Huntington area. Most

of our Fort Wayne/Allen County brothers and sisters are from the north side of Fort Wayne. We have been meeting half the year in Fort Wayne, mostly the winter months, and the other half of the year in Avilla for several years. More recently, we have been struggling to find a place to meet where we could socially distance and have as many brothers and sisters as we could in attendance. We started meeting at St. Mary of the Assumption in Avilla this Spring as we would have since we split the meeting sites. St. Jude's meeting room would limit our attendance to about 10 for social distancing.

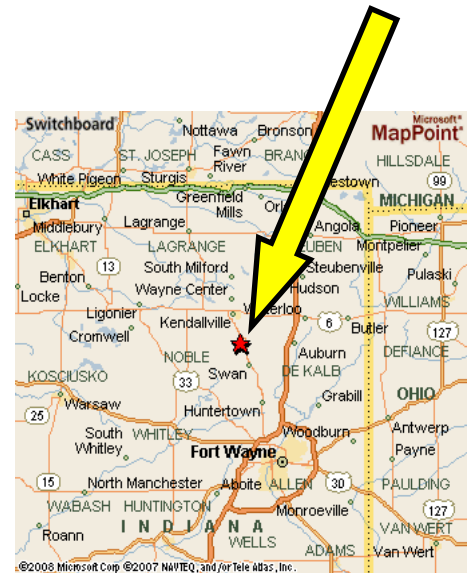
The local Council has felt called to be more responsible and creative to get to a place where we can all meet in a place that is reasonable to travel for all. We weighed all the benefits and problems. The Council has prayerfully talked about this and knew that whatever decision was made, it was going to impact all our fraternity. We could not store our supplies/books at St. Jude's as this was a busy and already full building. We were told at the University or St. Francis that we could not store our supplies/books in the classroom. We tried to find other spaces to meet, but were not able to find a place to welcome us. St. Mary of the Assumption was willing to let us meet and to keep our supplies at the school in a storage room. This discussion has been ongoing since the beginning of 2021.

At the last Council meeting, we discussed the impact on our fraternity members. We examined the burden on the elderly who do not drive or limit their driving. We examined the burden of the 1-1/2- to 2-hour drive of some of the members who are north or west. We want to see every brother and sister in our fraternity. We came to a vote and decided to make St. Mary of the Assumption in Avilla our home base.

We want to see all of our brothers and sisters at fraternity meetings and felt this would be a good central place.

We realize this may be upsetting to some. Remember that St. Francis went out and his band of Brothers grew very large in a short period of time. They went over a large part of Europe and into the Holy Land. It was difficult. Growth is difficult, change is difficult, and the Franciscan charism is to be docile to where the Lord is leading us to grow. We also have those who are willing to drive anyone from Fort Wayne to Avilla: Sr. Mary, Joy, and Nancy. The Council wants to you to know we prayed, struggled, and worked for a best solution.

Peace and All Good!
Katie



4. And both the brothers and the sisters shall have their fur garments of lamb's wool only. They are permitted to have leather purses and belts sewed in simple fashion without silken thread, and no other kind. Also other vain adornments they shall lay aside at the bidding of the Visitor.

5. They are not to go to unseemly parties or to shows or dances. They shall not donate to actors, and shall forbid their household to donate.

"Think, Feel, Act"

The following reflection comes to us from Fr. Christopher Panagoplos, TOR, former President-in-Turn of the CNSA. Thanks, Fr. Chris for this very touching essay.

Images coming out of Afghanistan are compelling:

- parents entrusting their little children to soldiers, tossing them over the wall, abandoning them and in so doing, with great pain, saving them;
- a father raising his arm with his child in hand, passing him like a gift being given, to a perfect stranger;



- a pregnant mother, who climbed aboard one of the planes of salvation, went into labor during the flight; at great

risk the pilot took the plane to a lower altitude and the child was born; the mother's condition remained complicated with fears for her life.



These are stories of sacrifice and of salvation. They deserve a pause for us to think. They call us to reflect, to feel. As Christians and as Franciscans we cannot remain indifferent. We must act.

Two admirable gestures: in the first we see the parent lifting his child to entrust the child to the soldier and consigning the child to life, to a future, to what is denied on this side of that wall; in the second, the pilot, having heard the cry of pain, is moved to lower the plane, with all the risks that this entails, allows life to win out. *Dei Verbum* (The Dogmatic Constitu-

tion on Divine Revelation) #13, helps us understand:

"...the marvelous condescension of eternal wisdom is clearly shown, that we may learn the gentle kindness of God, which words cannot express, and how far God has gone in adapting His language with thoughtful concern for our weak human nature. For the words of God, expressed in human language, have been made like human discourse, just as the word of the eternal Father, when He took to Himself the flesh of human weakness, was in every way made like men."



These two stories move in opposite directions but towards the same goal: salvation. The gesture which is admirable defines the condescension of God, the theme of Catholic theology which indicates the Divine love that descends and lowers itself to the level of human beings in order to communicate with and save them.

The Afghan mother who gave birth on the airplane, and who was fleeing from a deadly fate, reminds us of Mary, whose days of childbirth were completed, travelled on the back of a donkey towards a foreign land, in order to save the life of her Son.

These are stories of sacrifice and salvation, of life over death. Stories worth remembering in the hope of inspiring thought, then action. Only then can there be fewer insurmountable walls of separation and more generous hearts responding to the darkness we are living in, offering solidarity and light.

6. All are to abstain from meat save on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, except on account of illness or weakness, for three days at blood-letting, in traveling, or on account of a specially high feast intervening, namely, the Nativity for three days, New Year's, Epiphany, the Pasch of the Resurrection for three days, Assumption of the glorious Virgin Mary, the solemnity of All Saints and of St. Martin. On the other days, when there is no fasting, they may eat cheese and eggs. But when they are with religious in their convent homes, they have leave to eat what is served to them. And except for the feeble, the ailing, and those travelling, let them be content with dinner and supper. Let the healthy be temperate in eating and drinking.

7. Before their dinner and supper let them say the Lord's prayer once, likewise after their meal, and let them give thanks to God. Otherwise let them say three Our Fathers.

"It took awhile, but now I GET IT"

Every conversion is an exercise in extreme denial of a previous way of life that can be defined only as decadent when seen through the lens of "Memoriale Propositi of 1221".

I was taken aback at the strictness of the Rule. Shocked! This was Francis? My Francis?

Getting to know him through this primitive rule grieved me. All the romanticism that shrouded his persona like a mantel fell to smithereens on the way side!

Francis was not what I thought he was. How was he joyful with such asceticism that bordered on the impractical? Now I understand why he was called a "Fool!".

Humility, simplicity and prayer took on a level so primordial they seemed to exist only in their own surreal dimension.

In *Memoriale Propositi 1221*, I finally found the quintessence of Franciscanism, but can I live out that form of the ideal authentically in my daily life? I fear my own weaknesses, e.g. undyed clothes are drab, fasting is not exactly my long suit, I have yet to perfect praying the "Liturgy of the Hours"... to mention a few.

My honeymoon with Francis is over... ha! Now I have a grasp of who he really was! Or so I thought!

The greater baffling question is why multitudes followed him since the Middle Ages. What was the attraction ("call") that led men and women to live this seemingly terrifying lifestyle which can only be appropriately defined as "penitential"?

Okay! So there was the capsule wardrobe, the outrageous minimalism called poverty, the glamour of social justice, a sense of superiority over the ability to control the physiology of one's body... and to tame the spirit to acquiescence (or to a pulp, to be banal about it) to hardship.

No! One can be a Buddhist to attain the same discipline.

The answer responds to the question

from my last article as well – what was it about Maximilian Kolbe, Marianne Cope and Thomas Moore, to cite a few, which made them able to lay down their lives for what seems like a horrifying, bloody, messy cause?



Who does that? They did! How were they able to?

Answer: They embodied Jesus the Christ's **way** of ministering, the **truth** of His love for humankind, and the **life** He gave up that we might be redeemed. Christ-likeness is a conviction that is worn like a second skin.

Unless a person departs from existential creature comforts, one cannot purify one's senses and body, so that one's gaze is laser-focused on Our Lord and our hearing attuned to His voice.

Our material world is neither good or bad but admixed with our human tendencies, it can morph to a den of temptations, vices and sins if left to its unremitting devices. Moreover it is in need of time that can be better spent being present to our neighbor, which is **who** the Gospel is for, i.e. visit the sick, bury the dead, restore what belongs to others.

Hence the 180 degree turnabout for me! Francis disavowed all that he experienced in his pre-saintly life. He knew how meaningless life can be, how trivial, how surface-y — if not aimed at loving GOD and loving our neighbor because we love GOD. This is a tall order that requires a Christ-like "being". Hence the Rule.

I'm still mesmerized but after much reflection and prayer, I get it!

Reflection by Maria Noli Banda, OFS, of St. Boniface Fraternity.



CHAPTER III: FASTING

8. From the Pasch of the Resurrection to the feast of All Saints they are to fast on Fridays. From the feast of All Saints until Easter they are to fast on Wednesdays and Fridays, but still observing the other fasts enjoined in general by the Church.

9. They are to fast daily, except on account of infirmity or any other need, throughout the fast of St. Martin from after said day until Christmas, and throughout the greater fast from Carnival Sunday until Easter.

10. Sisters who are pregnant are free to refrain until their purification from the corporal observances except those regarding their dress and prayers.

11. Those engaged in fatiguing work shall be allowed to take food three times a day from the Pasch of the Resurrection until the Dedication feast of St. Michael. And when they work for others it will be allowed them to eat everything served to them, except on Fridays and on the fasts enjoined in general by the Church.

“Love Never Fails” by Tina Popiela, OFS

As I was preparing for this year's retreat, I made a mental list of things that I wanted to accomplish. But there were also things I wanted to avoid, mainly DO NOT GO INTO THE GIFT SHOP! I really intended to stay away from the shop, but I had to pass it on my way to the elevator. However, I'm glad I went in. I am now the proud owner of a miniature Nativity set. More important, I found a book by Bishop Hying called “Love never Fails”. I would like to share one of the articles.

In the first article, “Self-Surrender to the Transforming Love of God”, he presents this question. Is it harder to love God or be loved by God? At first he thought it was harder to love God. We struggle to be prayerful, virtuous, and holy. But as he thought about it and with his experience in his ministry, he came to the conclusion that it is really harder for us to believe that we are loved by God. He goes on to say that to let God love us re-

quires a surrender, docility and humility. Even more difficult is to see ourselves as lovable.

We even see this in reading about the life of St. Francis. In his letter to all the Friars he writes, “I, Brother Francis, a useless man and an unworthy creature of God.” Francis is constantly doing penance and I think he even once called himself a worm. Now some of this had to do with humility, but some of us might remember a saying from the past that God doesn't make junk. Francis seemed to dwell on his being unworthy. Sometimes we put too much emphasis on this feeling. I think it might hold us back in some ways. We have to remember that God has loved us from all time. You were always in his mind. He loves us more than anyone else he could have created.

Bishop Hying suggests that because we know ourselves with

all our temptations and sins we tend to “wall ourselves off from the love of God, because then we do not have to wrestle with a sense of unworthiness, shame and guilt.” He goes on to write that, “the joyful news of our faith is that God finds us lovable, even irresistible! God loves you and there is nothing you can do about it.”

He concludes with “Letting yourself be loved by God, nourished by the Eucharist, forgiven of your sins, liberates us to love others without conditions, possessiveness or expectations. We are baptized as beloved children of the Father. We must journey the path of self-surrender and open ourselves in freedom and humility to the transforming love of God.”

Love Never Fails: Living the Catholic Faith in Our Daily Lives. Bishop Donald Hying



Congratulations to Olga Warrer, OFS, and Donna Thiernau, OFS who made their Permanent Profession of the Gospel Life in the Cathedral of the Holy Angles in Gary on October 30, 2021. Fr. Michael Surufka, OFM, was the celebrant and the Promises of Olga and Donna were received by Ted Boczkowski, OFM, Minister of St. Mary of the Angles Fraternity in St. John, Indiana .

Our Gratitude to all Who answered YES to the Holy Spirit's Call to Serve

SACRED HEART FRATERNITY:

Congratulations to our newly elected officers: Minister: Bill Booher OFS, Vice Minister: Lloyd Loukes OFS, Secretary: Margaret Foust OFS, Treasurer: Kathy Saucedo OFS, Formation Director: Brian Foust OFS. At Large Council Members: John Rudnick OFS, Fred Kidwell OFS and Esther Mupompa OFS.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FRATERNITY:

Elected on Saturday, November 20, 2012 are: Anita Harker, OFS, Secretary, Deb Jankowski, OFS, Councilor, Sue Daly, OFS, Minister, David Schlunt, OFS, Treasurer, Sr. Agnes Marie, OSF, Spiritual Assistant (not elected), Cathy Catral, OFS, Councilor, Cyndi Pilot, OFS, Vice-Minister.



From left: Minister, Joyce Wesner, Vice Minister,

Joy Olry, Spiritual Assistant, Sr. Mary Govert, Secretary, Arlene Lewis, Formation Director, Barb Braley, Treasurer, Nancy Steinhof, and Regional Treasurer, Susan Solloway. This new council for St. Charles was elected on Sunday, October 17, 2021, at St. Mary's School in Avilla. Susan Solloway, OFS presided.

CHAPTER V: THE SACRAMENTS, OTHER MATTERS

15. They are to make a confession of their sins three times a year and to receive Communion at Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. They are to be reconciled with their neighbors and to restore what belongs to others. They are to make up for past tithes and pay future tithes.

16. They are not to take up lethal weapons, or bear them about, against anybody.

17. All are to refrain from formal oaths unless where necessity compels, in the cases excepted by the Sovereign Pontiff in his indult, that is, for peace, for the Faith, under calumny, and in bearing witness.

18. Also in their ordinary conversations they will do their best to avoid oaths. And should anyone have sworn thoughtlessly through a slip of the tongue, as happens where there is much talking, he should the evening of the same day, when he is obliged to think over what he has done, say three Our Fathers in amends of such oaths. Let each member fortify his household to serve God.

"Ongoing Formation (OFS Constitutions Article 44: #3d)"

"Ongoing formation – accomplished by means of courses, gatherings, and the sharing of experience – aims to assist the brothers and sisters:

- — Rule 4, in listening to and meditating on the Word of God, "going from Gospel to life and from life to Gospel;"
 - — in reflecting on events in the Church and in society in the light of faith, and with the help of the documents of the teaching Church, consequently taking consistent positions;
 - — in discerning and deepening the Franciscan vocation by studying the writings of Saint Francis, Saint Clare and Franciscan authors. "
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- SUGGESTIONS:**
- Articles from the TAU-USA Magazine are excellent sources of content for Continuing Formation
- TAU Publications and Franciscan Media offer many good selections of Franciscan spirituality.
 - Diane Meditto's Friday offerings are "spot on" when it comes to excellent content for further reflection and discussion.
 - Gospel commentaries are wonderful, content-filled sources
 - An occasional Franciscan friar, sister, or Secular Franciscan to speak on a given aspect of Franciscan spirituality can be a rich source of stimulating discussion
 - Using the RULE and CONSTITUTIONS are *always* top of the list when choosing ongoing formation content



CHAPTER VI: SPECIAL MASS AND MEETING EACH MONTH

19. All the brothers and sisters of every city and place are to foregather every month at the time the ministers see fit, in a church which the ministers will make known, and there assist at Divine Services.

20. And every member is to give the treasurer one ordinary denar. The treasurer is to collect this money and distribute it on the advice of the ministers among the poor brothers and sisters, especially the sick and those who may have nothing for their funeral services, and thereupon among the poor; and they are to offer something of the money to the aforesaid church.

21. And, if it be convenient at the time, they are to have some religious who is informed in the words of God to exhort them and strengthen them to persevere in their penance and in performing the works of mercy. And except for the officers, they are to remain quiet during the Mass and sermon, intent on the Office, on prayer, and on the sermon.



Sister Death has called to our
Heavenly Home . . .

May all our Franciscan Brothers and Sisters, who have passed to our Heavenly Father's hands, rest in peace!

St. Boniface

Arlene Goodman
(Professed 42 years)

Fr. Sergius Wroblewski, OFM
(104 years old)

***GOD SAW YOU
GETTING WEARY***

God saw you getting weary,
He did what He thought best;
He put His arms around you
And said, "Come and rest."

He open up His golden gates
On that heartbreaking day,
And with His arms around you
You gently slipped away.

It broke our hearts to lose you,
You did not go alone;
A part of us went with you
The day God called you home.

News and Views from Around the Region

SACRED HEART FRATERNITY: celebrated a bi-lingual Transitus with the other two fraternities at Sacred Heart Church at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday October 3, 2021. This traditional service commemorates the passing of St. Francis into Eternal life on the evening of October 3, 1226.



Sacred Heart members will also join together again with Ernie Pyle VFW Post 1120 to feed the homeless in Indianapolis as they prepare and help serve the meal in downtown Indy. They will also be collecting socks, underwear and toiletries for distribution to the homeless.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES FRATERNITY spent time at Marytown Retreat Center in Libertyville from October 8—10, 2012.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FRATERNITY celebrated the Permanent Profession of the Gospel life of four candidates on September 18, 2021, at Queen of Peace Church. Fr. John Eze was the celebrant for the occasion. Those making Profession were: Jerry Harker, OFS, Timmy DeCelles, OFS, Cyndi Nikoli, OFS, and Caroline Ramirez, OFS.

ST. BONIFACE FRATERNITY: Celebration of Transitus

and Fraternal Gathering following the ceremony at St. Boniface Church.



CHAPTER VII: VISITING THE SICK, BURYING THE DEAD

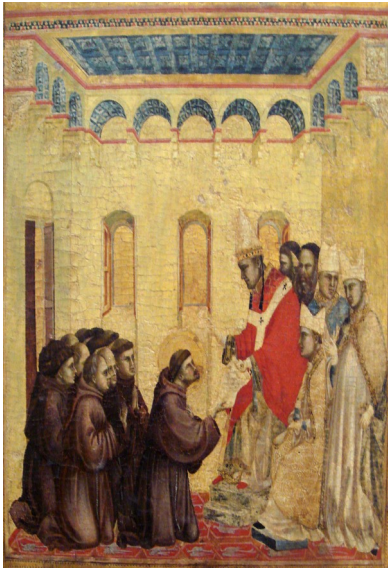
22. Whenever any brother or sister happens to fall ill, the ministers, if the patient let them know of it, shall in person or through others visit the patient once a week, and remind him of penance; and if they find it expedient, they are to supply him from the common fund with what he may need for the body.

Nos. 23—32 : Originals available on line.

33. Married women are not to be received except with the consent and leave of their husbands.

34. Brothers and sisters ejected from the brotherhood as incorrigible are not to be received in it again except it please the saner portion of the brothers.

Wonderful Things Upon Which to Reflect

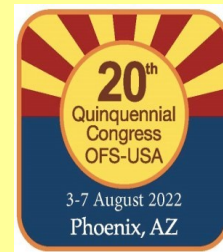


"[Francis] had shelter in monasteries, churches, and hospices. He observed the way in which others tried to rid the Church its sins by "scorched earth" preaching crusades. He encountered sincere seekers who suffered to bring about the lessons of the Gospel to towns and markets. He also encountered those who had long since abandoned any loyalty to the Church. These heretics, the Cathars, and Waldensians, were taking many wearied folks with

them into a wilderness of erroneous teachings and unorthodox rituals.

Francis's conviction about following Jesus with utter simplicity was joined to a conviction that he must keep faith with the Church. Flawed it might be, but it was the human container of all the truths that could lead one to God's divine truth. Francis's simple message of peace and penance struck a new and enticing chord in Assisi and the towns of the region."

Light of Assisi: The Story of St. Clare, Margaret Carney, OSF, pp. 1617. Franciscan Media, Cincinnati, 2021



20th Quinquennial Prayer

Lord God, Heavenly Father, we come before you in awe of your love for us. We acknowledge Your divine seed in everyone. Through your merciful compassion help us to see our need for conversion. In our service to each other let us experience this time of JUBILEE! We walk the path before us upon foundations built by our brothers and sisters. We are thankful for our present and excited for our future, always believing that You, O Lord, guide our journey. AMEN

For detailed information and registration materials for the "Q", please visit:
www.secularfranciscansusa.org

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER - USA

2021-2022 OFS-USA Theme

**Be strong, take courage,
all you who hope in the Lord.**

Psalm 31:25



Our Lady of Indiana Secular Franciscan Regional Fraternity



International Website:
www.ciofs.org

National Website:
www.secularfranciscansusa.org

Regional Website:
www.olirf-ofs.org

To join OUR LADY OF INDIANA list-serve send a
 blank email to:
olirf+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Follow us on Facebook

Dates to Remember

December: 25 — Solemnity of the Incarnation of Our Lord Jesus Christ

THE YEAR OF OUR LORD, 2022:

February 12, 2022: REC Meeting @ 9:30 a.m. via ZOOM

March 12, 2022: Candidates Day of Reflection: 10:00—3:00 at St. Joan of Arc in Kokomo

April 9, 2022: REC @ 9:30 a.m. via ZOOM

April 25—May 6, 2022: Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi

May 10—12, 2022: Regional Visitation @ University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne. This is also a "Chapter of Mats" for all Ministers as well as a Regional Chapter of Election.

August 3—7, 2022: 20TH Quinquennial Congress, Phoenix, AZ
 Theme: *"To Celebrate and Renew our Franciscan Calling in the Spirit of Conversion"*

August 13, 2022: Unity Day in Kokomo

September 10, 2022: Formation Directors from 10:00—3:00 at St. Joan of Arc in Kokomo

October 8, 2022: REC @ 9:30 a.m. via ZOOM

November 12, 2022: "Chapter of Mats" 10:00—3:00. Kokomo

"We, the Secular Franciscans of Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity, are called by virtue of Baptism and Confirmation to holiness. We are committed by our Profession to living the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in our time according to the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi for the rebuilding of the Church.

With the help of Mary our Advocate, Protectress, and Patroness, we will foster prayer, vital fraternities, and communication. We will provide direction, support and resources to local fraternities for understanding and implementing the Rule, the General Constitutions, and the National Statutes of the Secular Franciscan Order, and our Regional Fraternity Guidelines."

CHAPTER VIII: CORRECTION, DISPENSATION, OFFICERS

35. The ministers of any city or place shall report public faults of the brothers and sisters to the Visitor for punishment. And if anyone proves incorrigible, after consultation with some of the discreet brothers he should be denounced to the Visitor, to be expelled by him from the brotherhood, and thereupon it should be published in the meeting. Moreover, if it is a brother, he should be denounced to the mayor or the governor.

37. The Visitor has the power to dispense all the brothers and sisters in any of these points if he finds it advisable.

38. When the year has passed, the ministers with the counsel of the brothers are to elect two other ministers; and a faithful treasurer, who is to provide for the need of the brothers and sisters and other poor; and messengers who at the command of the ministers are to publish what

is said and done by the fraternity.

39. In all the above mentioned points no one is to be obligated under guilt, but under penalty; yet so that if after being admonished twice by the ministers he should fail to discharge the penalty imposed or to be imposed on him by the Visitor, he shall be obligated under guilt as contumacious.

HERE ENDS THE RULE OF THE CONTINENT.

Author: Cardinal Hugolino dei Conti di Segni, written at the request of St. Francis of Assisi for the Brothers and Sisters of Penance in 1221.

Note: not all of the text of the 1221 Rule has been included in this newsletter due to spacial limitations.