Our Lady of Indiana

July 2022

Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity

Volume 10, Issue 2

"Posterat take courses all you who he

"Be strong, take courage, all you who hope in the Lord (Ps 31:25)."

"CHAPTER OF MATS" June 10-12, 2022



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.



The Regional Pastoral Visit, Fraternal Visit, and Election was held on June 11, 2022 at the University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne. Pictured is the Council of our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity: Kathleen White, OFS, Regional Spiritual Assistant, Barb Braley, OFS, Director of Formation, Chris Bercaw, OFS, Councilor, Susan Solloway, OFS, Treasurer, Cyndi Pilot, OFS, Regional Minister, Ulma Flores, OFS, Councilor, Ted Boczkowski, OFS, Councilor, Margaret Foust, OFS, Secretary, Sr. Agnes Marie Regan, OSF, Regional Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM, Council of National Spiritual Assistants (ecclesial witness to the election).

Delegates to the "Chapter of Mats" met in Bonzel Hall of the University of St. Francis on the weekend of June 10—June 12, 2022, for a full weekend of activities — both official and relaxing, humorous and enjoyable.

Officially, the Gathering was a Fraternal Visit, a Pastoral Visit, and an Electoral Visit all in one. As such, the Holy Spirit was frequently invoked to send Wisdom, Understanding, and all the gifts such ponderous events require.

The official items on the Agenda were cared for by Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM, the present President-in -Turn of the "Council of National Spiritual Assistants", and Dennis Ross, OFS, Councilor from the National Executive Council.

After a busy and strenuous completion of official items of business, a pizza supper was followed by some creative and original music by Dennis Feece, OFS, of Immaculate Conception Fraternity in Mishawaka. Dennis's creative stories from the life of St. Francis and other poetic renderings, made for a wonderful, joyful, and relaxing evening before some unfinished business completed the day.

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Cindy Pilot, OFS: Regional Minister Rich Cain, OFS: Regional Vice-Minister Margaret Foust, OFS: Regional Secretary Susan Solloway, OFS: Regional Treasurer Barb Braley, OFS: Regional Formation Director Regional Councilors: Ulma Flores, OFS, Chris Bercaw, OFS, Ted Boczkowski, OFS

> Regional Spiritual Assistants: Sr. Agnes Marie Regan, OSF Kathleen White, OFS

Jack Hill, OFS: JPIC Animator

PRAYER FOR THE SERVANT LEADER

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like your own. That we come together in your name – Lord Jesus, make this my desire. That we all allow the interests of your Kingdom to win out, That your love and truth guide us always, That we truly listen to each other and speak in freedom and simplicity, That we not think in categories of winning and losing, That we recognize your gift and your project, That we always choose whatever gives you the most glory.

> From the desire to always be right From the desire to impose my point of view, From the desire to win out over others, Lord Jesus, free me. From the fear of conflict, From the fear of making a mistake, From the fear of looking bad. Lord Jesus, free me.

From rejecting those who see things differently, From listening only to those who see things as I do, From all prejudices that prevent me from listening, Lord Jesus, free me.

From thinking only of myself, From the difficulty to admit I am wrong, From all desires and attachments that keep you from acting in me, Lord Jesus, free me.

Pour out on us, O Lord, we pray, a spirit of truth, understanding and peace, that we may know with all our hearts what is pleasing to you and, with one accord, pursue what we have come to know. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

— Jan Parker, OFS



St. Anne Parish, Kitchener ON

Our annual UNITY DAY approaches ... looking for to seeing YOU!

ANNUAL UNITY DAY

OVR LADY OF INDIANA REGIONAL FRATERNITY

Saturday, August 13, 2022 : 9:30 a.m.

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, Kokomo, IN





Presenter: Fr. Christopher Panagoplos, TOR

Serving on the Council of National Spiritual Assistants and many other wonderful works for the Church and Franciscan Family

Schedule for the Day

- 8:30 Arrival
- 9:30 Mass in St. Joan of Arc Church / Break
- 10:45 Presentation One: Fr. Christopher in Assembly Room
- 11:45 Comfort Break
- 12:00 Bag Lunch/Social/Book Store/Surprise!

- 1:15 Presentation Two: Fr. Christopher in Assembly Room
- 2:15 Comfort Break
- 2:30 Evening Prayer and Memorial Service for our Departed Brothers and Sisters : Assembly Room
- 3:00 Dismissal



Celebrating Four Centennials: A Message from our Ministers General

On January 1, 2022, the six Ministers General sent a challenging let-

ter to "all the friars of our Orders" and to "all the Franciscan Family". In their letter, they referenced a Coordination Committee for the Franciscan Centenary, a four year span during which we will commemorate the 800th anniversaries of the Later Rule (1220-2023), the Christmas at Greccio (1223-2023), the Stigmata (1224-2024), and Canticle of the Creatures (1225-2025), and the conclusion of the celebration with the "Easter of Francis"(1226-2026).

The basic purpose for celebrating the themes of the centenaries is to direct our gaze to the future and to strengthen our Franciscan Identity and charism (p.2). The Ministers have challenged all of us throughout the world to make our Order visible as a unity and have asked us to make of it an occasion for all of us to work together representing the entire Franciscan family.

The letter the ministers sent us contains some ideas of how we might go about this, but they have asked us, more, challenged us to identify other ways consistent within the cultures in which we live.

They add, "The themes herein can be further explored and developed

through lectures, meetings, Chapters of Mats, exhibitions, pilgrimages, mission experiences, etc. (p. 3)."

Another of their key wishes is that of making visible, not only the love that St. Francis had for his brothers and sisters, but how that filial relationship still exists between First, Second, and Third Order members. That relationship is one of the characteristics for which the Franciscan Order is known. We complement each other and our communion is reciprocal. "The centenaries offer us a valuable opportunity to invigorate the richness of our charism which a prophetic vision toward the future (p. 4)."

And the gift each of us treasures above all, the gift with which God gave Francis as we read in his Testament; "The Lord gave me thus to begin doing penance . . . The Lord gave me some brothers . . . The Most High Himself revealed to me that I should live according to the pattern of the Holy Gospel (*Testament* 1-14, FF 110-116)."

Thus the memorials which we will celebrate as the Franciscan Family over the next four years will be a gifted occasion to grow and deepen in our understanding and living out of the gift given to us through Francis and Clare from the Lord himself.

CELEBRATING THE RULE 1223-2023



The very center of the Rules of all three branches of the Franciscan Family is the observance of the Gospel. "The most High Himself revelated to me that I should live according to the pattern of the Holy Gospel. And I had this written down simply and in a few words and the Lord Pope confirmed it for me." (Testament 14-14. FF 116). And then Francis and his brothers exclaimed: "This is what we want; this is what we were seeking . . ."

Brothers and Sisters, this is what each of said on the day we made Profession: to live the Holy Gospel wherever, whenever, however we can in all things. And we do it fraternally with our brothers and sisters for the glory of God and His Church.

Letter and text of "A Multifaceted Centenary in Which Several Centenaries Will be Celebrated" may be found at: <u>https://ofm.org/blog/guidelines-for-</u> celebrating-the-centenaries-of-the-franciscan-family-2023-2026/

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Continued Reflections from our Ministers General

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS AT GRECCIO

1223-2023



Very little thrilled St. Francis more than meditating on the immense gift God made of Himself by descending to become one of us —Emmanuel, Godwith-us.

The ministers in their letter quoted Thomas of Celano with the words: "The Poverello stopped at Greccio because he wanted to contemplate the realness of the Incarnation, namely, the simplicity, poverty, and humility of the Son of God "who gave Himself for us with supreme and indescribable love" (*I Celano 30: 87, FF 471*)."

Thanks to Sr. Jacinta, Sr. Anita, and the folks in Fort Wayne at the University of St. Francis, at Christmas time in the year 2023, they will send all of us an invitation to celebrate their live nativity scene near the lake on campus.



CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF THE STIGMATA

1224-2024



After a period of intense apostolic activity Francis retired to Mount La Verna in Tuscany for a period of prayer. It was there in that time of silence and prayer that he experienced the imprinting on his body of the wounds of Jesus. St. Bonaventure describes it this way: "[The] true love of Christ transformed the lover into his image" (*Major Legend* 13: 5, FF1228). It was also here that Francis composed the *Praises of God*, a prayer totally focused on God.

CELEBRATING THE CANTICLE OF THE CREATURES

1225-2025

Though he was blind by the time he wrote the *Canticle of the Creatures*, Francis had already absorbed into the depths of his soul unfathomable beauty of God which he had discovered in every creature from worm to the furthest galaxy!

It was written of him; "In beautiful things he contuited Beauty itself and through the footprints impressed in things he followed his Beloved everywhere, out of them all making for himself a ladder through which he could



climb up to lay hold of Him who is utterly desirable" (*Major Legend* 9:1, FF 1162).

What wonders could we work if we took on his example of profound respect for all people and all of creation?

CELEBRATING THE EASTER OF FRANCIS OF ASSISI



1226-2026

St. Francis gave us the example that life is a gift that must be given back. He told his brothers "Hold back nothing of yourselves for yourselves, that He Who gives Himself totally to you may receive you totally!" (*Letter to the Entire Order* 29, FF 221).

Individually and as the Franciscan Family we are surround by many difficult challenges. How can we start fresh each day to show the holiness of the Church regardless of the Cross that others might be drawn to the love of our God?

A Surprise Visit and a Gift for Two Sides of the Planet

When I looked up I could hardly believe my wondering but very one of our dear fraternity members who had returned to her native Poland to live closer to family and lifelong friends several years ago.



We had started our monthly

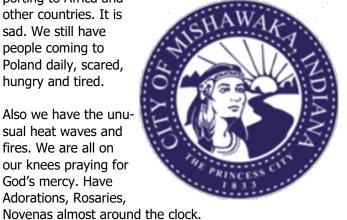
gathering and I was speaking about a letter from our six Franciscan Ministers General when my eyes spotted Elizabeth Topash, OFS, a deeply loved woman who had made her Profession with our Immaculate Conception Fraternity about 10 years ago. In Poland, she had accepted the Spirit's call to be Minister of her local OFS Fraternity . . . a task she's well suited to carry out.

Presently she lives about 15 miles from the Ukrainian border and the constant uneasiness of that conflict led her to come to the States for a few weeks to rest and reconnect with friends here. It is often possible for the residents there to hear exploding bombs in the nearby areas of Ukraine.

Here is an excerpt from a letter I just received from Elizabeth: "Now I am back to my old country and old business. The war continues and not only Russians are killing Ukrainian people but also are burning hundreds of acres of grains that Ukrainians were ex-

porting to Africa and other countries. It is sad. We still have people coming to Poland daily, scared, hungry and tired.

Also we have the unusual heat waves and fires. We are all on our knees praying for God's mercy. Have Adorations, Rosaries,



Prices are super high and going up daily. A gallon of gas is over \$8.00. Electricity doubled and it will go up 300% more in fall. Our hope is in the Lord."

At our Gathering, we ceded the floor to Elizabeth and she spent a considerable amount of time sharing what has happened in her town since the invasion of Ukraine. Refugees, women and children all looking for safety with relatives or anyone willing to provide a place of safety and food. We were all mesmerized by the stories she shared with us.

As a nation, the Polish people were heroic in their immediate and generous care for those coming with only the clothes on their backs and very little else. Elizabeth's village was no exception.

However, the Holy Spirit was not finished with our visit. It was suggested that our two fraternities become "sister-fraternities" and share our bond of Franciscanism with each other — long distance!



You know, much like "sister-cities" in the civic realm.

All present clapped and agreed, warm hugs were shared, and tears of happiness ran down cheeks! So now Immaculate **Conception Fraternity** in Mishawaka

and Elizabeth's fraternity Franciszkanski Zakon Swiecki Parafia Sw. Antoniego (Third Order of St. Francis Parish of St. Anthony) in Poland, are keeping each other not only in thought but especially in prayer as "sister-fraternities" — worlds apart on the planet, but one in Franciscan fraternity, heart and spirit.



Profession: a Time for Reflection



Lady Clare Fraternity, Kokomo, celebrated the profession of Claudia Dietzel, OFS, Debra Keller OFS, and Stephanie Donham, OFS, at the Monastery of the Poor Clares on Tuesday May 31, 2022.

The celebrant was Fr. David Huemmer OFS, also a member of Lady Clare Fraternity. It was a joyous occasion, and the Poor Clare sisters welcomed the newly professed in their parlor after Mass.

May I say again how beautiful was the Profession Mass at the Poor Clares, and how glorious to be professed on the Marian Feast of the Visitation! Much rejoicing! Heaven is close! Claudia, Stephanie, Deb, you glowed. Our deeply felt thanks to the Poor Clares for their prayers and voices, and to Father Huemmer, OFS, for his reverence and words of wisdom. Thank you to the family members, friends, and current Secular Franciscans who also joined us for this happy and profound Profession. Thank you to Linda, Elaine S., Marge, Yolanda, and Spiritual Assistant Kathleen for years of dedicated support for our Candidates. Thanks be to God! Dear Members of Lady Clare Fraternity,

What an immense joy it was for us to participate at the Mass and Profession of Stephanie, Claudia and Deb on the Feast of the Visitation of Our Lady!. You all complete and make more present the Franciscan Family for us. We each could not help but re-visit our own Professions. We thank God for your vocations! We truly believe—as St. Clare did — that the Lord gave me Sisters. And for you, it is the Lord who gives you brothers and sisters! We pray for an increase of vocations to your loved fraternity and trust you pray for our increase, too. The Lord IS calling and we pray for generous responses for those called.

We are grateful to be your Sisters in Francis and Clare!

Mother Miriam and Sisters

—Marilyn Brown, OFS



Pictured here are the three new Candidates for the St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity in Hicksville, Ohio: Angelica Buettner, Ann Walker, and Debbie Slusser. They were received into Candidacy on Sunday, June 5, 2022 at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Hicksville, Ohio.

> -Sr. Anita Holzmer, OSF Spiritual Assistant

Immaculate Conception Fraternity celebrated the Profession of four brothers and sisters on July 16, 2022, at Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Mishawaka. In the picture below, they are persons four seven: JoAnn Podemski, OFS, Ray Daly, OFS, Dolores Kaczorowski, OFS, and Jorge Munoz, OFS.

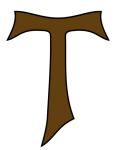


Things Upon Which to Reflect

mgratulations

July Profession Anniversaries

07/11/21	Joe Doll	People of Peace
07/11/21	Nick Martin	People of Peace
07/11/21	Esther Mupompa	Sacred Heart
07/13/08	Cyndi Pilot	Immaculate Conception
07/14/07	Virginia Anson	St Boniface
07/15/75	Donna Carteaux	Holy Family
07/15/06	Henry Joseph	Immaculate Conception
07/18/15	Amy Porter	Immaculate Conception
07/18/15	Peg Salkay	Immaculate Conception
07/18/15	Julie Scalise	Immaculate Conception
07/18/20	John Bacon	Our Lady of Lourdes
07/18/20	Christine Casiello	Our Lady of Lourdes
07/18/20	Carmen Maria Farfan	Our Lady of Lourdes
07/18/20	Carol Hoffman	Our Lady of Lourdes
07/18/21	Teri Queitsch	St Charles
07/22/01	Flossie Banning	Immaculate Conception
07/22/01	David Grimes	St Michael the Archange
07/22/01	Joan Myers	St Michael the Archange
07/22/01	Steven Talbott	St Michael the Archange
07/27/03	Nancy Steinhofer	St Charles
07/27/03	Joyce Wesner	Holy Family
07/27/03	Tim Husted	St Michael the Archange





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

> Attending the "Q" from Our Lady of Indiana Region

Cyndi Pilot, OFS Sue Daly, OFS Sarah Belisle, OFS Sr. Agnes Marie, OSF Linda Julius, OFS Yvonne Grigsby

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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

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"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."

Dates to Remember

THE YEAR OF OUR LORD, 2022:

This calendar will be refined further after the meeting of the Regional Executive Council on September 3, 2022

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: Fr. Christopher Panagoplos, TOR, Presenter

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

October 11-16, 2022; National Elective Chapter

October 29, 2022: "Franciscans and Sister Death": A ZOOM presentation for all Franciscans on one of life's more serious mysteries. More information to follow.

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

"One of Francis' Three Lents" — By Kathleen White, OFS

A Lent in summer? In some years, Francis also observed a Lent in summer, from the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, June 29, patrons of the Church of Rome, until the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (whom Francis calls "the virgin made church"), which occurs on August 15.

If you were to observe a Lent in summer, how would that look? There are so many things we enjoy during the summer months! Watermelon, a pool, evenings with light lasting through 9:30pm. Air conditioning. Blooming flowers. So many things... what would we give up? What would we fast from? What would we pray for? Who would we give alms to? For each of us it would be different – fast from your favorite beverage – iced tea? Pray for peace in Ukraine? Donate to Birthright?

The point is... do something! Do something that makes a difference for you, spiritually. Maybe it won't last 40 days. Maybe a week is better for you. Maybe something very simple for others is hard for you. Maybe something that is hard for others is simple for you. We are not all the same, and we reach and grow and strive differently. The Holy Spirit works as He will in each of us. Small steps. But move the pebbles one at a time, and you will move the mountain!



Word Search

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Portiuncula	St. Francis	Rivo Torto	Birds
Bernadone	Pace e bene	San Nicolo	Rieti
Merchants	Basilica	Beatrice	Pica
Bernardo	St. Clare	Damiano	Leo
Ecology	Carceri	Greccio	SFO
Animals	Alverno	Pietro	
Angelo	Rufino		



