



Our Lady of Indiana

October 2022

Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity

Volume 10, Issue 3



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



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.



Attendees from OUR LADY OF INDIANA REGIONAL FRATERNITY at the "Q" in Phoenix are seen delighting in the beautiful banner created by the host Fraternity, St. Thomas More Region. From left to right: Cyndi Pilot, Dan Lawson, Linda Julius, Dave Dierenger, Sue Daly, Yvonne Grigsby, and Sr. Agnes Marie Regan.

In the Name of the Lord!

RULE: Prologue: To the Brothers and Sisters of Penance

they are children of the heavenly Father whose (Mt

Concerning those who do Penance All those who love the Lord with their whole heart, with their whole mind, with their whole strength (Mk 12:30) and love their neighbors as themselves, who hate their bodies with their vices and sins (Mt 22:39), who receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and who produce worthy fruits of Penance.

5:45) works they do, and they are spouses, brothers and mothers of our Lord Jesus Christ (Mt 12:50).

We are spouses when the faithful soul is joined by the Holy Spirit to our Lord Jesus Christ. We are brothers to Him when we do the will of the Father who is in heaven (Mt 12:50).

O how happy and blessed are these men and women while they do such things and persevere in doing them, because the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon them (Is 11:2) and make its home and dwelling place (Jn 14:23) among them, and

We are mothers when we carry Him in our heart and body through a divine love (1Cor 6:20) and a pure and sincere conscience and give birth to him through a holy activity which must shine as an example before others (Mt 5:16).

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: Chris Bercaw, OFS,
Ted Boczkowski, OFS, Ulma Flores, OFS

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

Jack Hill, OFS: JPIC Animator (appointed)



Door to Door

The first was heavy,
hard to escape,
yet she freely ran forward
toward the brothers
and Christ.

The second was heavier still
sisters unable to lift it;
brothers had to heave and heft.
She, amazingly uncrushed,
carried on
healing and prayer.

The third door was final,
heaven's maidens honor-
guarding
Clare in joyous procession;
from pavane to prancing

August 17, 2022

The Church draws her life
from the Eucharist.

#1 Ecce ego Eucharistia

Dear members of Our Lady of Indiana Region,

Even if the words are common--May God
bless and reward you--they are deeply felt as we
thank you for this year's **Unity Day** offering of
\$1061.56!

We had a dry beginning of this summer
but have been busy canning beans and freezing
corn. Beets and tomatoes are in our future! God is
good in all who share their abundance with us. St.
Clare called work a 'grace' and the grace of
working takes on a variety of forms.

In this time of Eucharistic renewal, it is
so good to recall St. Clare's great devotion to the
Blessed Sacrament. We pray for *Eucharistic
Hearts* in which we too, like the Church and St.
Clare, draw our hope, our life, and our joy from
the Eucharist. The Blessed Sacrament truly is the
source of our joy, hope and strength as it was for
Clare. May it be for each of you as well.

We also wish to share our joy that our
postulant, Ruthann, will receive the habit and
receive a new name on the feast of the Holy
Stigmata of our Father St. Francis on September
17. We ask your prayers for her as well as all of
us.

We are planning a **Come and See** day on
October 8 for young women between the ages of
17 and 30. If you know of anyone who may be
considering religious life, please have them check
our website for details at: www.thepoorclares.org.

As we pray for an increase and holiness
for all our secular Franciscan brothers and sisters,
please pray the same for us.

Gratefully and prayerfully in our Mother
St. Clare and all the saints of the Franciscan
Family.

Mother Miriam
and Yours
Kokomo Poor Clares
Sisters



Sociedad de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe: Welcome

As they begin their journey toward becoming a fraternity, all of us would like to say "Welcome to our Franciscan family" to the men and women of the "Society of Our Lady of Guadalupe" (Sociedad de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe) in Fort Wayne. At this point, the group may be called a "Society" but the designation "fraternity" does not come until the necessary conditions have been completed over the course of the next years.

On April 16, 2021, the National Spiritual Assistants (CNSA) and the National Executive Council (NEA) approved *ad experimentum* the "Guide to Canonical Establishment of a Secular Franciscan Fraternity" a twenty three page description of the "Pathway to Canonical Establishment". This document is available for downloading and study from the national fraternity's website as indicated here: www.secularfranciscansusa.org

Under the inspiration of a woman from Mexico, already a professed Secular Franciscan, several enthusiastic men and women contacted Fr. Jose Arroyo, Pastor of St. Paul's Parish in Columbia City, sharing their wish to become a Franciscan Third Order Fraternity.

With that question, the journey had begun for them, and Sister Agnes Marie, OSF, Regional Spiritual Assistant, and Sr. Anita, OSF, Spiritual Assistant of St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity in Hicksville, OH, as well as the Regional Executive Council, began studying the "Guide" and leading the



Two persons were not able to attend this Gathering, but here is our newest family: La Sociedad de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

"Newly Forming Group" (Guidelines pp. 6 –9) one step at a time . . . a process that continues up to this moment and which will continue into the future. What a gift they are to our Regional family of Franciscans!

Early in our "getting-to-know-you" sessions, the group expressed their wish to be known and dedicated to "Our Lady of Guadalupe", thus their beautiful title.

The Regional Executive Council at their September meeting accepted their formal petition to begin the process and Sr. Anita stepped forward along with Chris Bercaw, OFS, to provide hands on guidance of this budding group of to-be Franciscans, who continue to meet every Friday evening for Scripture sharing and study of Franciscan reflections.

Both the "Society" and the Regional Council have faithfully executed the steps listed in the

"Canonical Guide" to this point, so the little family is firmly on its way.


The "Newly Forming Group" of potential Franciscans is now meeting at the University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne, and the Regional Executive Council has approved their being placed in the care of St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity as their sponsoring fraternity. The fraternity has accepted that role. Cyndi Pilot, OFS, Regional Minister, Barb Braley, OFS, Regional Formation Director, and Chris Bercaw, OFS, Minister of St. Michael's Fraternity attended this meeting to greet, welcome, and get to know these good aspirants.

At their next meeting in November, along with other preliminary steps as contained in the "Guidelines", they will begin their study of "The Journey (La Jornada)" and their "Pathway to Profession" — the same three year process as all aspirants who present themselves for entrance to the Secular Franciscan Order undertake.

Celebrating the "CENTENARIO"

In our last newsletter, we spoke of the "Centenario" announced by the six ministers of the "Conference of the Franciscan Family" on January 1, 2022. They gave us a framework by which each region and / or fraternity could enter into the commemoration of the 800th anniversaries of the Later Rule in 2022, Christmas at Greccio in 2023, the Stigmata in 2024, and the Canticle of the Creatures in 2025. We will, from time to time, update you on the specifics—dates, times, and places, of how Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity will celebrate these events as the information becomes available. Presently we know the following:

2022	Celebration of the LATER RULE: Contact: TBA
2023	Celebration of GRECCIO/INCARNATION: University of St. Francis, Fort Wayne Contacts: Sr. Jacinta Krecek, OSF and Sr. Anita Holzmer, OSF
2024	Celebration of the "STIGMATA/ CROSS": St. John, IN, Shrine of the Passion Contact: Ted Boczkowski, OFS, and NW Fraternities
2025	Celebration of "CANTICLE OF THE CREATURES" and the "HOLY EUCHARIST" Contact: "Canticle of Creatures": Helen Burke, OFS, and Indianapolis Fraternities Contact: "Holy Eucharist": TBA



The celebration of the "Centenarios" is on the agenda to be discussed at the National Elective Council in one of their business assemblies in Detroit this month, so this topic and how they are celebrated will continue to develop. Hope we can get many of our brothers and sisters as possible involved with our statewide celebration of each of the events during the next four years.

Letter from the CONFERENCE OF THE FRANCISCAN FAMILY
addressed to Franciscans of all Three Orders

"The gift that St. Francis received from the Divine Giver is most fully realized in its complementarity and lively reciprocal communion. This is a motivating force in the lives of "all those who love the Lord with their whole heart" (First Version of the Letter to the Faithful 1, FF 178/1).

Therefore, as a Franciscan Family, we invite everyone who is attracted to the evangelical beauty of the Poverello (cf. Laudato si' 10) to join us in celebrating these centenaries. The centenaries offer us a valuable opportunity to invigorate the richness of our charism

with a prophetic vision toward the future.

Moreover we want to celebrate them in keeping with the mindset that comes with this gift we have received. Indeed, the hagiographic sources tell us that Francis of Assisi died naked, with nothing of his own: "He asked to be taken to Saint Mary of the Portiuncula so that he might yield up the spirit of life...he threw himself in fervor of spirit totally naked on the naked ground" (Major Legend 14:4, FF 1240). His whole life was a journey of living *sine proprio*, that is, a life of giving back, from the beginning of his conversion, because only the man who keeps nothing for himself, but gives all of himself, is able to walk in fraternity, guided by his desire for the Supreme Good: "Let us refer all good to the Lord, God Almighty and Most High, acknowledge that every good is His, and thank Him, "from Whom all good comes, for everything." (Earlier Rule 17:17, FF 49).

The Poverello recognized that everything in his life was a free gift of God's love, as he himself affirms 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). He not only received divine gifts but also chose to give them back, so today, eight hundred years later, we can celebrate these five centenaries as a Franciscan Family. The centenaries invite us to live according to the concept of receiving love and transforming it into self-giving and giving back to others.

Let us begin, sisters and brothers, because now it is up to us to give back to others the gifts that Brother Francis gave to us."

Memories of Unity Day 2022 in Kokomo



A lovely small choir provided some beautiful four part harmony with the singing of "Ave Verum" after Communion and of supporting the congregational singing Mass. Under the direction of Jorge Munoz, OFS, of Immaculate Conception Fraternity, new singers for our next Unity Day or assembly

were added and Jorge's giftedness and talent is already planning how our harmony can continue to grow and develop. New singers are always welcome! Let us know if you'd like to be a part next time!



Fr. Christopher Panagoplos, TOR, always challenges our thinking and helps us to look at concepts "out of the box" while remaining faithful to the gift of our Franciscan charism. Father brought along his experience as President-in-Turn of the Council of

National Spiritual Assistants, his role as Regional Spiritual Assistant, his work with the National Executive Council, and his tireless work with Secular Franciscans throughout the country. It was an honor to have Father Christopher with us for this annual event and we are grateful to him for journeying from Pennsylvania to be a part of it.

The pandemic might have slowed us down, but it did not break the chains of fraternal love and the joy of being together as we assembled at St. Joan of Arc on August 13, 2022, for our annual Unity Day.



In addition to a wonderful speaker, and Regional Resources filled with many new titles (thanks and God bless you, Rich!), the generosity of attendees was overwhelming as stacks of non-perishable food items were collected for the food pantries in our three areas of the state. It was the first time we gathered these items, but everyone agrees it was a great success and something we will continue to do in years to come.



A **MESSAGE** to all our creative fraternity ministers, editors, poets, writers, photographers, etc.



The next edition of our regional newsletter will be December 10. Your submissions need to be on my computer's desktop before November 15. **THEME: INCARNATION: Emmanuel — God with us. Why was Francis so drawn to this revelation of Jesus?** Also, there are so many wonderful events taking place in each of our fraternities and others could learn so much from reading about them. It may be "old hat" to you, but others are looking for ideas. How about sharing the good news????!!!!



If I'm not on your fraternity's mailing list for your newsletter, please add me:

Sr. Agnes Marie Regan, OSF agnes.marie.regan@gmail.com

"A LESSON FROM CATS EATING BREAKFAST": Tina Popielą, OFS

I was awakened this morning to the horrific sounds of a cat fight. Puff and Squeaky were going at it. I wasn't too concerned since they are both declawed. They just paw at each other and make their snarly noises. Once in a while, Squeaky will try and take a bite out of Puff, but all she gets is a mouth full of fur.

I already knew how to end this fight. I took out a can of food. The fight ended at the sound of the can popping open. They lined up by their bowls ready for breakfast. Once fed, they found their morning nap spots and drifted off to sleep.

Again, as I read the morning paper, there were the usual stories: Driver charged in hit and run, man pleads guilty to shooting of woman, 82, Lake County coroner rules death of teen a homicide. There are of course some good stories like the man with a metal detector helping a woman who lost her wedding ring at the beach. But too often the news is filled with details of violence, smash and grab, and other crimes.

So, what has this to do with the cats eating breakfast?

Having watched this behavior in my pets, this only happens when they are hungry. Once fed, they are soft little balls of fur curled up for a nap.

Could it be the same for our society? Are we hungry? Not hungry for actual food, but hungry for spiritual food. I think that we are all aware that belief in God or having any faith has dwindled in today's society. Fewer people are attending church. Many no longer believe in God.

Instead we are making ourselves into gods. We decide what we do. If you disrespect me, I can just shoot you. If I like that coat or bike, I can just take it. I don't understand this way of thinking, but I see it all around me.



I have not heard anyone give a reason why they do not believe in God, but the idea seems very popular. We just don't need God anymore, I guess. However, Puff and Squeaky know where the food is kept. They know what's in the Purina bag, they can sniff it out. But that does them no good. They cannot open the bag or the can of Friskies. But there are times when I don't put the bag away quickly, Puff will chew through the bag. He wants that food. Still, they are dependent on me. They are dependent on my love and care for them. But that original sin is still with us. Like Adam and Eve, we want that apple. We do not want to trust in a loving God. Some say that religion has too many rules.

Well, I only count two, love God and love your neighbor as yourself. Love does not hate and kill, or lie or steal. Love is faithful and trusting. Love is not self-seeking but looks to the good of the beloved. This love and trust in God is our food. Without it we become hungry and try do things by ourselves, looking for that nourishment in the wrong way.

As Franciscans, what can we do? Francis in his day was able to preach to the people. But standing on the street corner and preaching will do no good. Instead, we must be faithful to our rule, to show by example. Actions always speak louder than words. We must provide that food to the people around us. We must show that there is a better way to live. We must remember that God put Adam and Eve in a garden, not a desert or an alley in Chicago. God loves and cares for us. But God also gave us a free will and so we must accept His care.



Notes from Around the Region

Sister Death has taken home . . .
may they rest in the
love and peace of the
Lord



Peg Salkay, OFS
Sandra Maichen, OFS

Immaculate Conception Fraternity

Pat Lerche, OFS
Lady Clare Fraternity



The Transitus scene pictured here took place in St. Boniface Church in Lafayette. Members of St. Boniface Fraternity as well as the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration participated the very prayerful evening of October 3.

This traditional celebration of the Death of St. Francis was also celebrated with Franciscans of the respective areas at the University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne, St. Francis Convent in Mishawaka, Sacred Heart Parish in Indianapolis, Lady Clare Fraternity in Kokomo, and Holy Name Church in Cedar Lake.

Professions at People of Peace:

We are nearing an event involving those sacred promises: Profession! Jody Dalton and Liz Stanton will be professed as Secular Franciscans at our October 9th regular gathering which will start with Mass in the large chapel at Marian University starting at 1:00 p.m. (Gather earlier so we can start on time.) There will be a reception following, so think of a special treat you might like to contribute.

This ceremony will be a great reminder of our own Promises, especially for those who celebrate anniversaries of their own professions this month: John Evans and Jenni Hammond who professed on 9/8/2019; Phyllis Dircks on 9/14/2019 and Jim Kitchens who professed on 9/16/2017.

Recent Events

The Transitus of St. Clare of Assisi was celebrated on the eve of her feast day on Wednesday evening, August 10, to commemorate her death and entry into eternal life. Some of us from People of Peace joined other area fraternities at Sacred Heart of Jesus for the inaugural Transitus of St. Clare that will be held each year. This gathering is in addition to Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi held each year on the third evening of October.

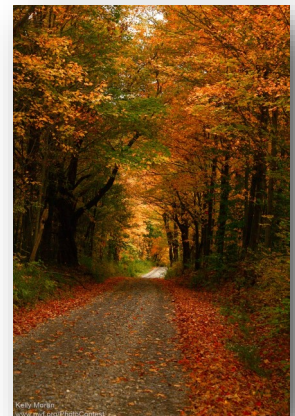
Eight of us ventured to Kokomo for Unity Day where everyone brought non-perishable food items and toiletries for distribution to three lucky fraternities, drawn by lottery, so they could take the donations home to their local pantries and shelters.

News from Our Lady of Lourdes Fraternity:

Inquiry started August 20th and we have a few who are interested in discerning if Secular Franciscan life is for them. Welcome to you! There is still time to start formation, so please invite those you know who want to pursue their possible calling. Contact Tina Popiela, OFS (219-365-5317) if you have questions.

The Transitus will be at Holy Name on October 3rd at 7PM. I'll send an invite to Little Portion Fraternity in Valpo and Our Lady of the Angels Fraternity in St. John. Please remember to bring a dish for the potluck afterwards!

Our retreat is October 7-9th in Marytown. Father Greg Plata OFM will be our retreat leader. MaryJo has registration forms, so contact her if you are interested and bring your form and payment to the September meeting. Our retreats are so refreshing and inspiring. Please join us and if you need a ride we'll arrange one for you.



Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity - Secular Franciscan Order



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

2022

October 8, 2022: REC Zoom

October 11–16, 2022; National Elective Chapter in Detroit

November 12, 2022: Chapter of Mats: Kokomo

2023

Date and place of the Celebration of the "Later Rule" in calendar year 2023 as part of the Centenario TBA

January 14: REC Zoom

February 11 REC Zoom: Unity Day Planning

March 11: Candidates Day Away: Kokomo

April 1: Chapter of Mats: State of the Region: Kokomo

June 10: REC

August 12: Unity Day: Kokomo

September 9: Formation Team Workshop

October 8: REC

November 11: Chapter of Mats: Kokomo

Attitude of Gratitude

There once was a woman who woke up one morning, looked in the mirror, and saw that she had only three hairs left on her head. "Great, great!" she said, "I think I'll braid my hair today." So she did, and had a wonderful day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and saw that she had only two hairs on her head. "Hmm", she said, "I guess I'll part my hair down the middle today". So she did, and had a wonderful day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and saw that she had only one hair left on her head. "Wow," she said, "today I get to wear my hair in a ponytail". So she did, and had a wonderful day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and saw that there wasn't a single hair on her head. "Thank God!" she exclaimed. "I was running out of things to do with my hair!"

ATTITUDE is everything! Let's be grateful for the things God has given us and have a wonderful day!