

# Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity

December 2022

"Listen, Discern, and Go Forth"

Volume 10, Issue 4



## O Little Town of Bethlehem:



### 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.



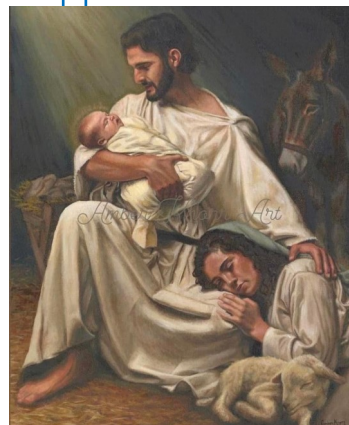
*An Advent Reflection from Cyndi Pilot, OFS, Our Lady of Indiana Regional Minister*

Advent is a special time of preparation as we await the birth of our Savior. We are reminded that we do not know when He will return and therefore, we ready ourselves through prayer and penance. Advent is also the beginning of a new liturgical year. It is a fresh start. How are you using this time to prepare yourself? Our time spent in preparation must be vastly different from Mary and Joseph's preparation. While we share the excitement of His arrival, and perhaps a journey, we must consider how difficult the weeks leading up to Jesus' birth must have been for them.

Weary and exhausted after having spent weeks walking on a rough stony path to reach Bethlehem for the census, Joseph and Mary were unable to secure a room at an inn. So, they sought refuge in the only place made available to them, a humble cave shared by cattle and goats. Then, in the cold, dark hours of Christmas morn, Jesus was born. There were no beds for any of them. I do not imagine it was comfortable, clean, or warm. It most definitely did not smell good if shared with animals. A humble, unassuming entry into this world.

We all know and love this Bible

story. It resonates differently in each of us as we recall our own family Christmas traditions. Yet, for St. Francis it moved him so deeply he recreated the Nativity tableau for the town of Greccio. A town carved into the side an old hill town in the province of Rieti. The birth of Jesus came to life in that beautiful little town. His depiction of Jesus, Joseph, and Mary in that cave, surrounded by animals, angels, and shepherds was the very first recreation of that historic event. It is a tradition that continues to this day.



We see Nativity scenes set up in churches and homes around the world. It serves as a powerful, visual reminder of what we are preparing for and celebrating

this blessed season. As we continue through the last weeks of Advent, take time to reflect on the story and journey of Mary and Joseph. Imagine what it must have been like physically, mentally, and emotionally to walk in their shoes. feeling their emotions as St. Francis did.

O come let us adore our newborn king, Christ the Lord.

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

Appointed: Jack Hill, OFS: JPIC

Christmas Crib

I sit before the manger  
lighted trees a backdrop  
for the creatures disposed around.

My thoughts wander—a babble  
of decorations and distractions

recalled by imagining

I hear baby gurgles and glee.

Maybe we can babble together.



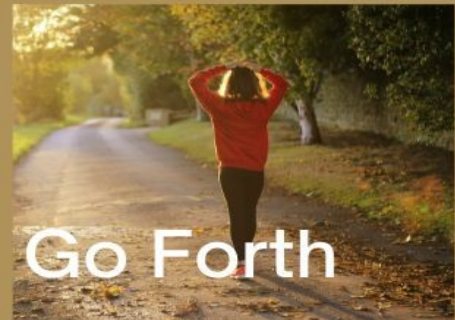
*Secular Franciscan Order - USA*



Listen



Discern



Go Forth

2022-2025 OFS-USA Theme 

**OFS-USA National Theme 2022-20**

The OFS USA National Theme for 2022 to 2025 is, "Listen, Discern, Go forth." We were inspired by a lecture given by Fr. Thomas Nairn, OFM, who paraphrased Pope John XXIII. Hear his talk in English here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QG6t90WrmlA&t=605s>

“Formation Friday” will look at each of these three words from our perspective

as Catholics and Secular Franciscans.



## "If Jesus is the reason for the season, what are we doing about it?"

How are you spending your precious weeks of Advent? Hopefully looking and longing for the coming of Jesus into YOUR heart as well as the hearts of all who people this planet. We are no less in need of that transforming coming than those of the time when He became flesh in Bethlehem.

How did some of the Fathers of the Church look at this sacred event?

Cyril of Jerusalem quoted St. Paul: "*The grace of God the Savior has appeared to all men, instructing us to put aside impiety and worldly desires and live temperately, uprightly, and religious in this present age, waiting for the joyful hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ*" . . . Our Lord Jesus Christ will therefore come . . . At the end of the world, in glory, at the last day . . . And the created world will be made new."

St. Irenaeus spoke about Christ's coming this way: "The prophets, receiving the gift of prophecy from this same Word, foretold his coming in the flesh, who brought about the union and communion between God and man ordained by the Father. From the beginning the Word of God prophesied that God would be seen by men and would live among them on earth; he would speak with his own creation and be present to it, bringing it salvation and being visible to it."

St. Augustine wrote: "John is the voice, but the Lord is the Word who was in the beginning. John is the voice that lasts for a time, from the beginning Christ is the Word who lives forever".

The excitement in the writings of St. Ambrose are dynamic. He pens the following; "When Mary sets out for the hill country, she does not disbelieve God's word: she feels no uncertainty over the message or doubt about the sign. She goes eager in purpose, dutiful in conscience, hastening for joy. . . quickly, too, the blessings of her coming and the Lord's presence are made clear; as soon as *Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting the child leapt in her womb, and she was filled with the Holy Spirit.*"

Now let us fast forward to 1224 in the small town

of Greccio where St. Francis was aware of the coldness of the world — like the coldness of the world in which we live. St. Thomas of Celano wrote: "For the man saw a little child lying lifeless in the manger and he saw the holy man of God approach the child and waken him from a deep sleep. Now is the vision not unfitting, since in the hearts of many the child Jesus had been given over to oblivion. Now He is awakened and impressed on their loving memory by His own grace through His holy servant Francis" (FA:ED, Vol. 1, p. 256)."

Thus, the question for us Franciscans: if Jesus is the reason for the season, what are we doing about it? Is the focus on Jesus, or on the crippling self-absorption the world has imposed on us??

For Francis, Jesus, as Celano describes Him is : "He was always with Jesus: Jesus in his heart, Jesus in his mouth, Jesus in his ears, Jesus in his eyes, Jesus in his hands, he bore Jesus always in his whole body . . . (FA:ED, Vol. 1, pp. 283-284)".

Is Jesus the Gift we are bringing to a the cold world around us? Or are we giving back to the world the coldness, apathy, indifference, self-absorption, cruelty, crudeness, lethargy, worldliness, and the other myriad moral illnesses it's spewing all around us.

As Franciscans, how will the world be a more Christ-like place because we have celebrated an Advent focused on Jesus and His relationship with the Father which filled the manger to overflowing the night he "leapt down from Heaven" in the silence of the night?

As Franciscans, can we offer that world Jesus, Gift of the Father, who brings us the gift of hope, the gift of joy, the gift of peace, the gift of immense love that HE IS?

It's not about us, folks, it's totally about Jesus, the one long awaited for throughout the ages. And if He is the reason for the season, what are we doing about it?

—Sr. Agnes Marie Regan, OSF  
Our Lady of Indiana  
Regional Spiritual Assistant

## But what do you do?

One of the most common questions we Secular Franciscans hear from those just getting to know us is: "But what do you do?" How do we answer this question if we want people who live in an action oriented society to have a good understanding of what we are about?

We can start with, "It's not what we do but who we are." We live the Gospel by following the example of St. Francis. We make a life-long promise to live out our Baptismal commitment. But, the question persists, "WHAT DO YOU DO?"

- We are peacemakers. We **listen** to both sides; we **do not sow discord**.
- We **care for creation**: More than loving animals, we **are stewards** of all that God created. We see that it is good and beautiful and **encourage others to do the same** by our example and actions.
- We **stand with the poor**: We not only **serve**, but we **work to make their lives better**.
- We **look for the good in others**: We try to **treat everyone with patience and kindness**, even those we don't like.
- We are **people of relationship**: we love to **pray together** and to **collaborate** in our fraternities and at work, school, and in family life.
- We are **welcoming**: we **seek to see what is lovable** in those who may seem unlovable
- We are **people of prayer and conversion**: we try to **deepen our relationship with Jesus** each day by spending time with him and by **being willing to change** what needs to be changed in our lives.
- We are people **focused on the Incarnation**: the Crib, the Cross, and the Eucharist. We **frequently meditate on the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Christ**, coming to know him well through the **Gospels**. We **receive communion frequently** because we know he is present in the Eucharist.
- We use our God-given gifts in the **service of others**, but we **don't seek recognition**.
- We **live simple lives**: we are not "showy."
- We live the **spirit of poverty**: We **esteem work** and work hard to support ourselves and our families, but **money and possessions are not our goal**.
- We live **detachment**: we are **focused on Christ** rather than on possessions or personal recognition. **We don't cling to the world, to possessions, or to a personal agenda**.
- We are **generous**: we are not addicted to wealth, pleasure, power, position, or honor. **We serve when asked, but we serve gratuitously**.
- We are **joyful, kind, gentle,**

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



SACRED HEART FRATERNITY  
Ruth Irene Grannen, OFS, (Age  
95)

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
Flossie Banning, OFS

**and merciful**: Franciscans are **willing to forgive**; when we need to correct others, we do so gently and with love.

- We **support the mission of the Church**: we help to move it forward by our participation and collaboration
- We **evangelize through our example**: we also **evangelize through our service to others** (our apostolates)

So, what we do, is to bring our Baptismal commitment to life with a Franciscan flavor. We have promised this with all our hearts.

How about you, what do YOU do?

~ NaFra USA Formation Friday



## St. Mary of the Angels Celebrates Profession



Father Patrick Gawrylewski celebrated with Carol Baker, Michael O'Donnell, Mark Lemus, Kenneth Gem-bala and Dr. Francis Hussey.



## Professions Celebrated by People of Peace



Pictured here: Deacon Nick Martin, Jody Dalton, OFS, Liz Stanton, OFS, Deacon Jim Kitchens, OFS, Fr. Dan Gartland, and Fr. Barry Fischer



## Entering Candidacy



Marcie Signorino accepted into Candidacy by Sue Daly, OFS, and the Immaculate Conception Fraternity on November 19, 2022

## December Profession Anniversaries

12/02/06	Edward Leon	Little Portion
12/04/04	Laura Ahlborn	Little Portion
12/06/03	Mark Pacholke	Little Portion
12/06/03	John Szczepanski	Little Portion
12/08/57	Josephine Mangus	St Boniface
12/14/81	Sharon Brady	Lady Clare
12/15/19	Jo Aaron	St Anthony
12/18/94	JoAnn Arendt	St Charles

## St. Anthony Fraternity: Feeding the Hungry — and having a delightful time doing it!

St. Anthony Fraternity (Muncie) was blessed last summer and early fall by the visit of Secular Franciscans Kenneth and Patricia Wolfert of San Damiano Fraternity in Florida.

Ken is Regional Formation Director and Pat is Regional Secretary for Florida's Five Franciscan Martyrs Region. Ken and Pat spent several months in the Muncie area visiting relatives and friends and, when their schedule allowed, attending our Franciscan gatherings. They are pictured in the brown and blue tee shirts at our September gathering to make lunches for the Soup Kitchen of Muncie. Ken quickly mastered the duties of "Cookie Packager," a job usually performed by the absent Bill Fink, even adopting Bill's practice of sampling a cookie or two for quality assurance. If the Wolferts are able to visit again next August, they hope to attend our Unity Day celebration.

Also pictured (l-r) are Treasurer Lory Lee, Donna Reed, and (behind Pat) Mary Rowlette, Kianre Eouanzoui, and



Formation Director Holly Henderson. Donna and Mary are two of Saint Anthony's three newly professed members, having made their profession last May. Mary is a regular volunteer at the Soup Kitchen and Donna's "assembly line experience" makes her a natural for directing our lunch-making activities. Kianre and his wife Marie Kparambeti have been coming to our fraternity gatherings for several years and are now in the first stages of formation to join the Order.



### **Congratulations to the newly elected Ministers of Little Portion Fraternity:**

Minister — Alan Sutliff, OFS

Vice-Minister: Michael Noon, OFS

Secretary\_ Kristi Sutliff, OFS

Treasurer: - Dan Lawson, OFS

Formation: Bill Jannausch, OFS

Councilor— Deacon Michael Booth, OFS

Councilor—Diane Watson, OFS

## "Giving our Gifts with Generosity" — Kathleen White, OFS



The Lord give you peace! Tis' the season for gift giving and receiving. We shop for the perfect gift for family and friends. We wrap. We watch in excitement as gifts are opened. Did we please the person to whom the gift was given? Was it the right choice? Will it be useful and appreciated?

Have you ever given a gift to someone that you thought was the perfect thing for them, their family, their household, and then never seen it be used or displayed? Have you given something to someone that you made with loving hands, only to see it in the dog's crate or in the yard wadded up in the sand box? Have you agonized over what to give someone, feeling more obligation than joy? I am reminded of Sheldon Cooper, a main character on *The Big Bang Theory*. He gave someone a gift and the gift he received was valued higher, so he gave the person the monetary difference, and said, "Now we're even." He didn't understand the concept of giving freely. And receiving freely, too.

I heard a story once of a grandma who passed away. When the family came to clean out the house, in a closet they found wrapped gifts to each of them, and they had a joyful time opening the gifts and sharing stories of their beloved Nana. But they also found packages that they had mailed to her at various times and for various occasions over the years. They were sad that, though received, she never opened them. They wondered why, and there was no way to get an answer. Nana was gone.

I wonder if God the Father feels similar to the above about His gifts to us. Has He searched for the gift He felt to be perfect for us, only to find it unopened, or if opened, unused? Was He anxious with delight when He found the right gift for our circumstance, our ministry, our vocation, our calling – only to find it rejected by us?

It is important for us to recognize the gifts of others and compliment them on their use. It is very

important for us to recognize our own gifts and use them for the good of our vocation, our ministry, and our family. Have you ever acknowledged someone's gift of hospitality? We have friends that open their lovely home for gatherings, parties, celebrations, carry-ins, cookouts, bonfires – often at a moment's notice. I acknowledge their gift and verbally say to them, "You have a gift of hospitality." They need to know their gift is appreciated. I don't have that gift, but recognizing it in others is important to me.

As Franciscans, we are called to rebuild the Church. The building? Perhaps. The people? Definitely. Our presence on Parish boards, committees, and at functions is important. Our service to our Fraternity is of utmost importance. Others need to see our gift of service, our gift of empathy, our gift of organization, our gift of (insert your gift here). God delights to see us use the gifts He has given us, for the good of others.

"There are many kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit." I refer you to 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 and 27-31. Please read this Scripture and meditate on its meaning for your life.



"There are different kinds of gifts,  
but the same Spirit distributes  
them.

There are different kinds of service,  
but the same  
Lord.

There are different kinds of working,  
but in all of them and in  
every  
one  
it is the same God at work."

## THE HUMILITY OF WINTER: THE HUMILITY OF CHRISTMAS

Hidden within the façade of winter's death, life incubates, awaiting its release in spring. Yet Winter holds its secret, not spouting with haughty accolades. In spring, it will share the magnificence of its beauty; its kaleidoscope of colors and shapes; its foliage decked in tranquil shades of green; its birth of fawns, eaglets, and tadpoles. Spring unveils Winter's hidden treasures for all to see, not with ego stroking pride, but with humility that seeks satisfaction in merely knowing that its gift was received. Winter, arrayed in humble dormancy, holds life within its drab attire. Life harbored within to birth again in Spring.

Yet Winter gives not a hint of the bounty that it is preparing for humankind. It trumpets not the grandness of its feat. As a parent performs acts of love unseen, relishing only in the growth of the child, so, too, Winter grows its life in quiet assurance. It seeks no fanfare, no grandiose acclaim. So true is Winter's humility that it eases ever so gradually from Fall's vibrant color and crisp chill. Back and forth Fall and Winter play their weatherly tug-o'-war until, ultimately, Winter triumphs, only to recede into the shadows of human favor, possibly the least relished of the four seasons. Yet such is winter's preference, being quite content to pave the path toward Spring's cotillion. The parent season relishing in the accomplishment of its child, Spring.

The season of repose guards its mystery well. Bears hibernate 'neath snow's crusty layer. A sow births her cubs while winter's sleep ensues. Lake fish paddle up and around, encased beneath inches of ice. Birds and butterflies migrate south to warmer climes, seemingly dead to northern eyes. Flowers display their naked stems, colorful blooms a mere summer memory. Trees, with branches now leafless, appear to succumb to death's chilly grip, their buds concealed in embryonic growth.

The humility of Winter. Its meekness prefigures that of the very first Christmas. The lowliness of a babe laid in an animal's dish. A precious babe, so weak, so helpless. The Creator King who required care and protection, completely dependent upon His creatures, parents carefully chosen for this most cherished, yet most daunting, privilege—the rearing of God's own Son.

The babe who would save humankind was born without a home of His own, born in a humble animal's stable. His meager shelter, a dwelling that housed beasts of burden whose purpose was to serve humankind. This babe, Who was now served by His parents, would grow to be Creator-servant, the God-man who would teach humans how to love through service. The God-man who would serve consummately by dying on a cross at the hands of His creatures. The God-man who could easily have saved Himself from this most horrendous of deaths.

Not unlike the nakedness of Winter—nature defrocked of her trappings--within the fragile body of the Babe of Bethlehem, the Creator of the Universe deigned to mingle with the mortals that He loved into existence, becoming one with them. This infinitely awesome God, so great that He is unfathomable to the simple human mind, entered the human realm condensed and sheltered within the tiny, unclothed body of a baby, only swaddle for His garment.

The Savior of all humanity was born into the world without pretentious fanfare, far from the elegance of the most regal palace. He greatly humbled Himself, taking on the form of the creatures that He sculpted in the

palm of His hands. God loves so dearly, so intensely, that He desires to share, no - immerse Himself, in the lives of lowly, sinful human beings.

Just as Winter grows life in its desolate garb, so the God of the Universe grew His love and His salvific act in the person of a mortal man—the immortal taking on mortality. His love and plan for the salvation of the human race lay secure within the soul of God's Son, cocooned in a human frame, to be revealed in the spring of His journey—His Resurrection from death.



Yet the Son did not shout His identity, did not demand the ceremony of renowned kingship that the God Who created all of life deserves. He matured in the eyes of those around Him from a simple boy into a simple man. "Isn't this the carpenter's son?" To only the chosen few did He reveal the God encased within. Such is the true humility of God.

Thus Winter, in its own modest way, parallels the humility of the first Christmas. The life secretly incubating within Winter's seeming death parallels the God hidden within the Babe of Bethlehem. The secret life of Winter that bursts into new birth in the splendor of spring parallels the Resurrection of the Babe of Bethlehem into a glorified body, the God-man who won back God's favor for the creatures whom He loves so completely.

Winter incubating the physical food of Spring. Jesus incubating the spiritual food of true life—the Eucharist.



## Keeping Christmas Simple

**I** often wondered why Francis discouraged owning written material, for there were many great scholars that were his contemporaries. Teaching and preaching marked the spirituality of the Dominicans, and monastery life was the spirituality of the Benedictines. But Francis was not one to discourse on great theological topics. You might say his mantra was “keep it simple, stupid!” He had one focus and that was Jesus. Sometimes when we get into things too deep, we can’t see the forest for the trees.

The Franciscan spirituality was very simply to follow the **Gospel**. Pius XII described Franciscan spirituality simply on the fact that God is love. Francis never grew tired of telling of God’s love and goodness. God is unimaginably good and loving and God wants us to share in this goodness. When we love, we share in God’s own Spirit. Francis wrote in the Rule of 1221 that we should wish for nothing else and have no other desire, we should find no pleasure or delight in anything except in our Creator, Redeemer and Savior, He alone is true God, who is perfect and good. The sign of God’s Love is Jesus.

God has a plan and this plan is to share His life with us. For we are made in the image and likeness of God. Union with God cannot be



found in achieving it, we unite with God when we surrender. This is the other side of Franciscan poverty. In poverty we surrender ourselves. We recognize that by ourselves we are powerless.

Reflecting on **Christmas**, when Francis introduced the first nativity scene, he showed us this love of God for us and also the poverty of surrender. What did Joseph and Mary think when they were unable to find lodging when they came to Bethlehem. They knew that the Messiah was to be born there. It was no surprise, for Mary brought along swaddling bands to wrap the baby in. You would think that God would find them a nice warm house or inn for His son to be born in. But the only place they could find was a cave being used as a stable. So they made the best of it, if that was God’s will. This also showed us God’s love, for He loved us so much that He became one of us. He came as a regular person, not wealthy or a prince. He had to grow and learn and work. Francis thought

this was important for the people to know. For in his day, people were subject to the will of the king or ruler. But Jesus did not come as a king or ruler, but as a teacher and healer. He did not impose His will on the people but encouraged them to follow Him. He did not condemn them for their sins, but preached forgiveness.

So as Christmas comes again, we reflect on Jesus, His life, His teaching and His love. We reflect on the Holy Family, a model for all families. We think of God who Francis called perfect and good, Who gave us His son to redeem us. ***And if the holiday starts getting out of hand, let us remember our Franciscan Spirituality and keep it simple, keep it focused on Jesus.***



*Reflection by Tina Popielski, OFS,  
of Our Lady of Lourdes Fraternity*



## "So, where do you stay?" A Christmas Reflection by Maria Banda, OSF

The Franciscan understanding of the Incarnation is a warm comforter that embraces us in GOD's everlasting love: secure, reliable and, trustworthy.

The coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh has been in GOD's mind since the beginning of time. As the Beloved Bridegroom of His bride, the Mystical Body of the Church, He yearns to reveal Himself like a Lover would to His beloved. Ultimately He wants us to be in communion with Him.

Love means knowing whom we love. Since we are human, the WORD condescended to come into our midst so we can engage Him "live" in our ordinary lives. He is GOD with us.

Love wants only the best for the beloved. The voice-gesture-and-willed-activated WORD is creative not only with love but fulsome with

light, and both are unextinguishable. We are never meant to be in the dark...ever!

Hence cosmogenesis inherent in the Incarnation is an ongoing revelation of GOD's creative love: everyone was loved into existence and everything was created to equip each of us in order to love Him back with no holds barred. This is why we were created with free will, the power to choose who to love.

Can you imagine this - you occupied space in GOD's mind while He was molding you out of the earth and then breathing life into you? Of all the choices He had, He chose to create you and me! That's beyond h-u-g-e!

Our Holy Father Francis grasped the ever-pervasive

love intrinsic in the Incarnation (and that includes the cosmos) so that He appreciated the fingerprints of GOD in all that is - flora, fauna, lepers!

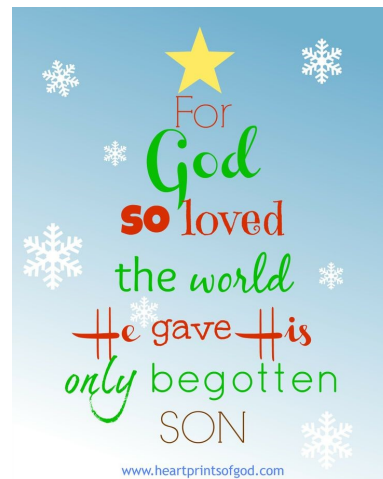
Are you then grateful for His attributes He chose to incorporate in your being? The greater question is, do we love ourself the way GOD loves us?

Are we willing to lay down our life for love of Him?

After all, the feast of the Nativity prefigures the entire thirty-three years of Our Lord Jesus Christ who ultimately died on the cross, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. He is seated at the right hand of

the Father and will return to us to judge the living and the dead.

So, where do you stay?



### RENEWAL OF OUR COMMITMENT TO THE GOSPEL LIFE

"Let us bless our Lord and God, living and true; to Him we must attribute all praise, glory, honor, blessing, and every good forever." We thank you, Lord, for calling us to the Franciscan Way of Life. We ask Your pardon for all our shortcomings, weaknesses, and transgressions against our commitment to the Gospel

Life and against the Holy Rule of our Order. We pray that You will allow us to experience once again the fervor and readiness of that day when we responded to Your grace of ongoing conversion by entering the Order of Penance after the example of Saint Francis of Assisi. With all of our hearts and the whole of our beings, we renew once again our Profession-Commitment to the Gospel Way of Life according to the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, until the end of our days. Most high and glorious God, grant also that we may live in peace and harmony with all of creation, with all our brothers and sisters of the human family, and especially those with whom we share the gift of our Catholic Christian faith. May we give an ever-more effective witness by our lives of simplicity, minority, humility, penance and service to the great gift we have received from You: our Franciscan calling to "go forth as witnesses and instruments of the Church's mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by our life and words."

"All praise be Yours, O Lord, through all that You have made!" Amen.

## Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity—Secular Franciscan Order

International Website:

[www.ciofs.org](http://www.ciofs.org)

National Website:

[www.secularfranciscansusa.org](http://www.secularfranciscansusa.org)

Regional Website:

[www.olirf-ofs.org](http://www.olirf-ofs.org)

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

Follow us on Facebook

"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

### 2023

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



January 14: REC

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

June 13: Feast of St. Anthony of Padua

August 2: Solemnity of St. Mary of the Angels

August 12: Unity Day: Kokomo

September 9: Formation Team Workshop

October 3: Transitus of St. Francis

October 4: Solemnity of our Holy Father, St. Francis

October 8: REC

November 11: Chapter of Mats: Kokomo

"Christmas is usually a noisy party: we could use a bit of silence, to hear the voice of Love." Christmas is you, when you decide to be born again each day and let God into your soul. The Christmas pine is you, when you resist vigorous winds and difficulties of life. The Christmas decorations are you, when your virtues are colors that adorn your life. The Christmas bell is you, when you call, gather and seek to unite. You are also a Christmas light, when you illuminate with your life the path of others with kindness, patience, joy and generosity. The Christmas angels are you, when you sing to the world a message of peace, justice and love. The Christmas star is you, when you lead someone to meet the Lord. You are also the wise men, when you give the best you have no matter who. Christmas music is you when you conquer the harmony within you. The Christmas gift is you, when you are truly friend and brother of every human being. The Christmas card is you, when kindness is written in your hands. The Christmas greeting is you, when you forgive and reestablish peace, even when you suffer. The Christmas dinner is you, when you sated bread and hope to the poor man who is by your side. You are, yes, Christmas night, when humble and conscious, you receive in the silence of the night the Savior of the world without noise or great celebrations; you are a smile of trust and tenderness, in the inner peace of a perennial Christmas that establishes the Kingdom within you."

A very Merry Christmas for all those who are Christmas. *Pope Francis to the Columban Sisters, 2021*