



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.



In this fresco by Giotto in the Upper Church of the Basilica of St. Francis, the artist has pictured St. Francis with his brothers receiving the approval of the Rule from Innocent III with his hand raised in blessing.

Solemnity of the Pardon of Assisi

With the permission of our Regional Minister, Cyndi Pilot, OFS, we present to you a beautiful message from Fr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, OFM, regarding the "Solemnity of the Pardon of Assisi (Portiuncula)" on August 2. Please note that Father Pizzaballa was honored recently with the bestowal of the office of Cardinal by Pope Francis. Father is the Western Patriarch of Jerusalem and is responsible for the care of all sacred places in the Holy Land.



What follows here is a brief description of the events which will be taking place in Assisi at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels (Portiuncula) before August 2, as the Franciscan Order celebrates the 800th Anniversary of St. Francis giving his friars the Rule of 1223 for their lives. Another beautiful step in the celebration of the CENTENARIOS.

JULY 29, 2023 at 21.15: Fr. Pierbattista will introduce everyone to the celebration of mercy gained by St. Francis in the church of Santa Maria degli Angeli.

JULY 29, 2023 at 21.15pm: Penitential catechesis in preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

TUESDAY, August 1, 2023:

Opening day of the Solemnity of Forgiveness with Solemn Eucharistic Celebration at 11:00 a.m. The celebration will end with the Procession of "Opening of Forgiveness" so called because from that moment — that is, from 12 noon on August 1st, until 24:00 pm, on August 2, 2023, the plenary indulgence granted to the Porziuncula daily will extend to all parish churches scattered throughout the world and all Franciscan churches.

At 19:00, First Vespers presided by Msgr. Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop of Assisi.

AUGUST 2, 2023: Solemn Eucharistic celebration at 11:00 am presided over by Msgr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, OFM, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem.

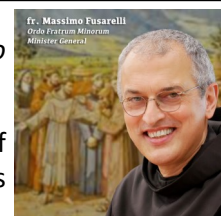
At 14:30 pm, groups of young people from all regions of Italy and some foreign nations, after a week of walking, will cross the door of the Porziuncula and at 19:00 pm, there will be a Solemn Vespers of Forgiveness.

During the two days of celebration the Basilica will remain open all day to allow pilgrims to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



From the PENTECOST LETTER (13 May 2023) of Fr. Massimo Fusarelli, OFM, Minister General:

"Let the Pentecost of this year, the eight hundredth anniversary of the Rule and the Christmas of Greccio, be a vibrant epiclesis throughout the Order so that we may awaken from our torpor, rediscover the warmth and beauty of our relationship with God, with our brothers, with the little ones and the poor, and with creatures. Let us not tire of renewing the great yes of faith and vocation, which is the assent to our humanity by following Jesus. Our Fraternity is present in very different continents, cultures and sensitivities. Let each of us try to ask how we can best celebrate these events.



Fusarelli, con't on page 2

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

UNITY DAY SCHEDULE

August 12, 2023

8:30 Choir Practice in Church for
 Volunteer Singers

9:30 Celebration of Eucharist in
 Church

10:45 Reflection 1: Fr. Steven
 McMichael, OFM Conv

12:00 Bring-Your-Own-Lunch

1:15 Reflection 2: Fr. Steven

Short Break

2:30 Concluding Prayer and
 Memorial for our Departed Brothers
 and Sisters



"This place the holy man of God loved more than
 other places in the world;

for here he began humbly, he progressed virtuously,
 here he ended happily

This place he entrusted to his brothers at his death . . .

This is the place
 where the Order of Lesser Brothers
 was begun by Saint Francis
 under the prompting of divine revelation

(FA:ED, Vol. II, *The Founder*, pp. 540-541)."

Fusarelli, con't from page 1

ourselves this year: what does it mean for us, where do we live today, how can we renew the covenant of evangelical life? For this, we pray together:

Come Holy Spirit, upon this little people of brothers and minors, enkindle in us again, with the flame of your love, the vigor of faith, hope and charity, with all the holy virtues.

Enkindle in us the enchantment of covenant and friendship with the Lord and all his creatures. You who are the dove of peace, give us the taste to live the Gospel today as poor, subject to all creatures, disarmed from the pretense of power, made free to love.

Holy Mary, Virgin made Church, accompany us on this journey, you who have made the Lord of majesty our brother.

Saint Francis, remember us, your brothers, often afflicted by the loss of memory of the beauty of our vocation, and help us to renew it, for the good of the world that you love so much. Amen.

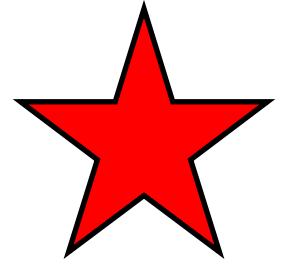
Celebrating the "CENTENARIOS"



Message from Tibor Kauser, OFS, Minister General SFO regarding celebration of the CENTENARIOS:

"When we celebrate these centenaries, we should remember the great deeds and gifts from God, give thanks for them, and do all this with a joyful heart opened to God and to each other. I also invite you to re-kindle that fire which was set in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, when we first felt called to be Secular Franciscans. May these years be for us the time to go back to our roots, giving thanks to God in a joyful spirit! May these years be for us the time to strengthen the fraternal spirit at all the levels of our Order!. Learning about our past and living intensely in the present will give us the hope to a great future. (Tibor Kauser, OFS, Pentecost Letter 2023)".

<p>2023</p> 	<p>CELEBRATING THE RULE OF 1223 and OUR RULES: Gospel Life</p> <p>UNITY DAY: August 12, 2023 St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo, IN Fr. Steven McMichael, OFM Conv</p> 
	<p>GRECCIO/INCARNATION:</p> <p>University of St. Francis, Fort Wayne, IN Contacts: Sr. Anita Holzmer, OFS Sunday, December 3, 2023 @ 1:00 p.m. Eucharistic Celebration/Luncheon/Greccio</p>
<p>2024</p> 	<p>"STIGMATA/ CROSS"</p> <p>St. John, IN, Shrine of the Passion Reflection/Celebrant: Fr. Michael Surufka, OFM Contacts: Ted Boczkowski, OFS, and NW Fraternities</p> 
<p>2025</p> 	<p>"CANTICLE OF THE CREATURES"</p> <p>Contacts: Helen Burke, OFS, Jack Hill, OFS and Indianapolis Fraternities</p>
<p>2026</p> 	<p>"EASTER OF ST. FRANCIS (Transitus)" "Praised be my Lord through Sister Death"</p> <p>UNITY DAY: August 8, 2026 St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo Fr. Jerome Schroeder, OFM Cap Contact: Immaculate Conception Fraternity and St. Charles Fraternity</p> 

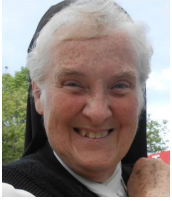


Purposes of
Centenaries



(1) Gaze to the Future
(2) Deepening our Franciscan Identity and Charism

"Gazing toward the Future": Knowing our Solid Foundations: Sr. Agnes Marie, OSF



The Conference of the Franciscan Family composed of brothers and sisters of all three branches of the Franciscan

Order, has challenged us to look carefully prayerfully, and deeply at several of the events of St. Francis which will be celebrated as centennials during the next four years. Each of them will be an occasion for study, reflection, and a source of challenging each of us to a renewed conversion — personally and fraternally. Each of them contains in itself many points for us to consider how the words of Jesus "Go rebuild" — my Church, my Order, applies to each of us in and through the various ways we live out our Franciscan vocation.

Whereas we will spend some quality time reflecting on the meaning of "The Rule of 1223", "Greccio", the "Stigmata", the "Canticle of the Creatures", and "Transitus of Francis home to the Father", we have also been asked to consider these in light of: (1) **A Gaze to the Future**, and a (2) **Deepening of our Franciscan Identity and Charism**.

As we celebrate the 800 or so years between our Holy Father Francis and our present day world, we are surely asking what do these events mean for us, and how can we live them so joyously, enthusiastically, and dynamically that future men and women may be drawn to follow in the footsteps of the Poverello during the next 800 years.

My companion writers have been

asked to reflect on the first of these questions, namely: How to you see us as a Franciscan family **GAZING INTO THE FUTURE?** Here's my list:

(1) A renewal of the joy we all find in **"living the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ"** (all of our Rules) as it is unquestionably the foundation for all three of our Franciscan families. Does living the Gospel given to us by Jesus himself, still fill me with joy — despite its challenging set of values? Is it a formative part of my everyday life as I take a line, a paragraph, a chapter each day as my guide for how I will live this day? How do countercultural Gospel values shape my values in contrast to the media's decadent morality?

(2) A re-awakening of the **"obedience and reverence"** (in all of our Rules) once shown to the Church and to the Vicar of Christ on Earth, our Holy Father, Pope Francis. The tendency to criticize, tear down, defame, and use every form of back-biting, calumny and slander toward the Church and our Holy Father gleaned from the society around us, should be anathema to all Franciscans.

(3) The love of the brothers for each other was surely the impetus for many men around Assisi choosing to follow St. Francis and women to follow St. Clare. During the time of celebrating the "centennials" we, too, have been asked to design our celebrations in such a way as to include all members of the Family as much as possible.

Allowing the world to see the unity of our Franciscan Order would certainly send a message to a world splintered and divided into endless factions. Francis wrote that his followers should **"love and care for his brothers (and sisters) according to the Spirit."** In what ways can we increase the ways we work together to spread the Kingdom?

(4) In a world on fire with rampant consumerism, how can we all witness to **"serving the Lord in poverty and humility"** and how can all of us **"seek a proper spirit of detachment by simplifying our material needs"**? Are we "keeping up with the Joneses" or are we offering the world a witness to — not only the values that are eternal, but also the beauty and giftedness of all that God has created by our care of the world around us?



In any case, what I wish for the future for all of us, is a genuine renewal of the values given to us by St. Francis 800 years ago lived in a way that speaks to and changes the hearts of the world around us. Those Gospel values changed the Church and the world around him, and their rootedness in the Holy Spirit's wisdom and gifts can do the same once again . . . despite what we see and hear in the media and world around us. It's up to us to "rebuild"!

"Gazing toward the Future with Joy"

"Before I knew that Secular Franciscans existed, I knew the Franciscan Priests who helped in my Parish. There was such kindness and mindfulness in everything they did. Their joyfulness went beyond smiling and humor, beyond being happy and personable. Their joy knew, listened, and loved. It was infectious. Pope Francis describes Christian joy as a "peace in the certainty that Jesus accompanies us, is with us." Jesus was with those friars, and they were seeking to share Him with everyone.

This "perfect" joy transcends good times, and even grows from suffering. Despite many hardships, Francis of Assisi was a man of deep and abiding joy, telling his friars that it was their vocation "to move people's hearts and lift them to spiritual joy." 800 years later, that is still our vocation.

As I gaze to the future, the upcoming Centenario celebrations guided by the Holy Spirit will deepen our conversions and our Franciscan Identity. Our Franciscan Orders will reach even greater levels of mystical joy. And this joy will be the foundation for everything we do, and for everything that we offer to each other and to the world. This Joy will be our superpower, our supernatural power, for evangelization."



Dennis Feece, OFS, Immaculate



Congratulations to Betty Price, OFS, of St. Boniface Fraternity, celebrating her 100th Birthday. Love, prayer, blessings, and wishes for all good things from all your Franciscan brothers and sisters.

Please join your Franciscan brothers and sisters on beautiful Lake Webster for a delightful cruise on the

DIXIE QUEEN

Saturday, September 23, 2023

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Cost: \$7.00 per person



Bring your own lunch and beverage and enjoy the cruise.

RSVP: Sue Daley, OFS: 574.633.4826



St. Boniface Fraternity joyfully celebrated the Profession of Maria Banda and Jon Espenes (center front in photo) on Sunday, June 24, 2023, in the chapel of St. Elizabeth Health Center in Lafayette. Pictured in back row: Linda Chidalek, Karen Sullivan, Virginia Anson, Tim Klink, Jim Knoth, Karen Niebrugge, and Vanda Rascoe. Front row: Betty Price, Maria Banda, Jon Espenes, Mary Stewart, Carolyn Pruitt.

"Getting to know you . . ."

St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity is very blessed to sponsor La Sociedad de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe (Society of Our Lady of Guadalupe), a group of future Secular Franciscans. On April 23, 2023 they attended our Fraternity meeting for the first time. Even though we spoke different languages, we had a connection: GOD and St. Francis.

At the next gathering of La Sociedad in Fort Wayne, everyone agreed that this is something they very much want to continue doing — joining the brothers and sisters at St. Michaels for future meetings. The smiles on their faces and the enthusiasm in their voices were aural and visual proof of how deeply they meant it.



Sister Anita Holzmer OFS, Maria Hernandez.

Front row from left: Angelica Buettner, Jean Wonderly OFS, Ann Walker, Maria Rodriguez, Ronnie Kroemer OFS, Luisa Hernandez, Mauricia Hernandez OFS, Celia Sotamba

Back row from left: Brian Buettner OFS, José Rodriguez, Becky Kimpel OFS, Christopher Bercaw OFS, Gustavo Aviles, Steve Talbott OFS, Elizabeth Mendez OFS, Maria Hernandez.



"Gazing to the Future"

"Gazing to the Future": Reflection by Jorge Muñoz, OFS, of Immaculate Conception Fraternity in Mishawaka.

Today, the world is in so much need of the Gospel! St. Francis and St. Clare 800 years ago showed us that if we want to bring Our Lord's message of Love to the whole world, we need to do so by building our Church in us first. St. Paul's conclusion and final mandate in his Second Letter to the Corinthians exhorts all of us to "Mend our ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace" and "the God of love and peace will be with you."¹

The Franciscan order started 800 years ago in the spirit of this mandate, to build and rebuild the Church not just by helping oth-

ers, but by being with others. Right away, Franciscans started going into every corner of the world to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the example of their own lives, "for where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them"².

Today, the New Evangelization invites all Catholics to "be evangelized and then go forth to evangelize."³ We Secular Franciscans can be at the forefront of this call by bringing the spirit that was at the center of the Order right from its inception: to preach the Word to those who have never heard it and to those who have forgotten it, to preach it door to door, to preach it in the streets, and of course, to preach it in the midst of our own lives. In the difficult times we are

living, it is especially important that together we go out into the world, with a foremost longing to rekindle the Light in the youth and in those Catholics who have lost faith. The New Evangelization gives us the tools and direction to best fulfill this Franciscan mission, but it will require us to take a hands-on role in rebuilding our Church. Let prayer, repentance, humility, our love for the Eucharist, and the desire to bring Lady Poverty to those who are in so much need of her comfort be our guide in this New Evangelization.

¹ 2 Cor 13:11

² Mt 18:20

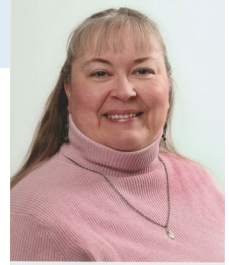
³ <https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization>

Newly Elected Council of St. Rose of Viterbo
Fraternity, Terre Haute



Left to right:
Martha McDowell, Councilor; Sandy Cline,
Vice Minister; Linda Gorrell, Minister; Car-
men Montanez, Formation Director; Mary
Jane Coker, Secretary; Carlos Montanez,
Treasurer.

"The Rule as Spirit and Life"



May the Lord give you peace!

In this year of the celebration of the Rule of 1223, I read recently that the Rule gives us both spirit and life. The more I thought about these two insights into the Rule, of whatever incarnation it happens to be, the more I came to appreciate the gift of our Rule.

What kind of spirit does it give us?

We must look at the Holy Spirit first. The Holy Spirit is the "agent of change" and we are pilgrims on a journey of conversion, continually turning toward God and away from what keeps us from God. Then we must consider the spirit of service. We are not hidden away in a cave or a monastery; we are out in the world and that is our proper place. Nor are we people who are fixated only on ideas. As we read: "The compass that the Rule gives us is then a living faith that does not only touch orthodoxy (ideas and doctrine), nor just orthopraxis

out to orthopa-
thy, to the heart
for an encounter
with the Lord of
life that trans-
forms our hu-
manity.(Pentecost Letter of Fr.
Massimo Fusarelli, OFM, Minister
General of the Order of Friars Mi-
nor)

The Rule fosters a spirit that we find in the story of Greccio. We come to people; we are present to people; we bring Christ to people, and when we bring Christ to people, we bring life the life of Christ to them. In John 6:63, we read the words of Jesus himself who said, "The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life."

Do we allow Christ to speak the words of spirit and life to us through our Rule?

Peace and all good!

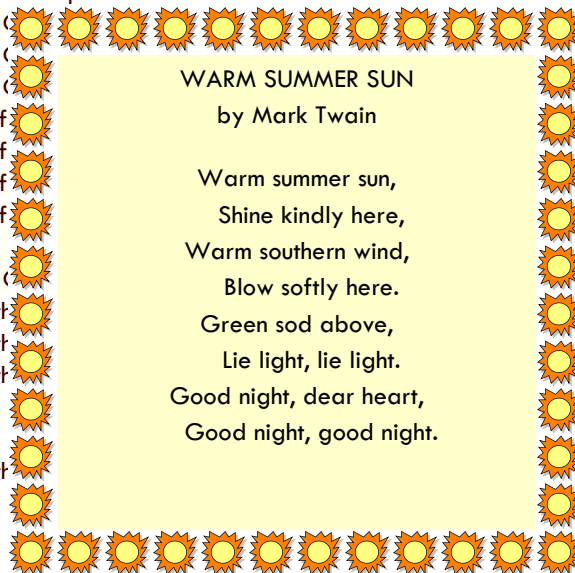
Barb Braley, OFS, is the Regional Formation Director of Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity.

Celebrating
July Professions

- 07/11/21 Joe Doll
- 07/11/21 Nick Martin
- 07/13/08 Cyndi Pilot
- 07/14/07 Virginia Anson
- 07/15/75 Donna Carteaux
- 07/15/06 Henry Joseph
- 07/18/15 Amy Porter
- 07/18/15 Peg Salkay
- 07/18/15 Julie Scalise
- 07/18/20 John Bacon
- 07/18/20 Christine Casiello
- 07/18/20 Carmen Maria Farfan
- 07/18/20 Carol Hoffman
- 07/18/21 Teri Queitsch
- 07/22/01 Flossie Banning
- 07/22/01 David Grimes
- 07/22/01 Joan Myers
- 07/22/01 Steven Talbott
- 07/27/03 Nancy Steinhofer
- 07/27/03 Joyce Wesner
- 07/27/03 Tim Husted



- Immaculate Conception
- St Boniface
- Holy Family
- Immaculate Conception
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- Immaculate (
- Immaculate (
- Our Lady of
- Our Lady of
- Our Lady of
- Our Lady of
- St Charles
- Immaculate (
- St Michael th
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- St Charles
- St Charles
- St Michael th



WARM SUMMER SUN
by Mark Twain

Warm summer sun,
Shine kindly here,
Warm southern wind,
Blow softly here.
Green sod above,
Lie light, lie light.
Good night, dear heart,
Good night, good night.



May Profession Anniversaries

05/01/53	William Fink	St Anthony
05/01/84	Louisa Sheets	People of Peace
05/01/84	William Sheets	People of Peace
05/03/09	Elaine Cooper	Holy Family
05/05/19	Lois Irwin	Sacred Heart
05/05/19	Lloyd Lukes	Sacred Heart
05/06/89	Sarah Beiting	Immaculate Conception
05/11/08	Maria Torres Gonzales	Peregrinos de la Paz
05/11/08	Juan Martinez	Peregrinos de la Paz
05/11/08	Olga Martinez	Peregrinos de la Paz
05/11/08	Evangelina Morales	Peregrinos de la Paz
05/11/08	Dcn Oscar Morales	Peregrinos de la Paz
05/11/08	Rodolfo Penalozza	Peregrinos de la Paz
05/11/08	Dcn Emilio Ferrer Soto	Peregrinos de la Paz
05/11/15	Maria del Refujio Trujillo	Peregrinos de la Paz
05/12/17	Katie Svec	Lady Clare
05/13/14	Diana Godish	Immaculate Conception
05/14/11	Ruthi Carrillo	Immaculate Conception
05/14/11	Melisa Schlunt	Immaculate Conception
05/15/89	Sharon Solloway	Holy Family
05/15/11	Dolores Shaw	St Anthony
05/18/13	Charles Maichen	Immaculate Conception
05/18/13	Sandra Maichen	Immaculate Conception
05/18/13	Linda O'Neil	Immaculate Conception
05/19/74	Mary Lou Sohn	St Charles
05/19/02	Carolyn Pruitt	St Boniface
05/19/13	Dolores Gomez Apolonio	Peregrinos de la Paz
05/19/13	Carmen Medina	Peregrinos de la Paz
05/19/13	Paula Noriega	Peregrinos de la Paz
05/19/13	Ricardo Salamanca	Peregrinos de la Paz
05/19/13	Sofia Salamanca	Peregrinos de la Paz
05/19/13	Barb Cain	St Charles
05/19/19	Deb Davis	St Charles
05/19/19	Sue Hohman	St Charles
05/20/10	Christina Garrigus	St Rose of Viterbo
05/22/63	Margaret Kowalski	St Mary of the Angels
05/25/91	Doris Bermes	St Charles
05/25/03	Brian Foust	Sacred Heart
05/25/03	Margaret Foust	Sacred Heart
05/25/03	Fred Kidwell	Sacred Heart
05/26/01	Wayne West	St Anthony
05/31/87	William Booher	Sacred Heart
05/31/22	Claudia Dietzel	Lady Clare
05/31/22	Stephanie Donham	Lady Clare
05/31/22	Debra Keller	Lady Clare



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



PEOPLE OF PEACE

James Walsh, OFS
Judy Hill
Wife of Jack Hill, OFS,

St. Mary of the Angels
Deacon Bill Sayres, OFS



St. Boniface
Josephine Magnus, OFS
(102 years old; Professed 1957)



"As the Father sees in every person the features of his Son, the firstborn of many brothers and sisters, so the Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ. A sense of community will make them joyful and ready to place themselves on an equal basis with all people, especially with the lowly for whom they shall strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ (RULE Art 13)."



From . . . "the other side of a BIG pond"



Several years ago, one of our dear fraternity members moved back to her homeland in Poland. Since then, she has joined and become the minister of the Secular Franciscan Fraternity in her home city very close to the border of war torn Ukraine. During the past year, Elizabeth Topash, OFS, was in the US for a visit with relatives and friends and she spent the morning with our Immaculate Conception Fraternity sharing and re-connecting with her American brothers and sisters. She was welcomed with endless hugs and kisses by her former colleagues here.

Before the end of the meeting, a suggestion was made and accepted to partner with her Polish fraternity and share newsletters, prayers, and greetings throughout the year. This affirmation was met with many tears of joy both from Elizabeth but also from her Franciscan family in Mishawaka. So the two fraternities become "Sister-Fraternities" though separated by many miles.

Recently, the American contingent of this partnership, sent a donation to Elizabeth, and the following message (received on May 11, 2023) from Elizabeth flows from that gift:

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It doesn't get any better! I asked our Assistant, Fr. Robert, to come with me to the train station to distribute the funds to people. Father said he knew of the Sister Servants of the Virgin Mary who have missions in Ukraine (only several miles from Elizabeth's place of residence).

Here is the letter received from the Sisters as a receipt:

"Mrs. Elizabeth Topash brought to us, Sister Servants of the BVM the amount of ### (Polish currency) to be delivered to our sisters on Mission in Ukraine to be distributed to the needy.

Sr. Margaret, SSBVM

Our Elizabeth continues: "Thank you so very much. Your beautiful card with all the names and beautiful words brought tears to my eyes. I too miss and love you all very much, my family in St. Francis. Keeping you all in my prayer.

Signed,

Elizabeth on the other side of a BIG pond!



“Gazing to the Future”: Virginia’s Vision of What Might Be



Ironically, this has been a consideration of mine for quite a few years. Of course, our first step is to pray

often for vocations to the Secular Franciscan Order, including Holy Hours for our mission and growth.

Our individual fraternities can make our presence shown and known in our communities by doing the work of Francis and Clare. Fraternities could additionally arrange a yearly social event between OFS members and religious sisters and brothers in our specific areas. It might also be well worth our effort to encourage more diocesan priests to consider vocations to OFS. They could be great resources for spiritual assistants.

On the parish level, pastors might allow Secular Franciscans, perhaps around the *Transitus* time, to give a short presentation at each weekend Mass on the OFS and extend an invitation for parishioners to attend to a short, more in-depth information evening. Parishes may allow us to post OFS information and invitations to our gatherings in bulletins. And, of course, we mustn’t forget to place OFS brochures in local parishes. We need to concentrate on all parishes, including those to which none of us belongs. We must, however, emphasize that we belong to a canonical order. As the religious orders are canonical, and not just

organizations or associations, so is OFS canonical—an order of lay Catholics and diocesan priests. We profess for life.

As an order, this next suggestion is beyond our ability to change, although steps can be taken toward potential change. My husband and I have been watching *Catechism in a Year*--excellent. The section that included the priesthood and various orders in the Church did not include the lay orders. It seemed to group us together with the organizations and associations. In a similar vein, I would like to see canonical lay orders included in the petitions at Masses for vocations—pray for vocations to the priesthood, religious life, and lay orders. Perhaps we can approach our pastors on this last suggestion and maybe write letters to USCCB for a slight tweak to the catechism to include mention of lay orders.

My last suggestion would need to be addressed at the national or international level. It concerns returning to remote formation and remote seculars. I professed in 2007. At the time of my formation, OFS opened a short window for remote formation. I lived in IA and my formation director was in MN. During my formation and for eight years professed, I was a “remote secular” until our move to Lafayette in 2015. In other words, I was on my own, with no regular contact with my fraternity due to travel distance. This would need to be handled very carefully and be well controlled. The candidates and formation directors chosen must be adapted to this type of training and the candidate

to living as a remote. I had a regional forum in which I could digitally keep in contact with my Franciscan siblings. I did need to travel to the fraternity for the formation ceremonies.

This is a delicate and tricky undertaking and is far from ideal, but I see this as a potential for growing the number of fraternities. As a remote, I had begun to try to start a fraternity in my local area. I was making headway until we decided to move to IN to be near family. Had we not moved, OFS likely would have had another fraternity. Again, this is very far from ideal, but it is a potential for growing the number of fraternities and making OFS available in remote areas, thus increasing the number of vocations to the Secular Franciscan Order.

Virginia Anson, OFS, is the Formation Director of St. Boniface



Solving Mud Puddles:

Making broad, general rules as a way of “solving” small problems made difficult because of personality conflicts or intricate, involved, and detailed issues can be akin to building suspension bridges over mud puddles. The solution might work for a while but often with an unforeseen cost for maintaining the bridge or keeping the rule. Instead, how about taking a shovel to the puddle? Jack Clark Robinson, OFM

Sacred Heart Fraternity: Pilgrimage to Oldenburg, IN

Pilgrimage to the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, IN, April 23, 2023.

Participating: Bill Booher, Margaret Foust, Jean Long, Esther Mumpopa, Kathy Saucedo and Jan Teipen
 From People of Peace: Helen Burke, Jack Hill, and Rosemary Nelson

After carpooling from the Good Shepherd parking lot, we met in the Sisters Chapel where we said the opening prayer from the brown ritual before Mass at 9:30. After Mass, we met some of the sisters and our guide, Sister Clare, led us to the Lourdes Grotto where we prayed the Office of the Passion. We then proceeded to the Sacred Heart Grotto where we prayed the St. Francis "Prayer before the Crucifix", the "Prayer for Franciscan Community", and the Angelus. We then retired to Wagner's Restaurant for lunch.



Sister's Chapel



Our guide, Sr. Clare



Lourdes Grotto



Sacred Heart Grotto



Fatima Grotto



Adoration Chapel



Stairway



Reliquary

After lunch, Sr. Clare directed us to the Fatima Grotto where Jan led us in the Rosary. We then toured the convent after which we visited the shrine of Jesus and the children before returning home after a long, enjoyable and chilly day.



Jesus and Children

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

"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

August 2: Solemnity of St. Mary of the Angels

August 12: Unity Day: Kokomo: Celebration of the First Centenario: "The Rule of 1223" (see page 3 for details).

September 9: Formation Team Workshop: All Formation Directors and Spiritual Assistants plus one other fraternity delegate attends

September 23: Regional Outing on the DIXIE QUEEN at 9:30 a.m. (See insert on page 5) All are invited.

October 3: Transitus of St. Francis

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

October 8: Regional Executive Council

November 11: Chapter of Mats: Kokomo—Fraternity Ministers attend

December 3, 2023: Celebration of Second Centenario — Greccio: At the University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne (see page 3 for details) All Franciscans in Indiana are invited to attend.



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

December 29—31: "Greccio": Franciscan Weekend Retreat at Mt. St Francis Retreat Center in Mt. St. Francis, IN. More information to follow.

TAKE ACTION

I was hungry
And you formed a humanities club
And discussed my hunger.

I was imprisoned
And you crept off quietly
To your chapel in the cellar
And prayed for my release.

I was naked
And in your mind
You debated the morality
Of my appearance.

I was sick
And you knelt and thanked God
For your health.

I was homeless
And you preached to me

Of the spiritual shelter
Of the love of God.

I was lonely
And you left me alone
To pray for me.

You seem so holy,
So close to God.

But I'm still very hungry,
And lonely
And cold.

*Contributed by Liz Stanton, OFS, from
a homily heard many years ago. Liz
belongs to People of Peace Fraternity
in Indianapolis.*

"Blessed are those who hear the
word of God, and keep it"