



Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity

July-September 2025

Regional Executive Council Elections

On June 14, the full regional Council met to elect the Regional Executive Council for the 2022-2025 term. Donna Hollis, OFS, National Executive Councilor, presided, and Fr. John de la Riva, OFM Cap, National Spiritual Assistant, served as the ecclesial witness.

Newly elected REC *(pictured at right)*

From left: Donna Hollis, OFS, NEC; Jim Konopa (Lady Clare), Regional Treasurer; Chris Bercaw (St. Michael), NE Councilor; Margaret Foust (Sacred Heart), Regional Secretary; Sue Daly (Immaculate Conception), Regional Minister; Rich Cain (St. Charles), Vice Minister; Cindy Varenkamp (Our Lady of Lourdes), NW Councilor; Barb Braley (St. Charles), Regional Formation Director; Fr. John de la Riva, OFM Cap., National Spiritual Assistant.



Outgoing REC *(pictured at left)*

From left: Rich Cain (St. Charles), Vice Minister; Ulma Flores (Peregrinos de la Paz), Central Councilor; Margaret Foust (Sacred Heart), Regional Secretary; Cyndi Pilot (Immaculate Conception), Regional Minister; Susan Solloway (Holy Family), Regional Treasurer; Chris Bercaw (St. Michael), NE Councilor; Ted Boczkowski (St. Mary of the Angels), NW Councilor.



"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."

A Word from Our Regional Minister...

Hello to all my Franciscan Brothers and Sisters!

I would like to introduce myself. I am Sue Daly from Osceola, Indiana, your newly elected Regional Minister. I am a wife, mother, and grandmother. Ray and I have 5 wonderful children and 11 beautiful grandchildren. I professed to become a Secular Franciscan in September of 2018. In November of 2018, I was elected Treasurer for my fraternity, Immaculate Conception; in November of 2021, I was elected Minister of Immaculate Conception; and now on June 14, 2025, I was elected to be Minister of Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity. I have learned a lot serving my fraternity over the past several years and I am sure I will learn more as I serve all of you in our region.

Yesterday, Saturday, June 14, 2025, I had my first mini meeting with our new Regional Executive Council. Some of the Council members have been around for a while and some are new. It is my pleasure to introduce the new Regional Executive Council: Vice Minister Rich Cain; Secretary Margaret Foust; Treasurer Jim Konopa; Formation Director Barb Braley; NE Councilor Chris Bercaw; NW Councilor Cindy Varenkamp; Central Councilor Helen Burke. While we were together it was very apparent these wonderful Franciscans are eager and willing to help serve our regional fraternity.

We are all looking forward to seeing every Secular Franciscan from our regional fraternity at Unity Day on Saturday, August 9, 2025, at Saint Joan of Arc in Kokomo, Indiana. Let's break the attendance records from the previous years.

"Be strong and be courageous"

God bless!

Sue Daly, OFS, OLIRF Minister

The Canticle of the Creatures - Franciscan Day of Reflection

Saturday, September 13, 2025 * 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Eastern

Saints Francis and Clare Catholic Church

5901 Olive Branch Road

Greenwood, IN 46143

10:00 - 10:30 - Registration & Refreshments

10:30 - 10:45 - Welcome by Minister Mary Shepherd

10:45 - 11:45 - Session I "Our Canticle of God's Love" Dcn. Jim Kitchens, OFS
(Includes time for table discussions)

12:00 - 1:00 - Holy Mass

1:00 - 2:00 - Lunch provided (Pos: speaker for "Loss of Biological Habitat")

2:00 - 4:00 - Session II "Pilgrimage of Hope for Creation" John Mundell
(Includes time for breaks & open discussion, final blessing & dismissal)

Please **RSVP to Helen Burke before Sept. 1 at**

helenburke316@gmail.com

or 317-658-2516

The Formation Corner

Friday, June 27, was the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Bishop Kevin Rhoades celebrated the Mass that day at Presence Sacred Heart Home in Avilla. During his homily, he spoke about the love of God, especially in the Incarnation of Jesus. It hit me just how connected we as Franciscans are to days like this. This thought expanded even more when I thought about the next three months and the “special” days that are coming up in each month.

In the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition (FIT), there are three important points. First, God is a relationship that overflows with love and goodness and is entirely free. Second, creation reflects this loving, good, and free God who is in relationship with the creation God willed into being. Third, the Incarnation of the Son of God was a free and intentional expression of God’s love and humility that also affirms the dignity and goodness of humanity. (Kruse: *Discovering the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition*, page 26)

July is dedicated to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus. I immediately thought of the letter that St. Francis wrote to his own Order sometime in 1225 or 1226. In it he reflects on the Eucharist: “The Lord of the universe, God and the Son of God, so humbles Himself that for our salvation He hides Himself under an ordinary piece of bread!” (FA:ED, page 118) We could just as easily say that He hides himself in an ordinary cup of wine. Why? Because God loves us and shows that love for us to be in relationship with Him! Incidentally, we remember St. Bonaventure, one of the founders of the FIT, on July 15.

August 15 brings us the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary. St. Francis had a great devotion to Mary and named her the Protectress of the Franciscan Orders. Consider that Jesus’ resurrection, in addition to proving his divinity, was also a promise to us that one day we would also be resurrected. Was not Mary the evidence of the fulfillment of that promise? It is also recorded in the 2nd book of Thomas of Celano’s biography of St. Francis that one of the brothers “saw the soul of the most holy father rise straight to heaven over many waters.” (FA:ED, page 278) Did you know that St. Anthony of Padua, another great Franciscan Saint, was born on the Solemnity of the Assumption?

September 14 is the Feast of the Exultation (or Triumph) of the Cross. For us as Franciscans, we also remember that it was at this time when St. Francis received the Stigmata, the five wounds of Christ. These are wounds of love. For St. Francis, we maintain that he was fully conformed to Christ, both interiorly and exteriorly. (Kruse, pages 16-17) In both Jesus and St. Francis, we see that love suffers and yet is also glorified in these marks.

When we made (or will make) our Profession, we promise to enter more deeply into these mysteries. Why? Because it is our vocation to “follow Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi.” (*Rule*, article 1) In essence, this means that we are called to love, to suffer, to witness the love and goodness of God in a world that desperately needs to hear and see this witness.

Peace and all good!

Your little sister,

Barb Braley, OFS, Regional Formation Director

YouFra: Young Franciscans Taking Root in Cedar Lake

A growing group of teens in Cedar Lake has begun forming a Youth Franciscan (YouFra) fraternity, inspired by their own desire to go deeper in their faith and live out the Franciscan way. While YouFra is recognized internationally as the youth and young adult branch of the Secular Franciscan Order, relatively few fraternities in the U.S. currently have youth groups—making this development especially hopeful.

What began as informal conversations among teens whose families attend Holy Name Parish has steadily grown into a vibrant group of young people now meeting monthly for prayer, spiritual formation, and fraternity. The gatherings follow the YouFra model: business, spirituality, and prayer—mirroring the Secular Franciscan rhythm in a way that's meaningful for youth.

Twelve teens have become actively involved, with six already participating in the Rite of Acceptance. The group is in the process of forming a youth-led council and continues to grow in both number and depth. Once formation is complete and the group is ready to make the YouFra Promise, they plan to formally attach to Our Lady of Lourdes Fraternity in Cedar Lake.

As part of their formation and lived experience of Franciscan life, the group is planning a mission trip this summer to St. Francis of Assisi Church and Friary in Greenwood, Mississippi, where they will assist the friars with parish and community needs. On the way, they will stop in Memphis to visit the National Civil Rights Museum, deepening their understanding of justice and peace through the lens of both faith and history.

Looking ahead, the teens hope to offer occasional open gym nights and access to the parish game room as a way of welcoming other youth who may be seeking a more social, low-barrier entry point into faith-based community life. This potential apostolate would reflect their Franciscan identity through hospitality, joy, and relationship-building.

One member, Bella Angarone, shared:

“YouFra is such an inclusive teen group that has helped my other peers and I learn more about our faith and how we can share it. Having a meeting with peers my own age and them being just as interested as I am really helps me connect with others and feel a sense of community. I’m so glad I joined

YouFra—it has helped me better my connection with faith and learn more about it in a fun and engaging way.”

Once the group is firmly established and has developed a repeatable, teen-led formation protocol, they hope to reach out to other youth in the surrounding area to grow the presence of Franciscan spirituality among teens in Northwest Indiana.



Pictured are top row from left: Fr. Patrick Gawrylewski, OFM (Spiritual Assistant), Max Fagen, J. Kelly Fagen. Bottom row from left to right: Bella Angarone, Clara Linas, Hannah Fagen, and Jesus Campechano

St. Clare's Kitchen: A Ministry of Nourishment and Dignity

Rooted in the Gospel and inspired by the lives of St. Francis and St. Clare, St. Clare's Kitchen is a shared ministry between Holy Name of Jesus Parish and Our Lady of Lourdes Secular Franciscan Fraternity, working together in a 50/50 collaboration to serve hot meals, build community, and extend compassionate care to all who enter.

This ministry began more than twenty years ago, when a small group of volunteers from Holy Name and the Secular Franciscan fraternity came together with a shared dream: to create a place where anyone could find a meal, fellowship, and the warmth of welcome. What started as a modest operation in the church basement quickly became a vibrant hub serving close to 100 people each week.

Like many ministries, St. Clare's Kitchen was forced to close in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But with renewed energy and commitment, the doors reopened in May 2024 — and a new chapter of rebuilding began.

Today, St. Clare's Kitchen operates on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. In addition to serving a hot, homemade meal, guests receive donated groceries from local stores, and free blood pressure and oxygen checks are offered to support overall well-being.

At the heart of the ministry is a dedicated team of approximately 45 volunteers who rotate through a variety of roles — from cooking and meal service to guest hospitality and donation distribution — creating a culture of inclusion, dignity, and shared responsibility. At the most recent meal, 80 guests were served.

One of the unique strengths of St. Clare's Kitchen is its awareness that everyone who walks through the doors is in need — and everyone has something to give. The ministry intentionally serves three distinct groups equally:

- Those in need of material assistance — a nourishing meal and some groceries to help stretch the budget.
- Those in need of fellowship and connection — individuals who may live alone and simply long for conversation and community.
- And those who feel a need to serve — people who are drawn to give back, to help, and to be of use to others.

Each of these needs is valid and important. At St. Clare's Kitchen, no one group is elevated above another — we all come to the table together, whether to receive, to give, or simply to belong.

St. Clare's Kitchen remains true to its mission: "To provide food, fellowship, and a welcoming environment to all."

Thanks to the love and labor of many hands, it continues to be a beacon of mercy and hope in the Cedar Lake community.

The photo is of two of our Seculars and two parishioners from Holy Name getting ready to serve food at St. Clare's Kitchen. From left to right: Nancy Fagen, OFS, Diane Grawlewski, OFS, Emily Maliziola and Debbie McCune.



Profession Anniversaries

HOLY FAMILY

7/18/2021 Teri Queitsch
8/3/2013 Vicki Jacobs,
9/19/2021 Maureen Bobilya,
9/19/2021 Kathleen Makovic

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

7/13/2008 Cyndi Pilot
7/16/2022 Ray Daly
7/16/2022 George (Jorge) Muniz
7/16/2022 JoAnn Podemski
7/18/2015 Amy Porter
7/18/2015 Julie Scalise
8/19/2023 Martin Bickel
8/19/2023 Shane Perley
8/25/1990 Sandra Waggoner
9/15/2018 Mickey By,
9/15/2018 Sue Daly
9/15/2018 Karen Gunter
9/16/2017 Deborah Jankowski
9/16/2017 Andre Thangam
9/18/2021 Jerry Harker
9/18/2021 Cindy Nikoloi
9/18/2021 Caroline Ramirez

LADY CLARE

8/11/2010 Ronald Morrow
9/17/2014 Mary Compton
9/17/2014 Aida Ianson
9/17/2014 Marguerite Sayers

LITTLE PORTION

9/28/2013 Andrea Carberry
9/28/2013 Alan Sutliff
9/28/2013 Kristi Sutliff

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

7/18/2020 John Bacon
7/18/2020 Christine Casiello
7/18/2020 Carmen Farfan
7/18/2020 Carol Hoffman
9/11/1982 Elke Huisman
9/14/1985 Paul Biegel

PEOPLE OF PEACE

7/11/2021 Joe Doll
7/11/2021 James Martin
9/8/2019 Mary Hammond
9/16/2017 James Kitchens

PEREGRINOS DE LA PAZ

8/5/2018 Juan Manuel Barriga Serrano
8/5/2018 Eduber Santos Bonilla
8/5/2018 Martha Ferreyra
8/15/2021 Juanita Camacho
8/15/2021 Juan Manuel Escobedo
8/15/2021 Norma Patricia Escobedo
8/15/2021 Yrma Sanchez
8/15/2021 David Serrato
8/15/2021 Alejandro Sevilla
8/11/2017 Rosa Lemus

ST. ANTHONY

9/1/2018 Joan Studnicky

ST. BONIFACE

7/14/2007 Virginia Anson
9/5/2020 Vanda Rascoe
9/19/2015 Cheri Irons

ST. CHARLES

7/27/2003 Nancy Steinhofer
7/27/2003 Joyce Wesner
9/19/1999 Jackie Didier
9/23/2012 Richard Cain

ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS

8/16/2020 Edward Shultz
8/19/1996 Paul Devitt

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

7/22/2001 Joan Myers
7/22/2001 Steven Talbott
7/27/2003 Tim Husted
8/28/2005 Carol Schaefer
8/28/2005 Jean Wonderly
9/3/2011 Veronica Kromer
9/22/2013 Brian Buettner
9/22/2013 Becky Kimpel
9/25/2016 Chris Bercaw
9/25/2016 Gloria Reyes

ST. ROSE OF VITERBO

8/15/2016 Mary Goltry



HAPPY PROFESSION
Anniversary

UNITY DAY 2025

Date: Saturday, August 9

Time: 9:30 am – 3:00 pm Eastern

Keynote Speaker: Dave Dieringer, OFS

We will begin with Mass at 9:30 am Eastern. Dave Dieringer, OFS, past Regional Formation Director, will be the keynote speaker this year; his theme will be on the care of creation with an emphasis on recycling.

Once again we will collect items for the Kokomo Poor Clares from their wish list (see *below*) which will be deposited just inside the main entrance; we will also collect monetary donations downstairs in our meeting room.

Regional Resources will be open for everyone in between the presentations. This is the time to stock up on those formation books, Tau crosses, etc., for your fraternity's needs until Unity Day 2026. Books and gifts will also be available for individual use.

Come to renew acquaintances and enjoy the sense of fraternity!

WISH LIST FOR THE KOKOMO POOR CLARES

We will be taking up two collections for the Kokomo Poor Clares again this year. In the downstairs room where we meet, there will be a collection "basket" for monetary donations. Upstairs in the entrance, we will collect the items on their annual wish list. **Only bring items as specified on the list;** they cannot use "equivalents" (unless specified) or "treats."

Overnight maxi pads: any brand equivalent to the *Always* purple or orange packages

Gluten free granola/protein bars without sugar alcohols in them, eg *Kind* bars (or equivalent) or *Nature Valley* PROTEIN bars; Kirkland carries something similar

Liquid hand soap (non-antibacterial only): regular size or large refill bottles

Fragrance free hypoallergenic baby wipes

White cardstock for card making

20# ivory colored copy paper

Any canned fruits and vegetables: especially mixed vegetables, vegetarian baked beans or any kind of beans (especially black, garbanzo, pinto, or kidney beans), carrots, pears (100% juice with no sugar added & no heavy syrup)

Vitamin C: 500 mg & 1000 mg

Disinfecting cleaning wipes

Unscented laundry soap (used a lot!)

Mouthwash: may be mint flavor

Our Sisters and Brother Who Have Been Visited by Sister Death

Dorothy Bessler 101 years old

People of Peace Fraternity

Professed: October 1986

Deacon Ron Morrow

Lady Clare Fraternity

Donna Carteaux Holy Family fraternity

Professed: July 15, 1975 (50 years!!)

Julie Scalise

Immaculate Conception Fraternity

Date of profession: 07/18/2015

Date of death: 05/24/2025

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and
let perpetual light shine upon them.*



*The Regional newsletter is published in
January, April, July, and October on the
first of the month. The deadlines to
submit news, such as professions,
retreats/days of reflection, election
results, etc., are due by the 15th of the
month prior to publication. **Ministers**,
please email submissions to: Barb Braley
at bbraley345@gmail.com.*

CALENDAR

8/9	9:30 (ET)	Unity Day, St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo
9/13	10:00 (ET)	Canticle of the Creatures Centenary, Greenwood
9/15		Deadline for Oct-Dec regional newsletter submissions
10/11	9:00 (ET)	REC workshop (Location TBA)
11/8	10:00 (ET)	Chapter of Mats, St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo
12-15		Deadline for Jan-March regional newsletter submissions



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**

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Minister	Sue Daly	sdalyseven@gmail.com
Vice Minister	Rich Cain	richcain82@gmail.com
Secretary	Margaret Foust	maggiefoust@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Jim Konopa	jekonopa@gmail.com
Formation Director	Barb Braley	bbraley345@gmail.com
Councilors	Chris Bercaw	chriskofc@gmail.com
	Cindy Varenkamp	cindyvarenkamp@gmail.com
	Helen Burke	helenburke316@gmail.com
Spiritual Assistants	Sr. Anita Holzmer	holzmeran@gmail.com
	Fr. Aaron Richardson	arichardson@friars.us

