



Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity

October-December 2025

Unity Day 2025



Dave Dieringer, OFS, spoke about the integrity of creation and recycling. Jorge Munoz interpreted into Spanish.



Lady Clare Fraternity did their usual wonderful hosting duties for Unity Day! Thank you!



Dennis Feece entertained us during the afternoon at Unity Day.

+ August 14, 2025
Dear Brothers & Sisters in Francis & Clare,
May the Lord give you His peace! And may He bless & reward each of you for your generous contribution with food & supplies as well as donations. We are truly grateful and our prayer is that God will provide for all your needs both spiritual & material as you have done for us. Your collection total this year was \$1,640.00! Wow!
Please know that you are a blessing to us & it's a gift to be united in the Franciscan calling.
Gratefully & devotedly,
Mother Chiara & all the Sisters in Kokomo

A Word from Our Regional Minister...

Peace be with you:

Unity is a fundamental principle deeply rooted in the Bible, emphasizing the strength, harmony, and spiritual growth that comes from being united in faith and purpose.

What a beautiful way to describe our Unity Day. It was so nice to see the smiling faces of our brothers and sisters. The donations to the Poor Clares were greatly appreciated. They thank everyone for their generosity.

A big THANK YOU to Dave Dieringer for his presentation on recycling. I am sure many of us walked away in amazement on how much waste is negatively impacting our environment around the world. If all of us continue to step up and think about what we are throwing away in our landfills and recycle more efficiently, the world will be a better place for everyone, especially the youngest of all.

A round of applause to our own troubadour, Dennis Feece. Through his songs and stories he presented a beautiful picture of how much the *Canticle of the Creatures* means to him, Saint Francis and each one of us.

As I write this, I am packing for my first National Chapter of Mats. I am sure I will return bursting at the seams with information to share.

Servant Leader: to serve and lead: Jesus said: "I came to serve not to be served."

How often in our lives do we wish we could sit back and be served? I often find myself pondering this question, and I always come to the same conclusion: I'd rather serve. I genuinely feel more fulfilled when I'm the one giving, rather than receiving. Some might argue that it's selfish to focus only on serving others and never allowing ourselves to be served. There are times when we step back and let someone else take charge, whether it's delivering a presentation or passing on information, simply because we lack the time or resources. We serve when we visit a friend, set the table, cook a meal, or drive someone to their destination. These small acts are all examples of serving others.

I believe that when we serve others, our hearts and minds open, and we become better people. Let us open our hearts and allow the light within each of us to shine. By serving, we can dispel the darkness that tries to overshadow our lives. Let us walk in the footsteps of Jesus, Francis, and Clare, letting the light of hope, love, prayer, and friendship guide us as we journey through life in service to others.

God bless!
Sue Daly, OFS, OLIRF Minister



The Formation Corner

What do you expect of ongoing formation when you attend a fraternity gathering?

This is a question I have asked the formators at their workshop. The answers vary, but an issue remains: what constitutes good Franciscan formation?

Ongoing formation takes pride of place at a typical fraternity gathering. The Winter 2023 issue of the Tau magazine tells us that this is the only place where we are able to receive Franciscan formation in order to grow in our Franciscan vocation. That's right, the only place! (pages 17-18)

What should we expect in the content of good Franciscan formation? In essence, our formation begins to answer two questions: 1) how does this deepen my understanding of who I am as a Secular Franciscan Catholic Christian, and 2) how do I begin to live this out? The first question is one of identity and the second is living out that identity.

To expand on these two questions, we turn to the process of formation as explained by Fr. Lester Bach, OFM Cap, of blessed memory. This process has three parts to it. The first part is **information**. We need to know something. This is where the vast wealth of our Franciscan resources come in. After we become familiar with the resource at hand, we need to make some kind of sense out of it and make it our own. This part is **formation**. The third part of the process is **transformation**. This is when what we have learned, made sense of and made our own, changes us so that we live differently. The informational and formational aspects go with the first question of identity while the third aspect goes with the second question above.

To put a uniquely Franciscan spin on it, let's consult St. Clare. In the second letter to Agnes of Prague, Clare tells Agnes to do four things: **gaze** (to look deeply at something), **consider** (to think deeply about something), **contemplate** (literally within the temple, as in one's own soul), and **imitate** (to follow an example in one's own unique way).

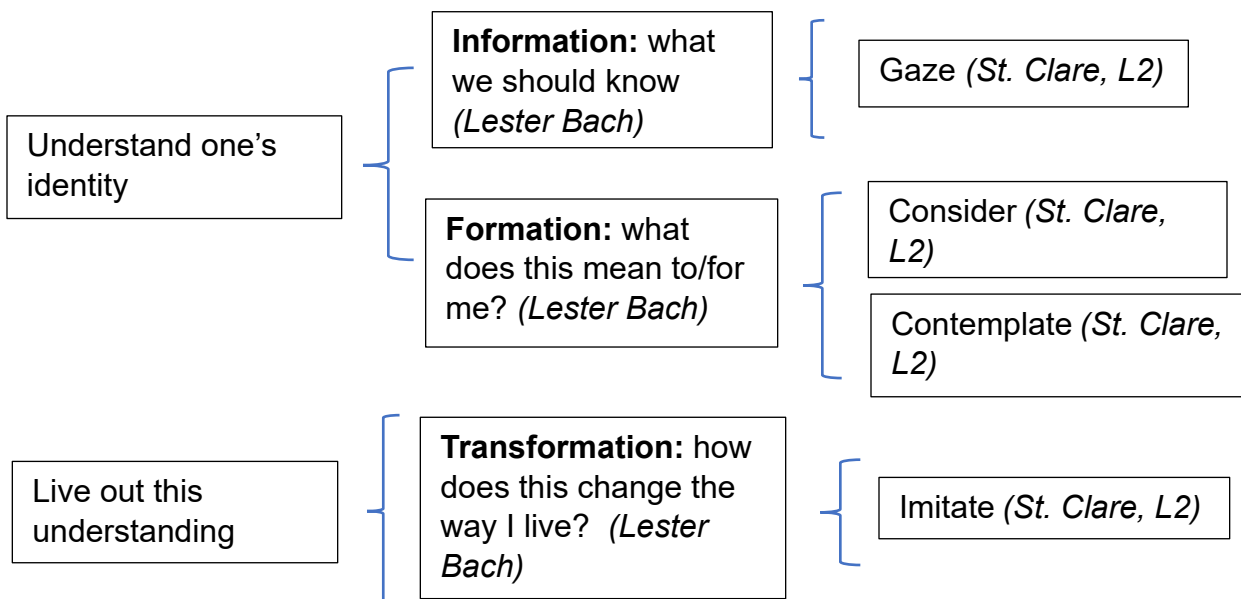
(The chart below helps us see how this all fits together.)

I hope and pray that this helps each of us to appreciate and value even more the beautiful gift that we have been given in our Secular Franciscan vocations.

Peace and all good!

Your little sister,

Barb Braley, OFS, Regional Formation Director



National Executive Council Elected at Chapter

A new National Executive Council was elected to a three-year term on Saturday, September 13, at the annual Chapter meeting at the Bon Secours Retreat Center in Marriottsville, MD.

Jane DeRose-Bamman, OFS, was re-elected minister for a second term.

Also, re-elected were vice minister Diane Menditto, OFS; secretary Susan Ronan, OFS; and international councilor Mary Frances Charsky, OFS.

Elected to their first terms on the NEC were treasurer Steve Roszhart, OFS, and councilors Christine Blood, OFS; Chris Leone, OFS; and Corrine Lorenzet, OFS.

Diane Menditto was elected alternate international councilor.

The election concluded a four-day meeting of regional ministers, NEC members, Conference of National Spiritual Assistants (CNSA), and observers.

The NEC members were installed at a Mass following the elections by Fr. Tomas Ginga Panzo Suva, OFM Cap, CIOFS general spiritual assistant to the OFS. Election presider was Ana Maria Raffo Laos, OFS, of Peru.



From left to right, CIOFS general spiritual assistant to the OFS Fr. Tomas Ginga Panzo Suva, OFM Cap.; secretary Susan Ronan, OFS; councilor Chris Leone, OFS; international councilor Mary Frances Charsky, OFS; minister Jane De-Rose-Bamman, OFS; vice minister Diane Menditto, OFS; treasurer Steve Roszhart, OFS; councilors Christine Blood, OFS, and Corrine Lorenzet, OFS; and CIOFS election presider Ana Maria Raffo Laos, OFS.

Common Fund – Common to Us All

Rule Article 25¹; General Constitutions Article 30.3¹; National Statutes Article 18.7¹

The Lord give you peace! Each fraternity member has the obligation to contribute to the common fund, according to their means. What does this mean for each of us? Indeed, something different, yet the same. We all have financial obligations. Sometimes we get distracted from our obligation to the fraternity vs. the good causes and personal callings. There are so many – Birthright, St. Vincent de Paul, local shelters, patriot and veteran support, schools, orphanages, the list is long. But our obligation as professed Secular Franciscans is, first and foremost, to our local fraternity. We professed to follow our Rule, which includes contributing to the common fund. For some, it is a sacrificial offering. For others, it is a generous gift from our excess. We did not solemnly promise to make contributions to the other various causes as listed above, but we did make that promise to support our fraternity when we professed.

How does the fraternity use the common fund? Our fair share comes from the common fund, and all active and excused members, as of the last day of the year, are counted and that number determines what each fraternity contributes to the Regional Fraternity. Each Regional Fraternity contributes, according to those numbers, to the National Fraternity, and likewise, NaFra contributes to the International Fraternity. Fraternity expenses may include a contribution to the parish where you hold your monthly gatherings, stipends for visitors and election presiders, travel for the minister to attend Regional meetings, travel for the Spiritual Assistant (if not local) to attend gatherings, council, and formation sessions, support for your local apostolate, and other expenses as approved by your local council. And we all know... expenses increase yearly.

We are not a club. We do not collect dues. We do not ask our members to cover their assessed Fair Share each new year. If a member contributes \$10/month to the common fund, their \$120 more than enough covers the Fair Share. Likewise, if a member contributes \$2/month, another's generosity covers their assessed Fair Share. Fraternity apostolate expenses come from the common fund, fundraisers, and members' contributions. It is essential that each fraternity update the National Database as to active, excused, lapsed, dismissed, and deceased members prior to the end of each year. This should be a yearly task for the local council each November. The numbers for our assessed Fair Share come from the database and there is no room for error. If your local council needs assistance with the database, please ask. Several people are trained to make entries and corrections.

Peace and all good!

¹ **Rule Article 25:** Regarding expenses necessary for the life of the fraternity and the needs of worship, of the apostolate, and of charity, all the brothers and sisters should offer a contribution according to their means. Local fraternities should contribute toward the expenses of the higher fraternity councils.

¹ **General Constitutions Article 30.3:** *Rule Article 25* In a family spirit, each brother and sister should make a contribution to the fraternity fund, according to each one's means, to provide financial means needed for the life of the fraternity and for its religious, apostolic, and charitable works. The brothers and sisters ought to provide the means necessary for supporting the activities and the operations of the fraternities at higher levels, both by their financial assistance and by their contributions in other areas as well.

¹ **National Statutes Article 18.7:** The Local Fraternity is responsible for contributing to the Regional Fraternity on a fair share basis from its common fund to underwrite the costs of that fraternity [cf. General Constitutions, article #30.3]. A fair share contribution is made based on the number of active and excused brothers and sisters, but not for those who are deemed lapsed.

Profession Anniversaries

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

10/9/2010 Mary Jane Chase
 10/9/2010 Dorothea Flory
 10/9/2010 Tim Martin
 10/9/2010 Tim Short
 10/10/2009 Diane Martin
 10/20/2012 Chris Reilly
 11/14/2020 David Schlunt
 11/15/2014 Julie Jarvis
 11/15/2014 Lillian Leap
 11/15/2014 MaryAnn Pajot
 11/16/2013 Lilia Barriga
 11/16/2013 Pamela Walerko
 11/16/2002 MaryAnn
 Kendziora
 11/19/2016 Sarah Belisle
 11/19/2016 Joella Carll
 11/19/2016 Catherine Catral
 11/19/2016 Deborah Feece
 11/19/2016 Dennis Feece
 11/19/2016 Kathy Fuchs
 11/19/2016 Anita Harker
 11/19/2016 Daniel Kreager
 11/19/2016 Diane Kreager
 11/19/2016 Randolph Thomas

LADY CLARE

10/23/2001 Virginia Engle
 10/25/1987 Michael Wolfe
 11/11/1990 David Brown
 11/11/1990 Marilyn Brown
 11/11/1990 Elaine Chmiel
 11/11/1990 Joan Klemko
 11/11/1990 James Konopa
 11/11/1990 Elaine Stiner
 11/22/1992 Linda Julius
 12/14/1981 Sharon Brady

LITTLE PORTION

10/4/1981 Frances Scheuer
 10/4/1981 John Scheuer
 10/10/1997 Bruce Popp
 10/10/2009 Dan Lawson
 10/13/1993 Patricia Scott
 10/15/1999 Diane Watson
 12/2/2006 Edward Justo
 Leon
 12/4/2004 Laura Ahlborn
 12/6/2003 John Szczepanski

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

10/3/1992 Joy McCullough
 10/11/2000 Barbara Peloza
 10/19/2013 Bernadine Barrett
 10/19/2013 Marv Jo Biscan

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

10/19/2013 Nancy Fagen
 10/19/2013 Rhonda Herrmann
 10/19/2013 Marian Paskash
 10/19/2013 Christina Popiela
 10/20/2007 Lynn Tabion
 10/23/2010 Peter Rupcich
 10/23/2010 Napoleon Tabion
 11/10/1965 Laura Kadelak

PEOPLE OF PEACE

10/1/2002 Mary Jane
 Blankenship
 10/1/2006 Robert Golobish
 10/3/2008 Mary Stickelmaier
 10/3/2010 Helen Burke
 10/3/2010 John Hill
 10/3/2010 David Whaley
 10/4/2003 Patricia Marchino
 10/6/1996 Margot ain,
 10/6/1996 Erika Gaal
 10/9/2022 Jody Dalton
 10/9/2022 Elizabeth Stanton
 10/13/1986 Dorothy Bessler
 10/13/1986 Phyllis Seger
 10/13/1986 Jeanne Whaley
 11/20/2016 Mary Shepherd

PEREGRINOS DE LA PAZ

10/5/2019 Ulma Flores
 10/8/2023 Lovera Jacobo
 10/8/2023 Ofelia Lovera
 Martinez
 10/8/2023 Maricela Martinez
 10/8/2023 María del Refugio
 Romero Trujillo
 10/8/2023 Arturo Santiago

SACRED HEART

10/23/2005 Jean Long
 11/22/1981 John Mader

ST. ANTHONY

10/4/2005 Sharon Roberts
 10/4/2007 Holly Henderson
 11/2/1954 William Botkin
 12/15/2019 Jo Aaron

ST. BONIFACE

10/4/2005 Sharon Roberts
 10/4/2007 Holly Henderson
 11/2/1954 William Botkin
 12/15/2019 Jo Aaron

ST. CHARLES

10/11/2015 Carole Beiswanger
 10/11/2015 Sandra Kiraly
 10/11/2015 Joy Olry
 10/23/2005 Barb Braley
 11/11/2007 Katie Herendeen
 11/11/2007 Vicki Marcellus
 Smith
 11/21/1976 Laura Hoffman
 12/18/1994 JoAnn Arendt
 9/23/2012 Richard Cain

ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS

10/3/1988 Paul Moreno
 10/4/2017 Ted Boczkowski
 10/4/2017 Philip Coduti
 10/4/2017 Joan Hollingshead
 10/4/2017 Josefa Kornelik
 10/4/2017 Michael Mrdak
 10/4/2017 Aaron Shultz
 10/19/2013 Marsha Bigos
 10/24/2004 Rose Scofield
 10/26/2019 Christopher Bouska
 10/26/2019 Kathleen DeRolf
 10/26/2019 Barbara Harris
 10/26/2019 Ronald Harris
 10/26/2019 James McFarland
 10/26/2019 Joseph Suppes
 10/30/2021 Donna Thiernau
 10/30/2021 Olga Warrer
 11/27/2022 Carol Bakker
 11/27/2022 Ken Gembala
 11/27/2022 Francis Hussey
 11/27/2022 Mark Lemus
 11/27/2022 Michael O'Donnell

ST. MICHAEL THE

ARCHANGEL

11/22/2009 Carol Hahn
 11/23/2008 Hope Castillo
 11/23/2008 Beth Herman

ST. ROSE OF VITERBO

11/15/2002 Alexandra Cline
 11/15/2002 Mary Jane Coker
 11/15/2002 Martha Dowell
 11/16/2000 Donna Doti
 11/16/2000 Linda Patrick
 11/16/2008 Carmen Montanez
 11/20/2022 John Hollowell



CELEBRATIONS FOR THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS

Indianapolis

Oct. 3, 4 & 5 – FRANCIS FEST

at Marian University

Fri. Oct. 3rd Bilingual Transitus

Celebration 7:30 p.m. Alumni Hall

Sat. Oct. 4th Blessing of Pets 10:30 a.m.
and Outdoor Mass 11:00 a.m.

Amphitheater

Sun. Oct. 5th Franciscan Sunday mass

10:30 a.m.; Potluck Lunch 11:30 a.m. &
2 talks with discussion 12:00 – 2:30

Guest speaker Fr. Andre Cirino, OFM in
Alumni Hall. Please email

mkshep2141@gmail.com with what you
plan to pitch in. Thank you!

Also on Sat. Oct 4th St. Thomas

Aquinas Care for Creation

Fort Wayne

Transitus

Date: Friday, October 3

Time: 5:00 pm Eastern

Where: North Campus Building

University of Saint Francis

2701 Spring S., Fort Wayne

Refreshments to follow for all attendees

Mass

Date: Sunday, October 5

Time: 10:00 am Eastern

Where: Oratory/Chapel

University of Saint Francis

2701 Spring S., Fort Wayne

**Please wear your Taus and introduce
yourselves to the Sisters!**

OFS-USA Governing Documents Cross-Reference Index

The *Essential Documents of the Secular Franciscan Order (2005)* is no longer in print. The Index in this document has been recently updated and has been added to the Home page on the OFS-USA website along with the [OFS-USA Governing Documents](#) that are contained within The *Essential Documents of the Secular Franciscan Order*.

ON THE HOME PAGE

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/>

OFS GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

- *The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order* – 2020 Updated Translation in English & Spanish
- *The General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order (2000)* – 2020 Updated Translation in English & Spanish
- *Statutes of the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States of America*
- *Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order – 2020 Updated Translation*
- [Index to OFS Governing Docs \(August 2025\)](#) – (This Index includes topical cross-references from the Rule 1978, General Constitutions 2000, OFS-USA Statutes 2003, The Ritual 1985, and Statutes for Spiritual and Pastoral Assistance to the Secular Franciscan Order 2002)

Quinquennial Registration Open



Easter of St. Francis
Rekindle the Flame



By **Sharon Winzeler** on August 16, 2025

Registration is open for the Quinquennial scheduled for July 29-Aug. 2, 2026, in Lexington, KY. Keynote speakers are Br. Bill Short, OFM; Darleen Pryds, Phd; and Fr. Wayne Hellmann, OFM Conv.

Brother Short, a popular Franciscan speaker, is Director Collegium S. Bonaventurae-Frati Editori di Quaracchi Collegio S. Isidoro in Rome, Italy, and professor of spirituality at the Franciscan School of Theology.

Dr. Pryds is associate professor of Spirituality and History and Academic Director, MTS-Franciscan Theology online degree, at the Franciscan School of Theology in San Diego; Acquisitions Editor, Franciscan Media

Fr. Hellman is professor emeritus at Saint Louis University, where he had served for forty-five years. He had earned his doctorate in theology from Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich, Germany, in 1974. He has published extensively on St. Bonaventure and the Franciscan intellectual tradition.

Title of the Q is “Easter of St. Francis; Rekindle the Flame.” It will be held at the Lexington Griffin Gate Marriott Golf Resort & Spa.

More information on the speakers, registration information, and other details can be found on the [Quinquennial page](#).

YouFra Mission Trip – Greenwood, Mississippi

This summer's YouFra Mission Trip to Greenwood, Mississippi (July 28 – August 1) was more than just a service opportunity — it was a chance for our young Franciscans to step into an authentic Franciscan immersion experience. Fr. Tony Janik, OFM, and Cindy Varenkamp, OFS, served as chaperones for this journey, which was filled with prayer, service, fellowship, and unexpected lessons.

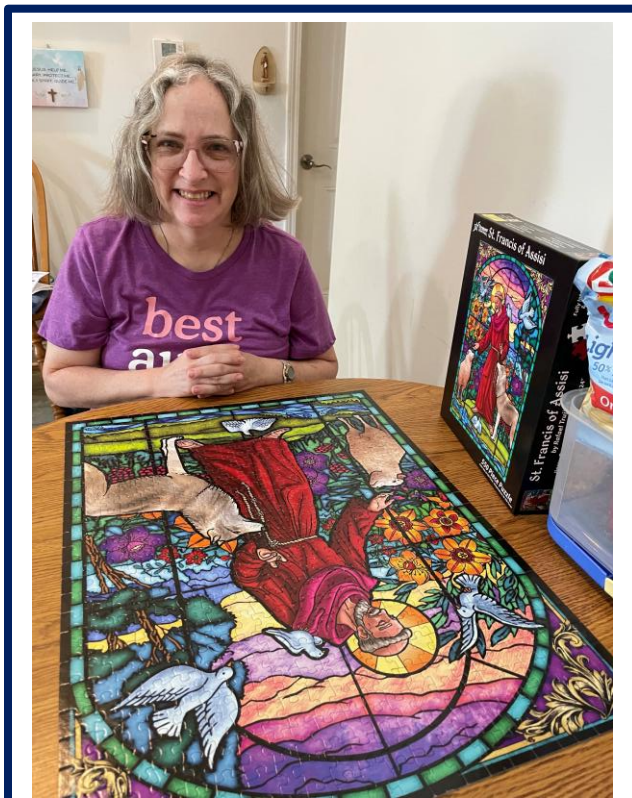
The Secular Franciscans of Greenwood graciously prepared breakfast for us one morning, and throughout the week we prayed Morning, Evening, and sometimes Night Prayer with the friars. Fellowship with the brothers included shared meals, conversations, and even a movie night where we watched *Selma* together. A few of our young men spent an afternoon helping Br. Mark with projects around the friary grounds — in 100-degree heat! We are especially grateful to Br. Hilary Brzezinski, OFM, guardian of the friary, for welcoming us, and to Br. Ralph, Br. Al, and Br. Mark for their amazing hospitality.

As you will read in the following reflection, one of our young members, Annabella (Bella) Angarone, experienced an unexpected trial during the trip. Her perspective and her witness to community support shine through in her words.

On the way home, the group found joy and fellowship in lighter moments as well — catching “threw rolls” at Lambert’s Restaurant in Missouri and exploring the beauty of Meramac Caverns.

Because four of our teens were unable to participate in the mission trip, we are holding a make-up retreat for them so that they too may prepare spiritually. Together, all of our YouFra members will make their Promise at Mass on September 28th — a culmination of their formation and their lived experience of Franciscan life.





Mary Jo Solloway, Holy Family Fraternity, displays the puzzle that she got at Unity Day. Well done, Mary Jo!

*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

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

"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."

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

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