



K A N S A S   T   M I S S O U R I   T   O K L A H O M A

## M i n i s t e r ' s   M e s s a g e

A happy and glorious fall greeting to all of you! I must admit that fall is my favorite time of the year. The cooler weather tends to slow me down to enjoy the peaceful days and chilly evenings. I love sitting wrapped in a blanket outside next to a fire in the evening. Praise God for His goodness and the endless beauty He has lavished on the earth.

First, I want to ask you for some sincerely needed prayers for members of our Franciscan family. First, for the healing and health of our National Minister, Jan Parker. She is doing well after her surgery for ovarian cancer, but the pathologist's report showed that the cancer had already spread to adjacent tissue. She will soon begin her chemotherapy to stop the cancer. Pray for the success of her treatment, her healing and for us to recognize God's plan in all this. Pray too for wise counsel from her doctors, and for Jan's peace of mind, though knowing her joy-filled acceptance of all things in her life, she is probably consoling those around her!

I also want to pray for our Secular Franciscan Regional Fraternities who have been hit so hard this summer with natural disasters. St. Joan of Arc Region, including west Texas, southern Arkansas, and all of Louisiana and Mississippi, has been hard hit. The Gulf of Mexico coast of Louisiana has been devastated by two hurricanes (Laura and Delta) and a tropical storm. The Regional Minister of St. Joan of Arc, Cherryle Fruge, OFS, lives in Lake Charles that was evacuated and pummeled all three times. Many people have lost their homes as well as their livelihood in the wake. This is not a wealthy area, and these people are hurting deeply.

Also, the mid to northern California area of the Junipero Serra Region was devastated from two wildfires which not only destroyed thousands of acres of land, but homes and businesses as well. The fires interrupted, and in many areas stopped, harvests destroying crops on which many workers depended. Please, please, pray for all these brothers and sisters and for us.

If you are so moved to help the people in these areas, please send any donations to our National Council and earmark them with the area to which you want your donation to go. Send them to:

Claudia Kauzlarich, OFS; Treasurer, Secular Franciscans, USA, 2007 Maverick, Harrisonville, MO 64701-1545.

Often it seems that what we offer seems so little in the face of the disaster. How could it matter at all? But that is not true. Don't be caught in this trap of discontent and paralysis. Our God is a God of Abundance. Whatever all of us together can give makes a big difference in the lives of those who need. Trust God. It matters.

And I would be remiss if I did not ask us for prayers for our country and the upcoming elections. Pray to God for discernment that His will be done and that He direct our hearts to make wise and holy choices and that His hand be on the outcome so that peace can once again settle on our land. Pray to the Blessed Mother to protect and watch over us as our patron and queen. Amen. (continued on next page)

At the end of my message, I have put an Election Prayer from CatholicPrayerCards.com. Please pray it.

When faced with so much pain and destruction, it is easy to become despondent, feeling helpless if not all together hopeless. These are the times that test our faith and our spirits. And the best cure for this is to remember that God always has a plan. Not a plan of punishment; not a plan of pain, though at times it surely looks like it. But a plan of conversion and redemption.

I trust in God's plan. Sometimes it is hard to bear and difficult to understand, but in the end He is there. I talk a lot about God's plan. And not just His overall plan. I sincerely believe that each of us has a mission, a plan, that only we can accomplish. And our plan is only part of the whole plan for mankind. If we fail at out part of God's plan, that part will be forever missing. No one else can do what we have been asked by God to do.

But God does not expect completion, results or even progress. According to St. Faustina in her diary, what He does expect is obedience, devotion, and a sincere attempt to try to do what we are asked. Nothing more. After our attempt, someone else will be there to take over the next step of the mission.

And even if we do all that God asks of us, that does not mean that in the end God will answer our prayers in the way we want or expect. Just like when the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. They expected a lesson on prayer that would look like what John the Baptist gave to his disciples or what the rabbis would say. No, Jesus gave them, and us, more than we ever expected.

God was considered "Other" beyond our grasp here on earth and so holy we could never know Him. But Jesus said to call God "Abba," which is not Father as we say in the Lord's Prayer, but "Dad" or even "Daddy," so familiar as to make Him a part of our human life.

Then Jesus tells us not to ask for what we want, but to ask for what we need – daily bread which is food from heaven to sustain our souls; the strength to forgive those who mistreat and hate us because that is what God does; protection from the evils of this world, and finally to beg not to be tested beyond our strength. I wonder if I even know what I need, because if I did, I would surely be praying for it. But, NO, I ask for what I want to happen here and now – heal my friends, protect my family from physical harm and do not let them suffer. Maybe if I asked, like Francis did, to suffer more in my life, I would learn this lesson better.

What I need to do is to be more Christ-like in offering my life to Jesus in thanking Him for all He has lavished on me. This is exactly how Francis chose to pray to God. He asked that God let him know and understand what Christ offered and went through to redeem us from our sins. Francis sincerely asked God for this, and God granted it to him.

Recently I re-watched one of the newer films about Francis called CLARE AND FRANCIS. Even though I feel that much of film is more fiction than fact and changes even well-know stories of both Francis and Clare, it does focus on the true spirit of Francis. One aspect of the movie I treasured, was the joy with which Francis served the lepers. Their life was horrible, their disease was devastating and painful. But Francis chose to smile at them, to love them, to laugh with them. He brought joy into their dismal lives which was exactly what they needed. By making them feel loved, Francis brought back their humanity. All it takes is joy in giving to bring people back to life. And that is our task too. No matter who we are serving, we should do it with joy and love and peace, This same idea is reflected in a quote I found by Pope Francis that I think completely sums up who we should be as Franciscans.

(continued on the next page)

“Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is... Life is good when you are happy, but much better when others are happy because of you,” Pope Francis.

See Christ



Be Christ

Peace, Health and All Good,

*Judith*

## ELECTION PRAYER

Almighty God, Lord of Life and King of all Nations, we beg you to look kindly upon our country and help us to wisely choose our new leaders.

Inform our consciences and enlighten our judgement, that we may elect those who will mercifully uphold justice and strive to protect the least among us.

Help us to discern which candidates will uphold both the letter and the spirit of the law. May our nation once again respect religious freedom, authentic marriage, the importance of family and the value of every human life – from conception to natural death.

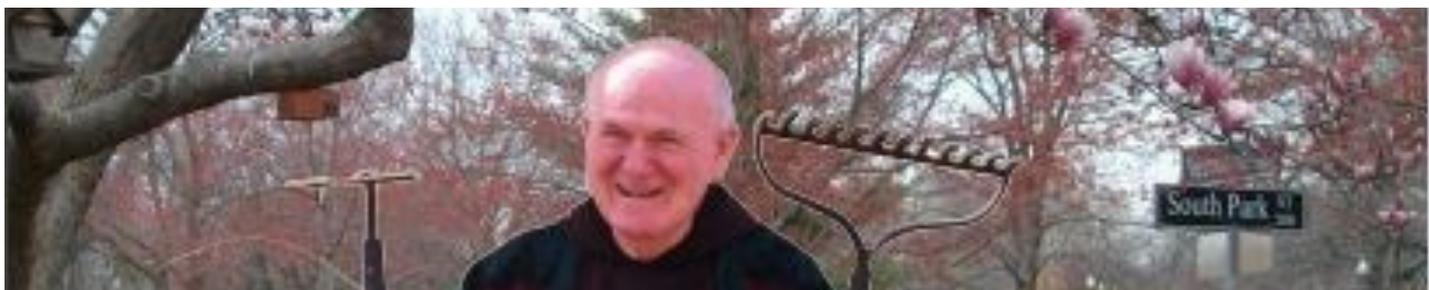
Heal the divisions which wound our unity and help us to overlook political tensions that keep us from becoming a united force for good.

May our great land, built on both personal responsibility and charity towards the less fortunate, always balance prosperity with care for the elderly, the poor, the sick and the abandoned.

May we elect honest and trustworthy candidates who will always uphold the common good and protect our God-given rights. In concert with the great founders of our nation, may we confidently proclaim, “In God we trust”.

Amen.





Words from Father Mike Scully OFM Cap. Regional Spiritual Assistant

*From the Regional Spiritual Assistant*

## FRANCIS' WALK TO EMMAUS

### REFERENCES:

#### **Oscar Wilde, The Grand Romantic**

*There is something so unique about Christ. Of course... there were Christians before Christ. For that we should be grateful. The unfortunate thing is that there have been none since. I make one exception, St. Francis of Assisi. But then God had given him at his birth the soul of a poet, as he himself when quite young had in mystical marriage taken poverty as his bride: and with the soul of a poet and the body of a beggar he found the way to perfection not difficult. He understood Christ, and so he became like him... The life of St. Francis was the true Imitation Christi (Imitation of Christ), a poem compared to which the book of that name is merely prose. Indeed, that is the charm about Christ, when all is said: he is just like a work of art. He does not really teach one anything, but by being brought into his presence one becomes something. And everybody is predestined to his presence. Once at least in his life each man walks with Christ to Emmaus.*

#### **The Calling, Our Lives**

*See the truth all around. Our faith can be broken and our hands can be bound. But open our hearts and fill up the emptiness with nothing to stop us... is it not worth the risk? Cause these are the days worth living. These are the years we're given, and these are the moments. These are the times. Let's make the best out of our lives.*

#### **Sheryl Crow, Light In Your Eyes**

*Something's happening, cause everything's different, but everything is fine. Cause this is the good stuff... You gotta talk to the one who made you, talk to the one who understands, talk to the one who gave you all that light in your eyes. Thank you, thank you!*

#### **Omer Englebort, St. Francis of Assisi**

*We are approaching the truly seraphic period in the life of the Poverello [The Stigmata], days when, as if lost in God, his soul consummated its final alliance with and conformity to the very soul of Christ...*

*... When the sun had risen, he called his companions and said to them: 'The Lord has deigned to assure me that I shall one day enter His Kingdom. So to show Him my gratitude, I desired to compose this new song which you are about to hear.' And the blind saint, for whom the least ray of light was a torture, sang to them what he called The Cantic of Brother Sun.*

[chapters 19, 20]

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### **M. Scott Peck, M.D., The Road Less Traveled**

*It is one thing to believe in a nice old God who will take good care of us from a lofty position of power which we ourselves could never begin to attain. It is quite another to believe in a God who has it in mind for us precisely that we should attain His position, His Power, His wisdom, His identity. Were we to believe it possible for man to become God, this belief by its very nature would place upon us an obligation to attempt to attain the possible. But we do not want this obligation. We don't want to have to work that hard.*

[Section IV, Grace]

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There are open to us so many wonderful images that could result in a real hunger for God through Jesus. Our inspiration, Francis, Englebert writes, was lost in God and conformed his soul to the soul of Jesus. Scott Peck muses that God actually wants us to attain divinity. Modern songs sometimes surprisingly reflect that it is worth the risk of giving up everything to fill the emptiness inside and that we have to be truly thankful to a God who has given us light. And in a piece of prose that is both challenging and beautiful, convert Oscar Wilde envisioned Francis of Assisi to be the consummate Christian, who became “something” because Francis truly experienced the presence of Jesus.

Wilde also suggests that each of us at the very least walks once with the Lord toward Emmaus. That is, we experience the presence of Christ with his special direction and guidance during which we “can become something.” The phrase, of course, is open to interpretation, but for the spiritual person, it must mean a desire to be totally conformed to Jesus and His Gospel.

Perhaps two practical conclusions to this beautiful rhetoric. Both of them refer to the fact that we live in world while we are “walking with the Lord on the way to Emmaus” and trying to “become something.” I think that one of the things that we should be aware of is the way we live with those who are closest to us—the people around us: our family, the members of our Franciscan community, the people we see every day.

The second part of this community living meditation has to do with the little things, the non-glamorous things—how we react to our families, how we talk about others, how we criticize other situations, how we deal with the problems that surround us. Our lives really are not made up of one significant thing after another; they are instead the small things that add up day after day.

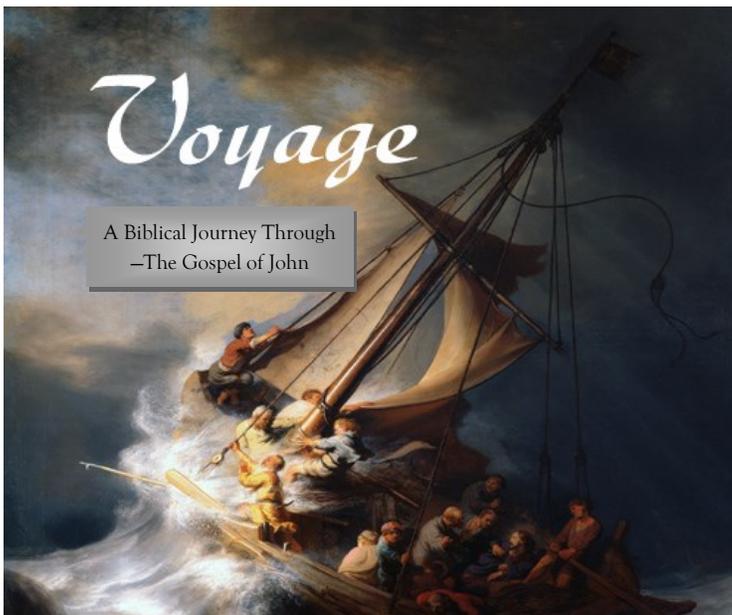
I like Oscar Wilde's thought about “becoming something” as we encounter the Lord. Tongue-in-cheek, no doubt, he said that Francis was the only one who accomplished being a true Christian. Our founder. What a great ideal for us.

**You might want to spend some quiet time thinking about how you are living and interacting with the people that you are closest to.**





# Holy Eucharist Fraternity, Independence, MO Hosts Zoom Scripture Study



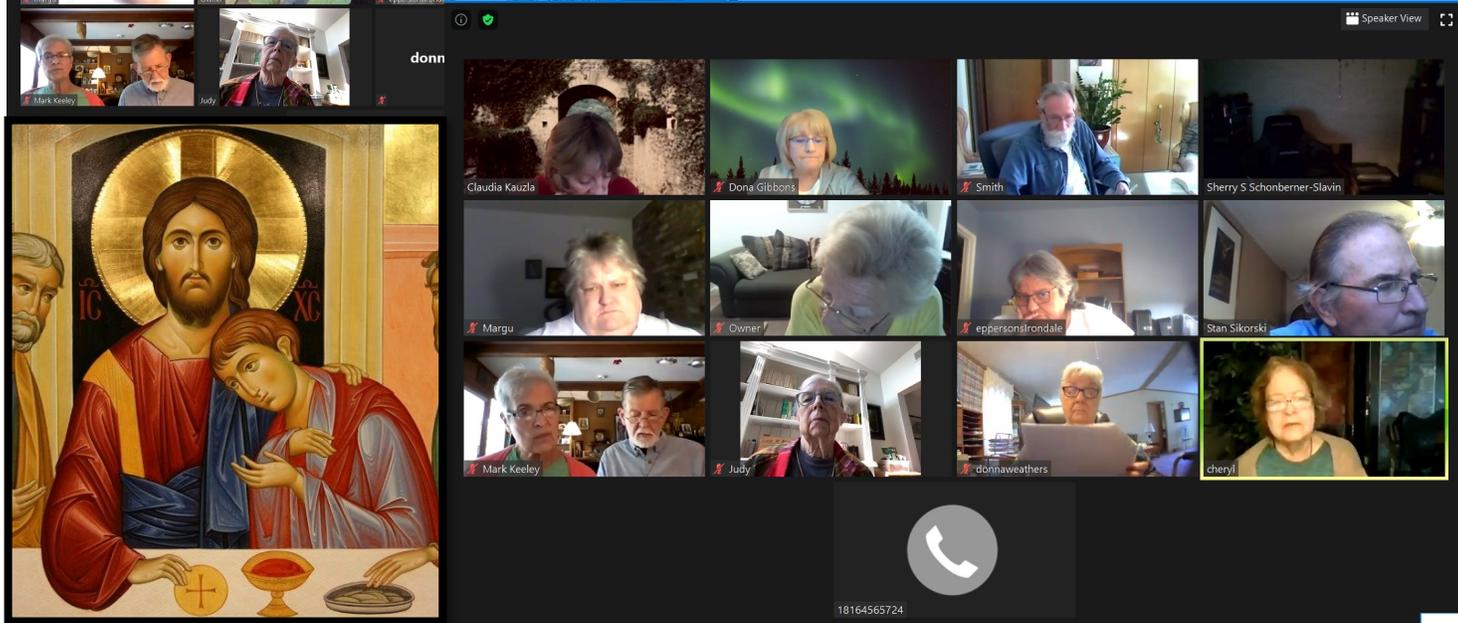
A Biblical Journey Through  
-The Gospel of John

September 24th, Holy Eucharist Fraternity began weekly ZOOM Bible Study classes and invited other fraternities who were interested in participating. The classes begin with a video from Frances Hogan, a missionary and teacher from Ireland. She analyses the Gospel of St. John. Her gifts of explaining deep theological concepts in simple terms and challenges you to love and serve God. Hogan is often featured on EWTN too. Shalom World of Ireland produces the videos for the bible study.

So far, Queen of the Angels of Buckner, MO and Little Portion of Tahlequah, OK have joined the classes. Claudia Kauzlarich with the help of Sherry Slavin transcribe each episode from the videos and sends them out before the lesson. Members are encouraged to read these to best prepare for the lesson discussions.

Carol and Stan Sikorski OFS lead the discussions. Members share their insights and thoughts during the class. This week, Deacon Mark Keeley give his blessing at the end of the session.

Congratulations to Holy Eucharist for sharing and helping others to study the Word of God.





Queen of the Angels Fraternity hosted a Fatima Public Rosary inviting Holy Eucharist Fraternity and parishioners from two parishes.



Cathy Herndon OFS sponsors the Public twice each year. That year is especially important for America, the election and the Supreme Court. Life issues are at the core. Spiritual Assistant Monsignor Kaiser OFS and Father Richard Roche, pastor of St. Roberts Parish joined in leading the rosary. Doctor Mesa led the singing to our Blessed Mother.



Cathy provided free rosaries blessed by Pope Francis to the participants.



St. Anthony's  
Wichita, KS  
Professes Two  
New Members  
September 19, 2020



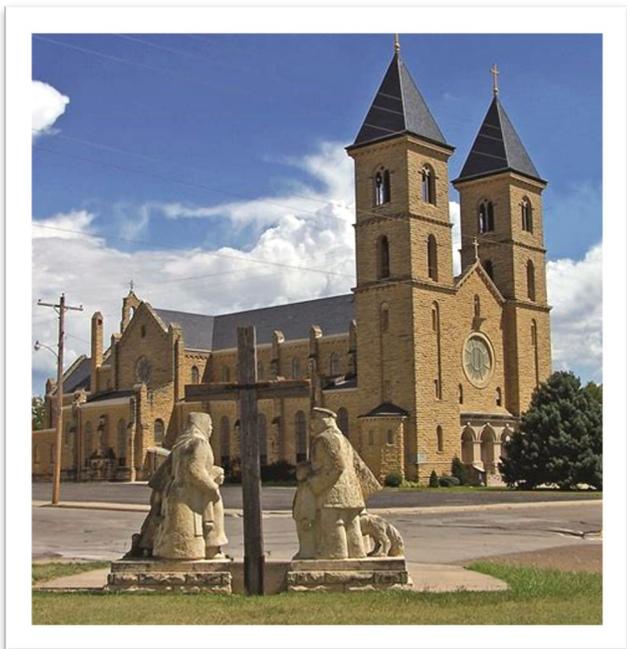
Julie Siegman and Larry Dougherty were professed as members of the St. Anthony Fraternity Secular Franciscan Order Saturday, Sept. 19, at Holy Savior Church in Wichita. Celebrating the Mass was Father James Billinger, left, and Father Matthew Siegman. Father Siegman is the son of Julie and Alan Siegman.



St. Anthony Fraternity welcomed William and Jamie Dorr during a Rite of Admission Sunday, July 5, in the St. Clare Room of St. Anthony Church in Wichita. From left are Julie Siegman, Jamie and William, Chris Riggs, Larry Menestrina, and Larry Dougherty. Please pray for them as they discern their vocation to the OFS.

By Chris Riggs OFS, Minister





St Joseph Fraternity of Hays, KS Celebrates the Transitus  
St. Fidelis, Cathedral of the Plains Basilica in Victoria, Kansas



It was a beautiful and joyful time together at the Transitus celebration tonight in Victoria. Fr. Felix organized it. Fr. Earl Meyer gave the reflection. Only 6 SFO members were able to attend. We had a small reception afterward and Father Jim Moster stopped in to visit.

Brenda Lager OFS, Minister





On July 24, Archbishop Naumann led an outdoor public prayer of the rosary. The event was well attended, and finished with the release of a balloon rosary. It was a beautiful night, and as the rosary floated away it remained upright with the crucifix at the bottom of the rosary. Photo by Charles Gurera OFS

## Our Lady of Sorrows Olathe, KS



### Between the Lines

The Bible is the word of God, yet it is also a living word. God speaks to us through scripture today as he once originally spoke it to others. How can this be? The Holy Spirit works through the words and timeless truths of scripture to also bring personal and insightful messages to an individual. Sometimes the words of Jesus seem to become directed towards us personally. “Do you believe?” he might ask. Another time, he might comfort us and say, “Do not be afraid.” It is the Holy Spirit who confronts or assures us that we are included in those words.

Another time the Holy Spirit works within the words concerns conversations about faith. Many times people can feel unqualified to evangelize or discuss the faith. It is important to remember that we are not alone in those conversations. The Holy Spirit is also present to offer strength, insights and perspectives. When having spiritual conversations, it is important to follow the Spirit. Pray first, then be open to the leading of the Spirit.

In these ways, the Holy Spirit works between the lines of scripture, and within the conversations. The living Word of God will reveal, enlighten, explain, and give personal insights. He will also turn everyday conversations into opportunities to share and enrich the lives of those around us. These things are available to all believers. We might not be aware of the impact that a humble and sincere faith can have upon others.

Genna Ferrell, OFS , Minister



Let each one confidently make known his need to another that the other might discover what is needed and minister to him. Let each one love and care for his brother as a mother loves and cares for her son in those matters in which God has given him the grace.

~ St. Francis of Assisi, The Earlier Rule,  
(IX: Begging Alms), 71



## Sacred Heart Fraternity, Emporia, KS Professes New Member



Marina Zeller OFS was professed into the Secular Franciscan Order of Sacred Heart of Jesus. Monday July 13th, at 5:30 pm. Father Mike Scully was the celebrant at the mass. Because of the pandemic only the members were in attendance. Back row, L-R: Dena Kaminski, Secretary, Rebecca Cheek, Father Mike Scully, celebrant, Fran Hudson, Minister, Jim Krueger, Spiritual Mentor. Front row L-R: Dorothy Krueger, Treasurer, Louise Wright, Caller, Marina Zeller, new SFO Member, Terri Sturm, Vice Minister, Teri Salazar, Inquirer.

Missing from the pictures is Mary Lou Young, Director of Formation, our longest professed member. She was unable to attend. By Fran Hudson OFS, Minister



Sacred Heart of Jesus in Emporia, KS celebrated the Transitus. Ceremony on Oct 3rd L-R: Dorothy Krueger, treasurer, Teresa Sturm, vice-minister, Mary Sutton, inquirer, Fran Hudson, minister, Marina Zeller newly professed. Because of COVID, participation was down by half.

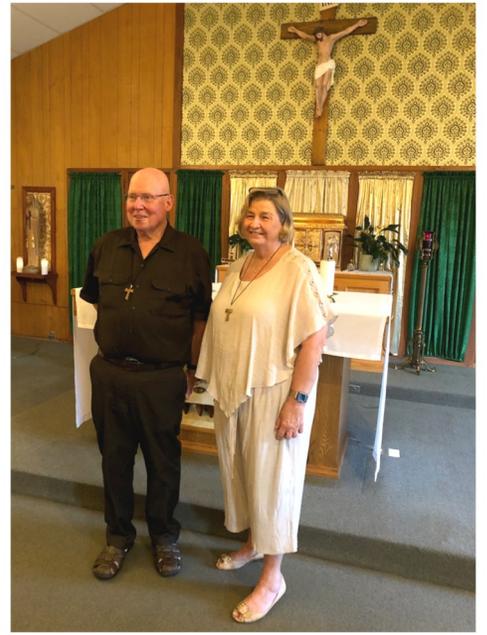
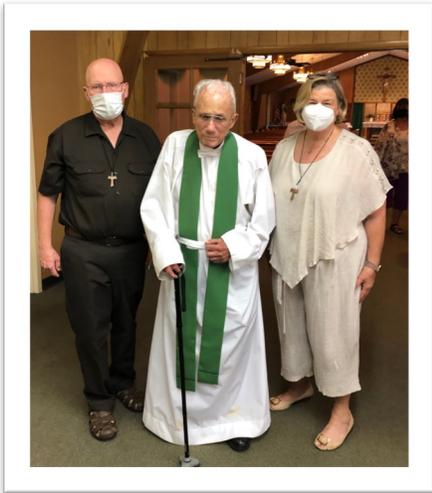


# Queen of the Angels Fraternity in Buckner, Missouri Celebrates New Professions

## A Profession to Remember - in a Pandemic!

Joseph Novak OFS and Carol Allman OFS made their profession to the Secular Franciscan Order on August 22, 2020, on the feast of Mary, Queen of the Angels at the Church of the Santa Fe in Buckner, MO.

Joe is a retired geologist and Carol is a retired school principal. They both have demonstrated true Franciscan spirit and both have many gifts. Following their profession Mass, the fraternity held a reception in their honor inviting the parish.



Mike and Karen Kern, Bart and Sylvia Ridge OFS, Kathy Johnson, Kelli McSwain, Monsignor Kaiser, Jo Keller, Joe Novak, Janice Cox, Carol Allman, Virginia Forbes, Jean Kleibert and in front, Dave Forbes. (not pictured: Helen Boos, Dona Gibbons, Cathy Herndon, and Margaret Madsen)

## Special Delivery from Queen of the Angels Fraternity ~ Buckner, MO



Kathy Johnson OFS, the Director of Mother's Refuge and Jo Keller OFS, minister of Queen of the Angels.



## Mothers' Refuge

Mothers' Refuge provides hope, shelter and education to homeless young mothers.

Queen of the Angels Fraternity had planned a Baby Shower for Mary during the month of May, but the Pandemic pushed this event back a couple of months!

The Church of the Santa Fe was eager to support this Pro-Life Apostolate. Even the Knights of Columbus wanted to be a part of helping the Mothers' Refuge by donating \$300 to the cause.

Donations of \$500, clothing and supplies for newborns were received from the parishioners and fraternity members. Clothing, hygiene, personal items, and gift cards were also contributed to support the new mothers. Queen of the Angels Fraternity has many Pro-Life Apostolate activities such as the Public Square Rosaries in Blue Springs, the National March for Life, Missouri Right to Life and the Community Food Bank.



Dave Forbes, Bart and Sylvia Ridge, Janice Cox, Helen Boos, Monsignor Kaiser and Virginia Forbes (l-r) stand near donations for Mary's Baby Shower.

## Brother Jacoba Fraternity, Lawrence, KS



BROTHER JACOB A FRATERNITY CELEBRATES PROFESSION ON THE TRANSITUS OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI Janet and Scott Anderson, David Ehrlich, Becky Mullins, and Maria Vincent made their profession as secular Franciscans during liturgy at St John the Evangelist Church, Lawrence, Kansas, on Saturday, October 3 (Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi). Father Mike Scully, spiritual advisor to the Brother Jacoba fraternity, presided at the liturgy. Jean Finch, formation minister, gave a brief presentation on how the secular Franciscans came to be and who secular Franciscans are, at the beginning of the liturgy. Brother Jacoba fraternity welcomes the newly professed with great joy and thanksgiving. by Dan Lonquist OFS



## OUTREACH

By Dan Lonquist OFS

Outreach to First Nation People  
Recruits University Students



R-I - Asumi Shota (back w/ cap), Mai, Hanae, Hikaru - Photo credit goes to Hikaru Nakatsuka!

OUTREACH TO FIRST NATION PEOPLE RECRUITS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FOR HELP In August, five international students and Mindy Van House, Education Program Coordinator, International Short Programs, University of Kansas, volunteered for an afternoon of sorting and boxing clothing for the Outreach to First Nation People program along with Ruth Entwistle, member of the Brother Jacoba fraternity (Lawrence, Kansas), and candidate David Ehrlich. With the help of the students, all of the remaining donated clothing was boxed. A trip is planned to the Navajo Nation reservation (Black Mesa Chapter) in northern Arizona at the end of October. Clothing including new winter coats, blankets and bedding, a mattress and box spring, new sleeping bags, furniture, dining and kitchen ware, children's books, stuffed animals and toys, bicycles, and sporting goods which have been donated to the program will be transported in a moving truck to the reservation. Additionally, almost one hundred backpacks and lunch containers for students and a small number of axes which are needed for chopping wood used for heating homes on the reservation have been purchased for the trip with generous donations to the Outreach program.

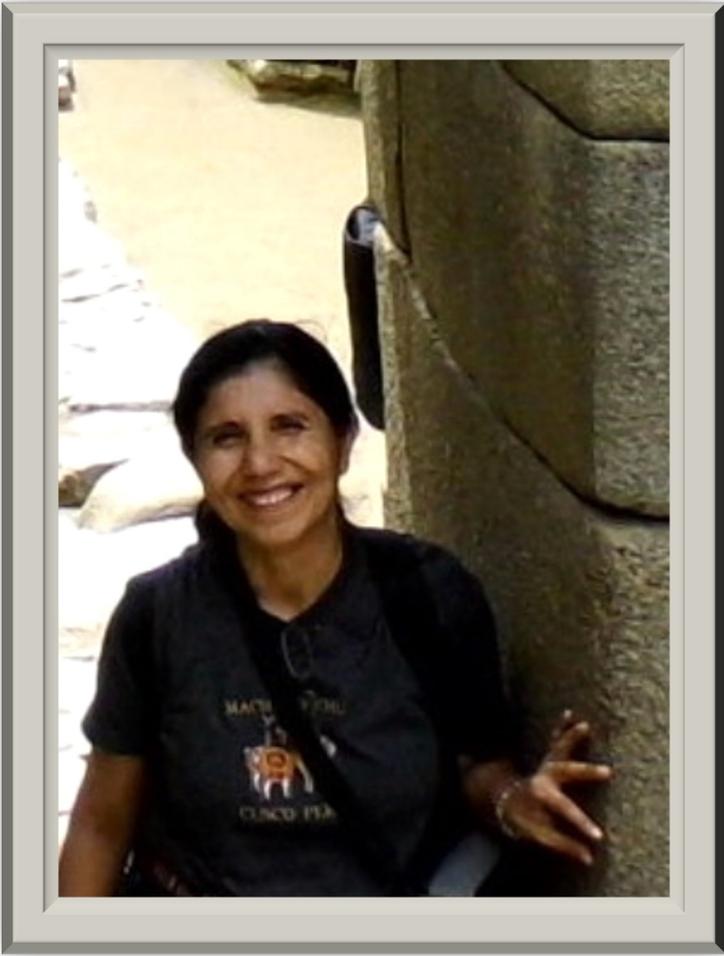
# St. Elizabeth of Hungary Leawood, KS



Left to Right First Row (Sister Doris Engeman; Julie Oswald, Nikki Gutierrez, Marie Bauer) Left to Right back row( Deanna Perry, Alice Crews, Father Alex Kreidler, JCL, (Parochial Vicar St. Thomas More), Deacon Tyrone Gutierrez, Linda Mayer, and Tom Bauer)

## Challenging Times Then and Now

When we rung in the New Year of 2020 none of us expected to be faced with the challenges of the past 8 months. In some ways we have paralleled similar challenges that St. Francis of Assisi faced in 1220. We were asked to retreat to our caves, to celebrate Easter in our homes, to limit travel and seeing loved ones, and to find ways to fulfill ourselves spiritually since attending Mass regularly was not an option. Around the world today there is conflict, just as the Crusades were during 1220. Never did we think that “Lent” would continue beyond Easter as we were asked to give up so much of our lives. In 1220, Pope Honorius III asked St. Francis to put more discipline in his Order. After self-reflection, St. Francis realized his own lack of leadership and organizational skills, so he relinquished leadership of the Order. We too, have had to assess ourselves during this time and choose how to react to our circumstances - hopefully in Franciscan style with perfect joy? Being stripped of some of our life activities, has allowed areas of new growth; challenged us to find virtual ways of celebrating fraternity; provided opportunity to engage in dialog, rather than a quick text; opportunity to check in on neighbors, friends, and family; take walks in the neighborhood; and discover ways to continue our own spiritual growth. As soon as some restrictions were lifted in mid-June, St Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity took the opportunity to attend Mass together on the Feast of St. Anthony at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in downtown Kansas City, MO. Our Lady of Sorrows was founded by Franciscan Friars and is rich in Franciscan imagery so in many ways we were “at home” with each other after four months. We did our best to socially distance, wear our masks, and wash our hands often. I think we all realized how much we had missed the Eucharistic *and* fraternal presence. As opportunity presented itself, we planned it again for the Feast of St. Clare as well. We celebrated the Franciscan community in heaven and on earth as both Masses were offered up for Secular Franciscans. Below are some images of those events as well as the Transitus we celebrated at St. Thomas More Parish. Relinquishing leadership allowed St. Francis time to focus on writing a letter that became the basic rule of the Third Order, to continue his Eucharistic Crusade, and introduce people to Jesus through the live Nativity. No doubt, the remainder of 2020 and most likely 2021 will be faced with further challenges, however if we remain focused on Eucharistic and Fraternal presence (whether virtual or in person), Our Savior Jesus Christ, creative outreach, and our own self-reflection as well as spiritual growth we will make it through 2020 just as St. Francis did during his own challenging times. Peace and All Good! Julie Oswald OFS, Minister



## JPIC Honors Monica Olivera with National Award

JPIC Commission’s 2020 Annual Award goes to Monica Olivera of Brother Jacoba Fraternity in Lawrence, Kansas, for her work with isolated Native American reservations. Congratulations, Monica! May our Lord continue to bless your work and ministry!



### Stanley Cordova OFS, Appointed to Regional Executive Council.

Stanley Cordova OFS was appointed to serve as the Western Kansas Councilor. He is from Liberal, KS and is a member of the Mother Cabrini Fraternity.

Stanley has already proven to be a real asset to our team. He has great ideas and a good sense of humor. Stanley helped to put together the Formation Program at the Regional Chapter Meeting. Congratulations, Stanley. We are glad that you are a part of our team.

Memories ~ A St. Francis look alike (Stanley Cordova OFS) participated in the Parade of Saints at the Oklahoma Retreat.





## THE FORMATION CORNER

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This is an initial announcement of an exciting new project, **The Franciscan Family Forum**. This forum could impact all Franciscan fraternities in this country. Right now, there is a need to identify and grow a group of willing volunteers who see value in the goal of this group which is listed below. Please read and pray about the following. It is just beginning and more information will be shared at the upcoming National Chapter meeting.



In August, 2019, the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants of the Secular Franciscan Order organized a meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, “Life Giving Union – Discernment and Discussion”, which was attended by national leaders of the

Secular Franciscans, Regional Spiritual Assistants of the Secular Franciscans, Provincial Ministers and Provincial Spiritual Assistants/Delegates. The meeting proved the catalyst for forming an on-going means of communication and assistance across the lines that usually separate those inspired by Francis of Assisi into membership in a fraternity, Order, or congregation. Questionnaires, gatherings, small group planning, and lots of follow-up work resulted in formation of the **Franciscan Family Forum** as a means to accomplish closer cooperation in pursuit of the following:

**VISION** – To offer a life-giving heartbeat of encouragement, support, and information to the whole Franciscan Family in the United States, through a model of fraternal unity and collaboration.

**MISSION** – The Franciscan Family Forum seeks to sustain the life-giving union of the Franciscan family by building relationships and offering assistance through dialogue to address the contemporary challenges that we face in living the Gospel life.

**THE GATHERING PLACE** – Structurally, the Franciscan Family forum is a gathering place seeking to link members of the Family to build relationships between and among the brothers and sisters; to identify needs of any part of the Family; to develop initiative/projects in response to those needs/concerns; and to implement those initiatives in accordance with the Vision and Mission of the Franciscan Family Forum. The Forum seeks to be purposefully and intentionally inclusive of all members of the Franciscan family and to pursue that intentional inclusivity in all its initiatives. (continued on next page)



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**CORE GROUP**— The Franciscan Family Forum’s Core group, in the spirit of servant leadership, has the responsibility to coordinate the implementation of initiatives and projects identified by the Forum. While specific number of brothers and sisters will remain constant to provide continuity, additional volunteers may assist in the implementation of a specific initiative according to their expertise or interest.

These gatherings may be either particular, regional, or national. At this point, as the Franciscan Family Forum, we want to make ourselves known as broadly as possible in the Franciscan family in the United States

**GRAND CHAPTER OF MATS**— In keeping with the Franciscan tradition of “*Chapters of Mats*”, from time to time the Franciscan Family Forum may discern a call to extend an open invitation for a general gathering. Reaching beyond its usual participants, the Forum would initiate dialogue around a particular need or initiative, as consistent with its vision and mission and informed by contemporary Gospel values.

Presently, these are the two initiatives in process.

1) God calls Franciscans, but other Franciscans help the Holy Spirit form them. We are called, with His guidance, to assist in the formation of those who will come after us. **A panel of vocation and formation personnel** to help all (and those interested in some form of Franciscan life) understand the process by which members of the different parts of the Franciscan Family are formed. The hope is to make videos of their discussions as broadly available as possible using social media and community websites.

2) God gives gifts to be shared. A **Directory of Franciscans** in the United States which will include “Yellow Pages,” that includes the talents, gifts, knowledge, wisdom, and experiences individuals have and are ready to share with others. This Directory may be of interest to Franciscans and those interested in coming to know more about how Francis of Assisi along with his followers, have in the past, continue now, and will in the future continue to inspire us and the world.

It is time to begin identifying individuals who have the talents, gifts and willingness to serve in building our Franciscan Order in this new national project.

Peace, Dona Gibbons OFS  
Regional Formation Director.

### MORE FORMATION NEWS...

Ever wonder what happens at the Regional Chapter Meetings? Well, we will be posting the formation lessons on our website [sfojuandepadilla.org](http://sfojuandepadilla.org) that you can click and show to your fraternity. A work in progress is how to help everyone access the Formation Fridays...will keep you updated.

National Fraternity Priority—Fraternity Life—Find supportive resources at <https://secularfranciscansusa.org/resources-for-national-priority-2018-2021-fraternity-life/>

# PEACE, JUSTICE & INTEGRITY OF CREATION

By Susan Tabor OFS, Regional PIC Animator



As I believe I mentioned in my last column, the JPIC gathering in May decided to create focus groups that would focus on specific issues with the plan of creating helps to pass down to the regions and fraternities to use as tools in their formation.

The issues identified were: immigration, climate care, the spirituality of JPIC and mindful dialogues. All groups have started meeting and their work is under way. Some research is being done, but you may start seeing some products from these groups fairly soon.

Three of the focus group facilitators were present at our regional chapter on September 12. Carolyn Townes who is the JPIC national council animator and facilitates the mindful dialogues focus groups, Donna Hollis who is very active in working on immigration issues and facilitates the immigration focus group and Patricia Grace who facilitates the spirituality of JPIC focus group, were present. Mike Huck, the facilitator of the climate care focus group, couldn't make it as he was co-facilitating a retreat for candidates about to be professed, so I served as the stand-in for him; his were big shoes to fill!

We only had time to barely scratch the surface on sharing information, but it was great to have national representation at our chapter, and to have the opportunity to interact with them. They participated in our formation on St. Junipero Serra, and gave information concerning their focus groups.

I hope that you soon have the chance to read "Fratelli Tutti", Pope Francis' most recent encyclical. The style is very readable, and he addresses in depth the meaning and dimensions of what it is to be fraternal. This goes beyond our Franciscan fraternities, but he identifies good goals and practices to develop as Christians who interact with our world every day. The encyclical would be a great piece to use for formation in your fraternities. The document itself is a great example of how to put Catholic social teaching principles into practice.

At this writing, the encyclical has been out for about a week, so soon we should start seeing study guides online for it from major Catholic organizations, so be on the lookout for them as they could help you as you plan your formation.

Peace, Susan Tabor

Regional JPIC Animator

# FOLLOW UP FROM THE REGIONAL CHAPTER

By Susan Tabor OFS, Regional PIC Animator



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Peace, Susan Tabor

Regional JPIC Animator

## “My walk with the Lord“

I met a man on a rocky hill top  
 He wore a white robe and a short beard  
 As we started to walk down the rocky hill top  
 I told Him of my sorrows,  
 my dreams, my hopes and my fears of tomorrow  
 I complained about my past, the pain and lost hope  
 He looked into my eyes, gently took my hand,  
 and said: "Behold the love that is within you,  
 Do not dwell on past sorrows or sins  
 or what the future might bring,  
 but trust God The Almighty.  
 Although chaos is around you,  
 and your world is crumbling down,  
 all you have to do is look around you,  
 and know God is all around."  
 As we came closer to the bottom of the hill,  
 my heart was pounding in my chest,  
 I looked into His eyes as He gently held me there,  
 He said: "I cannot promise happiness here,  
 but in my home there are many happy places."  
 As we reached the bottom, I started to walk away.  
 He called to me and said: "Come, follow me."  
 I looked at Him in disbelief and said "What!?!? You  
 want me?"  
 He took my hand and said to me,  
 "I have loved you with an everlasting love,  
 and it is for you that I came."

As I started to follow, the road kept getting rougher  
 and harder,

many times I fell, He would gently pick me up,  
 tend my wounds and scrapes.

I said: "I am tired I want to rest."

He opened up His arms to me  
 I went to Him and gently laid my head on His chest,  
 and quickly fell asleep.

When I woke up we started on our walk.  
 So many times along the way I was hungry, sleepy and  
 tired.

And I'd complained, but He only looked at me with  
 love,

and say: "We are almost there."

I wanted to stop and give up, but He never let me go.

And as we walked the last few miles,

He said with a smile, "We are here."

As I looked at all the beauty, all the happy joyful souls.

I looked back and said: "It was well worth while,

I finally made it HOME!!!!"

1993 Sally Yendrek OFS

Secular Franciscans of the Holy Eucharist

Independence, MO



## 10 Things to know about the pope's newest encyclical letter



*Fr. Patrick Briscoe, OP - Aleteia*

*This third encyclical from Pope Francis is inspired by St. Francis.*

Here are 10 things you need to know about that letter.

- 1 – The name of the letter, *Fratelli Tutti*, means “All brothers,” and is a direct quotation from the Admonitions of St. Francis. The admonition reads, “Let us all, brothers, consider the Good Shepherd who to save His sheep bore the suffering of the Cross” (Admonitions, 6.1).
- 2 – The letter is about fraternity and social friendship. Pope Francis writes, “It is my desire that, in this our time, by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity. Fraternity between all men and women” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 9).
- 3 – St. Francis, the inspiration for the Pope’s encyclical letter on the environment, *Laudato Si’*, also inspired *Fratelli Tutti*. The Holy Father attests, “Francis was able to welcome true peace into his heart and free himself of the desire to wield power over others. He became one of the poor and sought to live in harmony with all. Francis has inspired these pages” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 4).
- 4 – The Holy Father states that the possibility for human fraternity is grounded in the inalienable dignity of every human being. He writes, “Social friendship and universal fraternity necessarily call for an acknowledgement of the worth of every human person, always and everywhere” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 108). If the dignity of persons with disabilities, those experiencing poverty or those who lack access to education is threatened, “fraternity will remain just another vague ideal” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 109).
- 5 – The Holy Father, without intending an exhaustive analysis, proposes a list of “dark clouds” that inhibit the cultivation of human fraternity. Among these are: the rise of “throw-away” culture, threats to the dignity of migrants, the COVID-19 pandemic, aggression fueled by digital communication, and a loss of the love of wisdom. (*Fratelli Tutti*, 9-55).
- 6 – The theological heart of the letter is a meditation on the parable of the Good Samaritan. Pope Francis teaches, “The parable eloquently presents the basic decision we need to make in order to rebuild our wounded world. In the face of so much pain and suffering, our only course is to imitate the Good Samaritan” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 66). The Holy Father urges us to not be among the robbers nor to be among those who abandon the weak, but to “be Good Samaritans who bear the pain of other people’s troubles rather than fomenting greater hatred and resentment” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 77).

(Continued from previous page)



International Minister, Tibor meets Pope Francis in Assisi

7 – Human fraternity will be nourished by a re-discovery of love. Love, which unites by drawing a person out of his/her own self, allows us to experience the depths and fullness of life. Pope Francis writes, “Love, then, is more than just a series of benevolent actions. Those actions have their source in a union increasingly directed towards others, considering them of value, worthy, pleasing and beautiful apart from their physical or moral appearances” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 94).

8 – The Holy Father appeals for a new kind of politics, one aimed truly at seeking the common good of all. He writes, “Lack of concern for the vulnerable can hide behind a populism that exploits them demagogically for its own purposes, or a liberalism that serves the economic interests of the powerful” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 155). This new politics must have at its center charity, animated by the willingness to make sacrifices and the openness required to be truly unitive.

9 – Pope Francis calls for a total eradication of the death penalty. He writes, “Today we state clearly that ‘the death penalty is inadmissible’ and the Church is firmly committed to calling for its abolition worldwide” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 263). Arguing that not even murderers surrender their fundamental dignity, Pope Francis sees the death penalty as an offense against the inalienable dignity of the person.

10 – The Holy Father argues that religious witness to God contributes to the common good of society. Pope Francis writes, “The effort to seek God with a sincere heart, provided it is never sullied by ideological or self-serving aims, helps us recognize one another as travelling companions, truly brothers and sisters” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 274).

The encyclical letter closes by commending, along with St. Francis, the example of Blessed Charles Foucauld. Pope Francis notes, “Only by identifying with the least did he come at last to be the brother of all.” Such should be the goal of every Christian.

Parents/Grandparents Free On-line Catechism Lessons taught by a Catholic Priest. NO COST  
Voice of the Family is delighted to present **Our Lady of the Rosary Family Catechism**, an entire online video catechism course which provides children and their families, completely free of charge, with the unique opportunity to learn the timeless truths of the Catholic Faith according to the classic Baltimore Catechism.

<https://olrfamilycatechism.com/>



## Holy Eucharist Candidate Finds a Need



Karen Schmitt, Judy, and William Cowper.

An interview with William Cowper, Judy (she didn't want to let us print her last name) and Karen Schmitt.

William is married, with three God children. He is a candidate at the Holy Eucharist Fraternity in Independence, Missouri. William is also, a Fourth Degree Knight with St. James Council #3414, in Liberty, Missouri.

William after retiring went to the Statue of St. Padre Pio and asked how he could best serve his community.

After praying to St. Padre Pio, he went to Journey to New Life in 2014 he met Judy there. She makes blankets and crocheted hats for the homeless and told her story to William and he was impressed so he started helping her hand out her blankets and hats.

Karen attends St. James as well she is the Right to Life representative for St. James Parish. She asked William if he could help get items for the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Kansas City. William told her about Judy and between the three of them they distribute blankets, hats, and hygiene products to the homeless, the Crisis Pregnancy Center and anyone in need.

William, Judy, and Karen work with homeless at Hope and Faith in Kansas City, Missouri.

William had been working with homeless taking them the needed products they needed to survive. When he was approached at church by Alan Shaff and asked if he would become a Secular Franciscan and he said no he was too busy and did not think that would be a good fit. A few months later Colleen Seaman also approached William asking him to join the Secular Franciscan's again William said no. The Lord does not give up he put Maria Epperson in there asking William to become a Secular Franciscan. William said I guess it was meant for me to be a Secular Franciscan.

William, Judy, and Karen have a ministry they call Franciscan Third Order Homeless Community and Respect Life.

With the Pandemic there are things that they can no longer hand out. But William still goes to the homeless and gives them what he can. Most of what William gives them is love and hope. He tries to let them know they are not in this alone and there are people who care for them.

Karen said that when they give the new mothers the blankets that Judy makes to wrap their babies in when they take them home from the hospital their faces light up and they are feel so blessed that there are people like them out there.

The Secular Franciscan Fraternity and the Knights of Columbus have helped with clothes, diapers and hygiene products for the homeless and the Crisis Pregnancy Center.

William, Colleen, Maria, and Allan have all helped in the pickup and delivery of the items that were collected.

The Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Kansas City/St. Joseph sent letters to William, Judy and Karen thanking them for all the work they do. Respectfully submitted by, Betty McClatchey, OFS

## The Mirror

What do you look at in the mirror?

Do you look at your hair?

Do you look at your make up?

Do you look at the image that is reflecting from your face?

Let us look into the mirror differently from now on my dear friends.

Let us look into our hearts and souls.

Let us look into our minds.

Do you have a life that is “Christ Centered?”

Do you have love and peace in your hearts and souls?

Do you love everyone not just a select few?

Do you honor our Lord and Savior by being a disciple of His?

Do you look into the Lord's eyes and feel moved spiritually and emotionally?

Do you have love and peace in your daily life?

Look into the mirror again and reflect on who and what you are.

Reflect on the life of our Lord and Savior's.

Reflect on what you can do to improve the image you have in that mirror of life.

The mirror of life is the “Gospel way of life.”

Are you living the “Gospel way of life?”

Or are you just looking at yourself in the mirror not Jesus Christ?

When you look into your eyes do you see Jesus Christ staring back at you?

Are you seeking the Lord and do not know where to find Him?

You can find the Lord and Savior in the mirror of life.

You will find Jesus Christ in your heart and soul.

You will find Jesus Christ in other faces in the crowd.

So look into the mirror of life and find our Lord Jesus Christ staring back at you.

He loves you because you are apart of His flock.

***Praise the Lord. Colleen Marguerite Seaman. SFO Candidate, Holy Eucharist.***



Colleen Marguerite, September 20th 2020.

Holy Eucharist Fraternity, Independence, MO

St. Stanislaus and St. Adalbert Profess New Members in Broken Arrow, OK



St. Stanislaus and St. Adalbert Fraternity in Broken Arrow, OK, celebrated the profession of two new members on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020. Left to right: Ann Marie Neuok, OFS, Formation Director; Trish Hanlon, OFS, newly professed; Fr. Matt Gerlach, pastor of St. Anne Parish in Broken Arrow!; Ginger Thummel, OFS, newly professed; Dominick Palmisano, OFS, Minister.



**Did you know.....**

“... that incense relieves anxiety and depression, has anti-inflammatory properties that can alleviate asthma and arthritis, and can reduce airborne bacteria by 68%”

Fr. George Rutler suggests incorporating this "earthly hint of worship in heaven" into our worship...” - Meaghen Gonzalez , CERC , Sept 30, 2020

# Sister Death



NAME	FRATERNITY	CITY, STATE	DATE
Rosemary Hoffmans OFS	Our Lady of Sorrows	Olathe, KS	February 10, 2020
Peggy Michaels OFS	Holy Eucharist	Independence, MO	March 23, 2020
Adam Cuong Nguyen OFS	St. Anthony of Padua	Wichita, KS	September 28, 2020

*(Please let Judith know of any deaths in your respective fraternities.)*

# St. Gertrude the Great's powerful prayer for the souls in Purgatory

Eternal Father, I offer You the most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for all sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, those in my own home and within my own family. Amen



## IMPORTANT DATA BASE REMINDER

A Reminder about the National Database Beginning in December 2020, the number of fraternity members listed in the database will be the number used to establish the Fair Share amount for your region. This is an important reminder for each local fraternity to make certain that their data in the National Database is accurate.



## Region Officers & Commissions

Spiritual Assistant	Fr. Michael Scully OFM Cap	frmikescully@yahoo.com
Minister	Judith Cronk OFS	judykylne@gmail.com
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Treasurer	Lynne Lonquist OFS	lonquistl@gmail.com
Formation Director	Dona Gibbons OFS	donagibbons2@gmail.com
Councilor—Kansas	Stanley Cordova OFS	mothercabrini121@gmail.com
Councilor — KC Metro	Sylvia Ridge OFS	sylviaridge87@gmail.com
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FY/YA Animator	Sue Swayngim OFS	sswayngim@gmail.com
Interfaith Committee Chair	Bill Full OFS	billfull@cox.net

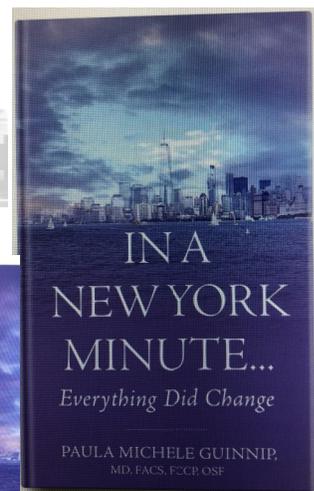
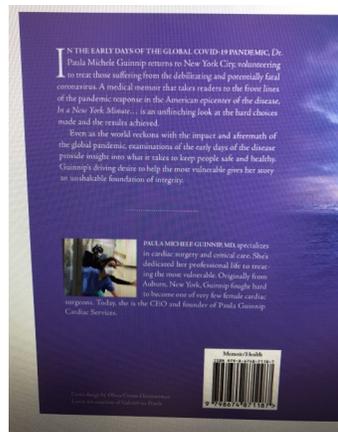
## Update on the Front Line of Healing Dr. Paula Guinnip OFS



Dr. Paula M. Guinnip is a thoracic surgeon and a Secular Franciscan from Little Portion, Tahlequah, OK. She served in Queens, New York during the initial round of the Coronavirus Pandemic. It was a harrowing experience for sure.

Paula reports that she has edited and completed the entire interior design so that it includes pictures. She said that there are still more steps to do. Dr. Guinnip said that

there is so much involved in publishing a book, “more than anyone would realize”. We are looking forward to the book’s release!



Lord,  
 make me an instrument of your peace.  
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
 Where there is injury, pardon;  
 Where there is doubt, faith;  
 Where there is despair, hope;  
 Where there is darkness, light;  
 Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,  
 grant that I may not so much seek  
 to be consoled, as to console;  
 to be understood, as to understand;  
 to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive.  
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
 and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

— The Prayer of Saint Francis