

T AU-USA

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SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER



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Secular Franciscan Order USA

Back row: Dennis Ross, OFS, Josh Molidor, OFS, Donna Hollis, OFS (National Councilors); Jane DeRose-Bamman, OFS (National Secretary); Mary Bittner, OFS (National Vice Minister); Claudia Kauzlarich, OFS (National Treasurer)
Front row: Tibor Kauser, OFS (General Minister - International Council of the Secular Franciscan Order); Jan Parker, OFS (National Minister); Kathleen Molaro, OFS (Youth and Young Adult Commission); Willie Guadalupe, OFS (International Councilor); Diane Menditto, OFS (Formation Commission)

Mission to Share the Vision

The TAU-USA, a publication of the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order of the United States, is a vital communication link between the OFS-USA leadership and all candidates and all professed Secular Franciscans throughout the United States. The articles within the publication, while sharing the Secular Franciscan charism and vision, are intended to inform, inspire, and challenge.



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Database Administrator and Subscription Coordinator

Cecilia Maljan-Herbelin, OFS

Webmaster
James Thomas, OFS

TAU-USA email
tauusa.ofs@gmail.com

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Cyl Maljan-Herbelin, OFS, 540 W. Nelson Rd, Sequim, WA 98382-9503, or cylmaljan@earthlink.net.

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National Fraternity
of the Secular
Franciscan
Order

National Executive Council

nec.ofs.usa@gmail.com

National Minister
Jane DeRose-Bamman, OFS

National Vice Minister
Diane Menditto, OFS

National Secretary
Susan Ronan, OFS

National Treasurer
Claudia Kauzlarich,
OFS

National Councilor
Josh Molidor, OFS

National Councilor
Cherryle Fruge, OFS

National Councilor
Donna Hollis, OFS

International Councilor
Mary Frances
Charsky, OFS

National Spiritual Assistant
Fr. Chris Shorrock,
OFM Conv,

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cylmaljan@earthlink.net.

A Spanish version of the TAU-USA is now available and being mailed to Spanish speaking members upon request. If you wish to receive the TAU USA in Spanish and not English, please send your name, address, fraternity name and region name to: Cindy Wesley OFS, cw93444@gmail.com or 846 Calimex Place, Nipomo, CA 93444.



OFS-USA

NATIONAL FRATERNITY OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER-USA

NATIONAL MINISTER'S MESSAGE

by Jane DeRose-Bamman OFS

WHAT A DIFFERENCE SIX MONTHS MAKE



It's October 15, 2022, about 1:45pm Eastern time, and I have been elected National Minister of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States (OFS-USA) by a majority vote of the members of the OFS-USA Fraternity Council at our Chapter in Detroit, Michigan. I didn't vote for myself, but most of my brothers and sisters did.

Rewind six months. I had already declined nominations to serve on the National Executive Council (NEC) for the next term. I had served six years at the National Secretary. I have been integrating my first vocation (marriage to Brian Bamman – 32 years) with my second vocation (OFS – 27 years) for most of our married life. My husband is a “Fourth Order” Franciscan. Service as the National Secretary was a privilege and honor, but also took up quite a bit of time, so I was ready for a break. Brian and I prayed about it and discerned that it was ok to take my name off the nominations list. What a relief!

Then in July and August 2022, the Scripture readings for Mass on multiple days focused on being open to God's will. We talked about it more than once and thought “What if God wants me to serve?” One of Brian's favorite sayings is, “You can't outgive the Giver.” We reconsidered, concluding that we needed to be open to allow God to work. If elected, God would provide.

The day the applications were due, I submitted the nomination form. Ok, I thought: “Well at least God knows I am open to serving some more...but I hope I don't get elected.”

A week later, the list of nominees was presented to the NEC. To my delight, I wasn't the only one who had heard the daily readings. We had the longest list of nominees for all the positions that anyone could remember seeing. There were so many amazing candidates from all over the United States. I thought that *surely* someone else would be elected. It won't be my turn to serve.

Well, God had other plans, and here I am, National Minister for our nearly 12,000 brothers and sisters in the United States. I am most humbled by this awesome “responsibility to each member” and grateful that it is for “a definite period.”¹ Although I was resisting the nomination, I fully embrace the role now. But I do not serve alone...thanks be to God!

Along with me are the other elected members of the National Executive Council: Vice Minister

¹ From Article 21 of the OFS Rule: “On various levels, each fraternity is animated and guided by a council and minister (or president) who are elected by the professed according to the Constitutions. Their service, which lasts for a definite period, is marked by a ready and willing spirit and is a duty of responsibility to each member and to the community. ...”

Diane Menditto, Secretary Susan Ronan, Treasurer Claudia Kauzlarich, International Councilor Mary Frances Charsky and Councilors Cherryle Fruge, Donna Hollis, and Joshua Molidor. Plus Fr. Chris Shorrock, OFM Conv, will be walking with us as President-In-Turn for the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants. We will have a period of adjustment, but I can tell the gifts of each of these servants will complement each other so we can be of great service to the OFS-USA.

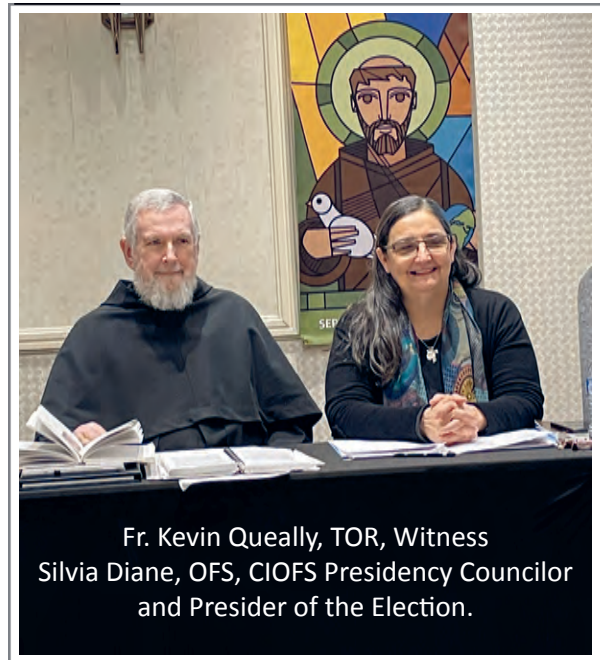
Speaking of great service, we cannot thank enough the outgoing Minister Jan Parker and outgoing Vice Minister Mary Bittner. They served the National Fraternity for 13 years each. The co-leadership style they modeled was remarkable. We are the beneficiaries of their love, care, and dedication for the Order. We also say thank you to outgoing International Councilor Awilda Guadalupe and outgoing Councilor Dennis Ross for their many years of service and care. May these servants enjoy a little rest before they begin their next roles in furthering God's plan.

At this Chapter, the National Fraternity Council adopted priorities (Vocations, Communications, Relationships) and the following theme for 2022-2025: "Listen, Discern, Go Forth." Throughout our term, but especially during this first year, we hope to listen to our members in order to discern their needs and hopes. More on the priorities and theme in future *TAU-USA* editions.

It is interesting that the Chapter of Elections was held in Detroit, Michigan. I was born some 90 miles away in Lansing. After the Chapter, I traveled to Lansing to visit with family. Reflecting on my journey, I realized that my parents planted the first seeds for my OFS vocation. They embody the Franciscan spirit without a formal profession. Also, Brian and I exchanged our wedding vows in Lansing. I found it fitting to go to the place where I received the grace to follow my first vocation and to seek additional grace for my second vocation. I entered the St. Mary Cathedral and prayed with tears in my eyes before Our Lord: "This is your Order. Lead me."

Thank you for your prayers for the new NEC and also for Brian. Without his support, I would not be able to serve the Order. Consider him a co-minister with me.

On my return flight home to Roswell, New Mexico, I heard the last line of the safety announcement from the flight attendant which I think applies to the NEC in relationship to you: "It's our honor to care for you on your journey." What a difference six months make! We look forward to journeying with you during the next three years.





Secular Franciscan Order - USA

Newly Elected National Executive Council



Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR, looks on as Silvia (Sissi) Diana, also on the left, leads prayers for the newly elected council. National Executive Council members are **right to left**: Minister Jane DeRose-Bamman; Vice-minister Diane Menditto; Secretary, Susan Ronan; Treasurer, Claudia Kauzlarich; and Councilors Cherryle Fruge, Joshua Molidor and Donna Hollis.

Mary Frances Charsky, OFS, pictured at left, was elected international councilor.

All terms are for three years and begin immediately.





SHARING THE VISION



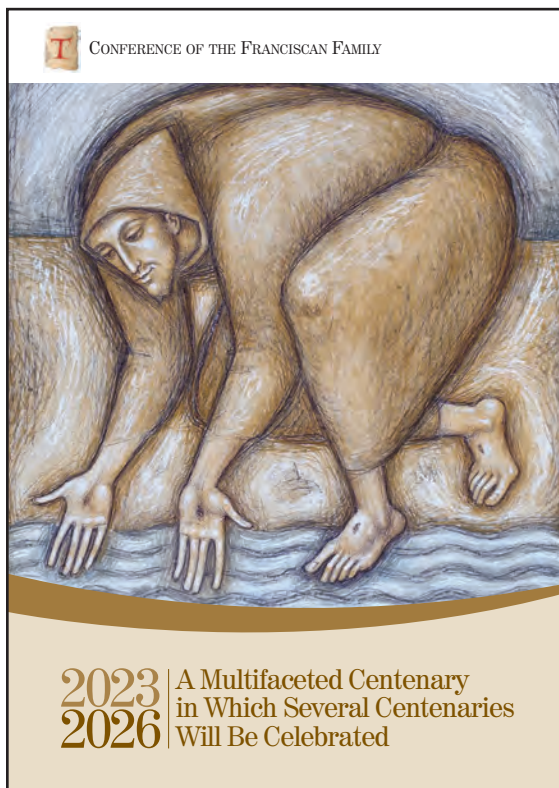
Beginning in 2023, and culminating in 2026, we will celebrate the anniversaries of five significant events in the life of St. Francis of Assisi, namely the 800th anniversaries of the Later Rule and the Christmas at Greccio (2023), the Stigmata (2024), the Canticle of the Creatures (2025), and the Easter of Francis (2026). To guide us in our celebration of these “Franciscan Centenaries,” the Conference of the Franciscan Family has issued a wonderful resource manual. The title of this booklet is **“2023-2026: A Multifaceted Centenary in Which Several Centenaries Will Be Celebrated.”** More simply, we might reference these celebrations by simply referring to them as the “Franciscan Centenaries.”

A working group of experts was entrusted with the task of creating this booklet, which gives an outline for learning more about our charism at each stage of the Centenary. The *entire* Franciscan Family is to come together to celebrate these Centenaries and to participate in ongoing and initial formation programs centered around these events. The celebration of these Centenaries is also intended to make the Franciscan Family more visible to those unfamiliar with us.

Please take time to review this booklet, which gives an overview of each anniversary and then offers suggested activities from four perspectives. **Regional and local fraternities are invited to send in your ideas of how your fraternity will participate.**

For easy reference, we include the first part of this booklet beginning on this page and continuing through page 12. Where can you find the complete Franciscan Centenary booklet? Look for it on the home page of the OFS-USA website: secularfranciscansusa.org.

FRANCISCAN CENTENARIES



General Observations

1. Themes

The five centenaries are part of a single thematic Centenary, which will develop gradually and harmoniously according to the chronology of the events celebrated.

The key themes proposed for the celebration of the centenaries are considered from multiple perspectives, present in each celebration. These will specifically refer to the theological dimension (*our being in Christ*); the anthropological dimension (*our being brothers and sisters*); the ecclesiological dimension (*our being in communion*); and the so- ciological dimension (*our being in the world*).

The documents of the Magisterium of the Church, understood from the Franciscan charismatic perspective, are used to provide a theolog- ical baseline. The celebration of each centenary is a promising opportunity for the Franciscan Family to support the ecclesial reform that the Pope is carrying out in his pontificate.

The basic purpose for celebrating the centenaries is to direct our gaze to the future and to strengthen our Franciscan identity and charism.



2. Recipients

First, the proposed themes are to be worked on and developed by our brothers and sisters all over the world. Therefore, the integration of all cultures must be standard practice.

The celebration of the centenaries is undoubtedly a good occasion to make the Franciscan Family visible in its entirety. Therefore, it would be very fitting for all activities and initiatives, at the national and/or regional level, to be coordinated by a commission representing the entire Franciscan Family.

Ad intra and *Ad extra* : The centenaries are not intended to have a positive impact only within the Franciscan Family. Imagination and creativity must be brought to bear so that the centenaries impact outwardly upon non-ecclesial social and cultural environments.

3. Methodology

We have already indicated the importance of the theological, anthropological, ecclesiological and sociological dimensions, which, as cross cutting components, should guarantee unity and thematic continuity during this multi-year celebratory event. All of these dimensions play an important role in the *ad intra* programs, but perhaps the anthropological and sociological dimensions could be further enriched in the *ad extra* programs.

There is a risk that these proposals could remain too focused on the theoretical and intellectual aspects. Therefore it would be appropriate to define, for each of the proposed themes, what *objective* is being pursued and to recommend an activity, so that the *experiential* and *practical* dimensions can be made more dynamic.

The *activities* are suggested in a very general way, since they should be made more concrete based on various real-life contexts.

The themes herein can be further explored and developed through lectures, meetings, Chapters of Mats, exhibitions, pilgrimages, mission experiences, etc.

Celebrating the Centenary as a Franciscan Family

Tres ordines hic ordinat: primumque fratrum nominat minorum pauperumque fit dominarum medius sed poenitentum tertius sexum capit utrumque.

Three were the Orders he arrayed: The Friars Minor he called the first; and the Poor Ladies were next, becoming the middle Order. Then thirdly came the Penitents, comprising men and women.



This is how we would have prayed the antiphon for Morning Prayer in the ancient *Rhythmic Office* by Julian of Speyer. He wrote it in 1235, for the canonization of St. Francis of Assisi. The antiphon mentions the direct filial relationship between the Saint and the three Orders. The first he called the Friars Minor, the second he called the Poor Ladies, and the third was for men and women who wanted to follow Jesus on the path of penance according to Francis. In the antiphon, verb *ordinat* is chosen to highlight the style of organization that belongs to the Franciscan Family. It is not reducible to a juridical structure, but rather indicates the reciprocity inherent in the bond of community, which is typical of the Franciscan charism.

The gift that St. Francis received from the Divine Giver is most fully realized in its complementarity and lively reciprocal communion. This is a motivating force in the lives of “all those who love the Lord with their whole heart” (*First Version of the Letter to the Faithful 1, FF 178/1*). Therefore, as a Franciscan Family, we invite everyone who is attracted to the evangelical beauty of the Poverello (cf. *Laudato si’ 10*) to join us in celebrating these centenaries. The centenaries offer us a valuable opportunity to invigorate the richness of our charism with a prophetic vision toward the future.

Moreover we want to celebrate them in keeping with the mindset that comes with this gift we have received. Indeed, the hagiographic sources tell us that Francis of Assisi died naked, with nothing of his own: “He asked to be taken to Saint Mary of the Portiuncula so that he might yield up the spirit of life...he threw himself in fervor of spirit totally naked on the naked ground” (*Major Legend 14:4, FF 1240*). His whole life was a journey of living *sine proprio*, that is, a life of giving back, from the beginning of his conversion, because only the man who keeps nothing for himself, but gives all of himself, is able to walk in fraternity, guided by his desire for the Supreme Good: “Let us refer all good to the Lord, God Almighty and Most High, acknowledge that every good is His, and thank Him, “from Whom all good comes, for everything.” (*Earlier Rule 17:17, FF 49*).

The Poverello recognized that everything in his life was a free gift of God’s love, as he himself affirms in his Testament: “The Lord gave me thus to begin doing penance...the Lord gave me some brothers... the Most High Himself revealed to me that I should live according to the pattern of the Holy Gospel.” (*Testament 1-14, FF 110-116*). He not only received divine gifts but also chose to give them back, so today, eight hundred years later, we can celebrate these five centenaries as a Franciscan Family. The centenaries invite us to live according to the concept of receiving love and transforming it into self-giving and giving back to others.

Let us begin, sisters and brothers, because now it is up to us to give back to others the gifts that Brother Francis gave to us.

2023
2026



Celebrating the Rule 1223-2023

Texts

Later Rule 1:1, FF 75; *Rule of St. Clare* 1:1, FF 2750; *Rule of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular* 1:1; *Rule of the Brothers and Sisters of the Secular Franciscan Order* 2:4, FF 3424; *Testament* 14-15, FF 116; *Anonymous of Perugia* 11, FF 1497.

All members of the Franciscan Family profess a Rule that becomes a pattern of life and consists in observing the Gospel. As we celebrate the *Later Rule*, we are reminded that for Francis of Assisi, the nucleus of his Rule was the Gospel, as he stated in his *Testament*: “The Most High Himself revealed to me that I should live according to the pattern of the Holy Gospel. And I had this written down simply and in a few words and the Lord Pope confirmed it for me” (*Testament* 14-15, FF 116). Having listened prayerfully to the words of Jesus Christ, Francis and his first brothers exclaimed: “‘This is what we want; this is what we were seeking.’ And blessed Francis said: ‘This will be our rule’” (*The Anonymous of Perugia* 11, FF 1497).

No member of the Franciscan Family professes his own Rule privately, because he is called to live the Gospel in fraternity. It is important to remember that Francis composed the *Later Rule* at a time in his life when he was dealing with a lot of tension and crises at the fraternal level, but he never renounced the prophetic vision of living as a brother to all and he invites us to do the same. Today the Church, in promoting its synodal and communal dimensions, points to Francis of Assisi as a model of fraternity, calling him the “saint of fraternal love” (*Fratelli tutti* 2). His words and deeds can again, after eight hundred years, illuminate the path of an ecclesial community that seeks to become an outgoing, synodal Church, listening to all, in solidarity with the least, bearing the good news that has the power to fill the lives of those who accept it with joy and meaning (cf. *Evangelii gaudium* 21).



Celebrating the Rule (1223-2023)

Celebrating the *Later Rule* as a Franciscan Family gives us an opportunity to get to know each other better. It promotes communion and fosters mutual trust among ourselves. It lets us rediscover the importance of dreaming together, it opens new evangelical paths that help us become a more open and outgoing fraternity, a fraternity that can generate a new culture of encounter and social friendship, a fraternity that strives to reach out to all members of society, “each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all” (*Fratelli tutti* 8).

Our being in Christ

The Rule consists in “observing the Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ” (*Later Rule* 1:1, *FF* 75).

Objective

To love and better understand the Rule we have professed.

Activities

- Assess the impact of the Gospel and the Rule we have professed in our daily lives.
- Use passages from the Rule to enrich our prayer life.
- Constantly evaluate ourselves in the light of the Rule, in such a way that it can illuminate personal and fraternal discernment.

Our being brothers and sisters

“For if a mother loves and cares for her son according to the flesh, how much more diligently must someone love and care for his brother according to the Spirit!” (*Later Rule* 6: 8, *FF* 91).

Objective

To rediscover the fundamental importance of the Rule for protecting and nurturing fraternal life.

Activities

- Organize study days and reflections about our Rule in order to seek together, in fraternity, the most suitable ways to embody it in our daily activities.
- Encourage time for meetings that allow us to improve the quality of relationships within our families, our fraternities, our work areas, etc.
- Promote initiatives, in collaboration with other members of the Franciscan Family, which foster mutual knowledge and increase fraternal communion.



Celebrating the Rule (1223-2023)

Our being in communion

“Steadfast in the Catholic Faith, we may observe poverty, humility, and the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ as we have firmly promised.” (*Later Rule* 12: 4, *FF* 109).

Objective

To restore meaning and significance to our way of living the Rule in the Church, promoting fraternity and synodality as ecclesial styles.

Activities

- Confirm whether the way we live our Rule, which we have professed in the Church, prompts us to carry out our pastoral work and our apostolic activities in communion with the local and universal Church.
- Participate in the synodal journey undertaken in our local Churches, valuing the variety of gifts and charisms that the Holy Spirit arouses to benefit the entire human family.
- Where possible, publicly renew the profession of our Rule.

Our being in the world

[They are] “not to quarrel or argue or judge others when they go about in the world” (*Later Rule* 3: 10, *FF* 85).

Objective

Starting from our witness of fraternity and minority in living our Rule, collaborate in building bonds of unity within society and the institutions that comprise it.

Activities

- Promote proposals aimed at reinvigorating relationships among members of Christian communities, as well as between those communities and other social and religious groups, nurturing a culture of encounter and social friendship.
- Enhance the evangelizing power of the cultural and artistic heritage that belongs to the Franciscan Family, in such a way that it becomes an instrument of encounter and dialogue with contemporary society.

2023
2026



Celebrating Christmas at Greccio 1223-2023

Texts

1 Celano 84-87, *FF* 466-471; *Admonitions I*, 16-21, *FF* 144; *Letter to the Entire Order* 26: 29, *FF* 221; *Office of the Passion XV*, *FF* 303.

When Thomas of Celano presents the story of the celebration of Christmas at Greccio, he talks about the reasons Francis of Assisi had for setting up the manger and celebrating the Mass in a cave. The Poverello stopped at Greccio because he wanted to contemplate the realness of the Incarnation, namely, the simplicity, poverty and humility of the Son of God “who gave Himself for us with supreme and indescribable love” (*1 Celano* 30: 87, *FF* 471). We find the same dynamic in his contemplation of the Eucharist. In fact, Francis invites us not only to see with our physical eyes but with our spiritual eyes as well, so that we might contemplate the humility and the real manifestation of divine love present in the Eucharist: “Behold, each day He humbles Himself as when He came from the royal throne into the Virgin’s womb; each day He Himself comes to us, appearing humbly; each day He comes down from the bosom of the Father upon the altar in the hands of a priest” (*Admonitions I*, 16-18, *FF* 144).

As the Franciscan Family celebrating the centenary of the Christmas at Greccio, we are invited to pause before the mystery of the Incarnation in order to contemplate the depth of God’s love for humanity. The Son of God becomes the Son of man; he becomes one of us, our brother (cf. *Second Version of the Letter to the Faithful* 56, *FF* 201). Our faith in the Incarnation prompts us to discover the *seeds of the Word* present in all cultures and in contemporary society, so that we might bring to bloom the seeds of humanity we find there. Moreover, it urges us not only to defend life but also to become instruments of life and humanity in our families and fraternities, reaching out to those who are seen as social rejects, who are no longer considered human. The concrete way that Francis of Assisi celebrated the mystery of the Incarnation at Greccio, invites us to more fully realize “that we have been entrusted with a treasure which makes us more human and helps us to lead a new life. There is nothing more precious which we can give to others” (*Evangelii gaudium* 264).



Celebrating Christmas at Greccio (1223-2023)

On Christmas day, the Poverello, together with his brothers, prayed: “This is the day the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it. For the Most Holy Child has been given to us and has been born for us on the way and placed in a manger because he did not have a place in the inn” (*Office of the Passion* XV, 5-7, *FF* 303). As we celebrate the centenary of the manger at Greccio, we are invited to think about the place that Jesus occupies in our hearts, and even more, whether we have a place in our hearts for those with whom Jesus wanted to be identified: “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me” (Mt 25:40). By his Incarnation, Christ Jesus eliminated any distance that separated him from humanity. He calls us to do the same, that is, to be close to our brothers and sisters to welcome them, to touch them with mercy, as the Magisterium of the Church reminds us: “With the simplicity of that sign, Saint Francis carried out a great work of evangelization... In a particular way, from the time of its Franciscan origins, the nativity scene has invited us to ‘feel’ and ‘touch’ the poverty that God’s Son took upon himself in the Incarnation. Implicitly, it summons us to follow him along the path of humility, poverty and self-denial that leads from the manger of Bethlehem to the cross. It asks us to meet him and serve him by showing mercy to those of our brothers and sisters in greatest need” (*Admirabile signum* 3).

Our being in Christ

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son” (Jn 3:16).

Objective

To renew our life of faith so that it can become more incarnational and concrete.

Activities

- Raise our awareness of daily life, with all its joys and difficulties, as a privileged place of encounter with the Lord.
- Ensure that adequate importance is placed on the liturgical and sacramental life, in order to progress in the life of faith.
- Reexamine how we celebrate Christmas and other liturgical feasts, ensuring they reflect the simplicity, poverty and humility that Francis of Assisi desired.

Our being brothers and sisters

“Consider, O human being, in what great excellence the Lord God has placed you, for He created and formed you to the image of His beloved Son according to the body and to His likeness according to the Spirit” (*Admonitions* V, 1, *FF* 153).



Celebrating Christmas at Greccio (1223-2023)

Our being in communion

Objective

To develop a more comprehensive view of humankind and its inherent male-female reciprocity, a view that is free of divisions and dichotomies.

Activities

- Ensure that the formation programs in our fraternities implement a formation process that is more comprehensive from a human, spiritual and interpersonal point of view.
- Encourage concrete initiatives that work toward overcoming discord between men and women or between the laity and priests or consecrated persons.

“Hail, O Lady, Holy Queen, Mary, holy Mother of God, Who are the Virgin made Church” (*Salutation of the Blessed Virgin Mary* 1, FF259).

Objective

To live in minority as members of the Church.

Activities

- Confirm whether our pastoral service in ecclesial communities reflects the maternal dimension of the Church and is characterized by humility and poverty, which are revealed in the Incarnation and in the Eucharist.
- Reexamine our way of celebrating the Eucharist, so that it may be authentically experienced as the source and summit of Christian life and a source of communion and fraternity.
- Bring the motherly compassion of the Church to our brothers and sisters who find themselves on the existential outskirts of our ecclesial communities.

Our being in the world

“God said: ‘Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness’” (Gn 1, 26).

Objective

To love and serve every human being, promoting his or her dignity as a person created by God and made in his likeness and image.

Activities

- Set aside time for reflection and discussion on promoting the dignity of every human life and make a commitment to defend life from conception until natural death.
- Promote activities to defend the rights of women.
- Offer help to parents who are finding it difficult to raise and educate their children.
- Provide assistance to shelters for orphaned children, street children, young people suffering from any kind of addiction, etc.

20th Quinquennial Congress OFS-USA



Planning Committee

Back Row: Steve Roszhart, Mary Bittner, Kathy Taormina,
Donna Hollis, Br. Bob Brady, Claudia Kauzlarich

Front Row: Susan Simeone (Chair), Jan Parker, Tim Taormina,
Cathy Roszhart (Co-Chair)



ST. THOMAS MORE REGIONAL FAMILY



WARMLY welcomes you
to SUNNY Arizona

Let's celebrate our Franciscan 'JUBILEE'!

*It's a DRY heat...
no JOKE!*



Franciscan Jubilee

Celebrate & renew our Franciscan calling
in the spirit of conversion



3-7 August 2022, Phoenix, AZ

20TH QUINQUENNIAL CONGRESS OFS-USA

STUDENT PLACEMATS



*Jesus welcomed the children,
and the children welcomed
Franciscans to the 2022 Quinquennial.*

Before the first salad was served at the first dinner of the Quinquennial, Franciscans were nourished by the students from the Catholic schools in the Phoenix Diocese. On the table, greeting each attendee, was a laminated placemat depicting Francis, Clare, or one of their followers and decorated by one of 1,500 students.

All Catholic schools in the diocese responded to an invitation to create placemats for the event. Betty Holler, OFS, of the Peace Fraternity in Phoenix, led the project. She explained that, "By doing it, we were given the opportunity to talk to the students about saints Francis and Clare. It was fun. We made a lot of road trips, and appreciated the cooperation of the teachers."

30 different placemat designs depicted a variety of Franciscan themes including: St. Francis calming the wolf at Gubbio, Clare turning away the Saracens, Francis receiving the Stigmata, and many others.

Once all the placemats were finished and collected, Betty laminated them so attendees could take them home. At times she had five laminators running simultaneously.

While working on the project, the first through eight grade students would ask questions like what color should we make Francis and Clair's clothes? Betty would tell them that we usually think of Francis dressed in a brown tattered robe. Ultimately, the students used their own imagination when coloring the placemats.

Some students were fascinated to learn that Francis's original name was John, or Juan in Spanish, and that his father renamed him after returning from a trip to France.

On each placemat was the following note: "Your placemats were designed by one of 1,500 kids who participated in making this evening a little more special. Please feel free to save yours as a special gift. All the Catholic schools in the dioceses of Phoenix were invited to spend time with a Secular Franciscan, who taught us about St. Francis and St. Clare and helped with our placemats." Betty loved the opportunity to work with students and to share the stories of Francis and Clare.

Keynote speaker Lori Hinker, OFS, praised Betty for personally reaching out to the local schools with overwhelming results. She encouraged other fraternities to make it part of their mission to reach out to young people.

For other fraternities who might want to try to the project as a way of spreading the stories of Francis and Clare, Betty suggests:

- Locate the Catholic schools in your diocese.
- Send letters or emails to the principals.
- Follow up with a phone call.
- Find coloring pages of Francis and Clare online at teacher websites or on Etsy.
- Schedule a time with the schools to work with the children on the placemats.
- Arrive ready to tell stories about Francis and Clare.
- Schedule a dinner or event to use the placemats, either at the school, church, or your fraternities.



A JUBILEE QUINQUENNIAL WELCOME

What happens when you get 600 Franciscans in the same room for dinner the first night of a Quinquennial? Their national minister breaks out in song and a celebratory atmosphere permeates the room. Jan Parker, OFS, who is known for her parodies, did not disappoint at the opening session of the Q in the ballroom of the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Phoenix. She created her own lyrics to the tune of “My Favorite Things” and to “Celebrate Good Time” to introduce all the groups who were in attendance and welcome everyone. Accompanying herself on guitar, Jan encouraged audience participation.

The following lyrics were provided to the audience so that everyone could sing along.

Welcoming Song for the 2022 Quinquennial Congress

“Quinquennial Things”

To the tune of “My Favorite Things”



God will renew us and give us new wings
These are the blessings Quinquennials bring

Here you’ll meet people from so many places
See lots of smiles on so many faces
In Little Fraternities you’ll meet new friends
The Q is a place where the joy never ends
Wonderful speakers have come to address us
What you will share with us, surely will bless us
These are the blessings Quinquennials bring -
Our Jubilee Q is a wonderful thing!

Sisters and brothers, we’re all here together
You came to Phoenix in spite of the weather!
Makes me so happy I just want to sing
A Jubilee Q is a wonderful thing!

So welcome to everyone! Let’s get things started
Sisters and brothers and Franciscan hearted
So glad you’re right here and not on a screen!
Pick up your song sheet and let us all sing!*

*Interlude - This is an audience participation song
so pick up your song sheet and please sing along*

It’s Jubilee time and our theme is conversion
We here together on this great excursion



They stand then ask Sisters and Friars to stand

Friars and Sisters, we thank you for coming
You help us keep our fraternities humming
Spiritual Assistants you get a hurray
A special shout out to our CNSA!

Interlude – ask Tibor to stand



We have a great leader, and his name is Tibor
He's met many Franciscans and here he will see
more

Thank you, dear brother, for all that you do
We are so glad that you came to this Q
We have 30 Regions, yes 30 you heard right
I'd list them all, but we'd be here til midnight
Regional Ministers and Councilors too

Stand up and we'll thank you for all that you do

Applause etc.

What a great dinner yes what a great menu,
God bless the staff who are here in this venue
Let's share the love of God with all we meet
Franciscan joy in the halls and the street

May God be with us as we grow in virtue
One thing I know, He will never desert you
Let us find peace and the love that God brings
Here at the Q may we find all these things

So many blessings are sure to inspire
God's Holy Spirit will set us on fire
We'll find such grace as we celebrate Mass
These days may end but God's love will not pass

On a dark night, when your hope sinks,
And you're feeling sad
Remember these blessed Quinquennial things
And then you'll rejoice ---- and be glad!

Celebrate Good Times!

(To the tune of the song by the same name.)

Celebrate good times, come on! (Let's celebrate)
Celebrate good times, come on! (Let's celebrate)

There's a party goin' on right here, a celebration
of our one hundred years
We've got our good friends, and our laughter too
– We gonna celebrate this JUBILEE Q !

Come on now – Celebration! Let's all celebrate
and have a good time
Celebration! We gonna celebrate and have a good
time

We're finally all together! THE GOSPEL LIFE –
That's our treasure!
Everyone around the world – Come on! – It's a
celebration!

Celebrate our God, come on! – It's a celebration
Celebrate our God, come on! – Let's celebrate

Praise him every morning and night – He is the
way. He is the life.
Praise him every morning and night – He is the
way. He is the life

Praise Him for his goodness and might – He is the
truth – He is the light
Praise Him for his goodness and might – He is the
truth – He is the light

Celebrate good times, come on! (Let's celebrate)
Celebrate good times, come on! (It's a
celebration!)
Celebrate good times, **Come On!**

Celebrate!



INNOVATION AND A LOT OF HARD WORK BROUGHT A MORE INCLUSIVE DIMENSION TO THE 2022 QUINQUENNIAL

The newly formed Accessibility Committee accommodated the needs of more than 200 Franciscans.

The Accessibility Committee's job list included providing large-print program booklets, information on renting wheelchairs and scooters, locating a place for service animals to relieve themselves outside, and staffing a wheelchair brigade to help transport people who were unable to walk from the Sheraton Hotel to the Mass at St. Mary's Basilica. Sign language translators made the keynote speeches accessible to the hearing impaired. Volunteers were relied upon to move chairs back and forth multiple times.



The Accessibility Committee is one of the Order's newest committees, co-chaired by Janice Benton, OFS and Susan Tabor, OFS. The goals of the committee are:

- * To ensure accessibility for attendees of OFS events, such as the 2022 Quinquennial.
- * To identify and make available OFS resources in accessible formats.
- * To raise awareness by developing tools to educate and support national committees, regions, and fraternities in recognizing the dignity and gifts of each person, and to take ownership of creating access within their area of responsibility.

The Quinquennial represented its first major undertaking and was well worth the effort and appreciated, according to attendees.

"The Q was an awesome, awesome experience for me. And our committee was fabulous to work with," said Susan Tabor, OFS-USA Accessibility Committee co-chair.

Susan went on to report: "All in all, we served a third of the attendees, including those with requests for dietary accommodations."

"Prior to the Q, we called everyone who had registered a special need request to make sure we understood what was being requested and to

determine whether there were additional needs. We also made sure we had all the sign language interpreters in place and that there were materials available in alternative formats. We were really busy beforehand, but when we arrived at the Q, even though we were still busy, it was different, because we were able to rein in extra help where needed."

"The members of the Q Committee were great to work with and very resourceful. For example, they helped procure essential items through reputable, durable medical equipment vendors. They also worked at getting liturgical information ahead of time so

it could be shared with the sign language interpreter, and they were responsible for having the morning prayer text copied in large print and in Braille.

"Thanks to a team of volunteers from fraternities in the Phoenix area, the attendees who were unable to walk from the Sheraton Hotel to St. Mary's Basilica were transported by wheelchairs. The volunteers made multiple trips in the 106-degree heat."

"The team was so eager and helpful. We couldn't have asked for better assistance. Special thanks to Pat Nikolaisen, who coordinated the local volunteers," said Janice.



The Accessibility Committee had a table at the Quinquennial to help people. They wore badges showing a Tau cross with several access symbols on it. They also displayed a variety of resources, including the Rule in large print and the Rule and Ritual in Braille. A future plan is to continue to prepare formation materials and essential documents of the Order in Braille, large print, and audio and to make them available online for free download.

Fraternities are encouraged to contact the committee for advice on how to assist their members with accessibility needs.



HAND-TIED FLEECE BLANKET PROJECT

The service-oriented action of Franciscans was in evidence Saturday, Aug. 6, at the Quinquennial when attendees arrived for the service project. Led by the Franciscan Young Adults (YouFra), members made hand-tied fleece blankets for those in shelters and along the border. Fraternity members brought scissors and Blizzard fleece to the Quinquennial to create the blankets, while others who could not attend donated money to purchase the materials.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Keynote talks by a friar, a bishop and five Secular Franciscans inspired those in the audience to renew their calls to conversion in daily life and to revitalization of the church. The work of Pope Francis was cited as a model of living in solidarity with all our brothers and sisters, as well as evangelizing our Franciscan way of life in the 21st century.

Day 1

David B. Couturier, OFM Cap.

"Called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world: Secular Franciscans as a Community of Care and Moral Transformation"

To alleviate what Pope Francis labeled a "globalization of indifference," Fr. David B. Couturier, OFM Cap., called upon Secular Franciscans to build a more fraternal world in the opening keynote at the Quinquennial. "In all that you do, you must develop the bonds and connections of being a brother and sister to everyone in the world," he said. He called upon Franciscans to make a difference in the lives of the poor and vulnerable.

Fr. Couturier told a story about Pope. Pope Francis encouraged Catholics to get close to others and "look at the person in the eyes. Do not observe with detachment, but approach, bend down, touch with your own hand. Touching with our hands humanizes us," Pope Francis said.

Fr. Couturier said that when the Pope hears confessions, he asks the penitents if they give to the poor. "When the person answers that he or she gives to charity, he said he likes to follow up with the question, 'when you give alms, do you touch the hand of the person asking? Do you look them in the eyes?'"

He said our culture has led us to do otherwise. "We have inherited the dark legacy of racism and white



supremacy that has leaked into every American system and created subtle biases in our hearts, minds, and actions. We have been trained in a politics of competition instead of a politics of caring." Instead of being lulled into a sense of this is "just the way things are," Secular Franciscans must act for change.

"As Franciscans, there is so much we can do and must do. We have a call, a vocation, and a divine charge to build a fraternal world," Fr. Courtier

said. A call to the Secular Franciscan life is a call to make a difference in the quality of life for everyone. "The Gospel imperative 'on earth as it is in heaven' gives you and me a more earthly charge for the promotion of peace, justice, and the care of creation."

While Francis and Clare experienced the violent and greedy world of their youth, they left a legacy of transformation Franciscans can bring to the world. "Our task is to make every encounter meaningful by humility, generosity, realism, and patience. We need to help the world transition from its market-driven obsessions with profit and power and take on the challenge of caring encounters," Fr. Courtier said.



Day 2

Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv.

**“Rebuilding the Church in the Spirit of St. Francis:
Secular Franciscans in the Age of Pope Francis.”**

Pilgrim. Poor. Brother. Simplicity. Joyfulness. Enthusiasm. Humility. Authenticity. “I bet you could add several more to the list,” said Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv.

These traits reflect St. Francis of Assisi, as well as the actions of Pope Francis. “Pope Francis has drawn on his namesake to provide a path of renewal for the church. We know it’s not going to be an overnight renewal,” Bishop Stowe said. Pope Francis was clear from the beginning that his goal was providing gospel simplicity and claiming mercy. “He wanted a poor church for the poor. Does that sound familiar?”

“Most of us in the Franciscan family can recognize the points of connection between our founder and our current leader.” Pope Francis has brought the spirit of St. Francis alive in the church, not only by his example but also by his magisterial teachings. “Pope Francis does have an agenda in the best sense of the word,” Bishop Stowe said.

He encouraged Franciscans to follow in the footsteps of our leaders. “Let everything you say and do convey mercy, and make sure it balances with preaching peace everywhere.” Our vocation is more than talking. He noted that Pope Francis has mastered the value of gestures. Whether people are listening to his words or not, what they see is a gospel witness by his actions, just as in the life of St. Francis.

“Living the gospel is more important than talking about it. To live in fraternity and witness gospel



love was far more important than evangelizing to Francis,” Bishop Stowe said. Our mission is to help people feel the nearness of God and extend our reach to those on the fringes of society. Pope Francis encourages us to reach out to three circles of people: those who are practicing their baptismal ministry in church; those who are baptized but not attending church; and those who do not know Christ or have intentionally rejected him.

“Each of us can find them in our own families, and we can find our mission among them. There is a lot of mission that can take place among those already in the pews, but it can’t be limited to them,” Bishop Stowe said. In this sense, he said, no Franciscan can be exempt from being a missionary. “Mission brings us to life. Ask yourself, do your fraternities engage in those three circles, or are you limited to just active members of the church?”

Bishop Stowe also referred to Pope Francis’s appeal to eliminating the globalization of indifference. “To counter this, the Pope proposes a revolution of tenderness that is found in the gospel, in the example of Francis of Assisi and as a crucial component to our vocation.”



Day 3

Doug and Marion Clorey, OFS; Tim and Kathy Taormina, OFS; Lori Hinker, OFS



Continuing with the spirited theme of the Quinquennial, "JUBILEE! Rejoice in the Choice!," five Secular Franciscans concluded the keynotes with a call to live our vocation.

Speaking in the final keynote were Doug and Marion Clorey, OFS, of Prince Edward Island, Canada, and Tim and Kathy Taormina, OFS, and Lori Hinker, OFS, of Apple Valley, Minn.



Doug Clorey, OFS, opened the talk by reminding the audience that although the Rule has changed over the years, its specific focus remains the same now as it was 800 years ago—observing the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the manner of St. Francis. "It is this foundation on which we go forward to build communities of caring and trusting encounter," he said.

All spoke of the importance of the call to conversion that exists in the order.

Marion Clorey, OFS, emphasized the Franciscan themes of fraternity, simplicity, family and reconciliation, prayer, and peace. While all these are equally important, she said, fraternity drew her to the Order. "Reading Francis' story, I felt a connection to him. His declaration 'the Lord sent me brothers,' as his way of describing the beginnings of fraternity resonated with me," she said.



While a life of simplicity calls us to detach from material goods, it means more, especially considering Pope Francis's *Laudato Si*. "The cry of the earth and the cry of the poor are inextricably linked. In more recent times, our local fraternity's JPIC team has been challenging us to live more simply and to promote justice initiatives as suggested in Article 15."

Lori Hinker, OFS, reminded Franciscans that Francis and Clare were young adults when they began their orders and that we need to reach out



and encourage the youth and young adults among us. “In the United States, young adults are those young people from all cultural communities and abilities

between ages 18 and 39 who are single or married, with or without children, divorced or widowed, and in college, working, unemployed, incarcerated or in the military. These young adults are indeed adults and are impacting the church and society today,” Lori read from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

She said the enthusiasm of young people is contagious and reminiscent of the Franciscan call. “They ‘get it’ without too much explanation. They want to get their hands dirty and serve those in need. Remind you of anyone? St. Francis and St. Clare.”

She called on Franciscans to live out their vocations through the sacraments, their witness and personal invitation. By frequenting the sacraments, we remind ourselves that Christ is the center of our lives. The sacrament of Reconciliation also reminds us that we are not perfect.

Sharing our faith journey with family and friends, the young and old, is a way to witness, she said. While we are witnessing, we also can extend invitations to family and friends to attend our Franciscan gatherings. Lori became a Franciscan after an invitation from her parents, Tim and Kathy Taormina, OFS, who also spoke in the keynote.

Kathy Taormina, OFS, talked about the model of Francis leading others to God.

“As Francis lived his life and brothers gathered around him, common people were also attracted to his way of life. Were they already in the penitential movement of the



day? Possibly. Or maybe this was the first time they heard someone who looked like them, and probably dressed worse than they did, preach about a God who loved them just because he chose to do so.” He provided a strong example to follow on the pathway to Christ, including his love for the Eucharist, fervent prayer life, love of creation, life of penance and the ability to let go.

As God sent Francis into the world when it needed him, because of chaos and division of classes, He sends Franciscans to do the same, said Tim Taormina, OFS.

“As the Swiss mystic Father Zundel once said, ‘We carry in ourselves a treasure capable of changing the whole universe.’ Of course, he was speaking of our Lord Jesus Christ, but does that quote not also reflect the vocation the Holy Spirit has given us and the profession we have attested to?”



Tim believes that the pandemic and the flexibility to communicate at times via Zoom is a sign of the flexibility of the Order. “No challenge can stop us from

being a viable order.” “Francis said, ‘He who works with his hands, and his head, and his heart is an artist.’ Let us be artists of awareness and communication.”

The complete texts and video recordings of the keynote addresses can be found at <https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/updates-from-the-q-august-3rd-through-7th-2022/>

SAINT MARY'S BASILICA

Phoenix, Arizona

St. Mary's Basilica, named the Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin, has been the Franciscan presence in the city of Phoenix for 130 years. Dedicated in 1881, the church became a Franciscan parish in 1896 and was the only Catholic parish in Phoenix until 1924. In 1985, Pope John Paul II proclaimed the church as the 32nd basilica in the United States. Pope John Paul II visited the basilica in 1987 where, after praying inside the church, he then spoke from the outside balcony to the large crowd gathered in the street below.



Secular Franciscan fraternities began meeting at St. Mary's Basilica in 1889. The first fraternity was a Spanish speaking fraternity, then in 1920 an English speaking fraternity began gathering at the basilica.

During this Jubilee Quinquennial, 600 Franciscan brothers and sisters were able to walk, or were shuttled in wheelchairs, the short one block trip from the hotel to the church to celebrate the daily Mass.



QUINQUENNIAL REFLECTIONS

From **Sandal Prints**, the newsletter of the St. Clare Fraternity Portland, Ore.

“First, it is so amazing gathering with at least 600 other Secular Franciscans! We celebrated Mass together every day in St. Mary’s Basilica, a block down the street from the hotel. The church was completely filled with Franciscans, and when we sang the first hymn, I was bowled over by the beauty of the voices of my sisters and brothers absolutely filling the church! The organist/cantor was wonderfully talented—and it turns out (if I got this right), he is a member of YouFRA (people up to age 30 or so can belong).”

Clare Reidy, OFS

The Q was like looking through a telescope and seeing a galaxy of Secular Franciscans. Some were older and limited physically, some were middle aged with an energetic acute interest, and all seemed driven by a love for the principles of St. Francis. Each one was trying to bring into focus their mission in these challenging times. The love for Jesus Christ was conveyed through discussions on social justice, care for creation, reaching and showing dignity to the marginalized and the poor in spirit.

Cheri Lorenzo, OFS

The first people I talked to (at the Q) were from Franciscan Missionary Service. Rhonda told me about her experience with people crossing the border and needing to be rescued.

“That night, I left for my campsite in Apache Junction. I arrived around 10 pm and set up my tent. It was 99 degrees with

thunderstorms on the horizon. I lay there in a pool of sweat wondering if people were crossing the desert that night. The next day, I went back to the mission table and asked if people actually crossed the desert in August. I was told yes, “that is the most affordable time because the coyotes charge a lot less”. I am forever changed by my experience and grateful that God would allow me that small suffering. I have a picture in my living room now from the Q that reminds me of the people who die in the desert in search of a better life for their family.”

Ralph Anderson, OFS

This was the second Quinquennial I have attended, and again, it did not disappoint! I am hard pressed to choose a favorite moment. I urge everyone to watch the keynote addresses on the NAFRA website—they are rich and filled with encouragement for all of us to live our fraternal lives wholeheartedly and then to go out into the world and transform it.

Barbara Allen, OFS

Additional Reflections

After the days we spent in Phoenix, we can only say what an awesome time we spent with our family from the OFS USA. Having come together to the talk sessions, hearing, learning and hopefully applying this to our way of life. I can truly say that you will not forget this grand reunion. If this was your first Q Congress, it will stay in your heart and in your mind.

Sofia Villeareal, Regional Minister, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Empress of the Americas

Our first speaker (Fr. David Courturier) was excellent. He covered an area I thought I was an expert in, and that was economics. He explained it in a way that was so Franciscan and made so much sense that I believe we would have a better world if we would adopt what he told us to do.

Bill Parras, OFS, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Empress of the Americas

What we heard was necessary. We are all thinking about it, and nobody is talking about it. We need to be treating each other as brother and sister everywhere we go. How would you treat a brother or sister? Not with violence. Not with anger. We need to show the world how to live as brothers and sisters. It’s a huge issue, and we can each start living it in our corner of the world—in our homes and in our fraternities.

Esperanza Nugent, OFS, Blessed Solanus Casey

I am again reminded that we are a much larger organization. Sometimes, we forget that we are international, and the little fraternities were a gift because we could talk openly and honestly about what we thought. The dialogue was very good. I must look at Pope Francis’s call to be a fraternity to the world. I knew he said that in his writings, but I need to look more closely at how I can make that happen at my local and regional levels. It is amazing that he is talking to us in each writing, but we don’t seem to be engaging in putting some of it into practice. I want to try harder to do that.

Rosemarie LeClerq, OFS, Tempe, AZ, St. Thomas More



Who is my Neighbor?

Fr. Robert Barbato, OFM Cap.

Note: Guest Writer contributor **Fr. Robert Barbato, OFM Cap.** (newly appointed Rector of the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi located in San Francisco Ca.), is writing for Fr. John DeLaRiva, OFM Cap. (newly appointed National Spiritual Assistant to the OFS).

A scribe asked Jesus, after being told to love his neighbor, “And just who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, as we know, with the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus turned the question around, “Who was neighbor to the man in trouble?” The answer, of course, was the Samaritan, who treated the man with true love and concern. Jesus said, “Go, and do likewise.” He challenged the scribe (and all of us) not to think of how other people are neighbors to us, but how we can become neighbors by the way we treat them, even our enemies.

When Francis of Assisi started calling himself “Brother Francis,” he wasn’t just picking a title. He was expressing the relationship he wanted to have with the world. In his youth, Francis would never have thought of lepers as “neighbors,” let alone brothers and sisters. He loathed them and avoided them. It was the Lord who led him among them, as he himself tells us, and turned what was bitter into sweetness of soul and body. In other words, Francis learned to see not “lepers,” but Christian brothers and sisters, not a repugnant disease, but a person created in the image of God.

Francis tried to live out what it meant to call himself “brother,” even when it was difficult. To consider those who ridiculed him, belittled him, and called him a fool as brother, was not easy. It took Francis much prayer and patience to learn how to be brother. This was true even when Francis found himself living with some of his friars who disagreed with him or who were simply difficult to live with. As he struggled to learn to be brother to other people, he also came to the insight that he was a brother to all creatures, since every being is made by the same Creator. This, of course, led Francis to compose the “Canticle of the

Creatures,” praising God in, through, and for all God’s creatures, like Brother Sun and Sister Moon.

As followers of Francis, we emphasize the importance of fraternity, of being brothers and sisters to one another and to the world. It is true that God calls us into fraternity to support one another and find strength in our brothers and sisters. But frankly, God also calls us into fraternity to learn to put up with one another, to be patient with one another, to learn to thank God for that brother or sister who is the most annoying. Fraternity begins with our prayer for one another and our openness to the idea that each person is made in the image and likeness of God, no matter how hard that may be to imagine in real life! Like Francis, if we call ourselves “brother” or “sister” and try to live out what that title means, we will be led by the Spirit into deep solidarity with all creation and find true joy, for the Lord can turn what is bitter into sweetness of soul and body. Is it easy? No. Is it worth it? Definitely.

May the Lord bless and keep you always!





THE QUINQUENNIAL A BOOST FOR THE FRANCISCAN YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT COMMISSION

by Kathleen Molaro, OFS

Reflecting recently on our years as a FY/YA commission, I wondered whether we had succeeded in addressing the initial theme we had chosen to help us move in an appropriate direction—to “Unite, Ignite, and Invite.” (*TAU USA*, Spring, 2018, Issue #94)

We talked and listened to attendees at the Quinquennial, both during our presentations and at our booth. The enthusiasm proved encouraging and affirmed that our commitment since the beginning has led us to a stronger YouFra awareness and presence.

Have we united?

We discovered that we have, in fact, united people, especially through our virtual gatherings. Although for half our years together, we had met only with boxes around our faces, we have obviously made connections and built relationships. What excitement to finally be face to face. When folks asked if our zoom meetings would resume, they validated for us the advantage of being united in purpose, in prayer, and in understanding the goals when working with younger Catholics. The commission could tell from our conversations with ministers, animators, and interested people that there is a clearer understanding of what young people need, how we can build relationships with them, and what methods work for today’s youth. Even though each situation is unique, those of us who have spent time together are united in our basic mission. Our struggles, concerns, and roadblocks are similar across the United States, but we are united in our desire and willingness to move forward in reaching out to young people.

Have we ignited?

There is an enthusiasm now that we didn’t notice several years ago. At the beginning of our term, and even after a few years, we still sensed the discouragement, fear, apathy, and powerlessness in our quest. Our work, again especially through the virtual gatherings, has gradually helped us “ignite”

enthusiasm and courage. We didn’t talk to a single person who said, “Why bother,” or “It’s impossible.” As we’ve said all along, this is God’s work. We are simply His hands and feet, His voice, His messengers. We won’t get discouraged or give up if we remember who is in charge and in the center of all we do. How could we not be on fire with the Holy Spirit? If you attended the evening of Taizé prayer or the concert with Jesse Manibusan, or participated in making blankets during the service project, you would have witnessed how joyful our young people were to serve in this way. Their enthusiasm was infectious and, at least for the commission team, affirmed that we are on the right track as far as igniting passion for stepping into the world of young people.

Have we invited?

Now for the third part of our goal—to invite. We have invited regions, individuals, and fraternities to get involved, to attend our on-line trainings, prayer services, and networking opportunities. But we find this is our weakest area of growth. It is time to be courageous and invite young people into a gospel life. They are hungry for a deeper relationship with God, and we can walk with them in that journey. YouFra is not only possible, but also a beautiful way to nourish that hunger.

Through our presentations in this coming year, we intend to invite a larger and more varied audience. When we discuss how to plan Catholic social justice activities for young people, we will invite Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation animators. When we bring to your attention topics important to younger Catholics, the invitation will extend to Formation Directors. If how to plan meaningful prayer experiences is the evening’s presentation, Spiritual Assistants will be welcome. We’re hoping with this plan Ministers and FY/YA Animators will be more supported in their efforts.

We appreciate your help in fulfilling our dream to unite, ignite and invite.

FRANCISCAN LIVING

REMEMBERING MY FRIEND JERRY ROUSSEAU, OFS

By Jan Parker, OFS

Trusting in the Father, Christ chose for himself and his mother a poor and humble life, even though he valued created things attentively and lovingly. Let the Secular Franciscans seek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs. Let them be mindful that according to the gospel they are stewards of the goods received for the benefit of God's children. Thus, in the spirit of "the Beatitudes", and as pilgrims and strangers on their way to the home of the Father, they should strive to purify their hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power.

Article 11, OFS Rule

I first met Jerry at a National Chapter. He was there as Regional Minister of Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region.

I noticed right away that he was a member everyone looked up to. He also had a wonderful ability to explain complicated topics in a very simple and clear manner. I remember once there was some confusion about the financial report. Jerry raised his hand, and, with great respect for what the treasurer was trying to say, he explained that section of the financial report by using a common example that everyone understood.

"Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon. Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others." Article 19, OFS Rule

A few years later, when we very much needed a new national treasurer, many of us hoped that Jerry would accept a nomination. I remember very well approaching both Jerry and his wife Madeline to ask



about this. I knew it would be a difficult decision for him. He had already served many years at the regional level, and I knew that he and Madeline were looking forward to having more time for other important priorities in their lives. With great hope in my heart, I asked him if he would be willing to serve three more years, and take on the duties of national treasurer.

I can still see Jerry looking over at Madeline to see what she thought. Madeline looked right at me and said, "Yes, he can serve." It was a beautiful moment of sacrifice for the good of the Order.

Jerry was an amazing treasurer because he was an amazing Secular Franciscan. He was very pastoral in his approach to being treasurer, and he was

lighthearted, too. Once he wrote a column for the TAU-USA entitled "The Sermon on the Amount." He consistently referenced Article 25 of the OFS Rule, emphasizing that our financial support should go first to "the life of the fraternity," secondly to "the needs of worship," and thirdly to "[the needs] of the apostolate, and charity."

I never saw Jerry without his copy of the Rule. He always kept it close at hand, and most importantly, not only did he carry it with him, but he also lived it. He truly did. It had been a few years since our paths had crossed, but I was looking forward to seeing him and Madeline at the Quinquennial. Sadly, they had to cancel at the last minute for health reasons. I'm sorry I did not get to see him, but who he was and how he lived his Franciscan calling has made a big difference in my life. Be at peace, dear brother!

Peace,
Jan

"Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith. Article 15, OFS Rule



ThankYou! Bob and Mary Stronach

Bob and Mary Stronach, OFS, were honored at the Quinquennial for many years of service as chairpersons of the Public Relations Committee of the national order. Bob is a familiar face behind the camera, taking hundreds of photos at events like the Quinquennial and Chapter, while Mary has planned and written many articles about the events. Their gift was an image of a Tau crafted from photos and articles they have written for this publication over the years. Mary

was recently elected international vice-minister general, and Bob is editor of *Vox Franciscana* (*Franciscan Voice*), the CIOFS publication. Bob took all the photos at the Quinquennial except this one on the left.

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