



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

May 27, 2023

Greetings to you, Juan de Padilla region! Memorial Day is a day to honor those who have served in the U.S. military. I was thinking of those who I know who have served. What courage and humility it must have taken to choose to join the military and possibly be called to lay down their life for another. I think of St. Francis, and in his early years he desired to be a knight and to lay down his life. He became a prisoner and became ill. He had several experiences and eventually experienced a conversion in his life and began to live in a different way. Through his love for God, he humbly served the poor, the sick, and the marginalized. He lived a life of voluntary poverty, going so far as to strip naked in the city square and return all the clothes he had in his possession to his father so that no worldly riches distracted him from this mission. He preached the Gospel through this sacrificial love.

St. Francis opened his heart to the Lord and did so in humility, trust, and surrender. We are called as OFS to follow St. Francis' way of life. We get to choose to empty ourselves of all worldly attachments and pursue this holy way of life. Sometimes our Lord and Savior allows a stripping of our own worldly attachments and it can cause us grief. This "stripping away" can be very painful and force us to adjust or make a change in life. If we empty ourselves, and remain faithful by surrendering and acceptance, suffering humiliations and trusting in Divine

Providence, we have room to be filled with grace and virtue to grow in holiness. I invite you to ask yourself what are you holding onto that needs "stripped" away? What takes up space in your heart, mind, or life that could be emptied to make room for a filling of grace and maybe more peace?

In a few short days June 9 - 11, 2023 we will be together at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita for the 2023 Summer Gathering. I am looking forward to seeing many of you there. Fr. Curtis Carlson OFM Cap will be speaking on the Sacraments. It is a great time to build fraternal bonds with our OFS brothers and sisters.

The REC continues to meet on a regular monthly basis. We had originally planned to have Chapter October 13 and 14 but after reviewing the budget and realizing that next year and the following year we will have bigger expenses due to a National Visitation in 2024 and Elections in 2025, we will be meeting only on October 14 to save the budget. Also, the costs at the Spiritual Life Center continue increasing. We will get you more information as we continue to meet.

I pray for you and offer sacrifices for you. I pray that you all have peace. I know that it has been elusive for me recently.

May Christ give you peace in your heart, mind, soul
and your daily life,

Brenda Haas OFS, Regional Minister

Open Your Heart to Him. Listen, Discern, Go Forth!



Holy Spirit Tension Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit

Replace the tension within us with a holy relaxation.

Replace the turbulence within us with a sacred calm.

Replace the anxiety within us with a quiet confidence.

Replace the fear within us with a strong faith.

Replace the bitterness within us with the sweetness of grace.

Replace the darkness within us with a gentle light.

Replace the coldness within us with a loving warmth.

Replace the night within us with your light.

Replace the winter within us with your spring.

Straighten our crookedness.

Fill our emptiness.

Dull the edge of our pride.

Sharpen the edge of our humility.

Light the fires of our love.

Quench the flames of our lust.

Let us see ourselves as you see us

That we may see You.

Amen.



CALENDAR

| DATE | EVENT | LOCATION | NAME(S) |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| June 9-11, 2023 | Regional Summer Gathering | Spiritual Life Center, Wichita, KS | All Members |
| August 22-27, 2023 | OFS-USA Chapter , Fraternal and Pastoral Visitation | Pallottine Retreat Center— St. Louis, MO | NEC, Regional Ministers |
| October 14, 2023 | Regional Chapter | Spiritual Life Center, Wichita, KS | REC, Regional Ministers, Spiritual Assistants |
| September 17-21, 2024 | OFS-USA Chapter | Franciscan Renewal Center— Scottsdale, AZ | NEC, Regional Ministers |
| November 14-19, 2026 | Chapter of Mats | Rome, Italy | Members of NEC |



FOLLOW ME

In the last verses of John's gospel, Jesus says twice to Peter, "Follow Me". The first time is after Jesus hints to Peter how he will die and the second time is when Peter shows too much concern with what John, the beloved, will be doing. Jesus responds with, "What does it matter to you? You are to follow Me." These two words are so simple and yet Christ repeated them throughout his ministry to the Apostles, thirteen times in the Gospels. St. Francis clearly heard the words of Jesus as St. Bonaventure tells us in his writings.

One day as he was praying in solitude, Jesus Christ appeared to him, hanging on his Cross. He made Francis realize so vividly the force of the Gospel words, "If any man has a mind to come my way, let him renounce self, and take up his cross, and follow me (Mt 16:24) that his heart was filled with compassion and burned within him with the fire of love" (Bonaventure, Minor Life Chap.1, Lesson 4).

John's Gospel shows us exactly what we must do to fulfill the request Jesus asks of us Franciscans and that is to not take our eyes off of Christ. We are able to carry our cross and follow Christ only if we keep our eyes on Christ himself, who leads us. If we look to the left or right to see what our neighbor is doing as Peter did when he concerned himself with John, we will lose sight of Christ. Once when Francis was ill someone offered to read a book of devotions to him, and Francis responded, "My book is Jesus crucified" (St. Alphonsus Liguori - The Practice of the Love of Jesus Christ, p.11). So let us follow St. Francis who faithfully followed our Lord and did not concern himself with the world and its ways but chose only to see Jesus Christ crucified.

THE PRAYER BEFORE THE CRUCIFIX

Most high,
Glorious God,
Enlighten the darkness of my heart,
and give me, Lord,
a correct faith,
certain hope,
a perfect charity,
sense and knowledge,
so that I may carry out Your holy and true command.



Geri Rupp OFS,
Regional Formation Director

St. Anthony's Fraternity Continues to Grow in Wichita, KS



Lara Law is applauded after taking part in the Rite of Introduction and Welcoming Sunday, April 2, in the St. Clare Room of St. Anthony Church in Wichita. From left are Sr. Mary Catherine, IHM, St. Anthony Fraternity's spiritual advisor, Vice-Minister Larry Dougherty, Lara, Minister Larry Menestrina, and Councilor Christopher Riggs. Lara will be eligible for profession in early 2025.



Justin Kelley, in the center, took part in a Rite of Admission Sunday, March 5, in the St. Clare Room of St. Anthony Church in Wichita. From left are Vice-Minister Larry Dougherty, Councilor Christopher Riggs, Justin, the Rev. Mr. Hector Rios, and Minister Larry Menestrina. Justin will be eligible for profession in August of 2024.



Do you feel that the world needs God's help, protection and intervention now more than ever?

Does 100% of your fraternity participate in Adoration? If not, the Year of the Eucharist is the perfect time to start.

Jesus Is waiting for you now. Come Lord Jesus.

“Man should tremble, the world should vibrate, all Heaven should be deeply moved when the Son of God appears on the altar in the hands of the priest.” St. Francis of Assisi



Benedictines of Mary Queen of Apostles



Astonishing News: Mother Mary Wilhelmina, First African American Found Intact in Gower, Missouri!

Bishop Robert Finn brought a group of traditional Latin Rite nuns to pray and sacrifice for the priests of the diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, MO in 2006. The order grew quickly with new vocations coming daily. The sisters are known world-wide for their beautiful Gregorian chants and music, exquisite traditional Latin Mass vestments and art. They raise farm animals, garden and work long hours of rural life.

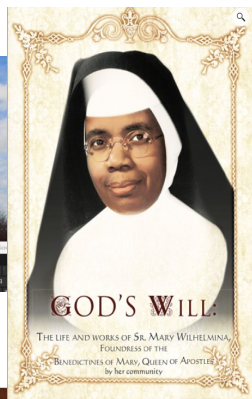
Sr. Wilhelmina, foundress of the order, died on May 29, 2019 at the age of 95. She was buried along side the graves of miscarriage children.

This spring, her body was to be placed inside the church as the foundress of the order. When they opened her simple pine casket, her body, which had not been embalmed, was still intact! One of the nuns said that her habit looked better than her own. Sister will be encased in glass on May 29th, 2023.

For more information - <https://benedictinesofmary.org/> or YouTube video - <https://youtu.be/efnMXHNG3no>



Cathy Herndon OFS, Queen of the Angles Fraternity, prays before Sr. Maria Whelemina, foundress of the Benedictines of Mary, Queen of the Apostles before it was encased.



Celebrating Sister Josephine's 91st Birthday



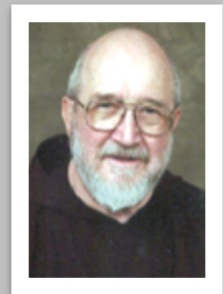
Sister Josephine Boyes OSF wore her "Birthday Princess" sash as she celebrated her 91st birthday with flowers, lunch and chocolate cake.

Sister Josephine, known for her humor, has always been an energetic conversationist. She entertained friends with stories of her childhood in rural Missouri. She has had many exciting times as a Sister of St. Francis of the Holy Eucharist.

Sister Josephine had a major impact upon the development of the Secular Franciscans in the Juan de Padilla Region and the Kansas City Metro Area. She attended all regional gatherings and chapter meetings, serving as a spiritual assistant, advisor, pastoral visitor for elections and visitations. Sister was the spiritual assistant for Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Elizabeths, Holy Eucharist, St. Monica's and advisor to Queen of the Angels.



You are Invited to a 'Come & Go' Appreciation Reception for Father Felix's 92nd Birthday



St. Joseph Fraternity in Hays, KS is hosting a birthday reception for Father Felix's years of work for the Secular Franciscans.

Many of you remember Father Felix Petrovsky OFM Cap, as Juan de Padilla's Regional Spiritual Assistant. He was essential in the establishment of our current region. He attended all OFS elections, visitations, and regional retreats. Father is known for his expertise on Secular Franciscan Constitution and Statutes.

What: Reception

When: Sunday, June 25, 2023, 2-4 pm

Where: Via Christi, 2225 Canterbury, Hays, KS in the Heritage Room



Our Lady of Sorrows Fraternity

Just like any family, our fraternity has sad times as well as happy times. Within the past couple of months, Our Lady of Sorrows fraternity has experienced both. We have lost a longtime much loved member who brought many wonderful things to so many people within our fraternity, region and community. Two month later, we had a profession and welcomed our newest member. Our past and our future remind us of the many wonderful people who have been part of the foundation of our fraternity, and those who will join us and continue their legacy.

On May 13, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, Beth Antonacci was professed, and joined Our Lady of Sorrows Fraternity. Beth began her Franciscan journey discerning with the Poor Clares in St. Louis. Our Lady of Fatima is very special to Beth. Her religious name was Mary Jacinta. However, the Lord had other plans, and moved Beth to Our Lady of Sorrows fraternity in Olathe. We are blessed to have her join us. Beth has a deep spirituality, a gentle spirit, and a beautiful heart.



Center picture left to right: Rebecca Cheek OFS, Renee Schmit OFS, Mike Pottorff OFS, Genna Ferrell OFS (minister), Beth Antonacci OFS (newly professed), Fr Barnabas Eichor OFM, Cap., Megan Ratzlaff (candidate), Norma Crevoiserat OFS, Marina Zeller OFS, and Tom Bauer OFS (visitor)



Jeanette Harriman

May 11, 1921—March 21, 2023

With sadness, we said goodbye to someone who leaves behind a wonderful legacy. Many in the KC Metro area were deeply touched by her life. Jeanette and Sr Josephine worked together to reactivate Our Lady of Sorrow, St Elizabeth of Hungary and St Monica's fraternities. She helped Holy Eucharist fraternity emerge from Our Lady of Sorrows fraternity. Jeanette was known for being a great hostess, inviting many people into the order, her parish activities, and community service. She was a treasure, and we will cherish her memory. - Genna Ferrell OFS

Queen of the Angels Sponsors Public Rosary for America May 13th, feast of Our Lady of Fatima.



Each quarter, Cathy Herndon OFS rallies the two Blue Springs parishes and two Franciscan fraternities; Queen of the Angels and Holy Eucharist, to join in praying the rosary for America.

The rosary is “the weapon” according to St. Padre Pio OFM Cap. The rosary is powerful and with the power of prayer and the rosary, we will change the world. Pastor Father Sean McCaffery blessed those in attendance after the rosary.



SISTER DEATH

May they rest in Peace and the Perpetual Light Shine Upon them



| DATE | NAME | FRATERNITY | LOCATION |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| August 21, 2022 | Robert Glassman OFS | St. Joseph | Hays, KS |
| November 21, 2022 | Elizabeth Pfeifer OFS | St. Joseph | Hays, KS |
| December 6, 2022 | Alice Crews OFS | St. Elizabeth of Hungary | Leawood, KS |
| December 17, 2022 | Willa Mae Sabala OFS | St. Stanislaus & St. Adalbert | Tulsa, OK |
| January 20, 2023 | Bob Brill OFS | Brother Jacoba | Lawrence, KS |
| February 18, 2023 | Josephine Ramirez OFS | Brother Jacoba | Lawrence, KS |
| March 21, 2023 | Jeanette Harriman OFS | Our Lady of Sorrows | Olathe, KS |
| April 25, 2023 | Margaret Madsen OFS | Queen of the Angels | Blue Springs/Buckner, MO |



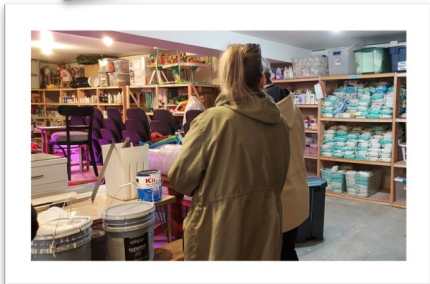
Queen of the Angles Fraternity Supports Mary's House



Members (l-r) Bart Ridge, Joe Novak, Janice Cox, Jo Keller, and Sr. Doris Engeman. (back row) Sylvia Ridge, Carol Allman Not pictured—Kathy Johnson, Dona Gibbons, and Cheryl O'Neil



Sr. Doris Engeman FSHF provided a tour of the new construction at Mary's House. The picture to the left— Sr. Doris shows storage and activity areas. These area will contain arts and craft room, a teaching kitchen for cooking and canning skills for new mothers.



Queen of the Angels members have planted 450 plants at the Stations of the Cross on the ground. They plan to assist in teaching the woman to can produce from the gardens this summer.



Carol Allman OFS organized the Stations of the Cross activities, the tours at Mary's House.



The Franciscan Journey of Peace and Justice

~ By Susan Tabor, Regional JPIC Animator

(Last weekend 20 OFS JPIC animators met at the Mercy Retreat Center in St. Louis. The format was that of a retreat; lots of work was done in small groups. We spent our time on reflecting on the new mission our OFS NEC chose at the last chapter held in Detroit last fall: "Listen, discern, go forth!")

LISTEN

Secular Franciscans are meant to be bearers of peace and perfect joy, and to act as salt and light in our communities. We are New Testament Christians, and particularly called to live The Beatitudes, engaging in good works and giving glory to God. Listening is essential to this process. We need to ask ourselves, and fraternity members, these essential questions: What am I being led to be and do? How can I best carry out the Gospel message in the fraternity, and in my community?

We then need to be quiet and listen carefully to how we respond. A precondition to this process is to respect each other and be open to the views of others. Listening should be non-judgmental. Ideally, we should set aside our own agenda and the retort "we've always done it this way." This is an opportunity for new thinking.

Many participants in the retreat noted that we should make use of the new electronic technology as much as we can. This includes using Zoom or similar tools to conduct meetings (i.e., continuing to hold hybrid meetings), and for communication between meetings. To facilitate such sessions, fraternities may wish to consider upgrading their technology by using Owl cameras and speakers, for example. It is also a good time to assist some members who are technology-challenged.

After hearing and sharing about each of the elements—listen, discern, go forth—in our small groups, we dialogued on some questions: What are the impediments to each element? (Noise? Distractions? People?) How can I as a Secular Franciscan respond to and help eliminate the impediments that were identified?

DISCERN

Henri Houwen noted that discernment is not a straightforward process. It involves listening and responding to the place within us where our deepest desires align with God's desires. We need to consider what our charism is and how best to use it. We should ask ourselves: Why did God call me to be a Franciscan? Am I making an effort to live a Gospel life? Prayer is an important part of this process. We should ask the Holy Spirit to show us where we need to go.

GO FORTH

The going forth process is outwardly oriented. We are expected to carry our Gospel values into the wider community. We have access to people and places that the clergy rarely go. To start, we need to be open to new ideas. We can also show individual and group initiative. A fraternity member might say: "I'm going to do this; would anyone like to join me?" Members of the retreat pointed out there are various social change roles:

- Helpers - involving direct service, volunteering in charities
- Advocates - working inside the system, attempting reforms, helping others navigate the system; social workers and attorneys
- Organizers - planning, directing activities outside/alternative to the system
- Rebels - speaking truth to power; public protest and direct action (I would also say that this person is bold; not afraid of speaking or writing the truth.)

Fraternities and individuals should use the discernment process to guide individual fraternity members to consider which one of these categories they most comfortably fit in. There is no "one size fits all." We must ask ourselves: What apostolates/activities/missions/advocacy are the we most drawn to?



Susan Tabor with some members of the JPIC commission

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The JPIC Manual on the national website can provide guidance and suggestions on program ideas. Really, the sky is the limit. We need to consider what we can most effectively bring to the community where we live.

Finally, in the loving community that our fraternity is expected to be, let us remember: “Encourage each other every day while it is still today” (Hebrew 3:13).

So I invite fraternities, guided by your appointed JPIC animator or your vice-minister to use the process of listening, discerning and going forth as a process to help you evaluate what you’ve been doing in your apostolate for your community and to assist you in moving forward, more intentionally focused and more clear about the gifts that each fraternity member brings to the table. And please, do this with a spirit of joy, This is meant to be a tool for growth and discovery! Joy opens our hearts and minds to the Holy Spirit!

And so together, let us listen, discern and go forth!

“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”
Francis of Assisi (*Admonitions*)

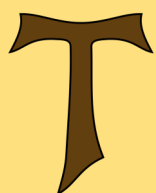


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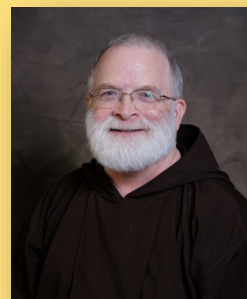
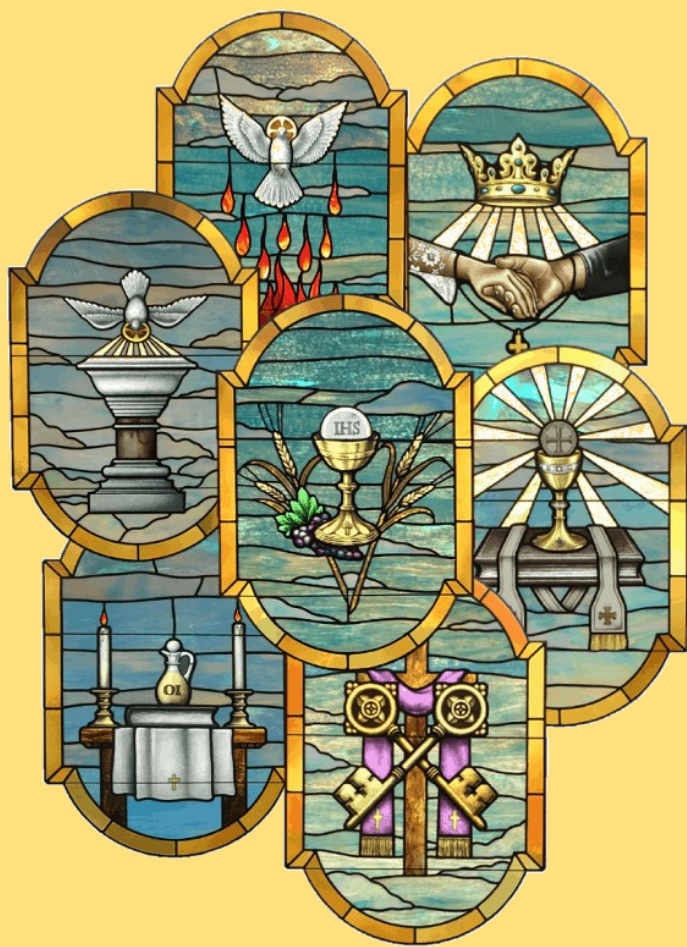


PUBLICATION DEADLINE: All submissions for the next issue of the 2023 Summer Juan de Padilla Newsletter are due to donagibbons2@gmail.com by August 15, 2023.



Into the Sacraments

The Meaning and Experience of the Sacraments



Fr. Curtis Carlson OFM Cap
Retreat Director

“I was born and raised in Kansas. I was ordained to the priesthood in 1995. I have ministered in food pantries, parishes, college campus ministries, prisons, nursing homes, and Confessional ministry. I have worked with Secular Franciscans at the local and regional levels. I was Director of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults in various places for twelve years. What I hope to offer is a refresher course on the meaning and experience of the Sacraments.”

- Fr. Carlson

Juan de Padilla Summer Gathering
June 9-11, 2023
Spiritual Life Center, Wichita, KS



Open Your Hearts to Him; Listen, Discern and Go Forth

2023 Regional Summer Gathering REGISTRATION FORM

Spiritual Life Center, Wichita, Kansas

June 9 - 11, 2023

"Open your hearts before Him; Listen, Discern, Go Forth"

Director: Fr. Curtis Carlson, OFM Cap.

NAME: _____ **LOCAL FRATERNITY:** _____
PHONE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM & **NON-REFUNDABLE** REG FEE (\$50.00) BY **MAY 12, 2023** TO:

Renee Schmit 1720 W. Prairie St., Olathe, KS 66061

Make checks payable to: JUAN DE PADILLA REGION

Scholarships are available. Please contact:

Regional Minister Brenda Haas OFS at brendalager2008@gmail.com or 785-628-3107

| PLEASE CHECK ALL YOUR ROOM AND MEAL CHOICES | | | | TOTALS |
|--|------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| ROOM: | | | | |
| Single per night | \$80 | Friday _____ | Saturday _____ | \$ _____ |
| Double per night | \$70 | Friday _____ | Saturday _____ | \$ _____ |
| Name of roommate: _____ | | | | |
| I need a roommate: _____ | | | | |
| Commuter | | | | FREE |
| MEALS: | | | | |
| Friday dinner | | 5:30 PM | \$16.50 | \$ _____ |
| Sat breakfast | | 8:30 AM | \$ 10.50 | \$ _____ |
| Sat lunch | | Noon | \$13.50 | \$ _____ |
| Sat dinner | | 5:30 PM | \$16.50 | \$ _____ |
| Sun breakfast | | 8:30 AM | \$ 10.50 | \$ _____ |
| Special dietary needs: | | | | |
| Gluten-free | | _____ | | |
| Vegetarian | | _____ | | |
| Vegan | | _____ | | |
| Other | | _____ (please explain on back) | | |
| REGISTRATION FEE FOR ALL ATTENDEES - \$50.00 | | | | \$50.00 |
| I would like to make an additional donation toward the costs of The Summer Gathering. | | | | \$ _____ |
| GRAND TOTAL COST OF REGISTRATION FEE, ROOM AND MEALS | | | | \$ _____ |

I can assist at Mass:

Lector _____ Antiphonist _____
Cantor _____ Musician _____



Jim Caviezel, who portrayed Jesus in "The Passion of the Christ" will star in a new film entitled, "Sound of Freedom."

The film follows the true story of a former government agent on a mission to rescue children from human sex trafficking.

"After rescuing a young boy from ruthless child traffickers, a federal agent learns the boy's sister is still captive and decides to embark on a dangerous mission to save her," the [film's trailer](#) describes.

"With time running out, he quits his job and journeys deep into the Colombian jungle, putting his life on the line to free her from a fate worse than death."

According to the film's press release, "This emotionally riveting narrative is a powerful story of heroism and stands as a testament to the tenacious spirit of those who refuse to let evil triumph."



Angel Studios, which is also the studio behind "The Chosen" series, will release the film exclusively in theaters on July 4.

Caviezel said he is "so proud to be a part of this impactful film."

"I'd say this is the **second-most important film** I've done after 'The Passion of the Christ.'"

<https://youtu.be/hyyyKcfJRGQ>