



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

Dear Juan de Padilla Region,

Pace e Bene!

Welcome back to Fr. Mike Scully OFM Cap as our regional spiritual assistant as of September 2, 2023!

Our yearly chapter meeting is upon us, October 14, 2023, at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. I look forward to seeing all the regional ministers, REC, and spiritual assistants on this day!

In August I spent a week in St. Louis at National Chapter which included St. Louis' feast day. We celebrated Mass in the St. Louis Cathedral on Friday August 25, his feast day. What a beautiful church!

The National Chapter provided time and space to meet other regional ministers, share from each other's regions and vote on a few items. This National Chapter included a visitation from the International Council which occurs once every 6 years.

Items of importance: Fair Share to National will increase by \$5 per person in the year 2025. The last time the Fair Share was raised was in 2011. Prices of food, lodging, and travel continue to increase. National has cut most committees/commission budgets by about half, they decreased the expected cost for next chapter by about \$12,000, and the TAU magazine will be produced four times a year but only 1 will be print version, the rest will be electronic.

The new database is up and running. Each region has database administrators, and they will be the ones inputting data at this time. The administrators

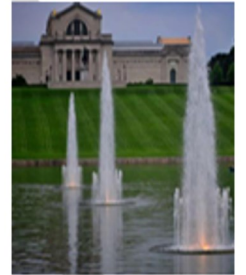
for our region are Claudia Kauzlarich and Dona Gibbons. There is a form that is in the process of being created that each fraternity can submit changes to be inputted. This database will be used to create our regional report to national.

Regarding Spiritual Assistants, there is a process regarding their appointment. The CNSA will be authenticating/validating/approving all spiritual assistants going forward. This means that SA's must be appointed by the regional spiritual assistant and the provincial. In our region there are several fraternities with no spiritual assistant. Spiritual assistants cannot serve in their own fraternity. This was discussed at length at National as this is a widespread issue of fraternities not having a spiritual assistant. Spiritual assistants must complete a training program before being appointed. We do have a training program in our region and Fr. Mike Scully, OFM Cap is the trainer. It is a correspondence program, and it takes about three years. If you are interested, please contact him for more information.

October is upon us and time for celebrating the Transitus of St. Francis. Please check out our regional website for Transitus celebrations if you are looking for one. The regional website is [Secular Franciscan Formation Resources | Juan de Padilla \(jdpofs.org\)](https://www.jdpofs.org) Scroll down to the bottom right of the page and there is a TRANSITUS section. Or just use the search and you will find more [Search Results for "transitus" | Juan de Padilla \(jdpofs.org\)](https://www.jdpofs.org) from Formation Fridays and fraternity transitus programs.

While at National the national website links for ideas for celebrating the Centenary of St. Francis were presented. *Continued on the next page*

NATIONAL OFS CHAPTER 2023 St. Louis, MO



(Minister's Message continued from previous page)

Please check these out for some good ideas so you don't have to reinvent the wheel.

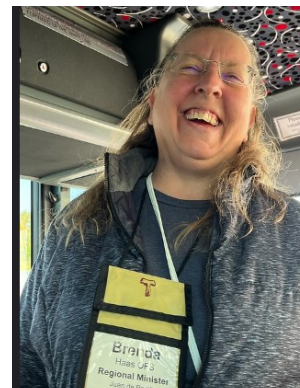
If you have created ways to celebrate, share them with the NEC and they can put them on their website. [Franciscan Centenary Celebration – Secular Franciscan Order – USA \(secularfranciscansusa.org\)](https://www.franciscancentenarycelebration.org)

Helping to celebrate the Rule In 2023, all Secular Franciscans are invited to attend a National Greccio Zoom meeting on November 19th at 3 p.m. EST (2 p.m. CST). It promises to be a quality program. Please plan to join in the Zoom meeting.

You all have been in my thoughts and prayers. I carried you all with me as we prayed in both the old and new cathedrals of St. Louis and venerated the relics.

May God bless you all and may He give you, His peace!

Brenda Haas OFS
Juan dePadilla Regional Minister



Celebrating the Centenary as a Franciscan Family

2023	2024	2025	2026
<i>Greccio The Rule</i>	<i>The Stigmata</i>	<i>The Canticle</i>	<i>The Easter of St. Francis</i>



Looking for resources to help your fraternity celebrate the Franciscan Centenary? Go to:

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/franciscan-centenary-celebration/>



T h e T r a n s i t u s o f S t . F r a n c i s . . .

The Transitus is celebrated by Franciscans all over the world on October 3rd. This is the vigil of the Feast of St. Francis and is a night to commemorate the death of our beloved Saint.

Transitus is a Latin word that means passage or crossing over. In every account written on the death of St. Francis, it is remembered that he crossed over from life on earth to eternal life with the Lord, full of great joy and song.



CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	NAME(S)
October 14, 2023	Regional Chapter	Spiritual Life Center, Wichita, KS	REC, Regional Ministers, Spiritual Assistants
November 19, 2023 @ 2 PM CST	Greccio Zoom Event	National Zoom Event	All invited
September 17-21, 2024	OFS-USA Chapter	Franciscan Renewal Center—Scottsdale, AZ	NEC, Regional Ministers
September 4-7, 2025	Regional Chapter of Visitation & Elections	Spiritual Life Center, Wichita, KS	REC, Regional Ministers, Spir- itual Assistants
TBA— 2026	Chapter of Mats	Rome, Italy	Members of NEC

My God and My All



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we near the end of our Centenary celebration of Francis' love for the Eucharist, we can reflect on how Francis outwardly showed the world his devotion for the Eucharistic Christ. This was accomplished by word and deed as Francis made sure his Eucharistic Lord was being honored in the churches. The following examples from the Omnibus are taken from The Legend of Perugia: Devotion to the Eucharist.

*St. Francis had great devotion to the Eucharist and wanted his brothers in all the provinces where they lived to also love and devote much care for the Body and Blood of Christ. *All brothers should ask clerics and priests to reserve the Body of Christ in a "decent and fitting place" and to do it themselves if it wasn't done.

*He resolved to send the brothers out with ciboria to put the Body of Christ in if they should find it abandoned or in an unfit place.

*St. Francis also decided to send brothers into all the provinces with beautiful and good bread irons.

*Francis encouraged all his brothers to confess to a priest before receiving the Eucharist – Contrite and having confessed in this way, let them receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ with great humility and respect remembering what the Lord says: *Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and Do this in memory of me.* Early Documents (pg. 77)

One of the long forgotten traditions the church had for the Eucharist was to have people carry a candle on either side of a priest as he carried the Body and Blood of Christ to the sick in hospitals. For whatever reason we no longer have that tradition but there are many we still do practice. For example, make the sign of the cross when you pass a church and recite the prayer, "**Oh Sacrament most Holy, Oh Sacrament Divine, all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment Thine**". With the few months left before we begin the Centenary celebrations of the Rule and the Creche at Greccio, let us show Jesus our love for Him in the Eucharist. Whether we stop in at an Adoration Chapel, or sit in front of the Tabernacle in church, or stay longer in church after receiving Jesus in the Eucharist, we will be honoring our Lord and praying with St. Francis, "**My God and My All**".



Geri Rupp OFS, Regional Formation Director
Juan de Padilla Executive Council



Sister Mary Catherine Blanding IHM

New Spiritual Assistant for St. Anthony's Fraternity ,
Wichita , KS



St. Anthony is excited about the appointment of Sister Mary Catherine Blanding IHM, Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary as their spiritual assistant.

Sister began her Franciscan training in 2022 under the mentorship of Fr. Mike Scully OFM. She has graduate level coursework in spiritual theology at the Avila Institute for Spiritual Formation. Sister is familiar with the Essential Documents of the OFS Order and currently participates in Franciscan formation of fraternity members.

Holy Eucharist Fraternity, Independence, MO

Holy Eucharist Fraternity had a baby bottle drive for Mother's Refuge in February, in March we had a guest speaker talk about his trip to Jamaica. He was a volunteer Doctor and got to see the country that tourist never get to see. He brought pictures back that he was not supposed to have taken.

Then in May we had a baby shower for St. Mary's Home for Mothers. In June we had a drive to help William Cowper get care packages ready for the homeless. He said that St. Charles in Liberty was doing this as well and we were helping the cause for them.



September 16th, four candidates made their profession at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Independence, MO. They were: (l-r) Megan Bare, Kristy Lyon, Rose Marie McCoplin and Rick Lyon. Father Kendall Ketterlin Presided.

Betty McClatchey OFS,
Minister Holy Eucharist Fraternity



“In His Real Presence” Eucharistic Congress ‘23

Kansas City~St. Joseph Diocese

September 9th, area Secular Franciscans showed up in a big way at the Eucharistic Congress to welcome Catholics to learn more about the OFS. Fraternities took turns hosting a ‘Come and See’ booth to share with attendees their experience in living the Gospel Life.



Pope Francis



Julie Oswald of St. Elizabeths and Alice Goergen of Holy Eucharist fraternities at the Come and See Table.



Lisa Humphreys views the displays



Joe Novak, Carol Allman and Dr. Mesa socialize during lunch



Bishop Johnston of KC-SJ diocese speaks to Cathy Herndon, Kathy Johnson and Lisa Humphrey of Queen of the Angels fraternity

SISTER DEATH

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



DATE	NAME	FRATERNITY	LOCATION
April 25, 2023	Margaret Madsen OFS	Queen of the Angels	Buckner/Blue Springs, MO
March 21, 2023	Jeanette Harriman OFS	Our Lady of Sorrows	Olathe, KS
January 20, 2023	Robert Brill OFS	Brother Jacoba	Lawrence, KS

Our Lady of Sorrows Fraternity

June

In June, some members of Our Lady of Sorrows Fraternity attended the Regional Gathering. The rest of the fraternity participated in a Rosary for Life at Planned Parenthood. The Rosary specifically addressed people in various situations concerning abortion. Those who were not able to attend the event supported our group through prayer. One of the prayers we prayed was the Litany for Life by the USCCB.



July

We gathered together for prayer in the Adoration Chapel at The Church of the Ascension. The special intention of our prayer time was for the conversion of Catholics who don't recognize the Eucharist as the Real Presence. This was a special and rewarding experience for everyone. We are planning to have more adoration hours together in the future,

As requested by others in the fraternity, Genna shared her experience as a convert with the Eucharist. The Eucharist played a significant role in her journey into the Catholic Church. Both the Eucharist and the Saints continue to draw people into the Church.

Our Lady of Sorrows Fraternity has spent four months focused upon the Eucharist. Each month we have had a sharing and apostolate related to the Eucharist. We have taken turns researching and sharing on Eucharistic topics. It has given more people a chance to be involved, and has provided interesting and informative presentations. It has allowed us to go deeper and learn more concerning our apostolates.



August

Megan Ratzlaff shared about two Eucharistic Miracles. One was the miracle at Sokolka Poland on October 12, 2008. The other miracle that she shared with us took place on October 12, 2006 in Tixtla Mexico. In both of these miracles, the Host had a red stain or clots which were determined to be blood in one case and myocardial tissue in the other.

For our apostolate, we reflected upon the need for people to be fed both spiritually and physically. We donated food to local food pantries.

September

Beth Antonacci will be sharing about Franciscan devotion to the Eucharist, and how important the Eucharist was to St Francis. We look forward to hearing her presentation.

For our apostolate, we are focusing upon supporting our seminarians on their journey to priesthood. We also want to recognize the essential role our priests play during Mass and the consecration of the Hosts. During the month, we will be praying for them. We will send them notes of encouragement.

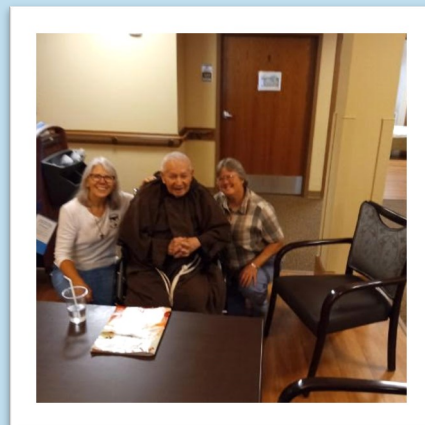


St Josephs Fraternity ~ Hays, KS

St Joseph fraternity pairs up in twos to visit those who are not able to come to our fraternity meetings and visit our OFM Capuchins.

In the picture on the right, Geri Rupp OFS and Judy Donley, candidate, visit Father Gilmary Tallman OFM Cap.

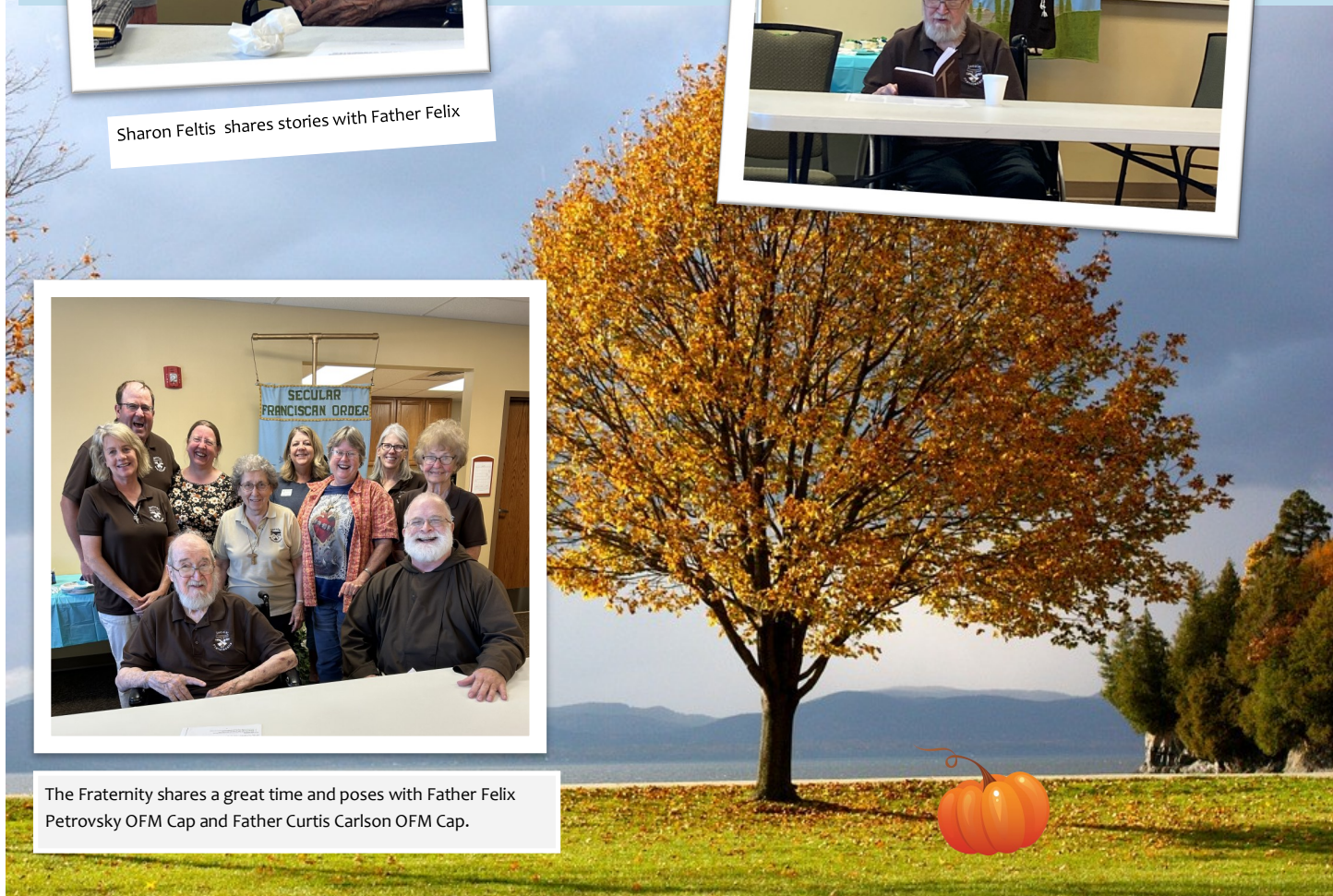
They also visited Fr Felix Petrovsky OFM Cap and Virginia Kisner OFS at Via Christi. — Brenda Haas OFS



Sharon Feltis shares stories with Father Felix



The Fraternity shares a great time and poses with Father Felix Petrovsky OFM Cap and Father Curtis Carlson OFM Cap.



Brother Jacoba —Lawrence, KS

Outreach to the Poor

DARE BBQ

The mission of the Drop In and Rest (DARE) Center is to offer a daily refuge with basic services to provide physical and emotional comfort for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. It operates as a volunteer program.

At DARE people are able rest with a cup of coffee or bottled water and snacks. The center provides laundry and shower facilities for their clients. DARE also gives away basic toiletries, socks, underwear- whatever has been donated.

In July, Brother Jacoba hosted the 2nd annual DARE BBQ. We cooked 100 hot dogs and baked chocolate chip cookies. Added to the menu were chips, lemonade and iced tea.

The BBQ was a big success. People of all ages attended, plus several dogs. DARE volunteers were also there. A fun time was had by all and everyone appreciated our efforts.



“We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart, and to bring home those who have lost their way.” — St. Francis of Assisi



Brother Jacob Outreach (continued)



FIRST NATIONS OUTREACH

Brother Jacoba has been busy helping “Outreach to First Nation People”. This non-profit organization aids the Native American population with much needed supplies such as furniture, clothes, housewares, toys, bikes, books and more. Last spring, they built a playground in Birney, Montana. This August, backpacks were filled with school supplies and distributed to several reservations so that the children were able to go to school prepared. In September a trip to Black Mesa is scheduled.

Brother Jacoba meets often at the First Nations storage unit where we go through donated items and box them up for later delivery. We sort and fold clothes making sure they are clean with no rips or holes. Sometimes international students from the University of Kansas help us. It is a time where we can get together on a social level and put our Franciscan charisms to use.

The Native American tribes that we continue to give aid to include: Cheyenne River Sioux tribe (Eagle Butte, South Dakota), Black Mesa Chapter Navajo Nation (Arizona), and the Northern Cheyenne (Birney, Ashland and Muddy Montana). This winter we plan to deliver Christmas toys for approximately 800 children to the Lakota Sioux tribe in South Dakota.



St Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity, Leawood, KS



St. Elizabeth Fraternity took a road trip to St. Mary's Home for Mother's in July. Sister Doris Engeman, FSHF, our Spiritual Assistant, took us on a tour of the home and the gardens. When asked what we could do to help St. Mary's, they requested some food for the pantry. St. Elizabeth provided over \$200 of canned fruits and vegetables. I am sure St. Mary's will be seeing more of us, especially at their upcoming GALA, September 14, more info on website <https://stmaryshomeformothers.org/index.php/events/>. - Julie Oswald, Minister



St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity often assists with apostolates of The Poor of Jesus Christ with several of their outreach programs for the poor and homeless.

Friar Israel of the Poor of Jesus Christ has invited all Secular Franciscans to join them as they pray the **Transitus** October 3rd, 6:30 pm at Our Lady and Saint Rose Catholic Church (<https://www.ourladyandsaintrose.org/>). The church is 2300 N. 6th St., Kansas City, KS 66101. This is a different location than last year.

All are also invited to attend the **Solemnity of Saint Francis of Assisi** on October 4th at 7 pm at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church (<http://blessedsacramentkck.org>) 2203 Parallel Ave, Kansas City, KS 66104.

St. Stanislaus and St. Adalbert—Broken Arrow, OK



Ordination at Holy Family Cathedral in Tulsa, OK

St. Stanislaus and St. Adalbert Fraternity submitted a photo of Deacon Bill Monteith OFS being ordained a deacon at Holy Family Cathedral in Tulsa. (on the left)

The picture to the right is the very next day when Deacon Bill gave his first homily as a deacon at St. Benedict in Broken Arrow.

Deacon Bill is the fraternity's formation director.

Candidate, Frank Grabowski OFS, is in deaconate formation now.

Please pray for these two special Secular Franciscans as they answer God's call.



Members pose with newly professed Aimee Rivera . (l-r) Dominick Palmisano, Ginger Thummel, Aimee Rivera and Deacon Bill Monteith.



Group picture of St. Stanislaus & St. Adalbert.



Seculars Help the Marian Conference in Blue Springs, MO



Queen of the Angels Fraternity signed up to help with the recent Marian Conference in Blue Springs. Helen Boos OFS, who restores and paints religious statues, donated

a statue of Our Lady of Grace to a raffle.

The registration desks were covered by Carol Allman, Helen Boos, Dona Gibbons, Cathy Hernon, Jo Keller, Cheryl O'Neil.

Betty McClatchey and Kathy Hillen of Holy Eucharist Fraternity attended the conference.



Fraternities Join in Visiting Sr. Josephine



Sister Josephine OSF, former Spiritual Assistant for four fraternities and Pastoral Visitor for most of the

regions' visitations and elections, is now a resident of Ignite Medical Nursing Home (the old St. Mary's Manor) on Mock Road in Blue Springs, MO. She is in the memory care section.

Sr. Connie Boulch, Sister Servant, asked that everyone stop by to see her **as much as possible**.

Holy Eucharist and Queen of the Angels fraternities are making frequent visits, praying with her, providing the Eucharist and bringing sweet treats. Father Rocha, pastor of St. Roberts has visited and commission a Secular Franciscan to provide the Eucharist to Sister Josephine.

Please stop in and be a **Light and a Family** for her. (Sister Jo has no dietary restriction and loves sweets.—but just bring one if you do bring her food—per Sr. Connie.



BROWN ROBE BENEFIT

A Gala Event Supporting the Lives and Ministries of the Capuchins

WISH LIST

SUPPORTING OUR PRIETS AND RELIGIOUS

The 30th Annual Brown Robe Benefit will be held October 7th, 2023

In person: Denver Sheraton, 1550 Court P. Denver Co 80202

Satellite Event: Colorado Springs, CO; Hays, KS; Lawrence, KS; and San Antonio, TX

Participate Virtually: BROWNSROBE.COM



Region Officers & Commissions

Spiritual Assistant	Fr. Michael Scully OFM Cap	frmikescully@yahoo.com
Minister	Brenda Haas OFS	brendalager2008@gmail.com
Vice Minister	Betty McClatchey OFS	jesbet1907@gmail.com
Secretary	Rebecca Cheek OFS	RebeccaCheekOFS@gmail.com
Treasurer	Renee Schmit OFS	rene.5ecfran19@gmail.com
Formation Director	Geri Rupp OFS	glynrrupp@gmail.com
Councilor—Kansas	Stanley Cordova OFS	mothercabrini121@gmail.com
Councilor — KC Metro	Cheryl O'Neil OFS	Cherreef1@gmail.com
Councilor— Oklahoma	Richard Cronk OFS	bendonker@hotmail.com
Regional Webmaster	Bart Ridge OFS	bart@jdpofs.org
Regional Database Manager	Claudia Kauzlarich OFS	claudiakauz.sfo@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Dona Gibbons OFS	donagibbons2@gmail.com
JPIC Animator	Susan Tabor OFS	souljourner@sbcglobal.net



NEWS

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC)

by Susan Tabor, Regional JPIC Co-Ordinator, Member National OFS JPIC Commission

There are plenty of ways for us to be engaged with doing peace and justice work this fall! Here are some ideas to consider for you, your fraternity and your parish.

Season Of Creation

Once again, the Church will celebrate the Season Of Creation between September 1 and October 4, Saint Francis' Feast Day. Many resources are available to get you started.



A celebration guide can be downloaded at www.soc.org. Other resources are available at www.laudatosimovement.org.

International Day of Prayer for Peace

Every fall on September 21, the United Nations and many churches of many denominations from all over the world celebrate the International World Day of Peace. It's a good time to plan a prayer service to give people a chance to pray for world peace. A sample service can be found on the United Nations' website or you may want to put together one of your own. Catholic Relief Services often posts a prayer service for the International Day of World Peace. The USCCB website is full of resources so look there too for something you can use.

If you have not yet read "Fratelli Tutti" by Pope Francis which was released St. Francis' Feast Day a couple of years ago, I heartily recommend doing so. It's especially good for a group study. If you Google "Fratelli Tutti" study guides", you will find that there are free study guides available for it online. Just browse through them and choose the one that most resonates with you.

You may also want to plan a prayer service to end the Season of Creation on October 4th. Perhaps you could pair it with an animal blessing; just a thought!

Have a beautiful autumn! And remember, the final step of prayer is action!

