



Regional Newsletter

Juan de Padilla

Secular Franciscan Order

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

Minister's Message

Hello Franciscans!

Centenary of St. Francis 2024 The Stigmata

St. Francis desired from early on in his life to be a knight. Knights typically wear heavy metal armor for strength and to defend themselves in battle. After entering battle and being held prisoner for a year, during which time Francis turned to Scripture many times for comfort, the Gospel challenged Francis with the still unfamiliar values of Christian discipleship. St. Francis returned to Assisi and experienced conversion which included his call from

our Lord to, "Rebuild my Church." St. Francis became a knight in Christ's army and in 1224 he obtained, the armor of Christ, the Stigmata. St. Francis' stigmata included the nails in his hands and feet (not open wounds like St. Padre Pio), thus he began wearing sandals due to the pain of the Stigmata in his feet. Christ was most powerful when he was nailed to the Cross, when he was at what appeared to be His weakest moment. Remember in 2 Corinthians 12 Paul quotes Jesus who said, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." In the end, St. Francis was a knight like he desired so much, but in a spiritual army with spiritual armor.

The REC met in Victoria, KS at the Capuchin Spiritual Life Center in Victoria, KS February 23 - 25, 2024. We spent time in prayer, fellowship and business. We arrived Friday at 3 p.m. and spent time in prayer from 4 - 4:30 p.m. in the chapel in silence, praying the Franciscan Family Vocations Chaplet, and examined our conscience using the Examination of conscience in

the Spirit of St. Francis from the national website under the links for Stigmata 2024. [Microsoft Word - An Examination of Conscience in the Spirit of St. Francis.doc \(secularfranciscansusa.org\)](#)

We then went to Hays for a free will offering soup supper at St. Joseph's church and prayed the Stations of the Cross with the local church community. We finished the evening with the Liturgy of the Hours. Saturday we began with the Liturgy of the Hours and Fr. Damian Richards, pastor of St. Nicholas of Myra, Hays and St. Francis of Assisi, Munjor parishes gave two conference talks, one on the San Damiano cross icon and the Stigmata of St. Francis by St. Bonaventure. The business meeting was conducted, and we worked through our agenda through the afternoon, planning the summer gathering, visitation and elections schedule and assignment of fraternal and pastoral visitors, preparing the annual report for national, and discussing issues that affect local fraternities in our region. We celebrated Mass with the local community in Victoria, ate supper together, then prayed evening prayer together and retired for the evening. Sunday morning we prayed the Liturgy of the Hours together and headed home.

We have tried to keep the summer gathering affordable, but the cost of room, board, and meeting rooms keep increasing so we have had to increase the cost for those attending. The registration will be coming out very soon for the summer gathering (June 14 - 16, 2024 in Wichita, Theme: Live Like Francis, Speakers: The Knights of the Holy Eucharist).

April 2, 2024 is the local ministers' zoom meeting. This is a time for the ministers to see each other since we are so far apart to share/visit/ask questions etc.

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

The visitation and election schedule has been updated. I will be getting with Fr. Mike Scully OFM Cap to assign pastoral visitors to these. The fraternal visitors have already been assigned.

Thank you to all the fraternities for sending in your annual reports and fair share. There were some extra questions added this year (specifically about the Centenary celebration, the Transitus, and involvement of your whole fraternity). The report will have fewer questions next year.

We are a family and family prays for each other. I would like to recommend this stigmata prayer activity that is posted on the national website. I would also like to assign fraternities to praying the Franciscan Family Vocation chaplet for one month from now until January 2025 like this Stigmata prayer suggests. [STIGMATA-PRAYER-ACTIVITY_Fran.he-Fam.-Chaplet.pdf \(secularfranciscansusa.org\)](https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/STIGMATA-PRAYER-ACTIVITY_Fran.he-Fam.-Chaplet.pdf)



The **Regional Executive Council** at the **Basilica of St. Francis** in Victoria, KS. Pictured above (l-r) Geri Rupp—Regional Formation Director; Cheryl O’Neil—KC Metro Council; Brenda Haas—Regional Minister; Betty McClatchy—Regional Vice Minister; Stan Cordova—Kansas Council; Renee Schmit—Regional Treasurer; Richard Cronk—Oklahoma Council; and Rebecca Cheek—Regional Secretary



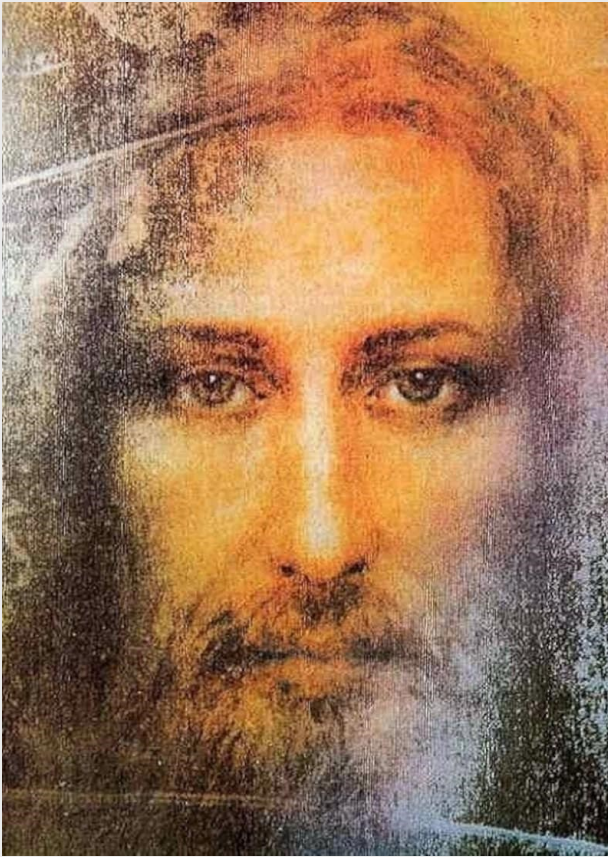
Father Damian Richards,



Lunch at St. Joseph’s Church in Hays, KS



*Brenda Haas OFS
Juan de Padilla Regional Minister*



Meeting Christ in Prayer

What a gift our God, Creator of all things, has given us; the gift of **prayer and contemplation**. These are the means to know, love and serve Him. To know His will is to be steeped in prayer. We must first ask for the desire to be one with the Lord in prayer. To contemplate His mysteries. To learn how to love and forgive as He does. When Christ walked this earth He put the Father first. Christ knew the will of the Father and fulfilled that will perfectly. With removing himself from the world Christ remained in prayer and contemplation for hours into the night. But Christ had to remove himself from the world in order to accomplish perfect prayer. Perfect union with the Father. Perfect obedience to the Father's will. And Francis followed Christ in His ways of prayer and contemplation.

"The brother's then asked Blessed Francis to teach them how to pray. Speaking simply, he passed on to them this formula saying, *"When you will pray, say 'Our Father' and 'We adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, in all your churches throughout the whole world, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.'"*

Early Documents Vol. I Chapter V pg. 388

We know from the writings about St. Francis of his desire to love God and follow Christ, living the Gospels out in daily life – day to day. There are testimonies, there are Francis' own writings and there are prayers written by Francis, inspired by his love for God. Francis' Prayer Before The Crucifix, "Most high and glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart...to carry out your holy and true will" is beneficial to us who daily seek the will of God. This is a prayer you may want to include along with your daily prayers.

As Francis told his brothers, begin with the prayer to Our Father and then the prayer, "We adore you, Lord Jesus Christ,...you have redeemed the world." Our ways should be Christ's ways. So let us Franciscans be obedient as Christ was. The OFS Rule states,

"As Jesus was the true worshipper of the Father,
so let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all they
are and do.

Let them participate in the sacramental life of the Church,
above all the Eucharist. Let them join in liturgical prayer in one
of the forms proposed by the Church, reliving the mysteries of
the life of Christ." The Rule of the OFS Article 8

This dear brothers and sisters is ours to do. Prayer and contemplation. Use the formula our Seraphic Father gave to his brothers and stay with Christ in contemplation, reliving the mysteries of His life.

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



Juan de Padilla Regional
Summer Gathering
“LIVE LIKE FRANCIS”

June 14-16, 2024
Spiritual Life Center
Wichita, KS



Presenters:

Franciscan Knights
of the Holy Eucharist



Knights Spirituality:

Life is a journey through time, but it is also, for each soul, a journey from what a man is to what God intends him to be.

2024 Regional Summer Gathering REGISTRATION FORM

Spiritual Life Center, Wichita, Kansas

June 14 - 16, 2024

"Live like St. Francis"

Director: Knights of the Holy Eucharist

A FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE COLLECTED TO HELP THE KHE WITH TRAVEL EXPENSES

NAME:

LOCAL FRATERNITY:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

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 \$84 Friday _____ Saturday _____ \$ _____

Double per night \$74 Friday _____ Saturday _____ \$ _____

Name of roommate: _____

I need a roommate: _____

I am a Commuter _____

MEALS:

Friday dinner 5:30 PM \$17.50 \$ _____

Sat breakfast 8:30 AM \$ 11.00 \$ _____

Sat lunch Noon \$14.25 \$ _____

Sat dinner 5:30 PM \$17.50 \$ _____

Sun breakfast 8:30 AM \$ 11.00 \$ _____

Special dietary needs: (please circle)

Gluten-free

Vegan

Vegetarian

Other (please explain on back)

REGISTRATION FEE FOR ALL ATTENDEES - \$60.00

\$60.00

*I would like to make an additional donation toward the costs of
The Summer Gathering.*

\$ _____

TOTAL COST OF REGISTRATION FEE, ROOM AND MEALS

\$ _____

PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT OF AT LEAST 50% OF TOTAL BY **MAY 10, 2024**

TO: Rebecca Cheek 26390 W. 226th Spring Hill, KS 66083

Make checks payable to: JUAN DE PADILLA REGION

I can assist at Mass:

Lector _____

Antiphonist _____

Cantor _____

Musician _____

Note: Due to continued rising costs at the Spiritual Life Center, all registration monies are non-refundable.

Live like St. Francis

"When you leave this earth,
you take nothing
you have received,
but only what
you have
given."
-St. Francis

Style	S-XL	2X-4X
Short sleeve	\$20	\$23
Short sleeve shirts are kiwi green		
Long sleeve	\$22	\$25
Long sleeve shirts are Texas Orange		

Long sleeve shirts are Texas Orange

PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT

BY MAY 10, 2024 TO: Rebecca Cheek

26390 W. 226th Spring Hill, KS 66083

Make checks payable to: JUAN DE PADILLA

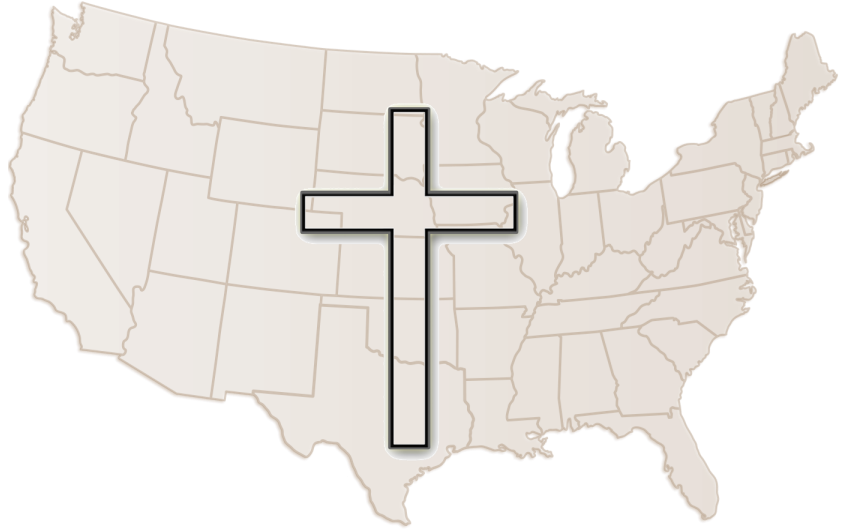
<i>Name:</i>	<i>Address:</i>			
<i>Phone #:</i>	<i>Fraternity:</i>			
Please indicate which style and size of shirt you are ordering.				
How many short sleeve? (kiwi green)	How many long sleeve? (Texas Orange)	SIZE S – 3X	COST PER SHIRT	TOTAL
			GRAND TOTAL	\$

Please say a quick prayer for our t-shirt lady – Mary Thomas. Even with inflation (and the fact that we don't order a lot of shirts overall) she has tried to keep our costs low. All she asks is that we say a prayer for her.

Thanks!

National Saint Padre Pio Foundation has opened a chapel in rural Kansas

Padre Pio of Pietrelcina OFM Cap. is known for numerous miracles, prophecies, and healings associated with his intercession. Like St. Francis of Assisi, he also bore the stigmata, the wounds of Christ. Devotion to Padre Pio has grown all over the United States and the world.



The Saint Padre Pio Foundation has a plan is to inaugurate five chapels dedicated to the saint, each with a first-class relic, across the United States in the four cardinal directions so that they form the shape of a cross on a map. The Kansas chapel is the first one and forms the cross' center.

Luciano Lamonarca, founder of the Saint Padre Pio Foundation, said he chose the Diocese of Salina to be the site of the first chapel to open because of its geographic centrality in the United States. Lamonarca said when he approached Bishop Vincke it was “more than easy” to get the bishop to agree to host the relic permanently in his diocese. The foundation owns the relics and up to now has been loaning them out frequently all over the world.



Chapel at St John the Baptist Church which holds the first class relic of Padre Pio in Beloit, KS

The inaugural chapel opened inside St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Beloit, Kansas with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Gerald Vincke of the Diocese of Salina. “It was inspiring, the positive response I had from the bishop,” Lamonarca commented.

The five relics of St. Pio that will be housed in the five chapels are parts of a cloth used to cleanse the stigmatic wound in his side. The cloth is stained with his blood. The Catholic Church has a long tradition of giving honor to relics — objects that have a direct association with the saints or with Christ himself.

First-class relics are parts of a saint's body, such as flesh, blood, hair, or teeth; second-class relics are items or fragments of items owned by a saint; and third-class relics are those items that a saint touched or that have been touched to a first-, second-, or other third-class relic.

Relics are not worshipped but are given honor — “venerated” — because of the saint's love of and closeness to God. Those praying with relics often ask that saint to pray for them.

*Padre Pio help us to follow the Divine Will of the Father.
Please intercede and pray for the United States of America.*



If you want to feel closer to Jesus, spend some time alone with him in adoration. Talk to Him and open your ears and heart to listen.

- Renee Schmit

He remains with us until the end of the world
St. Maximilian Kolbe



Adoration is a time for me to be myself with God. There is no mask, just me and Jesus. - Megan Ratzlaff

Below: Beth Antonacci OFS, Genna Ferrell OFS, Marina Zeller OFS, and Renee Schmit OFS.



After our meeting, we prayed the Eucharistic Stations of the Cross by Fr. Patrick Briscoe

(Our Sunday Visitor 2-23-24)

The Stations of the Cross help us to better understand the Eucharistic mystery. In praying them, may we come to love Jesus all the more, and run to him, who is truly present in the sacrament of his body and blood.

- Fr. Patrick Briscoe

Our Lady of Sorrows Fraternity

We have always enjoyed praying together, and learning about different types of prayer. Recently, we have begun spending time in adoration together each month. Church of the Ascension has a beautiful adoration chapel. It is a wonderful experience to spend time with Jesus as a fraternity.



Above: Renee Schmit OFS and Megan Ratzlapp OFS

Below: Renee Schmit OFS, Beth Antonacci OFS, Marina Zeller OFS, and Megan Ratzlaff OFS. (Prince of Peace Church)





Catholic Teaching on the Confusion about Gender and Sexuality In Modern Culture



Fr. Michael Brungardt hosted a workshop for nearly 20 members and guests of St. Anthony Fraternity Saturday morning, Jan. 27, at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita. The workshop, **“Calming the Troubled Waters: How to navigate the waves of the new normal in our modern world surrounding sexuality and gender,”** helped those attending understand the beginning and the development of the culture’s understanding of sexuality and gender, and how to be brothers and sisters in Christ to those experiencing such confusion. Fr. Brungardt is pastor of St. Paul Parish in Lyons, Kansas.

LENTEN MINI RETREAT AT SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER

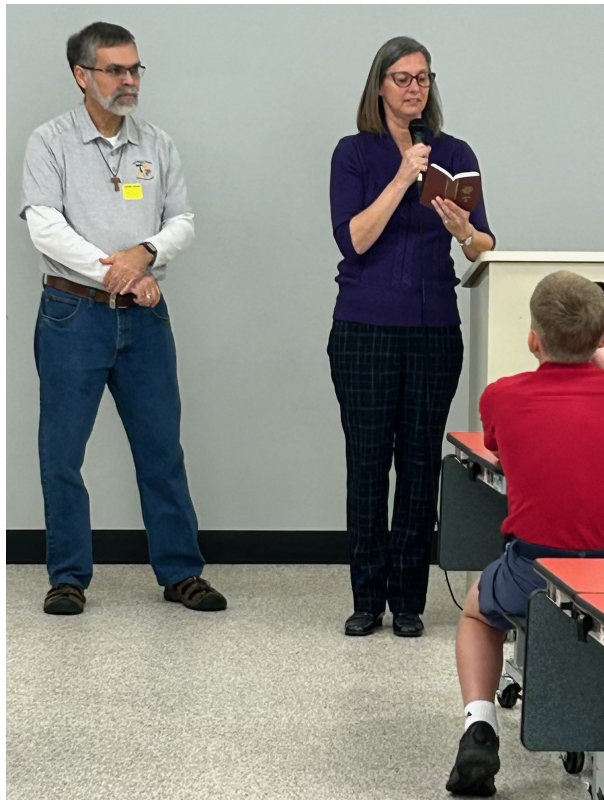
Members of St. Anthony attended 9:30 am Mass at the St. Elizabeth Chapel at the Catholic Care Center on March 16. They later gathered in the St. Joseph Room a mini-retreat. Lunch was served afterwards.

Beautiful Tradition of Supporting Fraternity Members

Wouldn’t it be wonderful to have a Mass said each month for you? That is what St. Anthony’s fraternity has done for many years to promote attendance and build community. The fraternity donates a stipend each month to have a Mass prayed for all living and deceased members of their fraternity. Members gather afterwards for a meal and a community building.

Kansas City Metro Fraternities Team Up to Share Vocation Stories

Joint Vocation Presentation for 6th Graders at
Cure of Ars School by Megan Ratzlaff OFS and Li-
nus Drouhard OFS.



Secular Franciscans Linus Drouhard (St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity) and Megan Ratzlaff (Our Lady of Sorrows Fraternity) were invited to speak to about seventy sixth graders (three classes) at Cure of Ars Catholic School in Leawood, KS, by Teacher Amy Craig. The presentation occurred on February 22nd, the feast of the Chair of Saint Peter and the memorial of St. Margaret of Cortona (a third order Franciscan from the 1200s and Megan's patron saint.)

The half hour presentation, with fifteen minutes afterwards for questions, went very well. The presentation started off with Megan sharing her story of her Catholic faith from childhood to adulthood and how she came about finding her vocation as a newly professed Secular Franciscan. Linus followed in the presentation with a saint reading, his story as a tenured Secular Franciscan, and some facts about the Franciscans in general. During the presentation, the sixth graders were engaged and interested in learning. They had been studying different religious orders with the guidance of their teachers, and already had a wealth of knowledge about religious life.

The children's questions were inspired and thoughtful. They asked questions such as: Who are some Franciscan role models that you follow? What are some of the rules of the Secular Franciscan Order? What kind of clothes/habit do we need to wear? What is the hardest thing about being a Secular Franciscan? And do we get paid (ha-ha)? These questions were answered by both Linus and Megan, and it was good for the 6th graders to get a perspective from a tenured Franciscan and a newly professed Franciscan as well as both a man and a woman.

After the presentation, Linus passed out some bookmarks, and many sixth graders came up to personally thank Linus and Megan for sharing their stories. It was impressive how polite and grateful the children were. Cure of Ars Teacher Amy Craig, sent a follow-up text the next day expressing her gratitude for Linus and Megan coming to speak to the classes.





Cardinal Burke announces nine-month Novena to seek Our Lady's 'intercession'

On the outskirts of Mexico City, the Virgin Mary appears to a simple indigenous man and makes a humble request—And millions of people were converted!

...citing “the pressing crises of our age”, Cardinal Burke paralleled the tensions and armed conflicts in the world today and the troubled times 500 years ago when Our Lady first appeared to Saint Juan Diego in Guadalupe. “Today the hearts of Catholics around the world echo the same anxieties of 1531”. “Unless the hand of God intervenes directly, all will be lost.”

With the world once again “contending with disease, war, and deep spiritual confusion”, and “many poor souls” tempted to fear that all hope is lost, the cardinal says that “once again the answer to this anxiety is not temporal but spiritual”.

He adds: “Now more than ever we must fly to the protection of Our Lady for her intercession. Driven by the unfailing maternal love that she has for her children, Our Lady bought the New World under the protection of her mantle and brought millions of souls to Christ. It is this maternal love and protection that we need today. A love and protection that she will grant us should we earnestly ask for it.” To sign up or learn more about this historic opportunity to change the world go to: <https://novena.cardinalburke.com/>



Saint Juan Diego OFS



Prayer of the Nine-Month Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe 12 March to 12 December, 2024

O Virgin Mother of God, we fly to your protection and beg your intercession against the darkness and sin which ever more envelop the world and menace the Church. Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, gave you to us as our mother as He died on the Cross for our salvation. So, too, in 1531, when darkness and sin beset us, He sent you, as Our Lady of Guadalupe, on Tepeyac to lead us to Him Who alone is our light and our salvation.

Through your apparitions on Tepeyac and your abiding presence with us on the miraculous mantle of your messenger, Saint Juan Diego, millions of souls converted to faith in your Divine Son. Through this novena and our consecration to you, we humbly implore your intercession for our daily conversion of life to Him and the conversion of millions more who do not yet believe in Him. In our homes and in our nation, lead us to Him Who alone wins the victory over sin and darkness in us and in the world.

Unite our hearts to your Immaculate Heart so that they may find their true and lasting home in the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Ever guide us along the pilgrimage of life to our eternal home with Him. So may our hearts, one with yours, always trust in God's promise of salvation, in His never-failing mercy toward all who turn to Him with a humble and contrite heart. Through this novena and our consecration to you, O Virgin of Guadalupe, lead all souls in America and throughout the world to your Divine Son in Whose name we pray. Amen.

Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke
*To be prayed daily throughout the nine-month novena
from March 12 to December 12, 2024.*



MOSAIC IMAGE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
CREATED BY THE VATICAN MOSAIC STUDIO
FOR THE CHURCH OF THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN





Queen of the Angels

Blue Springs/Buckner, MO

Queen of the Angels

Spring 2024

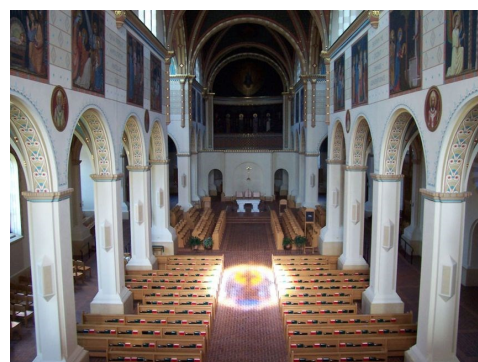
On April 5, Queen of the Angels Fraternity is making a pilgrimage to the Benedictine Conception Abbey in Conception, MO. The Abbey is celebrating the 150th year of their establishment in Missouri. Pilgrim can gain a plenary indulgence for touring the monastery until May 2024. The monks will give a tour of the abbey, serve lunch and provide a spiritual talk.

Queen of the Angels continues to support the seminarians at Conception Abbey who were sponsored by the Kansas City-St. Joseph MO diocese. They provide Masses, gas cards and care packages.

Queen of the Angels also supports the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Eucharist in Independence with Birthday Masses and Communion Ministry.



On Ash Wednesday, fraternity members met at Helen Boos home to assemble packets for the foreign missions. Pictures above are of Helen Boos, Janice Cox, Joe Novak, Lisa Humphreys and Jean Kleibert.



Need Prayer? As a community, we pray and support each other in prayer. If you need prayers for yourself or others, please send your prayer requests to prayer@sfojuandepadilla.org.



Holy Eucharist Fraternity - Independence, MO

Minister Focuses Upon a Special Member

Betty McClatchey, minister of Holy Eucharist, submitted an article on one of the members of her fraternity, William Cowper OFS. Betty says that William is one of the most humble men she knows and though he works full time at Walmart, he is involved in several personal apostolates. He is also an altar server for his parish and trains others to be new servers.

One of his apostolates is for the homeless. He asked the their fraternity to help in several ways; such as having a special drive for clothing, personal hygiene items and non-perishable food items.

Second, his parish, St. Charles, does a drive for St. Mays's Home for unwed mothers and William asked if the fraternity could help with a diaper drive to help him out. Betty said that they provided two vans of diapers.

Third, Williams was asked by a seminarian if his fraternity could help with a fundraiser for the seminarians. So, this April, Holy Eucharist is going to help William with this endeavor.

Betty is so thankful for such an active Franciscan soul in her fraternity that helps motivate her members to better serve the poor.



William Cowper OFS



FROM YOUR DATABASE TEAM

The database, along with your fraternity register, is your fraternity's official record. It provides the region and national fraternities with a way to contact members as well as the demographics of members which helps manage the Secular Franciscan Order effectively. It assists in calculating the Fair Share amounts owed at the various levels in our Order and helps in budgeting financial expenses for the year.

It is important to keep your fraternity's information/data current. Has your fraternity had a recent Visitation or an Election? Do you have member changes? Professions? Candidates or inquirers to be added? Or has a member passed on to Sister Death?

The National Fraternity has a new database team that developed the 'new' database that became active last summer. With the 'old' system each fraternity was responsible for keeping their data up-to-date. We thank those previously responsible for assisting with keeping our Region's information current. For now going forward our Region's database managers will be Claudia Kauzlarich (claudiakauz.sfo@gmail.com) or Dona Gibbons (donagibbons2@gmail.com). All of the above events need to be communicated to them. Their emails are always posted in each newsletter along with the regional council.

If past information was not recorded we can go back and make changes, but you will need to provide dates of changes. Your database team is here to work with you to help you make your database a valuable tool in communicating with members. Please remember that your fraternity's database is only as good as your communication with the database managers. Reports on membership are always available upon request.

St. Stanislaus and St. Adalbert Fraternity Broken Arrow, OK ~ Lenten Retreat

St. Stanislaus and St. Adalbert Fraternity hosted a Lenten Retreat on March 23. Their speaker was Dr. Joey Spencer of the diocese of Tulsa. He spoke on the topic of Angels and Spiritual Warfare, much needed at this time. Members met in the St. Francis Room at St. Ann Catholic Church in Broken Arrow, OK.

Minister, Ginger Thummel, reported that Dr. Spencer was very excited to be asked to share with their fraternity. The fraternity attended Mass together beforehand and provided a light breakfast and lunch for attendees.



Dr. Joey Spencer

News from St. Frances Cabrini Fraternity in Liberal, KS

Frances Brown OFS, was a candidate in St. Francis Cabrini Fraternity in Liberal Kansas. She was very active and often seen at the regional gatherings. Frances was inspiration to her fraternity and they saw her as a vibrant future leader. But God had other plans and Frances passed away July 2022.

Frances was born in New Mexico. Frances graduated from Keyes High School in Keyes, OK. She went on to obtain her Bachelor's Degree in Education from Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwell, OK.

Upon graduating from OPSU she briefly taught at the High School in Felt, OK. In August 1997 Frances began her career Seward County Community College where she taught developmental English and was a former Director of Academic Achievement.



While at SCCC she was also an advisor for the **Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO)**, active with the Saints Booster Club, and a Mentor for SCCC **Migrant Education Program**, Via Fort Scott Community College. Frances was a recipient of the NISOD (National Institute For Staff and Organizational Development) Award.

Kansas State University has now established the **Frances Brown Leadership Scholarship** in her memory. It is a transfer scholarship for Seward County Community College students who plan to transfer to K-State. Frances was a long-time instructor and advisor to HALO at SCCC.

We were all blessed to know Frances and now many students will be blessed as recipients of her scholarship.

May the Perpetual Light Shine Upon her.

OUTREACH TO FIRST NATION PEOPLE

By Dan Lonnquist



Outreach to First Nation People is a non-profit foundation formed by three members of the Brother Jacoba Fraternity in Lawrence, Kansas, in March, 2016. This program provides clothing, shoes, bedding and blankets, beds and mattresses, dinnerware and kitchenware, furniture, toys, and books to remote Native American reservations which as a result of being so remote are highly unlikely to have access to agencies and organizations offering assistance of this nature. The majority of items are obtained through donations from local churches subsequent to church" sales when an abundance of items remain unsold. However, we also receive welcomed donations from individuals in the community. Clothing is sorted to ensure quality and boxed according to men's, women's, girls' and boys'. When sufficient items are available to warrant a trip to a reservation and when a person who is able to ensure fair distribution of the items on a reservation in need is contacted, a large moving truck is rented and a trip is made to a selected reservation where there is a person with whom we are able to coordinate a trip.

Transportation and storage costs are the only expenses which the foundation incurs. Each step of the process is provided by volunteers, members from our Franciscan fraternity as well as from the Lawrence community. Volunteers have included National Honor Society high school students and foreign students attending federally funded short courses at Kansas University.

Our non-profit has no paid staff. Our most recent trips were to the Black Mesa Chapter of the Navajo Nation in Arizona, in September, 2023, the Cheyenne River reservation of the Lakota Sioux Nation at Eagle Butte, South Dakota in November, 2023 which included 30 large boxes of wrapped Christmas toys, and to the Northern Cheyenne reservation in southeast Montana which included over 200 winter coats in January, 2024. Most of our monetary donations are from local individuals, the Brother Jacoba secular Franciscan fraternity in Lawrence, the Rotary Club of Lawrence, the Catholic Student Center of Haskell University in Lawrence, and work projects to raise funds for our non-profit completed by volunteers.

We believe that our mission is to the truly forgotten and neglected poor who are so remote from civilization that most people are unaware of their plight and the extent of their poverty. If you would like additional information regarding Outreach to First Nation People or are interested in making a donation, please contact Dan Lonnquist (540/797-0727).





St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity in Oklahoma City Assists Local Parish in Serving the Homeless



Assembling the bags. Steve and Priscilla Chastain

several parishioners who had experienced trying to feed the homeless in similar conditions. We were warned that there would not be anyone outside because the shelters were opening their doors due to the severe weather. Previously, we had approached the Homeless Alliance, one of the organizations that provide assistance to the homeless, to use their kitchen and dining facilities to distribute food and clothing. However, another group oversees preparing and feeding lunch on the second Saturday.

We were asked if we could help assemble “dinner bags” as the shelter did not provide an evening meal for the 300 + people who were being housed during this cold snap. The Homeless Alliance already had all the food on hand but needed help. I contacted our normal crew of volunteers, who all said they would be glad to help. Instead of our normal routine we wrapped and bagged 607 sandwiches with fruit, chips, and granola bars. We also donated eight ham bones to the Homeless Alliance to make soup. It was an extremely rewarding day as we were able to provide the needed labor for a worthy cause. We were told we had bagged more than two days’ worth of “dinners.”

Homeless Ministry: by Richard Cronk, OFS

The St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity of Oklahoma City, out of St Eugene’s Catholic Church, has been providing food and clothing for the homeless in downtown OKC on the second Saturday of the month for several years. Our Homeless Ministry volunteers, consisting of members of our Fraternity and St. Eugene parishioners who have joined our cause, make ham sandwiches and gather a variety of foods. We proceed to two separate parking lots in downtown OKC and hand out food, blankets, and any clothing that has been donated. At St. Eugene’s, the Fraternity has a donation box for parishioners to drop off clothing and/or nonperishable foods for the homeless.

The outing scheduled for January 13 was most unusual. The weather forecast for that Saturday was calling for a frigid, single digit wind chill. After checking with sev-



from front back head of Steve Chastain, clockwise: Patty Deardon, Rachel Reagan, Judith Cronk, Juanita Cooper, Priscilla Chastain. photo by Richard Cronk





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	NAME(S)
April 1, 2024 @ 7 PM	REC Zoom Meeting	Zoom	Regional Executive Council
April 2, 2024 @ 7 PM	Local Ministers Zoom Meeting	Zoom	All Local Ministers
April 21, 2024	St Joseph Fraternity Visitation	St. Joseph's Church Hays, KS	Fraternal—Stanley Cordova Pastoral— Fr. Curtis Carlson
April 21, 2024	Holy Family Visitation	Tulsa, OK	Fraternal—Richard Cronk Pastoral—Judith Cronk
May 4, 2024	St. Maximilian Kolbe, Election	Atchison, KS	Fraternal—Brenda Haas Pastoral — TBA
June 14-16, 2024	Regional Summer Gathering	Spiritual Life Cetner, Wichita, KS	All Region Invited
June 23, 2024	St Elizabeth of Hungary Visitation	Cure d'Ars Leawood, KS	Fraternal—Betty McClatchey Pastoral—Sr. Doris *
July 15, 2024	St Frances Cabrini Visitation	Liberal, KS	Fraternal—Rebecca Creek Pastoral—TBA
August TBA 2024	St. Stanislaus & St. Adalbert—Election	Broken Arrow, OK	Fraternal—Richard Cronk Pastoral—Judith Cronk *
August 24, 2024 @ 10 AM	Queen of the Angels Visitation	Church of the Santa Fe Buckner, MO	Fraternal—Brenda Haas Pastoral—TBA
August 25, 2024	St. Elizabeth of Hungary Election	Cure Ars Leawood, KS	Fraternal—Betty McClatchey Pastoral—Sr. Doris *
September 14, 2024	Regional Chapter	Spiritual Life Center Wichita, KS	REC, Local Ministers, SAs
September 17-21, 2024	OFS-USA Chapter	Franciscan Renewal Center—Scottsdale, AZ	NEC, Regional Ministers
November 17, 2024	Holy Family—Election	Tulsa, OK	Fraternal—Richard Cronk Pastoral—Judith Cronk
November TBA, 2024	Sacred Heart Election	Sacred Heart Church Emporia, KS	Fraternal—TBA Pastoral—TBA
November TBA, 2024	St Anthony Visitation	Wichita, KS	Fraternal—Richard Cronk Pastoral—Judith Cronk
January TBA, 2025	Francis Cabrini Election	Liberal, KS	Fraternal— Pastoral—
March 9, 2025	Holy Eucharist Visitation	St. Mary's Church Independence, MO	Fraternal— Pastoral—
May TBA, 2025	St. Francis of Assisi Visitation	Oklahoma City, OK	Fraternal— Pastoral—
June TBA, 2025	Queen of the Angels Election	Church of the Santa Fe Buckner, MO	Fraternal—Brenda Haas Pastoral—TBA
June TBA, 2025	Little Portion Election	St. Bridgit Church Tahlequah, OK	Fraternal— Pastoral—
July 13, 2025	Holy Eucharist Election	St. Mary's Church Independence, MO	Fraternal— Pastoral—
December TBA 2025	Our Lady of Sorrows Election	Prince of Peace Olathe, KS	Fraternal— Pastoral—
TBA— 2026	Chapter of Mats	Rome, Italy	Members of NEC, All Franciscans



Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC)

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

Last time I wrote, I mentioned that Joe Makley, our new national OFS JPIC animator, planned to offer JPIC gatherings online every few months so we could share knowledge and resources.

The Spiritual Assistant for the OFS JPIC Commission, Brother David Buer, OFM., of St. Louis, Missouri, opened our session with a beautiful reflection and prayer. For this column, I thought I would share his remarks with you. If any of you would like more information about these meetings and would like to participate, please let me know at souljourner@sbcglobal.net, and I will ask Joe to put you on the mailing list.

It was 30 years ago when I was working out of our province's Social Justice office in Oakland, CA that our provincial at that time, Joe Chinnici, came from his office down the hall to tell us that beginning immediately, our office would now be called JPIC, for Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation. He had just returned from a meeting of the U. S. Provincials, where that decision had been made.

It was a prophetic decision to include Creation in the work of Justice and Peace. Over the last several decades, there has been an increased focus on protecting the environment--culminating in Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si*. It is what Br. Keith Warner, ofm, called during the 2016 Quinquennial in St. Louis, "the most Franciscan encyclical ever."

So, when asked, "What is JPIC?" We can explain it is a focus on two considerations--humanity and the earth we live on. Like Jesus, St. Francis was a pacifist. "If you want to follow my way of following Christ, you cannot bear arms against anyone." (paraphrased) So to be a Franciscan we live not domineeringly, but with vulnerability. We live consciously, so when we see wrong, we try to right it. Now our young people are helping us be more respectful toward the animals, plants, and other creatures who we share the earth with. *Laudato Si* encourages the whole church and humanity to increase this consciousness.

Just before Christmas a friar friend sent me a new book entitled, "Seeing Jesus in the Eyes of the Oppressed--A History of Franciscans Working for Peace and Justice" by Paul Murray, a retired Sociology Professor from the Franciscan Siena College in upstate New York. Although it does not focus much on Creation, the book does highlight 8 Franciscans who worked for Peace and Justice in the late 20th century and early 21st century. It consists of 8 Chapters;

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

each Chapter covers one Franciscan working for Peace and Justice after Vatican II. There are four OFM friars; one Capuchin friar; and three Franciscan Sisters.

Racial Justice: Fr. Nathaniel Machesky, OFM; Sr. Antona Ebo, OSF; Br. Booker Ashe, OFM Cap; and Sr. Thea Bowman, FSPA found themselves in the middle of the Civil Rights movement beginning in the 1960s, in the south and inner cities.

Farm Worker Justice: Alan McCoy, OFM; Patricia Dryly, OSF; and Louie Vitale, OFM worked closely with Cesar Chavez of the United Farm Workers (UFW).

Sanctuary for Migrants: In the 1980s Joe Nangle, OFM (a returned missionary from Bolivia) worked with Fr. Alan through the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), to respond to the refugees from El Salvador and other countries of Central America. Fr. Louie, while provincial, declared the St. Barbara Province a place of Sanctuary. Fr. Joe lived at the Assisi Community in Washington, DC. They offered hospitality to migrants and to Sr. Diana Ortiz, OSF (who had been tortured in Guatemala)

Peace Making: Fr. Louis co-founded the Nevada Desert Experience (NDE) and Pace e Bene, working to warn the world of the potential horror of nuclear weapons and how to make Social Change happen using nonviolent methods. He also spent time in prison using nonviolent protest. He spent one 6-month sentence for protesting the torture methods taught and used by the U. S. military in Central America and Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

I apologize that all these examples are of Franciscan Religious, but we know there are many examples of Secular Franciscans working for an end to racism [Fr. Phil Marquard, ofm in Chicago, gave the Secular Franciscan Peace Award to Martin Luther King in 1966] Other Secular Franciscans are known for being protectors of democracy, being peacemakers, protecting human life, and being advocates of the poor.

As animators of JPIC in your Region, I invite you to take time to prayerfully discern: What JPIC efforts are already taking place in your part of the country? What injustice is going on in your part of the country that could use a calming Franciscan presence, or a bold Franciscan intervention?



CABRINI—MOVIE ABOUT FIRST AMERICAN SAINT

When Italian immigrant and Catholic nun Frances Xavier Cabrini steps foot in America in 1889, she is greeted by disease, crime, and impoverished children living in New York's slums.

Guided by her unwavering faith, Cabrini sets off on a daring mission to bring God's love and mercy to the marginalized. With a compassionate heart and a determined will, Cabrini relentlessly works to convince the hostile mayor to secure housing and healthcare for society's most vulnerable. Despite facing numerous challenges, including language barriers, poor health, and discrimination, the woman who would become the first American saint activates her virtues of faith, hope, and charity to reach the peripheries. love better.

The movie was released March 8, 2024 and is showing in most local theaters. Hope you will consider attending this beautiful movie produced by Angel Studios.



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	glynnrupp@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 Managers	Claudia Kauzlarich OFS	claudiakauz.sfo@gmail.com
	Dona Gibbons OFS	donagibbons2@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Dona Gibbons OFS	donagibbons2@gmail.com
JPIC Animator	Susan Tabor OFS	souljourner@sbcglobal.net