



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

M I N I S T E R ' S M E S S A G E

September 2024

The days of our lives are full! Work, meetings, reports to write, travelling, and caring for our families along with many other dates and activities on our schedules. The deadline for this newsletter was two weeks ago and alas, I am writing it today, the last day of the month of August.

Lots of important dates and activities are on my mind. Regional chapter meeting September 14, 2024 in Wichita, National Chapter in Scottsdale Arizona September 17 - 22. Visitations and elections of local fraternities are scheduled through the end of the year. Regional summer gathering in Wichita July 18 - 20, 2025, and Regional Elective and Visitation Chapter for our region August 29 - 31, 2025 in Wichita.

At the regional chapter we will be choosing the theme for the next year, talking about the regional elections scheduled next year (the process, choosing a nominating committee, guidelines for who can be nominated, when the nominating process opens and closes etc.) and doing some training. I will be in Scottsdale for the national chapter which is always several full days of meetings. The REC will be working on the summer gathering for 2025. Please send suggestions for speakers for the weekend. One option is to have members from the National Council do some training.

I have enjoyed coming to preside over a few elections and visitations in the region. I appreciate the Spiritual Assistants who have been able to attend as well. There are several people in training to be Spiritual Assistants.

Fr. Mike Scully OFM Cap has requested that if your fraternity does not have a Spiritual Assistant assigned to you, please contact him



- **Regional Executive Council:** (l-r)
- Rebecca Cheek-Regional Secretary, Geri Rupp-Regional Formation Director, Brenda Haas-Regional Minister, Chery O'Neil-KC Metro Councilor, Renee Schmitt-Regional Secretary, Stanley Cordova-Kansas Councilor, and Betty McClatchy-Regional Vice Minister

and Fr. John Cousins OFM Cap (provincial spiritual assistant) to formally request a spiritual assistant. They would like to work on getting spiritual assistants assigned to fraternities.

In all of this, we ask God to be the leader of all we say and do. Prayer is necessary. It is easy to get busy and rush into and go through our day without stopping to take the time to pray. Make prayer a priority, make it intentional, and make it personal. I love you all and I hope you are loving each other well.

Pace Bene,

*Brenda Haas OFS
Juan de Padilla Regional Minister*



The Three Essentials

**Jesus Name full of glory,
 grace, love, and strength.
 You are the refuge of those who repent.
 Our banner of warfare in this life.
 The medicine of souls. The comfort of those who mourn.
 The delight of those who believe.
 The light of those who preach the truth.
 The wages of those who toil.
 The healing of the sick. Amen.**

St. Bernardino of Siena OFM (1380-1444)

In the above prayer are a few of St. Bernardino's thoughts of our Lord when saying His Holy name. This powerful prayer was the fruit of St. Bernardino's own experiences as he traveled throughout Europe to convert not only non-believers but also Catholics who had lost their way. So powerful was the Name of Jesus on a banner that St. Bernardino carried that the sick, and the suffering were healed and sinners repented. This banner had the same letters that many of our altars have inscribed on them today - IHS - the first three letters of the name of Jesus in Greek on a blazing sun. Just hearing the name of Jesus had the power to convert the worst of sinners, conquer heresies and change hearts of stone to flesh.

The life of simplicity, prayer and love of poverty that St. Bernardino of Siena lived are the Three Essentials that Francis taught his brothers.

The Blessed Francis used often to say to the brothers: "I recommend to you these three things: first Simplicity, to counteract the excessive thirst for knowledge; secondly Prayer, which the devil is always trying to hinder by various means: and thirdly Love of Poverty and Holy Poverty herself". (Omnibus A New Fioretta p. 1856)

St. Francis lived the Three Essentials because Christ himself lived that life of simplicity, prayer and poverty. Brothers and sisters, we are not to just educate ourselves on the Franciscan ways but we are to join Francis and Bernardino and all those in our Franciscan family. We need to immerse ourselves in living out these teachings. First, Bernardino strived for people to know the love of Jesus and that began with one word, simply the Name of Jesus on a banner. (John 14: 6-7) Secondly prayer, which Bernardino clearly lived as the healings and conversions attest to the fruit of his prayer. (John 14: 12-14) Third is love of poverty, and as a preacher and Franciscan missionary Bernardino had only what little he could carry. (Luke 9:1-6)

There are differences to be sure in our vocations as Franciscans but we too can live the Three Essentials taught by Francis. The Secular Franciscan Order, Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis, needs to be visible to the world now just as Bernardino was in his time. We can live a life of simplicity, relying on Jesus to inspire us in ways to build the Kingdom of God here on earth. We can pray and do penance in the name of Jesus for the conversion of sinners because we are brothers and sisters of penance. Lastly, our love should be for both spiritual and worldly poverty without worry because Jesus provides all, for those He calls His own. Amen.

Geri Rupp OFS, Regional Formation Director of Juan de Padilla



Brother Jacoba Fraternity, Lawrence, Kansas



OUTREACH TO FIRST NATION PEOPLE, TRIP TO BLACK MESA, NAVAJO NATION, ARIZONA

David Ehrlich, Robert Lewis (inquirer), Paul Anderson (husband of a fraternity member) and Dan Lonquist made the trip to the Black Mesa Chapter of the Navajo Nation in Northeast Arizona in late July. They took donations that included bed mattresses, bed frames, furniture, a freezer, clothing, shoes, bedding, sporting equipment, bicycles, toys, stuffed animals, and more.

We are in the process of collecting five hundred winter coats for this Chapter and hope to make a return trip in October with the coats and additional mattresses, many families have no beds in their homes.

Earlier in the year, in February, David and Dan made a trip to the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Southeast Montana with several hundred winter coats and additional winter clothing. They were informed that several weeks before they arrived that the temperatures had reached -40 below, so they were in desperate need of winter clothing. Thank you to Ball the fraternity members and community members who help us to prepare and to load for the trips.

By Dan Lonquist OFS



Black Mesa Chapter, Navajo Nation, Arizona: on left, Paul Anderson, husband of fraternity member Maria Anderson, Robert Lewis (Inquirer), and Lynn Dean of Black Mesa and her family at her home.



St Joseph Fraternity Holds Election ~ Hays, KS



April 21, 2024,

Fraternal visitor and pre-
sident, Stanley Cordova
OFS and Pastoral visitor,

Fr. Curtis Carlson OFM Cap certified the election of a new fraternity council for St. Joseph Fraternity.

Elected were Troy Haas—Minister; Joanne Wasinger—Vice Minister; Brenda Haas—Secretary; Karen Marsell—Treasurer; Geri Rupp—Formation Director; Cathy Eichman—Council 1; Rita Gabel - Councilor 2.



Through suffering and sacrifice, the soul can be purified of its selfish ways. Sometimes it is only pain that can bring us closer to God; sometimes it is the only way to purify our souls from their selfish tendencies. Selfishness blocks off a soul's complete openness to Christ. - Padre Pio OFM Cap.

St Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity - Leawood, KS Helps Poor of Jesus Christ Prepare Gardens for Planting



St. Elizabeth of Hungary feeds the poor.

June 1, 2024

Several members of St. Elizabeth Fraternity helped Sister Magdalena prepare some gardens for planting on June 1.

This was at the Poor of Jesus Christ (PJC) Ranch in Kansas City, Missouri. The Ranch was donated to the PJC a few years ago to help with funding "Special Projects" at their missions around the world. Sister Magdalena grows various flowers and produce to sell with all proceeds going to the "Special Projects" fund.

PJC will have a fund-raising banquet on Sept 21 at Church of the Ascension in Overland Park. For more information follow the link <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pjc-special-funds-benefit-dinner-tickets>.



- By Linus Drouhard



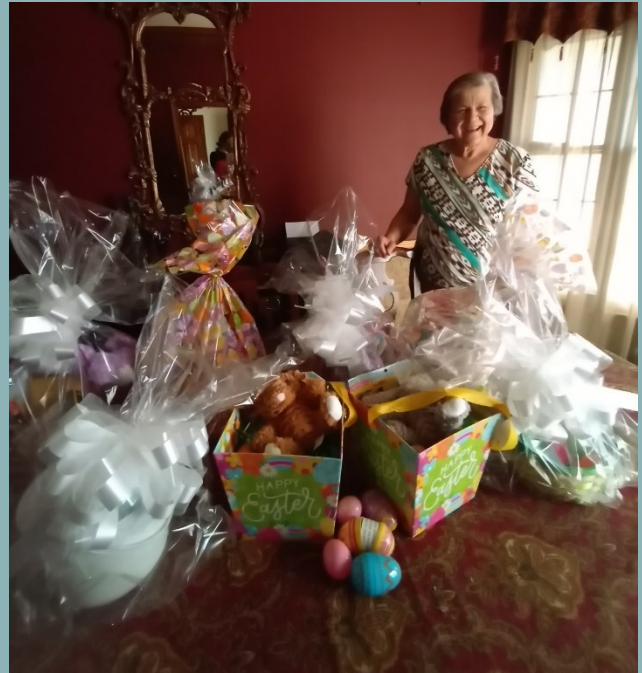
Pictured are Sister Magdalena, Deanna Perry, Diane Drouhard, Linus Drouhard and the "dog"





Our Lady of Sorrows Fraternity—Olathe, KS Participates with Peace of Peace Parish Apostolate

For approximately ten years, Our Lady of Sorrows fraternity has partnered with Rollene Croucher of Prince of Peace Church to deliver Easter Baskets to homebound parishioners. - Genna Ferrel OFS, Minister



Holy Family Fraternity—Tulsa, OK



Holy Family Fraternity in Tulsa, OK had their annual Lenten Retreat with Msgr. Gier. This year it was on Palm Sunday. Afterwards we had a Rite of Admission for Wendy Benford & then we had an appetizer party to celebrate. Sorry, we never remember to take pictures.

We currently have a gentleman that visited with us in July & will start his IF in October, as he will be driving back from NJ when we have our meeting this month.

Our member, Jim Southard, O.F.S., has returned to St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana after spending his summer assignment in the Southern Vicariate of OK. We look forward to seeing him in December, the week of Christmas. In December of 2026 he will have his Diaconate Ordination at Holy Family Cathedral & then in May or June of 2027 be Ordained a Priest in the Diocese of Tulsa, again at HFC. Please keep him in your thoughts & prayers. Thank you.

Pax,
Leila Safavi, O.F.S.
Minister - Holy Family Fraternity



St Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity —Leawood, KS

St Elizabeth of Hungary held election on August 25, 2024 at Cure d’Ars Church in Leawood, KS. Elected were Linus Drouhard- Minister; Marie Braunsdorf—Vice Minister, Deanna Perry—Secretary, Linda Mayer—Treasurer, Kathy Ness—Formation Director, Diane Drouhard—Councilor.



Left to right: Deanna Perry, Sr. Doris Engeman FSHF, Linus Drouhard, Linda Mayer, Diane Drouhard, Marie Braunsdorf, Brenda Haas, Regional Minister & President, and Kathy Ness



Queen of the Angels Visitation—Buckner/Blue Springs, MO

August 24, 2024—Regional Minister Brenda Haas and Pastoral Visitor, Sister Doris Engeman FSHF were working hard this weekend. On Saturday, they made an official Visitation to Queen of the Angels Fraternity in Buckner, MO . Then to St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity in Leawood, KS on Sunday. We have to thank God for these hard working regional servant leaders.

Queen of the Angels fraternity is pictures around tables in the Kaiser Hall , Church of the Santa Fe. Fraternal Visitor, Brenda Haas, opened the visitation with a prayer and brief talk. Pastoral Visitor, Sister Doris gave an inspiration talk about the importance of fraternity. Member then moved to Kaiser Hall for formation on the Gospel Life of St. Francis of Assisi followed by the business meeting. A large banquet was prepared to celebrate the happy occasion and thank our visitors for their leadership.



Bart Ridge taste testing



Janice Cox, Sylvia Ridge, Cheryl O’Neil, Brenda Haas, Sr. Doris, Joe Novak

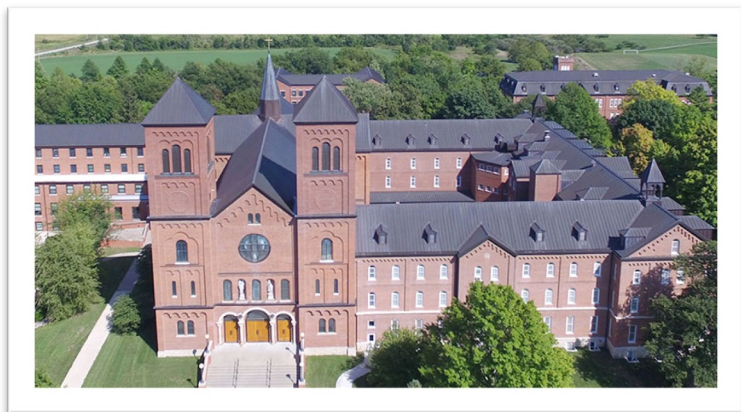


Queen of the Angels makes Pilgrimage, A Journey of Faith and Prayer
 150 Years Anniversary of the Establishment of Conception Abbey, Conception Missouri



**Queen of the Angels Fraternity
 Hosts Public Fatima Rosary**

June 29, 2024—Cathy Herndon OFS united members of the Queen of the Angels and Holy Eucharist fraternities along with members of two parishes. Together, they prayed for the intercession of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary for the United States of America and for World Peace.



Queen of the Angels— Buckner/Blue Springs, MO Celebrates New Profession



From California to Missouri Chicken Farmer

July 20, 2024—Lisa Humphreys OFS made her profession during Mass at the Franciscan Prayer Center in Independence, MO. Father John Bolderson was the Mass celebrant.

Originally from California, Lisa retired from law enforcement after having served for 30 years with the State of California, Department of Motor Vehicles, Investigations Division and the Monterey Park Police Department. Through the years, Lisa’s career assignments ranged from uniformed patrol, undercover work, various criminal and administrative investigations, supervision, management, personnel training, and human relations. She has dealt with some of the most difficult challenges of our American culture.

It was in Los Angeles, that Lisa was drawn to stronger relationship with the Catholic Church. Lisa and her husband felt called to live a simpler life in a simpler place. As a family, they decided to move to the state of Missouri.



Minister Janice Cox , Fr. John Bolderson

Lisa became a member of the local parish and was invited to come to a Queen of the Angels Gathering. The fraternity fell in love with Lisa right away. Lisa was a deeply spiritual and disciplined formation student.

St. Francis’ love for all creation was meaningful to Lisa. Lisa has found a new vocation as a Chicken Farmer. This is not a little thing. Her marketing savvy and skillful husband, Dan, have grown their Chicken Farm into a small business.

Lisa’s devotion to her marriage, children and grandchildren are her main focus and love. Many feel that the Eucharist, Mary and a holy family will change the world. We are so honored to have Lisa as a newly professed member of our fraternity family.



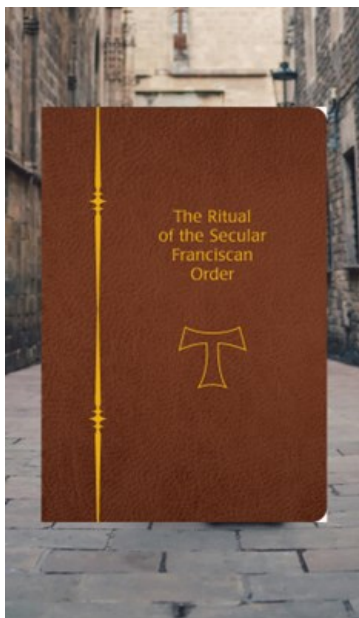


CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	NAME(S)
September 10, 2024	Sacred Heart Visitation	Emporia, KS	Fraternal—Geri Rupp Pastoral—TBA
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 10, 2024	St Anthony Visitation	Wichita, KS	Fraternal—Richard Cronk Pastoral—Judith Cronk
November 17, 2024	Holy Family— Election	Tulsa, OK	Fraternal—Richard Cronk Pastoral—Judith Cronk
March 3, 2025	Holy Eucharist Visitation	St. Mary's Church Independence, MO	Fraternal— Pastoral—
July 13, 2025	Holy Eucharist Election	St. Mary's Church Independence, MO	Fraternal— Pastoral—
July 29-August 2, 2026	21st Quinquennial Congress	Lexington, Kentucky	All Franciscans
August 29-31, 2025	Regional Elective & Visitation Chapter	Spiritual Life Center Wichita, KS	REC, Fraternity Ministers, Observers invited
October 10-18, 2026	National OFS Chapter	Spiritual Life Center Wichita, KS	NEC, Regional Ministers
TBA— 2026	Chapter of Mats	Rome, Italy	Members of NEC, All Francis- cans

The New Revised Ritual Book and Online Gospel to Life Bookstore

The new Ritual edition features:



- new translations of the Franciscan sources from *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*,
- scripture passages from *The New American Bible, revised edition*, which is used in the lectionary of the dioceses in the United States,
- psalms from *Abbey Psalms and Canticles*, approved for liturgical use by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops,
- sewn binding and durable simulated leather cover make this edition a faithful companion for years to come,
- larger, easier to read print, prints of frescoes from the Basilica in Assisi, and quotes from Franciscan sources to foster a greater appreciation of the solemnity and spirituality of the rites and prayers.

<https://gospel-to-life-bookstore.square.site/>



LITTLE PORTION FRATERNITY CONTINUES TO GROW IN TAHLEQUAH, OK

Little Portion Fraternity minister, Mark Keeley, OFS, and formation director, Evelyn Leinan, OFS stand with six of the newly admitted candidates. From left. Vito and Donna Villa, Laura Leto, Karen Housley, and Asuncion Shackelford. Also admitted was Suzanne Krumpelman. Five of the new members live in Arkansas.



Little portion fraternity newly admitted Candidate, Suzanne Krumpelman is pictured with minister, Deacon Mark Keeley OFS and assistant formation, Director, Lynn Konz, OFS.



On the first Saturday of March, Little Portion Fraternity, sponsored a Lenten day of reflection, titled **“Biblical Foods”** for parishioners of St. Brigid Parish and Secular Franciscans from Oklahoma and Arkansas. The presenters were a diocesan priest, Father Josh Litwack, and his mother Donna. Secular Franciscans helped prepare a brunch and afternoon lunch of typical Jewish food for those attending.



St. Anthony Fraternity
Wichita, KS
Professes New Members



Newly Professed Members; Patricia Bird
and Steve Hilger

Saturday, June 1, St Anthony Fraternity professed Patricia Bird and Steve Hilger in the chapel of the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita. Pictured above is Minister Larry Menestrina and Father Kenneth Van Harverbeke, Pastor of St. Vincent De Paul Parish in Andover was the Mass Celebrant.

The group photo is of the members of St. Anthony Fraternity who attended the profession. A reception was held afterward in the dining room of the center.





FRANCISCAN FAMILY CHAPLET

The Franciscan Family Chaplet is a prayer dedicated to praying for the renewal of the Franciscan Order. It was created in 2010 by Nicholas H. Kovacs, a Secular Franciscan (Third Order Franciscan) from the St. Thomas More Fraternity in Houston, Texas.

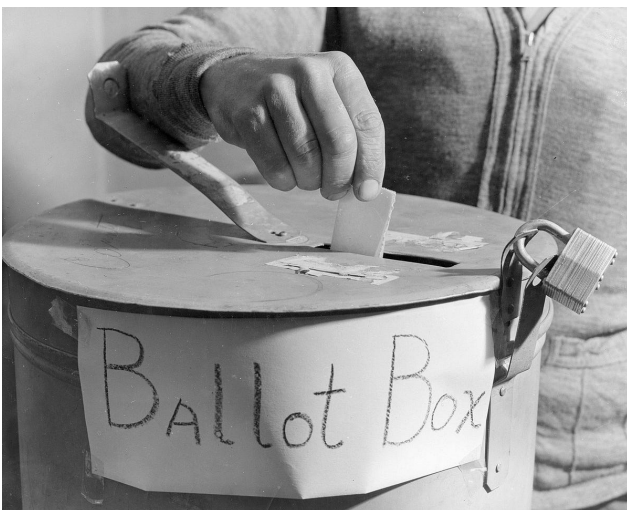
Regional Minister, Brenda Haas reported that during a local Fraternity Minister Zoom Meeting, they prayed for all members who are suffering. The ministers decided to have each fraternity sign up to take a month to pray the Franciscan Family Chaplet for all members in the region and all Franciscans in the whole country.

The following fraternity have already taken a month in 2024 to pray the chaplet: St. Joseph, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, St. Francis Cabrini and St. Stanislaus & St. Adalbert. If your fraternity is not listed below, let Brenda know so that she can add your fraternity to the list.

September '24	Our Lady of Sorrows
October '24	St. Anthony
November '24	St. Francis of Assisi
December '24	Queen of the Angels
January '25	Little Portion
February '25	REC

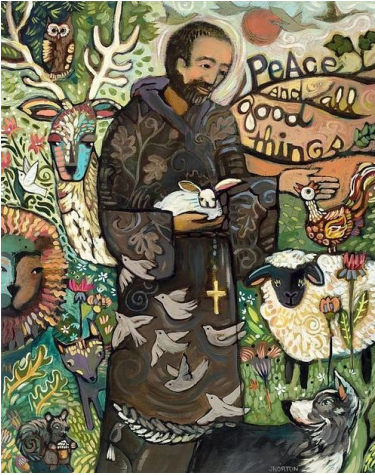
How to Pray the Chaplet

The chaplet is **composed of 39 beads (or knots), with 6 large beads and 33 small beads**. The small beads represent the 33 years of the mortal life of Jesus Christ. The first 30 beads are divided into 5 groups of 6, representing Jesus' private life, and the 3 beads near the crucifix recall his public life.



St. Stanislaus & St. Adalbert Fraternity Election Results

MINISTER - Ginger Thummel
 VICE-MINISTER - Letah Lewis
 SECRETARY - Tom Firme
 TREASURER - Teresa Alderman
 DIRECTOR OF FORMATION - Dominick Palmisano
 COUNCILOR 1 - Aimee Rivera
 COUNCILOR 2 - Bernadette Hakes
 COUNCILOR 3 - Judith Cronk



What is a green burial?

A green burial is a **type of burial that aims to have a minimal environmental impact and conserve natural resources**. It is also known as natural burial or eco-friendly burial. The key characteristics of a green burial are:

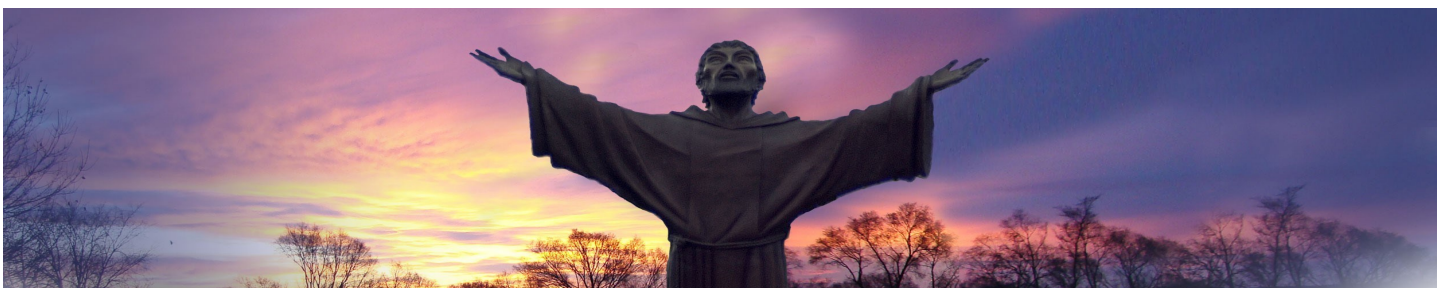
- **The body is not cremated or embalmed.**
- Biodegradable caskets, shrouds, or urns are used.
- The body is not interred in a concrete vault.

The burial site is designed to allow for natural decomposition and does not use chemicals or other non-biodegradable materials.

Green burials often support land conservation and sustainable practices. They may also involve the use of biodegradable markers or no markers at all, allowing the grave to blend in with the surrounding natural environment.

In a green burial, **the body is typically wrapped in a biodegradable shroud or placed in a biodegradable casket, and then laid directly into the earth in a designated section of a cemetery**. The grave is usually left unmarked, in keeping with the low-impact ethos of the movement. Over time, the plot can be reused, allowing for a more sustainable use of land.

Green burials are **designed to reduce the environmental impact of traditional burials**, which can involve the use of embalming fluids, metal caskets, and concrete vaults. By using biodegradable materials and minimizing the use of chemicals, green burials aim to promote a more sustainable and environmentally friendly approach to death care.



DATE	NAME	FRATERNITY	LOCATION
April 2, 2024	Jean Finch OFS	Brother Jacoba	Lawrence, KS
April 7, 2024	Annie Wiggs OFS	St. Maximilian Kolbe	Atchison, KS
April 13, 2024	Mary Sutton OFS	Sacred Heart	Emporia, KS
June 15, 2024	Dorothy Krueger OFS	Sacred Heart	Emporia, KS
June 27, 2024	Ann Rizzi OFS	Holy Eucharist	Independence, MO



Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC)

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

Summer will be ending in a few weeks, and autumn is almost here! I don't know about you, but autumn is one of my favorite times of year, though I do recognize that each season has its gift(s). What gift or gifts does each season hold for you?

And in November we'll be voting for a new president of our nation. It's especially important to vote because it's a concrete way that we get to have a voice in government, whether our candidate(s) win or not. Voting in elections is a gift of freedom.

As you prepare for this election, I invite you to participate with me in praying the prayer below daily. It points us to ways we can "survive" this election season in good conscience.

Daily Election Prayer

God of peace, these times demand a change of heart: to be, think, and act differently.

Pour out your Spirit on your people as we prepare to vote in 2024 in unprecedented numbers across the globe.

May we strive to make peace a reality by becoming agents of reconciliation, transforming and transcending polarization, misinformation, and division during this election year.

Help us to recognize the reality of our interconnection and interdependence and to make decisions for the common good. Amen.

--Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace





Mother Frances Cabrini Fraternity—Liberal, KS Travels to Texas for Life in the Spirit Retreat

Mary Amerin, OFS, Stanley Cordova, OFS Minister, Fr. Jim Dieker OFS Vice Minister, and Lina Almarez, candidate of the Mother Cabrini Fraternity of the OFS, with Sr. Philip, DLJC, of the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in the newly dedicated Chapel of the Angels at Prayer Town, Texas. The group were together for retreat and participation in the day Life in the Spirit Retreat.



Region Officers & Commissions

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