



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

Advent 2024

Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

At National Chapter in Scottsdale AZ September 17-22 at the Franciscan Renewal Center, in Father's homily the first night he stated, "We say Come Holy Spirit! It's dangerous. Tomorrow you will say Come Holy Spirit and then put Him back in a cage. The Holy Spirit may change your plans or ideas."

"When we come to Chapter, we try to attune ourselves to the voice of God. Father said when in Times Square listen for the cricket. Do you think you could hear it? If someone dropped a coin, many people would turn and look where the coins fell. What do you attune your ear to? If you have peace in your heart you can attune to the voice of God."

St. Francis is no longer the minister of the chapter, the Holy Spirit is. This Order is not ours. You don't have to prove anything to anybody. Ask yourself, "Do I really want to be transformed by Christ? The body will suffer. We will change if we allow God in."



The National Chapter attendees held at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, AZ

This Advent I encourage you to spend time with the most Holy Sacrament. In silence. Attune to Baby Jesus and his joyful cooing, his crying to be comforted, or his reaching out to you with his bright shining eyes and desire to embrace you and you Him. Spend some time gazing at Him and Him gazing at you.

Happy Advent and a Merry Christmas!

Pace Bene,
Brenda Haas OFS
Regional Minister Juan de Padilla Region



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In the silence of your time with our Lord, ask and listen to how you are called to be a servant leader. Our region is in need of spiritual assistants for local fraternities. Regional elections will be held August 31, 2025 at the end of our regional visitation and election. What position would you be willing to be nominated for and serve in? There is a need for a nomination committee. Do you have a desire to be an animator for the region for JPIC, YouFra, or Ecumenical commissions? National Chapter will be held in Wichita in October 2026. Do you have skills that would be beneficial to the REC to host the national chapter? Please pray and discern and offer your skills.



Francis and Clare

Here are some things that came out of Chapter:

- The Initial Formation Materials are being piloted by the **National Formation Team**, it is called, **Let Us Begin** and it starts after the Welcoming
- Additional Servant Leadership workshops are being held National elections will be held September 13, 2025 at National Chapter
- JPIC Animator's retreat May 8-11, 2025 at Holy Cross Retreat center, Las Cruces, NM
- Aspirants are no longer considered Inquirers

On Spiritual Assistance:

- The Spiritual Assistance Handbook is being revised
- Formation of SA's can be done by correspondence.
- There is no set period of time for the SA program. Fr. Jerome Wolbert completes his SA trainees in one year if the material is covered.
- The Provincial can tell whoever they want to do the forming.
- Regions can collaborate together for SA formation.
- The Conference of National Spiritual Assistants have no intention of creating a national program.
- Definite: It can not be: SA to their own fraternity at any level.

On Deactivation of a fraternity:

- Has to be a pastoral and fraternal visit and a report. Canon Law - have 100 years to resurrect the fraternity.
- Funds have to be spent before deactivation OR go to the region, then put in escrow for 100 years. The fraternity can vote to give the funds to the region.
- Document, archive records, deactivated fraternity put in archives and buy boxes to put the records in.
- Copy of Letter to the Bishop about deactivating

If a candidate can't profess - their candidacy ends there. NEC is coming up with a term for this.

On Visitation and Elections:

- Nominating Committee 6 - 9 months before you get started. Minimum of 2 names per position
- Review Office requirements so all know and understand. Do one month at a time.
- Provide to the Presider -
- Regional guidelines
- Slate of nominees and their contact info 2 months before the election
- Audit of treasurer records complete
- Time of gathering
- Election results
- Check and Update guidelines after election of new council.

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REC fills out pre-visitation questionnaire and send it 1-2 months before visitation

- On the national website under Resources/suggested schedule for a regional visit.
- The presider needs 2-3 hours with local ministers
- SA's will meet with someone
- Pastoral and Spiritual reports are sent. They are 2 different reports.

Fraternal Accompaniment

- Discussed at International Chapter. Still waiting for the English Translation

The National Budget was changed to give \$1000 to the JPIC Award Recipient for travel, room and board to receive the award at the National Chapter, in addition to the \$3000 cash award.

Fair Share - responsible for paying for all active, excused, and candidates to national.

Several guidelines were approved by vote. I will link them all here:

[Guidelines, Forms & Other Resources – Secular Franciscan Order – USA](#)

*Brenda Haas OFS
Juan de Padilla Regional Minister*



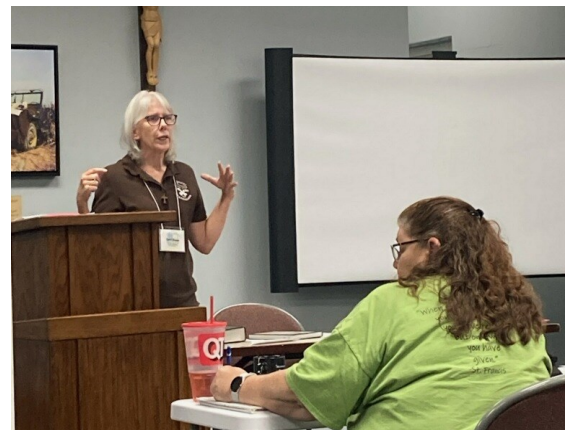
Several pictures of the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, AZ—Stigmata of St. Francis, Center Chapel and Palms, created by God.



Brenda leads Regional Chapter



Fraternity Ministers, REC members and Spiritual Assistants at Regional Chapter at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita, KS



Geri Rupp, Regional Formation Director

The Power and Strength of the Gospels



In these present times, as it was with Francis, there is war and division within the world. There is confusion in society and family's, and that includes our church. Francis was called by Christ to serve the Master and rebuild His church. This is true for every brother and sister of our Franciscan Family. Whether in the time of St. Francis or now in the present, Christ has called us to follow Him, as Francis did and we do that by living the Gospels because the word of God has the power to change the world.

When Francis spoke to the many people who gathered to hear him, he spoke with God's authority. Whether it was crowds of people he spoke to or hundreds of his brothers or maybe just a few friars, Francis taught what he himself had learned from the gospels. (Rule 7)

There is a story of Francis preaching in the town of Bologna where most of the townspeople came to hear the saint preach. Wearing his worn habit and looking unkempt, Francis talked of peace in the community.

"But God conferred so much power on his words that they brought back peace in many a seignorial family torn apart until then by old, cruel and furious hatreds even to the point of assassinations. The people showed him as much respect as they did devotion." (Omnibus, c.1983, p. 1601)

The powerful words used by Francis to change hearts and bring peace to the town of Bologna were not his own. Only by the power of God's word and the Holy Spirit was Francis able to convert whole towns and the family's in them to peace and forgiveness. That same power and strength given to Francis is also given to us Franciscans. St. Paul reminds us, "There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength." (Phil. 4:13 TJB) **We cannot underestimate the power of the Gospels or God's strength in us for our own daily conversion and others.**

In the book of Hebrews it reads, "The Word of God is something alive and active; it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts." (Hebrews 4:12) That is **how powerful the scriptures are and why it is so important for us to read and study the gospels** just as Francis encouraged his brothers to do the same. Once when a New Testament was given to the brothers, Saint Francis divided it up and gave each brother a page for them to study without interruption. That is how important it was to Francis for his brothers to know the gospels. **We need to daily spend time reading the gospels to be able to speak the words of Christ as Francis did.** We have to read scripture and pray scripture and share scripture. Then we will be fulfilling our vow, going from Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel. (Rule 4)



Gerri Rupp OFS
Formation Director
Juan de Padilla Region



St. Elizabeth of Hungary ~ Leawood, KS Fraternity Happenings



On September 21, many of our members attended a Benefit Dinner for the Poor of Jesus Christ. The benefit dinner was to raise funds for the Poor of Jesus Christ Special Needs fund, which are used for emergency needs at the PJC houses around the world. Guests were entertained by a string quartet and singers. We partook of a very nice BBQ dinner while a fund-raising auction was held. All had a great time while money was raised for the PJC Special Needs fund.



St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity united to celebrate the Transitus, honoring our Seraphic Father's entrance into perfect joy at our regular Gathering on October 27. This service included candlelight, song, Gospel readings, prayer and reflection led by Sister Doris Engeman and Julie Oswald. Following the service, we enjoyed our social with desserts including St. Francis almond cookies and mud cake. This experience was one of true joy.



The Feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary was celebrated on November 17. St. Elizabeth Fraternity celebrated by attending Holy Mass together at Cure of Ars. We enjoyed lunch and each other's company at a local restaurant.



We praise God for the gift of fellowship and enjoy celebrating with each other. Pax et Bonum.—Linus Drouhard, Minister

Our Lady of Sorrows Fraternity. Olathe KS



*My past, O Lord, to your mercy;
My present, to your love;
My future to your providence.
- St. Padre Pio*

On 11/3/24, our fraternity gathered to pray a rosary for all the souls in Purgatory and for the Holy Father's intentions. We also prayed by the grave of Mike Pottorff's wife Debbie offering our love and support to him.

Our apostolates included serving dinner at Shalom House, collecting donations for Olathe Pregnancy Clinic as well as our monthly adoration at Ascension.

We had our Come and See event. Four people expressed interest in visiting our fraternity.

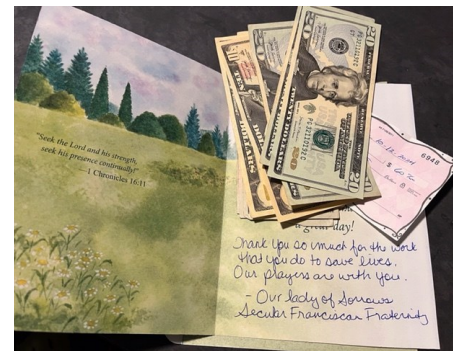
Below: Beth Antonacci and Marina Zeller serving food at Shalom House.



Marina Zeller, Mike Pottorff, Megan Ratzlaff, Charles Gurera and Norma Crevoiserat .



Rebecca Cheek, Beth Antonacci, Mike Pottorff, Marina Zeller and Renee Schmit



Above: Olathe Pregnancy Clinic



Below: Come and See Event



Above: Genna Ferrell, Marina Zeller, Mike Pottorff, Beth Antonacci and Megan Ratzlaff at Shalom House. Below: Megan, Marina and Beth.



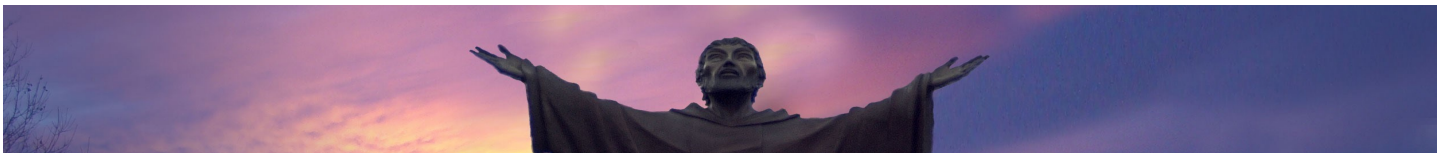


St. Anthony Fraternity, Wichita, KS

October 5, 2024—St. Anthony Fraternity celebrated the profession of Justin Kelly OFS with a beautiful Profession Mass which included a Mariachi band. After Mass, all were treated to authentic Mexican cuisine to the delight of the members.



Pictured from L-R in front row: Deacon Hector Rios, Sr. Mary Catherine Blanding, IHM, Margarita Schulte, Justin Kelly, (Newly Professed), Larry Dougherty, Jerry Cornejo, Kristi Stubbings. Back row L to R: Patricia Bird, Jackie Simon, Larry Menestrina, Chet Kirby, Jeanmarie Murry, Fr. Jacob Carlin.



Sister Death—May They Rest in Peace

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



Queen of the Angels Fraternity ~ Buckner-Blue Springs, MO December Giving

December is the month that Queen of the Angels Fraternity was assigned to pray the Franciscan Family Chaplet each day. Councilor Jean Kleibert, known for her beautiful rosary making skills, made brand new Franciscan Family Chaplets. She made them from her mother's collection of Job's Tears and had the chaplets blessed by priests.



Jean Kleibert OFS, Councilor

Members of the Queen of the Angels Fraternity wrapped Christmas gifts at their November Gathering. The gifts included blankets and slippers for the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Eucharist. Members also gave donations of Masses and gift cards for the twenty seminarians at Conception Abbey.





Queen of the Angels

Buckner, Blue Springs, MO.

Visitation on July 22,2024



Pictured (l-r): Janice Cox— Minister , Sylvia Ridge—Vice Minister, Cheryl O’Neil—Formation Director, Brenda Haas— Fraternal Visitor & Regional Minister, Sr. Doris Engeman FSHF— Pastoral Visitor, and Joe Novak.



Queen of the Angels hosted Sister Doris Engeman OFHS, Spiritual Assistant and Brenda Haas OFS, Fraternal Visitor and Regional Minister for their regular visitation. Members celebrated the occasion with a delicious spread of food.



Praying for Conversion and Peace in the World



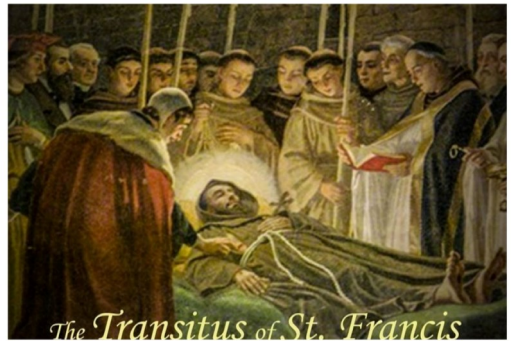
Cathy and Tom Herrndon lead the group.

Cathy Herndon leads a semi-annual Public Rosary in Blue Springs. Her husband Tom is always at her side.

Members of the Queen of the Angels and Holy Eucharist Fraternities join with parishioners to pray for the United States and World.



Fr McCaffery, Pastor of St. John’s leads rosary



The Transitus of St. Francis

Seculars Participate with the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Eucharist for the Transitus on October 3, 2024

Members of the Secular Franciscans of the Holy Eucharist and Queen of the Angels Fraternities participated with the Sisters at the Franciscan Prayer Center in praying the Holy Transitus of St. Francis. It was a beautiful ceremony in the Our Lady of the Angels Chapel.



Carolyn Dennis OFS holds banner on 7 Highway



St. Stanislaus and St. Adalbert Fraternity Events Broken Arrow, OK



August 4, 2024, St. Stanislaus and St. Adalbert held their election. The photo didn't make it into the newsletter so am attaching it now. Left to right is Dominic Palmisano, Aimee Rivera, Tom Firme, Letah Lewis, Teresa Alderman, Ginger Thummel, Judith Cronk. Bernadette Hakes is not pictured.



Every month at 12 Noon on the second Saturday of the month we pray a public square rosary at the bell tower at St. Annes.—Ginger Thummel, Minister

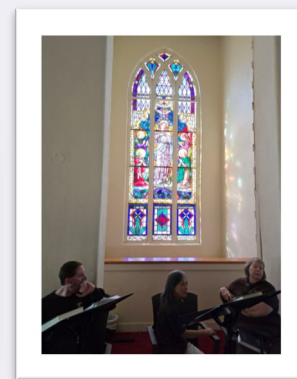


October 5th the fraternity took a pilgrimage to the Immaculate Conception church in Pawhuska, OK, where we were given a very informative tour by one of the parishioners. We also visited the Saint Kateri Tekakwitha shrine.—Ginger Thummel, Minister



On November 2, St. Stanislaus and St. Adalbert fraternity went to Calvary Cemetery for All Souls Day Mass with Bishop Konderla. They then prayed by name for all deceased members of their fraternity at the Grave of Willa Sabala.

St. Stanislaus and St. Adalbert Fraternity Events Continued—Broken Arrow, OK



November 10th we had Rite of Admission for Theresa Haley and welcoming of Michelle Stenson and Richard Jones.
—Ginger



T CALENDAR OF EVENTS			
DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	NAME(S)
December 31, 2024	Annual Report Due		All Fraternities
February 1, 2025	Fair Share Due		All Fraternities
February 7, 2025	NAFRA Virtual Meeting	Zoom	Regional Minister
March 3, 2025	Holy Eucharist Visitation	St. Mary's Church Independence, MO	Fraternal— Pastoral—
March 7-9, 2025	REC Retreat	Capuchin Spiritual Life Center, Victoria, KS	Regional Executive Council
May 8-11, 2025	JPIC Workshop	Las Cruces, New Mexico	JPIC Animators and interested others
July 13, 2025	Holy Eucharist Election	St. Mary's Church Independence, MO	Fraternal— Pastoral—
July 18-20, 2025	"My God and My All" Regional Summer Gathering	Spiritual Life Center, Wichita, KS	All Invited
August 29-31, 2025	Regional Elective & Visitation Chapter	Spiritual Life Center Wichita, KS	REC, Fraternity Ministers, Observers invited
July 29-August 2, 2026	21st Quinquennial Congress	Lexington, Kentucky	All Franciscans
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 Franciscans

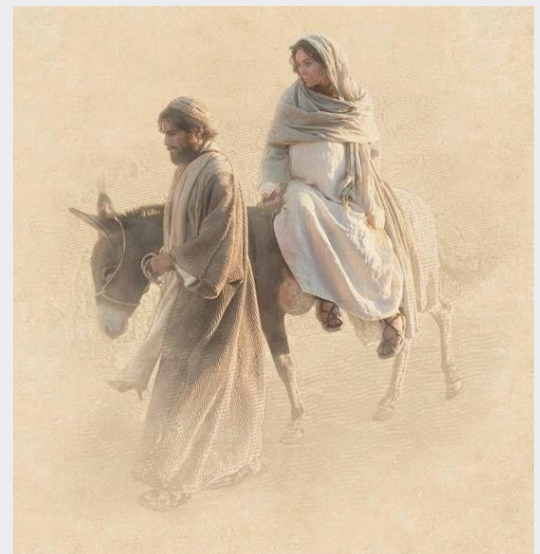


St Joseph Fraternity
Hays, KS



Judy Donley professed into the order 10-20-2024 at St Joseph's Church in Hays, KS. Fr Curtis Carlson OFM Cap celebrated Mass and her profession was made during Mass

LIFE APOSTOLATE—From Conception to Natural Death
The Most Important Challenge in the World



Several members of St Joseph fraternity participated in Life Chain this fall. The participants held signs, prayed at the tomb for the unborn, and silently witnessed on Vine Street for one hour. This was the first year a handful of protestors gathered on the opposite side of the street expressing their own views. Thankfully they protested silently.



Transitus

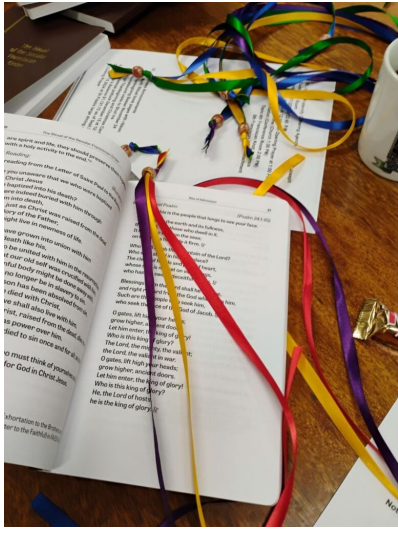


St Joseph fraternity invited Fr Damian Richards, diocesan priest, and his mother Jo Richards for a sandwich luncheon at their regular monthly meeting in September. The fraternity asked Fr Damian to speak to the fraternity about St Francis and the Stigmata since this year is the celebration of the Centenary of the Stigmata.



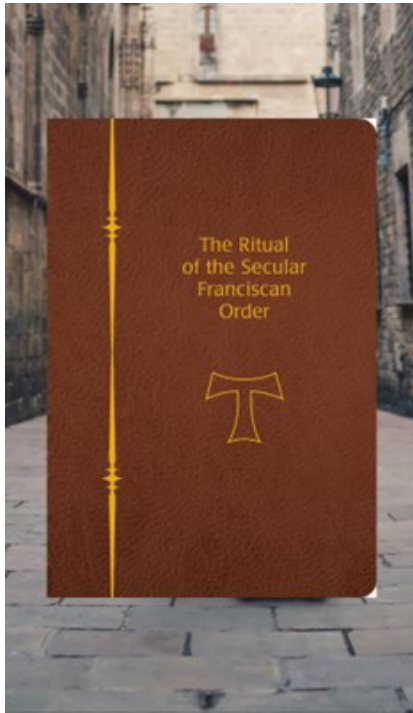
New Ritual Book

St Joseph fraternity ordered the new ritual books for everyone in the fraternity. At our meeting today we cut ribbon and made ribbon markers to mark pages in our ritual books for the council and fraternity meetings. Pictured are Brenda Haas, Troy Haas, and Rita Gabel, and Fr Curtis Carlson.



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/>



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JUSTICE, PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION REFLECTIONS

At this writing, we have just entered Advent, the liturgical season during which we wait for the birth of the Christ-Child Jesus. At that time Israel was waiting for the coming of their Messiah.

Anyone who has ever waited for a long time for anything knows how energy waiting can consume. We feel anxious; we plead with God to hurry; we get bone-tired of waiting; sometimes our commitment to our faith may falter.

For those who are awaiting a prayer intention being granted or something else, Advent is a good time to feed your soul. Look for the hopeful spaces in Advent; in Scripture, in readings and in prayers. Look for ways of putting hopeful language into your prayer.

If you're not at that point yet, write a lament. Doing so is a great way to unload your worry and to re-focus your hope and your energy. These hits can hold true for prayers for family and friends, causes that you have been praying about for a long time that have not yet come to fruition and for your faith to remain strong.

And pray for peace. Not just world peace, but peace within your heart, in your family, in groups with which you are associated and within your other relationships.

Sometimes we forget to pray for the strength to wait. Perhaps remembering to do so more often will help bring us the hope and strength and faith and peace we need in order to successfully survive the task of waiting!

***A Blessed completion of Advent to all of you, with a Merry Christmas
and a Happy and Blessed New Year!***

Susan Tabor OFS

Juan de Padilla Regional JPIC Animator