



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

Juan de Padilla Chapter of Elections



New Regional Council with National Visitors: (l-r) Fr. Markey Stybor OFM Conv.- Ecclesiastical Visitor, Deanna Perry—Secretary, Julie Oswald—Vice Minister, Brenda Haas—Minister; Fr. Mike Scully OFM Cap.—Regional Spiritual Assistant, Donna Hollis—National Councilor and Election President, Renee Schmit—Treasurer, Sylvia Ridge—Formation Director, Richard Churray—Kansas Councilor; Rebecca Cheek—KC Metro Councilor; Richard Cronk—Oklahoma Councilor.



On National Priorities – Vocations, Communication and Relationships

...“The heart of fraternity lies in the relationships we form, first with God, next with St. Francis through his example and our Rule, and then with one another. The healthiest fraternities have an excellent spiritual life. They pray together at gatherings as a fraternity and individually at home or at Adoration. Deepening our relationship with God and being open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit allows the Spirit to lead us to daily conversion and helps us to love one another.”

... *Diane Menditto OFS, National Vice Minister*



Gerri Rupp

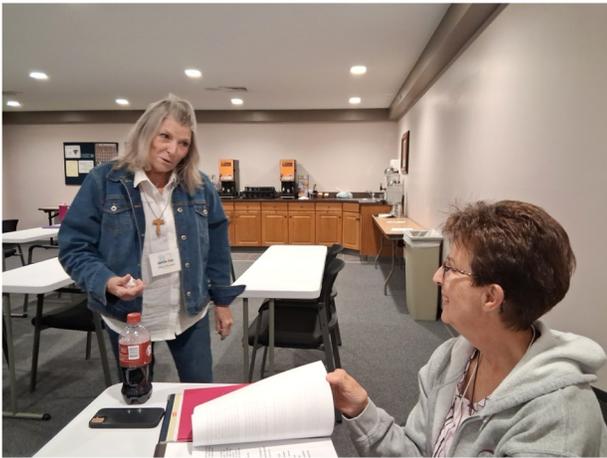
Fr. Marey Stybor

Troy Haas

Larry Menestrina

Deanna Perry

Fr. Mike Scully



Nash Cordova



2025 Juan de Padilla Chapter of Elections
Spiritual Life Center,
Wichita, KS



WHAT IS THE CNSA?

The Conference of National Spiritual Assistants is the four spiritual assistants, one from each friar obedience (Order of Friars Minor, OFM Capuchin, OFM Conventual, and Third Order Regular), who provide assistance to the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States. The CNSA is responsible for guiding all the spiritual assistants of the OFS in the United States. The President-in-Turn of the CNSA, who serves for two years, is a member of the National Executive Council of the National Fraternity.



Prayer to the Holy Spirit (which John Paul II recited every day)

Holy Spirit, I ask You for the gift of wisdom,
to better know You and Your divine perfections.
for the gift of understanding,

to better grasp the spirit of the mysteries of holy faith.
for the gift of knowledge,

so that in life I may be guided by the principles of this faith.
for the gift of counsel,

so that in everything I may seek advice from You and always find it in You.
for the gift of fortitude,

so that no fear or earthly considerations may separate me from You.
for the gift of piety,

so that I may always serve Your Majesty with filial love.
for the gift of fear of God,

so that I may fear sin, which offends You, O God.
Amen.



Fr. Marek Stybor, OFM Conv. CNSA

Fr. Marek served as the Ecclesial Witness for the regional election. He has an extensive background listed below:

- President in Turn
- Fr. Marek Stybor, OFM Conv, of Our Lady of the Angels Province, is originally from Poland, and has been a missionary to Kenya and Tanzania and also served as Vocation Director, Retreat Director, Postulant Director, and Parish Priest. Fr. Marek has worked with Secular Franciscans for many years.
- His last ministry before joining the CNSA was Vice Director of Novitiate in Arroyo Grande, CA.

Fr. Marek gave Sylvia Ridge, newly elected Formation Director, a Polish prayer to the Holy Spirit which Pope John Paul II recited everyday. Bart Ridge, Regional Webmaster translated this prayer on the left.



Our Lady of Sorrows Fraternity - Olathe, KS



Mike Pottorff, Beth Antonacci, Megan Ratzlaff, Marnina Zeller and Charles Gurera assisted residents to Mass at Villa St Francis.



OLS served dinner at Shalom House which is a transitional men's living program. Pictured above: Beth Antonacci, Marina Zeller, Mike Pottorff, Megan Ratzlaff. (Genna Ferrell and



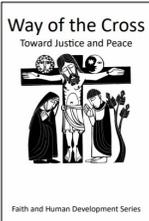
Megan Ratzlaff, Rebecca Cheek, Fr. Robert Rooney, Renee Schmit and Genna Ferrell at Fr. Rooney's ordination into the diaconate.



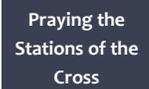
Megan Ratzlaff, Marina Zeller, Renee Schmit, Beth Antonacci and Rebecca Cheek prayed the rosary outside of Planned Parenthood. (left picture) Afterwards, they had lunch at Ginger Sue's Restaurant. (pictured above)



Megan Ratzlaff, Beth Antonacci, Rebecca Cheek, Marina Zellar and Renee Schmit attended Mass together at Holy Trinity, Lenexa KS.



OLS Fraternity prayed the Stations of the Cross twice. One time it was based upon the Via Dolorosa.



The other time was based upon social justice issues. This one highlighted the final journey of people who followed in the footsteps of Jesus, and were martyred for their faith.



Stations of the Cross. Beth Antonacci, Marina Zeller, Mike Pottorff, Rebecca Cheek and Megan Ratzlaff. (Genna Ferrell not Pictured)



In Loving Memory of Mary Anne Dougherty
October 20, 1938
March 13, 2025

Mary Anne's bright smile, cheerful personality and loving Franciscan spirit will be greatly missed.



Living the OFS Rule

When was the last time you read the letter from Saint Francis to “Those Who Do Penance” in the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order? Whether you have recently done so or not, please read it during this time in Lent, prayerfully and with much reflection. How blessed we are as brothers and sisters in this order that we can assist our holy mother church by doing penance for the body of Christ. Sometimes it is helpful to revisit the beginnings of our order along with our personal journey as Secular Franciscans. We can ask ourselves those important questions concerning our walk with Francis and reflect on how much of our daily life includes penance for those in the church and in the world. If we are following our Seraphic Father there will be fruit from our prayers, our fasting and our penance. In our hearts there will be a desire to do more for Christ, not less. Our prayer will increase and will deepen as a result and fasting will become easier and penance will be a daily act of love. Doing more for God and less for oneself.

Bonaventure writes about the beginnings of the three orders: Order of Friars Minor, Order of the Sisters of St. Claire, and the Order of Brothers and Sisters of Penance. Francis thought of these three orders as daughters to him and their existence was solely for the service of God. St. Bonaventure also writes,

“Carried away by the force of his preaching, great numbers of people adopted the new rule of penance according to the form instituted by St. Francis, which he called the “Order of Brothers of Penance.” The way of penance is common to all those on the road to heaven and so this way of life includes members of both sexes, clerics, lay-folk, married or single. How meritorious it is in the eyes of God is clear from the numerous miracles worked by some of those who followed it.” (Omni. p.657 c. 1983)

Penance is what we have been called to do for the service of God. By our profession we are “united more intimately with the church” and are “witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words.” (Rule 6) Not only as individuals but also as an order are we to exercise this way of life. We are strengthened by knowing our brothers and sisters of Penance are joined together as one in the Secular Franciscan Order. (Rule 7) Penance, in whatever form Christ has asked from you, will be used for His glory in the church. (Rule 1)

We Franciscans have been given a special purpose along with the grace to succeed in our gifts of penance to Christ. Let us renew in our fraternities this love of penance that Francis specifically asked of us by the naming of our order, Brothers and Sisters of Penance. Not for ourselves but for the love of Christ and love of neighbor. As Francis did, we also should do. (Rule 2) Amen.

Prayers to Saint Francis

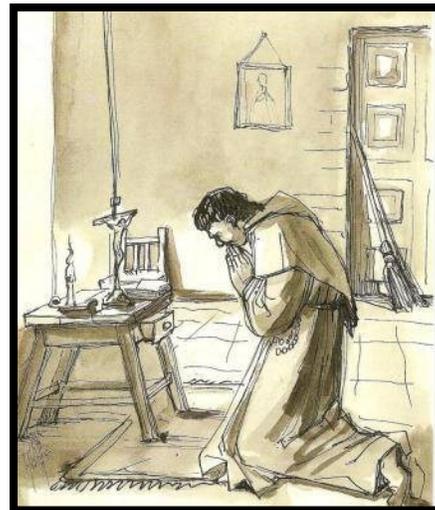
For Fidelity to the Rule

Holy father, loving and most beloved St. Francis, I beseech you by the holy wounds of our Lord Jesus Christ, which were imprinted on your body, assist me to govern the five senses of my body according to the will and pleasure of almighty God. Intercede for me, so that I may be most faithful in the observance of your Rule of Penance. Obtain for me contrition and devotion, faith, hope, and charity, patience, and purity of body and soul, together with the grace of persevering in the service of our Lord; so that after this life I may merit to come to you, with you to enjoy eternal happiness, which I hope through your intercession to obtain from Christ our Lord. Amen.

(continued on next page)

For the Spirit of Penance

O Seraphic father, St. Francis, I venerate in you the living image of Christ crucified. Your love transformed your whole life into one whole martyrdom. It made you strive by means of severe penances to satisfy the ardors of your desires, until at last it impressed on your body the wounds it had long before engraved deeply in your heart. It thus made you a living crucifix, preaching sweetly to all people the sufferings and love of Jesus. Obtain for me, oh holy father, that I too may banish from my heart the spirit of the world; that I may esteem poverty and humiliation above wealth and honor; that I may mortify my passions and advance daily in the knowledge and love of God, until at last, detached from myself, from the world and all creatures, I may live for God alone, and like you say with my whole heart, "My God and my all", my God, my inheritance and my joy in time and eternity. Amen.



Prayers taken from the Secular Franciscan Companion (c. 2009)



Geri Rupp, OFS
Regional Formation Director
Juan de Padilla Region



EWTN FRANCISCAN PROGRAM Highlights September—November 2-025

SAINT FRANCIS AND BROTHER ELIAS

This original docudrama explores the spiritual relationship between St. Francis of Assisi and Brother Elias. As his primary disciple, Elias assumed leadership of the newly established Franciscan Order following Francis' death. Program time: October 4th, 1:00 PM, CST.

SACRED STORIES: ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

St. Maximilian Kolbe's story features an ultimate act of love by the priest, missionary and martyr who gave his life to save a fellow Auschwitz prisoner during World War II. Program time: November 1, 10:30 AM, CST.

MOTHER CABRINI

An EWTN original movie on the life of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, who founded the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and established missions throughout the world. Program time: November 8, 7:00 PM, CST.

Can't watch the programs at their scheduled times?

EWTN ON DEMAND-

Now you can watch EWTN anywhere any time with thousands of programs available on the network's digital platform. Just go to ewtnn.com/OnDemand



Capuchin Friars Open New House of Formation in Wichita



This summer the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin Denver Province opened a new House of Formation in Wichita, Kansas. The OFM Capuchins recently moved into the former Gerrard House as a home for unwed mothers in Wichita. The house had been vacant for several years and when it came on the market this past Spring the OFM Capuchins purchased it and began developing their new House of Formation. The House of Formation will serve young men discerning a vocation to the OFM Capuchin Order. They will spend about one year at the House of Formation studying, praying, and learning to live the Franciscan way of life while discerning their vocation to the priesthood.

OFM Capuchins from the new House of Formation visit St. Anthony Fraternity during their August Gathering. Front row L to R: Br. Charlie, Fr. Charles Polifko, Br. John Mary, Antonio Ramirez, OFS, Fr. Donald Rank OFM, and Br. Angelo

St. Anthony Fraternity in Wichita invited the House of Formation Priests and Brothers to their August meeting where everyone had a chance to meet and partake of delicious refreshments. By the look of it everyone had a wonderful time. For St. Anthony Fraternity it was the first

time Franciscan priests had been stationed in Wichita since 1988. St. Anthony Fraternity and the House of Formation are already working On a joint activities together. Larry Menestrina, OFS Minister of St. Anthony Fraternity, said we look forward to building a wonderful relationship together with our new Franciscan family in Wichita.



Antonio Ramirez OFS, Br. Angelo, Br. John Mary, and Br. Charlie



Br. Angelo and Fr. Donald Rank OFM enjoy the refreshments at the St. Anthony Fraternity August Gathering

St. Anthony
of Padua Fraternity
Wichita, KS

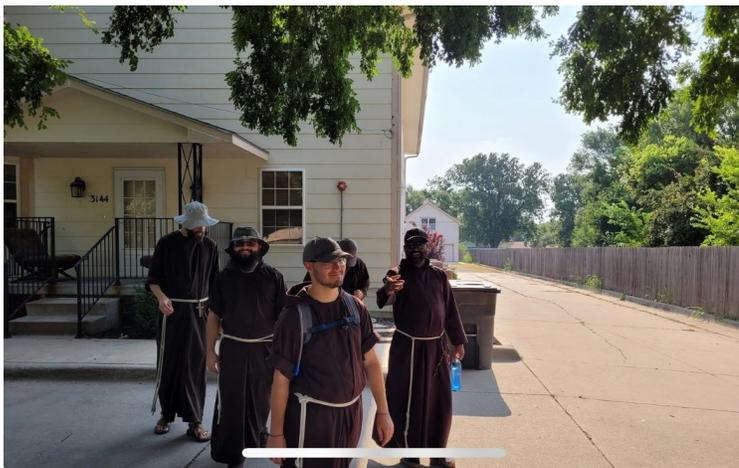




Fr.. Charles Polika OFM, Cap., Larry Menestrina OFS, Br. Mark Schenk OFM, Cap.

Minister, Larry Menestrina, reports that their fraternity had a wonderful time at the Catholic Family Conference. They had a very attractive Information table that drew many people, who came by to inquire about the Secular Franciscans. The Holy Cards were a popular item at their display because members had to keep replenishing them.

The highlight of the weekend was when two Franciscans from the new Franciscan Formation House in Wichita came to our table on Sunday, Fr. Charles Polifka, OFM Cap, and Br. Mark Schenk, OFM Cap. It was a great opportunity to get acquainted with them and briefly discuss how we could work together. We look forward in developing a wonderful relationship with our First Order Franciscan Brothers. (more about this on other page).



St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity Wichita, KS Come & See at the Catholic Family Conference Meeting New Capuchins





St Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity Leawood, KS

The St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity of Leawood, KS was fortunate to be hosted at the Little Sisters of the Poor Jeanne Jugan Center in Kansas City, MO for our June 2025 gathering. Paula Mari Willenbrink, a member of our fraternity and resident of the center, gave us a tour of the beautiful buildings. We saw a sample apartment, spaces where residents spend social time, a large, screened porch overlooking the lovely grounds, and a peaceful chapel where residents and friends may attend daily and Sunday masses.

After our tour, we gathered for an ongoing formation talk from Mother Mary Thomas, who gave us the history of St. Jeanne Jugan and the Little Sisters of the Poor, along with some of her own background.

St. Jeanne Jugan was born in France and learned medicine during the French Revolution. Her ministry started small with an old woman she met near her house and invited to stay in an attic. She gathered sisters and the ministry grew to a house, then a bigger house, as the sisters begged on the road for food to feed the resident ladies. Now, the 180-year-old mission has Little Sisters in 100 houses around the world where they fulfill their mission of ministry to the elderly. In addition to the main 3 vows, the Little Sisters of the Poor take a fourth vow of hospitality, specifically to the elderly. Called to be with residents when they die, Mother Thomas described how the sisters will hold a resident's hand when they close their eyes here, to open them again in heaven.

Sisters pray the Liturgy together, eat together, and live a community-oriented life. Mother Thomas described their strong prayer life as "getting the gas to go on" the right path. In the Kansas City house, two sisters are dedicated to go begging for donations (as well as government funds). All the sisters are also called to evangelize and witness for Christ and travel to parishes in Missouri and Kansas every weekend. Lay people may also join the Association of Jeanne Jugan after a year of formation, volunteer service, and prayer.

Mother Thomas is originally from Mumbai, India where she was a teacher. She was always attracted to the religious life, joining the Little Sisters after going on a retreat, volunteering, and finding joy and peace. She professed in 1987 and has been a sister for 38 years, residing in San Francisco, Gallup, Denver, France, New Jersey, St. Paul, and now Kansas City. She asks for prayers as there has been difficulty finding new staff and new vocations, forcing some houses and novitiates to close. The Kansas City house hosts a variety of fundraisers and drives (note from Deanna - including a delicious spaghetti dinner!).

Please pray for the Little Sisters of the Poor and the elderly that they serve as they fulfill their ministry throughout the world!



Deanna Perry, OFS
Secretary,

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity

From left to right: Paula Mari Willenbrink, Tom Bauer, Linda Mayer, Regina Ozbun, Marie Braunsdorf, Nadine Calligun, Julie Oswald, Deanna Perry, Diane Drouhard, Linus Drouhard



JPIC Musings

By Susan TaborOFS, Regional JPIC Animator

At our regional gathering this summer, we heard and spoke a lot about love, especially as it was a big part of both the servant leadership and fraternity is... presentations.

At the JPIC gathering earlier this summer, we also spoke and heard a lot about love, especially as it relates to our immigrant and refugee brothers and sisters, and also as it relates to showing love for our neighbors and ourselves and God's earth by caring lovingly for our environment.

Love has been a big reflective theme for me personally throughout the summer, and love and compassion travel hand-in-hand spiritually. Compassion has Latin and French roots and means suffering with someone; suffering lovingly with someone who is suffering.

I pray I always act and grow in love and compassion, as I believe it will minister to those with whom I am in contact and that it will help me as I grow into being and becoming a better person.

I recently found a prayer for compassion that I find useful for daily prayer and I thought I'd share it.

Prayer for Compassion

Heavenly Father, I come before You with a heart open to Your transformative grace. Immerse me in the depths of Your divine love, that I may overflow with compassion for others. Clothe me, as Your chosen and dearly loved, in the virtues of kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, so that I may reflect Your character in every interaction.

In moments of judgment, may Your gentle reminder of Your boundaries empathy guide me to extend compassion even when it is challenging. Help me see beyond differences and recognize the shared humanity that unites us all.

Grant me the wisdom to be a source of comfort and understanding in a world often marred by strife.

Lord, teach me to be a living testament to the transformative power of compassion. May my life echo the radical love exemplified in the parable of the Good Samaritan, breaking down societal barriers and fostering genuine connections. Empower me to be a beacon of Your light, radiating compassion in a world hungering for understanding and tenderness.

As I navigate the complexities of daily life, let Your compassion be my compass, guiding me to respond with love and kindness. May Your Spirit work within me, cultivating a heart that mirrors Your mercy and grace. In moments of challenge, grant me the strength to choose compassion over judgment, understanding over resentment.

Father, in a world often marked by division, help me be an instrument of Your unity through compassion. Infuse me with the courage to reach out to those in need, embracing their struggles with genuine empathy. May my actions align with Your perfect love, breaking down walls and fostering an atmosphere of understanding.

I surrender my shortcomings and ask for Your guidance, that I may be a vessel of compassion in all circumstances. Let Your love be the driving force behind my thoughts, words, and deeds. In the tapestry of humanity, may the thread of compassion I weave reflect the richness of Your love, bringing healing and hope to those I encounter.

As I journey through life, may Your compassion be my constant companion, shaping my character and influencing my relationships. Use me as an instrument of Your peace, compassionately navigating the challenges and joys of this world. All glory and honor be unto You, the source of boundless love and compassion. Amen.

--Natalie Gifford



St Joseph Fraternity Hays, KS Celebrates Corpus Christi



Pictured above; July Donley ofs, Geri Rupp ofs, Michael Werth ofs , Troy and Brenda Haas ofs.



Miraculous Light from above appears during Corpus Christi Procession in Hays, KS



*We Adore Thee,
O Christ and we Praise thee,
because by thy Holy Cross,
You have Redeemed the world.*





HOLY EUCHARIST FRATERNITY

Independence, MO
Holds Elections



New Council or the Holy Eucharist Fraternity— Dona Gibbons, Spiritual Assistant, Rose Marie Colpin, Councilor, Alex Kiczek , Councilor, Nancy Herbert, Councilor, Megan Bare, Formation Director, Chris Yeager, Treasurer, Donna Yeager, Secretary, Maria Epperson, Vice Minister, Carolyn Dennis, Minister, recite the election prayer.



Election Tellers: Otilia (Tili) Ayala and Kathy Wescott, Election Secretary—Karen Schamel

Brenda Haas—Regional Minister, Sr. Doris Engemann FSH—Ecclesiastical Witness, Cheryl O’Neil— Election Presider



Brenda Haas, Regional Minister, Sr. Doris Engeman Ecclesiastical Witness, Dona Gibbons, Spiritual Assistant, Donna Yeager, Secretary, Rosemary McColpin, Cheryl O’Neil, Election Presider, Nancy Herbert, Councilor, Megan Bare, Formation Director, Alex Kirzek, Councilor Maria Epperson, Vice Minister, Chris Yeager, Treasurer.





Queen of the Angels Holds Election on July 12, 2025



Queen of the Angels newly elected council (eft to right) Sr. Doris Engeman fshs—Ecclesial Witness; Janice Cox—Minister; Sylvia Ridge—Vice Minister; Kelli McSwain—Secretary; Carol Allman—Treasurer; Kathy Johnson—Formation Councilor; Joe Novak—Councilor at large; Betty McClatchey - Election Presider.



Zach McSwain counts the ballots under the watchful eye of Regional Minister, Brenda Haas.



Sr. Doris Engeman fshs Ecclesial Witness and Betty McClatchey, Election Presider, certify the elections.

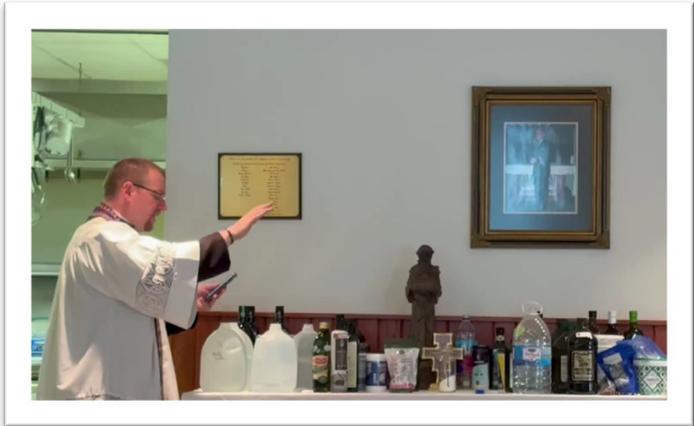




Mary Hopkins was officially welcomed at the Church of the Santa Fe by the Queen of the Angels Fraternity. Pictured above are Janice Cox, Minister; Mary Hopkins, Inquirer; Kelli McSwain, Sponsor and Cheryl O'Neil, Formation Director.

Queen of the Angels Fraternity Welcomes new Inquirer, Mary Hopkins

Father Barlett blesses Salt, Oil, Water and Sacramentals at August Gathering



Cathy Herndon helped to co-ordinate the hospitality and decorate the parish hall for the Elections.

Regional Fraternal Visitation to St. Joseph Fraternity

Hays, KS



Pictured above (front row, l-r) Fr. Custis Carlson OFM Cap., Joanne Wasinger, Brenda Haas, Judy Donley, Karen Marsell, Geri Rupp, and Stanley Cordova. The three men in the back row: Troy Haas, Michael Werth, and Brent Weichers..

Regional fraternal visitation to St Joseph fraternity by Stanley Cordova. The pastoral visit will be scheduled at a later date.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	NAME(S)
September 9-14, 2025	National Chapter of Elections	Bon Secours Retreat Center, Marriottsville, MD.	NEC, Regional Ministers, observers
October 12, 2025	Visitation—St. Stanislaus & St. Adalbert	St. Anne's Parish Broken Arrow, OK	Sr. Doris Engeman fshs, Pastoral Visitor—Richard Cronk ofs—Fraternal Visitor
July 17-19, 2026	JDP Regional Chapter & Summer Gathering	Spiritual Life Center Wichita, KS	Chapter—Ministers & SAs Gathering—All Invited
July 29-August 2, 2026	21st Quinquennial Congress	Lexington, Kentucky	All Invited
October 10-18, 2026	National OFS Chapter— JDP Hosting (Volunteers Needed)	Spiritual Life Center Wichita, KS	NEC, Regional Ministers

AT THE MOVIES NOW....

TRIUMPH of the HEART

A movie about the true story of Catholic Priest,
Saint Maximilian Kolbe OFM
Founder of the Militia of the Immaculata



Auschwitz, 1941. After a prisoner escapes, the SS guards select 10 prisoners to starve to death as punishment. Father Kolbe volunteers to take the place of a family n who has pleaded to the Guards for mercy.

In the harrowing confines of Auschwitz's starvation cell, Catholic priest St. Maximilian Kolbe joined nine others condemned by the Nazis. As despair and fear grip the group, the pressures of starvation, internal ideological division, mount. But throughout, Kolbe's appeal to their shared humanity and Polish identity forges a brotherhood that culminates in a poignant act of sacrifice that echoes beyond the cell, illuminating hope in one of history's darkest moments.

Opens today, September 12, 2025,
Feast of the Holy Name of Mary



Time to Order Your Franciscan Liturgy of the Hours Guide for the new Liturgical Year from CFP Holy Angels Gift Shop, www.penitents.org; email: cfpholyangels@gmail.com

New LOH Guide starts— Advent, November 30, 2025—Year A

“*By standing before
the Eucharistic Christ,
WE BECOME HOLY.*”

– St. Carlo Acutis





Region Officers & Commissions

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Sister Death—May They Rest in Peace

DATE	NAME	FRATERNITY	LOCATION
February 8, 2025	Sean Bauer OFS	St. Maximilian Kolbe	Atchison, KS
March 3, 2025	Sr. Josephine Boyles OSF	Sisters of St Francis of the Holy Eucharist	Independence, MO
March 15, 2025	Mary Anne Dougherty	Our Lady of Sorrows	Olathe, KS
July 20, 2025	Sherry Slavin	Holy Eucharist Fraternity	Independence, MO

We have restructured procedures for regional prayer requests in order to be more responsive to your need for prayer. The old Mailchimp account has been deleted.

Please continue to use this address for prayer request: prayer@jdpofs.org