



Clarion

NEWSLETTER

SAINT CLARE REGION

Fall 2021

New Look, Same Great Newsletter!

We are excited to get this new issue of the Clarion to you!! We will be sending the newsletter only via email to the ministers, this will allow each fraternity to distribute this to its members accordingly.

However, if you would like to have the Clarion emailed directly to you, please send your request to Chris Blood—email to: christinebloodofs@gmail.com. Thank you!

Our Next Regional Gathering is our Annual Ministers' Meeting - Saturday, November 13 SAVE THE DATE!

Our annual ministers' meeting will be on Saturday, November 13 at the parish center, St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Rolla, MO. We will gather at 8:30am for coffee/doughnuts. The meeting will begin around 9am and will conclude after lunch (lunch will be provided). Let's have every fraternity represented.

All are welcome! We will pray & gather in fellowship, vote on the budget and upcoming projects, provide formation ideas and resources, discuss what's new around the region and much more!

RSVP to Connie Shanks by November 6

connieshanks@gmail.com OR 573-776-3434

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The Secular Franciscan Order was established by St. Francis of Assisi more than 800 years ago. Our purpose is to bring the Gospel to life where we live and where we work. We look for ways to embrace the Gospel in our lives and try to help others to do likewise.



St Clare Regional Retreat August 2021 King's House, Belleville, IL

St Clare Region Retreat led by Fr. Ralph Parthie, OFM

The retreat was A+ and we could not have had a better time. Thank you Fr. Ralph for leading us! Here are some of the comments afterwards:

“Very stimulating, my favorite part was the nature walk.”

“Easy, comfortable and I enjoyed Fr. Ralph very much.”

“The best regional retreat I have ever been on.”

“Fr. Ralph’s approach was relaxing and contributed to open discussion.”

“Can’t wait ‘til next year!”

Our Region’s Fraternities

Followers of Francis Fraternity

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Joyful Servants Fraternity

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St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity

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St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity

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St. Joan of Arc Fraternity

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St. Padre Pio Emerging Fraternity

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2021-2024 Council. Pat Smith, Bob Prior, Connie Shanks, Mary Annapoorna, Fr. Pio, Gloria Smith, Maureen Gray, Tom Brinkmann, Chris Blood

Chris' Corner

Your new Regional Council was elected in June at St. Patrick's parish center in Rolla, MO. Josh Molidor, OFS, National Councilor, facilitated our the elections (and sang a few songs for us while playing his guitar!- pictured)

We had many in attendance as the day was joyful and fun. It was really so good to be able to get together in person again.

First of all, MANY, MANY thanks to Steve Geldmacher (and the previous council) for his leadership and efforts with keeping the Region going and for agreeing to serve an extra year as our Regional Minister! We had a lot of Zoom Meetings, which, in turn, allowed us to 'see' each other much more frequently... and that's always a good thing.

We are here to serve you! I am excited about our new Council, our Region, our Fraternities and our Order!

Peace & All Good, Always!

Chris Blood, OFS, St. Clare Region Minister



Joyful Servants

This month we highlight the Joyful Servants Fraternity—Jefferson City, MO.

This article was written by Nancy Singh, OFS, their minister.



Joyful Servants First Candidates:
Kate Saltzman & Ashley Kleiner

AROUND THE REGION

“Joyful Servants”- No Longer Emerging

Like the rest of the world, the pandemic abruptly changed life for our community within a matter of a few months. Whereas the fall of 2019 had all pretty much followed a predictable pattern, if there even is such a thing in life, winter of 2020 suddenly felt as if time had stopped for us and brought with it great insecurity and questions concerning the future, especially since Joyful Servants had just been granted permission to proceed to the final step of becoming canonically established. After waiting fourteen years to get to this point, all that remained was for the documents to be signed and witnessed during the Mass of Establishment.

But there were so many issues to consider, “How does one even envision celebrating a Fraternity Establishment at a time when so many people are sick and dying from Covid19? Wouldn’t it be wrong to even consider this possibility, not to mention that no one—not even our own fraternity members—might want to even risk gathering together before a vaccine was developed?”

After much discussion and discernment as a Council and as a community during the monthly, Zoom Fraternity Gatherings, we decided to go for it and leave the rest in God’s very capable hands. Somehow, we’d figure out a way to have both a Mass and some type of a Reception, though we really had no idea what that would look like at the time. It all depended on the pandemic and what the future brought us. It was truly a lesson in both faith and learning to trust God with the details. Keeping everyone as socially distanced and stressing the need for wearing masks for everyone’s safety was paramount in our minds, especially since members and friends would be traveling to it from all different areas of MO.

Needless to say, God didn’t let us down. In fact, He graced us in so many unexpected ways. St. Joseph’s Cathedral in Jefferson City allowed us to have both the Mass and the Reception at their parish. Fr. Pio Jackson, OFM, our Regional Spiritual Assistant, made room in his busy schedule to come from IL Ritiro in Dittmer, MO to celebrate this special Mass on his day off. And, although she was very sick and in pain (unbeknownst to us at the time), Jan Parker, OFS, both our National Minister and a member of San Damiano Fraternity, traveled all the way from St. Louis to provide the music for our Mass. (continued)

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From the singing and sharing the Eucharistic sacrifice together at Mass to coming together in person to catch-up with one another's life at the Reception, it was the most joyful and happy day any of us had experienced in months. No doubt, everyone that gathered together with us for this special celebration left with a renewed sense that God's Light is alive and most definitely present in our world, even in the midst of the darkness and pain.

So, what has Joyful Servants been up to since becoming a Fraternity? Well, immediately after the Mass we celebrated the Rite of Admission for two Candidates. And more recently, we celebrated our first Profession as a Fraternity.

Needless to say, God has kept us busy building the Kingdom, even during the pandemic...or perhaps even more so because of it... after all, Secular Franciscans live to serve, especially if your fraternity is called **Joyful Servants**.



Joyful Servants Fraternity Mass of Canonical Establishment

Backrow: (L-R) Dcn. Joe Puglis, OFS; John Kemper, OFS; Mary Ann Puglis, OFS; Connie Shanks, OFS; Harold Baker, OFS; Ashley Kleiner; Becky Bouck, OFS; Steve Geldmacher, OFS, Jan Parker, OFS

Front Row: (L-R) Nancy Singh, OFS; Maureen Gray, OFS; Debbie Noland, OFS; Terrie Foltz, OFS, Kate Saltzman

AROUND THE REGION– *continued*



From Shawn Asmus, OFS– Acting Minister of St. Padre Pio Emerging Fraternity:

‘Here’s a photo of Hugh Protzel and Bob Antill, taken last month at our fraternity meeting.’

“We welcomed Bob at our Ceremony of Welcoming. Hugh is a Candidate.”

From Ken Livingston, OFS– Minister of Followers of Francis Fraternity:

“Followers of Francis Fraternity is growing here in Springfield. Irene Livingston made her Profession at Sacred Heart on July 24th and Peggy Wissmueller was Professed on October 9th at St Joseph Parish. Chris Rice became a Candidate on August 28th at our fraternity gathering. Congratulations to all of them!”

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL FRATERNITY

Registration is now open for the 20th Quinquennial Congress! August 3-7, 2022 in Phoenix. To register online, please go to

secularfranciscansusa.org

There you will find all of the information you need under the tab: **QUINQUENNIAL**



HOT OFF THE PRESS!

The Fall 2021 Edition of the Tau-USA is out! Click on this link to read it:

[TAU-USA.](#)

“God knows the number of the stars and calls them each by name. “

Psalm 147:4-6



“Live a life worthy of your call”

The National Chapter will be meeting virtually October 27-30, 2021. (The National Elections have been postponed until next October, 11-16, 2022)

St. Clare Regional Council

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