



Clarion

NEWSLETTER

SAINT CLARE REGION

The Regional Executive Council is busy planning and preparing for the National Chapter Gathering to be held in St. Louis (at the Pallottine Renewal Center), August 22-26. We're the host region with our Midwest hospitality ready to serve. (More information on page 6)

August 25 is the Feast Day of St. Louis, King of France. As our patron, we see how this is perfectly timed with the National Chapter being held in St. Louis!

With that, ALL are welcome to join those attending the Chapter (about 80) to the 3:00pm Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis (the new cathedral) on Friday, August 25 to celebrate the Feast Day of St. Louis, King of France and the Secular Franciscan Order.

From the surrounding area, we're inviting all Secular Franciscans and other Franciscans from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Regular to attend. This will be a special time and opportunity to bring all Franciscans in the area together in cooperation with the OFS's work, especially during the upcoming Centenary Celebrations.

[Franciscan Centenaries](#)

Peace & All Good, Always,

Chris Blood, OFS



Spring 2023

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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.

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN SERVICE!

“Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the Kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively. Mindful that anyone ‘who follows Christ, the perfect man, becomes more of a man himself,’ let them exercise their responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of service.”

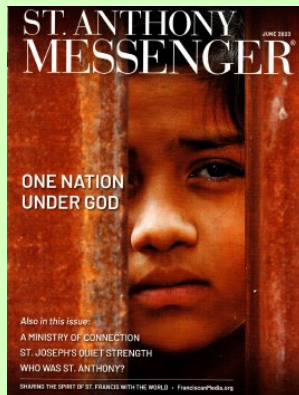
Article 14 of the OFS Rule

Chris Rice, OFS

Chris manages the Veterans Coming Home Center (vchcenter.org) in Springfield, MO. It’s a drop in center for homeless vets and civilians and a protestant ministry of New Life Evangelistic Center (nlecstl.org). He works the



administration side but still gets a lot of interaction with people. Chris prays with them and offers a listening ear. He’s a newly professed member of the Followers of Francis Fraternity in Springfield, MO.



The St. Clare Region is highlighted in the upcoming June edition of the St. Anthony Messenger.

StAnthonyMessenger.org

Check it out soon!

SPIRIT OF ST. FRANCIS / FRANCISCAN WORLD by Pat McCloskey, OFM

MIDWESTERN AND SOUTHERN FRATERNITIES GROWING



John Kemper, OFS, (left) helps an employee of Catholic Charities stock the shelves at a food pantry, which is just one of the many ministries the St. Clare Regional Secular Franciscan Fraternity serves on a regular basis.

THE ST. CLARE Regional Secular Franciscan Fraternity counts approximately 170 members in 10 fraternities located in most of Missouri, western Illinois, northern Arkansas, and northwest Tennessee. Two of the 10 fraternities are a bit different than the others because they are “emerging,” or in process of being set up. Apostolates of these fraternities include working with a food pantry in Jefferson City, Missouri, and working with the ecumenical Veteran Come Home Center in Springfield, Missouri. The local fraternities have a close connection to the OFM Province of the Sacred Heart, headquartered in St. Louis. Regional Minister Christine Blood, OFS, is a member of one of those emerging fraternities, Servant of



Christine Blood, OFS

God Thea Bowman Emerging Fraternity in Kirkwood, Missouri. Although Christine has been a professed Secular Franciscan for only nine years, she grew up in St. Francis of Assisi Parish in St. Louis and has been well aware of the Franciscans her whole life. When she joined an OFS fraternity 12 years ago, she felt as though she was already a Franciscan. Christine describes her service as regional minister as a gift and considers it a privilege to be the biggest cheerleader of the region's members in building up the kingdom of God in the region, its fraternities, and individual members. Visit StClareRegionOFS.org for more information about the St. Clare Regional Fraternity.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES, MISSOURI. CHRISTIANITY BY JENNIFER HANCOCK. PHOTO COURTESY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES, MISSOURI.

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN PROFESSIONS!

PROFESSIONS

MAY 5, 2023

St. Francis of Assisi
Fraternity

Oakville, MO



Newly professed Bob Janota OFS and Kurt Franzi OFS!
The entire St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity, Bob & Kurt's families,
and the Poor Clare Sisters celebrated with joy!



*'Your membership in the fraternity is a cause of great joy and hope
for all the members of the community and for the whole Church.'*

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN FRATERNAL LIFE



St. Joan of Arc Fraternity

Memphis, TN

“The local fraternity becomes the basic unit of the whole Order and a visible sign of the Church, the community of love”

Article 22 of the OFS Rule

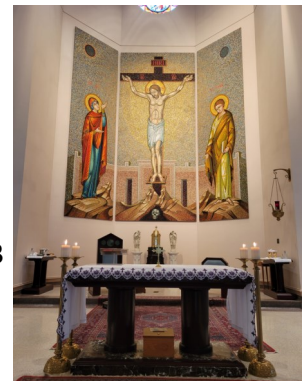
“In February I was blessed to have been able to visit with this fraternity. It was a wonderful time and as you can see in the photo above, each and every one of them is filled with joy and fraternal love and respect. We started off the Sunday with 12:30pm Mass, followed by a potluck lunch & social before their fraternity gathering. The highlight was welcoming Susan Thomas (front row, middle) into the fraternity. I’m already looking forward to my next visit! It is a complete joy to be able to visit the fraternities in our region and to see for myself our Order being lived out so profoundly as a visible sign of the Church, our community of love”.

Chris Blood, OFS

This fraternity was canonically established in Memphis, TN, shortly after the German-speaking Franciscans arrived there in 1870 from Teutopolis, IL. Their Tertiary Profession was made to the rule “instituted by St. Francis and confirmed by Nicholas IV (1289) and other Popes, his successors”. In the course of the centuries this rule of Nicholas IV was modified several times by no less than three Popes after Nicholas IV.

Their beginnings pre-date the revised Rule in 1883 promulgated by Pople Leo XIII. This Leonine Rule followed for 95 years until 1978, when Pope Paul VI promulgated the present OFS Rule.

Under the jurisdiction of the OFM Sacred Heart Province, St. Louis, Missouri, the St. Joan of Arc Fraternity was established in 1872!



The fraternity’s monthly gatherings (on the 4th Sunday of each month) begin with 12:30pm Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Germantown, TN

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN PRAYER



The St. Clare Region's spring retreat (April 28-30) was once again a blessed and joyful time. We gathered on Friday afternoon at the Il Ritiro Franciscan Retreat Center in Dittmer, MO and as usual had a wonderful time. It was a time to renew friendships and see a few new faces. On Friday night, we drove into Cedar Hill for dinner at a local restaurant called Savannahs. They couldn't do enough for us, their service was the best!

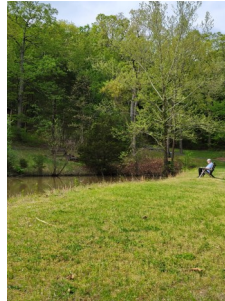
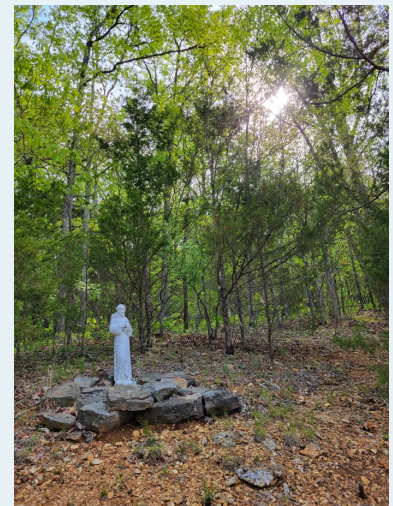
Later, an icebreaker filled our evening as we explored our names, the names our parents and friends give us along with our Confirmation name, and the feast day we may have been born on. Following morning prayer on Saturday, Pat Smith gave a wonderful prayer meditation based on the Scriptures for Sunday. We dove into three different aspects and reflections based on the Good Shepherd readings and shared. It was lovely.

There was time to get outside, hike the trails, visit the chairs around the lake and even take a nap if we needed it. Saturday afternoon we gathered and all prayed a Rosary while walking. Fr. Pio Jackson, OFM, our Regional Spiritual Assistant, presided over evening Mass on Saturday, and then we all had a nice dinner together.



As we packed up on Sunday morning, we all expressed wishes to come back again and maybe sometime sooner with our own fraternities. Il Ritiro is a gem and a blessed place, nestled in an outdoor wonderland.

Maureen Gray, OFS



2023 National Chapter is in St. Louis in August 2023!

Our St. Clare Region is hosting the 2023 National Chapter!

We are blessed to have been given this opportunity to show our Midwest, Franciscan Hospitality! We will be recruiting volunteers soon so please consider helping.

The Chapter will be held from August 22-26, 2023 at the Pallottine Renewal Center in Florissant, MO.

**ALL ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE MASS ON THE
FEAST DAY OF ST. LOUIS, KING OF FRANCE!**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2023
3:00PM MASS
CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF SAINT LOUIS
(NEW CATHEDRAL)**



Pallottine Renewal Center
Retreat & Conference Center

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN FORMATION

2023 Regional Formation Workshop #4

Saturday,

November 11, 2023

9:30am-12pm

Via Zoom Meeting

2023 Regional Formation Workshop

All Are Welcome!!!

Theme: Gospel to Life & Life to Gospel

Formation of the Formators: Initial Formation

Candidacy to Profession

**Formation Team: Regional Formation & Servant of God Thea
Bowman Emerging Fraternity & Padre Pio Fraternity,
St. Clare Region, MO, USA**

November 11, 2023 9:30am-12pm

Venue: Zoom

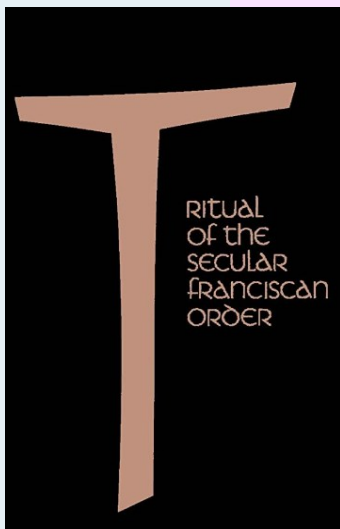
[Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting](#)

Participants: All fraternities

of the St. Clare Region

More information on www.stclareregionofs.org

under the Formation tab.



OUR NEW PROVINCIAL SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT

Dear Friends,

It is with pleasure that I have recently accepted the job of Provincial Spiritual Assistant (PSA) . . . again! And . . . in the light of the looming merger of the six provinces it's a daunting task. There are some unknowns and what is unknown can sometimes be scary. But together we can get through in Fraternal concert with each other and come out of it all in fine fashion. In the difficulties of restructuring, we are fortunate that we are in fact . . . Franciscan and we can change and become something new as the Holy Spirit sees fit!

It's our great misfortune that Brother Ed Arambasich has suffered some serious health problems that understandably have kept him from the job at hand. We continue to pray for a speedy recovery for him. But the business of the Order goes on, and I am his replacement. I ask for your support, cooperation, and prayers as I begin the effort to examine the regions and the individual fraternities in preparation for the transition to the "US6" amalgamation that will take place on October. We all have some work to do between now and then in this regard to make it a smooth transition.

I have been tasked by the Coordinator of the CFS working group for the US6 provinces, Fr. Jerome Wolbert, to produce a report of each of the 100 Fraternities that are in the jurisdiction of the Sacred Heart Province by June 1st and I cannot do this alone! I need your help in this regard and I need it soon!

What CNSA needs, and what I have been asked to provide, is a report from each of the 10 regions and the individual fraternities that make up that Region. The report must include a complete list of all the fraternities in the region. Check the NAFRA Database and review it . . . is it correct or does it need to be amended? The report should contain a brief statement about the state of the fraternity noting anything that needs attention.

Some things to consider are who are the people who have been helpful and who has not been helpful. All this will be kept confidential between the RSA, PSA and Fr. Jerome Wolbert. Be honest, fair and fraternal in your assessments. The new PSA, whoever that may be, needs to know what problems you face and what needs attention. At the time of that takeover some of the problems you may be having will not be resolved, we want to make sure that we can carry on whatever pastoral intervention is needed with some continuity.

Note the strengths that you observe as well as the weaknesses and any areas that need attention in the fraternity.

Also, and **very important**, is the need to know who the Spiritual Assistant is for the fraternity, and, WHO APPOINTED him or her! It's most important that we know which province made the appointment.

It's very important that we ready ourselves for the "hand-off" to the US6 to be known as Our "Lady of Guadalupe Province." The "Sacred Heart Province" that you have known so well for so many years, will cease to exist on October 23rd.

And . . . whoever is appointed as National Provincial Spiritual Assistant will have an enormous job! It's my intention to do my part to help him in this task and I ask for, and expect, your help in this regard as well.

This must be done so that we can get the proper attention we need from the new National. We do not want to get "lost in the crowd" . . . so to speak.

It's unclear just how many fraternities he will be responsible for but it's hundreds throughout the Nation. It's a big task . . . but . . . we can rise to the challenge as the great province that we are . . . and have historically been.

I will give you March and April to accomplish this allowing me one month to compile all 100 into a cohesive format that we can then turn over to the US Six. So, I need the reports by Mays 1st. This should not be too difficult or time-consuming. Be brief and to the point.

I thank you in advance! And I look forward to working with you . . . making this Province. . . Sacred Heart . . . shine like a diamond among the other five!

You can expect to be hearing from me in the near future! +God bless you and give you His peace! +

Fr. Ed McKenzie, ofm

The Introductory letter from Fr. Ed to all the Regional Minister within the Sacred Heart Province, USA.



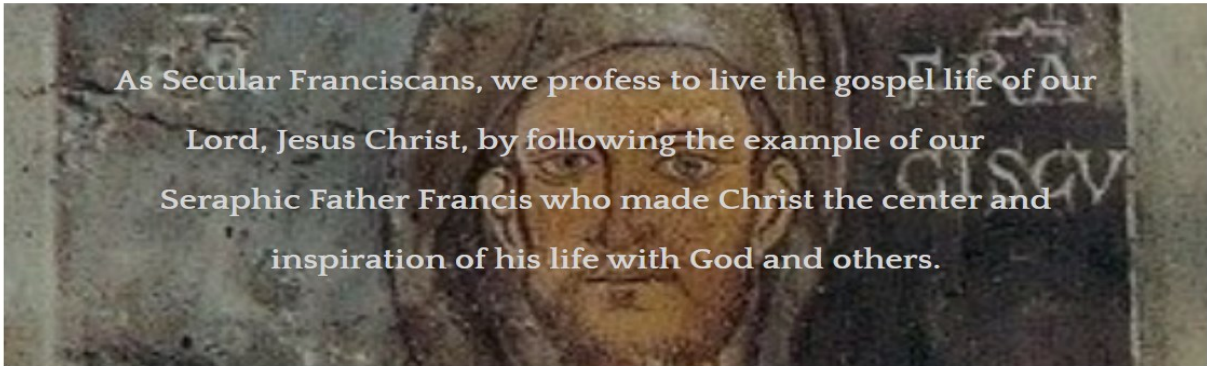
Friar Ed McKenzie, OFM

110 W Madison Street

Chicago, IL 60602

ST CLARE REGION SECULAR
FRANCISCAN ORDER USA

WELCOME OUR FRATERNITIES FORMATION CLARION NEWSLETTERS



As Secular Franciscans, we profess to live the gospel life of our Lord, Jesus Christ, by following the example of our Seraphic Father Francis who made Christ the center and inspiration of his life with God and others.

Welcome to the
St. Clare Region
of the Secular
Franciscan Order USA!

St Clare Region Website: www.stclareregionofs.org

Our Region's Website!

On our website we have information on all of our fraternities, our regional formation workshops and resources, our archived newsletters, and more!

As we continue to add and build the site, please email us to add more information on your fraternity, your formation suggestions, your newsletters...

The website is designed to be a repository for ALL of our fraternities. Let's build this together!

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