



Clarion

NEWSLETTER

SAINT CLARE REGION

Vocations, Communications, Relationships!

After a very productive session at our national Chapter last October, it was voted on that for the next three years, every decision we make should keep these priorities in mind— vocations, communications and relationships. I'd like to illuminate on these a bit.

Vocations. How are you living your vocation as an OFS? How are you living the Rule? Does your way of life attract others to the OFS? How does your council adopt appropriate means to promote the OFS vocation? (GC, #45,2). Do you wear your TAU cross, your habit, regularly? Are others aware that you are a Professed Secular Franciscan? **“Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” Matthew 5:16**

Communications. How do you communicate your OFS way of life to others? - do you text others about your vocation? - do you share your OFS life on social media? - does your fraternity have a Facebook page open for all to see? - does your council communicate with all fraternity members with transparency? **“ But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another...” 1 John 1:7**

Relationships. How are you building up the Kingdom of God within your fraternal life? Do you have meaningful relationships with every person in your fraternity? More importantly, are you Christ to your fraternal brothers and sisters? **“And be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ.” Ephesians 4:32**

These are great priorities! Let us embrace them in all that we do within ourselves, our fraternal life, our councils, our families and our parishes.

Peace & All Good, Always,

Chris Blood, OFS

Winter 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 em-

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN SERVICE



The Joyful Servants Fraternity spent January 28th volunteering at the Catholic Charities food pantry in Jefferson City. It was amazing the amount of food that was distributed from 9:30am to 1:30pm. The fraternity members quickly learned several skills which included stocking shelves and coolers, filling food orders, scanning food items, bagging groceries and assisting with taking groceries to the cars of clients. The Catholic Charities facility is amazing and the staff and other volunteers were so welcoming to us. - Connie Shanks, Minister



THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN PROFESSIONS!

PROFESSIONS

FEBRUARY 18

Followers of Francis
Springfield, MO

'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.'



Ken Livingston, OFS, Newly Professed Chris Rice, OFS and Fr. Ray Smith



Front Row: Irene Livingston OFS, Ken Livingston OFS, Chris Rice OFS, Lee Woods OFS, Neil Adams
Second Row: Maureen Gray OFS, Fr. Ray Smith, Sandra Dirkson, John Ruthelsum

PROFESSIONS

FEBRUARY 19

St. Padre Pio

Cape Girardeau, MO

“I, by the grace of God, renew my baptismal promises and consecrate myself to the service of his Kingdom. Therefore, in my secular state I promise to live all the days of my life the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan Order by observing its rule of life. May the grace of the Holy Spirit, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and our holy father Saint Francis, and the fraternal bonds of community always be my help, so that I may reach the goal of perfect Christian love.”

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN PROFESSIONS!



Patrick Smith, OFS, minister of St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity (sponsoring fraternity) receives Hugh & Bob’s Profession as Fr. Rick Jones confirms their Commitments.



Members of the St. Padre Pio Emerging Fraternity
(L-R) Tony Peters, OFS; Hugh Protzel, OFS, Anita Tygett, OFS;
Bob Antill, OFS, Marvin Glueck, OFS, Shawn Asmus, OFS



Many Secular Franciscans from the St. Clare Region attended.

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN SERVICE ON THE COUCL

St. Peter Fraternity

Elections

November 2022



Newly Elected Council Members (left to right):

Roger Mueller, Minister

Richard Vojas, Treasurer

Mary Ellen Hermann, Vice Minister

Kay McCulley, Councilor

Brad Dunn, Formation Director

(Not Pictured):

David Overmann, Councilor

Peggy Overmann, Secretary

*“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

**CONGRATULATIONS AND
THANK YOU FOR SERVICING!**

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN FORMATION

2023 Regional Formation Seasonal Retreat

All Are Welcome!!!

Regional Formation Seasonal Spiritual Lenten Retreat

March 4, 2023 9am-12pm

Venue: Zoom

[Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting](#)

Participants: All fraternities of the St. Clare Region

Retreat Speaker: Deacon Joseph Puglis, OFS



2023 Regional Formation Seasonal Retreat

Saturday, March 4

9am-12pm

Via Zoom Meeting

Our Lenten Journey Begins



5 Fundamental Elements of Penitential Lifestyle

- +To love God
- +To love our neighbor
- +To resist sinful tendencies
of our fallen nature
- +To receive the body of
Christ in the Eucharist
- +To act or live in conformity
with our conversion

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN COMMUNITY!

SPRING

IN-PERSON

REGIONAL

RETREAT—

IL RITIRO

FRANCISCAN

RENEWAL

FRIDAY, APRIL 28 TO SUNDAY, APRIL 30

LIMITED TO 20

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

COST IS \$63 / PERSON, NOT INCLUDING FOOD

SIGN UP NOW— CALL CONNIE SHANKS 573-776-3434

CONNIESHANKS@GMAIL.COM



FRANCISCAN CENTENARY 2023

Starting this year, we begin the celebration of the Franciscan Centenary, which will run from 2023, with the commemoration of the approval of the Later Rule and the Christmas of Greccio, through 2024 (Stigmata), 2025 (Canticle of Brother Sun) and culminate in 2026, with the centenary of St. Francis' 'transitus' from earth to heaven.

A special website has been set up to present the news and chronicle of the events of the Centenary, as well as in-depth studies and useful aids in different languages: it is beautiful and significant that, in addition to the already existing websites of our realities, on this occasion, a common WEBSITE for the Franciscan Family has been launched.

https://ciofs.info/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Centenario_ENG_def_pdf.pdf

The Franciscan Centenary is about to begin; may it be for all of us an opportunity to rediscover the joy of living the charism that 'our' brother St. Francis left us!

*Fraternally,
The Franciscan Family Committee for the Franciscan
Centenary
Consilium Internationale OFS (CIOFS) |
Secular Franciscan Order*

2023 | A Multifaceted Centenary
2026 | in Which Several Centenaries
Will Be Celebrated

Charism of OFS Identity

Charism of Secular Franciscan Identity

Annapoorna Mary, OFS, RFD, St. Clare Region, MO, USA
[Acknowledgement to OFS members who contributed to this article]

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? [Mathew 5/13]

In the journey of writing this article, I interviewed a few secular Franciscan brothers and sisters of St. Clare Region, MO, USA, asking them one question: What is the meaning of secular Franciscan identity in your life? The answers are presented here as quotes **and the synthesis analysis of the quotes are presented in the context of quotes driven charism of the Secular Franciscan identity.**

What is the meaning of secular Franciscan identity in your life? OFS members’ Secular Franciscan identity perspectives:

“It is another place of belonging, sharing, and growing in my identity as a Catholic and Franciscan. I have been through a lot in my life as most people have. I have a lot to learn, but I try to be simple, prayerful, and faithful as St Francis did. Pax et Bonum” Kim Hoffman-Neal, OFS, Minister Joan of Arc OFS [Represents: continuous conversion] Gift: Piety; Fruit: Faithfulness

“To me, the literal meaning of secular Franciscan identity is Simple living, humble sharing, and helping others. As a secular Franciscan, our life meaning includes: Being faithful to God and witnessing through our behaviors and activities to others. Through secular Franciscan meetings, we share our faith, witness, and support with our brothers and sisters and we receive the same from them, which is a gift of our Catholic Church” Gurusamy, Arumugam, OFS, Formation Director, St. Joan of Arc Fraternity, Germantown- Memphis, TN [Represents humility in service] Gift: Piety; Fruits: Faithfulness

“On being a Secular Franciscan: I have found myself becoming closer to Jesus through the friendship of St. Francis. It is like where BFFs [Best Friends for Ever] sharing our love and experiences of the Lord” Nancy Adair, OFS, St. Joan of Arc Fraternity, Germantown- Memphis, TN [Represents devotion to contemplative prayer] Fruits: Gift: Piety; Fruits: Love

“Being a Secular Franciscan IS my life. Throughout every day, "something" specifically Franciscan comes up. Francis, of course, as my father, Francis. Clare, as the mother of the Poor Clares, (and we are fortunate to have a Poor Clare Monastery in our Region). Personally, Juniper has become a favorite: his simplicity, his joy, and his love of our crucified Lord: give one so much for which to be thankful! There is nothing that comes up in life, in which a particular Franciscan doesn't come to mind as an example of how to solve a problem or give a talk, or "be" Jesus to an individual who needs just the right words at this particular time.” Mary Wainscott, OFS, LSA, SA, St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity, St. Padrio Pio fraternity, SOG Thea Bowman fraternity, and St. Francis of Assisi fraternity. [Represents devotion to contemplative prayer] Gift: Piety; Fruit: Joy



“I feel that my Secular Franciscan Identity impacts everything I do in my life positively and love that brings me much joy. I try my best to think of the needs and feelings of others ahead of my desires and wants. I pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit so that I can continue to grow daily in charity and love towards everyone who comes into my life.” Connie Shanks, OFS, Minister Joyful Servants Fraternity & REC Councilor” [Represents corporal and spiritual works of mercy in one’s own social and cultural arena]: Gift: Piety; Fruit: Love

“Serving the needs of an individual or organization that I am part of, in whatever capacity I can help, lovingly and joyfully.” Gloria Smith, OFS, REC Councilor. [humility in service]: Gift; Understanding; Fruit: Joy

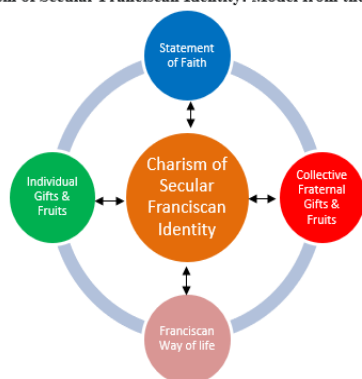
“I prayerfully seek to serve a person or group with whom I am involved. I want to witness with joy, peace, and helpfulness in the promptings of the Holy Spirit.” Patrick Smith, OFS, Minister, St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity, Regional Treasurer, St. Clare Region, Mo., USA. [humility in service]: Gift: Piety; Fruits: Joy

“I am Franciscan for many.... many years. It is who I am and I don’t know how else to be. Becoming Franciscan is finding my place in following St. Francis’s teaching and how he followed Our Lord. That was me... I am still Franciscan, although now I am an inactive member. I am a blooming Franciscan in my yard.” Mary Gibbens, OFS, former member, of Joyful Servants Fraternity. [devotion to contemplative prayer]: Gift: Piety; Fruits: Joy

Charism of Secular Franciscan: I began to analyze the quotes in the context of the charism of secular Franciscan and identity, and it became a progressive journey. The findings from the quotes are depicted in the above picture. In general outlook, the quotes resembled the charism of the secular Franciscan order as identity. I was astonished to find how this small sample of quotes represents the charism of Secular Franciscans.

Charism of OFS Identity- continued

Charism of Secular Franciscan Identity: Model from the Quotes



Individual Gifts and Fruits: First mind-blowing discovery was that individual quotes represent unique charism predominantly [but not limited to], which reveals that we bring our unique gifts to the fraternity service. It is vivid to see the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit in action in the conversation of the members represented in these casual quotes. The assertion is that Secular Franciscan Charism stems from the Holy Spirit's gifts and fruits. The Quotes may represent a glimpse of many inherent Charism, gifts, and implied fruits. For this article, I have chosen the most visible or implied charism, gift, and fruit from the quotes that are indicated near the Quotes [but not limited to].

Individual Secular Franciscan Charism: Some of the themes of charism inferred or implied or derived from the individual quotes were continuous conversion, humility in service, devotion to contemplative prayer, and, corporal and spiritual works of mercy in one's own social and cultural arena. In the majority, repeated charism was **humility in service**. Humility in service is an essential root of the secular Franciscan charism following St. Francis.

Collective Fraternal Charism: Next, when the quotes were put together, it was so moving to see that the individual charism merged to represent the entire definition of the charism of Secular Franciscans, indicating Secular Franciscans serve collectively as a fraternity in the community. *The above-mentioned quotes from the OFS members individually and collectively represent the Charism of the Secular Franciscan Order, which include: "living the Gospel in fraternity, penance, and works of mercy, devotion to contemplative prayer, humility in service, corporal and spiritual works of mercy in one's own social and cultural arena, realizing the universal call to holiness, continuous conversion and service to the infirm, the marginalized, and the poor."*[NAFRA].

Gifts: OFS members' statements also represented or revealed individual gifts and fruits. I placed the quotes in the context of the Holy Spirit gifts, "Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord". The result indicated that members' quotes imply many gifts but, in the majority, **piety** was a tangible gift, **but not limited to**.

Fruits: In the context of fruits of the Holy Spirit, "... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness [Galatians 5/22], member's quotes can be categorized under multiple fruits, however, the repeated fruits included love, joy, peace, and faithfulness, **but not limited to**. Most of the members articulated the fruit of joy directly or indirectly.

The above status imply that individual gifts and fruits merge to form the fraternal gifts and fruits that serve as the salt to the community, which is the secular Franciscan witness life. I find Secular Franciscan charism, gifts, and fruits reflect the sayings of St. Paul to Corinthians on the Holy Spirit's gifts [1 Corinthians 12/ 4-7]: "**4 There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; 5 there are different forms of service but the same Lord; 6 there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. 7 To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.**"

Franciscan Way of Life: In addition, the emerging themes from the quotes revealed the Franciscan way of life. The emerging themes were Sharing, simplicity, humility, prayer, faith, friendship, and conversion. Then I found that these themes can be associated with the Secular Franciscan way of life as instructed in the OFS Rule, Chapter 2/7: "**The way of life: United by their vocation as "brothers and sisters of penance"11, and motivated by the dynamic power of the gospel, let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ utilizing that radical interior change which the gospel itself calls "conversion". Human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily 12. On this road to renewal, the sacrament of reconciliation is the privileged sign of the Father's mercy and the source of grace13.**"

Statement of Faith: Further, constant comparison of all the quotes revealed an underlying tone as the statement of faith indicating the evidence of relationship with Jesus, St. Francis, Church, and the saints. These statements support our Catholic faith professed in Apostle Creed, "...I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints," *This status reflects Rule Chapter 1:2 of Secular Franciscan order as, "The Secular Franciscan Order holds a special place in this family circle. It is an organic union of all Catholic fraternities scattered throughout the world and open to every group of the faithful. In these fraternities, the brothers, and sisters, led by the Spirit, strive for perfect charity in their secular state. By their profession, they pledge themselves to live the gospel in the manner of St. Francis utilizing this rule approved by the Church5."*

In summation secular Franciscan charism consists of both individual gifts and collective fraternal gifts to the world. The secular Franciscan Charism has a foundation in the Gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. The identity represents the Franciscan Way of life and statement of faith.

Annapoorna Mary, OFS
Regional Formation Director



REGIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT TRAINING

Mary Wainscott, OFS, Spiritual Assistant for St. Francis of Assisi & St. Anthony of Padua Fraternities is offering to assist anyone who feels called to learn more about or even becoming a Spiritual Assistant.

Mary Wainscott, OFS
marywainscottofs@gmail.com
314-420-7475

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!

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

More details to follow, but mark your calendars now.

We have been called to serve!

Your minister will be receiving an email after

Easter requesting assistance

from each fraternity.

Please keep an eye of for this invitation.

**St. Louis, King of France and OFS,
Pray for Us!**



Pallottine Renewal Center
Retreat & Conference Center

Chapter of Mats in Rome, November 2024!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With great joy we share the announcement of a **Chapter of Mats for the Secular Franciscan Order and YouFra to be held on November 14-19, 2024**. The Chapter of Mats will be held in Rome. This is an opportunity for Franciscans to interact with other Franciscans and families throughout the world for Franciscan prayer, joy and fraternity. It is a way to celebrate the 800-year celebrations of important events in the life of St. Francis.

Please see the attached announcement from Tibor Kauser, OFS, CIOFS General Minister, which is attached in English and in Spanish. Spiritual Assistants and Youth and Young Adults are welcome as well as families.

Peace and all good.

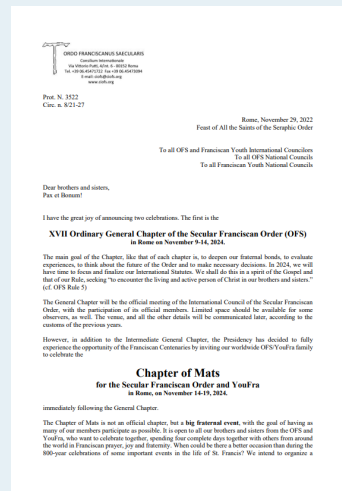
Jane DeRose-Bamman, OFS
Your National Minister

If you are interested in attending, please let me know! I have 10 spots reserved for our region. Read more about it:
[Franciscans invited to Chapter of Mats in Rome Nov. 14-19, 2024 – Secular Franciscan Order – USA \(secularfranciscansusa.org\)](https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/)

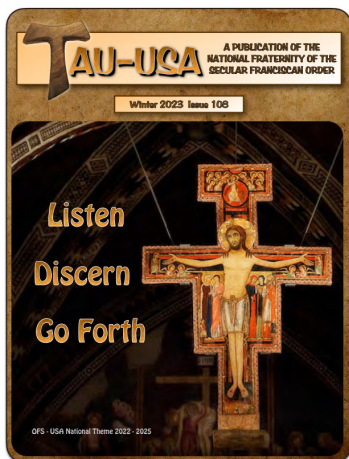
The Chapter of Mats is a big fraternal event!

If you have any questions, please call or email me.

Chris Blood– 314-973-9195 christinebloodofs@gmail.com



NEWEST EDITION OF THE TAU-USA



The Winter 2023

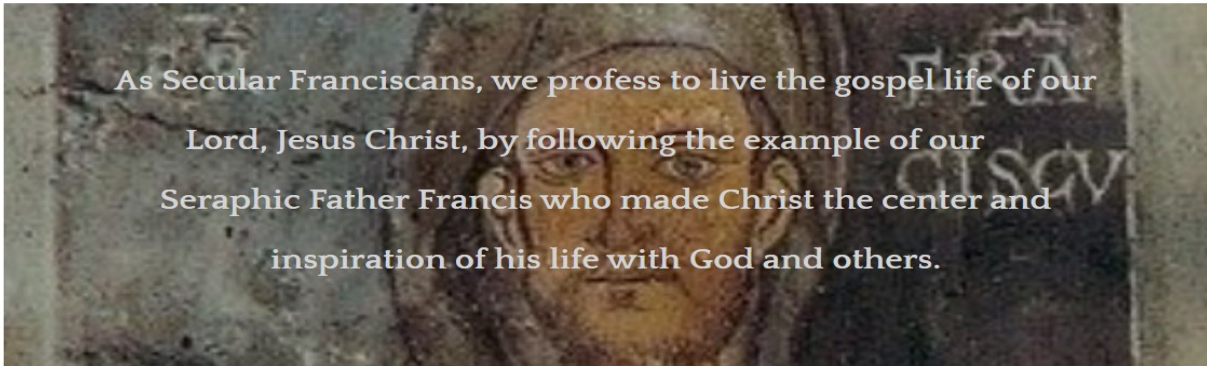
Issue 108 Edition has been mailed!

You may also read it online– just click on this link:

[https://
www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-
content/uploads/
TAU_USA_108_win_23.pdf.pdf](https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/TAU_USA_108_win_23.pdf.pdf)

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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