



Clarion

NEWSLETTER

SAINT CLARE REGION

MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE OUR REGION!

Our regional elections were on June 8, 2024. It was a beautiful day and we were blessed to have Fr. Christopher Panagoplos TOR and Joshua Molidor OFS officiating the elections. Fr. Christopher is on the CNSA and Joshua is a National Councilor. (see page 2)

Many thanks to Patrick Smith OFS, Gloria Smith OFS, and Bob Prior OFS, for serving on the regional council for the past three years. You all did a wonderful and very thorough job. We appreciate you!

Our newly elected council has some new members— Jan Parker OFS is secretary, Deacon Steve Schisler OFS and Chris Rice OFS are councilors.

It is such a blessing to serve you at the regional level as I am sure Pat, Gloria and Bob would agree! For me, getting to meet with all the members of our fraternities and share in their meetings and special occasions along with keeping the St. Clare Region updated on our local fraternities, regional and national happenings are the best parts of all. I love that I get to share all these with you and look forward to our next three years together.

And look at the upcoming events on page 9: Season of Creation 2024, Seeds of Justice Network “the Call for Mercy & Justice in our Polarized Society” September 26, our Regional Chapter on November 9 and a Regional Retreat next August 2025 just to highlight a few.

Please keep me and all those who will be traveling to the National Chapter in your prayers. The Chapter goes from September 17-September 22 in Phoenix, AZ.

Peace and All Good, Always! Chris Blood, OFS

August 2024

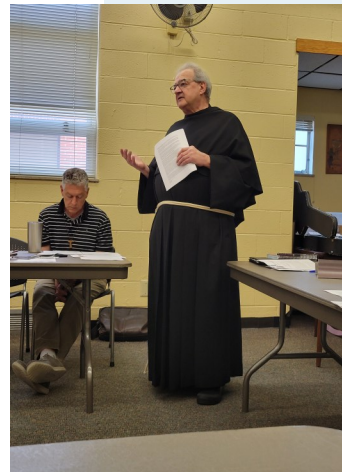
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THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN SERVING ON THE REGIONAL COUNCIL



Our newly elected Regional Council! Josh Molidor OFS (sitting), NEC members. Back row: Tom Brinkmann OFS, Treasurer; Connie Shanks OFS, Vice-Minister; Chris Blood OFS, Minister; Jan Parker OFS, Secretary; Maureen Gray OFS, Councilor and Fr. Christopher Panagoplos TOR.
Not pictured: Annapoorna Mary OFS, Formation Director; Deacon Steve Schisler OFS and Chris Rice OFS, Councilors



THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN PROFESSION!

PROFESSION

Ricky Mocerri, OFS

August 26, 2024

San Damiano Fraternity

O'Fallon, MO



The San Damiano Fraternity!

Front Row: Earl Arseneau OFS, Cheri Held OFS, Ricky Mocerri OFS, Fr. Henry Purcell (Pastor of St. Theodore Catholic Church in Flint Hill, MO), Stan Kiger OFS

Back Row: Matt Vrazel OFS, Don Hassenfratz OFS, Pam De Ciechi OFS, Sr. JoAnn Nowak OSF, Jan Parker OFS, Deacon Matt Bross, Barb Morgan, OFS

Fr. Henry Purcell, was celebrant and presider. Jan Parker OFS, minister, received his profession

"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."



Ricky's wife, Peggy (left), joins in on the celebration! Ricky stands next to Fr. Purcell. Jan Parker OFS (minister) and Barb Morgan OFS (formation director)

**THE JOY OF THE
GOSPEL IN FRATER-**

**Servant of God
Thea Bowman
Emerging
Fraternity**

*FRATERNAL PICNIC
WITH FAMILY
MEMBERS AND THE
FRANCISCAN
SISTERS OF OUR
LADY OF PERPETUAL
HELP*

**TUESDAY, MAY 28
KIRKWOOD, MO**



THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN SERVICE TO OTHERS

St. Padre Pio Emerging Fraternity

Here is a photo from July 20th at the St. Mary's Food Pantry in Cape Girardeau. Dan Williams (candidate) and Hugh Protzel OFS volunteer there on a regular basis, especially on their Saturday distribution day.

The Food Pantry serves the community every Tuesday and Saturday of the month except the last Tuesday/Saturday. The Food Pantry serves over 700 families, including 2,100 residents of Cape Girardeau County each month.

Pax et bonum!
Shawn Asmus OFS
Minister



THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN SERVICE ON THE FRATERNITY COUNCIL

San Damiano Fraternity

O'Fallon, MO

Elections-

June 28, 2024



Newly Elected Council Members (left to right):

Linda Mance OFS– Treasurer

Matt Vrazel OFS– Secretary

Jan Parker OFS– Minister

Paul Maresca OFS– Vice Minister

Not Pictured:

Barb Morgan OFS– Formation Director

Sr. JoAnn Nowak OSF—Spiritual Assistant

*“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 THE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

2024
EUCHARISTIC
CONGRESS

INDIANAPOLIS,
INDIANA

JULY 2024



Barb Morgan OFS (right- member of San Damiano Fraternity) at our OFS booth at the Congress. She's standing with Susan Ronan OFS, our National Secretary.

You can READ about our presence at the Congress by going to the national website and clicking on "Latest news" — or click here: [Eucharistic Congress Continues through Sunday in Indianapolis](#)



THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN THE TAU-USA MAGAZINE!

TAU-USA
SUMMER
2024
MAGAZINE
AVAILABLE
ONLINE



READ THE FULL ISSUE CLICK HERE: [TAU-USA SUMMER 2024](#)

Mission to Share the Vision

The TAU-USA, a publication of the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order of the United States, is a vital communication link between the NAFRA leadership and all candidates and professed Secular Franciscans throughout the United States. The articles within the publication, while sharing the Secular Franciscan charism and vision, are intended to inform, inspire, and challenge.

The TAU-USA is issued three to four times per year and is available digitally. Issues that are printed are sent to all candidates and professed Secular Franciscans without charge unless they have requested digital access only. It is available in English and Spanish, with selected articles available in Korean through the website.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND SAVE THE DATES!

2025

REGIONAL

RETREAT

PALLOTTINE

RENEWAL

CENTER

AUGUST 7-10

2025

LED BY

FR. FRANK

GRINKO, OFMCap

- ◆ OFS-USA National Chapter
September 17-22, 2024
Phoenix, Arizona
- ◆ “Planting Seeds: The Call for Mercy & Justice
in Our Polarized Society”
September 26 (free) @ St Joseph High School
in St. Louis [LINK HERE](#)
- ◆ October 3 Transitus of Saint Francis
- ◆ October 4 Feast Day of Saint Francis
- ◆ St. Clare Regional Chapter
November 9, 2024
St. Patrick Church Center
Rolla, MO
- ◆ St. Clare Regional Retreat
August 7-10, 2025
Pallottine Renewal Center
Florissant, MO - more info to come!!
- ◆ The 21st Quinquennial Congress
July 29-August 2, 2026
Lexington Griffin Gate Marriott Lexington, KY

Season of Creation, 2024

The Season of Creation begins on September 1st with the *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation* and ends on October 4th with the feast of St. Francis. It is an ecumenical, world-wide event, with many opportunities to participate. Pope Francis has issued his message, and a prayer (links below.) Perhaps it is time to initiate a new fraternity apostolate, or get more involved at the parish level. It's never too late to start. This year's theme is "Hope and Act with Creation." It's been said that the US Catholic Church has been slow to act in response to *Laudato Si* and *Laudate Deum*. There are clear signs that is changing, and thankfully we have Franciscans to show the way:



The Children are Asking, by Mary Southard

Carolyn Townes' [Season of Creation](https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Franciscan-Season-of-Caring-for-Creation-1.pdf) is a beautiful collection of prayers, readings, and opportunities for reflection: <https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Franciscan-Season-of-Caring-for-Creation-1.pdf>



The Catholic Climate Covenant has been very busy preparing materials for parish and school use. Their [web site](https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/season-of-creation-2024/) is a rich and essential resource :

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/season-of-creation-2024/>

They also have a nice Liturgical Banner in different formats, languages, etc. at:

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/season-creation-liturgical-banner/>



St. Gabriel Publishing has free downloadable banners, posters, etc:

<https://www.stgabrielpublishing.com/collections/all-part-of-gods-planet>

Holy See: The [Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation \[1st September 2024\]](#) is at this link (In eight languages.) There is also an [Information flyer about the Pope's statement](#) which would make a nice bulletin insert.



Diocese of Atlanta: For a good example of a diocesan *Laudato Si* action plan, check out the Diocese of Atlanta's plan here: <https://godsplanet.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/09/laudato-si-action-plan-final-enlinks.pdf>



Prayer:

O Lord, you sent the Seraph to mark St Francis
 With Jesus' wounds, a visible sign of your love for us
 In the mystery of the cross.
 May your Church today, through our lives and actions
 Be a visible sign of healing and renewal
 For all the world.
 We ask this in the name of Jesus,
 Who showed to us the meaning of mercy.
 Amen



Stigmata by Bicci di Lorenzo

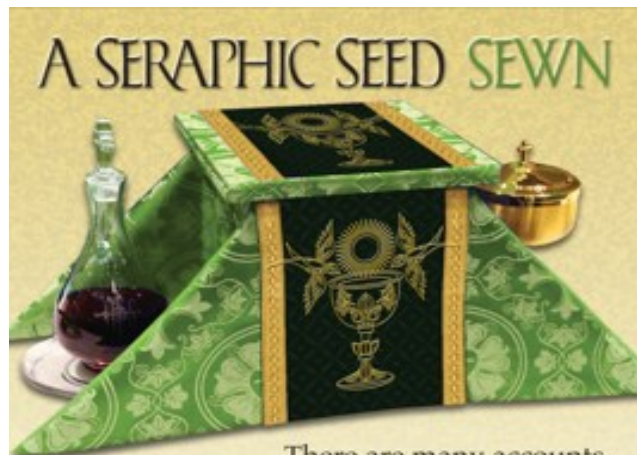
Contact Joe Makley at: Joe.sfo@pioneerstreet.com

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL -THE FOUNDRRESS OF THE POOR CLARES OF THE UNITED STATES

**Mother Mary
Magdalen Bentivoglio OSC**

<https://youtu.be/Q2sSico-O5c>

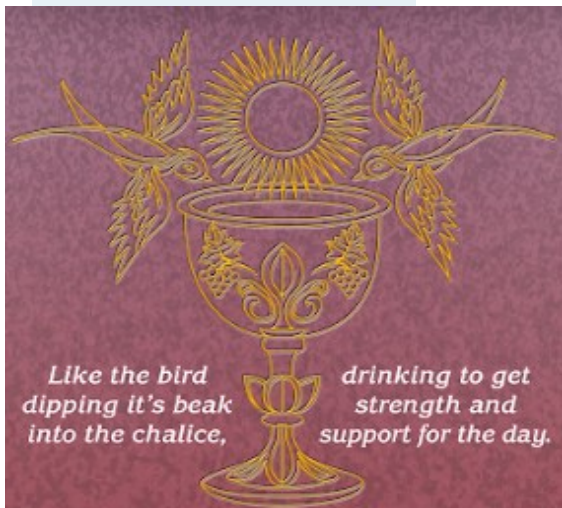
Watch this about her!



There are many accounts of Mother Mary Maddalena's sewing & needlework skills. She was very industrious and could not tolerate idleness, sewing even in her allotted recreation time. She often would sew in charity for poor Priests in need of vestments, Humeral veils, altar linens and for the town's poor families who needed mending. The first temporary altar in the Omaha monastery was made from a sewing machine box covered with a Novice's veil decorated with lace.

A Sister saw her working on a beautiful piece of gold embroidery. It was a chalice. Above the chalice there was a little bird flying to it. I admired it very much. She said: 'You like? I said yes Reverend Mother. She looked at me in deep thought. "I like too", she said. Thus at elevation, like the bird dipping it's beak into the chalice, drinking to get strength and support for the day. The second bird is Constance doing the same.

This incident reflects St. Clare's Eucharistic miracle. As St. Clare lifted the Monstrance for protection against the attacking Saracens, Mother Mary Maddalena's embroidery was lifted up at Elevation with the Eucharist, continuing the message of the Eucharist being our very sustenance and protection.



Like the bird dipping it's beak into the chalice, drinking to get strength and support for the day.



MOTHER MARY MAGDALENA BENTIVOGLIO
FOUNDRRESS OF THE POOR CLARES
IN THE UNITED STATES

"To the left is a prayer card drawing attention to the US foundress of the Poor Clare Monasteries Mother Mary Magdalen Bentivoglio. The Sisters rounded me (during the recent Novena to St. Clare) up to design supporting materials for this cause (I read quite a bit of literature on her cause for Sainthood this past winter) and my daughter Madeline painted the portrait."

-Howard Schroeder, OFS (St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity)

800TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT FRANCIS RECEIVING THE STIGMATA

SEPTEMBER 17 The Gift of the Stigmata

The stigmatization of St. Francis is not just an acceptance of the extraordinary signs of Christ's suffering in the flesh. It is also the great joy and consolation of God's closeness along with the pain of seeing the cross, shortly before receiving the stigmata. In the earliest sources these elements are found side by side and with equal intensity, so we will consider them together.

For Francis, the stigmata did not appear on his body during the mysterious vision, but after it was over, when he struggled to understand its meaning. At first he was filled with something beautiful and blissful both from what he was seeing and from the way the man on the cross was looking at him (that he was seen). Then came the pain when he realized that this man was tied to the cross. Only then did the stigmata become apparent. How can we understand this?

There are more possibilities. We could think of regret for our own failures that cause crucifixion-like torment in a person's soul. Or, reflecting on the wounds and pains, those of Christ 2000 years ago, and those now carried by his mystical body - the many lonely and sick in body/soul, members of minorities, marginalized, people without support or work, persecuted, abused, driven into insecurity by various circumstances.... We stand before the invitation to see Christ's kind gaze looking at us from the midst of this suffering.

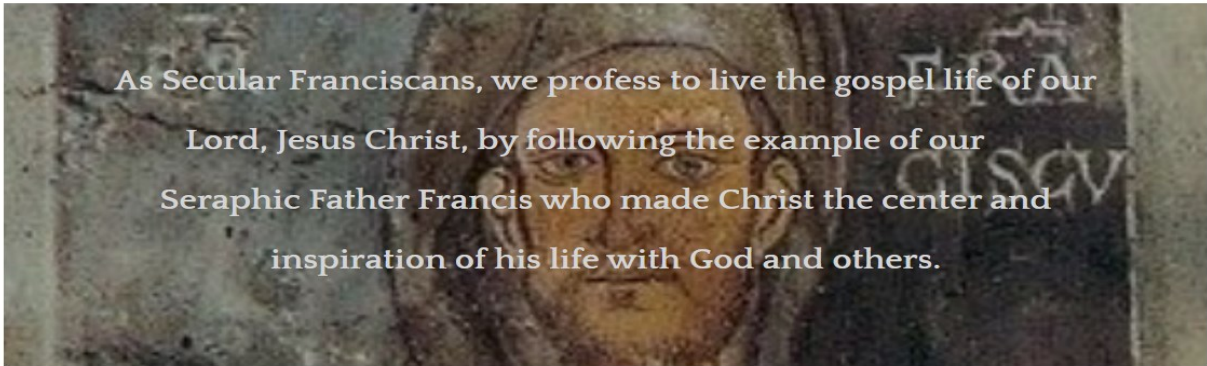


PLEASE GO TO OFS-USA WEBSITE OR CLICK ON THE PHOTO ABOVE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GIFT OF THE STIGMATA, ONE OF THE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS. THERE IS A WEALTH OF INFORMATION THERE.

SECULARFRANCISCANSUSA.ORG

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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