



# Clarion

## NEWSLETTER

### SAINT CLARE REGION

## FELLOWSHIP & REGIONAL BONDING

## DECEMBER 2025

I hope that each of you have had a Blessed Advent and Christmas Season.

Our region had our National Visitation on November 7th and 8th. Our National Visitors were Diane Menditto OSF, National Vice-Minister OFS-USA and Father John De La Riva OFM Cap.-Conference of National Spiritual Assistants.

It was a wonderful experience for me to meet with the visitors and all the regional council members on Friday the 7th and to get to know them all better. We had a great evening meal hosted by Chris Blood OFS, National Councilor OSF USA.

On Saturday the 8th we had our annual chapter meeting which was very well attended and all the fraternities in our region were represented. We had a lovely celebration of our Region's 30th anniversary. Mary Ellen Herman OFS, the first Regional Minister and Jan Parker OFS, the first Regional Formation Director, shared stories of how the region got its name and of the early days of the region.

The region is so appreciative of all the hard work that Chris Blood, OFS has done as our Regional Minister. She was presented with a well earned gift of appreciation. She has been so instrumental in leading our Region to where it is currently.

We have a wonderful Regional Council who is committed to continuing all the good work that has been done in our region with the help of each of you.

I am looking forward to visiting with many of the fraternities in the coming year.

God bless each of you and fill you with His joy.

Connie Shanks, OFS  
Saint Clare Regional Minister

### Inside this issue

- ◇ The Joy of the Gospel in Christmas Retreat .....2
- ◇ Sign up for the Q now! .....3
- ◇ The Joy of the Gospel in Professions.....4
- ◇ The Joy of the Gospel in an Admission.....5
- ◇ The Joy of the Gospel in our National Visitation.....6-9
- ◇ The Joy of the Gospel Fraternal Life.....10
- ◇ The Joy of the Gospel in the new TAU--USA and Servant Leadership.....11
- ◇ Our Fraternities.....12
- ◇ Regional Executive Council .....13

**SAINT CLARE REGION  
VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS RETREAT**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026**

**10AM -12PM**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87615293768>**

RETREAT SCHEDULE

Christmas Carol: Rick Neal & Kim Neal - 15 minutes

Nativity reflection: Annapoorna Mary -10 minutes

Christmas reading: Lectio Divina: Diana - 15 minutes

St. Francis and Christmas: Jan Parker - 15 minutes

Franciscan Theology of Christmas: Deacon Joe - 30 minutes

Franciscan Christmas & Franciscan Spirituality: Br. David Buer, OFM -  
30 minutes

# THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN ATTENDING THE Q !!

## SIGN UP SOON.



### St. Clare Region Scholarship Application

**Deadline: March 31, 2026**

<b>SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION</b> <small>ONE Individual Request Per Application Form</small>	
Date:	Fraternity Name:
Name:	
Phone:	Email Address:
Return Form To:	Jan Parker, OFS 190 Rockaway Dr. O'Fallon, MO 63368 <a href="mailto:janparker1219@gmail.com">janparker1219@gmail.com</a>
<i>Please detail expected attendance costs below:</i>	
(1) Estimated Driving Costs	\$
(2) Hotel* 4 nights Private room <b>\$784.00</b> , or	\$
Shared room <b>\$392.00</b> <i>Please find own roommate(s) if sharing</i>	\$
(3) Registration: \$650.00 after December 31, 2025	\$
<i>Total Estimated Cost to Attend</i>	\$
<i>Less amount I will contribute toward costs</i>	\$
<b>Amount of Scholarship Requested</b>	\$
<b>Applicant Comments:</b>	
<b>Regional Council Comments:</b>	
APPROVED: YES    NO	AMOUNT APPROVED:

**\* Hotel Information:**

- Special group room rate is \$169.00 plus tax, per night-2 Queen beds or 1 King bed.
- The cost per night of \$169.00 can be shared (4 persons maximum).
- Group rate is available until June 29, 2026. After this deadline, we will do our best to provide the group rate, but there is no guarantee. Please make your reservation as soon as possible.

# THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN PROFESSIONS!

## PROFESSIONS

Kevin Santander, OFS

Patty Kelly-Taylor, OFS

Angela Bennett, OFS



All three were professed into the Secular Franciscan Order on November 16, 2025 (St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity) at St. Anthony of Padua Church in St. Louis.



GOD IS GOOD!



# THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN AN ADMISSION!

## ADMISSION

Karen Lynne, OFS

..was admitted to the Secular Franciscan Order in the Thea Bowman Emerging Fraternity on November 25.

The Admission was held in the Adoration Chapel at St. Gerard Majella Church in Kirkwood, MO.

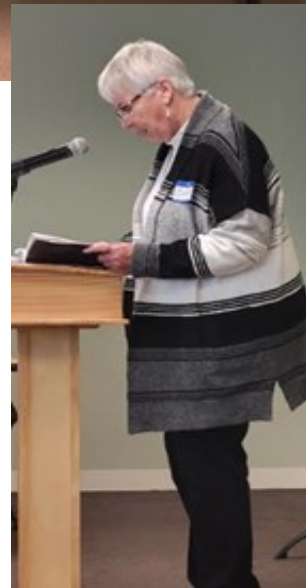
GOD IS GOOD!



# THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN OUR NATIONAL VISITATION NOV 7-8, 2025



# THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN OUR NATIONAL VISITATION



# THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN OUR NATIONAL VISITATION



## THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN OUR NATIONAL VISITATION



Our national visitors:

Diane Menditto, OFS  
Vice Minister, OFS-USA

Fr. John de la Riva,  
OFM Cap. CNSA

Thank you!



## THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN THE TRANSITUS & LOCAL PASTORAL VISITATIONS



**Members and Friends of the Follower of Francis Fraternity in Springfield, MO  
enjoying fellowship after the Transitus Ceremony**



**Fr. Jerome Wolbert OFM— pastoral visitation to St. Joan of Arc Fraternity in Memphis, TN**

## THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN THE NEW TAU-USA MAGAZINE & SERVANT LEADERSHIP ON THE NATIONAL COUNCIL



THE LATEST EDITION OF OUR NATIONAL MAGAZINE, THE TAU-USA IS AVAILABLE NOW.

[WWW.SECULARFRANCISCANSUSA.ORG](http://WWW.SECULARFRANCISCANSUSA.ORG)

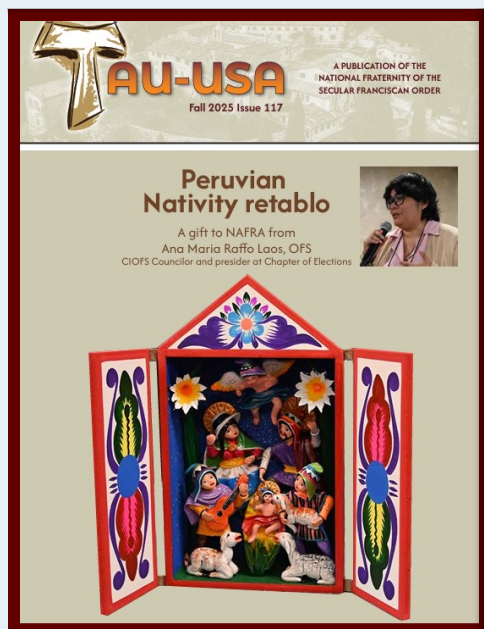
Our new National Executive Council was elected to a 3-year term on Saturday, September 13, 2025 at our annual Chapter meeting at the Bon Secours Retreat Center in Marriottsville, MD.

Jane DeRose-Bamman, OFS, was re-elected Minister for a second term.

Also re-elected were Vice Minister Diane Menditto, OFS; Secretary Susan Ronan, OFS; and International Councilor Mary Frances Charsky, OFS.

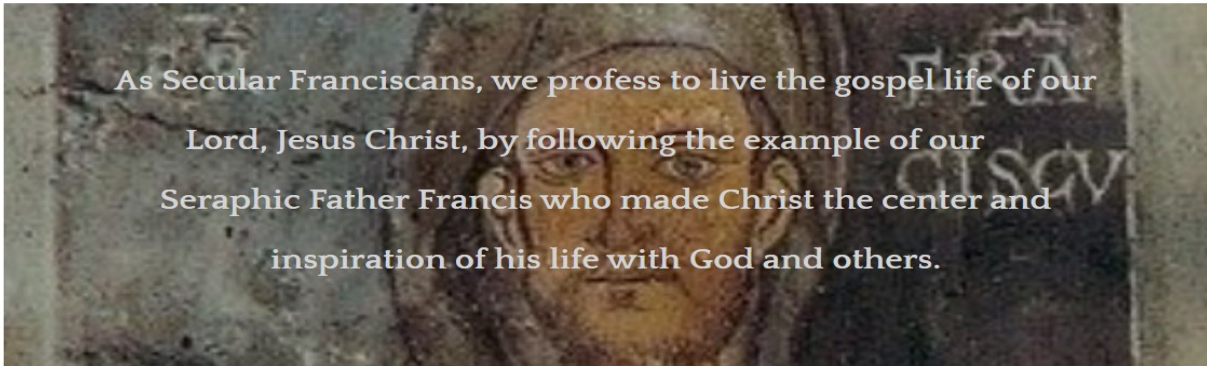
Elected to their first terms were Treasurer Steve Roszhart, OFS; National Councilors Christine Blood, OFS; Chris Leone, OFS, and Corinne Lorenzet, OFS.

The election concluded the 4-day Chapter meeting of Regional Ministers, NEC members, Conference of National Spiritual Assistants (CNSA) and observers.



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](http://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!

**Followers of Francis Fraternity**

**Minister:** Chris Rice OFS

**Joyful Servants Fraternity**

**Minister:** Debbie Noland OFS

**San Damiano Fraternity**

**Minister:** Jan Parker OFS

**St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity**

**Minister:** Ronald Sansone OFS

**St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity**

**Minister:** Deacon Steve Schisler

**St. Joan of Arc Fraternity**

**Minister:** Kim Hoffman-Neal OFS

**St. Padre Pio Emerging Fraternity**

**Acting Minister:**  
Shawn Asmus OFS

**St. Peter Fraternity**

**Minister:** Roger Mueller OFS

**Servant of God Thea Bowman  
Emerging Fraternity**

**Acting Minister:**  
Tom Brinkmann OFS

**St. Clare Regional Council  
2024-2027**

[stclareregionofs@gmail.com](mailto:stclareregionofs@gmail.com)

**Minister:**

Connie Shanks, OFS

**Vice-Minister:**

Maureen Gray, OFS

**Secretary:**

Jan Parker, OFS

**Treasurer:**

Tom Brinkmann, OFS

**Councilor:**

Dcn. Steve Schisler, OFS

**Councilor:**

Chris Rice, OFS

**Regional Spiritual Assistant:**

Br. David Buer, OFM

Saint Clare Region  
c/o The Tau Center  
335 S. Kirkwood Rd. St. Louis, MO 63122

