



Clarion

NEWSLETTER

SAINT CLARE REGION

SAINT LOUIS IX, KING OF FRANCE (1215-1270) PATRON OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

I had the opportunity to visit the small chapel and ossuary of Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne in mid-August. It's located in 'Old' St. Charles, MO. What struck me was its simplicity as it mirrors the life she lived. The chapel is a testament to the great and humble saint that she was.

It was only a week prior to that visit that we had celebrated another very humble saint, Saint Clare of Assisi. She also lived in poverty, humility and depended wholly on the charity of others to survive. She urged a daily examination of one's life in the "mirror" of the crucifix to foster conversion and gain spiritual perspective. *"Gaze upon Him, reflect on Him, contemplate Him, and desire to imitate Him."* (St. Clare of Assisi)

And then, shortly after that, our Church celebrated the feast day of our patron, Saint Louis IX, King of France (August 25). He lived his life in opulent castles and prayed in beautiful chapels, the opposite of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne and St. Clare. And yet, all through the writings and descriptions about his life, the overriding roots of his character and spirituality were service, prayer, responsibility, love and humbleness in treating others as we would want to be treated. I invite you to learn more about him!

He is the perfect patron of our Order because with all that he was given in both power and wealth, he chose to obediently follow Jesus Christ by embracing and mirroring the spirituality of Saint Francis, all while comfortably wearing the very humble habit of the Third Order.

"In prosperity, give thanks to God with humility and fear lest by pride you abuse God's benefits and so offend him." (Saint Louis IX, King of France)

Peace & All Good, Always, Chris Blood, ofs

FALL 2025

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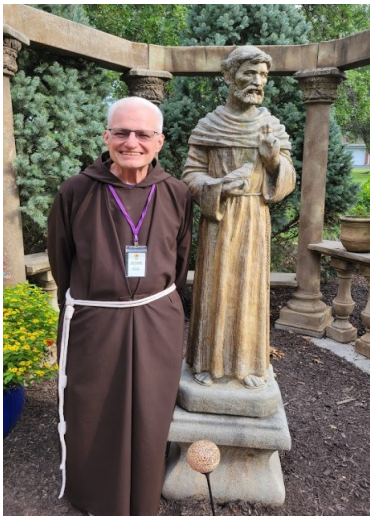
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THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN REGIONAL RETREATS



Our retreat was full of fellowship, worship and learning about the Canticle of Creation which was composed by Saint Francis just a year before his death.

Fr. Frank Grinko, OFM Cap. led wonderful presentations on the history of the Canticle, its inspirational sources and how it came about in response to what was happening in the First Order and with Saint Francis at the time.



THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN REGIONAL RETREATS



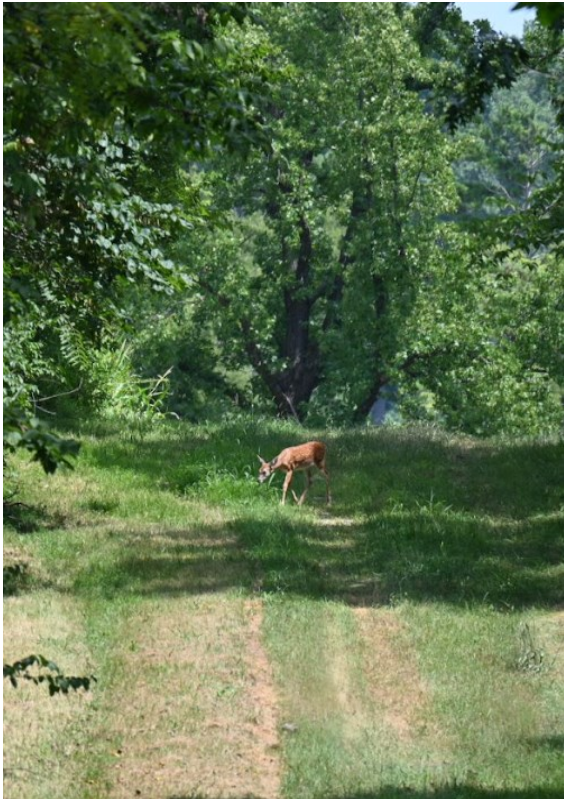
SKITS...



**SONGS AND OPEN MIC
NIGHT!**



**THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL
IN REGIONAL RETREATS**



ELECTIONS

St. Anthony of Padua

(St. Louis)

July 20, 2025

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN ELECTIONS!

Congratulations to the new fraternity council of the St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity in St. Louis!!!

A Big Thank you to Br. David Buer, OFM and Jan Parker, OFS for presiding over the elections.



LEFT TO RIGHT: BR. DAVID BUER, OFM; MICHAEL PUSATERI, OFS (SECRETARY); LLOYD BAIN, OFS (COUNCILOR); JAVIER OROZCO, OFS (VICE-MINISTER); RON SANSONE, OFS (MINISTER); CHARLENE SANSONE, OFS (TREASURER); SHARON BUBEL, OFS (COUNCILOR); MARYSIA HAACK, OFS (FORMATION DIRECTOR), JAN PARKER, OFS

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN APOSTOLATES

SECULAR FRANCISCAN APOSTOLATES:

St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity in Oakville, MO

GOSPEL TO LIFE – LIFE TO GOSPEL

The word apostolate is defined as “the office of an apostle, an organization of the laity devoted to the mission of the Church.” In our book, *The Rule of The Secular Franciscan Order*, in Chapter 2, Article 13, it states: “A sense of community will make them joyful and ready to place themselves on an equal basis with all people, especially with the lowly for whom they shall strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ.” The importance of APOSTOLATE has become more meaningful in our Fraternity as we strive to imitate St. Francis. “Let us begin, brothers, to serve the Lord God, for up to now we have made little or no progress”. This quote from St. Francis, among his last words, can be seen as a call to continue his work of serving others and spreading the Gospel message in our own Franciscan lives. Gospel to Life, Life to Gospel in action. MATTHEW 25:40



The St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity in Oakville, MO has been assisting the Kumbo Caritas Mission, the Shison Orphanage, which is being run by Tertiary Franciscan Nuns. The Third Order Sisters have been caring for the children, however, their government subsidies are at times either cut off or uncertain. They provide full-time care for the children. Minister Dcn. Steve Schisler acts as the Liaison with the Orphanage ensuring all details and monthly financial contributions are handled. St. Francis was the receiver of Spiritual gifts and the giver of Spiritual fruits, we find joy in imitating his virtues with our Apostolates.

Kumbo Caritas Mission



Rita Baughman
OFS

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN FORMATION

Regional Formation Virtual Workshop SAINT FRANCIS & JPIC



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025

10:00am—12:00pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83710901963>

Zoom Link

SPEAKERS:

Praise & Worship: Rick Neal, OFS & Kim Neal, OFS

Saint Francis & Peace: Diana

Saint Francis & Justice: Jan Parker, OFS

Saint Francis & Integrity of Creation: Annapoorna Mary, OFS

JPIC & Corporal Works of Mercy: Joe Scalise, OFS

Secular Franciscans & JPIC Mission: Chris Rice, OFS



Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN PRAYER



On August 18, 2025, the Poor Clares of the Immaculate Conception (Oakville, MO) hosted a healing service after their 150th Anniversary Mass of their presence in the United States. Everyone at the Mass was invited to hold a swatch of needlepoint cloth made by Mother Mary Maddalena Bentivoglio, OSC (USA Foundress) and invoke her healing intercession. The celebrant was Fr. Tom Nairn, OFM.

To learn more about Mother Mary Maddalena Bentivoglio, please visit their website:

<https://poorclaresstl.org/>



THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN THE PILGRIMAGE YEAR

Our Jubilee Pilgrimage to shrines and Basilicas in India, 2025

Annapoorna Mary, OFS, St. Joan of Arc Fraternity,

RFD, St. Clare Region, MO, USA

My husband and I had a great blessing of making pilgrimages to many shrines and Basilica churches in India. Among them there were three Jubilee designated Churches.

During this visit, we made pilgrimage to many churches, among them I highlight three Jubilee designated Churches and basilicas, which include, Our Lady of Snows Basilica, Tuticorin Dioceses, Sacred Heart Church, Srivalliputhur, Madurai Arch Diocese, and Our Lady of Velankanni Basilica, Tanjoor Diocese. we received immense blessings of Our Lady and we enjoyed family gatherings and reunions. We travelled by road driving about 2000 Km along the pilgrimage journey. We travelled with our family. The pilgrimage trip blessed us with multiple blessings including healings, peace, family reunion joy and celebrations. In addition, this pilgrimage journey blessed us with an opportunity to participate in the building projects of three Church in a small way, including Poondy Matha Basilica, Adaikala Matha Church [Elakurichi], and Ascension Church [Metha Nagar, Chennai], which is our home parish. I count this as a providential blessing. We enjoyed countryside fields, birds, street food, and local countryside people fellowship throughout the journey.

1. Our Lady of snows Basilica, Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu, India

The first Church we visited was Our Lady of Snow Tuticorin. We attended festival masses on the Day 1 Flag hoisting day with our family, in India. This city Tuticorin is my native city and here I went to school [high school]. In this Church of Our Lady of Snows Basilica, I received my confirmation.

Brief History of the Church:

In 1538, St. Peter's church, the first parish was constructed with Fr. Peter Gonsalvez as the first Parish Priest. On 9 June 1555, the Miraculous statue of Mother Mary arrived Tuticorin through the ship named Santa Helena. In 1658, When the Protestant [Dutch](#) rule began in the Pearl Fishery Coast, the feast of Our Lady of Snows was banned, the Catholic Churches were taken away and made warehouses and celebrating the Holy Mass was prohibited. The Dutch tried all the ways possible to convert the [Paravars](#) to their own faith but all their attempts failed as the Paravars were firm in their Catholic faith. The Paravars shifted the statue to different places to protect it. On 4 April 1704, Tuticorin and the surrounding villages were saved miraculously by Mother Mary from the heavy thunder bolt. In the year 1713, a new church was built and consecrated in Tuticorin, which would become the Basilica of Our Lady of Snows.

On 30 July 1982, [Pope John Paul II](#) elevated the building to the status of a minor basilica in an [apostolic letter](#) entitled *Pervenusta Illa*.^[6]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basilica_of_Our_Lady_of_Snows,_Thoothukudi

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN THE PILGRIMAGE YEAR

2. The second Jubilee church we visited was Sacred Heart Church, Srivalliputhur, Madurai Arch Diocese, Tamil Nadu, India.

<https://maduraiarchdiocese.weebly.com/srivilliputtur.html>

This church is a Jubilee designated pilgrim Church, in addition, in this Church there was a miracle reported as Our Lady Statue heart was bleeding. We could see the blood stain even when we visited.

Bleeding miracle video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRoed8kW7wM>

Brief History of the Church:

As of the Government documents, the pioneers of Catholic people of Srivilliputhur were serving as soldiers to the kings of Nayaka Dynasty. They obtained lands as rewards for their service. After the fall of the reign of Nayakas, these people happened to lose their lands gradually. Only a small portion of land in Srinivapuram could be preserved. In 1875, when Fr. Trinca, who began his missionary ministry keeping W. Pudupatti as the center, came here and saw a church being elegantly built by the people themselves at Ooranipatti. But he found them fighting among themselves claiming for ownership as to whom the church belongs. In 1880, he started a school in Srivilliputhur so to enable the poor study. After his demise, in 1892 the center for missionary purpose was shifted from W. Pudupatti to Srivilliputhur for travelling conveniences. Fr. Berthur S.J, Fr. Thalan S.J, Fr. Jeganthar S.J were the missionaries then. Having been created as a separate parish in 1906, Fr. Mage S.J was appointed as the first parish priest to Srivilliputhur. He served all around Thiruvilliputhur. He started building the structure of the church in Gothic pattern. In 1910 Sundaranachiyapuram parish was bifurcated from Srivilliputhur. In 1911 he called for the ICM sisters from Mulahumoodu to serve in this area. The sisters established a convent and besides the gospel ministry they worked for the development of women. Fr. Mage started about 22 schools on surrounding villages.

3. Our Lady of Velankanni Shrine



Vatican approves India's Sanctuary of Our Lady of Good Health ahead of s...

The Vatican has approved devotion at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Good Health in Vailankanni, India, the site of...

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN THE PILGRIMAGE YEAR

Our Lady of Velankanni Shrine—continued

Brief History & Vatican approvals:

Miracles:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Blq9M8tJFTs>

First Miracle:

A Hindu shepherd boy was carrying milk when he encountered the Virgin Mary with the infant Jesus. She requested some milk, and when the boy delivered it, the milk pot was found to be miraculously full.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ajqQ0joYptA&pp=ygUKI3ZlbnRvcnJveQ%3D%3D>

- **Second Miracle:**

A lame boy selling buttermilk was healed after the Virgin Mary appeared to him, asking for buttermilk. She instructed him to inform a wealthy Catholic man in Nagapatnam about the apparition, and he discovered his leg was healed upon rising.

- **Third Miracle:**

Portuguese sailors, caught in a violent storm, prayed to the Virgin Mary, vowing to build a church in her honor if they were saved. They were miraculously brought to shore and subsequently built a chapel, which was later expanded into a church.

- **Shrine Expansion:**

The original chapel was rebuilt and enlarged, eventually becoming the Basilica of Our Lady of Good Health. The shrine was renovated in 1920 and 1933, and in 1962, Pope John XXIII elevated it to the status of a Basilica.

Vatican approvals of apparitions:

- [Pope John XXIII](#)'s 1962 elevation of the Vailankanni church to [minor basilica](#) status. The Pope's apostolic brief noted that pilgrims in large numbers had been visiting the shrine for a long period of time, and that it was hailed as the "[Lourdes](#) of the East".^{[4][5][6]}

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Our_Lady_of_Good_Health

- **Vatican Approves India's Sanctuary of Our Lady of Good Health Ahead of Shrine's Feast Day.** The Vatican has approved devotion at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Good Health in Vailankanni, India, the site of reported apparitions of the Virgin Mary in the 16th century. / Credit: Sajanj/Wikimedia, CC BY-SA 3.0

[Vatican approves India's Sanctuary of Our Lady of Good Health ahead of shrine's feast day](#)

All glory and honor to Our Lord Jesus Christ! Amen!

**THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL AT THE 2026 QUINQUENNIAL
AND THE LATEST EDITION OF THE TAU-USA MAGAZINE**



Registration for our 21st Quinquennial Congress

NOW OPEN!

Click on the link below to register

OFS-USA
20 Q 26
29 July - 02 August
Lexington, KY

<https://ofs-usa.regfox.com/21st-congress-secular-franciscan-order>



**THE LATEST EDITION OF OUR
NATIONAL MAGAZINE, THE
TAU-USA IS AVAILABLE ONLINE:**

CLICK ON THE PHOTO TO READ OR VISIT THE
NATIONAL WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION ON
BOTH!

[https://
www.secularfranciscansusa.org/
wp-content/uploads/TAU-
USA_116_sum_25_revised.pdf](https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/TAU-USA_116_sum_25_revised.pdf)

NATIONAL CHAPTER

**REGIONAL
FORMATION
WORKSHOP**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
SAINT CLARE
REGION**

VISITATION

THE NEXT Q

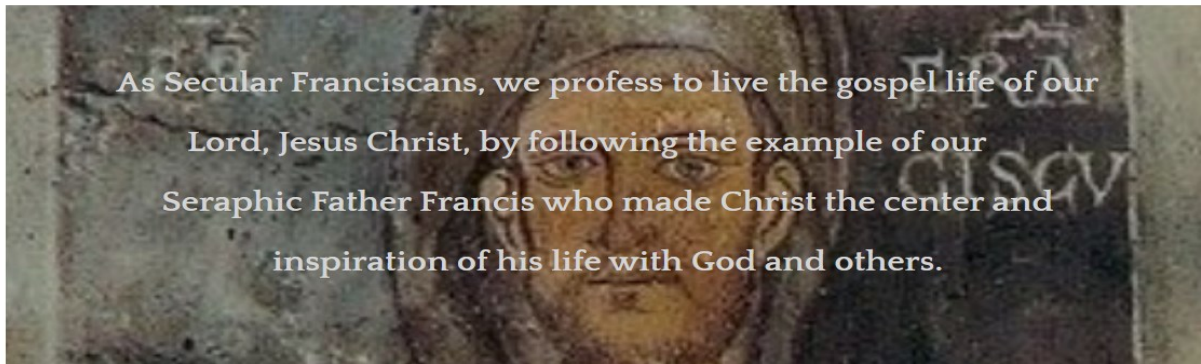
CHRISTMAS RETREAT

UPCOMING EVENTS AND SAVE THE DATES RECAP!

- ◆ **OFS-USA National Chapter
September 17-22, 2024
Marriottsville, MD**
- ◆ **Spiritual Assistants Meeting
Led by Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM
Thursday, September 25 12pm-4pm (lunch included)
Tau Center, 335 S. Kirkwood Rd. St. Louis, MO 63122
This is FREE. Contact Jan Parker 636-734-9979**
- ◆ **OCTOBER 4, 2026— Regional Formation Workshop
on St. Francis & JPIC / 10am-12pm via Zoom (page 5)**
- ◆ **OCTOBER 12, 1995—OCTOBER 12, 2025
SAINT CLARE REGION'S 30TH BIRTHDAY!**
- ◆ **Saint Clare Regional CHAPTER
National Pastoral & Fraternal Visitation
November 7-9, 2025
The Tau Center, Kirkwood, MO (page 4)**
- ◆ **The 21st Quinquennial Congress
July 29-August 2, 2026
Lexington Griffin Gate Marriott Lexington, KY REGIS-
TER NOW! (see page 12)**
- ◆ **Christmas Virtual Retreat (save the date now!)
Saturday, January 10, 2026
10am-12pm
St. Francis & the Incarnation
Led by Br. David Buer, OFM**

ST CLARE REGION SECULAR
FRANCISCAN ORDER USA

WELCOME OUR FRATERNITIES FORMATION CLARION NEWSLETTERS



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!

Followers of Francis Fraternity

Minister: Chris Rice OFS
2513 N. Johnson
Springfield, MO 65803

Joyful Servants Fraternity

Minister: Debbie Noland OFS
PO Box 2008
Camdenton, MO 65020

San Damiano Fraternity

Minister: Jan Parker OFS
190 Rockaway Drive
O'Fallon, MO 63368

St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity

Minister: Ronald Sansone OFS
137 W St. Louis St
Pacific, MO 63069

St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity

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Arnold, MO 63010

St. Joan of Arc Fraternity

Minister: Kim Hoffman-Neal OFS
1536 Michael St
Memphis TN 38111

St. Padre Pio Emerging Fraternity

Acting Minister: Shawn Asmus OFS
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St. Peter Fraternity

Minister: Roger Mueller OFS
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Servant of God Thea Bowman

Emerging Fraternity
Acting Minister: Tom Brinkmann OFS
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2024-2027**

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