



## FRATERNAL BONDS: LOVE & PARDON

Since we are in the season of Lent, I thought it would be a wonderful time to remind ourselves of the great importance of fraternal bonds and the need to keep these bonds healthy, intact and strong. This time of year we focus in on prayer, sacrifice and service. So let's use those actions to revisit how our fraternal bonds look.

Within our OFS General Constitution, the word 'fraternal' is mentioned 50 times and within our OFS-USA National Statutes it is mentioned 10 times.

I mention this because I am so grateful for our region and the wonderful fraternities we have and how we all work together to bring the Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel within our fraternities and among our members. A healthy fraternal life is so important! To be fraternal (meaning brothers & sisters to each other) is exactly what we are called to do daily in our vocations as Secular Franciscans.

We cannot have fraternal life without having constant, fruitful dialogues full of respect, trust, love and forgiveness from each member. Our Rule states this explicitly in Article 19:

*Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon. Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others. Since they are immersed in the resurrection of Christ, which gives true meaning to Sister Death, let them serenely tend toward the ultimate encounter with the Father.*

Perhaps at your next fraternity meeting you could take some time to share with each other what each of your fellow fraternity members means to you and to affirm the gifts that those persons bring to your fraternal life and bonds.

Be those messengers of perfect joy.

Lastly, we will have the opportunity to share our fraternal bonds at our Regional Retreat (co-retreat with the Franciscans of the Prairie Region) August 7-10, 2025 at the Pallottine Renewal Center in Florissant, MO. Information and Registration can be found on pages 2-3. With the Duns Scotus Grant, the costs for each person has been reduced by 30%!

I encourage you to sign up early! It is going to be a wonderful time.

Peace & All Good, Always,

Chris Blood, OFS  
Saint Clare Regional Minister

## SPRING 2025

### Inside this issue

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**THE CANTICLE OF THE CREATURES**

**CO-REGIONAL RETREAT  
AUGUST 7-10, 2025  
PALLOTTINE RENEWAL CENTER**

**WITH OUR FRIENDS FROM OUR NEIGHBORING  
REGION FRANCISCANS OF THE PRAIRIE!**

**ONLY 70 SPOTS AVAILABLE, REGISTER TODAY.**

**Fr. Frank's BIO**



**RETREAT DIRECTOR**

FR. FRANK GRINKO, OFM Cap

- August 20th 2024: 50 years as a Capuchin Franciscan
- Director/Team Member of the North American Pacific Capuchin Conference Interprovincial Novitiate Program for seven years.
- Two terms as postulancy director for the Capuchin Province of St. Conrad 5-years then for the past 7-years.
- Recently (August 1st) assigned as the Director for the Catholic Center at the Citadel Mall in Colorado Springs where the Capuchins provide nine hours a day/six days a week the Sacrament of Reconciliation along with two Masses a day during the week
- Recently facilitated the preparation for (two Assemblies) and acting moderator/facilitator for the Our Lady of Angels Capuchin Provincial Chapter and elections.
- Attended various recent workshops celebrating the Franciscan anniversaries of San Damiano, Greccio, The Earlier Rule, and the Stigmata.
- Involved with the community locating in Pueblo, Colorado for the past few years, initially as Spiritual Assistant by relocating to California for the Capuchin novitiate, then returned to the area for picnics and days of reflection and most recently the funeral Mass celebration for Dorothy James (1927-2023) a longtime secular Franciscan -- I mention the funeral service because it demonstrates my close spiritual connection to the secular Franciscan membership.

**RETREAT: THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2025 (5PM DINNER) TO  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2025 (AFTER MORNING MASS).**

# THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN REGIONAL RETREATS

## THE CANTICLE OF THE CREATURES RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

Registration is now open! The easiest way to register is to click on this link to complete online.

[The Canticle of the Creatures OFS Retreat Registration August, 2025](#)

Then once your payment is received, you are registered!

You may also print off this page, complete the information and mail the form along with your payment.

**BEGINS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2025 (5PM DINNER) AND  
ENDS ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2025 (AFTER MORNING MASS).**

First/Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Professed / Candidate / Aspirant / Other (indicate one)

Preferred Contact Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Fraternity: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate One:

Single \$305 (Private Room) \_\_\_\_\_ Double \$245 (Shared Room) \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate's Name (if double room): \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment & Cancellations (acceptance of all 3 terms is required, please check all three)

- I understand that I must pay in full before my registration is accepted
- If I cancel my accepted registration on or before 7/15/2025, I will be refunded my full payment
- If I cancel my accepted registration on or after 7/16/2025, I will be refunded 50% of my full payment

### 2 Payment Methods:

1. Mail Registration Form & Check to:  
Tom Brinkmann, OFS. 4142 Castleman Ave. St. Louis, MO 63110.  
Payable to: St Clare Region Secular Franciscan Order
2. Venmo. <https://venmo.com/us/tbrnkmnn> (mail registration form to Tom)

Tom Brinkmann  
@tbrnkmnn



**venmo**

# THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN ADMISSIONS AND PROFESSIONS!

## PROFESSION

Susan Thomas, OFS

December 2024

St Joan of Arc  
Fraternity

Memphis, TN



## ADMISSION

Deborah Atherton, OFS

December 2024

SOG Thea Bowman  
Emerging Fraternity

Kirkwood, MO



# THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN RETREATS!

## 2025 Regional Lenten Retreat via Zoom

Led by Deacon Joe Puglis  
Joyful Servants Fraternity

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Saturday, April 5, 2025  
10am—12pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85142362798>

### New Additional Regional Spiritual Assistant



#### Br. David Buer, ofm

A few weeks ago, Br. David Buer, ofm, was appointed as an additional Regional Spiritual Assistant for our Region. Br. David will assist us, along with Fr. Pio, with pastoral visitations. He is eager to meet all of us!

Br. David grew up in the St. Louis area and has been involved with the homeless and very poor, most recently in the southwest part of the country.

Br. David was a Secular Franciscan before entering the OFMs. He has served the OFS in other parts of the country, including serving as a provincial spiritual assistant for St. Barbara Region until October 2023.

Should you want to speak with him, please email [stclareregionofs@gmail.com](mailto:stclareregionofs@gmail.com) and we will forward to you his contact information.

# THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN JUSTICE, PEACE & INTREGITY OF CREATION: THIS IS WHO WE ARE



## JPIC Animator

Our new JPIC Animator for the St. Clare Region is Chris Rice, OFS.

Chris is thrilled to be in this role. He will attend the upcoming JPIC Retreat (for the entire country) in El Paso, Texas this May as our regional representative.

He will provide a summary of this event and the REC will closely work with him in animating JPIC in our region.

More information on JPIC can be found on the national website: [secularfranciscansusa.org](http://secularfranciscansusa.org).



Here's an example of what the JPIC Commission had put together for us to consider our part during this Lenten Season.

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/H2O-Water-Project-Flyer-Lent-2025-Uganda.pdf>

**H2O Project**

OFS-USA  
Lenten Project

Lord, may we never again take for granted a drop of Sister Water, "so precious and pure," so necessary to our bodies, and integral to all life on our sister Mother Earth.

May we never tire in our efforts to assist those who are deprived of clean water to obtain a steady supply, and always strive for their dignity and health, as much as for our own.

And may we always praise you, whose creation is miraculous and beautiful beyond our understanding.  
Amen

Secular Franciscan Order - USA

# THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN OUR FRATERNAL HISTORIES



## **Brief History of the Poverello Emerging Fraternity and its subsumation in to the Joyful Servants Fraternity.**

In 1999, a group of seven people, led by Sister Renita Brummer, OSF, as their spiritual assistant, was formed as the Poverello Fraternity in Rolla, MO with the Followers of Francis in Springfield Missouri as their sponsoring fraternity.



They were a very active fraternity, attending many retreats and sponsoring pilgrimages to religious shrines and historic churches as well as sponsoring a John Michael Talbot Mission at St. Patrick's Church.



The Joyful Servants Fraternity starting meeting in May, 2005 at the St. Joseph Cathedral in Jefferson City, MO. Maureen Gray OSF and Sr. Evelyn Peterman FSM, along with Ken Livingston and Gail Kusec (inquirers.) The San Damiano Fraternity was the sponsoring Regional fraternity and Jan Parker was the contact person.

The Poverello Fraternity struggled for years trying to meet the requirements of having five professed members for five years before finally deciding to join the Joyful Servants in Jefferson City in 2014.



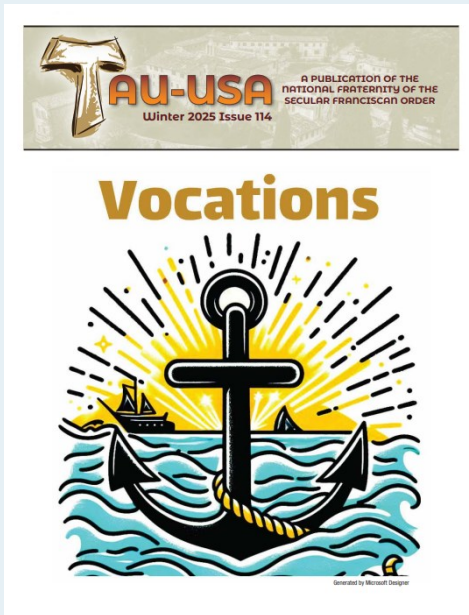
San Damiano (the sponsoring fraternity) was bonded to Capuchin Province of Mid America. St. Clare Region's Spiritual Assistant at the time was Fr. Frank Grinko OFM Cap.

After the Capuchins moved out of Missouri, Joyful Servants' sponsorship was transferred to the Saint Clare Region's Executive Council and Barb Morgan OFS was the contact person.

## **The Joyful Servants attained Canonical Establishment on September 26, 2020.**

# THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN THE NEW TAU-USA MAGAZINE- WINTER 2024 EDITION & SERVANT LEADERSHIP ON THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

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



CLICK ON THE PHOTO TO READ

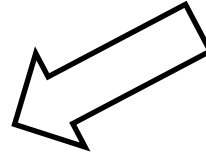
OR VISIT THE

NATIONAL WEBSITE:

[WWW.SECULARFRANCISCANS](http://WWW.SECULARFRANCISCANS)

[USA.ORG](http://USA.ORG)

You can read this by clicking on the photo of the TAU-USA to the left.



Highlights included:

Celebrating the 800th Anniversary of Saint Francis writing The Canticle of the Creatures

Quinquennial- July 29 to August 2, 2026

Our Jubilee Year of Pilgrims of HOPE

The Gospel to Life Bookstore on the last page- check it out!

Building up the community of the National Fraternity Council. Our next ELECTIVE National Chapter is in September, 2025. Professed members can nominate themselves or others.

See page 12 for more information. You can click on the link below to go to the nomination form:

[National Elective Chapter Announcement - 2025](#)

OFS-USA National Theme:  
**Listen. Discern. Go Forth.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND SAVE THE DATES RECAP!

*LENTEN*

*ZOOM*

*RETREAT*

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*JPIC WORKSHOP*

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*REGIONAL*

*RETREAT*

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*SAINT CLARE*

*REGION IS 40*

*YEARS OLD!*

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*VISITATION*

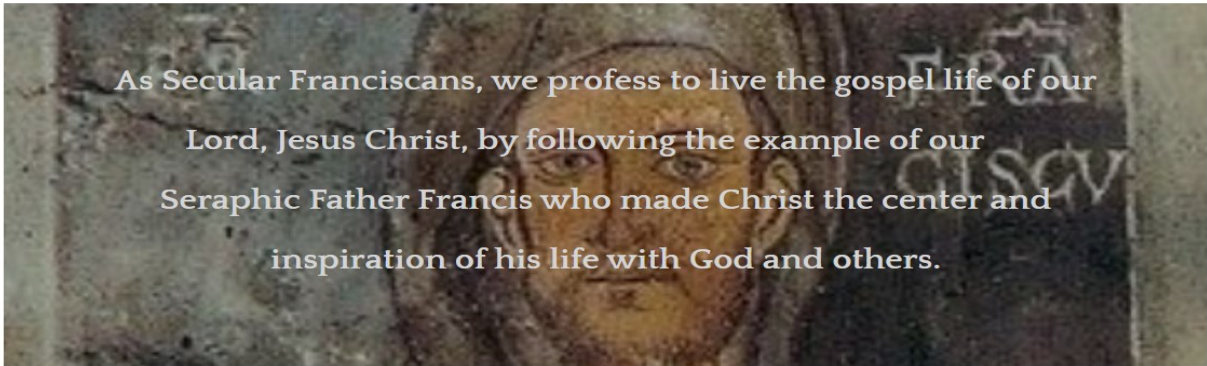
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*QUINQUENNIAL*

- ♦ Regional Lenten Retreat via Zoom  
Saturday, April 5, 2025 10am-12pm  
Led by Deacon Joe Puglis  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85142362798>
- ♦ JPIC ANIMATOR WORKSHOP  
Coming this June /July 2025 via Zoom
- ♦ The Canticle of the Creatures Retreat  
August 7-10, 2025  
Pallottine Renewal Center  
Florissant, MO  
Registration is open!
- ♦ OFS-USA Elective National Chapter  
September 17-22, 2024  
Marriottsville, MD
- ♦ October 13. The 40th Anniversary of the  
founding of the Saint Clare Region!
- ♦ St. Clare Region– Visitation & Chapter  
November 7-9, 2025
- ♦ The 21st Quinquennial Congress  
July 29-August 2, 2026  
Lexington Griffin Gate Marriott Lexington, KY

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:** Ken Livingston OFS  
1852 E Stoneridge Dr  
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**

**Minister:** Deacon Steve Schisler  
1916 Laverne Drive  
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  
3230 Ridge Rd  
Jackson, MO 63755

**St. Peter Fraternity**

**Minister:** Roger Mueller OFS  
1830 Raab Avenue  
Belleville, IL 62226

**Servant of God Thea Bowman**

**Emerging Fraternity**  
**Acting Minister:** Tom Brinkmann OFS  
4142 Castleman Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63110

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

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

**Minister:**

Christine Blood, OFS  
11726 Fawnridge Dr  
St. Louis, MO 63131

**Treasurer:**

Tom Brinkmann, OFS  
4142 Castleman Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63110

**Councilor:**

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1916 Laverne Drive  
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**Vice-Minister:**

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922 Brookside Ln  
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**Formation Director:**

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1528 Mount Moriah Rd  
Memphis, TN38117

**Councilor:**

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

**Secretary:**

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

**Councilor:**

Maureen Gray OFS  
4051 S Parkhill Ct  
Springfield, Mo 65807

**Spiritual Assistants:**

Fr. Pio Jackson, OFM  
Br. David Buer, OFM

