



## LISTEN, DISCERN, GO FORTH

Warm, summer greeting to you!

We're closing in on the end of our 3-year national theme of 'Listen, Discern, Go Forth'. With this theme, we were asked three years ago to use this in all aspects of our ongoing Franciscan Spirituality and vocation in the Order.

The blessed news is that I find our fraternities are doing just that all over the region! Whether it is determining the path for upcoming ongoing formation topics, discussing new ways of providing opportunities for members to meet and get to know each other better, or maybe even continuing the humble journey to canonical establishment—all of these, and I am sure many, many more, start with listening (through prayer, scripture, Mass, Franciscan writings, etc.); discerning (Colossians 1:9), and then going forth (Rule, Articles 6, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19).

Our region has kept this going as well! Collectively, we've offered seasonal online retreats, in-person retreats (we have a BIG one coming up in August, don't miss out!), a Franciscan Saint Series, Formation Workshops, the quarterly Clarion Newsletter, our regional website, annual Regional Chapter Gatherings, and warm, Franciscan hospitality.

May our region always that source of promoting fraternal connections, collaborative works and prayerful service. And may we, step by step, continue our journey following Jesus Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis by listening, discerning and going forth.

Peace & All Good, Always, Chris Blood, ofs

## SUMMER 2025

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## THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN REGIONAL RETREATS

### 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.

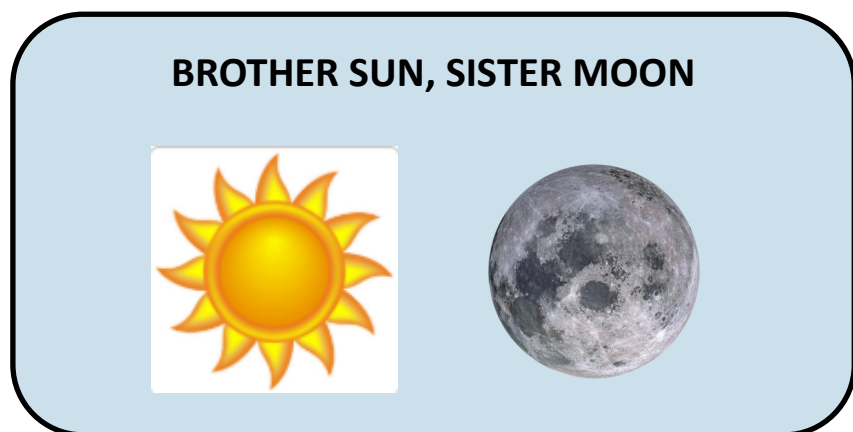
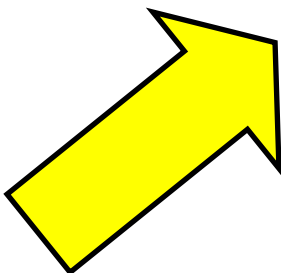
**RETREAT: THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2025 (5PM DINNER) TO  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2025 (AFTER MORNING MASS).**

# THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN REGIONAL RETREATS



**GO TO OUR REGIONAL WEBSITE TO REGISTER.**

<https://www.stclareregionofs.org/canticle-of-the-creatures-retreat.html>



# THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN PROFESSION!

## PROFESSION

Marilyn Muegge, OFS

May 3, 2025

St. Francis of Assis  
Fraternity

Oakville, MO



Marilyn Muegge, OFS, is surrounded by her Godson, Simon; Simon's big sister Veronica; Tim McGee, OFS, vice minister; Mimi Siebert, OFS, Formation Director; and Bonnie Sabin, OFS, Spiritual Assistant.



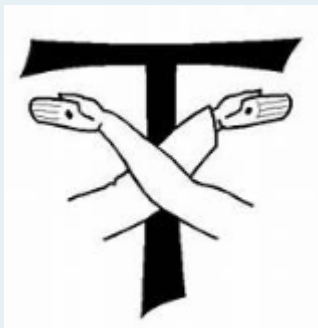
*"I, by the grace of God, renew my baptismal promises and consecrate myself to the service of his Kingdom. Therefore, in my secular state I promise to live all the days of my life the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan Order by observing its rule of life. May the grace of the Holy 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 WONDERFUL SERVICE



**FR. STAN WAS  
THE SPIRITUAL  
ASSISTANT  
TO THE  
ST. PETER  
FRATERNITY IN  
BELLEVILLE, IL.**



Fr. Stanley J. Konieczny, OFS, 70, of Smithton, born April 14, 1955, in East St. Louis, died Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at his residence.

After graduating from Assumption High School in East St. Louis, he received a bachelor's degree from St. Mary University in San Antonio and a master's from Washington University in St. Louis.

Before pursuing his seminary studies at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Fr. Stan was a writer and associate editor of *The Messenger* and communications director for the Adorers of the Blood of Christ at Ruma. He was ordained to the priesthood June 3, 2006, by Bishop Edward Braxton.

Prior to his ordination, he interned with Fr. Ray Schultz at Holy Trinity Parish in Fairview Heights. Fr. Konieczny was assigned as an associate at St. Augustine Parish in Belleville from 2006-2009, and Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Waterloo from 2009-2010.

In 2010, he was named the pastor of St. Liborius Parish in St. Libory and St. Anthony Parish in Lively Grove from 2010-2011. He was named Reverend of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in 2011 and graciously served his parish until his passing.

Fr. Stan served as the chaplain with the Knights of Columbus Council 14851 in Smithton and held the position of spiritual assistant with the Secular Franciscan Order, St. Peter's Fraternity, in Belleville. He also enjoyed having Masses at Poor Clares Monastery every Saturday morning.

Visitation was held May 13 and May 14 at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Belleville. A Mass of Christian Burial was held May 14 at the Cathedral of St. Peter, Belleville. Msgr. William McGhee officiated.

Burial was at St. John the Baptist Catholic Cemetery in Smithton.

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

**"Where there is charity and wisdom there is neither fear nor ignorance"  
---St Francis of Assisi**

## **Reflections on Freedom and the Border Wall by Chris L Rice, OFS**

I had opportunity recently to go and stand at the Border wall between El Paso Texas and Juarez Mexico. As I stood there overshadowed in the immensity of this behemoth above me it made me think of freedom. Where is freedom found in this country and on the other side? If you have the means, you can make a go of it, but if you are poor, it does not feel free, not in the least. This giant wall highlights who is out and who is in. It says, "If you don't have the right papers, you are out, we don't want you." And even for those citizens who fall into hard times, where can the homeless lay their heads where they are not trespassing? I have a friend with a traumatic brain injury who was recently picked up on a two-year-old warrant for trespassing when he was homeless. He had forgotten about it. But he was just carted off to jail and moved from one county to another. There he sat in jail until he faced a trial on a video prompter where he pled guilty and was summarily fined \$100, which he didn't have, and was released on unsupervised probation. After wandering around all night trying to figure out what to do, he came back to the Veterans Coming Home Center and to our program.

As I contemplate freedom in the shadow of this wall I think of James 1:25, "But the one who peers into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres and is not a hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, such a one shall be blessed in what he does." I long for the day when our nation's laws will mirror God's laws, but until that time I will pray for a nation where it is easier to do good. Where those incarcerated will be judged fairly. Where our justice system will not use the homeless and poor to make money. And a time when NIMBY Not-In-My-Backyard won't target those who try and help the poor.

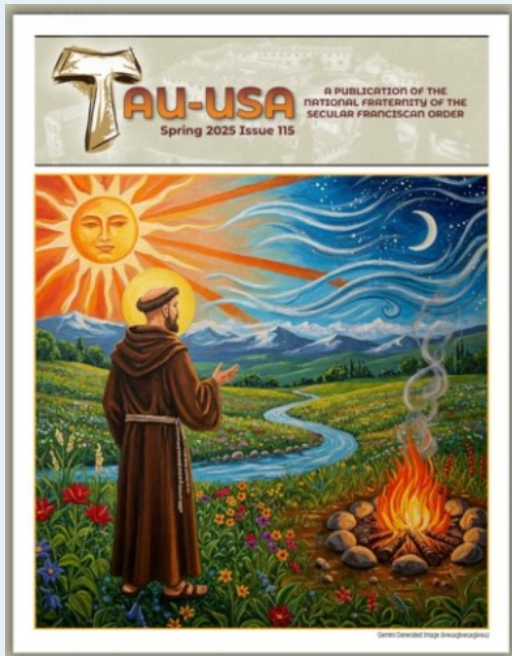
After I took this time to feel the wall and peer through it, a group of us Secular Franciscans gathered around and were led in prayer by Father Iggy, a Franciscan priest.

"O Let your Spirit come upon us. Let us remember all our brothers and sisters who have gone before us to you and all their friends and relatives who have come forth and are here and now need our help. Give us strength and courage to stand on our constitution, for real healthy law and order and for care for all our brothers and sisters including all of creation. We ask you all this Lord through Christ our Lord. AMEN."



# THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN THE UPCOMING Q (2026) AND THE NEW TAU-USA MAGAZINE- SPRING 2025

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!

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

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

**Our upcoming 2026 Quinquennial is fast  
approaching. Registration opens August 1.**

## REGISTRATION OPENS AUGUST 1

Look for the registration link in the next issue of TAU-USA!



\$550 - Early Registration August 1- December 31, 2025  
\$650 - Regular Registration January 1- May 31, 2026  
\$725 - Late Registration June 1- June 30, 2026  
\$200 - Single Day Registration August 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026  
Walk-ins not accepted.

Registrations subject to a \$100 non-refundable deposit.

Lexington Griffin Gate Marriott Golf Resort & Spa  
1800 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY 40511

Special discounted room rate: \$169 per room per night  
Hotel reservation link will be provided in your registration confirmation email.

*Please note: We recommend using the link to book a room as it is the best and easiest option  
and will assure you get our group rate. Calling Marriott center reservations is not as reliable.*



**Easter of St. Francis  
Rekindle the Flame**

Questions: Please send email to: [ofsusa.qcongress@gmail.com](mailto:ofsusa.qcongress@gmail.com)



## THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN SERVING ON THE COUNCIL!

FRATERNITY ELECTIONS  
FOLLOWERS OF FRANCIS  
SPRINGFIELD, MO

JUNE 14, 2025



On Saturday, June 14, 2025, the Followers of Francis Fraternity in Springfield, MO has its fraternity elections. The new council is (left to right):

**Br. David Buer, OFM (St. Clare Region— Co-Spiritual Assistant); Lee Woods, OFS, Councilor; Irene Livingston, OFS, Treasurer; Ken Livingston, OFS, Councilor; Mary Benner, OFS; Vice Minister; Sandra Dirksen, OFS, Secretary, Chris Rice, OFS, Minister, and Christine Blood, OFS (St. Clare Region— Minister)**



The Entire Followers of Francis Fraternity!

## THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN THE VISITING FRATERNITIES



***On Saturday, May 30, we were able to enjoy a special visit with the wonderful fraternity of Joyful Servants in Jefferson City, MO.***

***We had a joy-filled time during the gathering, which included social time first with snacks and coffee, Morning Prayer, Ongoing Formation from the Holy Half Hours, a good sharing on each person's journey towards the Secular Franciscan Order and ways each one sees themselves contributing to fraternal life.***

***Thank you for showing us your JOY!  
Maureen Gray & Chris Blood***

## THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL WONDERFUL SERVICE



**Javier Orozco, PhD, OFS, is on the board of Franciscan Connection. He is a member of the St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity in St. Louis.**

**There are many volunteer opportunities with them, including time and financial support.**

**For more information, please call 314-773-8485 or visit their website below.**

**Thank you!**

## Mission Statement

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Franciscan Connection expresses the compassionate presence of God to the disadvantage of south Saint Louis. We offer financial, spiritual, and emotional assistance to people who live in our service area. We build bridges between the disadvantaged, service providers, our benefactors, and the Franciscan Friars of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

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**<https://franciscanconnection.org/>**

# UPCOMING EVENTS AND SAVE THE DATES RECAP!

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## **NATIONAL CHAPTER**

- ◆ **St. Clare Regional Retreat  
August 7-10, 2025  
Pallottine Renewal Center  
Florissant, MO REGISTER NOW!**

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## **REGIONAL RETREAT**

- ◆ **OFS-USA National Chapter  
September 17-22, 2024  
Marriottsville, MD**

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## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SAINT CLARE REGION**

- ◆ **OCTOBER 12, 1995—OCTOBER 12, 2025  
SAINT CLARE REGION'S 30TH BIRTHDAY!**

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## **VISITATION**

- ◆ **Saint Clare Region  
National Pastoral & Fraternal Visitation  
November 7-9, 2025  
The Tau Center, Kirkwood, MO**

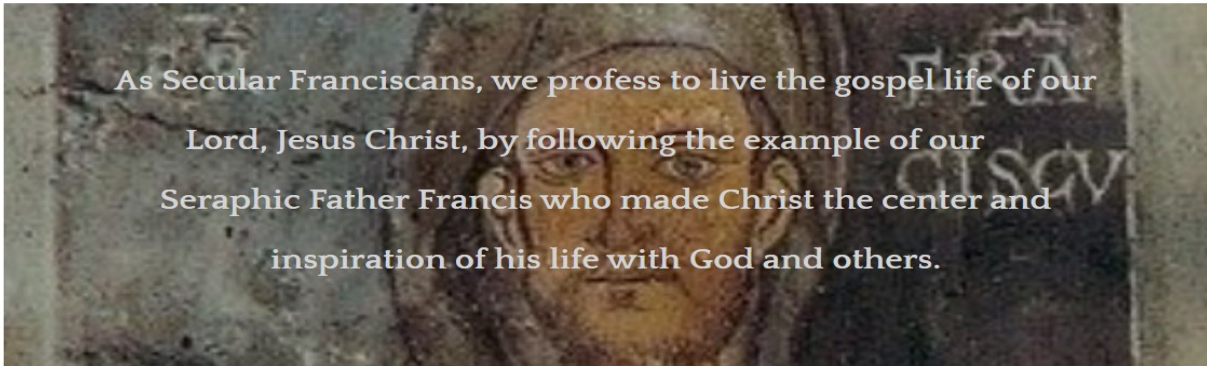
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## **THE NEXT Q**

- ◆ **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:** 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**

**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

**Vice-Minister:**

Connie Shanks, OFS  
922 Brookside Ln  
Rolla MO 65401

**Secretary:**

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O'Fallon, MO 63368

**Treasurer:**

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St. Louis, MO 63110

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1528 Mount Moriah Rd  
Memphis, TN38117

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4051 S Parkhill Ct  
Springfield, Mo 65807

**Councilor:**

Deacon Steve Schisler, OFS  
1916 Laverne Drive  
Arnold, MO 63010

**Councilor:**

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

**Spiritual Assistant:**

Fr. Pio Jackson, OFM  
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7992 St. Francis Lane  
Dittmer, MO 63024

**Spiritual Assistant:**

Br. David Buer, OFM  
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Ballwin, MO 63011

