

The Portiuncula

Franciscans of the Prairie Region

Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis



REGIONAL MINISTER'S LETTER

Greetings Brothers & Sisters

May the Lord give you Peace!

Each time we prepare for the printing of the Portiuncula I take a pause to wonder what it is that I can share or say. How can I encourage all of us?

Therefore, I feel the Spirit put on my heart to speak to you all and encourage each of you to learn more about the Order. Not necessarily how we began, but how we *are guided* by the Spirit through documents (Rule & GC especially) to keep us guided & on track. Sadly, due to some situations over the past 4 years I have had to learn by trial (felt more like fire at times) much about the details of these documents. Yet I have seen and felt the Holy Spirit during a lot of these moments. My point is to ask each of you

– learn about the Order out of Joy, desire and especially to grow in your Vocation. I truly feel that we can grow the Order more by living it, embracing it and sharing it. Our Faith is meant to be shared – shared by how we live it out with those around us. The same is true for our Profession in the Secular Franciscan Order.

I highly encourage you to take the moment and look at the Constitutions & the Rule. Not looking to them as 'directions'(though they are in a sense), but as our Guide for 'how to'. Don't rely on members within the Fraternity to 'read & know them', but honor yourselves by discussing them, looking up areas to 'see' how things apply. The Church approves our General Constitutions – the Church is counting on us to be true to following our Rule & the GC & also those of the National & International.

Many find these to be too daunting. But when you actually sit with another to discuss and share, they are opportunities. It is always brought forth to me – "vocations".

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Well, I sincerely believe that when we know ‘who’ we are and ‘what’ we are to strive for, we will be ‘who’ He calls us to be for Him & the Church.

Check the National Website – take a moment each day and add these to your daily reading. It totally can open a door to ‘see’ inside of all the beauty of our Order of the Secular Franciscans.

By learning I have (I hope) become a better Servant Leader for our Region - & yes, I feel at times I had to ‘carry my cross’. Which bring me to remind you all that we have our Regional Retreat this fall – October 11-13 at the Villa Maria in Springfield. Fr. Cid will be speaking to us on Servant Leadership & Carrying One’s Cross. Each of us has so much to offer and I look forward to seeing you at the Retreat. Please note it may fill up fast as it is not as large as past locations. Rooms are for double occupancy & some who desire their own room have booked at a local hotel and are commuting for the Retreat.

May God Bless each of you – and know I walk alongside of each of you. We support each other ~ Learning. Seeking & Desiring the best for all of Us. In the Order, but also for All of God’s people.

Pax,

Kathy offs
Regional Minister



Listen Discern Go Forth
OFS-USA Theme



FROM OUR REGIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT

Dear Franciscan sisters and brothers,
May the Lord give you peace!

Preparing For Our Own Personal *Transitus*

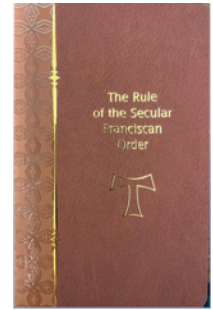


Giotto di Bondone, Scenes from the Life of Saint Francis, 4. Death and Ascension of St. Francis (Wikimedia Commons)

During the summer and early autumn of the year 1226, as Saint Francis of Assisi knew that he was about to end his earthly pilgrimage, our Seraphic Father composed one final verse to his *Cantico delle Creature*, his Canticle of the Creatures or Canticle of Brother Sun: “*Laudato sie, mi Signore, per sora nostra morte corporale, da la quale nullo homo vivente puo skappare* – Praised be you, my Lord, through our sister Bodily Death, from whom no living person can escape. Woe to those who die in

mortal sin. Blessed are those whom death will find in your most holy will, for the second death shall do them no harm.”

Article 19 of the Secular Franciscan *Rule of Life* assures us that it is our immersion in the resurrection of Christ “which gives true meaning to Sister Death” and encourages us to “serenely tend toward the ultimate encounter with the Father.” The *General Constitutions of the OFS* apply this notion to our life in fraternity by stating “Secular Franciscans should commit themselves to create in their environment and, above all, in their fraternities a climate of faith and hope so that ‘Sister Death’ may be regarded as a passage to the Father, and all may prepare themselves with serenity” (article 27.2). In the article addressing the Franciscan understanding of peace and the vocation to be peacemakers (23.3), Secular Franciscans are admonished that “To preserve peace in the family, the brothers and sisters should, in due time, make a last will and testament concerning their goods.” Clearly, while we are to live our Franciscan lives to their fullest potential in this world, we should never lose sight of our need to prepare in every way for the life of the world to come which is our ultimate calling and destiny.



St. Francis of Assisi’s *Transitus* is commemorated on October 3rd of each year, the eve of his feast day. Members of the world-wide Franciscan Family and those with whom they live and minister gather to celebrate the “passing over” from this life to eternal life (in Latin, *transitus*) of Saint Francis. His final resting place is in the crypt of the basilica named in his honor in Assisi.



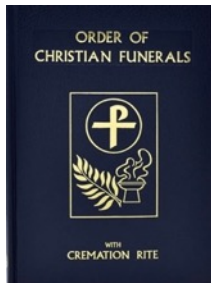
Assisi-Tomba di San Francesco.JPG Wikipedia



On November 1st the entire Universal Church celebrates the Solemnity of All Saints, those who have died in God’s grace, who have been perfectly purified of any vestiges of sin from their lives on earth, and who now live forever with Christ, seeing God face to face. Some of them have been formally canonized by the Church; countless others whose names are known only to God live also as saints in heaven. We as faithful Catholics believe in the Communion of Saints which we commemorate every time we come together to celebrate Liturgy and which we especially emphasize during the month of November. This is all the truer of us as Secular Franciscans. Article 27.1 of the *OFS General Constitutions* exhorts us that we “should be firmly convinced that the community of those who believe in Christ and who love one another in Him will go forward into eternal life as the ‘communion of saints.’” The Franciscan liturgical calendar even gives us the November 29th Feast of All Saints of the Seraphic Order!

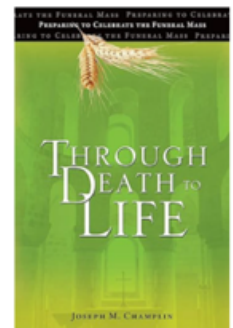
Then, on November 2nd the Church celebrates the commemoration of all the Faithful Departed, All Souls’ Day. As much as we would like to think of all our deceased loved ones, friends, parishioners and fraternity members as being with God in heaven right now, the truth is that we simply cannot know with certainty the state of a person’s relationship with God at the moment of his or her physical death. And

so the Church has always observed the practice of offering prayers and sacrifices for its deceased members, especially during the month of November, a time of year when with the approach of winter our thoughts just naturally turn to the end of physical life on earth. Once again, the Franciscan liturgical calendar features the November 24th Commemoration of All the Deceased of the Seraphic Order where our focus turns specifically to prayer for our departed religious and secular Franciscan sisters and brothers.



When a Catholic dies, the Church celebrates a particular set of liturgical rites to help us through the immediate days of our grieving, to express our belief in eternal life, and to help us pray for the one who has died. These rites are organized into what is called the *Order of Christian Funerals*, which contains all the liturgical prayers, scripture readings, and blessings for use immediately following the death of a member of the Church. The *Order* provides prayers for loved ones as they gather in the presence of the body, for the vigil (or wake) service, funeral, final commendation (prayer of farewell), and the *Rite of Committal* (which we celebrate at the place of burial, entombment, or cremation/inurnment).

A useful planning Guide from which many bereaved Catholic families have drawn comfort is the late Msgr. Joseph M. Champlin's *Through Death to Life* originally published in 1979. Ave Maria Press, third edition, February 20, 2012.



So, this may be the time to look at our own *Transitus* and make plans so that others can be aware of and attend to our wishes and we can embrace our Catholic faith, even as we prepare for our encounter with Sister Death.

In the Appendices at the end of this newsletter you will find a few items that may be helpful to you in planning for your own funeral. Please note that these forms have not been officially published by the Order, but are offered simply as guides borne of experience which you may find useful in organizing your planning process. This is one of the last gifts that we can give our loved ones to relieve the burden of making decisions when they are dealing with their grief of losing a loved one.

Please note also those who should receive a copy of your plans:

1. Funeral Home; 2. Church (Parish Secretary/Pastor);
3. Your Executor/Personal Representative; 4. Family; 5. Selected Friends.

And please **DO NOT** leave the only copy of your plans buried in a stack of papers which your loved ones and survivors may not happen to find until months after your death!

With a brother's love in Saints Francis and Clare,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deacon David D. Brun, O.F.S.".

Regional Spiritual Assistant, Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Fraternity, Secular Franciscan Order
T In Persona Christi Servi

FROM OUR REGIONAL VICE-MINISTER
GROWING THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Peace and all good! When we reflect on the articles that make up the Rule, each leads us back to following Christ in a more perfect way. As we pray to God to bring “light into the darkness of our heart, right faith and perfect charity,” it is important to put faith into action.

I would like to refer to Article 14 of our Rule:

Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively. Mindful that anyone “who follows Christ, the perfect man, becomes more of a man himself”, let them exercise their responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of service.

One of the important concerns of the Secular Franciscan Order is the lack of Vocations to the Secular Franciscan Order. We have discussed the many cultural and societal reasons why this is happening, but this does not mean we accept a shrinking order! In the coming months, each fraternity will seek to enliven their monthly Gatherings, through a Vocation Plan. This is the beginning of extending ourselves into our daily activities, by wearing our TAU Cross, having ready information to share about fraternity and the Secular Franciscan Order. Naturally, we have to create an interest and attract guests and invite them to the Gathering and our social activities. As we live out the Rule, we can feel the Holy Spirit leading us to the next step. We need to develop a willingness to change. Often, we hear “step out of your comfort zone”. As we welcome new persons, we need to step up and support their growth through their Formation. Formation Directors also need support within their fraternity and that’s the intersect with the Vocations team, or person named as Vocation Councilor.

This is the work of the whole fraternity. In the Prologue of our Rule, St. Francis expresses what is at the heart and soul of his love for Jesus Christ, as he says,

“In the love which is God (1 Jn 4:16) we beg all those whom these words reach to receive those fragrant words of our Lord Jesus Christ written above with divine love and kindness. And let whoever does not know how to read have then read to them frequently.”

This shows the deep love St. Francis had to include all and not leave someone out who may lack formal education or have hearing or sight problems.

May the inspired words of St. Francis direct our ways to conform more to Jesus. Often, we are asked what it means to bring “the Gospel to Life and life to the Gospel?” Though our Rule is simple, it not easy to live it but with the daily renewal which St. Francis called “daily conversion” and the frequent examination of

conscience, and Reconciliation, we can draw ourselves closer to following in the footsteps of Francis and closer to Jesus Christ.

We must be vigilant not to be discouraged by the world events but remain in the Faith, Hope and Love of Jesus which St. Paul tells us in Rom 8,38-39:

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities. Nor powers, nor things present, or things to come. Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

And in the words of St. Francis in the Prologue of the Rule:

“Holy Father, in your name (*Jn 17:11*) save those whom you have given me in the world; they were yours and you gave them to me (*Jn 17:6*). ... I pray for them and not for the world (*Jn 17:9*).”

Let us remember to be ever grateful for the gift of our vocation and the sacrifices of all who have gone before us to continue this gift from God.

Linda Howley-Skuby, ofsT

FROM OUR REGIONAL FORMATION DIRECTOR

The RFT (Regional Formation Team, consisting of Deacon Dave and Therese Ream, O.F.S., Mary Farrell-Diekemper, O.F.S., and myself) has been busy planning formation events for next year. We are happy to announce that there will be **three events** next year. Two of them will be open to all members of our Region, while one will be primarily for the local formation directors and their formation teams. All three events will be on Zoom.

Please mark your calendars for the following exciting events!

- 1. January 18, 2025, 10:00 A.M. – Noon: A Presentation on the Canticle of the Creatures.** All in the Region are invited to participate.
- 2. March 15, 2025, 10:00 A.M. – Noon: A Presentation on the CIOFS Guidelines for Initial Formation.** All in the Region are invited to participate, especially those who are in Initial Formation.
- 3. November 15, 2025, 10:00 A.M. – Noon: A Workshop for Formation Directors and Their Teams, The Topic to be Determined.** For all the local formation directors and their formation team members.

More information on all of these events will be forthcoming, along with the Zoom link.

We hope to see you then!

In the meantime, this year is not yet over and there is one more event in November. It is Part 2 of the Workshop for Formation Directors and Their Teams on the topic of *Franciscan Resources*. For those that participated in Part 1 last February, a reminder that Part 2 will be on November 16, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. on Zoom. Don't forget to keep working on the **Franciscan Treasure Hunt!** 😊

Peace and blessings,

Matt Yee, O.F.S.

Annual Regional Picnic



The Annual Regional Fraternity Picnic was held on Saturday, July 6, 2024, at Hickory Grove Park in Dunlap, Illinois. Sacred Heart Fraternity hosted the picnic, which coincided with its own Annual Fraternity Picnic, and provided the main course of fried chicken along with the drinks. Participants provided salads, side dishes, and desserts.

A total of 31 people attended. This included fraternity members from Sacred Heart, St. Margaret of Cortona, and Pope St. John XXIII, along with family members and friends.

The weather was perfect for a picnic. A great time enjoying the food and fellowship was had by all. There was the opportunity to meet some new people we did not know. Afterwards, we had a nice time singing songs together.

Hope to see you all next year!

Matt Yee, O.F.S.

Secretary, Sacred Heart Fraternity



POPE ST. JOHN XXIII FRATERNITY, ROCK ISLAND

In addition to fraternity meetings, meals out together, our fraternity has attended the regional fraternity picnic and attended peace award celebrations with the Clinton Franciscan sisters. We have prayed for our members who have been in the hospital. And we have celebrated too! Here Deacon Kent and Lori Ferris celebrate the 50 wedding anniversary of longtime Spiritual Assistant, Deacon Al Angelo and his wife, Daphne.

Dcn. Kent Ferris ofs
Minister



SACRED HEART FRATERNITY, PEORIA

Council Elections

The Council elections were held on Saturday, June 1, 2024 during our gathering. The new Council members elected for 2024-2027 were:

Minister - Bob Polizzi, O.F.S.

Vice Minister - Colleen Mattern, O.F.S.

Formation Director - Theresa Jennett, O.F.S.

Secretary - Matt Yee, O.F.S.

Treasurer - Scott Diestelkamp, O.F.S.

Brother Donald Thielsen, O.F.M. Conv., continues as our Spiritual Assistant.

Left to right: Bob Polizzi, Colleen Mattern, Theresa Jennett, Matt Yee, Bro. Donald Thielsen, Scott Diestelkamp



Matt Yee ofs
Secretary

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY FRATERNITY - QUINCY

The St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity felt so blessed that the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage came through Quincy and had a potluck supper for all at our home base of St. Francis Solanus Parish Hall. The pilgrimage which began at St. Peter's Church in Quincy, joined the annual pilgrimage from St. Peter's to the cemetery where Venerable Fr. Tolton is buried. Then continued to process across town to St. Francis of Solanus Parish.

Our Sister, Mary Jane Pranger and her husband were able to join the procession along with our Brother, Jim Smith. Here is her account of the day:

Members of our four family parish family of: St. Mary's of the Assumption (West Point, Iowa), St. Boniface (Farmington, Iowa), St. James the Less (St. Paul, Iowa), and St. John the Baptist (Houghton, Iowa) under the direction of Fr. Dan Dorau and Deacon Mike Linnenbrinck travelled to Quincy, Illinois on Tuesday July 9, 2024 to witness, pray, and share in a part of the 10th National Eucharistic Pilgrimage that will be in Indianapolis, Indiana from July 17-21, 2024. This trip of our four family parish from southeast Iowa included a meet and greet at St. Peter's Church in Quincy in its gathering space, Adoration inside the church with Evening Prayer with The Canticle of Mary, Benediction and prayers followed by procession to St. Peter's Cemetery where Fr. Tolton is buried. This event of prayers, procession (from St. Peter's Church), then potluck, witness by a Perpetual Pilgrim (Jack) and Eucharistic Adoration (at St. Francis Solanus Church in Quincy) were in commemoration of the death of Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton who passed away at age 43 on July 9, 1897. Later after procession to the grave of Fr. Tolton, St. Francis of Solanus Parish hosted a great potluck. I do remember Fr. Arisman's comment at the potluck, "This is amazing!" What was amazing was the number of the faithful in St. Francis Solanus for Jack's talk and subsequent Adoration.

After the potluck a talk in St. Francis Church was given by National Eucharistic Perpetual Pilgrim Jack. He emphasized the great gift of Jesus in the Eucharist to many of the Catholic faithful. Jack is from Wisconsin and is making the pilgrimage to the 10th National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis that starts July 17 and ends July 21, 2024. After Jack's talk we immersed ourselves in Eucharistic Adoration for an hour. Fr. Steven Arisman of St. Francis Solanus Church was the celebrant. Many of the faithful spent time in Eucharistic Adoration talking to Jesus. I had brought along a three page Eucharistic Adoration protocol and shared it with others and sat by a mother with two girls that were elementary age. The little girl to my right was wearing a Miraculous Medal and I was not familiar with the missalette in St. Francis Church. She would help me with the pages to turn to and I would point out part of the Adoration prayer, "Jesus, I love you with my whole heart." At times I would notice her mother and other daughter were reverently bowed during this precious Adoration Hour. God was present to the faithful during this Tuesday July 9, 2024 afternoon and evening at St. Peter's Church, during the

procession, at the potluck and lastly with the faithful during Jack's talk and during Eucharistic Adoration. Many thanks to all who were involved with this outing from southeast Iowa to St. Peter's Church, to St. Peter's Cemetery, to the wonderful meal provided by St. Francis parishioners and to Jack for his thought-provoking talk about being called by God to be on this Eucharistic Pilgrimage. May we, as faithful Catholics, remember to "love God with my whole heart."

Thank you, Mary Jane, for sharing your experience.

Deb Moffitt, OFS

Minister

ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA FRATERNITY, BLOOMINGTON

St. Margaret of Cortona Fraternity is blessed to have two very wonderful Spiritual Assistants. They graciously travel from West Peoria to Bloomington every month to attend our Gathering and lead us in the Liturgy of the Hours. Under their direction, our group has come a long way in our ability to synchronize our reading from the Shorter Christian Prayer.



Sister Betty Jean Haverback, OSF, and Sister Linda Burkitt, OSF, are well schooled in reading the Liturgy. Together, they have over 100 years of experience. At our May Gathering, Sister Linda crowned Mary, and we celebrated her 50 years of religious life. Later in August, there will be a Celebration of the Eucharist with a reception following at her convent. Many of us from the Fraternity plan to attend.

The Sisters direct the Council every month at our meeting in a reflection that always prompts sharing and group discussion. Under their leadership, the Council had a wonderful day retreat on the topic of the Spiritual components of Compassion. And they contribute an article faithfully to our monthly newsletter. They are a joy to be around. May God bless them for so generously sharing their time and spiritual talents!

Carol Burroughs, OFS

Minister

Members of St. Clare Cell Visit Marg Andrews, O.F.S.

On Sunday, July 21, 2024, Lynn Carter, O.F.S. and Thérèse and Deacon Dave Ream, O.F.S., three members of St. Clare Cell based in Kirksville, Missouri, attended the regular Gathering of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity in Quincy. After the Gathering the trio had the joy of visiting Margaret Andrews, O.F.S., an active/excused member of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity. Marg was professed into the Secular Franciscan Order on November 17, 1963, the Feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, the heavenly patroness of the Franciscan Third Order in its secular and regular (vowed religious) expressions.



During her life as a Secular Franciscan, Marg has fulfilled many roles of servant leadership within the local, provincial and regional fraternities. She and her late husband Dan, also a professed Secular Franciscan, were ubiquitous and much-loved presences at countless Franciscan meetings, gatherings and congresses.

Marg currently resides at High Point Residence in Quincy. She will soon become a Centenarian+ when she celebrates her 101st birthday on August 18th of this year. According to her daughter Karen, “Her health is good, and her memory is stable with some days better than others.” She readily remembered her three visitors from Missouri and perfectly recited all the prayers and responses as she received our Lord in Holy Communion.

Thank you, dear Lord, for the gift of our sister Marg in our lives and in the life of our Order!

Submitted by Thérèse and Deacon Dave, O.F.S.

St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity, Teutopolis

Our fraternity has changed its gathering day and time. We now gather on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. with the council meeting starting at 5:30 p.m.

George Menard, OFS has been successfully transferred from the former Our Lady of the Angels fraternity to our fraternity. George brings a lot of wisdom, courage, and strength to our fraternity and we are fortunate to have him.

Lora Blackman will be officially welcomed into our community through the Ceremony of Introduction and Welcoming at our next gathering. She is a Mattoon, IL native.

Don't forget: All are invited to the Celebration of the Stigmata coming up in September at St. Francis of Assisi church ... September 15 at 2:00 p.m.

Pat Niemerg, ofs

A "HEALING EVENT" IN LOURDES

As many of you know, last year I had a severe issue with my spinal cord that caused excruciating nerve pain all the way down my leg and feet. During February & March 2023 I was unable to stand or walk due to the pain. In late March 2023 I had surgery to relieve the compression of my spinal cord. It worked, but not completely, and I was again able to walk. However, I still had significant nerve pain after walking 5-10 minutes and had to then sit down to rest before I could continue. Although I was not 100%, I felt blessed for the improvement I experienced.

This spring my wife Kay and I traveled to France on a trip that was Covid-delayed since 2020. For the first 7 days of the trip, my leg pain continued as before, with frequent sitting to "recharge" the nerves in my legs. Then we went to Lourdes.

On day 8 of our trip (Saturday, April 13, 2024) I went to the Lourdes Grotto for early morning Mass. Prior to Mass I walked through the grotto and rubbed my hands on the granite wall. The walls were wet from natural seepage, and I wiped my wet hands onto my lower back (where the nerve damage originated). Then Mass.

Afterwards I toured all over Lourdes and walked 25,500 steps that day ... without any nerve pain! And ever since, I have been totally free of the nerve pain in my legs. This was not a gradual improvement ... it was like a light switch. I don't know if this was a full-blown miracle or not. I call it a "healing event", and I believe that the cessation of pain was due to Mary's intercession. Praise the Lord!

John Grillot ofs



Franciscans of the Prairie
Secular Franciscan Regional Retreat
October 11-13, 2024
Villa Maria, Springfield, Illinois
1903 E Lake Shore Dr, Springfield, IL 62712



Servant Leadership
and
Carrying One's Cross



Fr. Cidouane Joseph, O.F.M., Retreat Director

Born and raised in Haiti, Fr. Cidouane, "Cid", is a member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Province. In addition to parochial ministries, Father has been a hospital chaplain, an organizer of medical missions to Haiti and a Spiritual Assistant to the Secular Franciscan Order on the provincial, regional and local levels. Fr. Cid is currently a Regional Spiritual Assistant for Solanus Casey Region and local Spiritual Assistant for Rosa Mystica and St Joseph fraternities in the same region. Fr. Cid currently resides at St. Anthony Shrine in Boston, MA.

Friday check-in: 4:00-5:00

Dinner at 5:30.

***Retreat
Registration
Form on
Next Page***



Franciscans of the Prairie -- Regional Retreat

October 11-13, 2024

Villa Maria Catholic Retreat Center, 1903 East Lake Drive, Springfield, IL 62712

Servant Leadership and Carrying One's Cross
Fr . Cid Joseph OFM - Retreat Director

REGISTRATION FORM

Paid Registrations will be accepted no later than September 20, 2024

Please Print Clearly

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Email / Phone _____

Fraternity Name _____

Category

Professed Member

Spiritual Assistant

Candidate / Inquirer / Aspirant

Bring on Friday - Any nice items for the Silent Auction

All Full Registrations include all meals through Sunday breakfast.

Registration:

Payment by check only to: Franciscans of the Prairie

A. \$200

Full Registration ... per person - Room mate: _____

B. \$400

Full Registration ... Married Couple - Spouse name: _____

C. \$125

Commuter Registration - No Lodging (Retreat & Meals only)

**** PLEASE SPECIFY BELOW ANY SPECIFIC DIETARY NEEDS- (List what you can eat)**

NOTE: All rooms will be double occupancy - each room has 2 beds

**Donation to
Scholarship**

Please consider contributing an additional amount to help others attend the retreat.

**Fund
Total**

\$ _____

Enclosed:

\$ _____

Contact Regional Treasurer for more info on Partial Scholarship

Return registration form with check payable to: Franciscans of the Prairie No later than September 20, 2024

Send to: George Menard, OFS
1705 North 2150 East Road
Findlay, IL 62534

Phone: (630) 921-3357
Email: geom169@frontiernet.net

Note: Email Registrations -with payment sent soon afterwards

If Commuting from Hotel - which Hotel: _____

Add anything else needed:

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE REGION (& MORE)

2024

- Sep 15 Celebration of the 800th anniversary of the stigmata of St. Francis of Assisi in Teutopolis
- Sep 17-22 NAFRA Chapter meeting in Scottsdale, AZ
- Oct 11 3:00pm - Regional Fraternity Council Meeting
- Oct 11-13 2024 Regional Retreat & Memorial for Deceased at Villa Maria Catholic Retreat Center, Springfield, IL
- Nov 16 Virtual Workshop for Local Formation Directors & Teams "Franciscan Resources"



2025

- Jan 18 Regional Formation Presentation – Canticle of the Creatures. Open to all (Zoom)
- Mar 15 Regional Formation Presentation – CIOFS Guidelines for Initial Formation. Open to all (Zoom)
- ??? Regional Picnic ... *volunteer Fraternity?*
- July 11-13 Regional Chapter of Elections ... *location TBD*
- Sept 9-14 NAFRA Chapter meeting, Baltimore MD
- Oct 24-26 *Tentative Date* -- Regional Retreat, Memorial for Deceased & REC/RFC meetings
- Nov 15 Virtual Workshop for Local Formation Directors & Teams



2026

- Jul 29 – Aug 2 Quinquennial (The "Q") in Lexington KY
- TBA International Chapter of Mats in Rome, Italy

PORTIUNCULA DATES – FALL 2024 EDITION

- Oct 14 "Call for Articles" by Newsletter Editor
- Oct 28 Deadline for Article Submission
- Nov 4 Draft submitted to REC for review & feedback
- Nov 11 Publication



On the lighter side ...

Newsletter comments?
 Contact John Grillot, OFS
grilljw@gmail.com or 309-696-4846



"Boy! You sure know how to break a vow of silence."

APPENDIX 1 ... Our Personal Transitus

Including *Secular Franciscan* In My Obituary

Dear family/friends,

The Lord give you peace!

Being a Secular Franciscan means a lot to me, so please make sure that the following information is included in my obit. I want **O.F.S.** after my name at the beginning of the obit and please make sure that the sentence listed below is within the actual write-up of my obit. Thank you so much for seeing to these important details for me!

I, _____, want a **Catholic Funeral Mass and Burial according to the teaching and practice of the Catholic Church and also my wishes to be followed for the other details.**

Name (Signature): _____

Witness: _____ **Date:** _____

The heading for the obit could be something like:

_____, **O.F.S.**
(first name, middle initial and last name)

Then some place within the obit text, this could be used:

_____, **O.F.S.** (first and last name) **was a Professed Secular Franciscan and a member of _____ Fraternity, _____, IL. That means that he/she was also a member of the *Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order*. He/she felt blessed to be called to this vocation and Order within the Catholic Church.**

APPENDIX 2 ... Our Personal Transitus

Mass of Christian Burial

Principal Celebrant: _____ Deacon: _____

Part I: Introductory Rites

Greeting, Sprinkling with Holy Water

Placing of the Pall: _____

Processional Hymn: _____

Placing of Christian Symbols [Book of Gospels or bible; San Damiano Crucifix]

Collect (Opening Prayer): _____

Part II: Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: _____ Read by: _____

[Old Testament] [During the Easter Season: Acts or Revelation]

Responsorial Psalm: _____ Sung or read by: _____

Reading [New Testament] : _____ Read by: _____

Alleluia Verse and Verse Before the Gospel: _____

Gospel: _____ Proclaimed by deacon or priest: _____

Homilist: _____

Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful; sample provided): _____

Read by Deacon: _____ or: _____

Part III: Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of Gifts Hymn: _____ Gift Bearers: _____

Prayer Over the Offerings: _____

Preface for Christian Death: _____

Eucharistic Prayer: _____

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: _____; _____

Communion Hymn(s): _____; _____

Prayer After Communion: _____

[If permitted, brief remembrance of the deceased by family member or friend]

Part IV: Final Commendation

Invitation to Prayer: _____

Song of Farewell: _____

Prayer of Commendation: _____

Recessional Hymn: _____

APPENDIX 3 ... Our Personal Transitus

Sample Petitions for the Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful)

Priest: My dear friends, let us join one another in praying to God, not only for our departed brother/sister _____, but also for the Church, for peace in the world, and for ourselves.

Reader: We are gathered here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister _____. Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming. We pray to the Lord.

Reader: That God will receive our praise and thanksgiving for the life of _____. We pray to the Lord.

Reader: That God will bring to completion _____'s baptism into Christ and his/her profession into the Secular Franciscan Order, that he/ she may now be admitted to the company of the saints. We pray to the Lord.

Reader: For our brother/sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that he/she may be raised up on the last day. We pray to the Lord.

Reader: Those who trust in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest, and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone. We pray to the Lord.

Reader: That those who bear the cross of pain in mind or body may never feel forsaken by God. We pray to the Lord.

Reader: For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness. We pray to the Lord.

Reader: For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, _____'s brothers and sisters in the Secular Franciscan Order, his/her fellow parishioners and all of his/her friends, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. We pray to the Lord.

Reader: Lord Jesus, you bless those who mourn and are in pain. Bless (spouse), _____'s children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, brothers and sisters and all _____'s family and friends who gather around him/her today. We pray to the Lord.

Priest: O God, Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, grant to the souls of your departed servants release from all their sins. Hear our prayers for those we love and give them the pardon they have always desired. We ask this through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.