

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter

June 2026

ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA REGION

UP TO NOW NEWSLETTER



**Covering the District of Columbia,
Central Maryland,
Southern Pennsylvania, all of Virginia,
and one fraternity in Delaware,
and one fraternity in West Virginia,**

“Let us begin again, for up to now we have done nothing.”

~ St. Francis of Assisi ~

2026 ~ Issue 2

**St. Margaret of Cortona
Regional Minister's
June 2026 Message**

My sisters and brothers, I extend greetings and peace to you, and I pray that you enjoyed your Lenten and Easter Seasons with friends and family. In this edition of the newsletter, I want to report on one retreat event that occurred this month and a reminder of a second retreat coming up later this month. Finally, I want to end with a prayer request for the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, and our Church.

Regarding the events, one that already occurred on June 5-7 was our spiritually themed retreat, entitled *Living Our Franciscan Charism*, held at the Priest Field Retreat Center in Kearneysville, West Virginia. It was a big success, and many thanks to the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) team led by Patricia Boye, who planned and executed the event. The retreat master was Father Stan Fortuna, CFR, a founding member of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. Father Stan inspired us all with his talks that were interspersed with music. There were panel discussions with members from our region who spoke about the connection between our spirituality and putting our faith into action, as St. Francis did. It was a well-attended event with Mass, confessions, Liturgy of the Hours, and Adoration held as part of the retreat. Thank you again to all who prepared for and coordinated the execution of this wonderful event.

The next event this month is our annual Formation Retreat. It will also be held at the Priest Field Retreat Center on the weekend of June 26-28, 2026. This retreat is open to all members of the region and will be led by Father Jude Winkler, OFM Conv., who was with us at last year's formation event. He is an accomplished theologian and has a wonderful sense of humor. The theme this year is *Be the Light* in your family, community, Church, and Fraternity. Mass and confessions will be offered. Registration is still open, so please be on the lookout for this flyer and the registration link as well. I hope to see you there.

Finally, as many of you may already know, there is a serious controversy brewing within the Catholic Church involving the Society of Saint Pius X or SSPX. I could go into a long chronology of what has transpired with the SSPX over the last 50 plus years, but suffice it to say they were excommunicated by Pope St. John Paul II back in 1988 for consecrating bishops without papal authority. The anathema was

2024 – 2027 Regional Council

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Tom White, OFS

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Michael Huether, OFS

Area Councilor (MD/DE):

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Area Councilor (Metro-DC):

Vacant

Area Councilors (VA):

Sita Chakrawarti, OFS

Regional Spiritual Assistants:

OFM ~ Br. Henry Fulmer

OFM ~ Br. José Luis Peralta

OFM Cap. ~ Br. Michael Meza

OFM Conv. ~ Vacant

Appointed Council Positions

Regional JPIC Chair:

Pat Boye, OFS

Regional Multi-Cultural Chair:

Sita Chakrawarti, OFS

Regional Interfaith/

Ecumenical Chair:

Michael Huether, OFS

Regional Youth and Young

Adult Commission Chair:

Vacant

Appointed ~ Non-Council Positions

Regional Database Manager ~ Region Website Administrator

Regional Newsletter Editor ~ Vocations/Archivist - Bob Longo, OFS

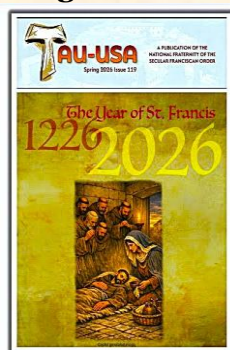
In this Issue...

To go to an article, just click on the title below

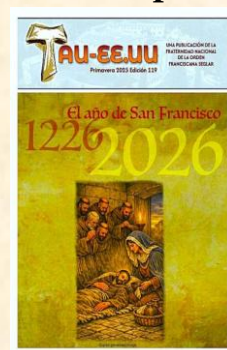
Regional Ministers' Message	1-2
Around the Region	3-6
Loss in the Family	7
From Our Formation Director	8-11
Interfaith Dialogue	12
Bridge Builder	13
JPIC News	14-18

TAU-USA – Spring 2026 Issue

English Issue



Emisión Española



한국 문제



lifted by Pope Benedict XVI back in 2009, and the SSPX was allowed to exercise its sacramental authority with restrictions.

However, the SSPX has informed the Vatican that it intends to consecrate new bishops on July 1, 2026, without papal authority. On May 13, 2026, Cardinal Jose Fernandez, current Prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, has informed the SSPX that if they went forward with this consecration, it would constitute a schismatic act and result in automatic excommunication.

For those of you interested in understanding more details about the controversy, I encourage you to read the article from the Catholic Herald at the below link.

[The Church and the SSPX: Cardinal Müller on a tragic conflict](#)

While a lengthy article, it involves an interview with Cardinal Gerhard Mueller, the former Prefect of the Dicastery of the Doctrine of Faith and a defender of orthodoxy. He does an excellent job of describing the current controversy with the SSPX and offers a solution on a way forward. While involved, it really has less to do with celebrating the Traditional Latin Mass, which he supports, but boils down to the SSPX accepting the teachings of Vatican II as valid.

Article 6 of our Rule of Life requires that we as Franciscans remain in communion and dialogue with the Pope, Bishops, and priests. Let us all pray for Pope Leo that he be guided by the Holy Spirit and given the wisdom and patience to maintain unity within Holy Mother Church and that, through dialogue, a middle way is found to avoid a modern-day schism.

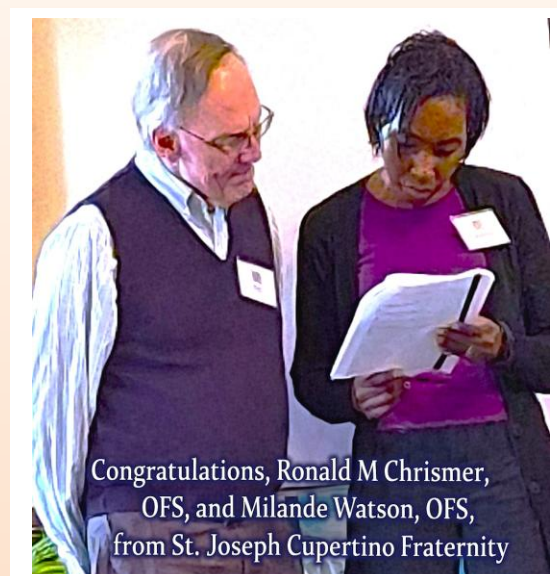
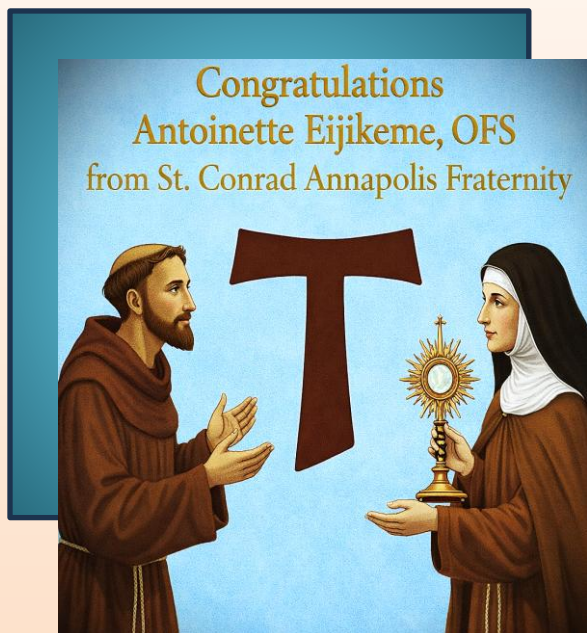
To conclude, and on behalf of the Regional Executive Council, I wish you and your families and friends a fruitful and restful summer with time for vacations, cookouts, picnics, and time to relax.

Gary Burton, OFS
Regional Minister



Around the Region

New Candidates



Local Fraternity Events Around the Region

Companions of Francis and Clare

The Companions of Francis and Clare spent the beautiful weekend of May 15–17 on retreat at St. Francis Springs Prayer Center in Stoneville, North Carolina. The fraternity was blessed to have Fr. Bob Menard, OFM, serve as retreat master, offering guidance, reflection, and a deepened sense of Franciscan fraternity.

On Sunday, following the celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy, the community joyfully honored three members marking a significant milestone—their 25th Anniversary of Profession.

Those celebrating their Silver Jubilee were Vicki Hubbard, OFS, Marsha DuBose, OFS, and Marty White, OFS, each of whom made their Profession on May 20, 2001. The fraternity gathered around them with gratitude, prayer, and affection, giving thanks for their steadfast witness to the Gospel life in the spirit of our seraphic father St. Francis.

Sacred Heart Fraternity Supports "Keep Norfolk Beautiful" with Care for Creation Ministry

On March 21, 2026, four members of the Sacred Heart Fraternity in Virginia Beach joined parish volunteers from Sacred Heart Church at the Norfolk Care for Creation Ministry to help clean a section of their adopted Princess Anne Road. Their service supported the citywide "Keep Norfolk Beautiful" initiative and reflected the Franciscan call to care for our common home.

The team began their morning in prayer, offering together the beloved words of Saint Francis of Assisi: "*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.*" Strengthened by this spirit of unity and purpose, they collected 15 pounds of trash and 9 pounds of recycling, helping restore beauty and dignity to the surrounding environment.



In the picture above, the 4th person to the left is Michael Guthrie (Inquirer), the 1st person to the right is Grace Cintron-Matias, OFS, the 2nd person to the right is Patricia Britz, OFS, and the 3rd person to the right is William Wallace, OFS.

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI SACRED HEART FRATERNITY, OFS

MULTICULTURAL POTLUCK

On Saturday, May 23rd, Grace Cintron-Matias, OFS, and her husband Jimmy invited the fraternity and Father Jim Connolly to their lovely home for a multicultural potluck. Three of the Franciscan Sisters of Saint Joseph also joined in the celebrations. Everyone brought a dish to share. Grace and Jimmy conducted a tour of their garden, where attendees were met with hens, rooster, quails, two goats, and two friendly dogs. "If we could afford it," said Jimmy, "we would get a small donkey." Fun was had by all in singing Happy Birthday to Fr. Jim in Tagalog, Spanish, Hebrew, French, Swahili and English. This was the fraternity's first Multicultural event. It was filled with good spirit and friendship, and are looking forward to the next fraternity event.



In the picture, left to right are the Franciscan Sisters of Saint Joseph: Sister Modesta Sagwe, LSOSF, Sister Agnes Nyauma, LSOSF, and Sister Perpetua Nyamasege, LSOSF

Other attendees from the fraternity are William Wallace, OFS, Minister, Lisa Codispoti, OFS, Formation Director, Patricia Britz, OFS, Secretary, Anne O'Leary, OFS, Grace Cintron-Matias, OFS, Chris Haney, OFS, and his family, Michael Guthrie (Inquirer) and his wife, Francis Cunnane (Inquirer), Fr. Jim Connolly, and Nancy Morales (Visitor)

St. Anthony of Nagasaki Fraternity Serves at Casa San Salvador

On May 9th, members of the St. Anthony of Nagasaki Fraternity gathered at Casa San Salvador for a day of prayer, fellowship, and hands-on service. The fraternity members spent the morning assisting the Casa community by sorting and arranging linens and blankets, organizing the backyard shed, tending the gardens, and cleaning the walls and ceiling in the kitchen and dining room.

Before beginning their service, the fraternity and Casa residents shared time in adoration and prayed the morning Liturgy of the Hours together. The spirit of fraternity continued into the early afternoon as everyone enjoyed a festive lunch at the San Antonio Bar and Grill. The day reflected the heart of Franciscan mission life with prayer, service, and community sharing.



From left to right: First row: Laura Rainey, OFS, left, Anne-Marie Miller, OFS, far right.

Second row: Patricia George, OFS, left, Kristen Doherty, OFS, right, and Patrick Martin, OFS, far right.

Third row: Sandy Oleksy-Ojiutu, OFS, left, Kelly Moltzen, OFS, right.

Fourth row: Barbara Lange, OFS, left, Jessica Cabness, OFS, in the center, and Bill Tubbs, OFS, right. The photographer was Harold Zavarce, OFS, another member of the fraternity who is not in the picture. Also in the picture are members of the Casa San Salvador.

Portiuncula Fraternity and Tau Fraternity Retreat

Tau and Portiuncula Fraternities held their annual retreat at Priest Field on May 15-17. Fr. Pat Whittle, TOR, was the facilitator for the weekend. The theme chosen by Fr. Pat was "Go in Peace, Glorifying the Lord by your life: a Franciscan Integration of the Liturgy and our Life."



St. Francis of Assisi Parish of Triangle, Virginia, Holds Annual Fair-Trade Sale, April 17-18, 2026

Secular Franciscans and other members of the Anti-Human Trafficking Committee of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, located in Triangle, Virginia, held a Fair-Trade Sale during the weekend Masses of April 17-18, 2026. The Fair-Trade Sale is an annual awareness event held annually at St. Francis of Assisi Parish that helps to draw attention and awareness to the ills of Human Trafficking.



On sale for purchase for those visiting the event were St. Basil’s Coffee (<https://saintbasilcoffee.com/>), which is a product sold by a non-profit Catholic organization out of Houston, Texas, who buys coffee beans directly from growers to support their Social Justice missions in Africa, and Central and South America. St. Basil’s Coffee is a Fair-Trade product meaning that the coffee growers are committed to humane working conditions, sustainable growing practices, and employ no slave labor.



Also sold at the event were Divine Chocolate bars, which are affiliated with SERRV International (<https://www.serrv.org/category/chocolate>), a non-profit that sells Fair Trade Products. The Divine Chocolate is made with cocoa grown in the West African country of Ghana. Additionally, loaves of bread and biscotti from Monks Bread products (<https://monksbread.com/>) were also offered for sale. Monks Bread is a ministry of the Trappist monks of the Abbey of Genesee in Western New York State.

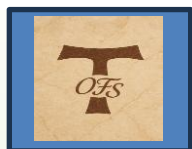


Held in conjunction with a Knights of Columbus monthly event, the Knights generously purchased the different brands of St. Basil Coffee, brewed, and then offered the coffee to the attendees. The event was a complete success and raised approximately \$1000.00 (after cost) from the sales and donations that will be given to ACTS (Action in Community Through Service), a local organization that provides direct support to victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and human trafficking.

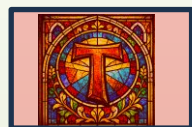
The Passing of Members in Our Franciscan Family

With hearts both grateful and sorrowful, we remember those among us who have journeyed home to the Father.

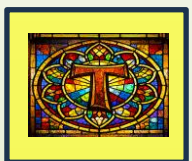
Their lives were woven into the fabric of our Franciscan community—marked by humility, service, and joy in the Gospel.



Richard Schaffer, OFS, passed away on January 26, 2026. Richard was a member of St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity in Silver Spring, Maryland. Richard made his profession on May 20, 1991, at Assumption Fraternity in Bethesda, Maryland.



Madonna Goody, OFS, passed away on February 9, 2026. Madonna was a member of St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity in Silver Spring, Maryland, and made her profession on November 9, 1991, in this fraternity.

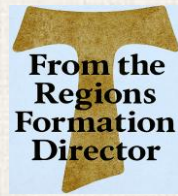


Hope Eugenia (Genie) Dutton, OFS, passed away on February 22, 2026. Genie was a member of St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity in Silver Spring, Maryland, and professed on June 19, 1983, at Mount St. Sepulchre Fraternity in Washington, DC.



**Remember, Lord,
those who have died and
have gone before us marked
with the sign of faith,
especially those for whom
we now pray. May these
and all who sleep in Christ
find in your presence light,
happiness and peace.
Through Christ our Lord
Amen.**





Formation and the Role of Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation.

Formation is a time of discernment, learning, experiencing, growing, developing, and wrestling with who we are and who we are called to be.

All Christian religious education at whatever level is based on Divine Pedagogy. Divine Pedagogy is a principle that says that God is the real teacher, not the human teacher, spiritual director, facilitator, or the formator. Jesus tells us that the Holy Spirit is the Divine Person of the Holy Trinity that will teach us all things. That does not mean that our human teachers have no role in formation. God is all about relationships. Relationships were so important to God that very early in Scripture, Genesis 2:18, God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone.” To remedy this situation, God created all the beasts and birds and brought them to the man to see what he would name them, but a suitable “helper” could not be found for the man. So, God then created woman to be a partner for the man.

From this brief summation, we can see the great lengths to which God went to find a partner for man. He literally created the beasts and the birds for this purpose. He did that for all of us, so that we would not be alone. God knew that man needed relationships. God communicates to us through a number of ways, including those thoughts we often believe are our own random thoughts, through Scripture and Tradition, through our interaction with each other; through our relationships. God places us in the path of others so that they might grow from the experience in some way, which we may never know. God also places many people on our paths to help us grow, develop, and transform us by the experiences we receive during these interactions. We also see this in Saint Francis’ interaction with the Leper. When Francis no longer finds the leper revolting and embracing him, Francis changes. God uses the Leper, an outcast in Francis’ society, to change Francis, so that he can change the world.

So, formation consists of prayer, study, meditation, contemplation, and experiences, that cumulatively transform us into what God wants us to become. Formation starts long before we even think of becoming a member of the Order. It started when God “knitted you in the womb,” long before we even knew a Franciscan Order existed. Gradually, over time, the Holy Spirit orchestrated people and moments in our lives that eventually led us to the Order. Many of us may not even know what some of those events and moments were, but we certainly were aware of some of those moments, and those were the moments when we became fully aware of the Order and had a “thirst” to know more. Formation consists of everything that happens to each of us before, during, and after our profession, whether that is in study, prayer, worship, fraternal activities, or in relationships.

An important part of formation is getting to know the fraternity, its members, and how the fraternity and its members live their Franciscan vocation. Central to the Franciscan Vocation is how we live the Franciscan Rule of Life. Central to that Rule is Article 4, which is the first article in “The Way of Life.” It is the first article for a reason. Article 4 says:

“The Rule and life of the Secular Franciscans is this: To observe the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people.

Christ, the gift of the Father's love, is the way to him, the truth into which the Holy Spirit leads us, and the life which he has come to give abundantly.

Secular Franciscans should devote themselves especially to careful reading of the Gospel, going from Gospel to life and life to the Gospel."

Article 4 is central to "The Way of Life" of Secular Franciscans. It contains all of the articles of the Rule of Life, much like the Two Great Commandments contain all of the Commandments and the Law."

So, we should imitate Francis in his imitation of Jesus Christ. What do we imitate? What did Jesus do during his earthly ministry? He taught a lot of people, he raised the dead, healed the lepers, gave sight to the blind, fed the hungry, let the lame walk, cured hemorrhages, and a lot of other things which Saint John the Evangelist says are too numerous to record. According to Dr. Mary Healy, everything that Jesus did was "healing," of one sort or another, whether that was spiritual, physical, emotional, or mental. In Pilate's encounter with Christ, we can even see a sort of healing. Even on the cross, Christ heals us, saying, "Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do."

If Christ healed so many people in so many ways, how does Francis follow Christ? We see this in Francis care for the lepers; healing the wolf and the townspeople of Gubbio by bringing peace to them, reaching out to the Sultan to convert him to Christianity and bring peace; in admonishing and teaching sinners; caring for creation by preaching to the birds and townspeople where ever he found himself; his love for the poor and marginalized, practicing poverty which showed conservation of things so that others might have use of them. These very things are also emphasized in the encyclicals of our former Popes, some of whom were also members of our Order, including Pope Leo XIII and Pope John XXIII. Their thoughts are most well expressed in *Rerum Novarum* and *Pacem in Terra*, to name a few. Bringing peace heals the heart, mind, and soul. Admonishing and teaching sinners heal Souls. Caring for the poor and marginalized heals the body and spirit and addresses many emotional and mental issues as well. Caring for creation heals the earth and all who live on it.

Then, we are called to do as Francis and Jesus Christ did. We are called to heal the ills of the world by sharing the message of the Gospel; caring for the poor, the sick, and the marginalized; striving for peace in the world and in our hearts; and caring for all creation as God commanded in Genesis 1:29-29, and in the examples of Saint Francis.

In fact, we see these things present in Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC). JPIC is the way we live our Franciscan Charism, which includes our responses to issues in our communities, nation, and the world. Here, I am not talking about political parties or positions. I am talking about the Gospel message. An examination of the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount from the Gospel according to Matthew shows this very same emphasis: love of enemies, be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect, who makes the rain fall on the just and the unjust, mercy, the poor, blessed are the peacemakers, fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets, and many other things.

The National Franciscan website states that Formation is ... "a period of personal transformation assisted by what we hear, see *and experience* in fraternity and through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit." And ... "the person begins to discern the call to the Secular Franciscan Order, acquires a preliminary understanding of our vocation and an *understanding of the Franciscan Charism*." When someone in formation participates in the JPIC activities of the Fraternity or Region, they interact with God's people, and God teaches them through these interactions with the poor and marginalized, just as He did with Francis and the lepers. When Franciscans care for the poor and marginalized, and engage in other JPIC activities, they proclaim the Gospel message and influence the world.

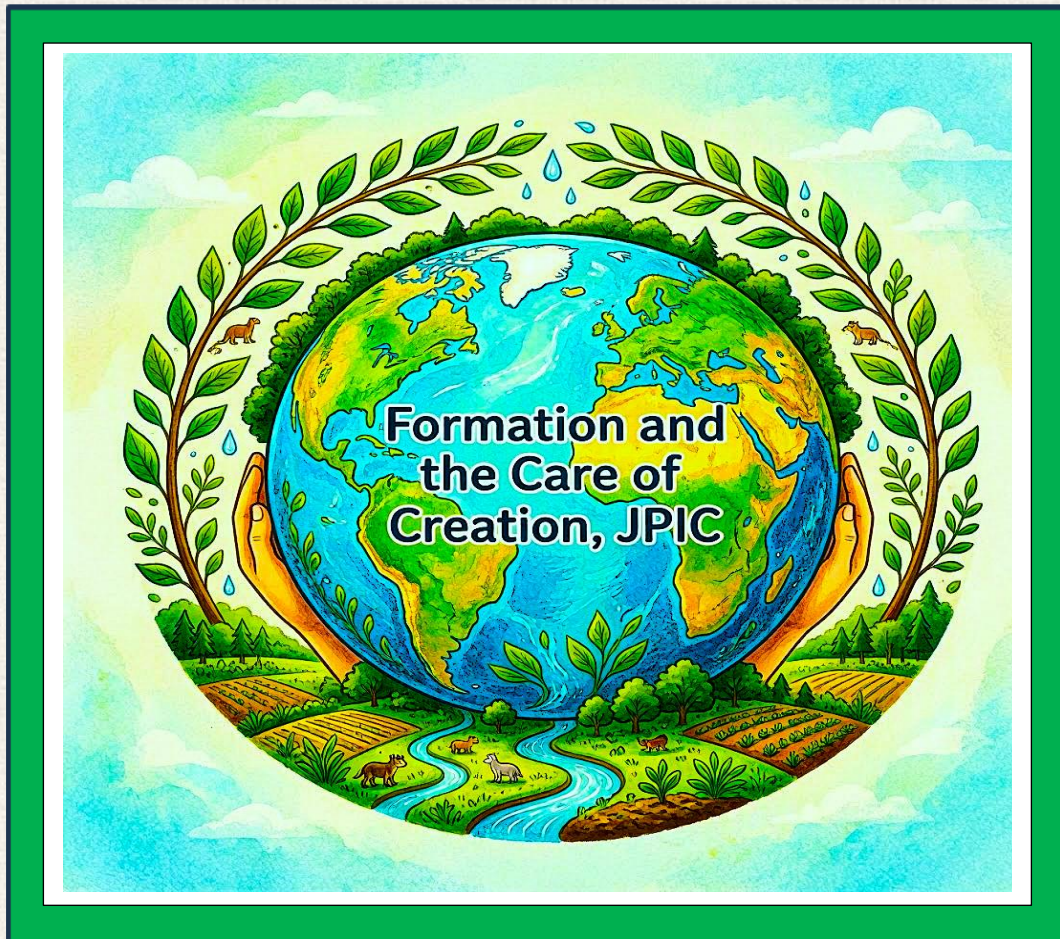
Finally, National’s website says that as Franciscans, “we gather in fraternity once or twice a month to pray, to share with one another about our lives, and to continue our lifelong journey of formation. Both individually, and as fraternities, we engage in apostolic work and various ministries, with a particular outreach to the poor and marginalized, and a focus on peace, justice, and care of creation. As Franciscans we are called to prayer and contemplation, as well as to an active presence in the world.” JPIC activities are our active presence in the world.

To clarify, JPIC must transcend politics and is not more important than Formation, nor is Formation more important than JPIC. They work together and support each other. Formation is an opportunity for those in Formation to discern their vocation, learn about that vocation, and understand the Franciscan Charism. Formation forms Franciscans who proclaim the Gospel through JPIC activities. JPIC is the way that we live our Franciscan Charism, fulfill our way of life, hand on our Franciscan Charism to those in the period of Formation, and reinforce and reinvigorate the Franciscan Charism in our professed members.

Mary, Queen of Franciscans, Pray for us!

~ Tom White, OFS

Regional Formation Director



2026 Formation Retreat Flyers (click above or below)

English

Español



"Be the Light!"
2026 Regional Formation Retreat
June 26-28, 2026
Mark your calendar for June 26-28 for the Regional Formation Retreat!

At this year's retreat we will continue our Franciscan growth about living the gospel and being of service to all around us in our fraternities, parishes, and communities. St. Francis founded our order because as Secular Franciscans we are the bridge from our communities to the church.

As Franciscans we bring life to the Gospel and share the love of Jesus by our presence and actions – and when necessary use words. Together - let's discover ways that we are doing that now, and how we can increase in "being the light" of the gospel wherever we are!

1 Peter 2:9
"But you are a chosen people... that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light".

Matthew 5:16
"in the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

 Fr. Jude Winkler, OFM-Conv. will preside over this retreat. He is a warm and inspiring Friar and speaker. You may remember him from last year's retreat.

Formation Directors, Ministers are especially encouraged to attend.
All OFS members are welcomed!

- Date: June 26-28, 2026
- Where: Priest Field Retreat Center, 4030 Middleway Pike, Kearneysville, WV
- Cost: Private Room - \$325.00 Shared Room - \$295.00 Daytripper (Saturday only) - \$100.00

Please note that a freewill offering will be collected at the retreat for Fr. Jude Winkler.

Registration Deadline is June 13th.
Register at this site: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094DAAA72EAAF94-62604722-2026#/>
Electronic payments can be made in full or the \$100 deposit. To confirm your reservation a \$100 non-refundable deposit must be paid by the deadline.
If you are unable to make an electronic payment, mark "Pay Later" on your registration and send your check:
Payable to: St. Margaret of Cortona OFS Region
Mail to: Randy Bender, OFS, Regional Treasurer
135 Poe Hill Rd, Front Royal, VA 22630-7650

For assistance or more information contact: Tom White, OFS, Regional Formation Director
thomaswhiteof@gmail.com

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"¡Sé la luz!"
Retiro de Formación Regional 2026
26-28 de junio de 2026
Marca tu calendario del 26 al 28 de junio ¡Para el Retiro de Formación Regional!

En el retiro de este año, continuaremos nuestro crecimiento franciscano en la vivencia del Evangelio y el servicio a todos en nuestras fraternidades, parroquias y comunidades. San Francisco fundó nuestro orden porque, como franciscanos seculares, somos el puente entre nuestras comunidades y la Iglesia.

Como franciscanos, damos vida al Evangelio y compartimos el amor de Jesús con nuestra presencia y acciones, y cuando es necesario, con palabras. Juntos, descubriremos cómo lo estamos haciendo ahora y cómo podemos crecer en ser la luz del Evangelio dondequiera que estemos.

1 Pedro 2:9
"Mas vosotros sois linaje escogido... para que anunciéis las virtudes de aquel que os llamó de las tinieblas a su luz admirable".

Mateo 5:16
"Así alumbrad vuestra luz delante de los hombres, para que vean vuestras buenas obras y glorifiquen a vuestro Padre que está en los cielos."

 El P. Jude Winkler, OFM-Conv., presidirá este retiro. Es un fraile y orador cálido e inspirador. Quizás lo recuerden del retiro del año pasado.

Se anima especialmente a los directores de formación y ministros a asistir.
(Todos los miembros de OFS son bienvenidos)

- Fecha: 26-28 de junio de 2026
- Dónde: Priest Field Retreat Center, 4030 Middleway Pike, Kearneysville, WV
- Costo: Habitación privada - \$325.00 Habitación compartida - \$295.00 Daytripper (solo sábados) - \$100.00


Tenga en cuenta que se recogerá una ofrenda voluntaria en el retiro para el P. Jude Winkler.

La fecha límite de inscripción es el 13 de junio.
Regístrate en este sitio: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094DAAA72EAAF94-62604722-2026#/>
Los pagos electrónicos pueden realizarse en su totalidad o con un depósito de \$100. Para confirmar su reserva, deberá abonar un depósito no reembolsable de \$100 antes de la fecha límite.
Si no puede realizar un pago electrónico, marque "Pagar más tarde" en su registro y envíe su cheque:
A nombre de: Región OFS Santa Margareta de Cortona
Enviar a: Randy Bender, OFS, Tesorero Regional
135 Poe Hill Rd, Front Royal, VA 22630-7650

Para obtener ayuda o más información, comuníquese con: Tom White, OFS, Director Regional de Formación.
thomaswhiteof@gmail.com

Korean

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"빛이 되십시오!"
2026년 지역 훈련 수련회
2026년 6월 26일~28일
6월 26일부터 28일까지를 달력에 표시해 두세요.
지역 역량 강화 수련회를 위해!

올해 피정에서 우리는 복음을 실천하고 영적의 본을 공동체 안에서 우리 주변 모든 사람에게 봉사하는 것에 대한 프란치스코적 신앙을 계속해 나갈 것입니다. 성 프란치스코께서 우리 수도회를 설립하신 이유는 세속 프란치스코회 회원과 우리 공동체와 교회를 잇는 다리 역할을 해야 하기 때문입니다.

프란치스코회 회원으로서 우리는 우리의 존재의 행동으로, 그리고 필요할 때는 말로 복음에 생명을 불어넣고 예수님의 사랑을 나눕니다. 함께, 지금 우리가 어떻게 그렇게 하고 있는지, 그리고 어디에 있는 복음의 "빛"이 되는 데 어떻게 더 나아갈 수 있는지를 찾아봅시다!

베드로 2:9
"그러나 너희는 택하신 백성이여, 너희를 어둠에서 불러내어 그의 놀라운 빛으로 인도하신 그분을 찬양하게 하라 할지어!"

마태복음 5:16
"이와 같이 너희도 빛을 사울에 앞에 밝혀주어 그들이 너희의 선한 행실을 보고 하늘에 계신 너희 아버지께 영광을 돌리게 하라!"

 주교 안젤리 신부 OFM-Conv에서 이번 피정을 주관하실 예정입니다. 그는 따뜻하고 영감을 주는 수도사이자 훌륭한 강연자입니다. 작년 피정에서 그를 만나보셨을지도 모릅니다.

양성 책임자 및 목회자들의 참석을 적극 권장합니다.
CRS 회원 예외는 모두 환영합니다!

- 날짜: 2026년 6월 26일~28일
- 장소: 프리스트 필드 수련원, 4030 Middleway Pike, Kearneysville, WV
- 비용: 개인실 - \$325.00, 공용실 - \$295.00, 일 여행객 (토요일만 해당) - \$100.00

이번 피정에서 주교 안젤리 신부님을 위한 자발적인 헌금이 보편될 예정입니다.

등록 마감일은 6월 13일입니다.

Opportunity and Challenge for Ecumenism (Part II)

GREETINGS ON THIS UPCOMING SUMMER SEASON!

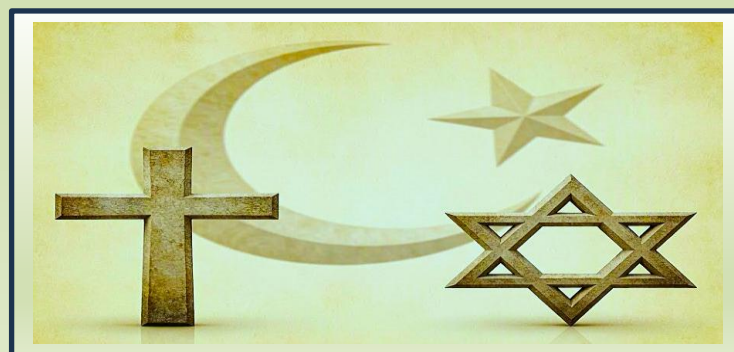
This is the second of a series of articles I am presenting based upon and taken from a publication in the Vatican periodical, “L’ OSSERVATORE ROMANO” written by Cardinal Kurt Koch, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity. In part I, we began with the issue of reconciling the profession of the Christian Faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God with the equally profession of Christian faith in one God in accordance with a more monotheistic view.

The theologian Arius of Alexandria advocated for a strict monotheism based upon the philosophical thought of his time and to assure this strict monotheism, he excluded Jesus Christ from the view of God. Christ cannot be the “Son of God” in the real sense of the title, but merely an intermediary whom God uses for the creation of the world and for His relationship with humanity. The Council Fathers rejected this model of strict philosophical monotheism that Arius initiated, setting it against the creed where Jesus Christ as Son of God is “consubstantial with the Father”

With the term, “homoousios”, the Council Fathers expressed the deepest mystery of Jesus Christ, which Sacred Scripture holds as the faithful Son of the Father, to whom He is intimately united in prayer. Further, in Prayer, Jesus most clearly appears as the Son of the heavenly Father. In the New Testament—especially in the Gospel of Luke—Jesus, in his earthly life, is presented as the Son of God in constant prayer, whose existence centers on dialogue with the heavenly Father and who lives with Him in profound unity. Jesus lived in and from prayer so much that His entire life and mission can be defined as one continuous prayer: one cannot understand Him without such a prayerful stance. This is what the Nicaean Council Fathers realized in using the term “homoousios” to determine the appropriate interpretation of Jesus’s prayer and an even deeper interpretation of His life and death, which are marked at every moment by dialogue with the Father. With “homoousios” the Council of Nicaea did not “Hellenize” faith as found in Scripture, relating it to a philosophy, but embraced an incomparable newness made visible in Jesus’ prayer to the Father. Arius conformed Christian faith to the philosophical thought of the time, while the Council of Nicaea used this philosophy to relate what was characteristic of the Christian faith. In the Nicene Creed, the Council once again expressed itself as Peter did at Caesarea Philippi: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16)

The Council’s Christological creed became the basis for the common Christian faith. The Council took place at a time when Christianity was not yet subject to numerous divisions which later emerged. In Part III, we’ll see where ecumenism fits in.

Mike
Regional Interfaith/Ecumenical:
Committee Chair



“Bridge Builders”

This time of the year we are reminded of so many things liturgically - particularly the mission which Jesus has given us to be a light in the world, spreading His gospel message to all we meet. As Secular Franciscans, this calling is especially impactful, for each of us is sent as followers of St. Francis to follow his way of reaching others. In following this calling, Fr. Charley Miller has encouraged us to fulfill our responsibilities by bridging the divide between the secular world and the spiritual world - to enter more deeply into the world in which we live intimately with the Lord.

Many people have brought us to the time and place in which we live today. They have believed in us before we believed in ourselves, guided us when we lost our way, propelled us forward when we were at an impasse. They permitted us to rise up, to take the next right step, and to continue forward. They shaped who we are today, and who we are to become tomorrow.

Jesus and Mary, our spiritual leaders, as well as clergy, parents, teachers, friends, soulmates...so many have invested in us and have brought us to this particular day. I, for one, am so grateful for their perseverance in helping me to grow as a child of God, and I pray that I can be effective in continuing this ministry to others.

Recently, I read a poem which struck me deeply in terms of the theme of my mission. You may have read it in your travels, but in case you did not, I share it with you now:

The Bridge Builder by Will Allen Dromgoole

An old man going on a lone highway,
Came, at the evening cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and deep and wide.
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream had no fear for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.

“Old man,” said a fellow pilgrim near,
“You are wasting your strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day,
You never again will pass this way.
You’ve crossed the chasm, deep and wide,
Why build this bridge at evening tide?”

The builder lifted his old gray head:
“Good friend, in the path I have come,” he said,
“There followed after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been as naught to me
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him!”



So, as we journey forth each day, let us remember that we are all called to be “bridge builders,” ones who “cross the chasm” ahead of others and who selflessly build a bridge for their safe passage across the tide at a later time.

May God bless those who come after us, as well as those who have come before us. May we reach others with selfless, unconditional giving, exemplifying the perseverance, wisdom, and understanding shown to us when the chasm before us was “deep and wide.”

Joan Kane OFS
Little Flower Fraternity

JPIC News

JUSTICE, PEACE, AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION

In this year of the Franciscan Jubilee, and as we prepare in October to celebrate the 800th anniversary of our Seraphic Father’s passing. . . we came together as a region. On June 5 – 7, more than 60 of our Brothers and Sisters from more than 20 fraternities across the region, came to Priest Field Pastoral Center for the 2026 St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Retreat. The “Living Our Franciscan Charism” theme attracted long-time OFS and fraternity council members, alongside a number of candidates and inquirers. . . Ministers, JPIC animators, formation directors, and others. . . from fraternities in Virginia, Maryland, Washington, DC, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Praise God for the opportunity we had to come together!

Because it is the region’s year of JPIC, the regional JPIC team led the effort to plan the retreat over an eight month period and comprised at least a third of our volunteers. Thanks to all the planning prior to the retreat, and especially to those who worked onsite in important roles, including registration, setup, recycling, food donation pickup, and liturgical roles, including as altar server, cantor, readers, gift bearers, evening prayer leaders, and in creating the amazing music and liturgy book prepared for the weekend.

Thanks also to all those who worked alongside the core spiritual retreat to make the Franciscan charism theme about us as a region. . . testimonials from Anne Mulqueen, OFS, Michele Dunne, OFS, and Janice Benton, OFS. . . a discussion of the Rule by Anne Mulqueen, OFS, Sita Chakawarti, OFS, and Gil Donahue, OFS, . . an interview with our formation leaders Anne Mulqueen, OFS, and Tom White, OFS. Tony Gibert, OFS, discussing his trip to visit our Seraphic Father’s remains, and all those who shared stories and their fraternity’s apostolate and advocacy work, including Scott Graham, OFS, Janice Benton, OFS, Toby Harkleroad, OFS, Gil Donahue, OFS, Gary Burton, OFS, and Kelly Neale, OFS. This IS our Franciscan charism.

Also, thanks to fraternity and individual donors who allowed us to include everyone on the retreat, acquiring the services of translators for non-English speaking attendees and ASL interpreters for members of our deaf community.

Finally, our thanks to our retreat leader, Rev. Stan Fortuna, CFR, for being authentic, thoughtful, creative, and bringing us along a spiritual journey on the retreat. A founding member of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, Fr. Stan’s stirring spiritual talks and homilies challenged us to do what is ours to do. A professional musician, Fr. Stan performed for us on Saturday evening, played some original pieces during Mass, and even read some of his poetry during the retreat. Fr. Stan and his Order work with the poorest of the poor both in the Bronx and around the world. Please pray for his Good work.

And Praise God! Coming together as a region. . . I feel grateful to be with my Sisters and Brothers. We are together on this Franciscan journey, our lives connected.

Let us ask for the intercession of our Seraphic Father Francis, our Holy Mother Clare, and Mary, our Mother Queen of the Seraphic Order, to be inspired by and faithful to Catholic teaching and the Secular Franciscan Rule in all aspects of our professed lives.

JPIC NEWS AND UPDATES

FORMATION RETREAT

Your regional JPIC Animator has been invited by the region’s formation team to speak on a JPIC topic at the formation directors’ retreat at Priest Field on June 26 – 28. See you there!

JPIC WORKSHOP

We will soon be releasing more information regarding a one day JPIC workshop to be held in Washington, DC, in September. From a JPIC perspective, we will further explore “what is ours to do.”

DILEXI TE – A ZOOM CONVERSATION AMONG SECULAR FRANCISCANS

Thanks to all who participated in our two-part Zoom conversation on Dilexi Te, the Holy Father’s apostolic exhortation on love for the poor.

JPIC SPEAKER TOPICS

A reminder to all Fraternities, speakers, and discussion facilitators are available to interested Fraternities in the St. Margaret of Cortona Region, on JPIC-related topics including the following:

- Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC): History and Overview for Secular Franciscans
- Care for Creation: A Franciscan Response
- Lady Poverty and the Franciscan Charism
- Immigration: A Franciscan Response
- Racism: A Franciscan Response
- Mindful Communication
- Peacemaking: An Overview
- Conflict and Dialogue
- Servant Leadership: What and Why
- Servant Leadership: Implementation Plan
- Secular Franciscans in the Community
- Secular Franciscans in the Workplace
- Secular Franciscans and Family

Let us know your specific need – a monthly Fraternity gathering presentation, a Fraternity Council meeting or formation class, or even help in presenting to a church group or in the community. We will attempt to match you with a Secular Franciscan, or in some cases another expert, who is willing to speak on and, as appropriate, facilitate discussion on the topic. If you are interested in a topic not listed here, let us know, and we may be able to work with you on it. Contact us at jpicspeakers@secularfranciscan.org. Also, please let us know if you personally are an expert on any of these topics and are interested in being a speaker-facilitator.

MORE JPIC NEWS

The region’s Care4Creation Challenge continues over the summer. Please participate in making your fraternity events more sustainable.

Connect with events sponsored by Franciscan Action Network (FAN) at www.franciscanaction.org/events/

JPIC MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of JPIC is to assist the Professed Secular Franciscans as they reflect on their relationship with God as manifested in the fruits of conversion in their lives. This is with special regard to the daily choices made in the areas of justice, peacemaking, and respect for all created things and people; as brothers and sisters of penance, bringing life to the Gospel and the Gospel to Life.

CONTACT INFORMATION

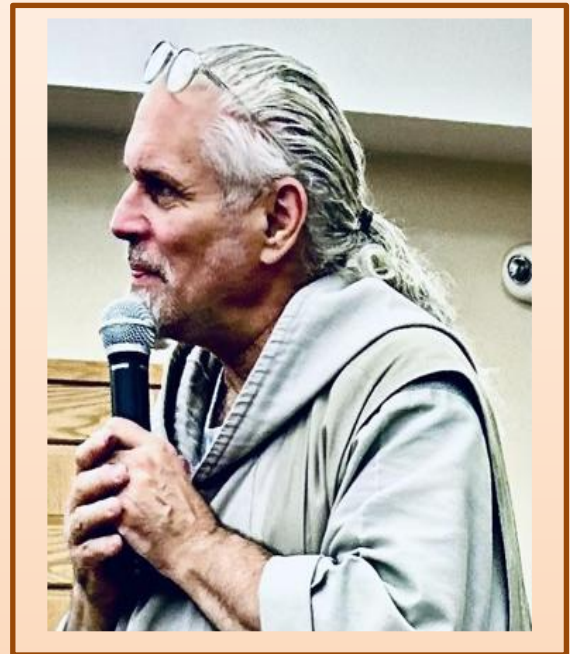
Please contact Pat Boye, OFS, or a member of the JPIC team at jpimoc@secularfranciscan.org. If you are a JPIC Coordinator at your local fraternity, but not on our email list, please let us hear from you.

Pace e bene,
Pat Boye, OFS
Regional JPIC Chair

**Living our Franciscan Charism
2026 St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Retreat
Priest Field Pastoral Center
June 5 - 7**



**Fr.
S
T
A
N**



Janice Benton, OFS



**Anne
Mulqueen, OFS**



Michele Dunne, OFS



**Anne Mulqueen, OFS
Gil Donahue, OFS
Sita Chakawarti, OFS**



**Otto Perez, OFS, and inquirers
from San Camilo Fraternity**



**Jerry Krauss, OFS,
Tom Weiner, Inquirer**



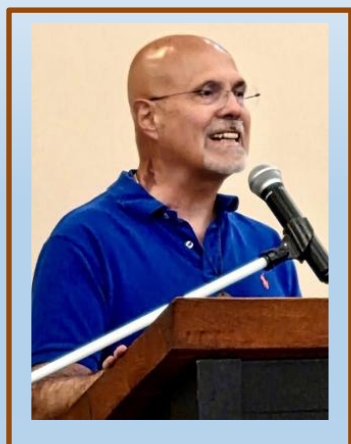
Tony Gibert, OFS



Toby Harkleroad, OFS



Cyndy Filan-Kim, OFS

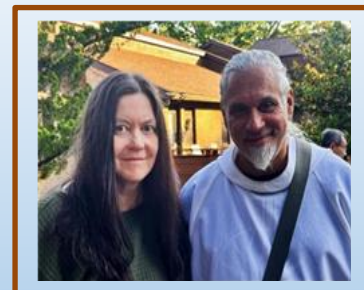


Gary Burton, OFS



Fr. Stan

**Pat
Boye, OFS
and
Fr. Stan**



**St. Francis of Assisi
Deaf Fraternity**



Fraternity and Franciscan Joy at Sunday Sunrise Prayer

