

# The Portiuncula

## Franciscans of the Prairie Region

*Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis*



### REGIONAL MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Regional Elections and Fraternal & Pastoral Visitations to our Region are scheduled to be held July 22-24, 2022. Father Jerome Wolbert, OFM, President in Turn of the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants will be our Pastoral Visitor and Ecclesial Witness at the elections. Dennis Ross, OFS, National Councilor, will be our Fraternal Visitor and Elections Presider on behalf of the National Executive Council. The Regional Executive Council thought it important to keep the meeting location in Springfield, IL. Because we cannot meet in the Chiara Center, we have reserved a conference venue and rooms at the Drury Inn in Springfield. The local ministers have already been invited to this meeting of the Regional Fraternity Council. If the local minister is unable to attend, the automatic substitute is the local vice minister. If neither of them is available, the local council may choose by vote a delegate, who is an elected member of the local council, and who will represent the fraternity with voting rights.

Our Lord Jesus assures us that our Heavenly Father is always ready to shower us with His graces. Jesus said, "If you, with all your sins, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to anyone who asks Him." (*Matthew 7:11*). I have been meditating on this scripture verse, because as a mother of four children, I strive to "give my children what is good." I want to make choices and decisions that will benefit them and our family while at the same time truly live my vocation as a Secular Franciscan. Sometimes, as our Minister General Tibor Kauser, OFS observed, "Grace and sacrifice go hand in hand. Each sacrifice will bring fruits of grace. As we are serving not only on Sunday afternoon, but every day, family life, professional work and service in the OFS have to be brought together." In all of this, there is a balance. When we have to give up something in sacrifice, we are rewarded with grace, so long as we do it for the greater glory of God.

My three younger children have been given an exceptional opportunity to study abroad. Ivette (14) and Marley (6) have been accepted to St. Angela School, and Ingrid (17) gained admission to Szerb Antal High School, both in Budapest, Hungary. My husband Andy and I have valued the presence of multiple languages and cultures in our family. Since Andy was granted sabbatical leave from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville where he teaches, and I have been given a leave from my lecturer position at SIUE, we decided to take this opportunity and accompany our three younger children in their year of study abroad. Our oldest, Kinga (21), will continue her studies at University of Illinois in Champaign and will come to visit us during her Christmas break.

Spending August 2022 to August 2023 in Hungary with my family necessarily impacts my direct, in-person involvement with the region and my own local fraternity. The impact will be even greater now that we have begun the cautious movement toward more in-person gatherings and events with less reliance on virtual

meetings. Since my absence for the coming year seems all but assured, I discerned that the right thing to do is to withdraw my name from consideration for election to any Regional office. An important outcome for the July election will be for the Regional Executive Council to get re-established as a regularly functioning Council with all its members duly elected and actively involved. I will be accompanying the new Regional Executive Council with prayers and will do all I can to help remotely with any questions they might have during their time of transition.

My local fraternity, Our Lady of Angels Edwardsville, will need my active involvement and engagement. I intend to make myself available and collaborate with my brothers and sisters remotely by emails, phone calls, and zoom meetings. It is a sacrifice I have to make not to be present to my regional and local fraternities in person, but my children will need a lot of help until they master the Hungarian language. I also intend to fulfill a commitment I made long ago (when I received an exceptional college scholarship), to return to the country of my birth and contribute to its development. I hope to do this by performing volunteer work. I pray and hope that God's grace will flow from that effort and God will bless all our activities.

It's been a privilege to serve the Regional Fraternity as the Regional Minister since March 2019. I am incredibly grateful for the friendships, love, and blessings I have received. I am looking forward to working together in the upcoming months to make the Regional Elections and Visitations successful. I am excited to see what God has planned for each one of us. May we always have the desire to discern and follow God's Holy Will.

Sincerely in Christ,

Emma Lozowski, OFS  
Minister, Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Fraternity  
Secular Franciscan Order

*Be strong, take courage, all you who hope in the Lord.*

*(Psalm 31:25)*

*2021-2022 OFS-USA Theme*

## REGIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT'S MESSAGE

Dear Franciscan sisters and brothers of the Prairie,



May the Lord give you His peace!

Spiritual Preparation for our Regional Fraternity Elections!

As we are reminded in the Book of Ecclesiastes (3:1), “There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens.” Our Regional Fraternity’s Chapter of Elections (as well as its triennial Fraternal and Pastoral Visitation by representatives of the National Fraternity), postponed from March 2022 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, is now scheduled for the weekend of July 22-24, 2022.

I invite you to reflect with me on these statements from the *General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order*: “The office of minister or councilor is a fraternal service, a commitment to hold oneself available and responsible in relation to each brother and sister and to the fraternity so that each one will realize his or

her own vocation and each fraternity will be a true community, ecclesial and Franciscan, actively present in the Church and in society” (article #31.2). “The ministers’ and councilors’ task to lead is temporary. The brothers and sisters, rejecting all ambition, should show love for the fraternity with a spirit of service, prepared both to accept and to relinquish the office” (article #32.2).

As Spiritual Assistant, I have witnessed and been deeply inspired by our present Executive Council’s abiding commitment to work collaboratively in decision making “to animate and guide the fraternity” (*General Constitutions*, article #50.1) for the good of the whole Region and its members. With the help of God’s grace and the firm commitment of all its members, this Council has faced incredible challenges and difficulties over the course of its mandate and has done so in a genuine Franciscan spirit. I love each of them dearly!

A suggestion to help the Region prepare for July’s special event is for each of us to begin praying now the prayer for our Elective Chapter as found on page 41 of *The Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order*. It is also printed here:

### *A Prayer for Elections*

Almighty, most high and supreme God,  
Father, holy and just,  
Lord, King of heaven and earth:  
we give you thanks for yourself.  
Of your own will  
you created all things spiritual and physical,  
made us in your own image and likeness,  
and gave us a place in Paradise,  
through your only Son,  
in the Holy Spirit.

We trust in you and we ask for your light  
so that we may choose those  
who will properly serve our fraternity  
through their leadership.  
Help us to select those who are able  
to animate and guide us  
by their example, their virtues and prudent  
decisions,  
so that the Gospel of Jesus in the spirit of St.  
Francis  
may come alive in our community.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen!

This prayer says a great deal about our hopes and expectations all of which are grounded firmly in the Lord’s promise to be with us until the end of time. Of the many ways He remains present with us today, the Church and the Franciscan Family remain two very incarnational divine realities for us. The goal to which each of us is invited to commit and recommit ourselves is “... that the gospel of Jesus in the spirit of St. Francis may come alive in our community.” Only when that happens are we truly fulfilling our vocation to its potential. The Church and the Order are depending on us to do so!

As previously mentioned, articles #31 and 32 of *The General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order* offer us a concise overview of the duties and responsibilities of our Minister and Council. Here we find words and phrases like: “fraternal service,” “commitment to hold oneself available and responsible,” “convinced of the validity of the Franciscan evangelical way of life,” “attentive to the life of the Church,” “open to dialogue,” “ready to give and receive help and collaboration,” “inspire life and soul into the fraternity,” “carry out decisions,” “promote collaboration,” “live and foster the reality of communion among the brothers and sisters,” “cherish peace and reconciliation,” “rejecting all ambition,” “prepared both to accept and to relinquish office.”

Wow! That’s quite a list of expectations the Order says we should have of our Minister and Council! I feel certain they would be the first to assure us that they can’t possibly be successful in what will be their newly acquired or continuing ministries of service without our prayers and active support. Here’s the statement of commitment the newly elected Council solemnly proclaims together at its installation:

**We, the council members of Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Fraternity, accept this responsibility and service of leadership. Before almighty God, we promise to live daily the gospel life in the spirit of our Seraphic Father St. Francis and to exercise our new ministry to the best of our ability. We ask the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the cooperation of this fraternity, so that together as the Family of Francis we may witness to the gospel, may be instruments of peace, and may build a more fraternal and evangelical world, so that the Kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively** (pages 42-43, *The Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order*).

Yes, “There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens.” We are preparing to enter a time of transitions and new beginnings for us. It is a time to express our heartfelt gratitude to Emma and the members of the outgoing Council for their dedicated and faithful service to our Regional family. It will be a time to welcome our newly elected Minister and Council, promising them our love and the support of our prayers as they seek to fulfill their mandate of service on our behalf.



As the Regional Spiritual Assistant appointed to represent the O.F.M. friars in their pastoral relationship with the Region, I expect to continue serving on the Executive Council for the immediate future. Please join me in praying that the Holy Spirit will inspire and guide not only our new Regional servant leadership, but also the process of amalgamation that the six O.F.M. Provinces have undertaken.

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

Deacon Dave, O.F.S.,



Deacon Dave Ream, O.F.S., Ph.D.  
Regional Spiritual Assistant  
Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Fraternity  
Secular Franciscan Order  
***T In Persona Christi Servi***

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## OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS FRATERNITY - DECATUR

We continue to meet monthly via in person and virtual as members prefer. At our April Gathering Agnes Compton, Vice Minister, announced she and her husband Archie are moving to Florida, to be closer to their daughter. Deacon John O'Brien was appointed Vice Minister.

*Submitted by: George Menard, OFS, Minister*

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## SACRED HEART FRATERNITY - PEORIA



Matt Yee  
Formation Director

For the months of May, June, and July 2022, the ongoing formation during the Sacred Heart Fraternity’s gatherings will be on **St. Francis’ Three Loves: The Crib, The Cross, and The Eucharist**. This was chosen to parallel the same topics of the Secular Franciscan Summer 2022 Conferences at St. Bonaventure University. They will have three Saturday sessions in May, June, and July on “The Crib, the Cross, the Eucharist: A Secular Franciscan Spirituality”, with all sessions on zoom.

For our ongoing formation, we will use the first three topic handouts, St. Francis’ Three Loves - The Crib, The Cross, The Eucharist from the series: “Keeping Our Focus on St. Francis of Assisi” by Fr. John C. Sullivan, O.F.M., and revised and edited by Therese and Deacon Dave Ream, O.F.S. 2022, that are available on the National Secular Franciscan Order website - Ongoing Formation Resources (<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/topics-for-keeping-our-focus-on-st-francis-of-assisi/>).

At our gathering on Saturday, May 7, 2022, we began discussing Topic 1: the first of St. Francis’ Three Loves – The Crib. We talked about what Christmas and The Crib means to us, how we celebrate the Christmas Season, what kinds of Christmas cards and postage stamps we use, how we see the Crib scene as a symbol of God’s longing to be with us, and in what way is the Crib a reminder of poverty, humility, and helplessness.

For our next ongoing formation on June 4th, we will continue with the second of *St. Francis’ Three Loves - The Cross*. We will use the handout, Topic 2, to read and then discuss the questions at the end. Some of those questions are: How is the cross a mystery of my faith? How can I use the Way of the Cross, the Stations, to enrich my meditation on the Lord’s Passion which He suffered for me? How might I, as St. Francis did, express my appreciation of the great price that Jesus underwent so that I might be reinstated in the holiness of God? We are looking forward to this discussion, as well as the third one that follows tentatively in July.

In the handout for the third topic on *St. Francis’ Three Loves - The Eucharist*, there is a quote by St. Francis from “*A Letter to the Entire Order*”:

“Let everyone be struck with fear,  
let the whole world tremble,  
and let the heavens exult  
when Christ, the Son of the living God,  
is present on the altar in the hands of a priest!

so humbles Himself  
that for our salvation  
He hides Himself  
under an ordinary piece of bread!

O wonderful loftiness and stupendous dignity!  
O sublime humility!  
O humble sublimity!  
The Lord of the universe,  
God and the Son of God,

Brothers, look at the humility of God,  
and pour out your hearts before Him!  
Humble yourselves  
that you may be exalted by Him!  
Hold back nothing of yourselves for yourselves,  
that He Who gives Himself totally to you  
may receive you totally!”

Let us concentrate our attention on this great Sacrament as St. Francis himself did, as he says in *The Undated Writings: The Admonitions*:

“As He revealed Himself to the holy apostles in true flesh, so He reveals Himself to us now in sacred bread. And as they saw only His flesh by an insight of their flesh yet believed that He was God as they contemplated Him with their spiritual eyes, let us, as we see bread and wine with our bodily eyes, see and firmly believe that they are His most holy Body and Blood living and true. And in this way the Lord is always with His faithful, as He Himself says: Behold I am with you until the end of the age.”

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### May 13, 2022



We were blessed to have Holy Mass with Fr. Paul, OFM Conv., on Friday, May 13, 2022, at 5:00 pm. We streamed the Mass and Consecration or Renewal of Consecration for those who could not join us at Mass. Those viewing online were Scott Diestlekamp, OFS, Mary Farrell-Diekemper, OFS, Bob Polizzi, OFS, Colleen Mattern, OFS, and Robert Righi, Candidate

Front Row: Theresa Jennett, OFS; Greg Speck, Candidate; Fr. Paul, OFM Conv.; Jim Stomberg, OFS; Debra Weathers, Candidate  
Back Row: Matt Jennett, OFS; Matt Yee, OFS; Sharon Knapp, OFS

*Submitted by Jim Stomberg, OFS, Secretary*

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## POPE ST. JOHN XXIII FRATERNITY – ROCK ISLAND

On December 21st in downtown Davenport, a Prayer Memorial Service for Homeless Individuals who died this past year was held. Kent Ferris (with one of his children), Pat DeLuca and Deacon Frank Agnoli of our local Fraternity also participated. A particularly memorable and moving part of the service was the reading of the names (if known) of homeless individuals who died in 2021. The naming and prayer for each homeless person took place while gathered around a burning trash barrel.

Our fraternity has not met face-to-face since December of 2019. In the past few months, we have discussed reinstating our meetings. Items to be finalized are Covid-19 precautions and a meeting site. Our former meeting site was Unity Point Hospital in Rock Island, IL. At our May fraternity meeting, we learned that three Franciscan priests are being assigned beginning June 15th, as pastors to three parishes in our area. We will investigate one of the three parishes, St. Pius in Rock Island, which is home to two fraternity members, as a viable place for our monthly meetings.

Since January the fraternity has been reading and discussing the “Encyclical Letter - Fratelli Tutti of the Holy Father Francis on Fraternity and Social Friendship” for ongoing formation. Kent Ferris has served as our facilitator, and we have covered the following chapters: Chapter One, “Dark Clouds Over a Closed World”; Chapter Two, “A Stranger on the Road”; Chapter Three, “Envisaging and Engendering an Open World”; Chapter Four “A Heart Open to the World”. We will continue with this topic through the remaining four chapters.



The “Pacem In Terris Peace and Freedom Award” was created in 1964 by the Davenport Catholic Inter-racial Council. Since 1978 the award has been presented by the Quad City Pacem in Terris Coalition. The award honors Pope St, John XXIII and commemorates his 1963 encyclical letter, Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth), which called people to secure peace among all nations. This award has been given to John F. Kennedy (1964), Archbishop Desmond Tutu (1987) and His Holiness the Dali Lama (2019). This year’s ceremony was held on Thursday, April 21, at Christ the King Chapel on the campus of St. Ambrose University. Sister Norma Pimentel, MJ, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley in Texas was the recipient. Fraternity members who had the privilege to attend the ceremony and are pictured with Sister Norma are: Front row: Alicia Harker, Sister Norma and Lori Ferris; Back row: Kent Ferris and Pat DeLuca.

We are extremely proud of three of our members: Lori Ferris, Kent Ferris and Andrew Reif. They will receive a Master of Pastoral Theology (MPTh) from St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa on May 21st. Congratulations to these three individuals, as their studies will enrich the quality of our fraternity.

*Submitted by Pat DeLuca, OFS, Minister*

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## ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA FRATERNITY - BLOOMINGTON

We know so much about Saint Francis. The stories are well documented about his encounter with the leper, his interaction with the wolf, and his visit to the Sultan. This year in our fraternity we are learning more about Saint Clare. For example, did you know that Clare was designated as the patron saint of television in 1958 by Pope Pius XII, because when St. Clare was very ill, she could not attend mass and was reportedly able to see and hear it on the wall in her room. Clare writes a column called, “Clare’s Corner” for our monthly newsletter. It’s interesting to read from her perspective about her life.

In April, we had a special event for Divine Mercy Sunday which happened to fall on our regular gathering day. We participated with Father Greg Nelson at St. Mary’s Parish in the Divine Mercy Chaplet, adoration, benediction, and confession. Before the service, we learned from Father Michael Gaitley, MIC (via the internet) how to simplify the message and devotion through the acronym F.I.N.C.H. It is this:

- F – Feast of Divine Mercy is the 8<sup>th</sup> day of the Easter octave
- I – Image of Divine Mercy contains the phrase: “Jesus, I trust in You”
- N – Novena of Divine Mercy starts on Good Friday
- C – Chaplet of Divine Mercy is the power of prayer for the whole world
- H – Hour of Divine Mercy is 3:00 pm. So “Get the 3 o’clock habit”

During the month of May we honor Our Blessed Mother. Our devotion to her runs deep. We probably all remember the annual May Crowning at our parishes – the honor of being selected to do the crowning.

We held a prayer service honoring Mary at our gathering with past minister Linda Howley-Skuby, offs doing the crowning of Mary. We were grateful to have Donna Williams, offs accompany with piano our singing. So much better than when we try to sing a cappella.



*“I have done what is mine to do. May Christ show you what is yours.” St. Francis*

*Submitted by: Carol Burroughs, offs, Minister*

## FRANCISCANS OF THE PRAIRIE REGIONAL SECRETARY RECOGNIZED FOR SERVING THOSE IN NEED IN NORTHEAST MISSOURI

We all know that each and every one of us has a variety of familial, personal, and professional responsibilities in addition to those connected with our membership in the Franciscan Family. Yet our being Franciscans should give a distinctive form and color to all those other facets of our lives. I am very happy to share this recent example with you.



Our Regional Secretary **Lynn Carter, O.F.S.** is employed by Mary Immaculate Catholic Church in Kirksville, Missouri as the parish secretary and VIRTUS/Safe Environment Coordinator. One of her many responsibilities she has embraced with great dedication, zeal, competence, compassion and – may I add – Franciscan spirit is that of managing distribution of the parish’s “Quarter Sunday Fund.” This account is so named because of its origin in the long-standing practice of taking up a second collection of loose change at parish Masses one weekend a month specifically to benefit the poor and persons in need seeking the parish’s assistance. In discharging this responsibility, Lynn has established a series of contacts and professional relationships with other individuals and agencies in the local community sharing a similar commitment to helping those with various needs to meet those needs.

On Thursday, May 19, 2022, Lynn’s service on behalf of and in the name of our local Catholic parish was recognized by representatives of the Community Action Partnership of Northeast Missouri (CAPNEMO). I’ll

let Lynn tell the details of this presentation in the form of an article she has prepared for an upcoming edition of our parish bulletin. Notice how she credits the parishioners for their consistent generosity rather than highlighting her own role in making this corporal work of mercy tangible and real in the local community.



I think immediately of the *Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order*, article #13 which states in part, “A sense of community will make them joyful and ready to place themselves on an equal basis with all people, especially with the lowly for whom they shall strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ.”

Thank you, Lynn, for providing us with this splendid example of Franciscan service!

*Submitted by Deacon Dave Ream, O.F.S.*



**QUARTER  
SUNDAY  
UPDATE**

This has been a bit of a discouraging month in the *there but for the grace of God go I* department. An awful lot of the calls that have come in the last few weeks are people who moved here for work, whether they have a job lined up or not. In the world I'm accustomed to, a person moves when they have a job lined up, and there is housing to move right into, because you scout out the situation ahead of time. The people calling lately either moved here from one of the smaller towns in the area, under the assumption that it would be easy to find a job when they got here, or they moved when they were hired, but didn't line anything up ahead of time for housing. So they are asking for rooms at the Budget Host, food, rental deposits, and utility deposits. These are families with children who have no fallback plan except to sleep in their vehicles until they get a paycheck or two and have enough to put down those deposits. There is no simple solution to this, and it feels very discouraging. Sometimes it's hard to remember that while we hope to do better than a bandaid, even a bandaid helps, and we never know what small thing can completely change someone's life. Sometimes the best we can do is a warm, dignity-preserving conversation about other local resources, and that does matter.

Last Thursday, two of the Client Advocates at Community Action Partnership of Northeast Missouri (CAPNEMO) appeared at the parish center with a very encouraging surprise: an Outstanding Community Service Award, from the whole northeast Missouri region! Here is what they wrote for the nomination, lightly edited for clarity:

*We met Lynn Carter OFS when CAPNEMO started with Client Advocates. She and Mary Immaculate have been involved with helping almost every one of our clients improve their lives.*



Andrea Thurman (l) and Tamara Chaverri (r) from CAPNEMO

*Mary Immaculate helps with food so our clients do not go hungry, ensuring that they have a can opener in every box. They help with motel stays, so that our clients can have safe temporary shelter to bathe, sleep and stay safe from the elements. They have bought water for those without, so they have clean drinking water until they can have their water reconnected. They have bought hygiene products for clients that did not have access to them. They help pay deposits to get people into safe, affordable housing, they help with deposits for utilities, back*

*rent and overdue utilities to prevent eviction and shut offs. Lynn truly goes out of her way to help every person, and if MI can't help financially, they assist in finding another way to help them out.*

*Mary Immaculate helps financially for deposits of every kind, hygiene and household items, and anything else if there is a need. Lynn spends a lot of time speaking with the clients to find out specific needs and works to find other resources to help them as well. MI works with about 90% of our clients. They help with the homeless and any that are struggling, even if they are over income limits for CAPNEMO assistance.*

*Lynn and Mary Immaculate are invaluable to the community and CAPNEMO. Without them we would not be able to help as many people. Together we have been able to help people move toward a better life. I am grateful to have them be a partner with CAPNEMO. Together we can make a difference in many lives.*

Mary Immaculate parish should be very proud to be a center of charity and mercy in the area! You all support the Quarter Sunday fund financially, and many of you have also responded to special requests to meet needs where our usual procedures aren't quite flexible enough. Everything they listed in the nomination narrative has a story behind it, and I wish I could tell them all. Not a sparrow falls without God seeing, and how much more does He love these children of His. Thank you for being the hands and the feet and the heart of God in our community!

## OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS – EDWARDSVILLE

Our fraternity, that now meets at St. Cecilia Parish in Glen Carbon, continues to grow. First, Father Gibbons, the pastor of St Cecilia Parish invited us to use a larger meeting room. This new space allows us more comfortable accommodations for our meetings. The additional space also allows Kathy Ward, OFS, Formation Coordinator, and Carol Kleinert, Inquirer, who is director of RCIA at the church, to establish a library for Franciscan literature. Kathy continues to be busy organizing ongoing formation for the fraternity meetings and formation instruction for our aspiring inquirers. She is busy and doing a very good job.



We recently welcomed a new OFS aspirant, Dawna Tatum. Dawna, in addition to being an eager participant in formation, has also assumed responsibility as historian for our group. She is gathering information and developing a historical record of our activities, such as our meetings outside of regular formation, visits to regional churches, service activities, and prayer vigils outside the local abortion clinic. She is cataloging the photographs taken at the places we meet and socialize at, along with the names of the fraternity members who participated at each event. We are grateful for all the work done by Dawna.



One of our most recent activities was gathering for mass at Saint Clare of Assisi Roman Catholic Church in O’Fallon, IL. This is a new church that is absolutely beautiful in design and decoration. Our group met Father Jim Deiters the parish priest after mass who talked with us about the parish. In addition, he pointed out a small room dedicated to the remembrance of St Clare. A strikingly beautiful picture of a Tau hanging in the room is included. If ever in this area, we encourage everyone to visit St Clare of Assisi church.

*Submitted by Dan Tolbert, OFS*

## NOMINATIONS FOR REGIONAL ELECTIONS

Elections are scheduled for Sunday, July 24, 2022. We still have several offices that do not have at least one person to have accepted a nomination. During the latest extended round of nominations, three people were nominated for elective office. One person declined the nomination, one is still discerning, and one person hasn't responded. Our Nominations Chairperson, George Menard, OFS, recently received several names for nomination, all of whom were nominated earlier and had declined.

*Submitted by George Menard, OFS*

## SERVANT LEADERS NEEDED!

A few thoughts to consider leading up to Regional Elections ... Reach out to use our skills and talents for the benefit of others ... Move beyond our comfort zone!

***Pope Francis: “Retirees ... leave a legacy of wisdom”***

*May 22, 2022 edition of The Catholic Post”, the newspaper of the Diocese of Peoria (see below)*

"The previous skills of active life lose their constraint and become resources to be given away: teaching, advising, building, caring, listening ... preferably in favor of the most disadvantaged who cannot afford any learning or who are abandoned in their loneliness."

## “My Greatest Joy”

*Excerpts from "EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION ... Reflections in the Franciscan Tradition"*

- We rejoice in the good things of the Lord that He works in you through His grace. (*St. Clare*)
- We can find deep joy in actions of compassion that stretch us beyond our comfort, beliefs, societal norms, and social standing.
  - Just as Francis found himself loving to serve the lepers who had once seemed a horror, so we have callings to serve in compassion in places and ways that upend our perceptions and perceived social graces in profound ways.
  - Willingness to break past those boundaries of perceived safety and security for the sake of compassionate action, for the love of God and Christ, opens up a new world of profound and abundant joy and graces."
- Thank you Jesus for your Holy Presence in our lives.
  - We struggle and wrestle daily in our human desire to follow Your call.
  - When we reach out to others with compassion, we glimpse the bliss, the abundant joy, and the peace that flows through us and dwells within us.
  - Help us to stretch beyond comfort zones in order to serve You.
  - May we find within us a love that transforms us beyond our fears and desires to a place of communal joy and reverence for all of life.

We ask that each member prayerfully consider accepting a nomination to a regional position. Open yourself to a new world of abundant joy and graces. Each of us is called to go beyond our “comfort zone” and step up be a servant leader for our Region. Nominate someone you know ... or nominate yourself.

***Take courage and trust in the Lord!***

*Submitted by John Grillot, OFS*

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## UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS IN 2022

- July 22-24                      REC/RFC meetings, with Elective Chapter and Visitation from National
- August 3-7                      Quinquennial Congress in Phoenix, AZ
- *August 27 tentative*          New REC Organizational Meeting
- *Oct 28-30 tentative*          Regional Retreat (followed by RFC/REC meetings on Sunday)

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### \*\*\*\*\* SPAM WARNING \*\*\*\*\*

In recent months there have been a lot of spam messages going around for several of our members’ emails and texts. It seems that someone has “hijacked” info from our regional website. This is a reminder to everyone to never succumb to the scam; if questionable, always contact the person directly. DO NOT call or reply to the phone number that sent the strange request.

If you have any questions, use the original contact number they would have for someone, contact their local minister, or contact a member of the Regional Executive Council.

Unfortunately, we are now in a time when people are trying to scam in any way they can. We want everyone to be safe and protected. And NEVER would any Franciscan reach out to ask for the things that are mentioned in the scam emails and texts.

## THE QUINQUENNIAL ... THIS SUMMER IN PHOENIX, AZ!

The Quinquennial, often referred to as the “Q”, is an every-5-year gathering of Secular Franciscans from throughout the United States. Attending the “Q” is a marvelous opportunity to grow in your Franciscan vocation, to build relationships, and to start new relationships with fellow Franciscans. All Secular Franciscans (and guests) are invited to attend, either for the full event or for some portion thereof. The “Q” is scheduled for August 3-7, 2022, at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Phoenix (most events are Aug 4-6). See the flyer below; full info is available on the NAFRA website under the tab “Quinquennial”.

### Secular Franciscan Order - USA



Come celebrate with your Franciscan family the JUBILEE of our Order's 800th anniversary of Memoriale Propositi, and the 100th anniversary of our National Quinquennial Congress!



The Q Committee invites you to pray the Quinquennial prayer!

**20th Quinquennial Prayer**  
Lord God, Heavenly Father,  
we come before you in awe of your love for us.  
We acknowledge Your divine seed in everyone.  
Through your merciful compassion  
help us to see our need for conversion.  
In our service to each other  
let us experience this time of  
JUBILEE!  
We walk the path before us upon  
foundations built by our brothers and sisters.  
We are thankful for our present  
and excited for our future,  
always believing that You, O Lord,  
guide our journey.  
AMEN

**For more information and to register go to: [secularfranciscansusa.org](http://secularfranciscansusa.org)**