

# The Portiuncula

Franciscans of the Prairie Region

*Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis*



## REGIONAL MINISTER'S LETTER

Greetings in Christ to you all!

As I write this note to you all on the Feast of St. Clare, my thoughts have been looking at her dedication to our Lord, and especially how she served the Order!

I wish to reach out to all of you and 'chat' – or as well as we can while you read through our beautiful Portiuncula Newsletter of our Region. Let's 'chat' about how we view and serve our Lord in our Vocation to the Franciscan Order. Here are some simple questions we'll 'chat' about. This is all taken from the *Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order*. – (Well worth some formation time).

When you Professed, do you remember the 3 questions the Celebrant asked you that day at Mass?? Do you remember why you were at Mass for this? Let us look at that together. We, each of us, at our Profession, were asked three questions. (For those in Formation – I pray you have a chance to read through this beautiful Profession rite and I know there are times when variants are done in the wording – yet how beautiful).

*“Do you wish to embrace the gospel way of life by following the example and words of St. Francis of Assisi, which are at the heart of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order?”*

*“You have been called to give witness to the Kingdom of God and to build a more fraternal world based on the gospel, together with all people of goodwill. Do you wish to be faithful to this vocation and to practice the spirit of service proper to Secular Franciscans?”*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

TOPIC	PAGE
Regional Minister	1
Reg. Spiritual Assistant	2
St. Margaret of Cortona	6
Sacred Heart	6
OLOTA-Edwardsville	8
OLOTA-Decatur	9
Pope St. John XXIII	9
St. Elizabeth of Hungary	10
Reg. Day of Reflection	11
Regional Vice Minister	12
Silent Retreat	13
Something to Ponder	13
Uganda Workshop	14
Upcoming Events	14
Retreat Forms	15-17

“You have been made members of the People of God by your Baptism, and strengthened in Confirmation by the new gift of the Spirit, in order to proclaim Christ by your life and your words. *Do you wish to bind yourself more closely to the Church and to work intently to rebuild the ecclesial community and fulfill its mission among all people?*”

We are Eucharistic People – We celebrate our Profession during Mass because the nature of permanent commitment as a public and ecclesial act is closely tied to the celebration of the Eucharist.

As you can also see – there is such richness that we can chat together on for a while. Perhaps we can do so in person at the Retreat this Fall – Let us all take pause to review our commitment to the Order and be reminded that we are truly a part of the Order and we have so much to talk about. At our upcoming Retreat we will again recommit ourselves to our Profession.

Again, thank you for all your prayers for my recouping from Brother COVID and also for attending the National Chapter. By the time you all receive this Newsletter, I will have attended the 2023 National Chapter with a Visitation from representatives from the International Fraternity (Aug. 22—27<sup>th</sup>). I’ll be sharing more on this later to your Local Ministers.

Peace & Blessings,  
Kathy Adams, OFS  
Regional Minister



*Listen Discern Go Forth*  
*OFS-USA Theme*

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## ***FROM OUR REGIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT***

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

I pray that this edition of ***The Portiuncula*** finds everyone enjoying good health and the Lord’s blessings! Thus far this year, Regional Minister Kathy Adams, O.F.S. and I have been pursuing a very deliberate schedule of visiting the local Fraternities which compose our Regional family, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted our normal three-year rotation of Visitations (just as it extended the time between elections that Councils at all levels of the Order were required to serve). Article 26 of the *Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order* concludes with these words: “To promote fidelity to the [Franciscan] charism as well as observance of the *Rule* and to receive greater support in the life of the fraternity, the Minister... with the

consent of the Council, should take care to ask for a regular pastoral visit by the competent religious superiors as well as for a fraternal visit from those of the higher fraternities, according to the norm of the *Constitutions*.”

Title VI of the *General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order* (articles 92-95) address the issue of the Fraternal Visit and the Pastoral Visit. Our *Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Guidelines* also contain sections on the Fraternal Visitation (lines 533-551) and the Pastoral Visitation (lines 553-569). Local Councils are asked to review and study these sections of these governing documents in order to help prepare for fruitful Visitations; some fraternities even present and discuss them as part of their Ongoing Formation prior to being visited, and everyone is asked to pray specifically that the Holy Spirit will inspire each Visit and its outcome.

The Church and the Order place great emphasis on the value of the local fraternity as “...the basic unit of the whole Order and a visible sign of the Church, the community of love. This should be the privileged place for developing a sense of Church and the Franciscan vocation and for enlivening the apostolic life of its members” (*OFS Rule*, Art. 22). On April 16, 2021, the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants (CNSA) and the OFS-USA National Executive Council (NEC) approved and published *ad experimentum* a document entitled **Guide to Canonical Establishment of a Secular Franciscan Fraternity**. In addition to specifying the particular steps and details of how a Secular Franciscan fraternity is to be established, this **Guide** contains some very rich foundational reflections on the meaning of fraternity in the Franciscan tradition.

The **Guide** in its entirety is available on the OFS-USA National website: <https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/guidelines-forms-other-resources/>.

What follows are some selected excerpts.

### **What is a Secular Franciscan Fraternity?**

Let’s begin by clarifying what a Secular Franciscan fraternity is **not**.

- It is not a prayer group, although members do pray when they gather.
- It is not a support group, although members do support each other.
- It is not a study group, although formation in the Franciscan way of life is an ongoing part of every gathering.
- It is not a Bible study group, although the Gospels form the basis of OFS life and are frequently discussed.
- It is not a social ministry group, although members participate in a variety of social ministries.
- It is not a parish organization, although most fraternities do meet in parish facilities.

So, what **is** a fraternity, then? ***The local fraternity is the basic unit of the Secular Franciscan Order*** (the OFS). It has ***a special purpose*** which is defined by the OFS legislation, and ***a unique identity*** (called a “juridical personality”) ***in the Church***.

Let’s unpack these statements.

A Secular Franciscan fraternity is ***part of an established Order in the Church***, which has certain implications.

- The fraternity itself must be ***officially ‘established’ by one of the Franciscan friar provinces*** that have ecclesiastical responsibility for the OFS. It is thus by definition not a parish or diocesan organization.
- Individual members are ***bound more intimately to the Church***, which is why full membership is open only to Catholics in full communion with the Church.

That describes the fraternity’s identity as it relates to the Church. What about its ***purpose?***

- First and foremost, ***the purpose of the Order*** (and thus the purpose of the fraternity, all OFS members, and all those who belong to the Franciscan Family) is to ***make present the Franciscan charism in the life and mission of the Church*** (OFS Rule, Art. 1).
- In and of itself, the fraternity is ***a service to the Church***. “Fidelity to their own charism, Franciscan and secular, and the witness of building fraternity, sincerely and openly, are their principal services to the Church, which is the community of love (OFS General Constitutions [GC], Art. 100.3).”
- “The Fraternity of the OFS finds its origin in the inspiration of Francis of Assisi to whom the Most High revealed the essential gospel quality of life in fraternal communion.” (GC 28.1) As an integral part of OFS life, it is marked by fraternal communion and is ***a means of holiness***.

**General attitudes that are helpful to keep in mind**

- ***Make building community your priority***. A fraternity doesn’t just happen automatically, without significant effort on the part of its members. It needs to be worked for to become a reality. Resolve that your commitment to your Secular Franciscan vocation and to the fraternity will take precedence over your involvement in other organizations, including those of the parish.
- ***Cultivate a sense of co-responsibility within the fraternity***. Unlike other organizations where responsibility for the well-being of the group is held by a small number, in a fraternity all members share responsibility for the life of the fraternity. “The sense of co-responsibility of the members requires personal presence, witness, prayer and active collaboration, in accordance with each one’s means and possible obligations for the animation of the Fraternity” (GC 30.2).

- **Acknowledge that community takes time to develop.** Look for opportunities to work together, visit together, pray together, study together and have fun together. Don't limit yourselves to the monthly fraternity gathering but find ways to interact with fellow Franciscans throughout the month.
- **Appreciate differences.** Fraternal unity does not imply uniformity. Our differences add to the richness of life and bring a wide variety of gifts and talents to the fraternity. They are a positive advantage and should not be allowed to become the cause of dissension. Which of us can be complete without his brothers and sisters?
- **Beware of being judgmental.** Being judgmental is one of the easiest ways to poison the spirit of the fraternity. "Blessed is the person that puts up with the frailty of his neighbor to the extent he would like his neighbor to put up with him if he were in a similar plight." (*Admonition XVIII\**)
- **Practice forgiveness.** "...I wish to know in this way if you love the Lord and me, His servant and yours: that there is not any brother in the world who has sinned — however much he could have sinned — who, after he has looked into your eyes, would ever depart without your mercy, if he is looking for mercy. And if he were not looking for mercy, you would ask him if he wants mercy. And if he would sin a thousand times before your eyes, love him more than me so that you may draw him to the Lord..." (*Letter to a Minister\**). Even in our fraternities, we will have many opportunities to apply this advice.

And finally, and most important

- **Follow St. Francis' advice** to his brothers. "Pursue what you should desire above all else, namely, to have the Spirit of God and God's grace working in you..." (cf. *Earlier Rule XVII\**). When you come right down to it, all the attitudes and techniques in the world are insufficient to form a genuine ecclesial community. The Holy Spirit is the one who breathes life into your fraternity, who molds you and brings you together as one.

*\*Francis of Assisi, Early Documents, Vol. 1, The Saint. New City Press, 1999.*

As we continue our efforts to fulfill our vocation to live the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ after the manner of St. Francis of Assisi as Sisters and Brothers of Penance in the Church and the world today, may we always treasure the gift of fraternity which has been entrusted to us!

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

*Deacon Dave, O.F.S.*

Regional Spiritual Assistant

Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Fraternity

Secular Franciscan Order

***T In Persona Christi Servi***

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## ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA FRATERNITY – BLOOMINGTON

We were blessed in July to receive Deacon Dave Ream, O.F.S. for our Pastoral Visitation. He was accompanied by his wife and co-conspirator, Therese. It was fully Franciscan joy to have them with us for our monthly gathering. Deacon Dave led us in prayer and spoke of the purposes of a Visitation. He brought greetings from Brother Juniper Crouch, O.F.M., Provincial Spiritual Assistant of St. John the Baptist Province to which we are canonically bonded.



He offered words of encouragement to the fraternity and gratitude for keeping alive the Franciscan presence and charism in Bloomington after the departure of the friars. He acknowledged the excellent quality of our monthly newsletter with a tip of the hat to Leo Grimes, editor.

He responded to our concern of how to encourage lapsed brothers and sisters to return by providing materials that could be used as an outreach to these members. He distributed a prayer card for lapsed members.



He and Therese surprised us all with an example of true Franciscan humility by washing the feet (or hands) of the Council members. He finished with a blessing conferred with the relic of the Seraphic Saint.

After the general gathering, Deacon Dave & Therese met with the fraternity Council members. Our discussion was profitable touching on areas of strength and what we might enhance. It was a very good day.

*Submitted by: Carol Burroughs, OFS, Minister*

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## SACRED HEART FRATERNITY – PEORIA

**Sacred Heart Fraternity** hosted the Regional Family Picnic on Saturday, July 1, 2023, at Hickory Grove Park. Of the seven fraternities we had three represented. John and Kathy Adams from Saint Francis of Assisi, Teutopolis travelled the farthest. The fraternity with the most participants was Saint Margaret of Cortona, Bloomington. Sacred Heart of Peoria was second.

We began our day with some delicious fried chicken with many side dishes and desserts. As part of our sharing in the everyday news, the fraternities shared their history of “living the Rule” through a poster display of their history and growth as a fraternity. This year Linda Howley-Skuby, OFS, Regional Vice-Minister went with an active bidding rather than a silent auction, for each piece. Everyone had fun

bidding on the many books new and used, beautiful statues, framed art, and many more items donated. The money raised would go to offset the cost of the upcoming Regional Retreat October 13-15, 2023. We were able to have an old-fashioned sing-along with familiar songs that added an element of prayerful praise. Below we have a group photo, a photo of the Regional Council members and a few fun photos. What a way to begin the Centenaries Celebration of the Rule of leading the Gospel to life and life to Gospel message. Thank you, **Lord**, for this beautiful day and the Franciscan love among each and everyone.





We were blessed to have Deacon Dave Ream, OFS, Regional Spiritual Assistant, Marlene Mertes, OFS, Regional Councilor (Vocations), and Therese Ream, OFS, Regional Formation Team Member to administer our Regional Fraternal and Pastoral Visitations at our monthly gathering on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>.

We are also happy for our three candidates, Megan Gilbert, OFS; Jon Paul Nay, OFS; and Robert Righi, OFS, who will be professing in September.

We have been honored to have Megan Gilbert, OFS, one of the candidates attend the World Youth Days, August 1 – 6, in Lisbon, Portugal.

*Submitted by Jim Stomberg, OFS, Secretary*

## OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS - EDWARDSVILLE



Joseph Gassiraro, OFS, at a vocation promotion booth for Secular Franciscans downstairs in St Cecelia cafeteria in Glen Carbon, IL.

*Submitted by Joseph Gassiraro, OFS*



## **OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS - DECATUR**

The BIG NEWS with Our Lady of The Angels Fraternity-Decatur, took place during our June Gathering. Our special guests included: Regional Minister Kathy Adams, OFS, and Regional Spiritual Assistant Deacon David Ream, OFS, who were present for our Fraternal and Pastoral visitation. Also joining us as an observer was Theresa Ream, OFS.

Mary Patrick, fraternity formation director, announced that Jan Mudd, is now eligible to move to the inquiry stage if she desires to do so and receives approval for advancement from the Council. Jan Mudd is our first inquirer in over four years.

Regional Minister Kathy Adams acknowledged all our good efforts to maintain our shrinking local fraternity and that she understood the struggles we were going through. She relayed to us, our problems are not unique and are somewhat common throughout the Order.

Deacon Dave, Regional Spiritual Assistant, began his comments acknowledging our dedication as Secular Franciscans and the efforts our Fraternity has made in the past five years to attract new members. It was recalled how we had produced tri-fold brochures and placed them in the entry of several Catholic Churches in three adjoining counties surrounding Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Mt Zion, that we have placed in our parish bulletins an invitation to “Come and See” what the OFS was all about, and that we have attended as a group local weekend Masses, (Saturday and Sunday) and gave inviting and historical presentation talks to introduce who we are and what we are all about followed by a social gathering. All this with little to no success as these efforts only produced two people expressing an interest to learn more. One was, unfortunately, not a Catholic and therefore not eligible to be a Secular Franciscan at this time. The other, Jan Mudd, was present with us and has demonstrated interest. Now we celebrate that Our Lady of The Angels-Decatur has an INQUIRER.

*Submitted by George Menard, OFS, Minister*

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## **POPE ST. JOHN XXIII FRATERNITY – ROCK ISLAND**

On August 17, five members of the fraternity and family members went out to eat at NEST Café in Rock Island. Besides socializing, we also were on a reconnaissance mission. The NEST Café is a pay-what-you-can fine dining restaurant. Our fraternity is also considering the possibility of volunteering to help with meal prep at the café in the future.

On September 3, Pat DeLuca, OFS, will host us at his parish, St. Ann in Long Grove, for a 1pm outdoor, Ecological Way of the Cross. The prayer resource was compiled by Deacon Frank and will allow our fraternity to host an event within the diocesan, Season of Creation. On September 10, at 1:00pm, interested members can provide a Franciscan presence at the DeWitt restored theater for a screening of Pope Francis' YouTube movie, The Letter.

On Wednesday, September 13, as is becoming a tradition, available fraternity members will attend the Pacem In Terris Peace and Freedom Award, 7:30pm at the Rogalski Center at St. Ambrose University in Davenport. This year's recipients and Cheryl Olitzky and Atiya Aftab, the cofounders of The Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom, a Jewish and Muslim women's group aimed at encounter and dialog. Both the Church and our Order places great importance on interreligious dialog and encounter. This will also be the last Pacem In Terris Award ceremony for Bishop Zinkula prior to becoming the Archbishop of Dubuque.

Finally, the fraternity will return to St. Ambrose University and the outdoor grotto for the Transitus Prayer Service on the evening of October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

These are busy days for our fraternity. Please contact me if you would like to come and join us for any of these events. The Pacem In Terris may very well be live-streamed. And please let us know if you have friends and family in the QC that you want us to invite.

Peace and All Good,

Deacon Kent, OFS

*Submitted by Deacon Kent Ferris, OFS, Minister*

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## **ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY - QUINCY**

We'd like to highlight Marg Andrews, OFS, this month, on the 18th of August she turns 100 years old. Marg was professed on Nov. 17, 1963.

Margaret (Morris) Andrews is a lifelong member of St. Francis Solanus Parish in Quincy, Illinois. She is seen here with, Fr. Arisman, the current pastor of St. Francis Solanus Catholic Church.

She and her husband Dan were active Secular Franciscans and on Nov. 17, she will also celebrate the 60th anniversary of her profession.

When I professed, I came to call Marg and her husband, Dan, as my Franciscan Mom and Pop, because not only were they very welcoming but I would receive notes and cards from them checking on how I was doing in "Bringing Life to the Gospel, the Gospel to Life". I soon learned that just about all the newly professed would get the same notes, and they too looked on Marg and Dan as their Franciscan Mom and Pop.



Marg is pictured here with her ever-present smile and sunny disposition. She truly is an example of Franciscan joy. To help Marg (as she is lovingly called) celebrate, send congratulatory wishes to:

Cedarhurst of Quincy  
319 S. 48th St., Apt. B7  
Quincy, Il, 62305

*Submitted by Deb Moffitt, OFS, Minister*

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## REGIONAL DAY OF REFLECTION

Greetings to All of You,

May the Lord give you peace!

By the time of this Publication, our Region would have had its **Day of Reflection for Those in Initial Formation**, which occurred on August 19, 2023, via Zoom. We had Inquirers and Candidates from the Our Lady of the Angels – Edwardsville, Sacred Heart, and St. Margaret of Cortona Fraternities. Our Regional Formation Team, consisting of Deacon Dave and Therese Ream, O.F.S., Mary Farrell-Diekemper, O.F.S., and myself, presented topics from *The Franciscan Journey* book.

The four topics and discussion questions included:

1. Purity of Heart – Deacon Dave Ream – How do I need to purify my heart so that I can better live the Gospel as a Franciscan?
2. Bearers of Peace – Mary Farrell-Diekemper – What does it mean to be an instrument of peace?
3. The Franciscan Charism – Matt Yee – What does this charism look like and how is it being applied in your life?
4. Radical Conversion – Therese Ream – What does my conversion experience which is “carried out daily” (Rule, Article #7) look like?

Handouts were provided for each of the topics, and a good discussion was held in response to each of the questions. It was a great time for all as we got to know persons from other Fraternities.

We were delighted to meet with our new members who were eager to learn more about the Secular Franciscan way of life. It was a privilege and pleasure to humbly convey what we have learned in our journey to help these Candidates and Inquirers to begin theirs, while following in the footsteps of St. Francis.

*Submitted by Matt Yee, OFS, Regional Formation Director*

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## REFLECTIONS FROM THE REGIONAL VICE MINISTER ON THE MANY FORMS OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Peace and all good! As I prepared to write this a few days ago, it started out as an article introducing Jacques Elloye, OFS, our Regional Database Councilor. The original purpose was describing Jacques' journey from the Ivory Coast, Africa, his homeland, to Warsaw, Poland, where he lived for 11 years. He attended the University of Warsaw and there met his wife. They married in 1997. They have three children, two now grown and one teenager still at home. In 2000, they moved to the US, and Jacques was employed by Caterpillar. When Jacques relocated to Illinois, he was able to transfer to the Sacred Heart Fraternity. But then in 2007, Jacques was diagnosed with kidney failure. It was advanced to stage 3 at the time. By 2021, Jacques began daily dialysis for 10-11 hours a day. Currently his employer allows him to work from home.

Over the course of our first year being on the Regional Executive Council, I was able to learn about these serious medical concerns, and how difficult it was to get a transplant. In sharing this with you (with Jacques' permission), I was going to ask for us to storm heaven with prayers for a donor. However, on the feast of St. Clare, Jacques was called to go to the University of Chicago Hospital for his transplant. As of today, the surgery has been successful, and Jacques is in for a long recovery but one in which he can live without the burden of dialysis. Let's offer our collective prayers in Thanksgiving.

So now I am encouraging all of us to really get to know our brothers and sisters. Part of the Gathering needs to be designated for the purposes of "social time", as well as, Ongoing Formation, Business, and praying together. We do share in charitable activities as individuals and as a group, but we need to make sure we are not missing helping our brother or sister who is right beside us, or possibly the brother or sister at home or who is unable to attend any longer for various reasons. Can we bring a part of the Gathering to them?

In Article 12 of our Rule, it is stated: "Witnessing the good yet to come and obliged to acquire purity of heart because of the vocation they have embraced, they should set themselves free to love God and their brothers and sisters."

We offer prayers of Thanksgiving for this gift of love from an anonymous donor. We thank God for their generosity and pray for their recovery as well.

"Like a chain reaction" where energy is imparted but does not go to waste, this will allow Jacques to have an active life and continue his journey with his family and fraternity.

This is an example of what happens when we choose to do good and make a sacrifice for the good of others. May God bless you!

*Submitted by Linda Howley-Skuby, OFS, Regional Vice Minister  
On the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15, 2023*

## SILENT RETREAT – ST. FRANCIS AND HUMILITY

- Date: Saturday, Sept 2, 2023  
Time: 7:30am – 5:30pm (8:45am – 4:00pm without Masses)  
Location: St. Cecilia Catholic Church, 155 N. Main St., Glen Carbon, Illinois  
Includes: Mass, Confession, Silent Adoration, Mediations, Office of the Passion, Crown Rosary, Music (*Canticle of the Sun*)  
Facilitator: Carol Kleinert, OFS  
Cost: Free  
Register: Please send email to Carol ([kleinertcak@yahoo.com](mailto:kleinertcak@yahoo.com)) so she can prepare the appropriate number of handouts.

*Submitted by Carol Kleinert, OFS*

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## SOMETHING TO PONDER ...

It happens that an invaluable thing is lost at a cheap price; and that easily provokes the Giver not to give another time. From Thomas of Celano, First Life of St. Francis, pg. 99.

The invaluable thing of which St. Francis here speaks is any special grace or gift of God. St. Francis compares God's action with that of any normal human being. If a friend were to give you something very valuable such as a watch, jewelry, or expensive machine, and then you very carelessly lost it or else exchanged it at a cheap price, you may be sure that your friend would not readily give you more gifts like that. Such a way of action on your part easily provokes the Giver not to give another time.

So also, says St. Francis, with the gift of God. If we do not appreciate and treasure up the graces God gives us, but rather foolishly squander or carelessly lose them, then God will tend to withhold his graces. Let us apply this to the graces of our vocation. God has given us a call to a religious life with all the external aids and abundant internal graces that grow with it. If we do not treasure up and put to good use our prayer time, our opportunities for silence and recollection, for spiritual reading, for humility, obedience, and mortification, why shall God not withdraw his many graces and perhaps even allow us to lose our vocations? It would indeed be a just punishment we lost at a cheap price an invaluable thing.

Taken from "The Voice of Your Father" by Martin Wolter, OFM, Franciscan Herald Press 1959

Just a thought to meditate on how we look at our gift of Vocation.

*Submitted by Kathy Adams, OFS, Regional Minister*

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## FORMATION WORKSHOP IN UGANDA



Our International Council (CIOFS) recently hosted a Formation Workshop for Secular Franciscans in English-speaking countries in Africa. About 100 people (Friars, Nuns, Seculars) attended the workshop hosted by the Uganda National Fraternity. Countries represented include Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Ghana, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. I was honored to be invited and was able to attend as it perfectly aligned with the end of my trip to our school project in Uganda. The workshop focused on the essentials of truly being an Order within the Church, including key elements such as thorough documentation, rigorous initial

formation, regular ongoing formation, and being in full communion with the Catholic Church. Pictured with me above is Gilbert Muhumuza, OFS (our region's webmaster) and Jenny Harrington, OFS (from CIOFS).

*Submitted by John Grillot, OFS*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE REGION (2023)

- Sept 2      Silent Retreat (see page 13)
- Oct 13-15    Regional Retreat

**See next 3 pages for Retreat Registration,  
Retreat Schedule, and Retreat Scholarship Application**

- Oct 15 pm    Regional Fraternity Council (RFC) & REC meetings

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## PORTIUNCULA DATES – FALL 2023 EDITION

- Oct 10      “Call for Articles” by Newsletter Editor
- Oct 24      Deadline for Article Submission
- Nov 1      Draft submitted to REC for review & feedback
- Nov 8      Publication

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## Newsletter questions, comments, complaints, advice, or whatever?

Contact John Grillot, OFS at [grilljw@gmail.com](mailto:grilljw@gmail.com) or 309-696-4846

*I really do love to get feedback of any kind!*

**RETREAT REGISTRATION**



**Franciscans of the Prairie -- Regional Retreat  
October 13-15, 2023**

Sacré-Coeur Retreat Center: 8508 County Rd 100 N, Magnolia, IL 61336

*“Jesus Shows Himself to Us:  
Seeing Jesus Present and Living a Eucharistic  
Centered Life”*

**Retreat Director**

**Fr. Luke Spannagel**



**REGISTRATION FORM**

**Paid Registrations will be accepted no later than September 29, 2023**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Fraternity Name \_\_\_\_\_

Category  Professed Member  Spiritual Assistant  
 Candidate / Inquirer / Aspirant  Guest - Non Regional Members

All Registrations include all meals through Sunday breakfast.

\* Region pays difference of full price for Regional Fraternity Members

- Registration: A.  \*\$200 Registration ... per person
- B.  \*\$400 Registration ... Married Couple - Spouse name: \_\_\_\_\_
- C.  \*\$130 Saturday Registration one night
- D.  \$55 Commuter Registration - No Lodging
- E.  \$298 Registration - Non Regional Member
- F.  \$448 Registration - Non Regional Married Couple - Spouse name: \_\_\_\_\_
- G.  \$13 Box Lunch optional. Pick up at the end of Retreat.

*All rooms have a single Queen-size bed. Thus married couples can share a room, and all other overnight retreatants will have a single room.*

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

Fund Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Meals Please specify any special dietary needs: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return registration form with check payable to: Franciscans of the Prairie**

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

Email: [geom169@frontiernet.net](mailto:geom169@frontiernet.net) -- Note: Email Registrations ... with payment to be sent soon afterwards.

Phone: (630) 921-3357

**RETREAT SCHEDULE**

**Franciscans of the Prairie Retreat, October 13-15, 2023**

Sacré-Coeur Retreat Center: 8508 County Rd 100 N, Magnolia, IL 61336

**JESUS SHOWS HIMSELF TO US:  
SEEING JESUS PRESENT and  
LIVING A EUCHARISTIC CENTERED LIFE**

**Fr. Luke Spannagel, Retreat Director**

**Friday, October 13, 2023**

- 3:00 - 5:00      **Arrival & Check-In**
- 5:15              **Evening Prayer**
- 5:30 - 6:30      **Dinner**
- 7:00              **First Talk**
- 8:00 – 9:00      **Adoration & Reconciliation**

**Saturday, October 14, 2023**

- 7:00 – 8:00      **Breakfast**
- 8:30              **Morning Prayer**
- 9:00              **Mass**
- 9:45              **Break**
- 10:15             **Second Talk**
  
- 12:00-1:00      **Lunch**
- 1:30-2:15        **Third Talk**
- 2:30              **Adoration & Reconciliation**
- 4:00              **Personal / Quiet Time**
  
- 5:15              **Evening Prayer**
- 5:30 - 6:30      **Dinner**
- 7:00-8:00       **Fourth Talk**

**Sunday, October 15, 2023**

- 7:00 – 8:00      **Breakfast**
- 8:30              **Morning Prayer**
- 9:00              **Mass**
- 10:00             **Fifth Talk**
- 11:00             **Farewell Blessing**
- 11:30             **Box Lunch (for those who ordered)**
- 12:00 - 1:30     **Regional Fraternity Council meeting**
- 1:45 - 3:00      **Regional Executive Council meeting**



# RETREAT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

## Fr. John Sullivan O.F.M. Memorial Retreat Scholarship

Since 2017 the Region has offered scholarships to provide financial assistance to individuals within the Region to attend our annual Regional Retreat. These scholarships are an ongoing program in honor of Fr. John Sullivan, O.F.M.

To provide assistance to the most individuals within our Scholarship Fund budget, we ask that applicants consider both their financial need and their ability to pay a portion of the registration fees.

Applications are requested by September 29, 2023, and should be sent to Regional Treasurer George Menard, O.F.S. The application can be submitted in one of two ways: 1) Complete the attached Application form and mail along with the Retreat Registration, or 2) Send an email to Regional Treasurer indicating the level of Scholarship being requested.

**George Menard, O.F.S.**  
1705 North 2150 East Road  
Findlay, IL 62534

email: [geom169@frontiernet.net](mailto:geom169@frontiernet.net)

Phone: (630) 921-3357



### FRANCISCANS OF THE PRAIRIE REGIONAL RETREAT



**October 13-15, 2023**

**Sacré Coeur Retreat Center**  
8508 County Rd 100 N, Magnolia, IL

### APPLICATION FORM

**Due Date: September 29, 2023**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Fraternity \_\_\_\_\_

I can afford to pay \_\_\_\_\_ I would like help to pay the balance.

Submit to **George Menard, O.F.S.**  
1705 North 2150 East Road  
Findlay, IL 62534  
email: [geom169@frontiernet.net](mailto:geom169@frontiernet.net)  
Cell Phone: (630) 921-3357