



La Verna E-Vision

Be the Bridge to Fraternal Life

REC Chapter of Elections edition, June 26, 2021

The La Verna Regional Executive Council Chapter of Elections

June 26, 2021

St. Mary of the Angels Church

Green Bay, WI

Dennis Ross, OFS, will be our election Presider,
and Fr. Chris Shorrock, OFM Conv. will be the Friar Witness.

FRANCISCAN SPIRIT PROVIDES SERVICE

The essence of service within Franciscan life is action coming from love. Our feelings of self-worth grows as we give service to our fraternity brothers and sisters. Each Secular Franciscan biography listed in this edition voices a wide landscape of personal, family, career, and OFS lived experiences. .

By uniting at the regional fraternal level, the newly- elected council members will begin to vision together program ideas and create new pathways referenced from our Rule and the Gospel well-being that support Secular Franciscans, the Franciscan Family, and the community.

Please review the individual biographies of your brothers and sisters who wish to run for a council position on the La Verna Regional council. Thank you.

BIOGRAPHIES

Biographies of each nominee for REC positions are as follows:

For the position of La Verna Regional Minister:

Bob Crane, St. Peter Fraternity, Stevens Point



Bob Crane's Franciscan Journey. Born in South Dakota and raised on a Dairy Farm in Northwestern Wisconsin. Attended UW Stevens Point, where I earned degrees in Forestry - Administration and Communications - Public Relations. My wife Sally and I have been married for 37 years, Sally is a Reading Specialist and serves as our Fraternity's Formation Director. We have 3 children; Joshua, Amy and Nicholas. Nicholas is a Forester, a graduate of St Lawrence Seminary, our fraternity's Vice Minister, and considering becoming a Capuchin.

Early Charism

My life was changed when a nun introduced me to the Teens Encounter Christ program. This was the beginning to a new path in my life, leading me closer to God and many special people. I met my wife at TEC as well as several people who introduced me to the Capuchins. I nearly joined the Capuchins during college, this was the beginning of my journey to become a Franciscan. I loved the message and mission that St Francis introduced, but a life as a priest was not possible since another life as a husband and father was also calling me.

After learning of St Francis during my time with the Capuchins I was sold on the charism and the beauty of a world where all could embrace this way of life. Though not an actual Franciscan after leaving the Capuchins, I continued to live the ideals I learned while studying with the Caps.

If only I had known of the Secular Franciscans, then.... Instead my involvement with OFS was delayed until the mid-2000's when Nick was entering St Lawrence Seminary and I discovered the existence of a Third Order of St Francis for lay people.

Present Franciscan Mission

Currently I am ministering to our fraternity, caring for my family, and running our forestry consulting business. I enjoy the opportunities that I have had to interact with the OFS Regional Council and the other ministers, learning about ways to live as a better Christian, Franciscan, minister of our fraternity and councilor for the La Verna Region.

In addition to serving as the Minister of our local fraternity I am also very busy with several apostolates in Stevens Point. Two that take up a great deal of time and energy are Franciscans Downtown and our Local Warming Shelter. Franciscans Downtown (FDT), a ministry of presence, is a Franciscan Coffeehouse where we serve the needs of Catholics and non-Catholics in our area with a place for gospel refreshment and conversation. In addition to the two days that I try to commit to FDT, I also commit to two nights per week helping to keep the local warming shelter open from November until March. Here we provide a warm bed, a little food, and a refuge from the cold Wisconsin nights for many local homeless people.

While serving on the REC for the past 7 years I have enjoyed serving the needs of the many fraternities in our region and have delighted in seeing a few new fraternities join our region. Serving on the Regional Council has also allowed me to grow in my Franciscan knowledge and Charism helping me to better serve my local fraternity, the people in our city, and the Franciscans in our region.

My Vision for the future

I have strong hopes for the future of the Third Order in our region, though I know we are entering a time of concern, with an aging and declining membership.

Now is the time to reverse this declining trend and work hard to let the world know that we exist, bring in new members, and grow new leaders who can revitalize our fraternities.

The outreach methods that have served in the past may not be enough, we need to employ new and more far reaching methods including mass media, social media, and grassroots promotion. We also need to take a more active role in ministering to the youth in our region, finding ways to reach out to them and reinvigorate their enthusiasm for Christ and the Church. Hopefully, while we are doing this we can inspire some of them to join one of the Franciscan Orders either as a religious or a secular.

Service to our Region During the next term

During the next term in the Regional Council, I look forward to serving where needed; as your Minister or Vice Minister. As far as which position if any, I will leave that up to the Holy Spirit and the Ministers of the Region to decide. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the Chapter Gathering in June. Peace and all Good, Bob.

For the position of La Verna Regional Minister:

Jeff Gumz, St. Ann Fraternity, Green Bay



Jeff grew up in rural North Central Wisconsin and graduated from Colby High School in 1988. He graduated from UW Oshkosh in 1992 with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, with a minor in Spanish. He spent 1992-1994 in the cloud forests of Eastern Ecuador working with sheep and guinea pig farmers as a Peace Corps Volunteer. He taught ESL and Spanish in Haysville, Kansas while earning a Masters Degree in Education from Wichita State University from 1995-1999. He has been a social studies teacher in the Green Bay Area Public School District since 1999, where he began as a bilingual social studies teacher. Jeff also has a part time job with the 13 time NFL Champion Green Bay Packers as a tour guide.

Jeff is a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Champion. There he serves as a Eucharistic Minister, Lector and Lay Leader of Prayer. Jeff was professed in 2007 and is a member of the St. Ann Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order in Green Bay where he previously served as Minister. Jeff has been a member of the La Verna Regional Executive Council since 2011, serving the Region first as Vice Minister and then elected Minister in

2017. His philosophy of leadership is the Servant Leader, which means that you're not dictatorial, you don't put yourself forward, you are collaborative and seek to exalt the gifts of your brothers and sisters. In his free time, Jeff enjoys reading, taking long walks and praying the Divine Office. Jeff resides in the town of Scott with his lovely wife Vianney and two sons, Jay and Santiago.

For the Position of Vice-Minister:

Sharon Dale, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Fraternity, Wisconsin Rapids



I have been blessed in my Franciscan journey. Throughout my 24 years as a professed Secular, I've had the privilege of serving my local fraternity as Minister, Treasurer and Secretary. While on our Council I wrote our fraternity history as well as established a fraternity library and have headed committees such as our Memorial Prayer Service and our Garage Sale fundraiser.

At the regional level I've served 7 years as Councilor and Archivist. As Councilor I've presided at local fraternity elections and have conducted several fraternity visitations. It's been a most rewarding way of meeting so many members of our Franciscan family. I helped update our Regional Guidelines as well as our Regional Election Procedures. I've given talks and PowerPoint presentations at District Gatherings as well as annual Chapters. My work as Archivist has resulted in creating a digitalized system wherein all of our older Regional documents are stored safely and securely at St. Anthony's Spirituality Center in Marathon.

As Vice-Minister of our LaVerna Region I am confident that I can fulfill all duties delegated by our Region Minister. This would include local elections, committee work, as well as attendance at Nat'l Chapters. I'd like to focus on Justice and Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC), partnering with National, incorporating their suggestions into our Region and Local Fraternities. I'd like to promote a one-ness of purpose and vision for our Region and I'd like to be an "ear" for those who have a particular concern or need that wants to be voiced. Communication is needed at all levels- Local, Regional and National.

I take my responsibilities as a servant-leader seriously. I hope to continue using the God-given gifts of organizational skills and enthusiasm to work toward this vision for the future of our Region. I believe the Franciscan ministry of service and action must characterize our life as our Rule tells us. If elected, I will, with God's help, do my best serving as Vice-Minister for our Region.

Sharon Dale OFS

For the position of Vice Minister:

Art Montgomery, St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity, Milwaukee



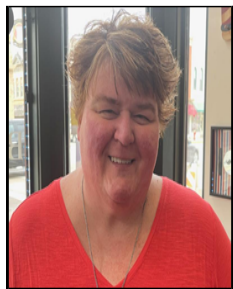
I want to thank the search committee members for their service to the region and to those who will vote in the upcoming elections. I hold you in prayer during your discernment process. I was professed in 2007 into the Portiuncula fraternity in Franklin, WI, and currently am a member of the St. Francis of Assisi fraternity in Milwaukee, WI. I have served as secretary, treasurer, minister and vice-minister in the past, and currently serve as formation director for the fraternity. My home parish is St. Jude the Apostle in Wauwatosa, WI where I served on the pastoral council, including a term as council president, and served in multiple roles with the human concerns committee. Past involvement includes 15 years in leadership with the scout troop. For the past six years I've taught science at St. Joan Antida Catholic high school which serves girls from lower socio-economic areas of the city.

I would like to enter my name for consideration of two REC positions:

1. Vice Minister;
 2. Councilor
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For the position of Secretary:

Sue Bashynski, St. Katharine Drexel Fraternity, Beaver Dam



My name is Susan Bashynski, OFS. I am running for the position of REC Secretary. I wanted to share a bit about me to allow you to understand why I chose to run for this position and who I am professionally and personally.

Along with five others, I was professed as a Secular Franciscan in 2015. Our profession re-emerged the St. Peter's Franciscan Fraternity which had been disbanded in 1995. Since that time, I have been the St.

Katharine Drexel Franciscan Fraternity minister in Beaver Dam, WI.

I am running for the secretary position for the REC, and I believe that my past secretarial and administrative experience will help me serve the council, fraternities, and cells in the LaVerna Region well. Below is an overview of that experience:

2014 – Parish Council Secretary
Beaver Dam, WI

St. Katharine Drexel Parish

2015 – Parish Council Vice-Chair
Beaver Dam, WI

St. Katharine Drexel Parish

2016 – Parish Council Chair Beaver Dam, Wi	St. Katharine Drexel Parish
2015 – Religious Ed Coordinator Neosho, Wi	St. Matthews Parish
2016 – Religious Ed Coordinator Neosho, Wi	St. Matthews Parish
2017 – Parish Council Secretary Beaver Dam, Wi	St. Katharine Drexel Parish
2018 – Parish Council Secretary Beaver Dam, Wi	St. Katharine Drexel Parish
2017 – Director of Religious Ed Mukwonago, Wi	St. James Parish

My experience has given me knowledge in administrative and secretarial duties. Some of that experience includes, but is not limited to: MS Office including Word, PowerPoint, Publisher, and Excel, creating newsletters and other sources of communications, social media including website administration and creation, communication skills, and recording and distributing minutes efficiently and promptly. My experience as a Director and Coordinator has taught me leadership skills and has given me the ability to use my creativity to build programming to inspire my students and families to live the Franciscan spirituality even if they didn't recognize it 😊. Besides what is listed above, I have over 20 years of experience working as an office manager, business owner, and secretary for an insurance agency.

I am married to my wonderful husband, Vincent. Together we have three adopted children who are all grown. We recently became empty-nesters and are enjoying the time getting reacquainted and spending time together. We recently purchased and moved to a new condo in East Troy, Wi, and hope to have the plethora of boxes unpacked soon so that we can enjoy sitting on our deck with our 2 fur babies – Cash and Waylon watching the trolley go by.

On Friday, May 7th, I will graduate from the Sacred Heart Seminary with a Master's in Theology. Through my education, I have learned so much about the human connection to God and the theology of who we are as his children. I have dedicated my life to the service of God and continuing the mission of Christ by serving others and building his kingdom on earth. If I am elected secretary, I will bring with me a spirit of humility, joyfulness, and dedication to where I am called. In Peace~ Susan Bashynski, OFS

For the position of Treasurer:

Bob Henning, St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity, Marquette, MI



I was born and raised in Chicago. I served in the US Army for over 21 years. I have been married to Mary Jane for over 50 years and we have 3 children and 21 grandchildren. I currently manage a calibration laboratory and we live in Marquette, MI.

I have taught and been involved in different religious education programs for over 30 years. We attended our first Marriage Encounter weekend in 1976 in Germany and eventually became a Team Couple and presented talks at M.E. weekends. We served on the Liturgical Planning Committee for St. Louis The King parish when the new church was being planned. We are currently members of the St. Louis The King Parish in Harvey, MI. In 1996 I became a professed Secular Franciscan and have been deeply involved with the Secular Franciscan Order both at the local and regional levels. I am currently the Formation Director of the St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity in Marquette, MI. and the Treasurer of the La Verna Region. I am willing to serve in a servant leadership position if elected. Bob Henning.

For the position of Regional Council:

Roxanne Miner, St. Ann Fraternity, Green Bay



Although I have only been professed since 2018, I feel that I have lived out the Franciscan charism my entire life. I was born and raised in South Dakota, have been married to Patrick (also a Secular Franciscan) for 46 years, raised our 8 children in Davenport, Iowa, taught theology at a Catholic High School for 30 years before discerning a call to be a hospital chaplain. Patrick and I belonged to the Pope St. John XXIII fraternity in the Quad Cities (Rock Island, Illinois) before moving to Wisconsin in 2019. I am currently serving as the Director of Mission and Pastoral Care at Holy Family Memorial Hospital in Manitowoc. The hospital was founded by the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity and I am so blessed to be able to share in the same Franciscan values that my hospital embraces, particularly in caring for the poor and vulnerable.

Patrick and I have recently joined the St. Ann Fraternity in Green Bay. Since they were without a formation director, I volunteered to step into that capacity as I had previously been formation director of my fraternity back in the Quad Cities.

I am very honored to have been nominated for the position of regional councilor. I look forward to opportunities to provide leadership for the LaVerna region. I believe the Holy Spirit is moving the Church and the world in new directions and I am so excited about the possibilities that lie ahead as we continue to rebuild the church.

For the position of Regional Council:

Nora Kessel, St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity, Marquette, MI



Before my mom passed away 19 years ago, she told me to become best friends with the Holy Spirit. She said she waited too long herself and was sorry she missed the beautiful comfort and peaceful direction in her younger life. It took me almost 10 years to take her advice, and that road led me to life as a Secular Franciscan. I was professed on October 12th, 2013. Currently, I am honored to be Minister of the St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity in Marquette—a small but mightily dedicated group who’ve taught me more about living life as a Franciscan than I can explain. I’m also active in my community and my church, St. Christopher’s in Marquette. I have a special love for young moms, the homeless, the elderly and disabled. It is in serving them that I feel closest to Our Lord. My husband of 37 years is always by my side and our three children, though living far away are our life—well, right after our grandson, Charlie. I’m a retired nurse and currently manage an office for a non-profit agency that serves the elderly and disabled at or near the poverty line.

As unexpected as this nomination for Councilor is to me, after much prayer and quiet moments on the shore, I felt the Holy Spirit nudging me to do more for our fraternity and our Region. So here I am.... humbly praying that if elected, all my actions follow the footsteps of St. Francis and my words give all glory to God.

For the position of Regional Council:

Pam Kaskin, Sacred Heart Fraternity, Oshkosh



I professed to the OFS in February 2013 as a member of Sacred Heart Fraternity in Oshkosh. In October 2021, I will be completing my second term serving the local council as Treasurer, and I found this experience a great opportunity to learn more about the Secular Franciscan Order.

I am also a member of Most Blessed Sacrament Parish in Oshkosh where I am a Eucharistic Minister, Cantor and member of the vocal choir and handbell choir.

For 38 years I worked for a local paper converting business and was the Benefits Manager for most of the time prior to my retirement in December 2019.

I would welcome the opportunity to serve as a Regional Councilor for the LaVerna Region and get to know more of my Franciscan brothers and sisters while I continue to increase my knowledge of the OFS.

For the position of Regional Council:

Barbara Lee Laabs, Sacred Heart Fraternity, Oshkosh



Professed to the Sacred Heart Fraternity in Oshkosh in 2009. I served on the Sacred Heart Fraternity council for three terms, first as Secretary and then vice minister for two non-consecutive terms. I volunteered for vice minister the second time when the elected person could not finish their term per personal commitments. After I volunteered, La Verna Regional councilor Peter Bekkers presided over our fraternity election for me so as to continue on the council.

I have attended many Spiritual Assistant workshops held at the St. Anthony Spirituality Center, but have not taken the next step towards the Spiritual Assistant role yet. I am active with my church as a Sacristan and Communion Minister at St. Raphael in Oshkosh.

I live in Oshkosh with my husband, Tom. We have 3 children, Trevor, Taylor and Ceara. I have been retired for 1 year from Kingsbury Inc. in Oshkosh. I worked at Kingsbury for 23 years as an Administrative Assistant in the Process Engineering Department. I am a sponsor for Alateen and have been helping with that program at Solutions Recovery Club for 12 years, so that is where I am most Tuesday nights. At home, I love working outside and taking care of my cats, Cocoa and Cooper, parrot Peter and many fish.

Thank you for the nomination for Regional Councilor.

For the position of Regional Council:

Charlie R. Neuman, St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity, Milwaukee



It was and is an honor to be requested to serve on the REC of the La Verna Region. I'm the third of three children. I was born and raised in Two Rivers, WI. My background is Social Work/Sociology; Religious Studies; Art Education; Early Childhood Education and Special Education.

I was professed in April 2014. I have served, and am serving, on the St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity Council (Milwaukee, WI), as secretary; vice-minister; and presently as minister. It would be an honor to serve as a councilor for the region. I feel as though this is another step to help St. Francis rebuild the church.



LA VERNA - OFS- REGION