



# La Verna E-Vision

*Be the Bridge to Fraternal Life*

Volume 9

2022 Spring edition

## Minister's Message



Jeff Gumz, OFS  
La Verna Region Minister

My brothers and sisters in St. Francis.

After a two year hiatus, it was such a joy to see so many of your faces at our Spring 2022 District Gatherings.

The theme of the District Gatherings was Fraternal Life: Refresh, Review and Renew. Nora Kessel, OFS, kicked off the gatherings with a moving and personal presentation about her Franciscan journey entitled *A Revived Life*. Everyone at each of our gatherings was touched by Nora's intimate story of faith. Art Montgomery, OFS, stressed the need to be transparent and vulnerable with our brothers and sisters in our fraternities in his talk *Fostering the space to grow in our call as Franciscans*.

An atmosphere of acceptance can be fostered using the Franciscan principle of dialogue. Each of the different fraternities throughout the Region shared the special ingredients needed for strong fraternities during our roundtable discussions.

Sharon Dale, OFS, has compiled a list of these "Special Ingredients" from each of the three District Gatherings and will be sharing them with you at our Chapter. Janet Dubec, OFS,

reminded us of our Franciscan commitment we made at Profession. My favorite part of the Gatherings was watching each of you come forward and make a Renewal of your Profession.

After a delicious lunch, each member of the Regional Executive Committee (REC) spoke about their activities and role within the Region. Our Vice Minister, Sharon Dale, OFS, gave two talks in the afternoon; one focused on the recent 25th year anniversary of the La Verna Region and the second was entitled *Deepening our Vocation Commitment*. Sharon mentioned the history of the La Verna Región that she wrote. I hope all Fraternities have a copy of that history. If not, talk to Sharon or Bob Henning, OFS, about obtaining a copy. Speaking of Bob Henning, his talk entitled *Self Reflection on my Profession* finished out our District Gatherings.

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During our afternoon break, we enjoyed an almond cookie, the same cookie that St. Francis of Assisi ate, to celebrate our 25th anniversary as a Region. Several sisters and brothers mentioned to me that they left the gatherings with a vast amount of information to share with their Fraternities.

During the summer months we will pause our Wednesday evening Rosary. Sharon Dale, OFS and others love to be outside working in the garden during the summer evenings. We will continue to pray the Rosary each Wednesday at 6:00 PM beginning in the fall of the year. Sharon once again will lead the Rosary and will let everyone know when it resumes. The teleconference number will be the same - 1-978-990-5000. Access code: 734545. Please pass on the information to your Fraternity members.

The REC finished planning the 2022 Chapter at our May meeting. The La Verna Regional Chapter will take place June 24-26, 2022 at St. Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon City, WI. The local Ministers for each of the Fraternities need to attend or appoint a delegate to represent the fraternity. Each Fraternity received an agenda and registration form sent out by Kathy Sutliff, OFS, our Regional Secretary. Also, there are no limitations to the number of people who can attend our Chapter, so encourage other members who would like to attend as non voting observers to send in the registration form.

Besides voting on our budget and conducting Regional business, this year will be our visitation from National: OFS-USA. From Article 92 of our General Constitutions: *The purpose of both the pastoral and fraternal visits is to revive the evangelical Franciscan spirit, to assure fidelity to the charism and to the Rule, to offer help to fraternity life, to reinforce the bond of the unity*

*of the Order, and to promote its most effective integration into the Franciscan family and the Church.* The National Fraternal Visitor will be Dennis Ross, OFS, and Fr. Chris Shorrocks, OFM Conv. will be our Pastoral Visitor.

One of the topics on the Chapter agenda is the *Formation Process: A call to conversion and discernment* by Fr. Frank Corradi, OFS.

Last year, Fr. Frank was appointed as our Regional Formation Director by the REC. I'm excited to hear Fr. Frank as he shares his vision of Franciscan Formation for our Region. Fr. Frank is looking forward to working together with the local Fraternities to bring about the very best formation. Fr. Frank's contact information is phone: 715-723-2620 and email: [fcorrad@gmail.com](mailto:fcorrad@gmail.com)

On the National front, our Vice Minister will be leading a delegation from the La Verna Region to the 20th Quinquennial Congress, August 3-7, 2022 in Phoenix, AZ. The Secular Franciscan Order in the United States sponsors a Quinquennial Congress every five years to bring together the Franciscan family from all over the U.S. and even other countries. I attended a Quinquennial Congress many years ago in the Chicago suburbs. It is an exciting opportunity to make contact with other Secular Franciscans and hear great speakers on Franciscan Spirituality. Please contact Sharon if you are interested in attending the Quinquennial.

The REC voted in January to provide up to \$500.00 per member in financial assistance to cover the registration fee and at least some of the travel cost. Please contact Bob Henning, OFS, about the Quinquennial subsidy.

Peace and Joy!

Jeff Gumz, OFS  
Minister of the La Verna Region





We, the Secular Franciscans of the La Verna Region, commit ourselves to our Order on all its levels by faithfully following our Rule and the charism of Sts. Francis and Clare to see the face of God in all creation through dynamic formation, profound spirituality and joyful vocation. "...To see the face of God in all creation through dynamic formation, profound spirituality and joyful vocation" The La Verna Region of the Secular Franciscan Order in the USA consists of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. The region's geographical area is divided into three districts: Southeast, Central, Fox Valley. The *La Verna E-Vision* newsletter is published three times a year, is a communication vehicle with the La Verna Region, and presents information that relates to the Secular Franciscan Order way of life.

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## The La Verna Regional Executive Council

The REC is here to help your Fraternity in any way possible. Do not hesitate to email or call any member of the REC with a concern you may have.

La Verna Region REC members:

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*Local Fraternity News*

## **St. Paschal Baylon Fraternity Begins Sponsorship Program for Two Candidates**

Our formation is unique in that companionship with professed members is built into the Secular Franciscan Order today. It is a special journey companion where an active, professed member of the fraternity agrees to walk the formation journey along with and mentor with a Candidate.

Francis sent the brothers out two by two to preach the good news of repentance to any and all they met. As with other things in his life, Francis' choice of two by two was Gospel based. In his wisdom, he would probably have paired up a newer member of the brotherhood with an older member. In time, the pairs would return and share the bounty or the sorrows of their missionary adventures.



St. Paschal Baylon formation director Dianna Trush addresses the St Paschal Baylon fraternity members while Candidates (left to right) Jennifer Jones and Kathy Godlewski sign an agreement to be companions with Bonnie Mayer (absent from photo) and Audrey Ricard.

On May 15th at the St. Paschal Baylon fraternity gathering, two professed members Bonnie Mayer and Audrey Ricard agreed to sponsor a formation Candidate serving as their companion. Audrey will sponsor Candidate Kathy Godlewski and Bonnie Mayer will sponsor Candidate Jennifer Jones. The Candidates will profess in October 2022.

What occurs between these two persons? Much the same as occurred on the imaginary journey walked with the original Friars Minor. These two brothers would share prayer, Scripture, how they came to this vocation, the teachings of this way of life, a sharing in mission, and the movement of the Holy Spirit in their own lives. First and foremost, the companions are asked to be a friend, and practice being a good listener.

St. Paschal Baylon fraternity formation director invited the sponsor to sign three copies of the Duties of Candidate Sponsor form. One copy will be for the Candidate, one for the Sponsor and one for the Formation Director's files.

St. Paschal Baylon fraternity spiritual assistant Fr. Ed Tluczek, OFM read the following prayer to offer blessing to the local sponsorship program:

“Almighty God, source of love and unity, united and animated by the Holy Spirit, may all of us be ready to hear your Word and keep it. May all our members pray together with one mind and heart. May we find in the Fraternity the strength and inspiration to bring about a more fraternal and evangelical world and to carry the message of joy and peace to everyone.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.”



## *Regional News*

Dear Fellow Franciscans,

Hope is a gift that we can offer to each other, to our friends and families and to our fraternities. Some of our fraternities are weathering the storms of life well, but during this time of turmoil, some of our fraternities are struggling. Whatever our personal or fraternal situation, let us be gentle with one another, care for our elderly members and inspire others to join our ranks by our way of living the Gospel life. We are being called to use our imaginations and creativity to forge ahead armed with our Rule and trust in God to adapt to these difficult times.

Over these many years, I have found great comfort and hope in these words from Isaiah. "Fear not" reminds each of us that God resides within every person; we don't redeem ourselves; HE redeems US. "I have called YOU by name and YOU are Mine." God's love is personal, a daily reality that never tires of loving and forgiving us.

So on those days when we fall, when we are not the best version of ourselves that we can be, let us pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and start again knowing that each of us, each and every person

is "precious in God's sight."

His love for us and those who challenge us to love them is UNCONDITIONAL



LET US EACH GO FORWARD ARMED WITH FAITH AND TRUST THAT OUR FRANCISCAN LIFESTYLE CAN CONQUER THE DARKNESS AND GIFT THE WORLD WITH HOPE!

Blessings,  
Lee Ann Niebuhr

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"Jesus does not reproach, he touches the heart, always... Brothers and sisters, when our nets are empty in life, it is not the time to feel sorry for ourselves, to have fun, to return to old pastimes. It is time to begin again with Jesus, it is time to find the courage to begin again, it is time to put out to sea again with him... He is waiting for you. And he is thinking only of you, me, each one of us."

- Pope Francis - May 5, 2022

## Another Very Memorable Trip

by Sharon Dale, OFS  
National Archivist



Sharon Dale, OFS  
La Verna Region Vice Minister

I just returned from driving to New York with Oshkosh fraternity member Teri Doughty. We spent a week together at St. Bonaventure University where our National OFS Archives are stored. While tucked away in the Crypt of the old church on campus, we set up our computer and printer and spent nearly eight hours a day sorting and scanning papers for designated files.

While Teri sat and removed hundreds of staples, obviously necessary before sending papers through the scanner, I poked around in boxes many of which have never been documented. Remember my telling you in a previous report that we have 237 archival boxes? Anyway, I was looking for additional material that could be taken to Phoenix in August for our Jubilee Quinquennial. OFS National Historian Tom McNamara and myself will be setting up a museum display which will highlight Quinquennials over the past 100 years of the Secular Franciscan presence in the U.S.

Many, many documents, pictures, and even old "habits" were collected for the museum. We will have mannequins displaying these. I hope to take lots of pictures to share with all of you who cannot attend the "Q". For those of you who are signed up for this great event, I'll see you in Phoenix.

God bless, Sharon Dale, OFS

**Secular Franciscan Order - USA**

Celebrate & renew our Franciscan calling  
in the spirit of conversion



Secular Franciscan Order

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)**



## The Teaching Garden

A garden of simples that OFS of Vittoria (Sicily, Italy) offers to the town – by Attilio Galimberti, OFS

Francis received a great deal of consolation for God's creatures ... *"We who were with him saw him always in such joy ... over all creatures, so that it seemed his spirit was no longer on earth but in heaven."*

(The Assisi Compilation, 88 FA:ED 192)

In this beautiful description of Francis' intimate love for creatures, the biographer attributes to the saint of Assisi "the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of the integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically" (Pope Francis, *Laudato si'* p.10).



A message that resounds today as an invitation to a more conscious approach in the area of ecology, one aimed at bringing forth a renewed and responsible commitment to take care of our common home, our Mother Earth. It is in this spirit that some of the brothers and sisters of the OFS fraternity in Vittoria (Sicily) chose to sponsor an innovative project in creating an original *Teaching Garden* that takes its inspiration from the herb-growing and farming of the religious, and in particular the "conventional" gardens which were traditionally known as "Gardens of Simples".



We learn from Umberto Virgadola, OFS, director of the Teaching Garden: "...just as from the Middle Ages onward, the Garden of Simples where the cultivation of medicinal plants (the simples), horticultural species, aromatic herbs and fruit trees were planted together wisely to create places that evoked paradise lost. Today the Brother Simplicius Teaching Garden of Vittoria recalls that botanic landscape that was symbolic of fraternal living, and the knowledge of the beneficial qualities of the plants creates a 'unicum' of most precious anthropological value in today's world in which humanity's relationship with Mother Earth is one of conflict."

Especially with the closing of religious communities, these places have been rarer and those still existing at convents and monasteries that are still accessible should be protected (or restored); they should be made usable, especially by the new generation to whom we must transmit a healthy environmental education.

Teaching Garden continued on page 8



This is the thinking behind the idea of some of the secular Franciscans of Vittoria, Sicily who since 2016 have been working together with the parish priests and pastoral workers of St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Vittoria; there at the location that was once the garden of the Capuchins (also known as the garden of the Little Hospital) they have started a project Brother Simplicius Teaching Garden - flowers and herbs for health.

“The land around the convent in Vittoria,” we were told by Gaetano Bruno, a young Secular Franciscan, researcher in local history and art, “that the Capuchins used was typically divided into two types of land: the Orto (garden) provided cultivated foods, medicinal herbs and flowers for the church; the second area, the Selva (woods), was used for wood, domesticated animals, bee-keeping (honey and wax for lighting) and a place of relaxation for psychological, spiritual and physical rest where the friars could stroll or spend time in silent recollection.

In the ancient Capuchin garden, the vegetables, fruit trees, grains, and all that was produced by raising small animals was used as food for the community and for the poor, for friars passing through and for the young novices. The aromatic and medicinal herbs were used by the inevitable herbalist who prepared concoctions, salves and medical potions for his sick brothers and which offered to the neighbors as well; for this reason, Capuchins quickly came to be called, according to the ancient tradition, by the affectionate name of the “people’s friars”.

The Teaching Garden of Vittoria has in this way restored to the city the natural vocation of the ancient Garden of the friars, the characteristic place of spiritual, psychological and physical refreshment through contemplating nature’s fruits and flowers. Thus, besides this basic activity of caring for and restoring the floral and herbal

specialties, various initiatives directed at the local civil and religious society have been planned.

“For about three years now the Brother Simplicius Teaching Garden has been promoting and organizing educational programs in the areas of popular medicine and care for creation for school groups at all levels. Umberto Virgadaula says “One of several initiatives has been the establishment of a prestigious scientific team representing some of our partners in the project.



The Teaching Garden conducts a teaching lab for a visiting school group. BELOW: Earth Day presentation.

The Brother Simplicius Teaching Garden competently and lovingly puts at the disposal of the new generations this precious heritage of knowledge, medicinal science, environmental spirituality and floral, teaching them to conserve and appreciate it. It offers the witness of a very timely apostolic creativity and can provide an example in this time of how to make better use of religious properties.

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Permission to use “Teaching Garden” written by Attilio Galimberti, OFS given by: Robert Stronach, OFS - editor, Vox Franciscana, CIOFS, Communications Team, CIOFS - Secular Franciscan Order - (Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis)

**La Verna Regional Treasurer’s Report**  
by Bob Henning, OFS



I wish to thank everyone for your generosity with keeping up with the Fair Share and the Regional finances are in good shape as the Finance Report shows. There have been some changes with regards to the use of the Retreat Subsidy Fund that I mentioned at the 2022 District Gatherings.



Bob Henning, OFS  
La Verna Region  
Treasurer

Both Professed members and Candidates may now request help with any retreats you wish to attend. The maximum amount allowed is one half of the total up to \$150.00.

Those who may need help with attending the upcoming Quinquennial may request the subsidy of \$500.00 by using the form, **'Application for 20<sup>th</sup> quinquennial congress financial assistance'**. (read request form below)

The Fair Share assessment was increased in 2019 from \$50/\$25 per year to \$80/\$40 per year to cover a projected shortage. Then the Covid pandemic happened and because of the various lock-downs and lack of gatherings, the REC decided to revert back to the previous Fair Share amounts in 2020. Since then, our finances have recovered well. However, our expenses for 2020 and 2021 less than expected primarily because of the lack of traveling we had budgeted for visitations, elections, Districts and Chapters.

Now that we seem to be getting back to being able to resume the different gatherings and meetings the expenses will begin to increase. It is difficult to predict what our expenses will be, especially with the state of the economy and increasing costs of everything. We are continuing to monitor our expenses closely and if we get to the point where our General Fund begins to decrease, we may have to go back to the 2019 Fair Share increased amounts.

I wish to remind everyone that we do have a Fair Share Fund that was established to help any fraternity that may have difficulty raising their quarterly Fair Share. Please contact me if your fraternity is in need of its use.

Finally, I would like to remind all fraternities that the quarterly Fair Share assessments are usually sent out at the beginning of each calendar quarter (Jan, Apr, Jul & Oct). This was a practice Peter Bekkers suggested many years ago as an alternative to the yearly assessment previously used to make it easier on fraternities. The idea was for the Fair Share to be sent in during that quarter. However, some fraternities are waiting until the last days of the quarter to send it in which means the next quarter assessment may be sent with an old balance. Please, please, try to get the quarterly Fair Share to me by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the last month of each quarter.

I hope and pray that everyone has a safe and healthy summer.

Peace, Bob Henning, OFS

**LaVerna Regional Fraternity OFS**  
**Application for 20<sup>th</sup> Quinquennial congress financial assistance**

Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Ph # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

email address: \_\_\_\_\_

FRATERNITY: \_\_\_\_\_ PROFESSION DATE: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Retreat Location - Sheraton Phoenix Downtown, Phoenix, AZ\_\_

Retreat Date     3 – 7 August, 2022

Assistance amount requested up to \$500.00 – includes registration & travel     \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Costs (Include meal plan):**

Full Regular	\$205	January 1 - May 27, 2022
Full "Late Owl"	\$250	May 28 - July 1, 2022
One-day-only Regular	\$100	January 1 - July 1, 2022

**Please note: A non-refundable \$100 per person deposit is due at time of registration.**

- **One-day-only registration is non-refundable**
- **After you register, you may log in to your account to make payments or add information (ex: flight arrival and departure times.**
- **Registration will close July 1, 2022. We cannot accommodate walk-in registrations.**
- **Any remaining balance will be automatically charged to your credit card on July 1, 2022**

**Note: If for some reason you cannot attend this retreat, please return the assistance money to the LaVerna Region OFS minus the \$100.00 non-refundable amount.**

Return to: BOB HENNING, OFS - 550 LAKEWOOD LANE - MARQUETTE, MI 49855

PHONE: (906) 273-0374

E-mail: [BMJHSEFO@AOL.COM](mailto:BMJHSEFO@AOL.COM)

La Verna Regional Fraternity OFS					Approved	Approved
STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSE					Amended	
FOR PERIODS ENDED DEC 31, 2022 and 2021					2021	2022
	THIS YEAR	Budget	Budget	Approved	Budget	Budget
	Y. T. D.	5 months period	Variance	Last Year	2021	2022
	2022	2022	Favorable	Actual	27 Jun 2020	18 Jun 2021
			(Unfavorable)	2021		
<b>BEGINNING BALANCES:</b>						
REGULAR CHECKING -----	29,828.16			25,938.89		
RETREAT SUBSIDY FUND -----	4,642.08			3,838.08		
EDUCATION/TRAINING FUND -----	4,866.46			4,062.46		
RETREAT/EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FD ---	25,000.00			25,000.00		
CUSTODIAL FUND -----	25,547.00			25,547.00		
CASH ON HAND -----	0.00			0.00		
FAIR SHARE FUND -----	600.00			600.00		
TOTAL CASH ON HAND & IN BANKS -	90,483.70			84,986.43		
<b>REVENUE:</b>						
DONATIONS -----	215.40	903.00	(687.60)	1,813.20	4,515.00	4,515.00
FAIR SHARE FUND -----	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
INT. RETREAT ENDOWMENT FUND	0.00	164.80	(164.80)	804.00	700.00	824.01
INTEREST EDUCATION FUND	0.00	164.80	(164.80)	804.00	700.00	824.00
SPECIAL MEMORIALS -----	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CHAPTER -----	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,664.00	-
FAIR SHARE -- 336 + 15 @ 80-40	5,638.75	5,688.00	(49.25)	17,136.25	29,480.00	28,440.00
SA WRKSP -----	0.00	150.00	(150.00)	0.00	1,525.00	750.00
INTEREST CUSTODIAL FUND -----	0.00	340.62	(340.62)	1,662.00	1,400.00	1,703.10
MISC & FORMATION WS INCOME -----	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00
TOTAL REVENUE -----	5,854.15	7,411.22	(1,557.07)	22,219.45	40,004.00	37,056.11
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS -----	96,337.85			107,205.88		
<b>EXPENSES:</b>						
			Favorable			
			(Unfavorable)			
STIPENDS & EXPENSES -----	2,700.00	1,200.00	(1,500.00)	2,350.38	3,000.00	6,000.00
RENT INCLUDING EQUIPMENT -----	507.50	106.00	(401.50)	507.50	500.00	530.00
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES -----	442.33	10.00	(432.33)	0.00	-	50.00
EDUCATION/TRAINING -----	63.24	717.00	653.76	0.00	3,800.00	3,585.00
MEETING ROOM & FACILITIES -----	0.00	40.00	40.00	1,115.00	200.00	200.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES -----	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	600.00	500.00
DONATIONS -----	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
ADMINISTRATIVE EXP -----	223.15	183.20	(39.95)	427.98	360.00	916.00
NEWSLETTER -----	0.00	120.00	120.00	0.00	600.00	600.00
TRAVEL EXP & EXPENSES -----	3,744.42	1,500.00	(2,244.42)	2,795.71	9,815.72	7,500.00
FAIR SHARE TO OFS-USA -- 368@17 ---	5,967.00	1,247.80	(4,719.20)	6,239.00	6,494.00	6,239.00
ANNUAL CHAPTER -----	0.00	300.00	300.00	0.00	6,000.00	1,500.00
VISITATION / ELECTION -----	0.00	300.00	300.00	2,146.57	2,500.00	1,500.00
RETREAT SUBSIDY -----	1,150.00	20.00	(1,130.00)	100.00	580.00	100.00
FAIR SHARE FUND	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SA WRKSP -----	0.00	198.00	198.00	0.00	2,971.00	990.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE -----	341.20	25.00	(316.20)	290.04	50.00	125.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS -----	15,138.84	6,567.00	(8,571.84)	15,972.18	39,970.72	32,835.00
GAIN OR (LOSS) FOR PERIOD ---	(9,284.69)	844.22	(10,128.91)	6,247.27	33.28	4,221.11
ENDING BALANCE -----	81,199.01			90,483.70		
<b>CURRENT BALANCES:</b>						
REGULAR CHECKING -----	21,693.47	133%		29828.16		
RETREAT SUBSIDY FUND -----	3,492.08			4642.08		
EDUCATION/TRAINING FUND -----	4,866.46			4866.46		
RETREAT / EDUCATION CATHOLIC FUND *-	25,000.00			25000.00		
CUSTODIAL FUND INVESTMENT (JC)-----	25,547.00			25547.00		
CASH ON HAND -----	0.00			0.00		
FAIR SHARE FUND -----	600.00			600.00		Outstanding
TOTAL CASH ON HAND & IN BANKS --	81,199.01			90483.70		Checks
CUSTODIAL FUND(5283)-JC bequest + St Pascal Baylon gift	31,538.07	5%	\$ 1,576.90	34392.14		
as of 4/30/22, last 12 mo = +6.15% Gain / (loss)	5,991.07			8845.14		
CATHOLIC FOUNDATION FUND. (5205) as of 4/30/22	30,518.00	5%	\$ 1,525.90	33279.74		
* St Francis of Assisi + Anonymous + REC						
Last 12 mo +6.15% Gain / (Loss)	5,518.00			8279.74		
Bob Henning, OFS, TREASURER	05/25/22					

## ***Mark Your 2022 Calendar***

- **La Verna Regional Chapter** - June 24-26, 2022 at St. Anthony Spirituality Center, Marathon City, WI
  - **Secular Franciscan news on social media:**  
St. Josaphat Fraternity (Milwaukee) <https://www.facebook.com/StJosaphatOFS>  
This is a current news site on fraternity, Franciscan media, archdiocese news, spiritual events, and much, much more.
  - **20th Quinquennial Congress "Q"** - August 3 - 7, 2022 in Phoenix, AZ
  - **Praying the rosary together.** During the Covid-19 epidemic and Ukraine-Russia war, La Verna Region Secular and religious Franciscans continue to pray the Rosary each Wednesday evening. However, during the summer months, we will take a three-month break but regroup again on September 6th. At that time, we will resume the Rosary gathering conference call, please dial the following number: 978-990-5000 and then enter the access code: 734545. Rosary begins at 6 p.m., and usually runs about 25 - 30 minutes.
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### **When the Story**

I tell myself  
to be myself  
  
in fall  
fails to catch fire  
  
leaves me cold  
in winter  
  
refuses to green  
in spring  
  
plods  
when summer plays  
  
it is time  
to change  
  
my story

poem written by Br. Jerome Schroeder, OFM Capuchin



## Obituary Notice

Sister Anita Beskar, FSPA, died April 23, 2022 at Villa St. Joseph, La Crosse, WI. She was in the 70th year of religious profession as a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration (FSPA). In 2009 she began service at Marywood Spirituality Center in Arbor Vitae, WI until 2021, where she moved to St. Rose Convent and then later to Villa St. Joseph in La Crosse. Sr. Anita also served as local spiritual assistant with Queen of the Universe fraternity in Woodruff, WI.



Sr. Anita Beskar, FSPA

Anita was born in River Falls (Big River), WI. on May 2, 1932, to Leo and Mildred (Maier) Beskar. She professed first vows as an FSPA on August 12, 1952. She began her ministry teaching in elementary schools in Edgar and Boyd, WI. and Spencer, Iowa, before moving into high school. She received a BA in chemistry with a minor in mathematics from Viterbo College (University) and an MS in chemistry from Notre Dame.

Her work with young people was recognized by the Davenport Iowa Diocese, where she was invited to become the Diocesan Director of the Office of Religious Education and Youth Ministry, a position she held from 1981 to 1989. She then began a year of study at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, where she had the opportunity for a three-month study tour in Israel.

### La Verna Region District Gathering

At each of the 2014 La Verna Region district gatherings, Sr. Anita opened the special meeting with prayer and then began her agenda discussion titled “*Listening.*” Anita said, “I would like for the district gathering attendees to go home and back to their local fraternities knowing how to interact with each other.” She said learning how to listen well to our Franciscan members develops a fundamental impression in building fraternal relationships. At the end of her topic talk, she then asked the audience, “*Now, what did you hear?*” In her afternoon district gathering session, Sr. Anita talked about strengthening Secular Franciscan life by setting up “geo-groups,” which may be established in larger Wisconsin cities, like Milwaukee.

Religious Community and Secular Franciscans remember Sr. Anita’s gentle presence, soft voice, and joyful laughter. Her funeral was held April 26 at Villa St. Joseph. Burial at Villa St. Joseph.

### Reflection on the Prayer of St. Francis in the Wake of School Shootings

Make me a channel of your peace.

May I offer compassion to all I encounter,  
especially the families of the victims and the  
shooter.

Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.

May I always see the person behind the  
behavior.

Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,

Help us to ask forgiveness from those we may  
have hurt.

And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Let me have faith that we can make schools a  
safe place for our children.

Make me a channel of your peace.

May words of peace be in my heart and on my  
lips

Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.

Working together let us eradicate the despair  
that births violence.

Where there is darkness, only light,

May each of us become points of light that  
shatters the darkness of hopelessness.

And where there's sadness, ever joy.

May we embrace all who have lost loved ones to  
violence.

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek

To respond with anger instead of compassion.

So much to be consoled as to console.

To judge another instead of working to  
eradicate the causes of violence.

To be understood as to understand.

To use weapons instead of dialogue to create a  
new vision for problem solving.

To be loved as to love with all my soul.

To be so focused on myself that I neglect the  
needs of others.

Make me a channel of your peace.

Help me to see your face in every person.

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

Help me to forgive those who have hurt me.

in giving of ourselves that we receive,

Help me to offer my love to the least, last and  
lost among us,

and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

And it is only by dying to ourselves that we will  
see your belovedness in others.

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Created by Lee Ann Niebuhr, OFS - June 1, 2022