



# La Verna E-Vision

*Be the Bridge to Fraternal Life*

Volume 11

2023 Spring edition



Jeff Gumz, OFS  
La Verna Region Minister

My brothers and sisters in St. Francis.

It's that time of the year again when the flowers bloom, the sun shines, and everything feels fresh and new. Yes,

we're talking about spring! We are excited to bring you our latest newsletter, where we will be sharing some of the exciting happenings in the La Verna Region.

As I write this message we have held two of our District Gatherings (Central District hosted by St. Anthony Fraternity in Marshfield, WI on March 25, 2023 and Fox Valley District hosted by St. Ann Fraternity in Green Bay on April 1, 2023. The final District Gathering will be on April 29, 2023 in Wind Lake and hosted by St. Paschal Baylon Fraternity. The theme of this year's District Gatherings is "Listen, Discern and Go Forth." This beautiful theme will continue to guide us this year as we gather for our Regional Chapter on July 21 - July 23, 2023 at St. Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon, WI.

The District Gathering included a mix of activities such as small group discussions, large group share-outs, Q&A sessions, which kept the attendees engaged throughout the day. My favorite part of the day was the opportunity for our brothers

and sisters to be interactive and engaging, getting to know each other better, regardless of their fraternity or role within the order.

The St. Anthony, The St. Ann and St. Paschal Baylon Fraternities were wonderful hosts providing registration materials, snacks and a wonderful lunch. The District Gathering kicked off with an introduction to the theme by Roxanne Miner, OFS and two sessions on listening by Br. Jerome and Art Montgomery OFS which helped us learn more about what listening looks like in fraternity and how to practice active listening. The afternoon sessions focused on discernment and action, with wonderful presentations by Charlie Neuman, OFS; Nora Kessel, OFS and Roxanne Miner, OFS. Overall, the 2023 District Gatherings were well-structured, inclusive, and included sessions that were

**Minister's Message**, continued on page 2

## *In this Issue...*

- Minister's Message... cover
- 100th Anniversary... p. 2 -3
- Reflections - Fr. Bach ... p. 5
- OFS news ... p. 6 - 9
- Regional Formation Team ... p.7
- Calendar Events ... p. 10
- Retreat info ... p. 10
- Treasurer's Report ... pp. 11 - 14
- Tau Cross ... p. 15

beneficial for our brothers and sisters in the La Verna Region.

Our former Regional Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Lester Bach knew the importance of listening. He said, *"When it comes to serving others – such as in a soup kitchen – it's not so much what you do, but how you do it. In other words, it's about building relationships. It starts with Secular Franciscan fraternities, with a spirituality steeped in the love of the Trinity, and a call to love one another. Let's prod our fraternities to move beyond a devotional mindset to one of expressing God's love in action, in relationships. Fraternities should have some sort of impact. Remember, the Franciscan vocation leaves no one out of your concern and compassion."*

Another upcoming event will be a Zoom Gathering with Local Fraternities on May 7, 2023 at 7:00 PM CST. Back in January we met via Zoom and began a discussion about what Youth and Young Adults looks like in our Fraternities. The dialogue about youth and young adults was honest and enlightening. We will continue the discussion on May 7. I always send out the Zoom link to all local ministers, so if you would like to attend please ask the Minister of your Fraternity.

Some members of Fraternities have asked me how they can find out more information about what is happening at the National level. I suggest you follow Secular Franciscan Order - USA's blog. The website is [www.secularfranciscansusa.org/blog/](http://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/blog/).

Please check it out a couple times a month to stay abreast of the latest news and featured articles from OFS-USA.

We hope that this newsletter will bring some much-needed joy and inspiration to your day. Our newsletter editor, Ed Boss, OFS, has worked hard to bring you the latest and greatest in all things Franciscan. Ed will be stepping away from his role as Newsletter Editor in the upcoming months. Please pray and consider stepping forward to serve your Regional Fraternity as a Newsletter Editor. Let me know if you are interested. Thank you for being a Franciscan. Peace and Joy!

Jeff Gumz, OFS  
Minister of the La Verna Region

---

**St. Francis of  
Assisi  
Fraternity  
Celebrates its  
100th  
Anniversary**



In 1922, Fr. Bertrand Labinski, OFM became pastor of St. Joseph Catholic church in Escanaba, Michigan, and he immediately saw the need of the parishioners. He asked his St. John the Baptist Province's home office in Cincinnati, Ohio that he would like to start a tertiary - a lay association with the organization of the Franciscans.

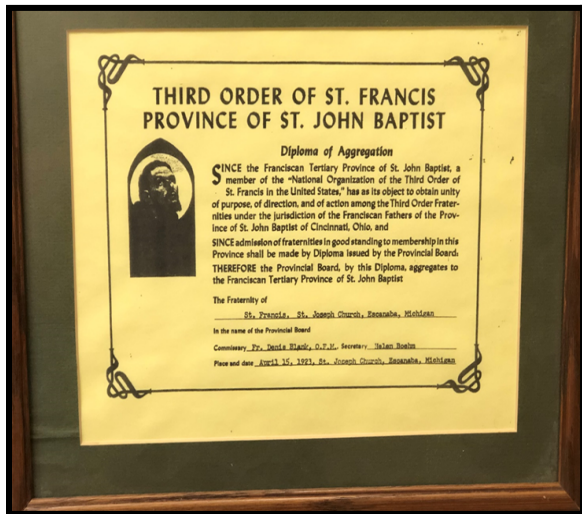
Soon after, enrollment took place with each member given a scapular and cord.

**100th Anniversary, continued on page 3**



The 100th anniversary gathering at St. Joseph church also included fraternity members from the Michigan UP, Central and Southeastern Wisconsin La Verna region district fraternities.

The following year St. Francis Fraternity, located in Escanaba, received its official charter on April 15, 1923, and the Secular Franciscan fraternity members continue to this day to gather in St. Joseph church.



Thus, a fraternity was born, and as time went on, the group easily grew to about 308 members. All faithfully following the Rule. At that time, there were no expenses, dues, fees, or any other requirement except to be a Catholic in good standing and over 14-years of age.

In 1952 a regional conference was held at St. Joseph's church. Through the years, notes on membership listings dating from 1963 through 1983 showed the many fraternity commissions which members

held. The fraternity was very active. Eventually, St. Francis of Assisi fraternity came under the La Verna Region in the 1990s.

To commemorate the special event, on Saturday, April 15, 2023, fraternity members, both Secular and Religious Franciscans, and family members gathered to celebrate the 100th anniversary of St Francis Of Assisi Fraternity in Escanaba.

The Saturday, April 15th gathering first began with Mass at St. Joseph church, celebrated by Fr. Tim Furgason, and a homily by Br. Jerome Schroder, OFM Cap, La Verna Regional Spiritual Assistant. After Mass everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch with lots of conversation.

Jeanne Thill, OFS, St. Francis of Assisi fraternity member, presented a well-rounded history of the fraternity with important historical dates and events. Also, Lee Ann Niebuhr, OFS La Verna Regional Spiritual Assistant gave the group a splendid talk on 'what it means to belong to a fraternity.'



Members of St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity, Escanaba, MI. Front - L-R: Rosemary Sankovitch, Darlene Vandermissen-Vice. Minister, Dorothy Kollmann, Minister, Deb Kozar, Tom Gibbons; Back - L-R: Mary Hodge, Formation Minister, Jan Tolfa, Spiritual Advisor, Jeanne Thill, Secretary and Peter Strom. Missing from the photo - Treasurer, Bonnie Matusik.







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." 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.

Permission to copy materials printed in *La Verna E-Vision* is given freely except where the copyright is specifically reserved to the author or artist. *La Verna E-Vision* editors: Ed Boss, OFS, [efbofs@gmail.com](mailto:efbofs@gmail.com) and Jeff Gumz, OFS, [jagumz@gmail.com](mailto:jagumz@gmail.com). For further information about the La Verna Region and the Secular Franciscan Order, please go to the La Verna Region internet site: [www.laverna secular franciscans.com](http://www.laverna secular franciscans.com)

---

## 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:

**Minister** - Jeff Gumz, OFS -

[jagumz@gmail.com](mailto:jagumz@gmail.com) 920-393-9087

**Vice Minister** - Sharon Dale, OFS -

[shadale@wctc.net](mailto:shadale@wctc.net) (715) 423-4136

**Secretary** - Kathy Sutliff, OFS -

[katsut@charter.net](mailto:katsut@charter.net) (715) 369-3367

**Treasurer** - Bob Henning, OFS -

[BMJHSFO@AOL.COM](mailto:BMJHSFO@AOL.COM) (906) 273-0374

**Councilor** - Nora Kessel, OFS -

[noraekessel@gmail.com](mailto:noraekessel@gmail.com) (715) 204-9671

**Councilor** - Roxanne Miner, OFS -

[rminers59@gmail.com](mailto:rminers59@gmail.com) (563) 210-5692

**Councilor** - Art Montgomery, OFS -

[amontgomery1@wi.rr.com](mailto:amontgomery1@wi.rr.com) (414) 640-3298

**Councilor** - Charlie Neuman, OFS -

[charlieneuman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:charlieneuman@sbcglobal.net)

(414) 617-4199

**Regional Spiritual Assistant** -

Janet Dubec, OFS -

[janetdubec@att.net](mailto:janetdubec@att.net) (715) 835-7201

**Regional Spiritual Assistant** -

Lee Ann Niebuhr, OFS -

[lamniebuhr@gmail.com](mailto:lamniebuhr@gmail.com) (715) 356-1009

**Regional Spiritual Assistant** -

Br. Jerome Schroeder, OFM Cap -

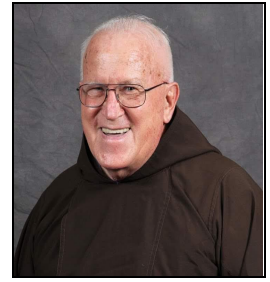
[jschroeder2345@gmail.com](mailto:jschroeder2345@gmail.com) (262) 385-4630

**Formation Director** - TBA

## Reflections

by Fr. Lester Bach OFM Cap, (October 15, 1931 - February 2, 2020)

Fr. Lester was invested in the Capuchin habit in 1949, professed in 1953, and ordained in 1957. As La Verna Regional Spiritual Assistant for many years, Fr. Bach also contributed his writings meant as reflection to support Secular Franciscans on their spiritual journey. Here is one reflection Lester wrote titled "Franciscan Family," which was published in the Spring 2013 edition of the *La Verna Vision* newsletter. Enjoy.



"Much of our literature and many of our conversations talk about the "Franciscan Family." It is normal to do so. But most of us do not have the same parents. We grew up in a different family. While living with family, we picked up a lot of ways of doing things. We developed habits we thought were communication ideas. We learned how to show anger and how to push other people's "buttons," as we sometimes say. We learned ideas about religion. We recognized that there are people we refuse to deal with. Others were lazy or obsessed or strange or whatever. We learned a bit about money and what it can do and why it is important.

"Add all the things we learned in school. Sometimes we were mere copy-cats. We accepted values because someone we liked was "cool" or "awesome" or something else, depending on the "in" word. Others we neglected because it took too long to accomplish. We learned good as well as foolish things. But we rarely up-graded the rooms of our mind and heart.

"**Then** - we bring all this "stuff" to the Secular Franciscan Order. We learn quickly that we might have to discard a lot of our "things." Prejudice is no longer a virtue. Being a "pain in the neck" is no longer acceptable. Dominating conversations seemed a good thing until we learned that listening is also a good thing. Then we talked about stewardship and to be equally concerned about others who have less than we do.

"Now you belong to the Franciscan Family. They have a lot of values and ideas about God and life with people that haven't been part of life to this point. We are asked to initiate a process of "conversion." We are expected not only to talk about loving everyone, but doing it - even loving enemies! We discover that relationships are absolutely vital in Franciscan life - no matter what kind of folks we're talking about. Forgiveness and reconciliation are prime virtues in this Franciscan Family. Concern for one another and learning to share our internal thoughts, ideas, fears and dreams is no easy task.

"**Question:** How are you doing in being a part of the Franciscan Family? How is "conversion" doing in your life?"

### Editor's note:

For most of his religious life, Fr. Lester Bach was involved in ministry to the Secular Franciscan Order, serving many years as La Verna Regional Spiritual Assistant. He was also involved in the formation ministry in the 1960s, as well as the preaching ministry beginning in the 1970s. His ministries took him to Huntington and Crown Point, IN, Saginaw, MI, Madison, Marathon, WI and Chicago. Fr. Lester Bach, OFM Cap celebrated 69 years of religious life.



## *Local Fraternity News*



Congratulations to the newly-elected St. Francis of Assisi council members: front row left-to-right: Mary Klaver (Councilor), Art Montgomery (Minister), Charlie Neuman (Vice-Minister);back row left-to-right: Cindy Widish (Treasurer), Barb Spies (Formator), Fr. Mike Erwin (Secretary).

St. Francis of Assisi fraternity is located in Milwaukee. The local council election was held on March 14, 2023 at Cardinal Stritch University. Jeff Gumz was election president and Br. Larry Webber, OFM Cap (spiritual assistant) served as the ecclesiastical witness.

## *Regional News*



Central Wisconsin District Meeting attendees met on March 25, 2023 at St. John the Baptist church in Marshfield, WI. St. Anthony fraternity host the gathering.

**Theme for 2023 District Gatherings:  
Listen, Discern and Go Forth**

## Regional News - 2023 District Gathering



Fox Valley District Gathering attendees met on April 1, 2023. The gathering was hosted by St. Ann Fraternity, Green Bay, WI.

---

### *La Verna Regional Formation Team news*



During our last Zoom Formation Gathering on February 26, 2023 with La Verna Regional local formators, the REC Formation Team heard the challenges, hopes and dreams of the ten Fraternities Formators who were able to attend. Three local Fraternity Formators informed the team that they would be unable to join-in that evening. We missed hearing from four local Fraternities Formators and hope they will join us for the May 21, 2023 upcoming event.

Some of the challenges discussed at the February 26 meeting centered around low numbers in initial formation and recruitment efforts continue to be a concern. How to be prophetically creative in increasing these numbers takes the “whole fraternity” to address and continually explore options. Formation - Initial and On-going - has a lot of information to offer. How to convert this information into formation is the process of change, conversion and communion; that is, working with reflection and contemplation.

Lectio Divia says it so succinctly: read it, respond to it, reflect on it and sit with it in contemplation. This is easy to say intellectually and perplexing to get it from the head to the heart. I have been learning more and more about the process of contemplation this last year. As our Rule says “...so let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all they are and do.”

We are marvelously, wonderfully made for contemplation. Do you believe? The fruit of contemplation is TRANSFORMATION. As I have seen some of the fruits of the Holy Spirit being more real in my attitudes and lived experience. As formators, how do we “teach” the process of spiritual growth? How do we pray and contemplate with those in initial formation and on-going formation?

**Come join us for our May 21 Formation Zoom gathering beginning at 6:30 p.m. and explore more about the process of formation!**

JoAnn Boss, OFS , REC Zoom Formation Team Member with Art Montgomery OFS, Roxanne Miner OFS and Bro Jerome Schroder OFM Cap.

Sunday, May 21, 2023  
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm CST  
Zoom Formation Gathering  
for Local Formators



## **The Franciscan Centenary** By Bret Thoman, OFS

In the same way we celebrate birthdays or wedding or profession anniversaries, our order commemorates significant events in the life of Francis. These are moments to reflect. We take time to consider what these events mean to us, how they shaped or formed us, and how they affect our identity. We look back at what happened in time in order to consider where we are now, and where we wish to go from here.

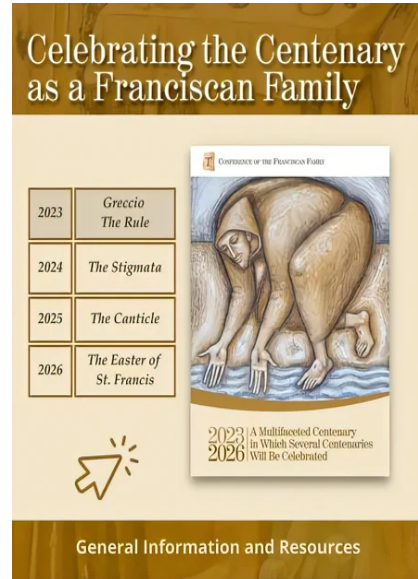
Unlike our own life events, in which we recall such events in years, the order marks events in the life of St. Francis in terms of centuries. These are centenaries. Anyone who has been on pilgrimage to Assisi may have noticed past centenaries. For example, in the cemetery chapel of Bastiola, not far from Assisi, there is a plaque dated 1912. It was placed there to commemorate the seventh centenary of St. Clare's arrival; at the then monastery of San Paolo after leaving her family on Palm Sunday, 1212.

More recently, over the past two decades, there have been a number of eighth-centenary events. In 2006, there was the "spoliation" of Francis; that is, when he stripped before his father and the bishop (1206). In 2009, there was the oral approval of the rule by Pope Innocent X and the creation of the order (1209). In 2012, there was Clare's conversion (1212). In 2017, there was the chapter of mats (1217), while in 2021, we recalled the letter written by Francis that marks the beginning of the Third Order (1221).

But these were all minor commemorations compared to the centenary events that will take place over the next few years. From 1223 through 1226, a series of major milestones in the life of St. Francis will be celebrated. This year, 2023, we commemorate the eighth centenary of the approval of the Later Rule of St. Francis and the Christmas at Greccio (1223). Next year, in 2024, we will recall the Reception of the Stigmata on Mt. La Verna (1224). Then in 2025, we will commemorate the composition of the Canticle of the Creatures (1225). Finally, what is being referred to as the Easter of Francis – that is, his death and passing to eternal life (1226/2026) will be celebrated. These events will coincide with the Jubilee in the Catholic Church in 2025

Editor's note:

Bret Thoman's complete article **The Franciscan Centenary** may be read in the winter 2023 TAU-USA newsletter publication on page 21 or go to [secularfranciscansusa.org](http://secularfranciscansusa.org)







# Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis

Consilium Internationale OFS (CIOFS) | Secular Franciscan Order



## Monthly Intentions Prayer for 2023

To underline the communion with the Pope, we offer **the intention of the Holy Father for the month** and an **intention for OFS** according to the life and important events of the Order.  
Local Fraternities pray for both.

May	<p><b><u>For church movements and groups</u></b> - We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.  <b>OFS:</b> For the national fraternities of Denmark and IX Latin American Congress OFS/YouFra.  <i>Our Father...</i></p>
June	<p><b><u>For the abolition of torture</u></b> - We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.  <b>OFS:</b> For the national fraternities of Venezuela and Pakistan.  <i>Our Father...</i></p>
July	<p><b><u>For a Eucharistic life</u></b> - We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.  <b>OFS:</b> For the success of the International gathering of YouFra in Portugal.  <i>Our Father...</i></p>
August	<p><b><u>For World Youth Day</u></b> - We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.  <b>OFS:</b> For the national fraternities of USA (VFP).  <i>Our Father...</i></p>
September	<p><b><u>For people living on the margins</u></b> - We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.  <b>OFS:</b> For the national fraternity of Netherlands VFP  <i>Our Father...</i></p>

---

## *Mark Your 2023 Calendar*

**Secular Franciscan news on social media:** St. Josaphat Fraternity (Milwaukee)

<https://www.facebook.com/St.JosaphatOFS>. This is a current news site on fraternity life, Franciscan media, archdiocese news, spiritual events, and much more.

- **Franciscans praying the rosary together.** La Verna Region Secular and religious Franciscans meet to pray the Rosary together and, if you wish, privately each Wednesday evening. To join us in praying the rosary, please dial the following number: 978-990-5000 and then enter the access code: 734545. Rosary begins at 6:00 p.m. and usually runs for about 25 minutes.
- **The REC is holding a Zoom gathering** - with Local Fraternities on May 7, 2023 at 7:00 PM CST Stay in touch with our Franciscan fraternity brothers and sisters. Zoom hook up link info TBA
- **La Verna Formation Team** Zoom chat with local fraternity formators - May 21, 2023 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Zoom link info TBA
- **La Verna Regional Chapter** - July 21 - July 23, 2023 at St. Anthony Spirituality Center, Marathon, WI

---

***Upcoming Retreat*** - St. Anthony Spirituality Center - Marathon, WI

**Celebrating Franciscan Woman** - May 12 @ 6:00 pm -- May 14 @ 1:00 pm

Presented by Lee Ann Niebuhr, OFS; Sr. Kathlyn Lange, SCSC; and Adele DiNatale-Svetnicka, Affl. FSPA

Christian history is full of incredible women whose legacies continue today! Join us for a weekend learning about five Franciscan women who followed their specific calling and made a difference in the world! Some of celebrated Franciscan women are:

St. Angela Merici, Third Order Franciscan (1474 - 1540) created a 'third option' for the women of her time.

St. Marianne Cope, Third Order Regular, (1838-1918) is best known for her selflessness in caring for those afflicted by leprosy in Hawaii. She is the first American Franciscan woman to be canonized.

Blessed Mother Maria Theresa Scherer, (1825-1888) She helped care for the poor, aged, and sick in their homes or in hospitals and to train children who were

mentally or physically handicapped. She was considered the co-foundress, was one of the first members and the first superior general of the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross.

For those unable to attend in person, there will be a Zoom option for \$50. Please contact our office to register for the virtual retreat.

Registration begins at 3:00 pm on Friday, followed by orientation at 5:45 and supper at 6:00. The retreat concludes after the noon meal on Sunday. Investment \$225.

If you are unable to attend due to financial obstacles, please contact us regarding payment plans or other options. To register, call 715-443-2236, e-mail [info@sarcenter.com](mailto:info@sarcenter.com)

## La Verna Regional Treasurer's Report by Bob Henning, OFS



Bob Henning, OFS  
La Verna Region  
Treasurer

Three interesting things I have heard while at different meetings are questions regarding finances, lapsing, and member status. Although we as Secular Franciscans are supposed to lead a life of detachment from worldly goods - OFS Rule article #11 - that does not mean our fraternities are intended to maintain a minimal amount of funds.

### FINANCES

Fraternities are expected to do good works - Rule articles #1, #7 and #14, help those in need - Rule article #15, - and adopt various apostolates, - articles #15, #16, #17 and #18, while supporting the next high level of Franciscans - article #25, and the other various and sometimes unexpected costs. All of these things mean fraternities must establish and maintain an amount of money that was established by their council as their individual budget.

This brings the need for a yearly budget - OFS General Constitution #50.2.e and NS #5.5.i and NS #6.4.c - that the council determines based upon all expected expenses. The amount is then divided by the number of members and that would be each one's fair share. Because we live in uncertain times regarding inflation, fraternities should accumulate a general fund amount that is about 1 ½ times the budget which is what the OFS-USA recommends.

### ABOUT LAPSING

This is only a temporary provision - OFS Rule article #23, OFS General Constitution #50.2.c, 56.1, 56.3 and 57, NS #18.7.b and 20, and can be reversed once the original impediment has been overcome. Lapsed members are STILL Franciscans! It is the duty of the council to dialogue with those members about the issues preventing the member from fully participating in fraternity to help, but if the condition cannot be resolved, the request to be lapsed should be approved. Lapsed members are not counted as a fraternity member, they are not active.

### MEMBER STATUS

The word active has evolved to 'fully active' and 'active excused.' Both are considered to be Active and are counted as part of the fraternity number.

### BEQUESTS

We must thank and pray for our sister Elizabeth (Betty) Sullivan, OFS, who met Sister death on September 21, 2022. Betty had the Rite of Admission on June 12, 1993. She took her 1st temporary Profession on April 20, 1995, and her Permanent Profession on May 17, 1997. Betty was part of the St. Paschal Baylon Fraternity and then the emerging Sts. Francis and Clare Fraternity in Madison. Betty bequeathed \$10,000 to our Region.

Easter Blessings,  
Bob



LaVerna Region  
Treasurer's Report  
03 April, 2023

The overall status of the Region's finances is Green.

**FINANCIAL REPORT** (attached)

The Checking account balance is \$34,968.37 broken out as follows;

Regular Checking = \$ 24,358.83

To be deposited = \$ 0.00

Retreat Subsidy Fund = \$4,267.58

Education/Training Fund = \$5,721.96 ( \$998.00 JDSG remaining )

Fair Share Fund = \$620.00

Paid bills – Fair Share to OFS-USA = \$5,440.00

**FAIR SHARE STATUS REPORT** (attached)

4th Quarter 2022 Fair Share receipts = \$6,132.50 ( 19 Fraternities )

4th Quarter 2022 Fair Share still due = \$0.00 ( 0 Fraternities )

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023 Fair Share receipts = \$5,855.00 ( 18 Fraternities )

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023 Fair Share still due = \$45.00 ( 1 Fraternity )

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2023 Fair Share assessments will go out after Easter

We started 2023 with 320 Members (P & C), we now have 316.

The General Fund is currently at 171% of the current budget. The reason for the sudden jump of funds is due to the bequest by Elizabeth (Betty) Sullivan of \$10,000.

Recommend we keep the mileage reimbursement at 0.30/mile.

Recommend we take funds distributions due to value recovery.

Respectfully submitted by  
Bob Henning, OFS, Regional Treasurer  
2 attachments: as



RED means OVER-Paid	Names and addresses of Fraternity Treasures														Date	1/3/2023	As of	04/03/23		
	2022 & 2023														2023	2022	2022	2022	2022	(OVER-Paid)
	2023	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	(OVER-Paid)	2023	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	(OVER-Paid)					
1st Qtr Pd	4th Qtr Pd	3rd Qtr Pd	2nd Qtr Pd	1st Qtr Pd	OWED		1st Qtr Pd	4th Qtr Pd	3rd Qtr Pd	2nd Qtr Pd	1st Qtr Pd	OWED								
<b>St. Francis Of Assisi Escanaba, MI</b>	65-10601	200.00	200.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	0.00	<b>St. Katharine Drexel Beaver Dam, WI 53916</b>	65-11101	60.00	60.00	37.50	112.50	0.00	20.00					
Treasurer:	10	10						Treasurer:												
Bonnie Matusk OFS	0	0						Janice Tischler, OFS												
111 N. 12th St. Apt 101								108 Lake Shore Terrace												
Escanaba, MI 49829								Beaver Dam, WI 53916												
<b>St. James Wausau, WI</b>	65-12501	340.00	340.00	360.00	225.00	250.00	0.00	<b>St. Ann Green Bay, WI</b>	65-10101	390.00	330.00	206.25	206.25	206.25	0.00					
Treasurer:	17	17						Treasurer:												
Patricia Steg, OFS	0	0						Dcn Paul Umentum, OFS												
St. James Fraternity OFS								1161 Grignon St												
P.O. Box 334								Green Bay, WI 54301												
Wausau, WI 54402																				
<b>St. Anthony of Padua Marquette, MI</b>	65-10901	180.00	370.00	231.25	211.25	251.25	0.00	<b>Holy Innocents Manitowoc, WI</b>	65-11401	112.50	180.00	112.50	112.50	112.50	0.00					
Treasurer:	15	15						Treasurer:												
Rose Marie Makl OFS	1	1						Sharon Bell, OFS												
612 Brule Rd								1388 Irving Cr.												
Marquette, MI 49855-5267								Manitowoc, WI 54220-1610												
<b>St. Anthony of Padua Marathon City, WI</b>	65-11501	280.00	280.00	225.00	237.50	237.50	0.00	<b>Sacred Heart Oshkosh, WI</b>	65-12301	400.00	400.00	250.00	262.50	237.50	0.00					
Treasurer:	14	14						Treasurer:												
Monte Wilkom, OFS	0	0						Dione Gunther, OFS												
2401 Meadowbrook Dr.								284 N Campbell Rd., # A												
Marshfield, WI 54449								Oshkosh, WI 54902												
<b>St. John Neumann Rhinelander, WI</b>	65-12401	380.00	400.00	262.50	250.00	262.50	0.00	<b>St. Pascal Baylon Burlington, WI</b>	65-10301	690.00	720.00	900.00	0.00	450.00	0.00					
Treasurer:	19	19						Treasurer:												
Janet Sprink, OFS	0	0						Jan McRae OFS												
707 W Pioneer St. #503								2431 South Rd.												
Grandon, WI 54520								Burlington, WI 53105												
<b>St. Peter Stevens Point, WI</b>	65-10201	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.00	0.00	45.00	<b>St. Clare Greenfield, WI</b>	65-13001	220.00	220.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	0.00					
Treasurer:	6	6						Treasurer:												
Nick Crane, OFS	0	0						Carol Nelson, OFS												
2833 Church St								6171 S 120 St.												
Stevens Point, WI 54484								Hales Corner WI 53130												
<b>Queen of Heaven Wisconsin Rapids, WI</b>	65-12901	160.00	160.00	100.00	100.00	93.75	0.00	<b>St. Josaphat Milwaukee, WI</b>	65-13001	330.00	330.00	143.75	268.75	268.75	0.00					
Treasurer:	8	8						Treasurer:												
Carla Dewitt, OFS	0	0						Linda Faust, OFS												
2241 6th St. S.								8829 Greenhill Ln												
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54484								Greendale, WI 53129												
<b>Our Lady Queen of the Univ Woodruff, WI</b>	65-12901	600.00	672.50	425.00	425.00	462.50	0.00	<b>Portiuncula Franklin, WI</b>	65-13601	292.50	297.50	206.25	193.75	175.00	0.00					
Co-Treasurer	30	33						Treasurer:												
Eileen Braeger OFS	0	0						Karen Pierce, OFS												
1984 Bluebird Lane								7710 S 51st St. Apt 101												
Woodruff, WI 54588								Franklin, WI 53132-9922												
<b>St. Joseph Appleton, WI</b>	65-11001	620.00	620.00	375.00	375.00	375.00	0.00	<b>St. Francis Of Assisi Milwaukee, WI</b>	65-10002	350.00	242.50	340.00	212.50	206.25	0.00					
Treasurer:	30	30						Treasurer:												
Roland Probst, OFS	2	2						Cindy Widish, OFS												
219 Calumet St #1								131 S 3rd Street												
Appleton, WI 54915								Ootsburg, WI 53070												
<b>Sts Francis &amp; Clare EF Madison, WI</b>		170.00	230.00	143.75	150.00	137.50	0.00	<b>St Elizabeth of Hungary Chippewa Falls, WI 54719</b>	65-13701	80.00	80.00	50.00	50.00	100.00	0.00					
Treasurer:	9	11						Treasurer:												
Elizabeth Anderson, OFS	1	1						Judy Kuocera, OFS												
N9504 Hay Hollow Road								1240 Ervin Rd												
Blanchardville, WI 53516								EAU-Clare, WI 54703												
<b>Totals</b>								<b>Second Column Totals</b>												
First Column-professed	158	2,930.00	3,272.50	2,247.50	2,498.75	2,332.50	45.00			2,925.00	2,860.00	2,396.25	1,568.75	1,906.25	20.00					
First Column-candidates	4																			
Second Column-professed	144	2,925.00	2,890.00	2,396.25	1,568.75	1,906.25	20.00													
Second Column-candidates	10																			
Grand Totals	316	5,855.00	6,132.50	4,643.75	4,067.50	4,238.75	65.00													
Total Collected all rows							24,937.50													
Total Owed all rows							65.00													
2022 FS Income		\$ 5,855.00						From 2022 Annual Reports												
								Total Professed												
								Total Candidates												
								Total												

**La Verne Regional Fraternity OFS  
STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSE  
FOR PERIODS ENDED DEC 31, 2023 and 2022**

	THIS YEAR Y. T. D. 2023	Budget 4 months period 2023	Budget Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)	Approved Last Year Actual 2022	Approved	Approved
					Amended 2022 Budget 25 Jun 2022	2023 Budget 25 Jun 2022
<b>BEGINNING BALANCES:</b>						
REGULAR CHECKING -----	17,348.75			29,828.16		
RETREAT SUBSIDY FUND -----	4,267.58			4,642.08		
EDUCATION/TRAINING FUND -----	5,721.96			4,866.46		
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 -----	620.00			600.00		
<b>TOTAL CASH ON HAND &amp; IN BANKS -</b>	<b>78,505.29</b>				<b>90,483.70</b>	
<b>REVENUE:</b>						
DONATIONS -----	10,491.90	1,505.00	8,986.90	1,582.08	4,515.00	4,515.00
FAIR SHARE FUND -----	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
INT. RETREAT ENDOWMENT FUND	0.00	233.33	(233.33)	855.50	855.50	700.00
INTEREST EDUCATION FUND	0.00	233.33	(233.33)	855.50	855.50	700.00
SPECIAL MEMORIALS -----	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CHAPTER -----	0.00	0.00	0.00	436.00	-	0.00
FAIR SHARE -- 306 + 14 @ 80-40	5,855.00	8,346.67	(2,491.67)	19,675.00	25,960.00	25,040.00
SA WRKSP -----	0.00	250.00	(250.00)	0.00	750.00	750.00
INTEREST CUSTODIAL FUND -----	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,768.00	1,768.00	0.00
MISC & FORMATION WS INCOME -----	20.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE -----</b>	<b>16,366.90</b>	<b>10,568.33</b>	<b>5,798.57</b>	<b>25,192.08</b>	<b>34,704.00</b>	<b>31,705.00</b>
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS -----</b>	<b>94,872.19</b>			<b>115,675.78</b>		
<b>EXPENSES:</b>						
STIPENDS & EXPENSES -----	2,700.00	2,000.00	(700.00)	5,400.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
RENT INCLUDING EQUIPMENT -----	0.00	176.67	176.67	507.50	530.00	530.00
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES -----	0.00	16.67	16.67	442.33	50.00	50.00
EDUCATION/TRAINING -----	0.00	1,195.00	1,195.00	63.24	3,585.00	3,585.00
MEETING ROOM & FACILITIES -----	0.00	66.67	66.67	1,403.00	200.00	200.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES -----	0.00	166.67	166.67	289.74	500.00	500.00
DONATIONS -----	41.90	166.67	124.77	0.00	0.00	500.00
ADMINISTRATIVE & WEB EXP -----	289.60	472.00	182.40	4,042.71	916.00	1,416.00
NEWSLETTER -----	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	600.00	600.00
TRAVEL EXP & EXPENSES -----	885.32	2,500.00	1,614.68	7,130.36	7,500.00	7,500.00
FAIR SHARE TO OFS-USA -- -320@17 ---	5,440.00	1,813.33	(3,626.67)	5,987.00	5,712.00	5,440.00
ANNUAL CHAPTER -----	0.00	500.00	500.00	6,224.11	1,500.00	1,500.00
VISITATION / ELECTION -----	0.00	-	0.00	589.30	1,500.00	0.00
RETREAT SUBSIDY -----	0.00	76.67	76.67	1,260.00	1,230.00	230.00
FAIR SHARE FUND	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SA WRKSP -----	0.00	330.00	330.00	0.00	990.00	990.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE -----	0.00	41.67	41.67	3,871.20	125.00	125.00
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS -----</b>	<b>9,356.82</b>	<b>2,430.50</b>	<b>365.20</b>	<b>37,170.49</b>	<b>30,938.00</b>	<b>29,166.00</b>
<b>GAIN OR (LOSS) FOR PERIOD ---</b>	<b>7,010.08</b>	<b>8,137.83</b>	<b>6,163.77</b>	<b>(11,978.41)</b>	<b>3,766.00</b>	<b>2,539.00</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE -----</b>	<b>85,515.37</b>			<b>78,505.29</b>		
<b>CURRENT BALANCES:</b>						
REGULAR CHECKING -----	24,358.83	34,968.37		17348.75		
RETREAT SUBSIDY FUND -----	4,267.58			4267.58		
EDUCATION/TRAINING FUND -----	5,721.96			5721.96		
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 -----	620.00	171%		620.00		
<b>TOTAL CASH ON HAND &amp; IN BANKS --</b>	<b>85,515.37</b>			<b>78505.29</b>		
CUSTODIAL FUND(5283)-JC bequest + St Pascal Baylon gift	29,520.32	5% \$	1,476.02	29308.44		91.20
as of 2/28/23, last 12 mo = -5.51% Gain / (loss)	3,973.32			3761.44		247.11
CATHOLIC FOUNDATION FUND (5205) as of 2/28/23	28,585.31	5% \$	1,428.27	28360.30		76.21
* St Francis of Assisi + Anonymous + REC						67.70
Last 12 mo -5.50% Gain / (Loss)	3,565.31			3360.30		450.00
Bob Henning, OFS, TREASURER	04/03/23					450.00
						450.00
PROOF	0.00					150.00
					0.00	



## The Franciscan Tau Symbol

The Franciscan symbol of the “crossed arms” depicts the arms of Jesus and Francis crossed over the Tau, both bearing the imprint of the Crucifixion nails. Francis’ arm is enclosed in the sleeve of his habit. It is a celebration of that remarkable gift of grace which St. Francis received on Mt. Alverna, September 17th - the Stigmata ... the bearing in his own body of the marks of his crucified Lord.



Just before he died on October 3rd, Francis stretched out his arms over his brothers in the form of a CROSS and blessed them in the power, and in the name of their crucified Lord. Then he told them, “I have done what was mine to do; may Christ teach you what is yours.”

So we consider this symbol of our Franciscan life a true expression of the life of St. Francis, as well as a reminder to us of our own Christian call and sincerity of response.

### THE TAU AS OUR FRANCISCAN SYMBOL

Where did the Tau come from and what does it mean? The Tau represents the Cross. It is also the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet. However, the two major influences on Francis concerning the Tau were the Antonians and the Fourth Lateran Council.

St. Francis borrowed the Tau and what it meant to him from the Antonians. They were a religious community of men founded in 1095 whose sole function was to care for lepers. They were disbanded as an Order by the Church in the 1500’s because leprosy was no longer a problem, and many of the religious orders had fallen into theological problems. On their habit was painted a great Tau cross. Francis was very familiar with these men because they staffed the leper house in Assisi and the hospital in Rome where Francis went to stay. This is now the church of San Francisco A Ripa. Everytime you see St. Anthony, “the Abbot or Hermit” in art, he is portrayed with the Tau.

St. Francis was exposed to the Tau through the direct influence of the Antonians, but the greatest influence of all that made the Tau so dear to Francis, whereby it became his signature, was the Fourth Lateran Council.

Pope Innocent III opened the Council on November 11, 1215, with these words: “I have desired with great desire to eat this Passover with you.” (Luke 22:15) Innocent announced that for him, for the Church, and for every Catholic at the time, the symbol they were to take as the sign of their Passover was the Tau Cross.

Tau Cross symbol, continued on page 16

## Tau Cross symbol, continued from page 15

Pope Innocent incorporated into his homily the statement from Ezekiel (9:4) that the elect, the chosen, those who are concerned will be marked with the sign of the Tau. He explained that this Passover is a three-fold Passover. Every Catholic must be involved in this triple Passover: A Corporal Passover, a Spiritual Passover, and an Eternal Passover.

These became some of the most precious themes of Francis' preaching. He must have taken them so deeply to heart that when Pope Innocent III ended his homily with "Be champions of the Tau." Francis evidently took that as a personal statement and made the Tau his own symbol: a symbol for his Order, his signature, painted it everywhere, and had great devotion to it for the rest of his life.

### Editor's note:

A brief Franciscan history on the Tau symbol was taken from the National Secular Franciscan newsletter achieve and submitted by Sharon Dale, OFS.

