



La Verna Region E-Vision

Easter - 2026

From the Minister

Our Region Executive Council (REC) has been busy with our District Gatherings coming up in April. We're looking forward to seeing you all at either the Gathering in Milwaukee, hosted by St. Josaphat fraternity on Saturday, April 11 or the Gathering on Saturday, April 18, hosted by St. John Neumann fraternity in Rhineland.

Our theme this year parallels National this year, which is "Go Into the World & Proclaim the Good News: Living the Gospel." The emphasis of our three presentations and small group discussions will be TRANSFORMATION. One of our inspiring talks will be Brother Jerome's, which he is calling "Meeting the Wind." We've built in a few "visit with others" times into schedule as we're listening to your comments about allowing more time to be with our brothers and sisters, to pray, and so forth.

Before you know it, Region Chapter, the weekend of June 26-28 will be upon us, so mark your calendars. This year's emphasis will be on FORMATION. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet with each other, to visit with your REC and to be inspired with thoughts on on-going Formation. Our Franciscan Spirituality is to be always growing, never should be stagnant. Ministers, delegates and guests are encouraged to join us at St. Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon.

Let me conclude with this contemporary rendering of the Twenty-Third Psalm as a prayerful confession of faith to begin your day:

The Lord is my strength, I shall not panic;
He helps me relax and rest in quiet trust.
He reminds me that I belong to Him and restores my serenity;
He leads me in my decisions and gives me calmness of mind.
His presence is peace.
Even though I walk through the valley of the fear of failure,
I will not worry, for He will be with me.
His truth, grace, and lovingkindness will stabilize me.
He prepares release and renewal in the midst of my stress.
He anoints my mind with wisdom;
My cup overflows with fresh energy.
Surely goodness and mercy will be communicated through me,
For I shall walk in the strength of my Lord,
and dwell in His presence forever. Amen.

Pax et bonum,
Sharon

When submitting articles for our e-Vision, please do so in a MS Word format.

SHEPHERDS' SONG

What wond'rous gift this early morn',
A child in the stable born!
Could this be the one we seek, a simple baby so mild and meek?
The prophets did foretell this day,
But, really now, a babe in the hay?
How can this child be a king with no gold crown or a jeweled ring?

We are simple shepherds keeping herd,
But we really did hear the glorious word,
And on the hill side we did clearly (or did we,
really?) angels see!
We must have seen them, this we know,
Because they bent to us so low.
We were afraid, and we did fling our bodies down
when we heard them sing.

And what joyous noise they made on high,
Compelling us to head-on nigh.
So we made sure our sheep were fed before we ran
to this meager bed.
And now, behold, as we gaze upon
The reason we had been led-on.
Such light and peace we feel Him bring; amazing
blessings upon us cling.

So we must remember this Treasure found,
And spread the news throughout the town,
Who knows, maybe, some time, this may be known by all as Christmas day!

E. Jennings, OFS



April 5

St. Maria Crescentia Höss
Virgin, Third Order Regular
(October 20, 1682-April 5, 1744)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-crescentia-hoess.html>



April 18

Bl. James Oldo
Priest, Secular Franciscan Order
(1364-April 18, 1404)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-james-oldo.html>

As Secular Franciscans, we should be always trying to do a better job of following The Rule each day. Here is a self-evaluation that may help us.

Self-Evaluation for Secular Franciscans

A. Personal Life

1. Why am I a member of the Secular Franciscan Order?
2. How faithful am I to the spirit of the Order?
 - a. Do I read the Rule regularly to remind myself?
 - b. Do I examine my life from the perspective of my Franciscan commitment?
3. Am I faithful...
 - a. in attending monthly gatherings and taking an active part in discussions?
 - b. in saying one of the forms of daily Office of the Church?
 - c. in trying to change my life daily toward greater simplicity?
 - d. in reading the Gospels regularly?
4. Am I growing in my sacramental life (esp. Mass & Sacrament of Reconciliation)?
5. Am I seeking by prayer and action to live for others, not just for myself?
6. Am I “in the forefront promoting justice” in my neighborhood and in the world?
Am I well-acquainted with the Church’s teachings on Social Justice?
7. Am I exercising due stewardship toward the gifts of God in nature?
8. Am I an instrument of the Lord’s peace in my family, my parish and my community?

B. Fraternity Life

1. Is the monthly gathering nourishing my Franciscan life?
2. Am I experiencing caring and sharing from the others; do I, in turn, care and share?
3. Is the prayer life in our fraternity what it could be?
4. Am I learning more about Franciscan life through our On-Going Formation time?
5. Is my fraternity aware of social problems locally and in the world, and is it doing something about them?
6. Do we discuss together spiritual things that are important in our lives?
7. Do we take opportunities, even outside monthly gatherings, to socialize?
8. Do I seek to interest other people in the Franciscan way of life?
9. Are the council and other people with responsibilities doing a good job?
10. Do I have any suggestions for improving any part of our fraternity life such as monthly gatherings, communications or anything else that I have not already voiced?
11. Am I trying to “give” to the fraternity more than I am trying to “receive”?

**Fraternity—What Does It Mean??

Fraternity means kinship, a bond that unites us to each other and to God. We have all heard the call that summoned us to embrace a special way of life. We all follow the same role models, Saints Francis and Clare. All are struggling in our own way to reach the same goals. All of us are well-aware that we can’t get there alone! We need all the help we can get.

So, we rely on God’s grace and the Holy Spirit to lead us through the maze of obstacles we find along the way. In time we come to recognize that, although our individual struggles may be different, our quest is truly a common one. All this creates a bond which makes us brothers and sisters of one big, international family. We need each other to support each other and to love each other. No one is an “only child” in the Franciscan family.

Follow Christ in the Footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis of Assisi



Pope Leo XIV recently announced an extraordinary Jubilee Year to mark the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi. This Jubilee Year began on January 10, 2026, and will run until January 10, 2027. During this time, all the faithful may obtain a Plenary Indulgence under the following conditions:

- Making a **pilgrimage** to a Franciscan Conventual church or a place of worship dedicated to the Saint.
- Participating in the Sacrament of **Reconciliation** to be in God's grace (within eight days before or after), as well as participation in Mass and reception of Holy Communion.
- Recitation of the **Lord's Prayer** to reaffirm the dignity of the children of God received in Baptism.
- Praying for the intentions of the Holy Father, to reaffirm one's belonging to the Church.

This Jubilee Year emphasizes a continuous conversion of heart, as "the Christian faithful are invited to follow the example of the Saint of Assisi, becoming models of holiness of life and constant witnesses of peace."

In celebration of this extraordinary Jubilee Year, the *Raising Saints Newsletter* will offer ideas to families each month to help them follow St. Francis of Assisi more closely.

This month's suggestions:

Pray the Holy Father's Intention: For children suffering from incurable diseases and their families, that they receive necessary medical care and support and never lose hope.

Practice Franciscan Virtue:

Compassion and conversion.

Service in Action: Reach out to a family with a sick child or a child with an incurable condition and offer care, a kind word, or support.

Learn about a Faithful Franciscan: Blessed Solanus Casey (born in Wisconsin!), Capuchin, 1870–1957.

Visit a Franciscan Site: St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church located at 1937 N. Vel R. Phillips Ave., Milwaukee.

Suggested Reading: *St. Francis Meets the Leper* by Jack Wintz, OFM, August 2018, St. Anthony Messenger.

This article was taken from the publication "*Raising Saints*".

What Is a Plenary Indulgence?

An indulgence is a gift of God's mercy that helps heal the spiritual damage (or temporal punishment) caused by our sin or the sin of a deceased loved one, drawing us closer to Jesus. It is important to note that an indulgence does not forgive the sin itself; forgiveness is granted only through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Instead, its purpose is to foster charity, inspire a healthy sense of repentance, and help the faithful grow in holiness and closer union with God.

There are two types: a **Partial Indulgence**, which removes part of the effects of sin, and a **Plenary Indulgence**, which removes all of those effects. Both provide a deeper share in the infinite merits of Jesus and encourage us to intercede for one another. A plenary indulgence is therefore not a "shortcut to heaven," but a profound expression of the transformative power of grace.

WHAT BOUNDLESS LOVE

What boundless love he gave that day
When down Via Dolorosa he made his
way,
Each step an agonizing purge.
The cleansing of each sinful heart –
In this “act,” he played his part,
And all his Love did surge.

Sweat mixed upon the path with mud,
And his own gift of sacrificed blood,
And all who knew were healed.
Healed by a God Who gave
Life-giving death through the grave,
But in three days to be revealed.

Nailed to the Cross – a death so crude –
No one there knew his death would allude
To an everlasting life of grace.
The sum today of all pain and sorrow,
Through his sacrifice, is gone tomorrow,
If we but remember the “suffering place.”

A need to stand before the Cross,
To know ever deeper the pain and loss,
As workers in the “vineyard,” this is our
pay.
No earthly pay can equal this:
To experience in the end a life of bliss,
As we rejoice on his “Alleluia Day!”

- Ellen Jennings

2/17/05



May 16

St. Margaret of Cortona
Third Order Secular
(1247-February 22, 1297)

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-margaret-of-cortona>

Estasi di Santa Margherita by
Jacopo Alessandro Calvi



May 17

St. Paschal Baylon
Friar, Order of Friars Minor
(May 16, 1540-May 17, 1592)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-paschal-of-baylon.html>



May 24

Dedication of the
Basilica in Assisi,
1253

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basilica_of_Saint_Francis_of_Assisi

“What does Jesus Christ do in the Eucharist? It is God who, as our Savior, offers himself each day for us to his Father's justice. If you are in difficulties and sorrows, he will comfort and relieve you. If you are sick, he will either cure you or give you strength to suffer so as to merit Heaven. If the devil, the world, and the flesh are making war upon you, he will give you the weapons with which to fight, to resist, and to win victory. If you are poor, he will enrich you with all sorts of riches for time and eternity. Let us open the door of his sacred and adorable Heart, and be wrapped about for an instant by the flames of his love, and we shall see what a God who loves us can do. O my God, who shall be able to comprehend?” -St. John Vianney



June 13

St. Anthony of Padua
Priest, Doctor of the Church, Order of Friars Minor
(August 15, 1195-June 13, 1231)
<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-anthony-of-padua/>

"Dismiss all anger and look into yourself a little. Remember that he of whom you are speaking is your brother, and as he is in the way of salvation, God can make him a saint, in spite of his present weakness." -St. Thomas of Villanova

"Moreover, beseech daily the eternal Father, His divine Son, and the Blessed Virgin, that you may be particularly under the protection of St. Joseph, the worthy spouse of the most chaste of virgins. Then addressing yourself to this loving protector, ask with great humility to be received into his care. For innumerable are the instances of assistance afforded to those who have called upon St. Joseph in their spiritual or temporal necessities. Particularly has he aided them when they stood in need of light from heaven, and direction in their prayers. And if God shows so much regard for the other saints who have loved and served Him here below, how much consideration and deference will He not show for the person He so honored as to pay him filial homage and obedience?" —Dom Lorenzo Scupoli, p. 154

An excerpt from [The Spiritual Combat and A Treatise on Peace of Soul](#)

My Morning Offering

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, for the salvation of souls, the reparation of sins, the reunion of all Christians, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father this month. Amen.

"My daughter, love has brought Me here, and love keeps Me here. My daughter, if you knew what great merit and reward is earned by one act of pure love for Me, you would die of joy. I am saying this that you may constantly unite yourself with Me through love, for this is the goal of the life of your soul. This act is an act of the will. Know that a pure soul is humble. When you lower and empty yourself before My majesty, I then pursue you with My graces and make use of My



June 17

St. Albert Chmielowski
Third Order Secular, Founder, Brothers of the Third Order of Saint Francis, Servants to the Poor
(August 20, 1845-December 25, 1916)
<http://saintsresource.com/albert-chmielowski/>

omnipotence to exalt you." —St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, 576

Congratulations to the newly elected council of the St Francis Of Assisi fraternity. The election on 10 March, 2026, was presided over by Art Montgomery, OFS and Br Jerome Schroeder, OFM, CAP, our Regional Spiritual Assistant.



From right to left, Barb Spies – Minister, Don Roehr – Vice-Minister, deb Martin – Secretary, Cindy Widish – Treasurer, Christine Immel- Formation Director, and Charlie Neumann-Councilor



June 22

St. Thomas More
Third Order Secular, Bishop,
Martyr of England
(February 7, 1478-July 6, 1535)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_More

Sir Thomas More (1527) by Hans Holbein the Younger



June 27

St. Marguerite Bays
Third Order Secular
(September 8, 1815-June 27, 1879)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marguerite_Bays

Financial Report

| La Verna Regional Fraternity OFS | | | | | | Approved | Approved |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------|
| STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSE | | | | | | 2026 | Amended |
| FOR PERIODS ENDED DEC 31, 2025 and 2024 | | | | | | 2026 | 2025 |
| | THIS YEAR | Budget | Budget | Last Year | Budget | Budget | |
| | Y. T. D. | 3 months period | Variance | Actual | 28 Jun 2025 | 28 Jun 2025 | |
| | 2026 | 2026 | Favorable | 2025 | | | |
| | | | (Unfavorable) | | | | |
| BEGINNING BALANCES: | | | | | | | |
| REGULAR CHECKING ----- | 24,533.80 | | | 25,532.67 | | | |
| RETREAT SUBSIDY FUND ----- | 6,470.15 | | | 5,699.15 | | | |
| EDUCATION/TRAINING FUND ----- | 7,924.52 | | | 7,153.52 | | | |
| 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 | | | 620.00 | | | |
| St Joseph reactivation fund | 500.00 | | | 0.00 | | | |
| TOTAL CASH ON HAND & IN BANKS - | 90,595.47 | | | | 89,552.34 | | |
| REVENUE: | | | | | | | |
| DONATIONS ----- | 0.00 | 687.26 | (687.26) | 2,064.88 | 3,228.00 | 2,749.04 | |
| FAIR SHARE FUND ----- | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| INT. RETREAT ENDOWMENT FUND | 0.00 | 192.75 | (192.75) | 771.00 | 771.00 | 771.00 | |
| INTEREST EDUCATION FUND | 0.00 | 192.75 | (192.75) | 771.00 | 771.00 | 771.00 | |
| SPECIAL MEMORIALS ----- | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| CHAPTER ----- | 0.00 | 138.75 | (138.75) | 1,234.00 | 555.00 | 555.00 | |
| FAIR SHARE -- 303 + 11 @ 80-40 | 3,420.00 | 5,980.00 | (2,560.00) | 22,450.00 | 23,160.00 | 23,920.00 | |
| SA WRKSP ----- | 0.00 | 40.00 | (40.00) | 160.00 | 160.00 | 160.00 | |
| INTEREST CUSTODIAL FUND ----- | 0.00 | 398.39 | (398.39) | 1,593.56 | 1,600.00 | 1,593.56 | |
| MISC & FORMATION WS INCOME ----- | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| TOTAL REVENUE ----- | 3,420.00 | 7,629.90 | (4,209.90) | 29,544.44 | 30,245.00 | 30,519.60 | |
| TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS ----- | 94,015.47 | | | 119,096.78 | | | |
| EXPENSES: | | | | | | | |
| STIPENDS & EXPENSES ----- | 0.00 | 450.00 | 450.00 | 1,350.00 | 1,800.00 | 1,800.00 | |
| RENT INCLUDING EQUIPMENT ----- | 580.00 | 132.50 | (447.50) | 0.00 | 530.00 | 530.00 | |
| MATERIALS & SUPPLIES ----- | 0.00 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 0.00 | 50.00 | 50.00 | |
| EDUCATION/TRAINING ----- | 0.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 | 3,095.98 | 3,585.00 | 1,200.00 | |
| MEETING ROOM & FACILITIES ----- | 300.00 | 25.00 | (275.00) | 1,700.68 | 100.00 | 100.00 | |
| OFFICE SUPPLIES ----- | 0.00 | 62.50 | 62.50 | 0.00 | 250.00 | 250.00 | |
| DONATIONS ----- | 0.00 | 62.50 | 62.50 | 250.00 | 250.00 | 250.00 | |
| ADMINISTRATIVE & WEB EXP ----- | 357.50 | 175.00 | (182.50) | 481.00 | 1,400.00 | 700.00 | |
| NEWSLETTER -& MARYWOOD----- | 0.00 | 75.00 | 75.00 | 0.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 | |
| TRAVEL EXP & EXPENSES ----- | 0.00 | 1,104.00 | 1,104.00 | 3,435.35 | 4,800.00 | 4,416.00 | |
| FAIR SHARE TO OFS-USA -- -320@17- --- | 5,720.00 | 1,666.50 | (4,053.50) | 6,666.00 | 6,204.00 | 6,666.00 | |
| ANNUAL CHAPTER ----- | 0.00 | 1,556.25 | 1,556.25 | 7,130.47 | 7,390.00 | 6,225.00 | |
| VISITATION / ELECTION ----- | 0.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 | 2,763.61 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | |
| RETREAT SUBSIDY ----- | 0.00 | 57.50 | 57.50 | 150.00 | 150.00 | 230.00 | |
| FAIR SHARE FUND | 0.00 | - | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| SA WRKSP ----- | 0.00 | 327.66 | 327.66 | 1,478.22 | 1,311.00 | 1,310.62 | |
| MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE ----- | 0.00 | 31.25 | 31.25 | 0.00 | 125.00 | 125.00 | |
| TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS ----- | 6,957.50 | 2,179.39 | (419.34) | 28,501.31 | 30,245.00 | 26,152.62 | |
| GAIN OR (LOSS) FOR PERIOD --- | (3,537.50) | 5,450.51 | (4,629.24) | 1,043.13 | - | \$ 4,366.98 | |
| ENDING BALANCE ----- | 87,057.97 | | | 90,595.47 | | | |
| CURRENT BALANCES: | | | | | | | |
| REGULAR CHECKING ----- | 20,996.30 | 36,010.97 | | 24,533.80 | | | |
| RETREAT SUBSIDY FUND ----- | 6,470.15 | | | 6,470.15 | | | |
| EDUCATION/TRAINING FUND ----- | 7,924.52 | | | 7,924.52 | | | |
| RETREAT / EDUCATION CATHOLIC FUND *-- | 25,000.00 | | | 25,000.00 | | | |
| CUSTODIAL FUND INVESTMENT (JC)----- | 25,547.00 | | | 25,547.00 | | | |
| CASH ON HAND ----- | 0.00 | 178% | | 0.00 | | | |
| St Joseph reactivation fund | 500.00 | | | 500.00 | | | |
| FAIR SHARE FUND ----- | 620.00 | | | 620.00 | | Outstanding | |
| TOTAL CASH ON HAND & IN BANKS -- | 87,057.97 | | | 90,595.47 | | Checks | |
| CUSTODIAL FUND(5283)-JC bequest + St Pascal Baylon gift as of 2/28/26, last 12 mo = 15.70% Gain / (loss) | 35,542.06 | 5% | \$ 1,777.10 | 31,871.12 | | | |
| CATHOLIC FOUNDATION FUND (5205) as of 11/30/23 | 9,995.06 | | | 6,324.12 | | | |
| * St Francis of Assisi + Anonymous + REC as of 2/28/26, last 12 mo = 15.70% Gain / (loss) | 34,392.28 | 5% | \$ 1,719.61 | 30,840.08 | | | |
| Bob Henning, OFS, TREASURER | 9,392.28 | | | 5,840.08 | | | |
| 03/28/26 | | | | 02/22/25 | | | |