



# LaVerna e-Vision

Fall 2025 edition

La Verna OFS Region Published by LaVerna Regional Council of the Secular Franciscan Order

HOCRAY, we finally have put together an E-Vision. The articles contained are older but still relevant so I decided to include them in this edition. I am temporarily taking on the position of editor until someone else – probably more talented than I – decides to answer the call to do this. Please send any articles you may want included in the next newsletter to me at [bmjhsfo@aol.com](mailto:bmjhsfo@aol.com). Peace Bob



**From our Minister** - submitted by Sharon Dale OFS

“Pilgrims of Hope” was the selected theme proposed by Pope Francis in this Jubilee Year. We took this theme to be our Region’s also for both our two District Gatherings in the spring and for our annual Chapter which was in June.

Conscious of the struggles and difficulties humanity and our world face, Pope Francis prayed: “For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope...’Because hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.’” (Romans 5:5)

From the offset, we notice that while the Jubilee is a gift to the Church, it is also an invitation for us to get to work. Pope Francis said in one of his homilies: “By our actions, our words, the decisions we make each day, our patient efforts to sow seeds of beauty and kindness wherever we find ourselves, we want to sing of hope...and reawaken in every heart the joy and courage to embrace life to the full.”

A pilgrim is a person on the move, a person with a purpose and with a resolve to reach a particular destination. During the Jubilee Year, this destination could be any designated church or shrine. A pilgrim is also invited to make sacrifices, pray and praise God, undertaking inner work, seek conversion or reconciliation, look to find meaning, obtain clarity, or seek a particular grace. Making a pilgrimage connotes having HOPE of becoming a better person, of obtaining special graces from God, and of glorifying God. A “pilgrimage” brings people together. In fact, our Pope uses the plural in the theme because we travel together as a Church. Hope is a flame within a pilgrim. Hope is the strength that keeps a pilgrim going in spite of tiredness and obstacles. Hope expands one’s vision and becomes transformative, as it allows for a movement to a more desirable state of being. Christian hope is not simply a good wish, desire or optimism; it is a certainty rooted in Jesus’ victory over sin and death.

Let us continue this journey together, brothers and sisters, during these final months of Jubilee Year 2025 as “Pilgrims of HOPE”. Let us continue to reach out to those in need of understanding and comfort, in need of a listening ear or an encouraging word, in need of physical and/or economic assistance.

Indeed, let us reach out to all who need our prayers!

## People Are Gifts—a Reflection

...at least Jesus thought so. He said, "Father, I want those you have given me to be where I am..."

I agree with Jesus... and I also want those whom the Father has given to me to be where I am.

People are gifts which the Father sends to me wrapped!

Some are wrapped beautifully; they are attractive when I first see them.

Some come in very ordinary wrapping paper.

Others have been mishandled in the mail.

Once in a while there is a "Special Delivery."

Some people are gifts which come very loosely wrapped; others are wrapped tightly.

But the wrapping is NOT THE GIFT!

It is so easy to make this mistake. The gift is INSIDE the wrapping.

Sometimes the gift is very easy to open; sometimes we need others to help.

Is it because we are afraid of what's inside? Does it hurt? Maybe we have been opened up before and thrown away. Could it be that the gift is not for me?

I am a person. Therefore, I am a gift too!

A gift to myself, first of all. The Father gave myself to me—think about that.

Could any gift of the Father be anything but perfect and beautiful?

I need to appreciate this and thank God for the gift of ME.

I am a gift to other people.

Am I willing to be given by the Father to others... a person FOR others?

Do other people have to be content with the wrappings... not to enjoy the gift?

Every time we get together, at home, at church, at fraternity gatherings, is an exchange of gifts.

But a gift without a giver is not a gift; it is devoid of a relationship to a giver or givee.

Friendship is a relationship between people who see themselves as they truly are...

gifts of the Father to each other for others.

A friend is a gift not just to me but to others through me.

People are gifts, gifts received and gifts given. Friendship is the response of people-gifts to the Father-Giver.

Friendship is EUCHARIST!

-reflection by Fr. George Nintamann, OP; from our region archives

Oct 11 - Pope St John XXIII

Nov 17- St Elizabeth of Hungary

Dec 25-Nativity of Jesus



## Spiritual Assistants Honored

At our annual fraternity picnic, held on Thursday, August 21, we honored two Spiritual Assistants, Sister Roselyn and Lori Kieffer. Sister Roselyn Heil FSPA has been with Our Lady Queen of Heaven Fraternity for several years and has recently accepted the position of SA to a newly-established fraternity in Hayward, WI, in the Queen of Peace Region.



Lori Kieffer OFS will replace Sister Roselyn as our local Spiritual Assistant. Lori has recently completed the SA course, along with Charlie Neuman, Nora Kessel and Sue Bashynski, and is eager to assist our fraternity in Wisconsin Rapids.

Both Spiritual Assistants and several guests were present for the picnic which took place at Carla and Leo Dewitt's home. The cake was inscribed "Our Lady Queen of Heaven Fraternity thanks Sr. Roselyn and Welcomes Lori."

### The Value of Letting Go (Franciscan Herald, 1913)

That little hurt that you got from a friend, perhaps it wasn't intended, perhaps it was. But never mind. Let it go. Refuse to think about it. Give it to the Lord.

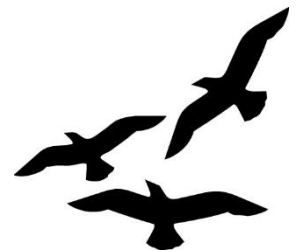
Let go of that bad feeling you have for another, the jealousy, the envy, the malice. Let go all such thoughts. Sweep them out of your mind and you will be surprised what a cleaning up and rejuvenating effect it will have upon you, both physically and mentally. Let them all go; you house them at deadly risk. Give them to the Lord.

What about the big troubles, the bitter disappointments, the deep wrongs and heart-breaking sorrows, the tragedies of life—what about them? Why, just let them go also. Drop them softly but surely. Put away all the regret and bitterness. Let the sorrow be only a softening influence. Yes, let them go too. Give them to the Lord and make the most of the future.

Then that little pet ailment that you've been hanging onto and talking about, let it go. It will be a good riddance. You have treated it royally. Now abandon it. Let it go. Give it to the Lord. Talk about health instead, and health will come.

It is not so difficult after you once get used to letting go of these things. You will find it easier sharing them with God. They will no longer mar or embitter your life. You will enjoy letting them go. You will look forward to the coming of the next day. You will find the world such a beautiful place because you have let go and have given everything to the Lord.

-Author unknown; submitted by Sharon Dale OFS



La Verna Regional Fraternity OFS					Approved	Approved
STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSE					2025	2025
FOR PERIODS ENDED DEC 31, 2025 and 2024					Budget	Budget
	THIS YEAR	Budget	Budget	Last Year	2025	2025
	Y. T. D.	8 months period	Variance	Actual	2025	2025
	2025	2025	Favorable	2024	29 Jun 2024	28 Jun 2025
<b>BEGINNING BALANCES:</b>						
REGULAR CHECKING -----	25,532.67			27,276.48		
RETREAT SUBSIDY FUND -----	5,699.15			4,957.10		
EDUCATION/TRAINING FUND -----	7,153.52			6,411.47		
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		
<b>TOTAL CASH ON HAND &amp; IN BANKS -</b>	<b>89,552.34</b>			<b>89,812.05</b>		
<b>REVENUE:</b>						
DONATIONS -----	1,505.51	1,832.69	(327.18)	2,906.11	5,000.00	2,749.04
FAIR SHARE FUND -----	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
INT. RETREAT ENDOWMENT FUND -----	771.00	514.00	257.00	742.05	800.00	771.00
INTEREST EDUCATION FUND -----	771.00	514.00	257.00	742.05	800.00	771.00
SPECIAL MEMORIALS -----	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CHAPTER -----	1,234.00	370.00	864.00	1,486.00	1,111.00	555.00
FAIR SHARE -- 303 + 11 @ 80-40	15,770.00	15,946.67	(176.67)	22,959.00	24,440.00	23,920.00
SA WRKSP -----	160.00	106.67	53.33	0.00	750.00	160.00
INTEREST CUSTODIAL FUND -----	1,593.56	1,062.37	531.19	1,533.71	1,600.00	1,593.56
MISC & FORMATION WS INCOME -----	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE -----</b>	<b>21,805.07</b>	<b>20,346.40</b>	<b>1,458.67</b>	<b>30,368.92</b>	<b>34,501.00</b>	<b>30,519.60</b>
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS -----</b>	<b>111,357.41</b>			<b>120,180.97</b>		
<b>EXPENSES:</b>						
STIPENDS & EXPENSES -----	1,350.00	1,200.00	(150.00)	1,800.00	3,600.00	1,800.00
RENT INCLUDING EQUIPMENT -----	0.00	353.33	353.33	0.00	530.00	530.00
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES -----	0.00	33.33	33.33	0.00	50.00	50.00
EDUCATION/TRAINING -----	1,441.30	800.00	(641.30)	1,350.97	3,585.00	1,200.00
MEETING ROOM & FACILITIES -----	0.00	66.67	66.67	0.00	200.00	100.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES -----	0.00	166.67	166.67	179.12	500.00	250.00
DONATIONS -----	0.00	166.67	166.67	0.00	500.00	250.00
ADMINISTRATIVE & WEB EXP -----	961.00	466.67	(494.33)	933.45	1,416.00	700.00
NEWSLETTER -& MARYWOOD-----	0.00	200.00	200.00	2,715.22	600.00	300.00
TRAVEL EXP & EXPENSES -----	2,997.38	2,944.00	(53.38)	4,832.41	7,760.00	4,416.00
FAIR SHARE TO OFS-USA ---320@17---	6,666.00	4,444.00	(2,222.00)	7,838.00	6,864.00	6,666.00
ANNUAL CHAPTER -----	7,130.47	4,150.00	(2,980.47)	8,852.22	7,390.00	6,225.00
VISITATION / ELECTION -----	2,763.61	1,333.33	(1,430.28)	1,148.75	0.00	2,000.00
RETREAT SUBSIDY -----	150.00	153.33	3.33	150.00	262.50	230.00
FAIR SHARE FUND -----	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SA WRKSP -----	1,478.22	873.75	(604.47)	688.49	990.00	1,310.62
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE -----	0.00	83.33	83.33	80.00	125.00	125.00
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS -----</b>	<b>24,937.98</b>	<b>2,179.39</b>	<b>(7,502.90)</b>	<b>30,568.63</b>	<b>34,372.50</b>	<b>26,152.62</b>
<b>GAIN OR (LOSS) FOR PERIOD ---</b>	<b>(3,132.91)</b>	<b>18,167.01</b>	<b>(6,044.23)</b>	<b>(199.71)</b>	<b>128.50</b>	<b>\$ 4,366.98</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE -----</b>	<b>86,419.43</b>			<b>89,612.34</b>		
<b>CURRENT BALANCES:</b>						
REGULAR CHECKING -----	20,657.76	35,872.43		25,532.67		
RETREAT SUBSIDY FUND -----	6,470.15			5,699.15		
EDUCATION/TRAINING FUND -----	7,924.52			7,153.52		
RETREAT / EDUCATION CATHOLIC FUND *--	25,000.00			25,000.00		
CUSTODIAL FUND INVESTMENT (JC)-----	25,547.00			25,547.00		
CASH ON HAND -----	200.00	177%		(0.00)		
FAIR SHARE FUND -----	620.00			620.00		
<b>TOTAL CASH ON HAND &amp; IN BANKS --</b>	<b>86,419.43</b>			<b>89,612.34</b>		
CUSTODIAL FUND(5283)-JC bequest + St Pascal Baylon gift as of 7/31/25, last 12 mo = 10.03% <b>Gain / (loss)</b>	33,044.56	5%	\$ 1,652.23	31,871.12		
CATHOLIC FOUNDATION FUND (5205) as of 11/30/23	7,497.56			6,324.12		
* St Francis of Assisi + Anonymous + REC as of 8/31/25 Last 12 mo 10.03% <b>Gain / (Loss)</b>	31,975.57	5%	\$ 1,598.78	30,840.08		
Bob Henning, OFS, TREASURER 10/05/25	6,975.57			5,840.08		
				02/22/25		