



State of the Order 2025

**OFS-USA Chapter
Bons Secours Retreat Center
Marriottsville, Maryland
September 10, 2025**

**Jane DeRose-Bamman OFS
National Minister, OFS-USA
on behalf of the National Executive Council (NEC)**

Our goal is to become holy, to show God's love to the world, to make the life of others better, to get closer to God and to bring others closer to God.

Tibor Kauser, OFS
Letter of the Minister General
June 24, 2018



Overview

- The facts and figures
- The priorities and accomplishments
- Who we are as an Order in the United States –
 - are we making a difference?
 - how are we transformed?
- What's next?





Facts and Figures

- Our ever-improving tool – the database –
 - is a gift to the OFS-USA.
 - details of our order that we really didn't have access to before.
- make sure data is entered and accurate.



Observe the Rule, that helps you to follow Christ in every moment of your life, in all the aspects of your life.

Tibor Kauser, OFS

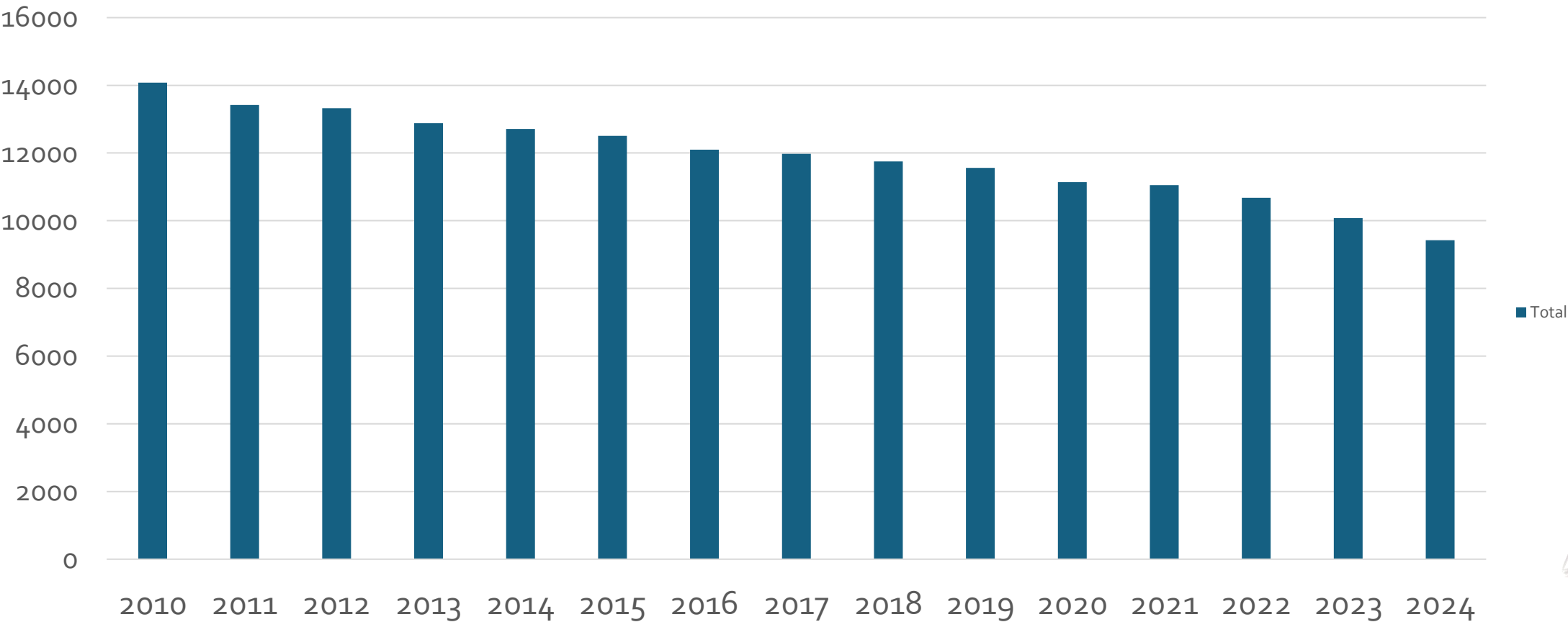
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Total Active professed

Total Professed Member of the OFS-USA



Key Factors – Fraternities

Vocations are cultivated by good fraternities – the privileged place. OFS Art 22

Regions and the CNSA have been working to “prune” our fraternities.

20 fraternities have been deactivated in the last few months.



Breakdown of regions by fraternities

**4 Regions with
< 7 Fraternities**

**6 Regions with
25-32 Fraternities**

**9 Regions with
8-15 Fraternities**

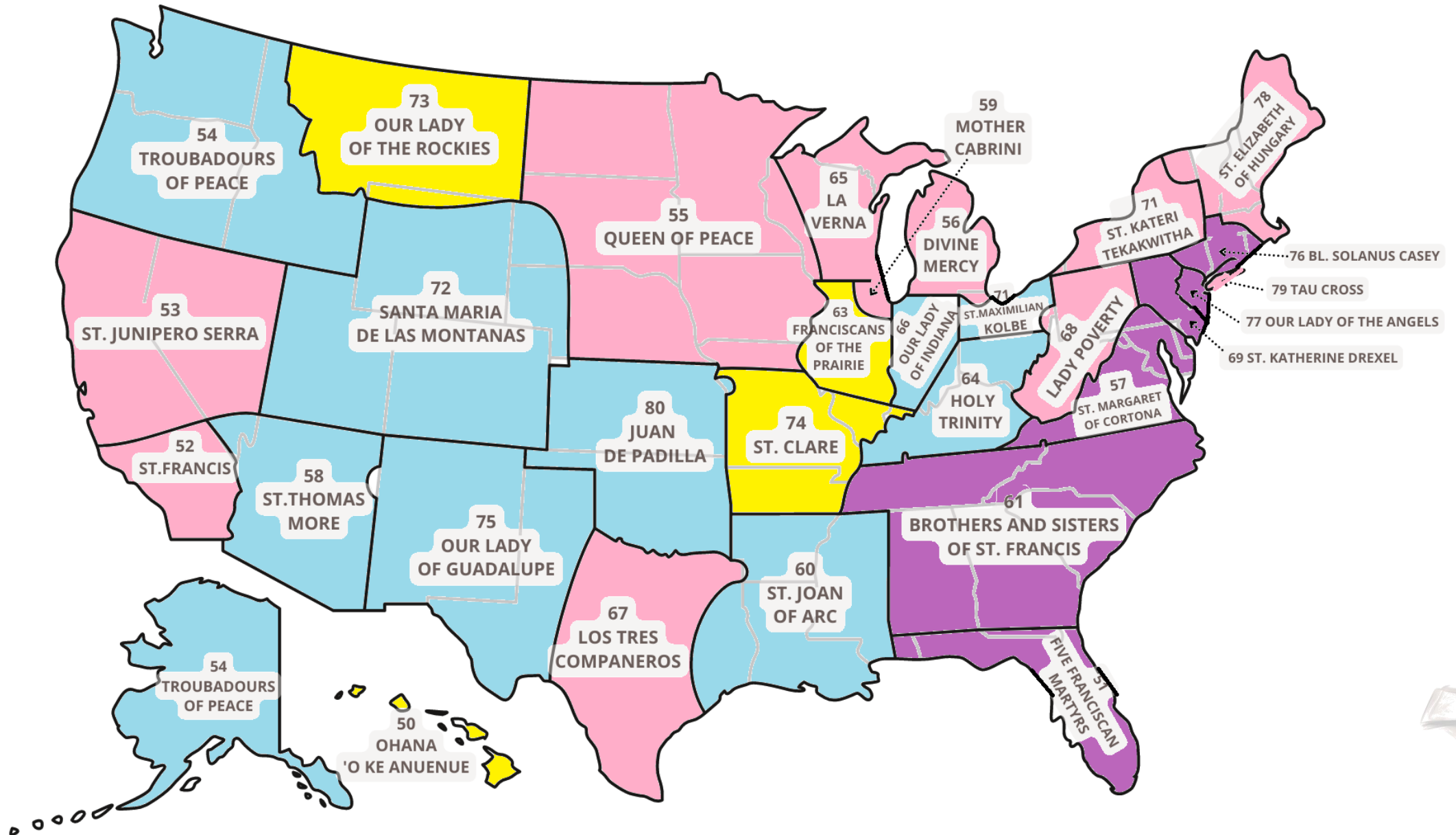
**11 Regions with
16-24 Fraternities**



Breakdown of regions by fraternities

≤ 7 Fraternities (4 Regions)	8- 15 Fraternities (9 Regions)	16 – 24 Fraternities (11 Regions)	25 – 32 Fraternities (6 Regions)
Franciscans of the Prairie Our Lady of the Rockies Ohana O' Ke Anuenue Saint Clare	Holy Trinity Juan de Padilla Our Lady of Guadalupe – EOA Our Lady of Indiana Saint Joan of Arc Saint Maximilian Kolbe Saint Thomas More Santa Maria de Las Montanas Troubadours of Peace	Divine Mercy Lady Poverty La Verna Los Tres Companeros Mother Cabrini Queen of Peace Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Saint Frances Saint Junipero Serra Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Tau Cross	Blessed Solanus Casey Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Five Franciscan Martyrs Our Lady of the Angels Saint Katharine Drexel Saint Margaret of Cortona

REGIONAL FRATERNITIES OF OFS - USA



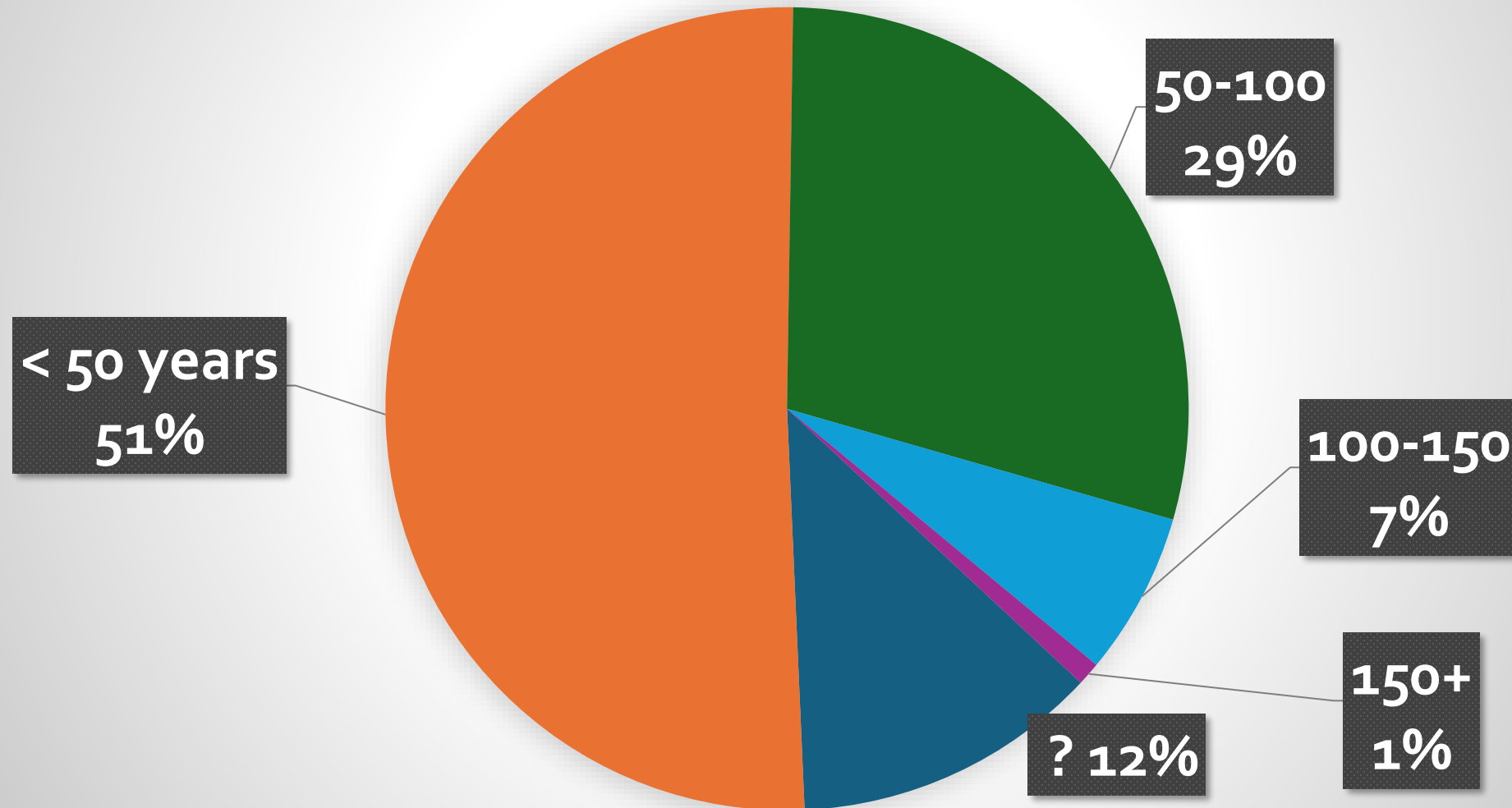
Breakdown of Fraternities by age

- Which is the oldest fraternity in the United States? (according to the database)

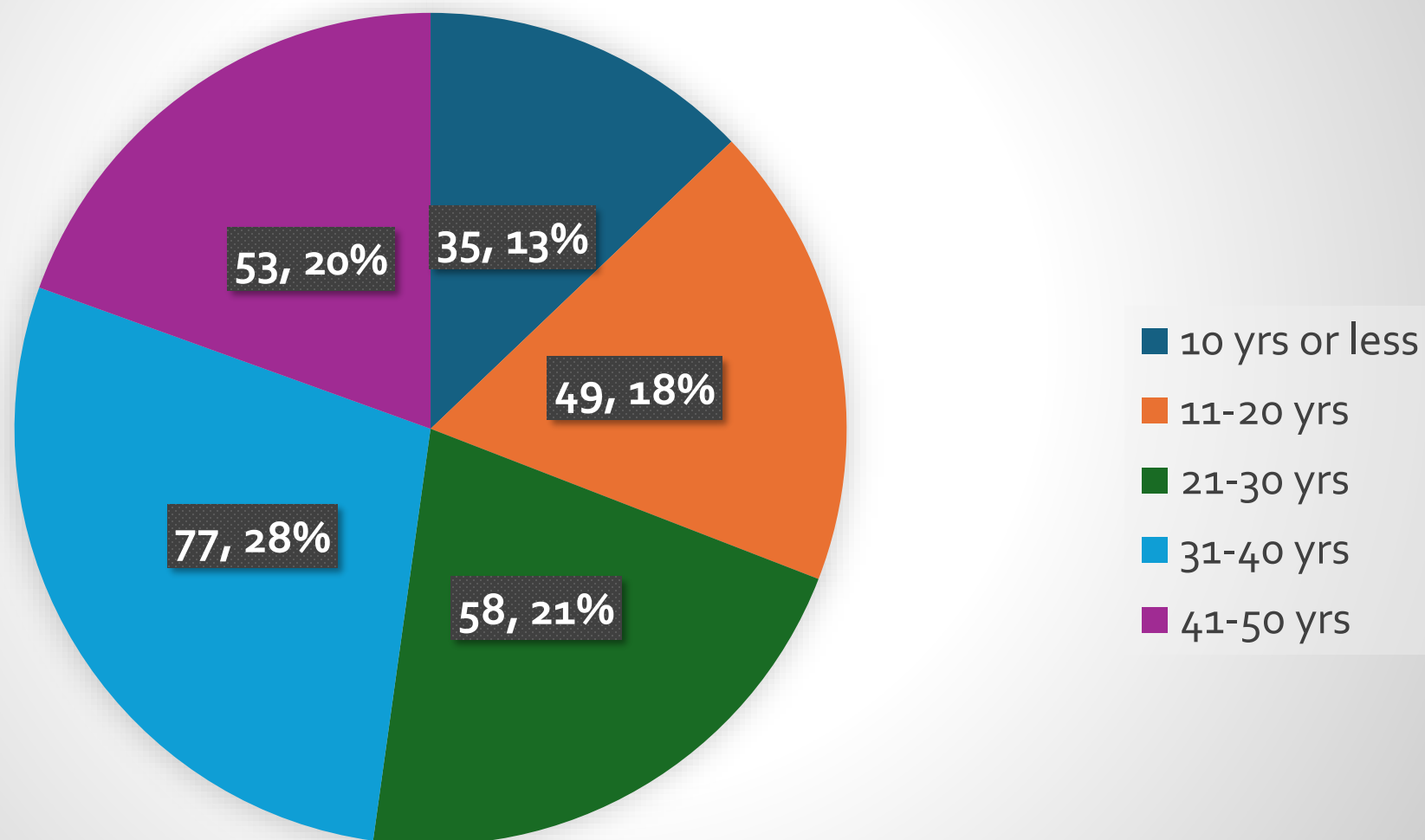
Saint Joseph- Utica-NY
Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Region
Established 4/1/1859
166 years



Age of Fraternities (as listed in the database)



OFS-USA Fraternities Established less than 50 years



We do not have a sewn and tailored habit...

We have a habit...of the way we live our life...

Our habit is our prayer, our sacramental life, our commitment to the Order, and thus to the fraternity. Our habit is our Franciscan way of life, that we live "going from gospel to life and life to gospel."

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Breakdown of Age of Members

- What's the age of our oldest member in the United States?



Knowing our members help
us to serve them better

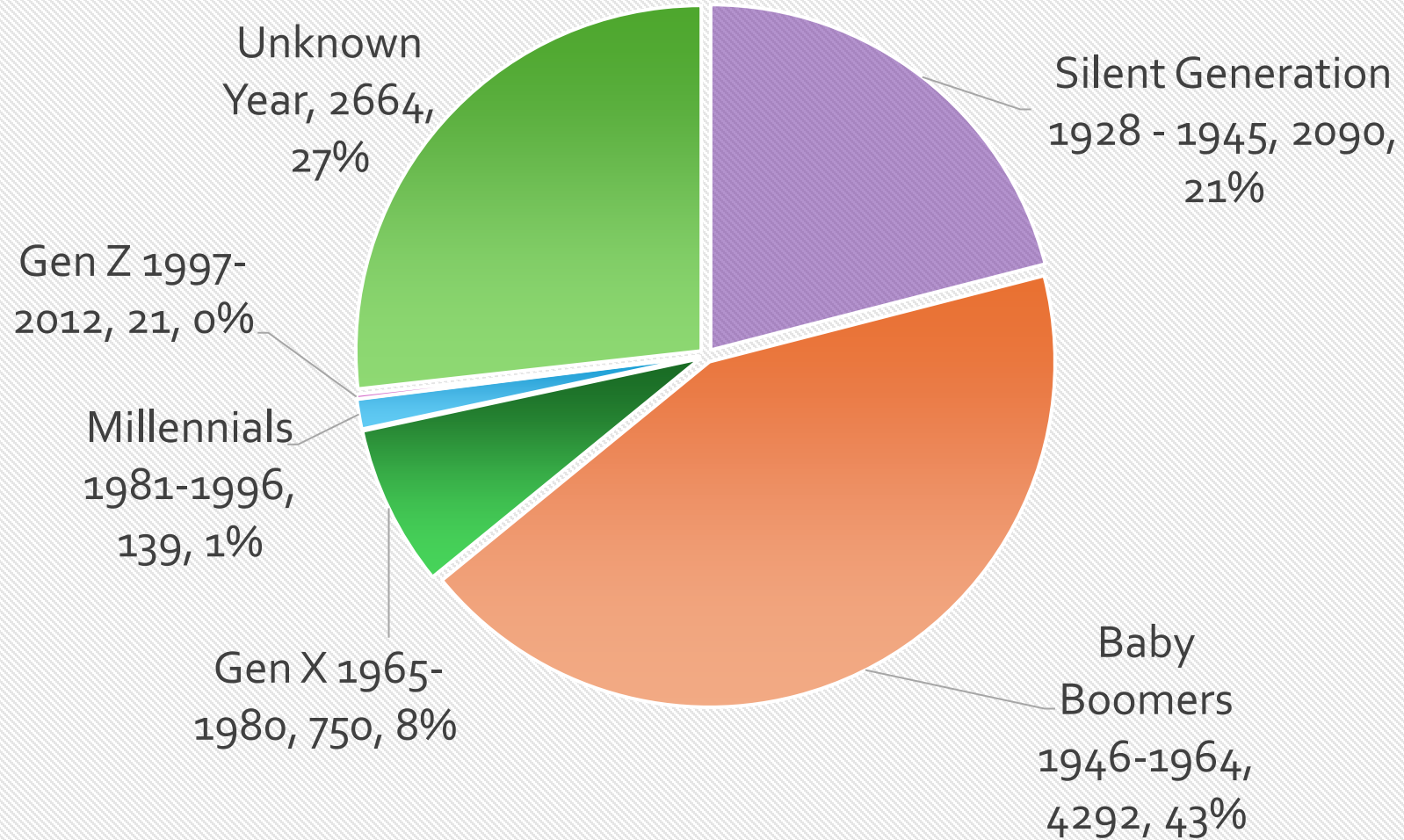


Generational Categories

1925-1945	Greatest Generation or older
1946-1964	Baby Boomers
1965-1980	Gen X
1981-1996	Millennials
1997-2012	Gen Z



OFS-USA Members (Active Professed and Candidates)



Bottomline

- Membership declining
- Members are aging
- Consistent numbers in the last 50 years in fraternity establishment
- Emphasis on strong fraternities will help to boost vocations
- Need to make sure we are using appropriate means of outreach for various generational groups





The Rule is an empty text if we do not turn it into life.

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National Fraternity

National Executive Council

Minister

International Councilor

Vice Minister

National Councilor

Secretary

National Councilor

Treasurer

National Councilor

30 Regional
Ministers

Conference of National Spiritual Assistants

President In Turn (serves on NEC) +3 other Friars

Commissions (consultative role)

Formation Commission

Justice, Peace and Integrity of
Creation Commission

Youth/Young Adult Commission

Committees and Individual Appointments

Accessibility, Database, Archivist,
Bookstore, Historian, 1-800-Francis,
E/I, Multicultural, Tau-USA, Duns
Scotus, Q, Centenaries



Accomplishments

- Action Plan –
 - 16 Goals – to achieve improved Vocations/Communications/Relationships
 - Workshops
 - JPIC – 2025 retreat
 - CNSA/NFC – 2024 Retreat
 - Database/Website/Tau-USA
 - Participation in the OLG Synod
 - Response to appeals for Leprosy Center/Floods in TX



Accomplishments

Relationships with our National Fraternity Council

- Fraternal Visitations – 7 since last Chapter, 26 over 3 years
- Regional Elections – 15 since last Chapter, 32 over 3 years
- Virtual Meetings with the National Fraternity Council
- Meet and Greets - virtually



Accomplishments

- Guidelines
- Review of International Statutes
- participation at CIOFS General Chapter (Nov 2024)



The Rule does not want us to be uniform, but to unite us in diversity.

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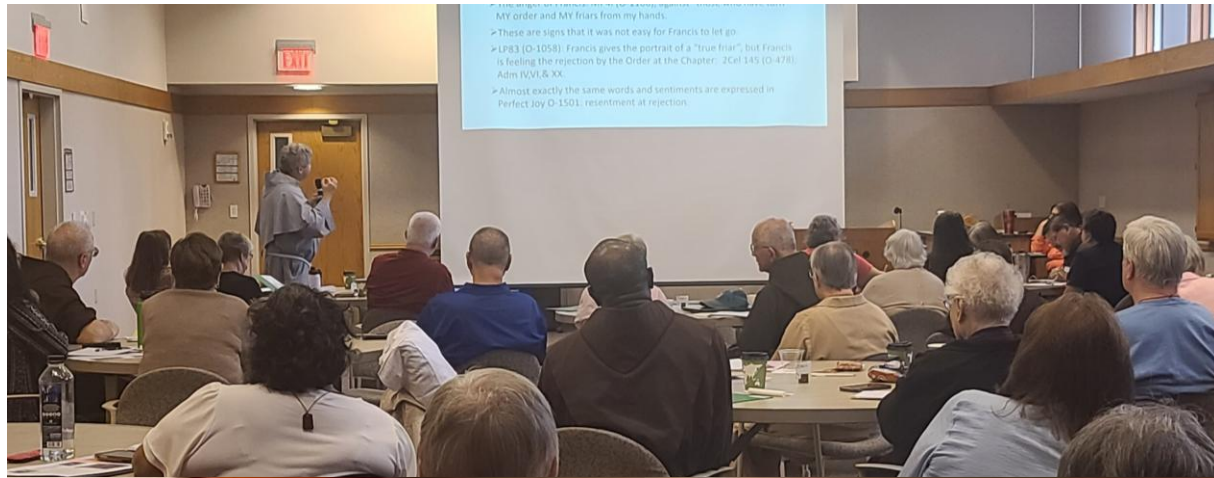
Who We Are



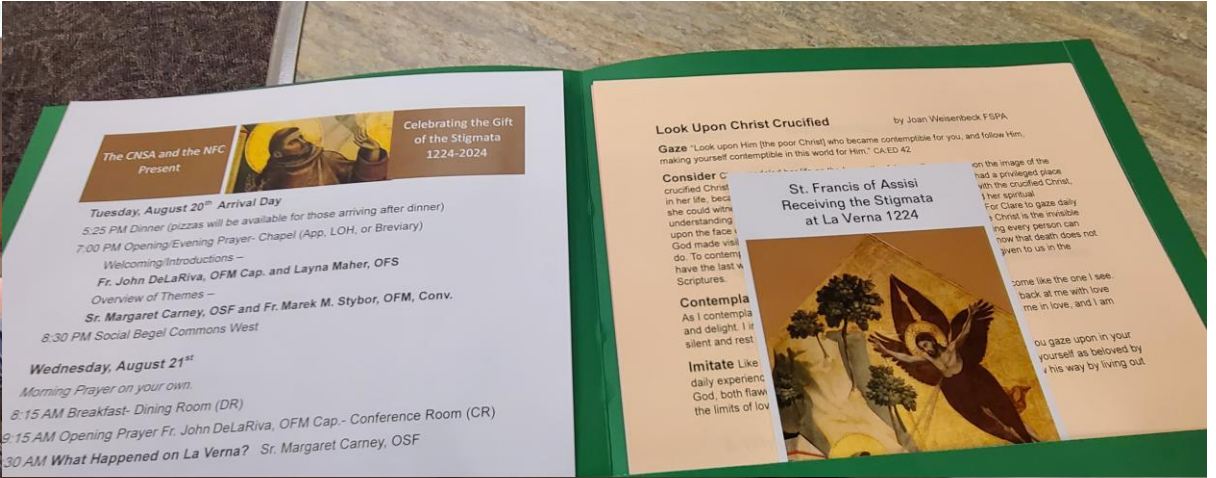
Who We Are



Who We Are



These are signs that it was not easy for Francis to let go.
➤ LP83 (O-1058): Francis gives the portrait of a "true friar", but Francis is feeling the rejection by the Order at the Chapter: 2Cel 345 (O-478); Adm (VVI, 6 XX).
➤ Almost exactly the same words and sentiments are expressed in Perfect Joy O-1501: resentment at rejection.





Who We Are

Shelters for those without homes

Pregnancy Centers/Pro-Life Ministry

Ministry to Poor (domestically and internationally)

Care for Creation

Evangelization

Education

Care for the Elderly and orphaned

Assistance to Refugees/Immigrants

St Vincent De Paul Services/food/clothing

Formation

Legislative Advocacy

Advocate against Human Trafficking

Food Pantries

What's next?

- National Statutes Revision
- Communications Manual roll out
- Branding/Vocational Materials
- Guidelines
- Translations
- TAU-USA
- 2031 Q
- Action Plan for new priorities
- Review Appointments
- Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of OFS Rule (2028)
- Youth/Young Adult
- Transitioning of Responsibilities
- Management of the Bequest
- And more.....



We were honored to care
for you on our journey.



OFS-USA National Executive Council (2022-2025)

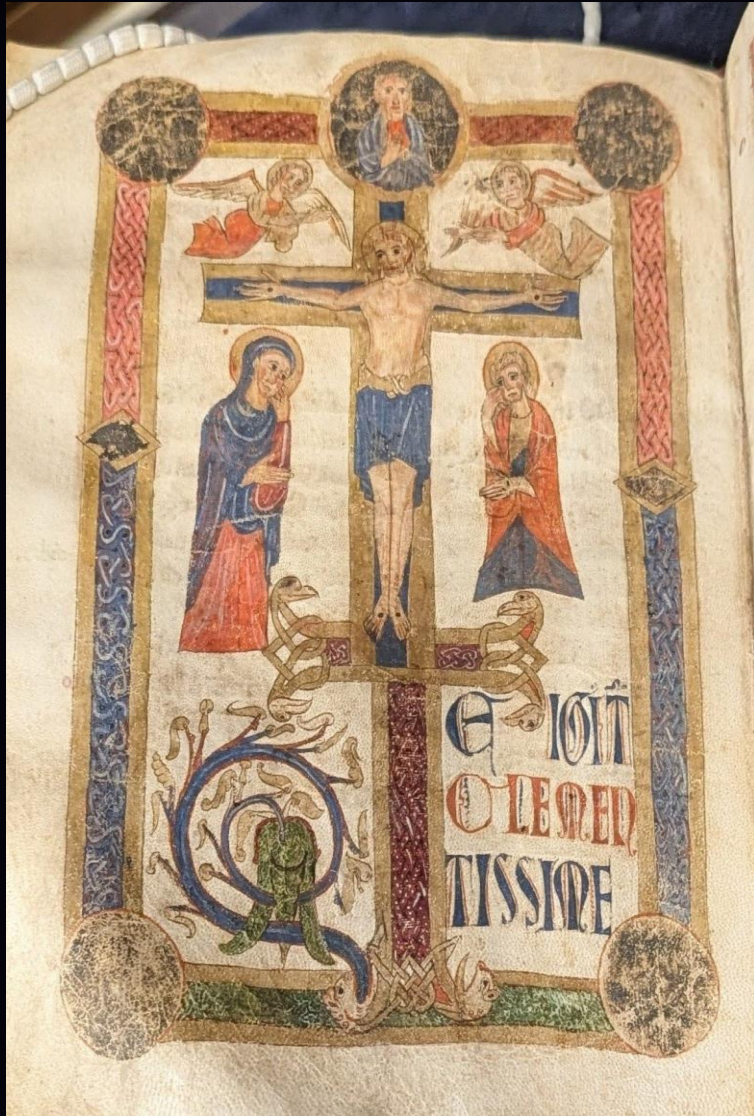
Mary Frances Charsky OFS, Cherryle Fruge OFS, Donna Hollis OFS, Joshua Molidor OFS
Diane Menditto OFS, Claudia Kauzlarich OFS, Jane DeRose-Bamman OFS
Susan Ronan OFS, Fr. Marek Stybor, OFM Conv (CNSA President-In-Turn)



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PATER defunctis. Peccatis
 per ibm xpm fili
 um tuū dñm no
 strū supplices ro
 gamus et petimū.
 uti accepta habeas
 et benedicas. **hec**
 do⁺ na. **hec** mu
 nera. **hec** sanc
 ta sacrificia illi
 bati. **I**n primis
 que tibi offerim
 peccata tua scā
 catholica. quā pa
 cificare. custodire.
 adunare. et regere
 digneris. toto or
 be terrarū. una cō
 famulo tuo papa
 nro. et anastase
 nro. et ppe nro. et
 oib; ordo vis. atq;
 catholice. aplice
 fidei cultorib;.

psalms.
Michi quoq; in
 dissimio famu
 lo tuo ppetuus cō
 digneris. et ab oib;
 me delictorū offe
 sionib; emūdate.
 aoren. **Te recitantē**
noīa u; uorū.
Memento dñe fa
 mulorū famularū
 q; tuarū. et oīum
 circūstantiū. q;
 tibi fides cogniti
 est. et nota deuotio.
 p qb; tibi offe
 rimus. uel qui t
 offerūt hoc sacri
 ficiū laudis. prese
 suisq; oib; p rade
 ptione aīd; suarū.
 p spe salutis et in
 columitatis sue.
 tibiq; reddunt
 uota. sua etno dō

