

State of the Order
Secular Franciscan Order in the United States

OFS-USA Chapter
Spiritual Life Center
Bel Aire, Kansas
October 14, 2026

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

National Fraternity Council

National Executive Council (NEC)

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

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

Vocations and Communications*

Youth/Young Adult

Committees and Individual Appointments

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

*Vocations and Communications Commission (VCC) created in 2026. Not specified in National Statutes yet.

2025-2028 Priority

Living the Gospel

This priority emphasizes:

- ***building relationships***
- ***inspiring others to seek God***
- ***forming ourselves in the Franciscan way of life***
- ***attracting vocations***
- ***and working to rebuild the Church***

Last's year's "What's next?"

- National Statutes Revision
- Communications Manual roll out
- Branding/Vocational Materials
- Guidelines
- Translations
- TAU-USA
- 2031 Q

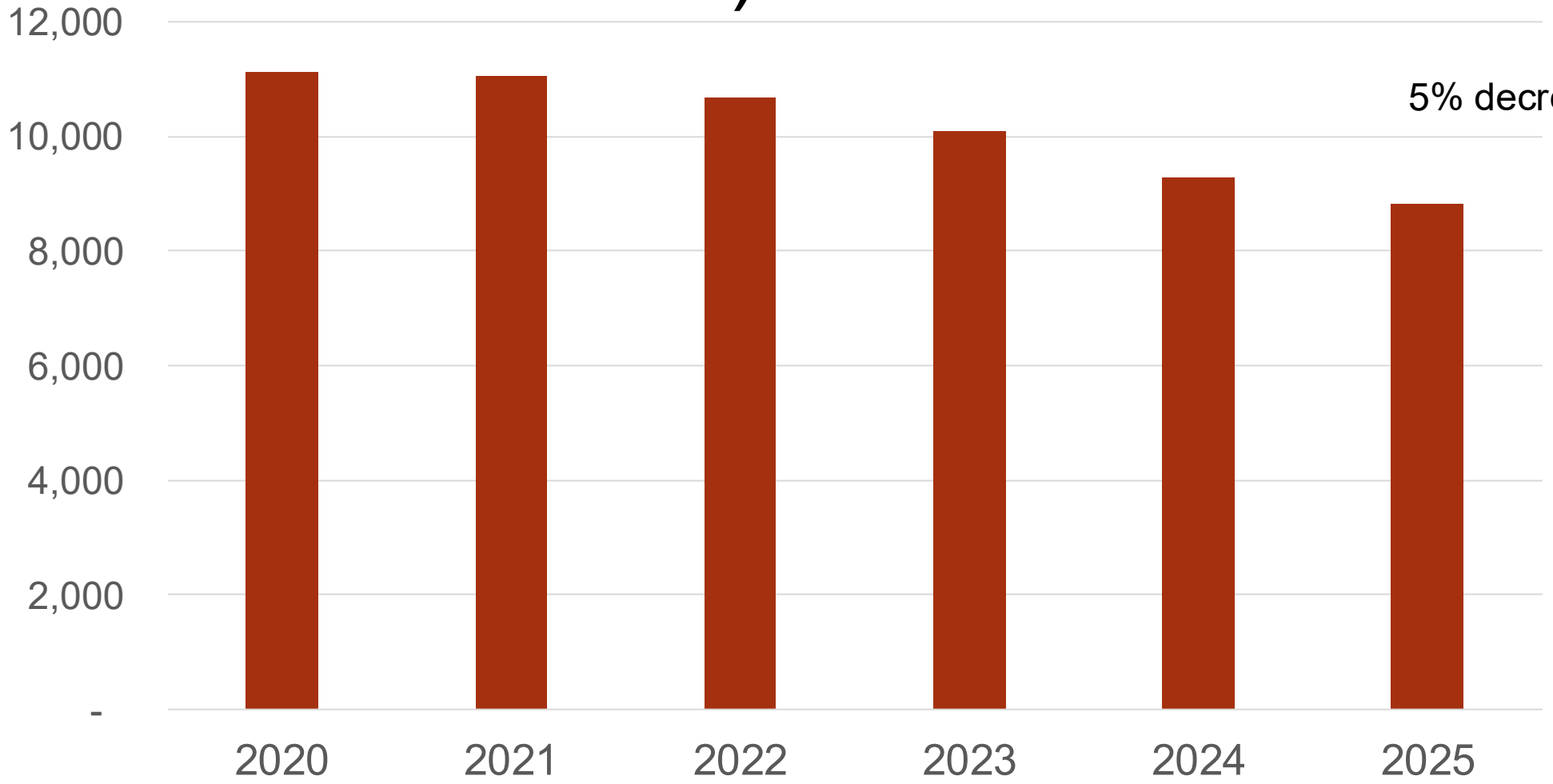
- Action Plan for new priorities
- Review Appointments
- Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of OFS Rule (2028)
- Youth/Young Adult
- Transitioning of Responsibilities
- Management of the Bequest
- And more……

Overview



- Facts and figures
  - Membership
- Accomplishments
- What does Living the Gospel look like
- What's next?

Total Professed Members of OFS-USA (Active and Excused)



5% decrease from 2024

What Happened in 2025?

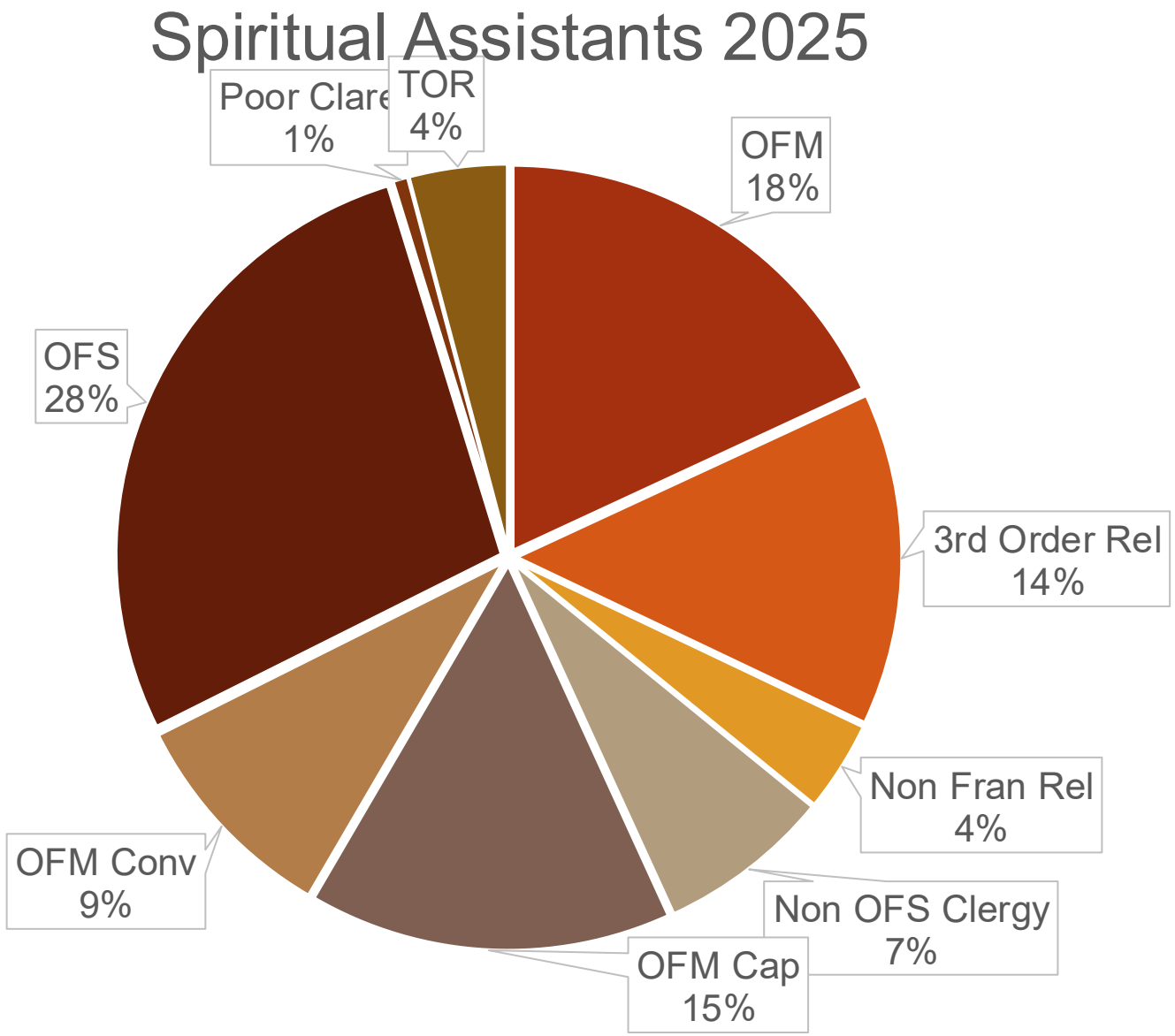
- 797 deaths, withdrawals, lapsed, suspended
- 341 professions



Category of Membership	Total 2023	Total 2024	Total 2025		2026 (thru 9/9)		Variance 2025 and 2026
total professed (active + excused)	9,052	9,277	8,826		8,829		3
total active candidates	649	701	749		706		-43
total active aspirants inquirers			288		265		-23
total active aspirants orientees			103		92		-11

about 1,000 in formation

315 SAs


Spiritual Assistants 2025
Poor Clare 1%
TOR 4%
OFM 18%
3rd Order Rel 14%
Non Fran Rel 4%
Non OFS Clergy 7%
OFM Cap 15%
OFM Conv 9%
OFS 28%

Good News…..

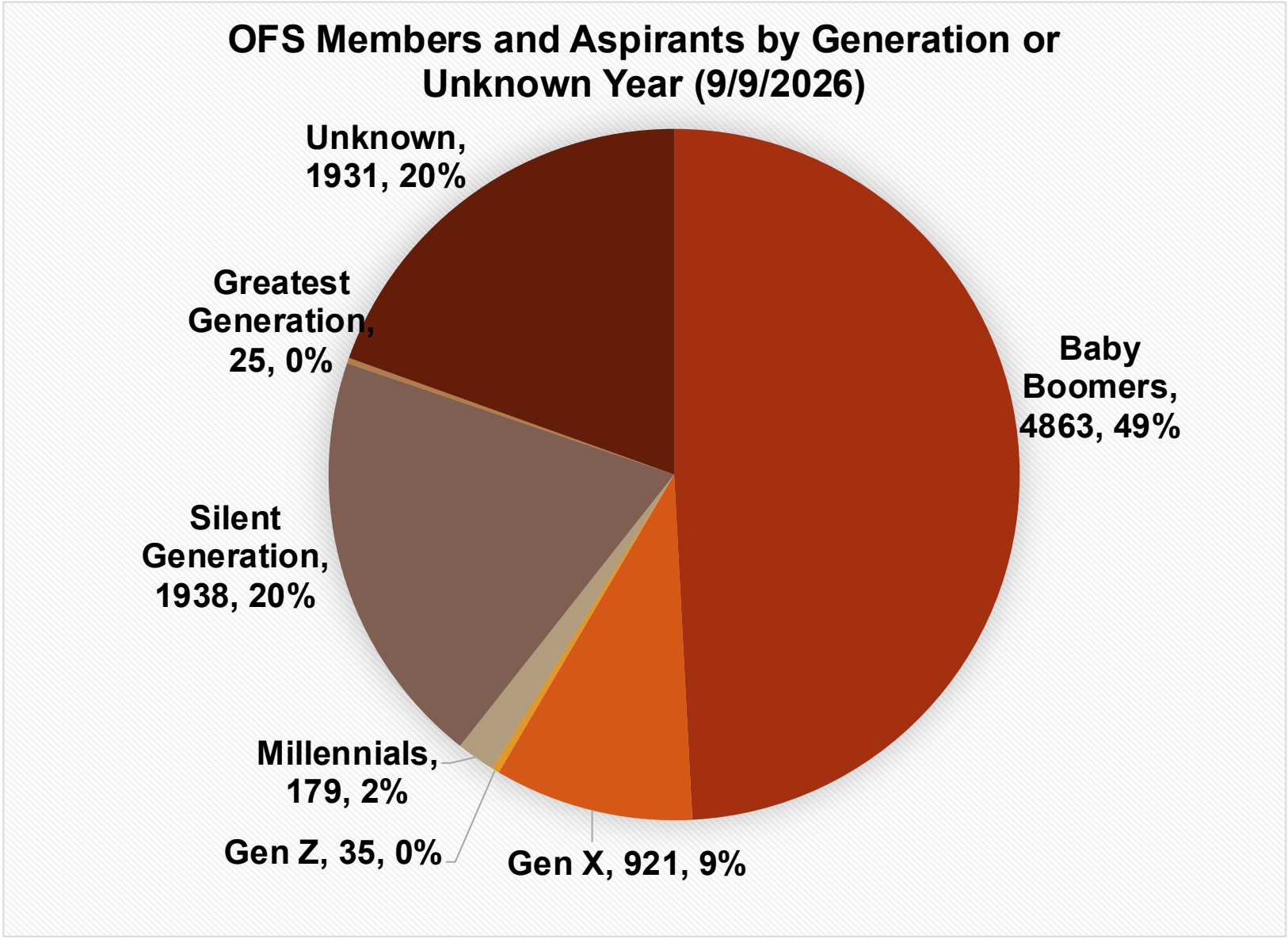
- Number of Local Spiritual Assistants – increased by 3% in 2025 over 2024

Demographics

KNOWING OUR MEMBERSHIP

OFS-USA Members by Category as of 9/9/2026

Category	Total # as of 9/9/2026	Generation	Birth Year Unknown	
Active Professed	8,829	7,101	1,728	20%
Active Candidates	706	560	146	21%
Aspirants Inquirers	265	226	39	15%
Aspirants Orientees	92	74	18	20%


OFS Members and Aspirants by Generation or Unknown Year (9/9/2026)
Unknown, 1931, 20%
Greatest Generation, 25, 0%
Silent Generation, 1938, 20%
Millennials, 179, 2%
Gen Z, 35, 0%
Gen X, 921, 9%
Baby Boomers, 4863, 49%

OFS Members by Birth Year (known) as of 9/9/2026

Generation	Birth Year Range	Age Range	# of Members in Generation*	Percentage of Membership (w/ Known Birth Year Data)
Greatest Generation	1901-1927	100+ years old	25	0.3%
Silent Generation	1928-1945	81-99 years old	1,938	25.2%
Baby Boomers	1946-1964	62 - 80 years old	4,863	63.2%
Gen X	1965-1980	46 - 61 years old	921	12.0%
Millennials	1981-1996	30 - 45 years old	179	2.3%
Gen Z	1997-2012	< or =29 years old	35	0.5%

***4 out of 5 members (80%) provided birth year.**

Conclusions

- Although the stats are every changing, rate of attrition is stabilizing
- Respectable number of persons in Formation stages (1,000 persons)
- Spiritual Assistants increased
- Members in each age bracket

Reviewing the numbers are important

- Trends
- Overall message of what's happening
- But do not tell the whole story

What Was Accomplished to Impact the Trend?

Efforts on the National Level

Communications/ Social Media



Website



Facebook



1-800-Francis
emails and calls



Newsletter



Bookstore



Communications
with National
Fraternity



Appointments

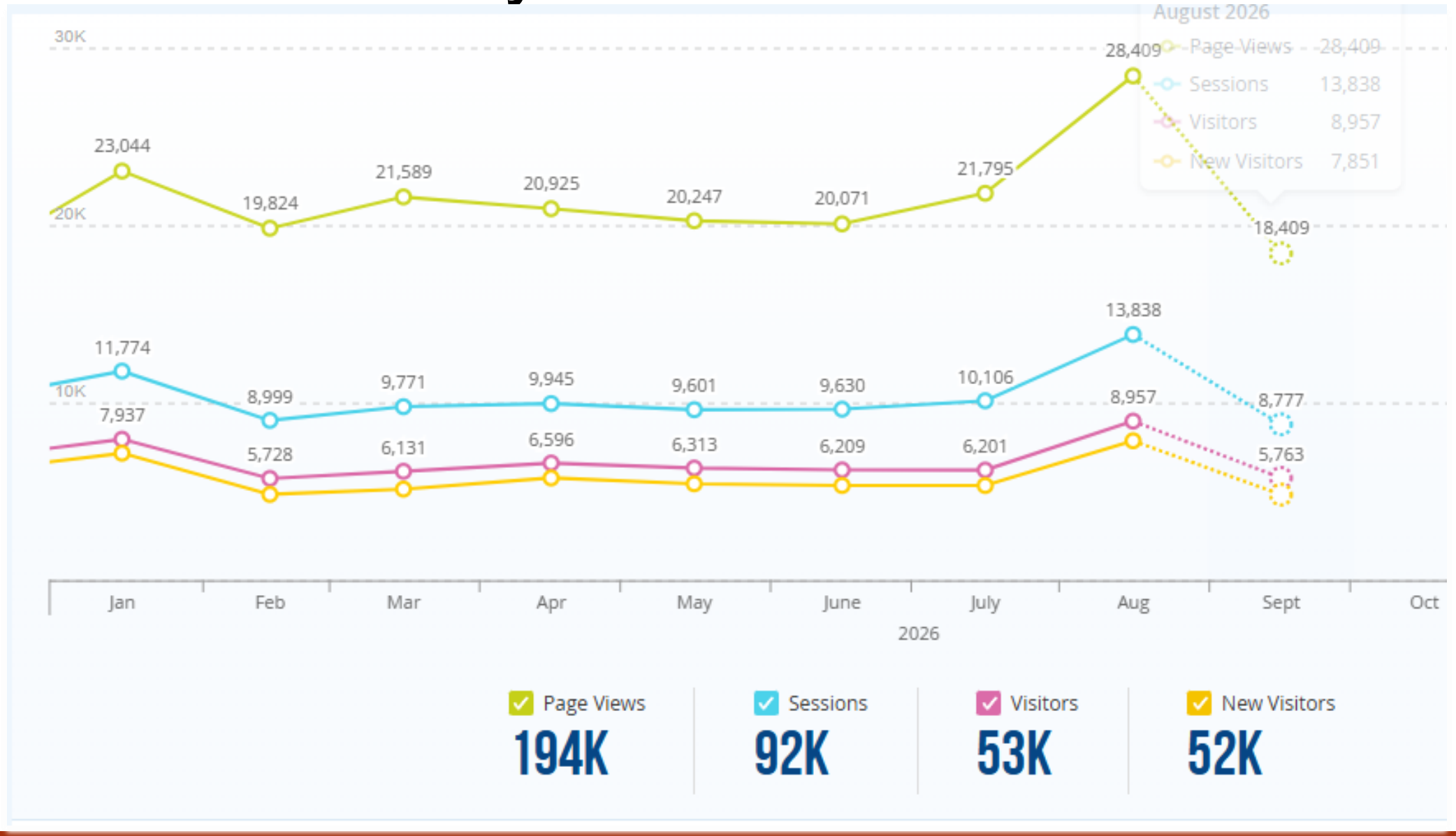


Website

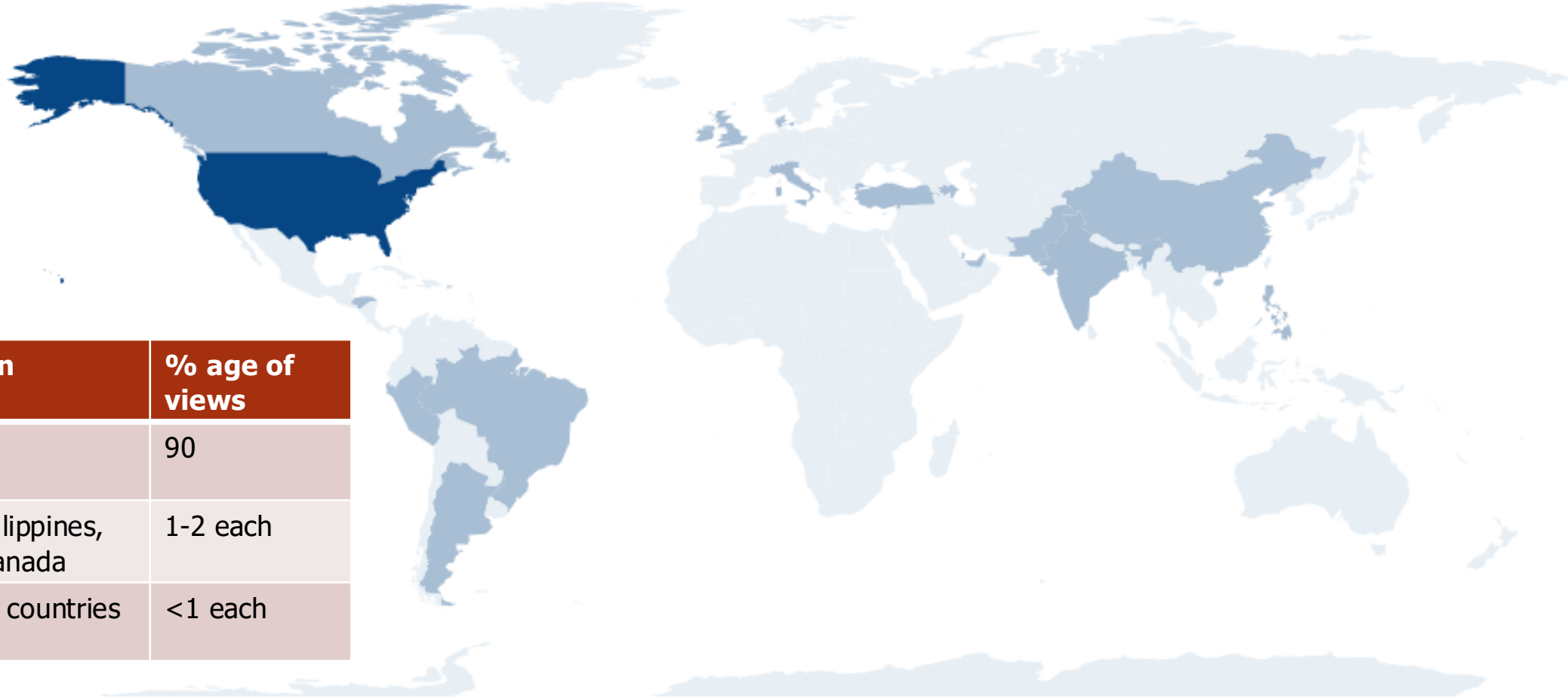
www.Secularfranciscansusa.org

Website Team – Sharon Winzeler, Jim Thomas, Terri Leone, Carolyn Seal, Michael Gath, Miriam Kennedy

Website Activity – 2026 Year to Date



Locations of Visitors to the Website (7-hour period) on 09/27/2026



Location	% age of views
USA	90
Italy, Philippines, India, Canada	1-2 each
14 other countries	<1 each

Website – keeping content fresh

Voices of Gospel Living – Articles of the Rule

Blogs

Homilies by Fr. Christopher

Slider

Centenaries

Links to FB page

Facebook

Secular Franciscans, USA

Barb Scott,OFS
Diane Menditto, OFS
Christine Blood, OFS

Facebook

1

597,900 views (up 5% over last year)

2

1100 reels viewed 3 seconds or longer (up 31% over last year)

3

20,200 content interactions (likes, reactions, saves, comments, shares, etc) (down 23.5% over last year)

4

10 hours, 30 mins of watch time (time reels played/ replayed (up 11.8% over last year)

Facebook – Top Content

Casting call for the talent show at the Q

Pope Leo XIV calls Franciscans to possess the source of inner peace and be instruments of God's peace.

1-800-Francis - Fran Acosta, OFS

Average Number of Communications (April 2024-August 2026)



Emails



Calls

12/month

1-800-Francis Inquiry Topics



The "Q" (Quinquennial Congress) Questions



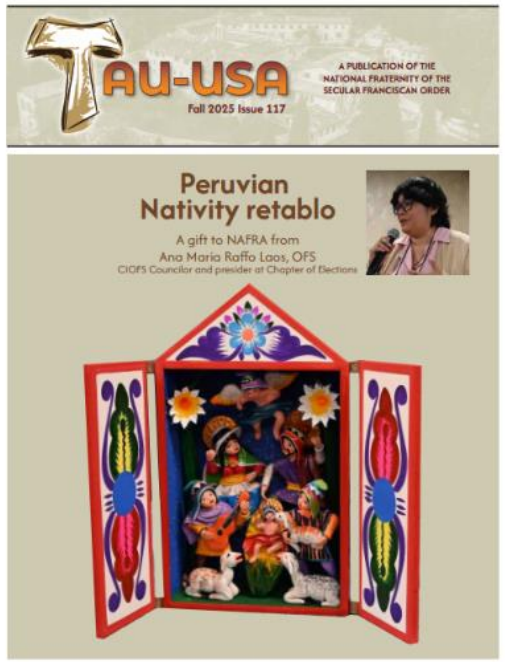
Jubilee & Indulgences

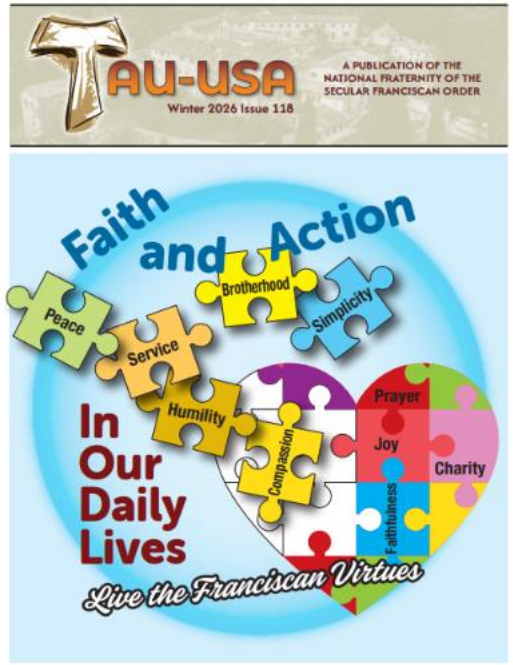


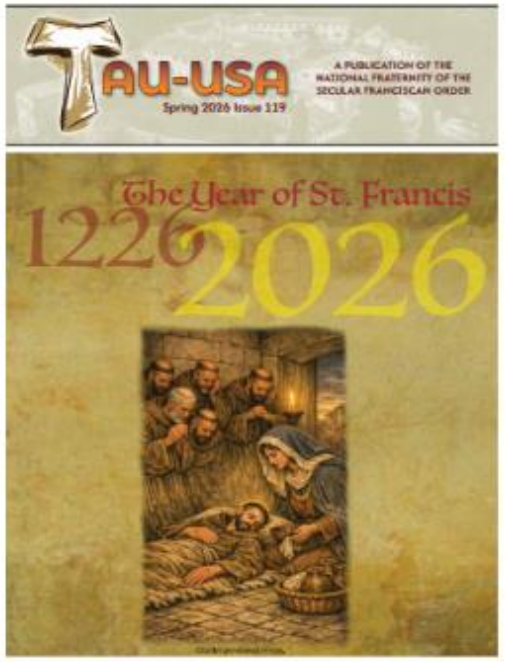
Fraternity Locations & Contacts

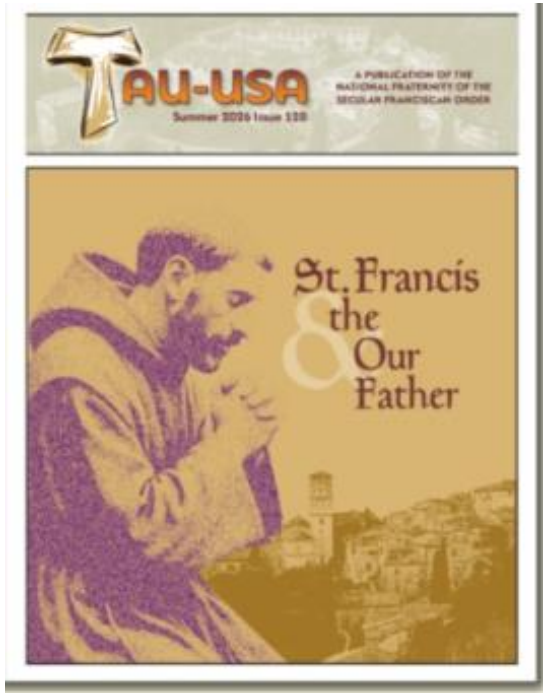


Franciscan Items & Relics









TAU-USA

Caroline Yandell, Editor

Gospel to Life Bookstore – Claudia Kauzlarich, OFS



Visitation and Elections

Met with over 600 members

- Updated documents and provided sample templates
- Added a Google Form for Visitations: REC Self-Evaluation Form (15 questions)
- Added an email address on the website to be used to request a Visitation/Election
- Conducted 10 Visitations and 7 Elections in the last year (covered 16 Regions).



Divine Mercy Regional Visitation

Santa Maria De Las Montanas Regional Visitation





St. Kateri Tekakwitha Regional Visitation



St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Visitation

St. Francis Regional Visitation




St. Thomas More Regional Visitation

Mother Cabrini Regional Visitation





Our Lady of the Angels Regional Visitation


St. Joan of Arc Regional Visitation

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Regional Visitation



Efforts to serve the members

- Updated Transfer Document
- Updated Regional contact on website to generic email
- Quarterly meetings with their RM groups, work to provide similar agenda for consistent message
- CNSA - focus on meeting with SAs at visitations and met with SAs who attended the Q
- Sharing the messages from CIOFS in a timely manner.
- Reviewed appointed positions

Vocations

- Outreach methods as described above
- Communications Manual updated and available on website
- Contracted with a consulting firm to provide initial recommendations for improved marketing efforts. First two phases completed.
- Entertained at the Q!



Commissions

- Formation Chair – RFD sessions, progress on Formation texts, answering questions
- Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation –Topic based sessions, training, newsletters
- Franciscan Youth/Young Adult – Sharing ideas – so we can build relationships
- Vocations and Communications – initial consultant review

Committees and Individual Appointments

- Accessibility – Raising awareness from a variety of perspectives
- Communications: Website, FB, 1-800-Francis, PR at Q,
- Database – Manages the information, but also provides a means to communicate with members who have emails
- Archivist – Stores the history - 2300 files – 120 boxes

Others adding to the mission

- Ecumenical/Interfaith - transition
- Multicultural - transition
- Historian - transition
- Mail Courier
- Legal Team
- "Q" 2031 – TBD
- Duns Scotus Board – one term ending
- Centenaries Task Force – concluding their service

What Was Accomplished to Impact the Trend?

Efforts on the Regional Level



Based on the annual reports from the regions, the efforts align into 5 categories.

1. Charity
2. Justice
3. Fraternity
4. Prayer/Formation
5. Humble Presence

Charity

Feeding and material aid — Dorothy Day House Ministry

Housing and shelter support — St. Anthony Shelter, Gianna House for pregnant women

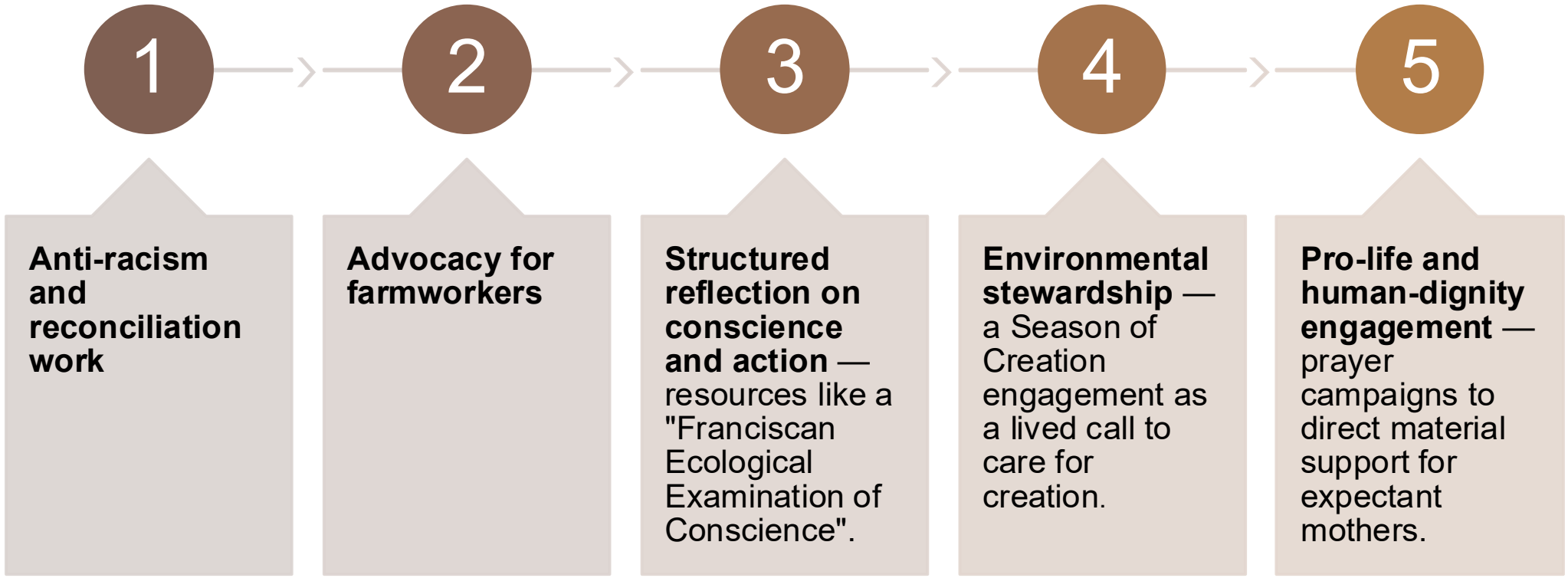
Support for the imprisoned — letter-writing ministries to incarcerated persons (the Fr. Cedric Pen Pals ministry)

Care for the sick and dying — cemetery visits and prayer for deceased members, care for homebound and frail members, and 40 Days for Life participation.

Support for immigrants and refugees —sustained, personal accompaniment including ongoing legal and financial support for migrant children, funds toward immigration-hearing attorney fees for a refugee family

International solidarity — the H2O Project and support for a leprosy center in Zimbabwe

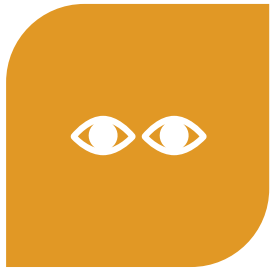
Justice


1
2
3
4
5
Anti-racism and reconciliation work
Advocacy for farmworkers
Structured reflection on conscience and action — resources like a "Franciscan Ecological Examination of Conscience".
Environmental stewardship — a Season of Creation engagement as a lived call to care for creation.
Pro-life and human-dignity engagement — prayer campaigns to direct material support for expectant mothers.

Fraternity



COMMITTED TO LIVING THE GOSPEL IN OUR FRATERNITIES AND IN OUR COMMUNITIES



UNITY ACROSS DIFFERENCES, CAMARADERIE WITHIN A GROUP, DIVERSE IN AGE, RACE, ETHNICITY, AND EVEN POLITICAL VIEWPOINT



HOSPITALITY AND MUTUAL CARE: VISITING HOMEBOUND MEMBERS, CELEBRATING PROFESSIONS AND BIRTHDAYS TOGETHER



"FRATERNAL LOVE," "HOSPITALITY," "SERVANT LEADERSHIP," "PRESENCE"

Prayer and Formation



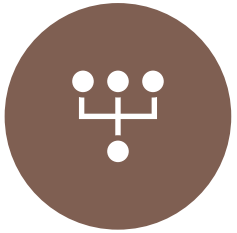
LITURGY OF THE HOURS AND **FRANCISCAN PRAYER**



DAYS OF RECOLLECTION AND RETREATS



THE TRANSITUS WITH FRANCISCAN FAMILY



"FORMATION FRIDAY" MATERIALS, DISTRIBUTED NATIONALLY



FORMATION AS SPIRITUAL DEEPENING: INSTRUCTION ON THE LEGISLATIVE DOCUMENTS IS EXPLICITLY TIED TO "SPIRITUAL GROWTH," NOT MERE COMPLIANCE.

Humble Presence

1

JPIC emphasis on empowering and accompanying local fraternities' own action.

2

Personal, sustained accompaniment of individual migrants (rather than only general advocacy)

3

Weekly Zoom rosaries, small book-study groups, and cemetery visits — modest, repeated acts of fidelity rather than headline projects.

4

Simply "living their vocation 'out loud'" — suggesting Gospel witness understood as consistent daily character

What’s the goal?



Goal: Thriving Local Fraternities

- Rekindling the flame of our local fraternities – requires joint efforts.
- RECs – spending time to know their fraternities
- NEC, CNSA, Commissions and Committees – supporting the RECs and Local Fraternities
- The numbers are not identifying the symptoms or diagnosing the problems



Concluding Thoughts

- Attrition rate is stabilizing
- Over 1000 in formation



We are more than numbers!

Living the Gospel

- Forgiving a family member
- Being a servant leader
- Prison Ministry
- Read the bible to follow up
- Join a Franciscan Justice Circle
- Read a book on St. Francis
- Help at a food pantry
- Evangelized

Living the Gospel (con’t)

- Lectio Divina on the Gospel
- attempting to apply the Gospel to my life
- Fraternity scripture study
- Prioritizing apostolates
- Help support elderly families
- Expressing my beliefs
- My action and words

Living the Gospel (con't)

- Bring the Eucharist to an elderly member
- Love family, serve parish, be kind,
- Vote
- Keeping the faith alive in family and fraternity
- Follow the Rule
- Trying to follow the Gospel in my daily life
- Parish cantor
- Share faith with whoever will listen
- One form of mortification/penitential act daily

Living the Gospel (con't)



What's next?

- 5-year plan – short-term and long-term activities with concrete actions for helping local fraternities
  - Branding/Vocational Materials
  - Management of the Bequest
  - Youth/Young Adult
- National Statutes Revision
- Guidelines
- 2028 - Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of OFS Rule and 800th Anniversary of Canonization
- 2031 Q



The National Executive Council,
Conference of National Spiritual Assistants
National Commission Chairs



Front Row: Jennifer Drees OFS, Jane DeRose-Bamman OFS, Mary Frances Charsky OFS, Layna Maher OFS
Middle Row: Christine Blood OFS, Corinne Lorenzet OFS, Diane Menditto OFS, Susan Ronan OFS, Kathleen Molaro, OFS
Back Row: Steve Roszhart OFS, Fr. John De La Riva, OFM Cap; Fr. Marek Stybor, OFM Conv,
Fr. Cidouane Joseph, OFM, Chris Leone OFS, and Joseph Makley OFS



Easter of St. Francis

Rekindle the Flame

"our life cannot continue as before. It cannot continue as if nothing special happened. … we are responsible to share it and make our fraternities a better place to live our vocation." Tibor Kauser, OFS, Minister General October 4, 2026