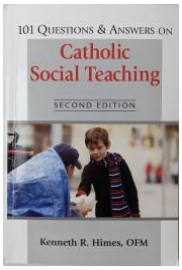
"Faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead." James 2:17

Faith and Action: JPIC Resource Bulletin 02/27/2026



Time Sensitive… Mar 5, 2026, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Franciscan Zoom Lecture with Br. Kenneth Himes, OFM, PhD: "*Sacred and Social: The Person as the Foundation of Catholic Social Teaching*" A greater understanding of Catholic Social Teaching can reduce polarization and help make the Church's efforts at social reform more effective. Br Kenneth wrote the book many of us have used: *101 Questions and Answers on Catholic Social Teaching.* The talk is sponsored by the Franciscan School of Theology, at the University of San Diego. Link to Register

H2O Project reports 2026: Taking Concrete Action for the Earth and the Poor

The Lenten H2O Project is an easy way for our entire national fraternity to take collective action for the poor who have no access to clean drinking water. During Lent, whenever you would normally buy a coffee or soda, have water instead, and put aside the money saved. Also make a note to focus on and appreciate the clean water that is so available to us, say a prayer, and think of our brothers and sisters who live without clean tap water. **Please check out and distribute the *attached flyers* in English and Spanish for more info.**

Kenya, Bob Pape, OFS 2/25/2026

Kenya: The photo at right is of a deep well being drilled in rural Kenya, at the location of a new school built by Father Felix, FSMQL (Franciscan Servant of Mary Queen of Love.) This was an H2O Project award of $4000 in 2025. The project is an apostolate of St. Thomas More Fraternity, of Wilmington, NC, in partnership with the local Knights of Columbus. Bob Pape, OFS, is currently visiting Kenya to oversee the project, and sent this picture: "I am humbled by the generosity of the Secular Franciscans as they reflect God's love, especially through their witness to charity. Please thank the National Executive Council and everyone involved." Bob Pape.

Bolivia: An award of $1400 was made to Suma Jayma, a project on the high plains of Bolivia, where wells are dug using local labor with coordination, pumps, concrete, etc., provided by the non-profit. Br Iggy Harding, OFM referred the project to the JPIC Commission. Jason Obergfell, the coordinator, wrote: "A heartfelt thanks to everyone who was part of making this grant possible. It truly is miraculous what is possible when we collaborate with God, led by the Holy Spirit. The water projects in Bolivia, in particular, always lead me back to the very first miracle of Jesus at the Wedding in Cana. The words that often get overlooked from that scriptural passage are, "Do whatever He tells you." If the waiters had not followed these words from Mary, I believe there would not have been a miracle that day. God is constantly calling us to collaborate on miracles, and the Holy Spirit continues to speak to our own spirits saying, "Do whatever He tells you," Jason Obergfell.

Bolivia, Completed well
1/29/2026

Joe Makley, OFS joe.makley@pioneerstreet.com

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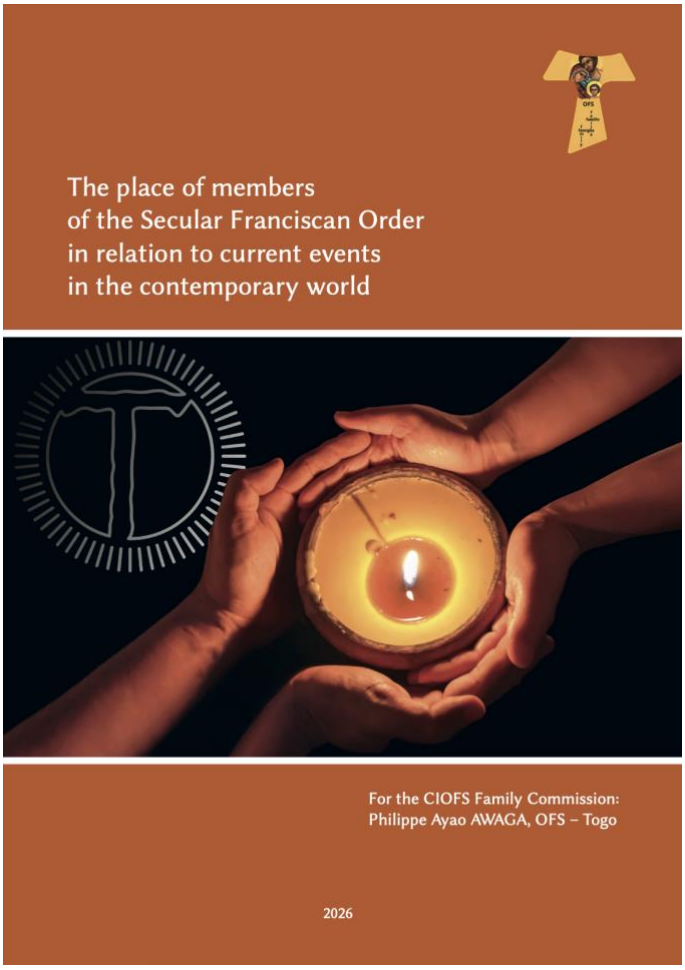
Answering the Call to Franciscan Accompaniment:

Mike Huck, OFS, from Mother Cabrini Region, reports:
“On February 7, 2026, the Chicagoland Franciscan Justice Circle held a meeting in Cicero, IL, a Chicago suburb affected by the immigration crackdown. We ordered food from local businesses to stimulate the economy and heard stories from community members. We were joined by staff from two local immigrant organizations, including the Episcopal Diocese’s sanctuary program. People associated with the Sisters of Mercy also attended. At our next meeting, we’ll discuss possible actions by hearing more from those local organizations.”

New Resource from the Family Commission of CIOFS: “Responsible and Supportive Citizenship:”



“The place of members of the SFO in relation to current events in the contemporary world”

This would be an excellent resource for Fraternity or Regional formation session/s. Example: “The Catholic Church herself, through documents such as *Gaudium et Spes* or *Evangelii Gaudium*, reminds us that the crises of our time are "signs of the times" that require analysis and a credible response, notably through the formation of a responsible and supportive citizenship….”

“On the civic level, members of the OFS are called to concrete engagement: in their respective countries, they can exercise their right to vote and participate in public life. They are called to permeate society with Gospel values, for example by promoting just laws or defending human dignity. They are invited to civic actions (climate demonstrations, peace initiatives, anti-poverty campaigns) always carried out with spiritual coherence and without violence. Ongoing formation is crucial: by studying the writings of St. Francis, the popes… the Church’s social encyclicals, they can refine their understanding of contemporary challenges. It is about discerning with the help of the Holy Spirit and prayer how to act concretely, uniting prayer and action.”
Link to the PDF

Peace and all good,
Joe Makley, JPIC Animator, OFS-USA

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