

Secular Franciscan Order – USA

National Fraternity Chapter

August 22-27, 2023

St. Louis, Missouri

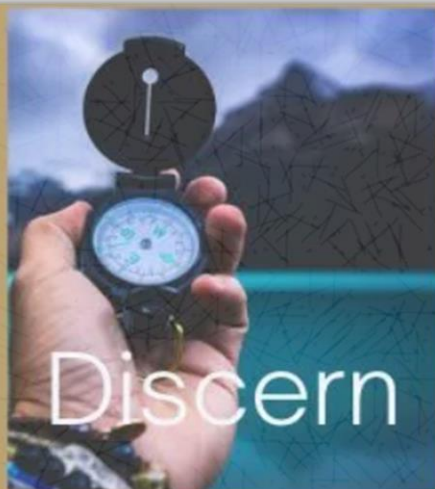
Hosted by the Saint Clare Regional Fraternity



REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INFORMATION



Listen



Discern



Go Forth

National Fraternity Theme for 2022-2025

May 2023



Dear Sister & Brothers,

On behalf of all of us in the Saint Clare Region, welcome to St. Louis, the Gateway to the West!

We are thrilled to be hosting you and our region's volunteers are looking forward to meeting you, transporting you and serving you during your stay here. Your fellow Secular Franciscans who have volunteered from this region will be available 24/7 to anticipate your needs and provide you with Franciscan hospitality and joy.

Our OFS-USA National Theme for 2022-25 is: *Listen, Discern, Go Forth!* Thank you for listening to the call of service, for discerning your special and unique gifts for His use, and for going forth to spread the Good News with confidence and conviction.

The NEC has worked tirelessly to bring this Chapter gathering and visitation together and we thank them for all their work! They are a well-oiled team, thorough and caring in their approach, execution, and communications with all involved. It's been a blessing working with them.

For the regional fraternity which encompasses the St. Louis area to host this gathering is most humbling because... the entire Secular Franciscan Order will celebrate on August 25 the Feast Day of our patron saint, Saint Louis, King of France!

And what better way to celebrate this feast day than to be in communion with all Secular Franciscans throughout the world in celebrating Mass together on August 25th in the Cathedral Basilica Saint Louis!

The Day Away. On Friday, after an early lunch, you are encouraged to join us in visiting some significant and historical sites in the St. Louis area. We'll start off with a private tour of the Basilica of Saint Louis, King of France (Old Cathedral) on the grounds of the Gateway Arch National Park. After that we'll go to the Cathedral Basilica Saint Louis (New Cathedral) – the "Rome of the West" and together there we will celebrate Mass for the Feast Day of Saint Louis, King of France- our patron saint. There you will see all the basilica's wonderful mosaics, including the mosaic of Saint Louis receiving the Secular Franciscan habit. And on our way back, we'll stop by our treasured Forest Park where statues of Saint Francis and Saint Louis are there (amazing!) and take a group photo. We'll conclude our day with a "Taste of St. Louis" dinner, served picnic style at the Pallottine Renewal Center, promising to be the highlight of your visit here in our beloved St. Louis.

Within this *Registration and General Information Packet*, there is one registration link used for both *Chapter* registration and the *Day Away* registration. Sign-ups for the *Day Away* will be limited, so early registration and payment (both must be made to reserve a spot) are strongly encouraged.

We look forward to this special time with all of you and *thank God ahead of time* for your safe travels. Continue to listen, discern, and go forth!

Peace and all good, always.

Christine Blood, OFS - St. Clare Regional Minister

Connie Shanks, OFS and Maureen Gray, OFS - St. Clare Region Co-Host Committee Chairs

2023 National Fraternity Chapter OFS-USA

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location

Pallottine Renewal Center

15270 Old Halls Ferry Rd.
Florissant, MO 63034
314-837-7100

Website: <https://pallottinerenewal.org>

Located 10 miles north of St. Louis Lambert International Airport.



Pallottine Renewal Center
Retreat & Conference Center

Ground Transportation from Airport

The Saint Clare Region will provide your transportation to/from the Pallottine Renewal Center. You will be emailed on or before August 18 with the exact location and time of your pick-up from the airport, with specific instructions and driver contact information. Confirmation of your receipt of this email sent to you for pickup will be requested.

Chapter Schedule

- Chapter begins on Tuesday, August 22 / Dinner 5:00 pm / Mass at 7:00 pm
- Chapter concludes Saturday night, August 26 / Closing Mass at 5pm / Farewell Dinner
- Departures on Sunday, August 27

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE FOR THE CHAPTER & THE DAY AWAY - Deadline for Registration is July 25, 2023.

REGISTRATION LINK: [**OFS-USA 2023 National Chapter Registration**](#)

**** Note:** You will be asked for travel information when you register. (Observer costs on page 5)

Pre and Post Chapter Events

Monday Arrivals

If any National Fraternity member needs to arrive on Monday because of flight availability, please notify Susan Ronan at ofsusasecretary@gmail.com as soon as possible. Lodging and meals will need to be arranged.

New Regional Minister Orientation: Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 2:45 pm

If you are a new Regional Minister (RM) elected after October 2022, please plan to arrive in time for the New Minister Orientation Meeting at 2:45 pm on Tuesday, August 22. If you need to arrive a day early to make this meeting, please email Susan Ronan at ofsusasecretary@gmail.com

Arrival Information

When you arrive, please register for the Chapter and check into your room. The Chapter Registration table will be staffed from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 22. The Registration Table will be adjacent to the entrance foyer (to the left) as you enter the Pallottine Renewal Center.

If you arrive after 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday evening, please come directly to the Dining Room. If you arrive after 7:00 p.m. please come to the Chapel for the celebration of the Eucharist. The Dining Room and the Chapel are on the Main Floor. Chapter Registration will resume after Mass at approximately 8:15 p.m.

What to bring

Prayer Books: Morning Prayer will be led by our Geographic Groups who will provide handouts/worship guides. You may wish to bring your Liturgy of the Hours as some prayer times are on your own.

Chapter Materials: Various reports and the draft budget will be sent by email prior to Chapter. You may wish to download these to your laptop computer or print some of these documents to bring with you. All these materials will also be available via the 2023 National Fraternity Chapter Google Drive.

Rite of Remembrance: Regional Ministers or their delegates are reminded to bring the names of our OFS brothers and sisters who have died in the past year.

How to Dress: August in St. Louis can be very hot and humid, please bring comfortable, lightweight clothes. *However, we suggest you bring a sweater/jacket for inside should you feel that the AC is too cold.*

Miscellaneous

Internet Access: Pallottine offers free wireless internet service throughout the buildings.

Meals: We have a preselected menu. If you have special dietary needs, please note this on your registration form. *This should also include whether you observe meatless Fridays.*

Questions? For questions prior to the Chapter please contact Susan Ronan by email at ofsusasecretary@gmail.com or text/call Susan at (603) 706-8381.

Members of the Saint Clare Region will be at Pallottine for the duration of the Chapter to assist you.

Connie Shanks, OFS
Maureen Gray, OFS

573-776-3434
660-537-0421

connieshanks@gmail.com
mgraysfo@gmail.com

INFORMATION ON COSTS FOR DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS

Chapter Attendees and Abbreviation Key

National Executive Council (NEC) and Regional Ministers (RM)

Conference of National Spiritual Assistants (CNSA)

National Commission Chairs (NCC1) & National Committee Chairs (NCC2)

Costs for NEC, CNSA, NCC1 and NCC2

Lodging, meals, and travel expenses (including ground transportation) are covered by the National Fraternity for the NEC, CNSA, NCC1, NCC2 and other persons invited for a particular function. When completing the online registration form, you will only be responsible for the **Day Away** cost.

Costs for RMs

Lodging and meals are covered by the National Fraternity for RMs or their delegates. Their travel expenses, including any additional ground transportation (besides to and from St. Louis airport), are covered by their Regional Fraternity. When completing the online registration form, you will only be responsible for the **Day Away** cost and dinner.

Information on Delegates (If the RM is not able to attend)

If the Regional Minister is unable to attend, the Regional Vice Minister represents the Region at the National Fraternity Council gathering, with full voting rights. If neither the Minister nor the Vice-Minister is able to attend, an elected member of the Regional Council selected by that body (not by any one individual) attends as a delegate. (National Statutes Art. 8.3) Delegates for the Region, other than the elected Vice-Minister, must have a letter, signed by the Minister of the Region, stating that said person is the official delegate. This letter should be given to the National Secretary upon arrival at the gathering. Official delegates have full voting rights. When completing the online registration form, you will only be responsible for the **Day Away** cost and dinner.

Day Away: Friday, August 25- the Feast Day of St. Louis, King of France

The **Day Away** is Friday, August 25, 2023. This is optional and is a personal cost for participants. Payment is due upon registration. **Chapter Registration** and the **Day Away Registration** are contained in the same link.

The \$60 Day Away includes Friday dinner. Also available this year is a *Day Away Dinner Only Option* (Friday) at the retreat center for \$30 'Taste of St. Louis at the Pallottine' – under the *Commuter Meals* section.

Observers - Observers (including Regional Spiritual Assistants) are most welcome but are responsible for their own expenses.

- If space allows, Observers are welcome to stay at Pallottine. Please consult with the National Secretary to see if rooms are available, and to discuss other details, **before making travel plans**.
- Observers may attend one or more days as a commuter. The food cost per day at the retreat center is: \$50 which includes breakfast (\$13), lunch (\$16) and dinner (\$21) - excluding Friday night dinner.
- Commuters are invited to participate in the **Day Away** (\$60) or the *Day Away Dinner Only Option* the 'Taste of St. Louis' (\$30) which is Friday evening at the retreat center.
- During the Chapter sessions, observers have no voice, unless recognized by the Chair, and no voting rights.
- Observers should be aware that they may not be admitted to some sessions.

REGISTRATION LINK: [**OFS-USA 2023 National Chapter Registration**](#)

Secular Franciscan Order - USA
CONFIDENTIAL MEDICAL FORM

NOTE: Place this form inside an envelope and seal it. Put your name on the outside of the envelope and place it in a conspicuous location in your room.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone (home): _____ (Cell): _____

Emergency contact: _____ Relationship: _____

2nd Emergency contact: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Telephone (home): _____ (Cell): _____

Medication allergies: _____

Other allergies _____

DOB: _____ Weight: _____ Height: _____

Primary Care Physician: Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Health problems/conditions: _____

Specialty/other physicians

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

Specialty: _____

Specialty: _____

Date of last tetanus shot _____

Current prescription medications:

Name of medicine	Dose	How Often	Reason

---- PLEASE BE SURE TO FILL OUT BOTH PAGES OF THIS FORM ----

Over-the-counter medications

Name of medicine	Dose	How Often	Reason

Previous surgeries:

What	When

Do you have any of these conditions? Circle YES or NO

Difficulty with anesthesia?	YES	NO
Past blood transfusion?	YES	NO
Do you wear glasses or contact lenses?	YES	NO
Do you wear dentures or partial plate?	YES	NO
Do you have difficulty hearing?	YES	NO
Do you smoke? If so, how much?	YES	NO
Have you been out of the country in the past 6 months?	YES	NO
Do you have a living will/durable power of attorney for health care?	YES	NO

Is there any other information that you think an Emergency Room physician should know about you?

Insurance information:

Plan: _____
 Group #: _____ Other #: _____
 Phone: _____

I authorize release of this information in a medical emergency to an EMT and/or Emergency Room Physician.

The above is accurate as of:

 Signature

 Date

Day Away on the Feast Day of Saint Louis, King of France

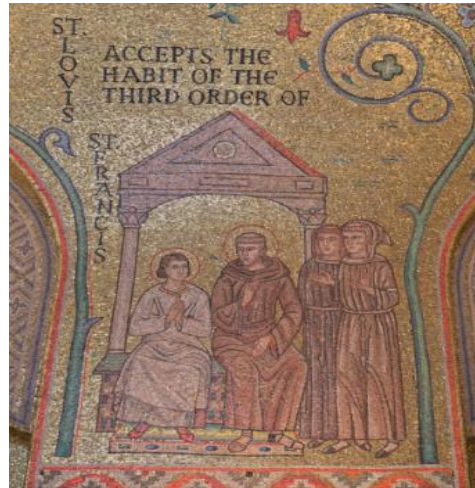


Private tour of the Basilica of Saint Louis (Old Cathedral) and walk the grounds of the Gateway Arch.

Mass for the Feast Day of St. Louis at the Cathedral Basilica Saint Louis (New Cathedral- "Rome of the West"), with self-guided tour.

Forest Park- stopping at the St. Francis Statue & the St. Louis Statue on Art Hill (group photo here), viewing the Grand Basin built for the 1904 World's Fair.

'Taste of St. Louis' dinner served at the Pallottine Renewal Center



TASTE OF ST. LOUIS

*Gus' Pretzels on the bus.
Fried Cod & Cajun pieces from
a local fish fry, Imo's Thin
Crust Cheese Pizza,
BBQ Meats, Toasted Raviolis,
Italian Salad, Goey Butter
Cake, Ted Drewes Frozen
Custard and more!*

