



TAU-USA

Spring 2026 Issue 119

A PUBLICATION OF THE
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SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

The Year of St. Francis 1226 2026



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Mission to Share the Vision

The TAU-USA, a publication of the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order of the United States, is a vital communication link between the OFS-USA leadership and all candidates and all professed Secular Franciscans throughout the United States. The articles within the publication, while sharing the Secular Franciscan charism and vision, are intended to inform, inspire, and challenge.

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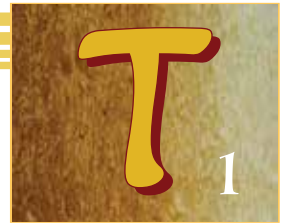
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Grain of Wheat

By Jane DeRose-Bamman, OFS • National Minister



Over the last three years I've been focusing on death. In 2024, my father was called home. In 2025, my mother was called home. In 2026, we remember the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi. Both my parents lived 93 years. St. Francis lived about 45 years.

An opportunity to focus on death is truly an opportunity to focus on life.

“...Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.” John 12: 24.

In 2021, my parents started needing some assistance. I would rotate with other siblings to stay with them. Maybe you can relate to such a call to assist.

These visits involved a little dying to self. Although inconvenient to be away from Brian, home, and office, I tried not to complain about taking time out of “my life” to care for my parents. They sacrificed so much for my six siblings and me and our families. This was the least I could do for them. Technology allowed me to work remotely, which was such a godsend.

It turns out that wasn't the only blessing I received from those visits. During those years, I was able to get to know my mom and dad on a different level. I dialed in on their dietary likes and dislikes, preferences for television shows, and aspects of their deep prayer life.

St. Francis lived 800 years ago. Of course, I never physically met him. Yet he still has an impact on my life. My encounters with him were through walking where he walked (Assisi and La Verna), reflecting

on his prayers and on what others remembered about how he followed Jesus. I noted his sacrifices - which he would not have labeled as such.

These three people shared their love for Jesus with me even through the suffering of dying. As we know, Jesus' story, THE Story, doesn't end with the cross. The Resurrection is the next step. It is death sprouting into new life - the image of the grain of wheat. There is pain, but it results in much fruit.

Linking the lives of my father, my mother, and St. Francis with Christ's leads me to wonder what seeds have been planted in me.

Things I learned from my dad: never give up, faith is vital, routines are good, start and end your day in prayer.

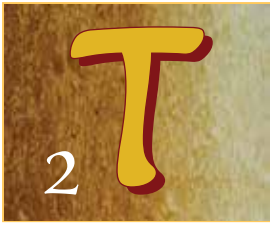
Things I learned from my mother: there is always more we can do, but life is short – act with urgency, we must advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves, there's always room for more at the table, and it is never

too late to accomplish something (like earn a degree).

Things I learned from St. Francis: God is in control – we just need to cooperate, the Gospel message is so wonderful – we must share the joy, and ignoring our bodily needs allows us to make room for God.

Like any child, sometimes I don't want to follow the instructions from a parent. It's embarrassing to know how many times as an adult and a professed Franciscan I still fail. I pray each day that I receive the grace of a mature faith to want to die to self and try to produce the fruit for Jesus. Dad, Mom and St. Francis, pray for us.





REFLECTIONS ON FIFTEEN YEARS: Grateful for the Opportunity to Serve the OFS

By Jerome Wolbert, OFM • National Spiritual Assistant

My Franciscan vocation began with the Seculars, so when the opportunity came for me to serve as a provincial delegate in 2011, I was happy to volunteer. I was in my second assignment after ordination – middle-aged as a person, but young as a friar. This service has been an incredible opportunity for me to grow and exercise our Franciscan charism. At several points, I have been grateful for those who have walked with me in leadership. My connections grew with their support, leading eventually to the positions I have now as OFS Animator for my province and National Spiritual Assistant.

In recent years, I've learned more about legislation – both Church law and the particular law of the Secular Franciscan Order – and the importance of holding to the values encoded in our statutes and canons.

I was impressed by the greater willingness of friars to help Seculars after explaining to several how the Seculars are ineligible to serve their own fraternities as spiritual assistants. But there were also several issues where the values encoded in law have been helpful, most of them more private to those involved. These experiences reinforce for me the first thing we were told in Canon Law courses: Church Law is given to protect the theology of the Church - how we understand God wants to relate to us and for us to relate to each other.

Ecclesiology, for example, is words about how God draws us together as Church and how we function as the Body of Christ. There are many canons and principles of applying those canons – like due cause, giving appropriate notice – which require some accountability and protect both individual persons and groups within the Church, with implications for the Secular Franciscan Order.

At the time of writing this article, the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants is working out how to

explain deactivations and dealing with fraternities in difficulty taking into account the new International Statutes. That we would have to revise this part of the *Handbook for Spiritual Assistance* was a surprise – I hope my fellow friars are not displeased at my revealing this. But for me, this is one of the big lessons I see, somewhat but not entirely in retrospect, as I reflect on 15 years serving your Order in the USA.

The legislation describes the Secular Franciscan Order as autonomous – that is, you write your own legislation and administer your own Order, albeit with oversight or spiritual assistance (CIC 303), as is true of every group in the Church.

It takes time to work out everything that needs to be done and to work it out in words and mentoring that will convey it from one set of leaders and ministers to the next.

This May I move to Rome to prepare for a new assignment working at the Dicastery for Eastern Churches – a very different set of responsibilities than any other service or ministry I've held in the past.

My main reflection as I prepare to retire from serving the OFS is the incredible importance of learning our legislation – not just as rules but including the values that are encoded in the statutes, which helps us to apply them properly. Many of you have good instincts, but this is something your generation of leadership will need to develop – and learn how to hand on to future leaders in your National Fraternity.

I have great hope for you, my brothers and sisters, that you will continue to grow in this dimension of service to your Order, and that this growth will help you ever better to address the way that your fraternities bring the Gospel to the lives of those in your local communities. Peace.

2026: A Year to Begin Again with Francis of Assisi

By Layna Maher, OFS • National Formation Commission Chair



This year the Church marks the 800th anniversary of the *transitus*, the passing into eternal life of Francis of Assisi. In honor of this moment, Pope Leo XIV has named 2026 the Year of St. Francis. For Secular Franciscans, this is more than remembering the past. It is an invitation: a year to begin again.

Returning to the Original Grace

Every vocation begins with a moment of grace, a turning point that gives life new meaning. For St. Francis, it was embracing the leper. For us, it may have been a quiet call to live the Gospel in the spirit of Francis while remaining in the world.

Francis wrote in his *Testament*: “And after the Lord gave me some brothers, no one showed me what I had to do, but the Most High Himself revealed to me that I should live according to the pattern of the Holy Gospel.”

This is the heart of our vocation. Article 4 of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order reminds us that our life is “to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis.”

The Gospel has not changed, but our zeal can fade. To “begin again” is not to start over in failure. It is to return to the source with renewed love.

Conversion as a Lifelong Journey

Francis never saw himself as finished. His whole life was a journey of ongoing conversion. In his writings, he describes those who do penance as people who love God fully and bear fruit in their lives.

Secular Franciscans can live these fruits daily by having patience in conflict, integrity in work, mercy in judgment, and simplicity in lifestyle.

The Year of St. Francis invites us to reflect:

- Have we chosen comfort over sacrifice?
- Has convenience weakened our faith?
- Where is God asking us to rebuild?

“Rebuild My Church”

Before the crucifix, Francis heard the call: “Rebuild my Church.” He began by repairing a small chapel, but his deeper work was renewing hearts.

We share in that mission not by leaving the world, but by transforming it from within. Francis urged his followers to be “gentle, peaceful, modest, meek, and humble.”

This spirit of humility, *minoritas*, is essential in family life, work, and society. Imagine if every fraternity became known for peace, care for creation, and love for the poor. This is how the Church is rebuilt today.

Beginning Again, Together

At the end of his life, Francis, though suffering and nearly blind, chose praise. He asked that the *Canticle of the Creatures* be sung. His final witness was humble gratitude.

To begin again in 2026 is to rediscover that joy. Not shallow happiness, but the deep freedom of living *sine proprio*, without clinging, without fear.

This year is a gift to the whole Church. It calls us to personal reflection, communal renewal, and a deeper commitment to the Gospel life.

Let us return to the writings of Francis.
Let us renew our promises.

Let us ask for the grace to live simply, love deeply, and serve humbly.

Eight hundred years after his passing, Francis still calls to us: Live the Gospel. Repair what is broken. Begin again.



Image by KBCH from Pixabay



Opposing Indifference: Actions of Accompaniment in the Year of St Francis

By Joe Makley, OFS • National JPIC Animator



Isaiah 58:6

“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free...?”

In this jubilee year of our founder, the great peacemaker and reconciler, it is fitting that we have called the membership to work visibly for justice and mercy for immigrants:

“... Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied” (Mat 5: 6.) “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.” (Mat 25: 35-36.)

These words of Jesus call us in every age, as they called St Francis to embrace the leper. For Secular Franciscans today, this call is in our General Constitutions, Article 18.2:

“They should deepen the true foundations of universal kinship and create a spirit of welcome and an atmosphere of fraternity everywhere. They should firmly commit themselves to oppose every form of exploitation, discrimination, and marginalization and *against every attitude of indifference* in relation to others.” (Emphasis added.)

In our churches and fraternities, it can be wise at times to avoid topics that may reveal discord, such as public policy. At other times, a moral issue arises in society, one that is so significant that *not* talking about it can become a *scandal of indifference*.

The Civil Rights movement was like that. I was a ten-year-old in the south when Jim Crow was still in effect. There were many who remained indifferent to its oppression, but our Order’s leaders, through their *Action for Interracial Understanding*, called for Franciscan witness for peace and justice. Many answered, and their witness, along with the religious who participated while wearing their habits and clerical collars, gave hope to those who

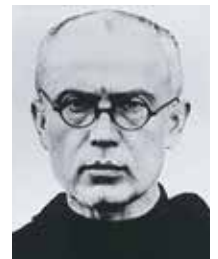


The prophet Isaiah - Illumination from choir book, Lodi, Italy. 1500s

could not attend these momentous events. They were *opposing indifference*.

During the rise of Naziism in Europe, Fr. Maximillian Kolbe, OFM Conv., is attributed to have said: “*The most deadly poison of our times is indifference.*” He taught against indifference in faith as well as in actions of love for others. He wrote and published the truth

regardless of personal risk. He earned his victory in giving his life for love of Jesus in the other, a stranger. Fr. Kolbe *opposed indifference* with a passion, and we are called to follow.



St. Maximilian Kolbe

Secular Franciscans are opposing indifference. During research for the *Call to Franciscan Accompaniment*¹, we learned that OFS members in seven states were accompanying immigrants to court visits, and across the country were helping in any way they could, including advocacy. *Non-partisan advocacy* means organizing for changes we can agree on, like due process for all persons, transparency in enforcement, honoring pre-existing commitments like work permits, protected status, and proportional refugee resettlement.

Our prayers rise to God from sincere hearts, hearts that are wounded by the indifference we see every day. In this year of the Transitus of St Francis, with our bishops and Pope Leo, with our national leadership, in our fraternities and parishes, we will grow our attunement to that Gospel call for justice and mercy. We will “oppose every form of exploitation, discrimination, and marginalization,” and God willing, with the blessings of St Francis, we will deepen those foundations of universal kinship.

¹ <https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/2025/12/call-to-franciscan-accompaniment/>



St. Francis: A Saint for Younger Generations

By Kathleen Molaro, OFS • Youth and Young Adult Commission Chair



In response to the announcement of a Year of St. Francis, Fr. Marek Weresa, who is a contributor of *Vatican News*, interviewed Bishop Krzysztof Nykiel, Regent of the Apostolic Penitentiary. One of the questions he asked, after a tremendous Jubilee Year and now another special invitation to enjoy a Year of St. Francis, was, “What can we do to prevent this time from becoming banal?”

Bishop Nykiel answered that it’s not a matter of more events, more prayer, or more holiness. That can become overwhelming, exhausting, or even boring. Instead, he encourages us to take what we’ve gained and deepen our response. It’s important to “live the Gospel concretely rather than merely talking about it.” He clarifies by stating, “The Year of St. Francis must not become another chapter full of special spiritual effects, but a silent passage from enthusiasm to deep maturity.”

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2026-01/year-saint-francis-indulgence-assisi.html>

This year is an opportunity to reach out to young people. Considering the transformation and conversion Francis experienced as a young man, he is a well-received saint for our younger generations! Like Francis, they often express their desire for purpose; for mindfulness; and for authenticity and action, which was evident in a recent article about Directors of Newman Centers in the Sacramento Diocese, (The Future of the Church is Today, *Catholic Herald*, March 2026). Marie Antunes, director of Chico Newman, shared that one of the students once told her, “You never know how much time you have, so you have to live intentionally.” Many young people have developed a devotion to St. Carlo Acutis, who shared a similar philosophy. One of his famous quotes is, “I am happy to die because I have lived my life without wasting a minute on those things which do not please God.” He lived with intention, which has drawn many young people into a deeper relationship with the Church. The story and example of St. Francis also inspire young people.

Joe Johnston, the director of Sacramento Newman said, “We’re calling for an era of purpose through Jesus.” It is students who see the bigger picture, who strive for purpose over convenience, that he hopes to serve.

How can we Secular Franciscans support the efforts of the young people in our midst? You’ve probably seen this excerpt from the commission before - but it is worth repeating.

In *Sons and Daughters of Light: A Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adults*, our bishops respond to the question, “What can the Church offer to fulfill the spiritual hunger of young adults?” Their answer is “The Church can offer them a vision of life based on a faith that calls each of them to holiness, community, and service.” Simply put, you can help through Encounter – Presence – Prayer – Inspiration – Witness – and Love.

As you are celebrating this special Year of St. Francis, through your works of charity, prayer services, retreats, and whatever other commemorative events you’ve planned, remember to invite young people along.



Appreciating God’s Creation.



Praying together.

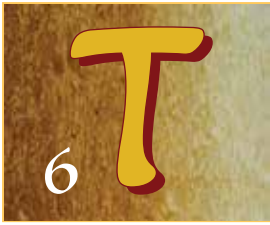


This photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC Working together.

In a Letter to the Minister General of the Conference of the Franciscan Family, Pope Leo XIV says:

“May the example and spiritual legacy of this Saint, strong in faith, steadfast in hope and ardent in active charity towards his neighbor, inspire in everyone the importance of trusting in the Lord, of living a life faithful to the Gospel, and of accepting and illuminating every circumstance and action of life with faith and prayer.”

If we truly believe this is what we are called to do, then let’s live what we believe, and serve as the witnesses young people are seeking.



Year of Francis

Mary Frances Charsky, OFS • International Councilor, OFS–USA



At the CIOFS General Chapter in Rome (November 2024), the theme **“You Are Love”** reminded us that the Franciscan way of life begins with God’s initiative: **God loved us first**. From this gift flows the love we extend to ourselves, to our families, and to every brother and sister we meet along the way. Jesus places this truth at the center of discipleship when He calls us to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. (Matthew 22:37–40)

As we celebrate The Year of Francis, we are invited to let this truth shape our daily living. Francis of Assisi recognized the divine seed in every person and responded with reverence, compassion, and

peace. His example urges us to cultivate unity in our fraternities and communities by practicing patient dialogue, offering forgiveness, and seeking reconciliation.

To walk in the footsteps of Francis today means becoming instruments of peace – treating all people with dignity, building bridges where there is division, and allowing love to be the measure of our actions. “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” (Psalm 133)

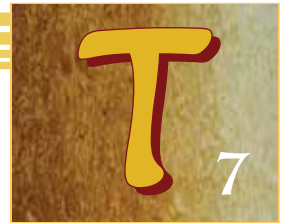
May this Year of Francis renew in us the courage to love as Francis loved: wholeheartedly, joyfully, and without hesitation because we know the One who loved us first.



Photographs provided by Bob Stronach, OFS

Francis, Renewed in Our Times

Vickie Klick, OFS • Chair, NAFRA Centenary Task Force



In my lifetime, four of my relatives have celebrated their 100th birthday. A century is a long time. But this year, as you all know, we are celebrating the 800th anniversary of Francis' death. How does Francis stay so popular after eight centuries? We can get an idea by looking at what has happened in just the last 40 years – my part of the story.

I started formation in the Secular Franciscan Order in 1983, just five years after our present Rule was promulgated. I had been Catholic for just a year and a half, and I had no idea how much the Order was changing. We had no constitutions (not even in draft) to guide us in our interpretation of the Rule, and relatively minimal formation materials. Despite the best efforts of my formators, I had a LOT to learn when I made my profession.

Since that time, we have been blessed by a great deal of work and study to unpack what it really means to be a Secular Franciscan, and to better prepare us not only for profession, but for our ongoing journey. We are also blessed with the scholarship that has given us better translations of the writings of Francis, Clare, and their followers. In response to these many blessings, we need to do as Francis did and begin again. How am I called *today* to follow Christ in the spirit of St. Francis according to our Rule? What is mine to do? The good news for each of us is that we ARE called

individually to what is ours to do; the bad news (if you want to look at it that way) is that each of us is responsible for ongoing discernment. What is mine to do today may not be what Christ wants me to do tomorrow.

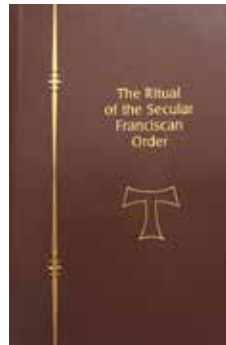
During this Year of St. Francis will have many special activities. We will have a Zoom event, as we have for the past three centenary years. It will be on Sunday, September 27, at 3:00 PM Eastern time. I strongly encourage everyone to find a Transitus service to join on the weekend of the Feast of St. Francis. While it is ideal to join with other Franciscans in the area, there will also be online events, so everyone will have an opportunity to participate. It is a great time to visit a Franciscan church or shrine and avail ourselves of the plenary indulgence for the special jubilee year.

Beyond all that, it is also a great time to enhance our daily routines to better listen to Christ's call each day, and to assess how well we're living up to that call. While we enter Lent each year with many suggestions to intensify our faith, we can begin again any time. Ask the Lord what he wants and then listen! Our world, our Church, and our Order are depending on us to be a channel of grace in our days. Let us begin again and bring the joy of Francis to another generation.

**General Constitutions
of the Secular Franciscan Order**

STATUTES

**of the International Fraternity
of the Secular Franciscan Order**



Statutes of the National Fraternity
of the
Secular Franciscan Order
in the
United States of America





A MESSAGE FROM THE Q PLANNING COMMITTEE



Every five years, Secular Franciscans from across the United States gather for something truly extraordinary: our Quinquennial Congress, a national family reunion rooted in prayer, fraternity, and the joy of our shared vocation. This year, we will celebrate the 21st Quinquennial Congress (Q2026) at the Griffin Gate Marriott in Lexington, Kentucky, from July 29 to August 2. This gathering comes at a particularly grace-filled moment, as the global Franciscan family continues to celebrate the Jubilee Year of St. Francis and the 800th anniversaries that mark the final years of his earthly life.

The Quinquennial is more than a conference. It is a living expression of Article 6 of our Rule, which calls us to “go forth as witnesses and instruments of the Church’s mission among all people.” For four days, we step away from our local routines and immerse ourselves in the wider Franciscan family – renewing our identity, strengthening our fraternities, and rediscovering the joy of our call.

The Q offers a rich and thoughtfully crafted program. The draft schedule, available on the OFS-USA website, highlights a balance of formation, prayer, celebration, and community-building. Participants will hear from nationally recognized keynote speakers, each bringing a unique perspective on living the Gospel in the spirit of St. Francis today. Prayer anchors the entire gathering.

Your presence at the Q matters! The Quinquennial is a moment of encounter – encounter with Christ, with one another, and with the broader mission of the Order. When Secular Franciscans gather, something powerful happens. We remember who

we are. We remember that our vocation is not lived in isolation but in fraternity, in communion, and in shared mission.

What can you expect the Q to offer:

- Renewal of vocation through prayer, liturgy, and shared reflection
- Deepened fraternity as we meet brothers and sisters from every region
- Fresh inspiration from speakers, work-shops, and creative offerings
- A national perspective on the life and mission of the OFS in the United States
- A joyful celebration of our Franciscan identity during the Jubilee Year

For many, the Quinquennial becomes a milestone in their Franciscan journey – a moment when the call becomes clearer, the joy becomes deeper, and the sense of belonging becomes unmistakable.

“Let Us Begin Again...” As Secular Franciscans, we are always invited to begin again – to renew our commitment to the Gospel life and to one another. Q2026 is a privileged moment to do just that. Whether you are newly professed or have walked this path for decades, your presence enriches our entire national fraternity.

Let us gather in Lexington with open hearts, ready to be renewed in the spirit of St. Francis. Let us celebrate our vocation, strengthen our bonds, and go forth renewed for mission.

Mark your calendar. Pray for the Congress. And plan to join our Franciscan family for the Q2026 to celebrate the Easter of Francis.





We would like to recognize the sponsors who have agreed to support our Quinquennial Congress with a generous donation to help defray some of the cost of attending our gathering as well as contributing to the Service project expenses.

These organizations have pledged to contribute to the **My God and My All! Sponsorship Level** in the amount of \$10,000 each



A member of CommonSpirit

IMPORTANT MESSAGE:

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE HOTEL DIRECTLY TO MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS.

USE THE LINK AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR CONFIRMATION EMAIL.



October: A Month for All Things Franciscan

By Chris Leone, OFS • National Councilor



We have Black History Month, Autism Awareness Month, and many others. Let's promote October as Franciscan Month. Franciscan Month was conceived in 2023 and launched at St. Francis College in Brooklyn, NY, by Brother Gregory Cellini, OSF, a Franciscan Brother of Brooklyn.

In 2024, our reach broadened to the Archdiocese of Newark and the Dioceses of Metuchen and Paterson in New Jersey, as well as the Archdiocese of New York and Dioceses of Brooklyn and Rockville Centre in New York. In 2025, we expanded nationwide with the support of all the Orders of the Franciscan Family.

The mission of Franciscan Month is to celebrate the 800-year charism of the Franciscan way of life, to build awareness about this way of life, and to invite and inspire people of all faiths to live it.

Our intention for 2026 is to promote the Franciscan values of simplicity, care for creation, peacemaking, the dignity and integrity of each person and service to the poor, marginalized and forgotten - especially during this Jubilee Year of St. Francis.

We will accomplish this with a focus on engaging Franciscan colleges, universities and high schools; Franciscan and diocesan parishes; and selected U.S. retreat centers. The friars will speak at the Masses in their parishes.

We are asking Secular Franciscans to promote Franciscan Month in the diocesan parishes where they are parishioners by asking their pastors for permission to speak at the Masses on the weekend of September 26-27, and to include a bulletin announcement that weekend. A script and bulletin announcement will be provided. Once you receive permission from your pastor, reach out to me for the script. cleoneofs@gmail.com

The Franciscan Month team is preparing a series of coordinated events and a large-scale digital campaign for October. Recognizing the reach and impact of digital media, our primary emphasis will be on spreading awareness of Franciscan spirituality and its values through online platforms. This includes weekly themed blogs, videos, and social media content, alongside in-person events developed in collaboration with our target communities.

Our ultimate goal is an official Vatican designation of October as Franciscan Month.

Please visit our website - www.franciscanmonth.org



St. Francis and scenes from his life.
By Master of San Francesco Bardi - 13th century.

Francis: Our Model for Following Christ

By Francine Gikow, OFS

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11

My very first introduction to a Secular Franciscan was getting to know a gentle soul named Anna. When she described her relationship with God as “intimacy,” I knew that I wanted to have what she already possessed. I wanted to love God as she loved Him. Anna was my living model of loving Christ. She lived her Franciscan life as Francis did: with humility, simplicity and love for others. Although Anna surely knew suffering in her life, she still remained joyful and caring.

The roots of Anna’s spiritual life were the same as Francis’ and Clare’s. In her second letter to Agnes of Prague, St. Clare wrote:

*If you suffer with Him, you will reign with Him,
Weeping with Him, you will rejoice with Him;
Dying on the cross of tribulation with Him,
You will possess heavenly mansions with Him
Among the splendor of the saints. (21)*

Thus, if we are to truly follow Christ, then we also must follow Him to the cross. There is no other way to unite ourselves to Christ’s love for others except through His passion, His cross, His death, His resurrection. Francis knew Christ’s love in his very core and was filled with abundant joy - a joy that only God can give. It is through Francis’ joy that people came to know Christ.

My Franciscan friend, Anna, was also filled with the love of Christ which she carried in her heart. This abundant and joyous love seeped from her heart toward others through her deeds of kindness, gentleness, and compassion. Anna became my model and an example for others.

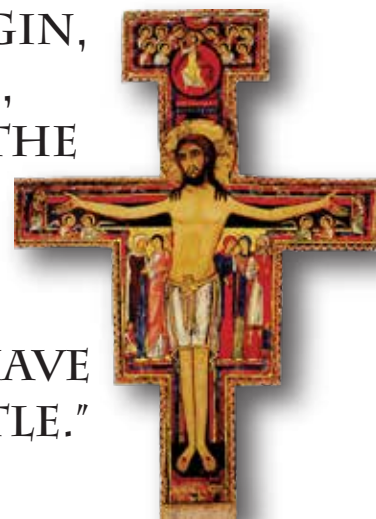
**May you
totally love
Him Who
gave Himself
totally for
your love.**

*St. Clare, Third Letter
to Agnes of Prague:15*

Isn’t this our way of life as Secular Franciscans? Shouldn’t we totally love Him since He gave Himself totally for our love? If we love Christ, then we can become a model of Christ for others. In her Testament, Clare described becoming a model for the Lord: For the Lord Himself has placed us as a model, as an example and mirror not only for others, but also for our sisters [and brothers] whom the Lord has called...that they in turn may be a mirror and example to those living in the world. (19-20)

Love is our legacy from Francis. In this holy Year of St. Francis, we glory in Francis’ life - the free gift of God to us. According to St. Bonaventure’s Major Legend of St. Francis (14:1), Francis said to his brothers:

“LET US BEGIN,
BROTHERS,
TO SERVE THE
LORD
OUR GOD,
FOR UP TO
NOW WE HAVE
DONE LITTLE.”





CALENDAR

MONTH	DAY	EVENT/MEETING
May	1-2	St. Katharine Drexel Region Election
	8-10	Mother Cabrini Region Visitation
	15-16	St. Maximilian Kolbe Region Election
	15-17	Five Franciscan Martyrs Region Election
	29-31	Queen of Peace Region Election
June	5-7	St. Kateri Tekakwitha Region Visitation/Election
	18	NAFRA Summer Virtual Meeting
July	8	NFC/RFD Meeting via Zoom
	29-Aug. 2	National Quinquennial Congress, Lexington, KY
August	2-4	NEC+CC Meeting – Lexington, KY
	29-30	Santa Maria de las Montanas Region Visitation
September	11-13	Divine Mercy Region Visitation
	27	Virtual Centenary Event

NEC National Executive Council RFD Regional Formation Directors
 NFC National Formation Commission CC Commission Chairs
 NAFRA National Fraternity Council

Please pray for the success of the events.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

There is some confusion among members regarding how to make preferences known for receiving the newly issued TAU-USA – by US mail or digitally. All professed members and candidates should either get it in the mail or receive an email with a link. It is also always available on the national website.

The mailing list is created from the national database. Either local fraternity database managers or regional database managers should make sure that the information is accurate for each member. If you are not receiving your copy in the manner you prefer, please contact your fraternity minister and request that it be entered into the database. To keep within our budget, we do request that only one copy go to each household.

An additional note: We are trying a lighter paper with this issue to determine if it goes through the mail successfully. If your mailed issue is torn or you have other problems, please contact me at: tau.usa.editor@gmail.com

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