



# The Herald

Newsletter of St. Elizabeth of  
Hungary Regional Fraternity  
Secular Franciscan Order

Summer 2022



**DID YOU KNOW:**  
Pamela O. Deres OFS

Have you ever thought of the impact that our Secular Franciscan order has had on the world? How people, just like you and me, were drawn into our Franciscan walk over the centuries and how different the world might be if they/we had never encountered a man named Francis or a woman named Clare?

At a gathering at St Bernard's Fraternity the discussion of unexpected Secular Franciscans began, and the seeds of DID YOU KNOW were planted. Historical figures and even saints who have at one point or another in their lives, been part of our Secular Franciscan Family (or in centuries past were called Tertiary Franciscans or Third Order Franciscans).

**DID YOU KNOW** that on May 15<sup>th</sup> of this year we welcomed a new saint to the ranks of the Secular Franciscan Order? (continued on page 2)

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Standing only 4-foot 4 inches high this powerhouse of a woman started a new order educating young women during one of the greatest reigns of religious persecution in the history of our Catholic Church.

Anne Marie Rivier was born, number 8 out of a family of nine in Montpezat, France, on December 19, 1768. Around 16 months old she fell off a high bed, seriously injuring her hip and ankle. Unable to walk, her mother, a woman of great faith, would carry her daily to the local church and place her at the foot of the altar of the Pieta. For four and a half years Anne Marie would spend hours conversing with Our Blessed Mother, studying in the school of love that Our Lady created just for her. Entrusting herself into the care of Our Lady, Anne Marie promised that if she were ever healed, she would dedicate her life to the education of children. On the feast of Mary's Nativity, September 8, 1774, Anne Marie discovered she could walk, a second, further healing occurred three years later on August 15, 1777, the feast of Our Lady's Assumption.

As a result of the childhood accident and rickets, Marie remained in frail physical health but her spiritual health grew in leaps and bounds. Discerning a vocation Marie applied to the Sisters of Notre Dame of Pradelles, where she had attended high school, but was turned down. Seeking to deepen her faith she became a member of the lay Tertiary Franciscan Order (our present-day Secular Franciscan Order). One can only imagine the impact our way of life had on her future calling to bring the Gospel to life through the education of the underserved women and children of her time and in generations to come.

France was in the midst of the Reign of Terror, churches were being burned, religious were being persecuted yet Marie remained vigilant, holding Sunday services when no priests were available for Mass and opening a school to teach young women their faith and offering them life skills. On November 21, 1796, she dedicated her life to God, with 5 other women, to fulfill her promise to the woman she loved so much and a new congregation, The Sisters of the Presentation of Mary, was born.

With sheer grit and determination Marie opened home after home to teach young woman. Many of whom joined the order after their graduation. By the time of her death in 1838, her sisters were running 150 schools!!

Currently serving in over 19 countries the Presentation of Mary Sisters staff are a familiar site all over New England. The next time you go on retreat at the Marie Joseph

Spiritual Center in Biddeford Poole Maine or attend a graduation at Rivier University or Presentation of Mary Academy in Hudson, NH, remember the connection you have as a Secular Franciscan with this amazing powerhouse of a women.

At her beatification in 1982, Pope John Paul II spoke of the ardor of Rivier's apostolate during and after the French Revolution and her faith amid physical infirmity.

"What was the secret of Marie Rivier's zeal? One is struck by her boldness, her tenacity, her contagious joy, her courage," John Paul II said in his homily.

Mother Rivier spent her life ministering to children; That the 2 miracles required for her beatification and canonization would be children is no surprise.



Paulette Dubois, age 7 was miraculously cured of Infantile Acrodynia (often caused by mercury poisoning). Families of the young girl requested the sisters pray a Novena to Mother Marie. On the final day of the Novena all her symptoms disappeared. It was February 3, 1938, the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mother Marie's death.

In 2015 a young family in the Philippines were pregnant with their third child. The other daughters in the family were students at a Presentation of Mary school being taught by Mother Marie's sisters. Tragically, while still in utero, the child was diagnosed with Hydrops Fetalis. A deadly disease that affects the heart and lungs, HF children rarely survive birth. The family was devastated. The Sisters recommended the mother pray to Mother Marie for a miracle. Though daily prayers were prayed for this precious little one, doctors gave them no hope. Yet, miracle of miracles, through the intercession of this tiny nun a beautiful healthy baby girl was born. Now 7 years old, Angel Marie Vier Albaracin Degamo was present at the beatification of her heavenly intercessor.

When we follow in faith the mission set before us, we too can accomplish miracles.

As Secular Franciscans we are called to see and witness to the miraculous all around us. Secular Franciscans saints are "hidden" all around us. They serve in our neighborhoods, our churches, our cities and our country. They serve all over the world bringing Our Lord's peace, love and joy to those who are lacking in hope, lacking in faith and lacking in love and joy.

As St Francis said: "If God can use me, He can use you too!"

**From the Minister's Desk**  
**Theresa Pratt, OFS**  
Minister's News – Theresa Pratt, OFS

Since our last Herald, we had our Regional Chapter and our Regional Retreat. It was so wonderful to see our brothers and sisters in person and share hugs.

Since you'll hear about the Retreat in another article, I'll just update you on our Chapter. I reviewed our accomplishments in 2021 and our goals for 2022. These were sent out to you through your ministers, vice ministers, and/or secretaries after the meeting. We had presentations from Lynette Dobbs, OFS, JPIC animator; Heather Cherniack, OFS, FYFA animator; Steve Shields, OFS, Regional Formation Director, and I updated the attendees on our So. Sudanese Family. Our Regional Spiritual Assistants provided Evening and Morning prayers for us.

In addition, our budget was reviewed, amended, voted, and accepted. The budget is included in this Herald. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact our Treasurer:

Bob Swegart, OFS  
[stelizabeth.treasurer78@gmail.com](mailto:stelizabeth.treasurer78@gmail.com).

The Chapter was well attended. We had a lovely weekend in Kennebunk.

We have the Formation Conference in the Fall. All Formation Directors and their teams should try to attend. All are welcome! Steve will provide more information in his article.

Upcoming Dates:

Franciscan Day—8/27/2022  
Formation Conference—11/18-20/2022  
Regional Chapter 2023—4/14-16/2023  
Regional Retreat 2023—5/19-21/2023

Please note that Franciscan Day will be a picnic at the Franciscan Guest House. We will be outside, bring our own food, and spend time socializing with our Franciscan sisters and brothers.

Since the Franciscan Guest House will be closing for renovations in January and they do not know when they will reopen, we will not have our Regional Chapter or Regional Retreat at the Franciscan Guest House. Both events will be held at St. Basil's Salvatorian Center in Methuen, Massachusetts.

I hope and pray you all have a wonderful summer!

God bless!

Theresa Pratt, OFS  
Minister, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region

**Canticle of the Creatures**  
**A Retreat with Fr. Bernie Tickerhoof, TOR**  
By Anita Wellman, OFS



On May 13, 2022, so many of us away for too long a time (but not by choice) were ever so happy to return to our Franciscan home. As our Regional Minister said in her greeting, we are here to reunite with old friends, meet new ones and be nourished by our retreat.

Here Fr. Bernie Tickerhoff, T.O.R. Retreat Director revealed new information and introduced new perspectives on the Canticle of Creatures. Most are aware that the Canticle was written in Francis' end times. Not all, however, recognize how

Francis' life experiences affected its writing.

Fr. Bernie shared the development of the three stage writing of the Canticle. Francis grew in his love and knowledge of and communications with God through environment ("Francis could not approach God directly, he would turn to the visual universe and call upon creation which has a connection with God") to portray "environmental harmony". Like Francis, all things influence our faith and are connected.

Francis knew the sense of good—God's blessing on all. God creates freely then lets go and intends a return (our cooperation). Bringing "internal and external (God, man, environment) into wholeness". Everything is interconnected.

Francis life exemplified reconciliation (ie. the Bishop of Assisi and the Podesta; the Sultan visit) as "Global Reconciliation. His Reconciliation with all things includes death and suffering which bring us the greatest gift—God's grace.

Fr. Bernie made several connections throughout his talks to Pope Francis' encyclicals, Laudato Si and Fratelli Tutti. The presentation topics, though abbreviated here, were filled with scripture, personal anecdotes, historical references, Vatican II and Catholic teaching.

God's grace was present throughout the weekend including Sister Sun and Franciscan joy.

## Congratulations to the Newly Professed!

### Right: Greccio Fraternity, Derry, NH—4/23/2022

James Montiero, OFS, Formation  
Director

Br. Damian Johnson, OFM, SA

Elaine Arruda, OFS, (newly  
professed)

Fr. Joe Powell, OFM, celebrant

Sue Ronan, OFS, Minister



### Left: St. Francis Fraternity, Lewiston— 6/11/2022

Nicki Frye, OFS, Minister

Patrick Akerley, OFS, (newly professed)

Fr. Michael Seigny, OFM Cap., celebrant

### Below: Blessed Lucius Fraternity, Brockton MA—6/4/2022

Fr. Paul Ring, OFS

Nancy Smith, OFS

Kevin Smith, OFS



### Below: Sacred Heart Fraternity, Plattsburg, NY— 6/5/2022

David Garrant, OFS, Minister

Lucy Wood, OFS (newly professed)

Sarah Anderson, OFS, Formation Director



### Not pictured: Saint Francis and Clare Fraternity, Boston MA—12/11/2021

Juan Carols Rivera Pineda, OFS

Santos Osmin Benitez, OFS

Mercedes D. Leiva-Derosales, OFS

## Re-energizing our Vocations and our Fraternities

By Steve Shields, OFS

Hello Everyone -

Revelation 3:15 tells us, “I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either hot or cold. As it is, since you are lukewarm, neither cold nor hot, I will spit you out of my mouth.”

Matthew 5:37 tells us, “All you need to do is to say ‘Yes’ if you mean ‘Yes’ and ‘No’ if you mean ‘No.’ Anything beyond this comes from the evil one.”

Article 8.2 of our Constitutions tells us: “They seek to deepen, in the light of faith, the values and choices of the evangelical life according to the Rule of the OFS:

- Rule 7: in a continually renewed journey of conversion and of formation;
- Rule 4.3: open to the challenges that come from society and from the Church’s life situation,”going from Gospel to life and from life to Gospel;”
- in the personal and communal dimensions of this journey.”

Our rule is very concerned with the concept of daily renewal and the idea of bringing the “Gospel to life and life to the Gospel”. It needs to be, because without it, our Franciscan vocation can easily cool to a “lukewarm” place of comfort. This is a place where less is ok, and the challenges of society are best avoided to save us from the hard work of Franciscan life in our world. We go through the motions, but slowly, imperceptibly, the bright light of our profession begins to fade. Lukewarm vocations lead to lukewarm fraternities, and lukewarm fraternities have a difficult time finding people willing to serve. The slow cooling of fraternity life is rarely obvious until elections suddenly become a problem. By this time, these fraternities are at a high risk for closure, unless they can find the desire and means to re-energize themselves.

This year’s formation conference is scheduled for November 18th through November 20th at the Franciscan Guest House in Kennebunk, ME. The conference is open to anyone who has an interest in formation and a desire to energize themselves and their fraternities as we emerge from a very difficult time. If you feel your fraternity has been wounded, scattered, disoriented or become more “lukewarm” over the past two years, this is the place for you.

This also applies if you feel your fraternity has thrived through the pandemic and have best practices to share.

All are welcome. Some of our topics and discussions include:

- A review of Instrumentum Laboris that will focus our energy on servant leadership.
- A deep dive into our vocation, charism and mission that will help reconnect us to our profession declaration of “yes, this is what I want”.
- An examination of our intimacy with God, myself, fraternity and the world that will focus on relationships and repairing the wounds around us.
- A review of opportunities for aging fraternities that will help us take a new look at how to energize an aging community.

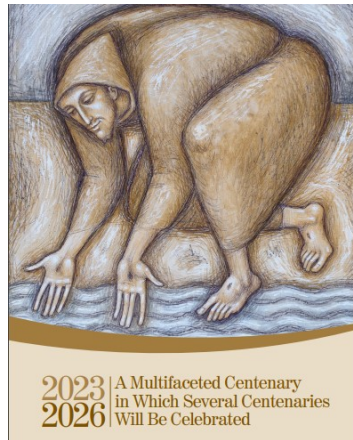
As always, our conference will leave opportunities for prayer, reflection and connecting with others as we build up our “toolbox” for the hard work ahead. We look forward to seeing you in November.

Peace!

Steve Shields OFS

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### 2023-2026 Centenary Celebration



The Conference of the Franciscan Family, (CFF), has published a beautiful document providing guidelines for a 4-year celebration of the 800th anniversary of the Rule of St. Francis, the Christmas of Greccio (2023), the Stigmata (2024), the Canticle of the Creatures (2025), and the Passover of Francis (2026).

The CFF is comprised of the Ministers General of the 1st order, TOR, Secular Franciscans and the President of the IFC-TOR. A link to the document can be found below. Start planning now for the 2023 celebration of the Rule and Greccio!

<https://ofm.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/English.pdf>

#### The Herald

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Summer 2023 Issue—June 15, 2023

## Musings—The Ghost Pipe

Theresa, Pratt, OFS



Anyone who knows me, knows I love my walks in the woods of Borderland State Park in Easton, MA. Since last fall, my thoughts have been coming back to a very interesting plant. I hope you'll get out to the woods this fall and look at the base of trees and see it for yourself.

I don't know how many of you know about **Monotropa uniflora**, also known as host pipe, ghost plant, Indian pipe or corpse plant. It's caused me to think about our fraternal vocation, our interconnections, and our living of what Thomas Merton called our true self.

You see the ghost pipe isn't green. It doesn't use photosynthesis. So you might ask, how does it get the nutrients it needs? Well, it gets its nutrients from tree roots through an intermediate (a mycorrhizal fungi).

I guess my musing on this plant, was really a musing on the tree and fungi providing the ghost pipe's nutrients. They don't say to themselves, why should I waste my energy for this thing to live? Why would I waste my resources? I might need them to survive. But the tree and fungi don't think like humans that see things as their own and must be protected. We know their God-given role. As Blessed John Dun Scotus would say, their "thisness". They don't have to protect, they must just be what God made them to be.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we would freely give of our resources to others without selfishly holding back because of our fears. That we understood that we are all interconnected and we must be willing to share what we have with our brothers and sisters in need. That we will be willing to make the sacrifices necessary to provide for the poor and to address the climate crisis.

I came upon this prayer by Pope Francis that might help you in your journey. It has helped me:

Loving God, Creator of Heaven, of earth and of all that they contain. Open our minds and touch our hearts, so that we can be part of Creation, your gift. Be present to the needy in these difficult times, especially the poorest

and most vulnerable. Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the consequences of this global pandemic. Make us courageous in embracing the changes geared to the search for the common good. Now more than ever, may we be able to feel that we are interconnected and interdependent. Make sure that we succeed in listening and responding to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. May the present suffering be the birth pangs of a more fraternal and sustainable world. We pray to You through Christ our Lord under the loving gaze of Mary, help of Christians, Amen.

## Our Franciscan Family

We hope to be able to feature a different Franciscan community in each issue of the Herald in order to raise awareness of the richness of our Franciscan Charism.

### Taking it to the Streets: Capuchin Mobile Ministries and Our Franciscan Charism

Fr. Sam Fuller, OFM, Cap.



Fr. Sam Fuller, OFM Cap.

Capuchin Mobile Ministries of the Province of St Mary is an outreach to the marginalized on the streets of Boston meeting people exactly where they are. Formed with the desire to develop a ministry that directly engaged our

Franciscan charism, it takes Francis' Testament to heart whereby he states, *We were simple and subject to all* and that by embracing the leper *what was bitter was turned into sweetness of soul and body*. We have to realize that such statements reflected more than being nice or deferential or a reference to an ideal but were concrete realities for St Francis and were expressive of his being transformed by Christ. It has been telling to see how Capuchin Mobile Ministries has grown in an intentional, slow and organic way. By being directly related to people and being small, the ministry remains versatile and open to the Spirit.

Br. Paul Feselfelt was charged with developing this new ministry given his extensive ministry in Boston with the homeless over several years. Over the course of six months, he proceeded to speak directly to agencies, non-profits and faith communities and those who were homeless about what type of ministry would best serve those on the streets. He came away from this process realizing that what was needed was more than a food truck as there was already plenty of places offering food but rather a ministry that was grounded in a sense of accompaniment and the affirmation of the spiritual needs

of those encountered. What emerged reflected Pope Francis' image of the Church as a field hospital.

It was decided that a van would be procured and custom fitted to meet such a ministry. Basic needs are met by providing coffee, hot chocolate (or lemonade, depending on the season) and water. Sandwiches along with cereal bars are offered. Hats, gloves, socks and hand/foot warmers are available as also are blankets if requested. Yellow care bags filled with hygiene items and socks along with a rosary, a prayer card and a small book of healing prayers also are distributed. We also offer an array of different prayer medals and prayer cards for specific needs. All of this is offered not so much to give out things but in order to establish conversations and a sense of accompaniment and belonging.

Once a basic format and implementation of the vision was established, Br Anthony Zuba started coming up from New York City once a month to join Br Paul. Other friars at our two friaries in Boston also helped. Our friary van was used with a card table that was pulled out and set up at each stop. The van would go out once a month and different stops in the city were tried out. It was a process of trial and error as to what stops were used and their arrival times. Other friars helped out in making sandwiches or joining in the outreach trips. All of this continued during Covid. Eventually, the ordered van arrived and was appropriately fitted out with the outside wrapped with the image of a friar and lettering. August 15, 2020, the Feast of the Assumption, was the debut of the CMM van on the streets of Boston.

Eventually, the CMM van went out twice a week with a somewhat consistent route established, though the route is continually evaluated and tweaked. But a schedule was established and handed out so people could expect generally at what time the van would be coming so as to establish a consistency of relationship. Cardinal Sean stopped by the San Lorenzo friary in March of 2021 to bless the van. It is moving to realize that our first 'core' volunteer was a man who as part of his own conversion and return to his Catholic faith along with learning of Padre Pio, felt moved to distribute sandwiches one day in Central Square only to look up and see the CMM van with friars ministering.

I arrived in Boston in September 2021 and shortly afterwards we expanded the outreach with our van three times a week. We had hoped to go out four times a week but we quickly realized the overwhelming logistics that would require- increased number of volunteers, increased maintenance of the van and increased sandwich making by volunteers.

The ministry is always a work in progress. We continually seek to build community particularly as we see our

ministry as a witness to our fraternity. We build community among our volunteers so that our ministry with those on the streets is also an extension of all of us. We bring the names of those we encounter to our morning prayer and we offer a Mass each week to those who we meet. For our three Lenten reflections we offered on zoom to our volunteers, we used scripture and three excerpts from Pope Francis' Message for the Fifth Day of the Poor. He articulates the movement from charity and a give and take relationship to that of mutual sharing and solidarity. We are all mindful that St Francis did not heal and convert the leper. Rather, the leper converted St Francis. May we all continually seek such conversion.

To view our Website:

<https://www.capuchin.org/mobile-ministries/>

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### **South Sudanese Family Apostolate**

Kim Tison, OFS and Bakhita Saabino

Dear members of the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region,

When United States Customs and Immigration notified Bakhita in 2020 that her family could complete the final interview of the complicated visa requirements for Frances, Severine, and Gloria in Nairobi, Kenya there was great joy among us all. Bakhita's Immigration attorney had scrutinized her submission, searching for mistakes of omission before all detailed paperwork was submitted to the National Visa Center in the United States. Everything was in order to bring the rest of her family to the USA. She was excitedly waiting for the Center to approve what she submitted and to complete the Immigration process when the pandemic struck. The United States Embassy in Kenya announced on June 30<sup>th</sup> that it "remains unable to resume routine immigrant and nonimmigrant visa services at this time."

In the future, as soon as the Immigration section of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi re-opens and the interviewing panel and Consul decide that all is in order, their visas will be issued. The process will continue from the point it was interrupted by the pandemic. Bakhita regularly checks the Kenyan US Embassy site as well as conferring with Immigration agents and her Immigration attorney via telephone updates.

Bakhita sends her loving prayers for all members of our Region affected by this worldwide situation. We cannot save every family, but, with God's help, we will be able to save this one. We ask you to continue to pray for the family's health and well-being and that they will be united in the United States ASAP. Thanks to all you have contributed to this effort. We ask for your continued support.

## Justice, Peace and Care of Creation Laudato Si Action Platform

By Lynette Dobbs, OFS

As Secular Franciscans, we know our faith tells us we are required to care for Mother Earth. Our Rule states: Moreover, they should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which “bear the imprint of the Most High,” and they should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship. Article 18

Therefore, whether we believe in the concept of climate change or not, we are called by the Church and our Profession to care for all of creation. This includes our relationships with the planet, the animals and all people who inhabit the earth.

When people think of caring for creation, they often start with recycle-reduce-reuse projects. That’s a great start; however, there is so much more we can do! As we are called to be fraternity with one another, helping one another along the way and being examples to all the world, it is important to recognize the examples of others throughout the world and learn from them as well. This is what Pope Francis is asking us to do through the Laudato Si Action Platform which was created by Catholic organizations around the world in cooperation with the [Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development](#).

This platform gives practical guidance to families and individuals, parishes and dioceses, educational institutions, healthcare and healing, organizations and groups, the economic sector and religious groups in seven areas of concern: adoption of sustainable lifestyles, community resilience and empowerment, ecological economics, ecological education, ecological spirituality, response to the cry of the earth, and response to the cry of the poor.

Once you register on the website, [laudatosiactionplatform.org](http://laudatosiactionplatform.org), you are asked to complete a self-assessment. Your answers are used to calculate how you personally impact the environment. The information provided can help you develop an action plan and decide where you can have a positive impact.

There is a wonderful section on the website where people can share information with individuals and organizations and one where you can read reflections from around the world. One particular reflection affected me greatly. A woman from Australia spoke of the changes she and her husband have made and plan to make in the future to create a more sustainable lifestyle. It was the simple changes over the past years this couple has made that have gradually helped them to become more ecologically self sufficient and better stewards of the earth. This site also has a section that gives you tools to develop your

own plan and share it with others if you wish. There is much more to the site to include many resources.

To navigate this site easily, I found a few things that are helpful to know. 1) There are no scroll bars so you must use your up and down keys to navigate each page, 2) it is best to register as family/individual unless you own a business or are registering for a large organization/institution that has offices (the questions just are not pertinent otherwise) and 3) once you register with an email, you cannot change your status (family, healthcare, etc.) and must use a different email address if you want to make changes.

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### Apostolate Corner

#### St. Anne Fraternity, Southborough MA

Patrick O'Donnell, OFS

**Preface:** *If you have or someone you know has an unresolved pregnancy loss or past contraceptive use, healing from Jesus Christ is possible. Confidential help is offered through (877) 467-3463 at [Rachelsvineyard.com](http://Rachelsvineyard.com) and through (800) 273-8255 at [projectrachel.com](http://projectrachel.com).*

With horror, we watched the Basilica of Notre Dame burn and the Basilica of Saint Francis in Assisi suffer earthquake damage. Built by human hands, both Basilicas are rebuildable. The greater desecrations are done to temples of the Lord that are not built by human hands. Every human person is first conceived as an idea in the mind of the Creator, Who then wants to create. At the instant of conception, each person is destined to be a Temple of the Holy Spirit, called to be another Christ. Sadly, many are weak in accepting contraception and abortion, denying the Creator His creation.

These are some thoughts I had while participating in my fraternity’s apostolate, leading our host parish in the national 40 Days for Life campaign of prayer and counseling outside abortion centers. While discussing our apostolate, those of the St. Anne Franciscan Fraternity of Southborough who participated there on the sidewalk realized this active presence can fulfill one’s Franciscan Commission callings.

Outreach to the abortion-bound is engagement with the **youth**, to those with unplanned pregnancies who need support in choosing life for themselves, their child, and their family. These same youth are of the many cultures in our country. More pointedly, the largest abortion provider, Planned Parenthood, targets communities of color with their abortion services. Hence, the sidewalk counselor engages with the youth of many **cultures** and races.

Sidewalk counseling conversations often turn quickly to the religious beliefs of the abortion-bound that are being

strained and tested to accept contraception and abortion. A counselor's **ecumenical** understanding of faiths and practices is often necessary to help the abortion-bound to resolve with the understanding that God calls us to defend and nurture the lives He entrusts to us. The most vulnerable parents often have the poorest, weakest religious formation. The sidewalk counselor often brings the Gospel as new to those in most need of God. Prolifer Mary Wagner says, "We bring God's love where there is no love."

At times, sidewalk counseling can be confrontational, but confrontation is not divisive when revealing truth through the works of mercy.

The right-to-life is not merely a single right of the child, but is the full measure of rights God gives every person. Contraception and abortion each deny that full measure. More seriously, it is the unjust denial of creation by the Creator. Against contraception and abortion, are we Franciscans fulfilling the OFS Rule 15 calling us "individually and collectively, to be in the forefront in promoting **justice** by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives?" If not, while the lives and bodies of the victims of contraception and abortion are destroyed, the greater temple desecration is committed upon oneself and the Order by the guilt of omission.

Let us begin, for up to now, we have done little or nothing.

**A final thought:** Consider how disruptive one million US Covid deaths over two years have been. How much more disruptive have been 1.5 million US abortions annually over fifty years?

By the minister of the St. Anne Secular Franciscan Fraternity of Southborough, Patrick A. O'Donnell OFS, MTh, BA/Phil and reprinted with permission from PrebornChrist.com, all rights reserved.

#### Photo Credits:

Page 2—St. Anne Marie Rivier, Rivier University, <https://www.rivier.edu/regina-library/archives-art-gallery/archives/university-history/>

Page 6—Capuchin Mobile Ministries, <https://www.capuchin.org/mobile-ministries/>

All other photos in this issue were shared by members of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region. A sincere thank you to all our photographers. Keep the great pictures coming!

**St. Elizabeth of Hungary Regional Website**  
**Webmaster—Stephen Shields, OFS, [sms.sfo@gmail.com](mailto:sms.sfo@gmail.com)**  
**The website address is: <http://stelizabethOFS.org>**

## Some Common Misconceptions

### FY/YA Update

Heather Cherniack, OFS

Over the last few years of being involved with YouFra (FY/YA) I have heard many misconceptions regarding this program. However, as we have not had a fully functioning YouFra in our Region, it is difficult to understand where some of these misconceptions came from. Here are some misconceptions to overcome in our Fraternities.

#### **We are too old to have a functioning YouFra program.**

Yes, it is no secret that the OFS is not getting any younger. This is not a reason to not follow Article 24 of our Rule. This is a reason to look at YouFra as a solution. Being around youth and young adults keeps us young. When Elizabeth and Mary met at the Visitation, do you think the Blessed Virgin looked down upon Elizabeth because she was old or do you think she wanted to learn because she had wisdom? Do you think Elizabeth felt she had nothing in common with her relative or do you think that they both found joy in their relationship? Why can't we find genuine relationship with those of all ages?

#### **We need to do what works.**

YouFra works. We have active YouFra Fraternities around the country. We are an emerging National Fraternity. Around the world YouFra is a vibrant program. We should not compare YouFra to youth ministry or faith formation in our Dioceses because it is neither. Youth and Young Adults find vocation in YouFra not milestones and first Sacraments. They find leadership and learn to be responsible for their own faith formation and that of their peers. They are not the recipients of pedagogy. It is a continuation of our own fraternities within our families and a continuation of how we live the Rule.

#### **We tried it and it didn't work.**

We provided a small group of people. We then expected the Region to provide what was needed for a mission that is to be done at the Fraternity level. There are essential documents from CIOFS outlining the Fraternity role in building YouFra. However, most are not familiar with these documents. Most choose to talk about what YouFra should and should not be without having read the CIOFS documents. These documents are to YouFra what are Constitutions and Statutes are to the OFS. I strongly encourage everyone who is discerning youth and young adult ministry to read these documents.

As we have had many conceptions about our Franciscan youth and what this ministry looks like or should look like, it is very important that we educate ourselves and our fraternities so that we know what it is we are speaking about prior to developing opinions and ideas. Please check out our Regional webpage and the links from it so that you too can learn more about YouFra.

***Congratulations to all the new councils, and  
thank you for your servant Leadership!***



**St. Mary Portiuncula—Hanover MA—March 12th—**Left to right: Claire Reilly—Councilor, Susan Lyons—Vice Minister, Myra Dolan—Councilor, Claire Urbanowicz—Treasurer, Stephanie Whiting—Formation Director, David Tonaszuck—Minister



**St. Francis—Tewksbury MA—March 20th—**Left to right: Mary Stavro—Councilor, Pat Ring—Treasurer, Jacqui Hebert—Councilor, Mary Price—Secretary, Susan Carroll—Vice Minister, Malvena Driscoll—Minister, Francine Gikow—Formation Director



**Mary Queen of Peace—Plymouth MA—June 7th—**Left to right: Carol Houston—Treasurer, Ellen McDermott—Minister, Robert Houston—Vice Minister, Frances Griffin—Secretary, Jack McDermott—Formation Director, Jackie Walsh—Spiritual Assistant, Donna Sullivan—District 6 Regional Councilor (presider)



**St. Bernard—Leominster MA—June 12th—**Left to Right: Paul Boisvert—Formation Director, Horace Turner—Vice Minister, Steve Fiedler—Minister, Kathleen McGuirk—Councilor, Kathleen Kaney—Councilor, Janice Colgate—Secretary, Pam Deres—Spiritual Assistant, Michelle Gagne—Treasurer (not pictured)

## St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region 2022 Approval Budget and 2023 Draft Budget

<u>Budget Accounts</u> <u>Items</u>	2021 Aprvd Budget	2021 Ac- tual	2022 Aprvd Budget	Budget Assumptions	2023 Draft Budget
<b>Income</b>					
Reserve +/- of 200% of Budget	\$ 10,162	\$ 10,162		Previous year excess/deficit of reserve goal.	\$ 11,261.00
Current Yr Fair Share	\$ 18,795	\$ 19,105	\$ 24,165	\$45 FS x 511 professed & candidates	\$ 22,995.00
Interest Income	\$ 350	\$ 338	\$ 350	Interest rates are not expected increase.	\$ 195.00
Annual Fund Raiser		\$ -		No Fund raisers planned	
Miscellaneous Income		\$ 560		Donations from other sources.	
Total Income	\$ 29,307	\$ 30,165	\$ 24,515		\$ 34,451.00
<b>Expense</b>					
NAFRA Fair Share	\$ 9,129	\$ 9,129	\$ 9,129	\$17 FS x 511 professed & candidates	\$ 8,687.00
REC Team	\$ 8,183	\$ 4,353	\$ 9,609		\$ 15,850.00
Apostolates	\$ 1,032	\$ 600	\$ 1,610		\$ 3,308.00
Cost of Meetings	\$ 6,937	\$ 130	\$ 4,348		\$ 4,900.00
Office Operations	\$ 1,160	\$ 600	\$ 1,160		\$ 1,310.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 2,630	\$ 3,255	\$ 2,630		\$ 2,630.00
Total expense	\$ 29,071	\$ 18,067	\$ 28,486		\$ 36,685.00
Net Income	\$ 236	\$ 12,097	\$ (3,971)		\$ (2,234.00)



**See Photos and news of the  
Quinquennial on the National Website!**

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/>

### **Requiescat in Pace**

#### **Sowers of the Word—Windham ME**

Teresa Sandborn, OFS—1/12/2022

#### **St. Francis of the Cape—Wareham MA**

Claire Desmarais, OFS—1/23/2022

#### **Greccio—Derry MA**

Teresa Baker, OFS—2/1/2022

#### **Blessed Lucius—Brockton MA**

Mary DiMarzo, OFS—3/2/2022

#### **St. Anthony—Nashua NH**

Joan Malone, OFS—3/16/2022

#### **St. Bernard—Leominster MA**

Rose Puma, OFS—4/2/2022

#### **Sacred Heart—Plattsburgh NY**

Almira Fredette, OFS—4/6/2022

#### **St. Mary of the Angels—St. Johnsbury VT**

Gerald W. Reis, OFS—4/22/2022

#### **St. Francis—Tewksbury MA**

Janet Flanagan, OFS—5/5/2022

#### **St. Mary Portiuncula—Hanover MA**

Dolores Zaborski, OFS—5/10/2022

#### **St. Anthony, Manchester NH**

Cynthia Ouellette, OFS—6/8/2022

### **Elizabeth of Hungary Region Executive Council**

Theresa Pratt, OFS— Regional Minister

Joe Makley, OFS-Regional Vice Minister

Margaret Jankins, OFS-Regional Secretary

Bob Swegart, OFS-Regional Treasurer

Jane Hosmer, OFS-District 1 Councilor

Mary Stavro, OFS-District 2 Councilor

Dan Spofford, OFS-District 3 Councilor

Sue Ronan, OFS—District 4 Councilor

Ronald Lacey, OFS-District 5 Councilor

Donna Sullivan, OFS— District 6 Councilor

Steve Shields, OFS—Formation Director

Sarah Anderson, OFS, Pamela Deres, OFS, and

Alice Aubuchon, OFS, - Regional Spiritual  
Assistants

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **2022 Franciscan Day Outdoor Picnic**

Saturday, 8/27/2022

Franciscan Guest House Grounds  
Kennebunk, ME

#### **2022 Formation Conference**

11/18/2022—11/20/2022

Franciscan Guest House  
Kennebunk, ME

#### **2023 Regional Chapter**

4/14-16/2023

St. Basil's Salvatorian Center  
Methuen, Massachusetts

#### **2023 Regional Retreat**

5/19-21/2023

St. Basil's Salvatorian Center  
Methuen, Massachusetts