



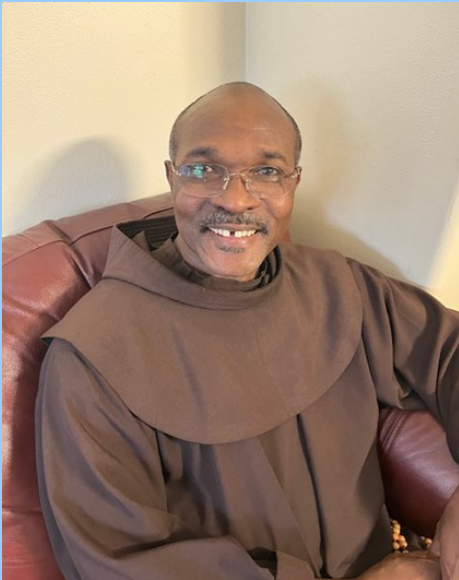
# The Herald

Newsletter of  
St. Elizabeth of Hungary  
Regional Fraternity  
Secular Franciscan Order  
Winter 2025

## Regional Spiritual Assistant Message

Fr. Cid Joseph, OFM

Dear sisters and brothers! Peace and all good to you all!



Allow me to introduce myself ... I am Fr. Cidouane (Cid) Joseph, O.F.M. As you may know, I have recently been appointed as Regional Spiritual Assistant (RSA) of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region. I am delighted! Blessed Solanus Casey Region also has me as their Regional Spiritual Assistant. My ministry as a local Spiritual Assistant, to fraternities in Woodbury, CT, (Rosa Mystica), and Hartford, CT, (Saint Joseph), brings me great joy.

I was born and raised in Haiti and emigrated to the USA in 2002. Arriving in New York City, I ended up in the parish of Holy Name of Jesus, administered by the then Holy Name Province. There I assisted the Haitian Community, which has become my family. In

that same place I worked for the friars and also, became friends with Secular Franciscans who were parishioners there. They taught me a great deal about the Third Order of Saint Francis. And little by little, I became involved with them. And the rest, as they say, is history!

(Continued on page 2)



### Regional Formation Conference “Franciscan Joy” Presenters

From left to right: Sandy Thompson, OFS, Sarah Anderson, OFS, Pam Deres, OFS, Francine Gikow, OFS, Jack McDermott, OFS, Mary Galpin, OFS, Steve Shields, OFS, Tom Giblin, OFS, Mike Herlihy, OFS. See article on page 3.

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In 2010, I was stationed at St Patrick - St Anthony Parish in Hartford, CT during my time as a deacon. In the course of that time, I had the privilege of joining Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Region on a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi.

That was an eye opener for me. It gave me a window into the Franciscan Charism and the togetherness of those who made up another branch of the Franciscan family. (Continued from page 1)

Indeed I have made good friends ministering to/with the OFS since 2007 on different levels. Through this way, I was able to experience first-hand, the Gospel at work in the life of these Franciscan brothers and sisters, whom I had just met and with whom I had fallen in love. It has been a wonderful experience, so much so, that I can't imagine my friar life without the Seculars.

Now, it may not be easy to juggle two (possibly three) regions at the same time, but I will try my best to do what God gives me the grace to do. I know that I can count on your help and understanding. Being so passionate about the Franciscan charism and feeling that it is sorely needed by our Church and our society at this very time, I am happy to join with you in bringing about love, joy and peace for all of creation. Together we may accompany those who are striving to live out of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as required by our Father Francis in our Rules.

I look forward to meeting you all in person. In the meanwhile, let us pray for one another. As the lushness of summer fades into autumn, I unite myself with you in bringing new life to our sisters and brothers, who still need to feel the presence of our loving God in their lives. Praised be Jesus Christ ... now and forever. Amen!

## Regional Minister's Message

Dan Spofford, OFS

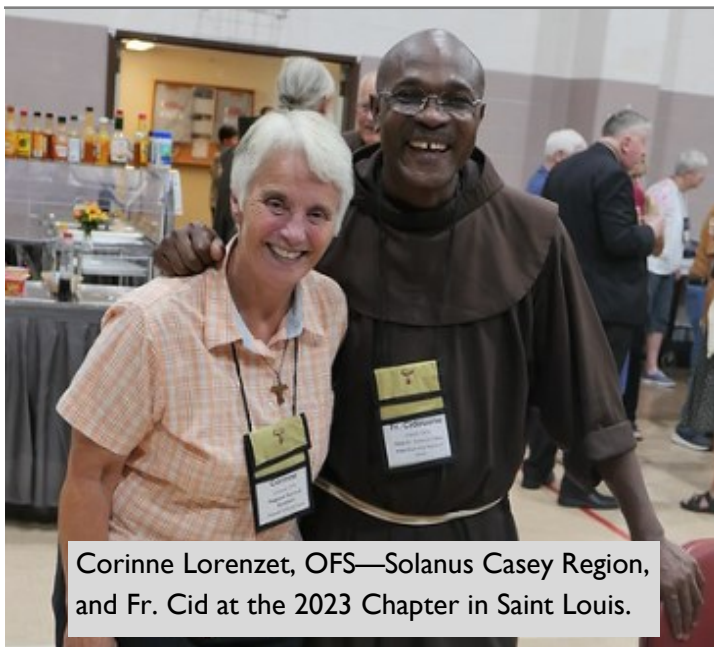
Peace and all good, my dearest brothers and sisters in St. Francis. It is hard to believe that our elections were 7 months ago. Please know that your Regional Executive Council are your humble servants, and we are learning every day as we face joys and challenges together. It is an honor and privilege to support your fraternities. I am personally inspired by your faith and Franciscan journeys. Thank you to each of you who are accepting nomination for positions on your local Councils, we need your "Yes". As I visit you, I am grateful for our familial, faith centered love. Over the past several months, I have visited 11 of our 24 fraternities. You bring me back to Article 12 of our Rule: "Witnessing to the good yet to come and obliged to acquire purity of heart because of the vocation they have embraced, they should set themselves free to love God and their brothers and sisters." We pray to our Seraphic Father, St Clare, and our Blessed Mother to intercede for us to God. May we be examples of their love and joy.

As a Region, we are excited by the emergence of two newly forming groups: San Damiano in Auburndale, MA and St Leonard in Boston, MA. We welcome Fr. Cid Joseph, OFM as our newly appointed Regional Spiritual Assistant for the Our Lady of Guadalupe Province to which 7 of our 24 fraternities are bonded. We are joyful that 4 professed individuals are participating in Spiritual Assistant Formation led by our Regional Spiritual Assistants. We welcome 6 newly professed from the San Damiano forming group. Franciscan Day at was lovely as we visited on a beautiful summer day. We are very thankful for our Regional Formation Team who led our wonderful "Franciscan Joy" Formation Conference at the Franciscan Guest House. This Herald will have a focus on them and their work. Truly, we are a people filled with joy and thanksgiving!

Our National Council focused on Servant Leadership in Scottsdale, Arizona this year. Every morning, I woke up and went out into the desert to pray for you, your fraternities, our region, and Secular Franciscans throughout the world. I pray that we all work together for the kingdom of heaven on earth. We are truly blessed to be Secular Franciscans. Please pray for vocations. Please Invite a friend or acquaintance, young, old, or in between, to come to your fraternity with you and experience our wonderful charism.

Peace, love, joy, and all good,

*Dan*



Corinne Lorenzet, OFS—Solanus Casey Region, and Fr. Cid at the 2023 Chapter in Saint Louis.



## Formation Conference Reflection on Franciscan Joy

Wendy Koski, OFS



We assembled the first evening experiencing the early Christian's joy of being together in community. The first night saw us praying the Surrender Novena, going to the monastery, participating in Mass, followed by the rosary. What a perfect start to the weekend! From there we had a social and visited as in a big family.

The weekend focused on "Franciscan Joy" and the many ways we experience it. The first session reflected on the word, "JOY". Sandy shared that we journey in a continuum of JOY through daily conversion. We started with the letter Y for "yourself" and how our initial conversion brought us joy on the road to the light. Growing in faith with a lot of consolation that the Father has given us, our focus starts to shift to the letter O for "others". We begin to see others around us and their needs become more important. The Y begins to move into the background as we continue to progress and focus more on J for "Jesus". Things are now in the right order, JOY! Jesus, Others, Yourself!

Francine challenged us to surrender ourselves to God's will while lifting our hearts in praise in thanksgiving. Mike offered us his journey of accepting himself as God made him, while realizing that our brokenness helps us to rely on our God. Mary discussed obstacles and remedies of joy, helping us to acknowledge that God always has a better plan while affirmation of others brings joy. Steve shared that "Joy can't be taught, joy is contagious, and joy can be shared. We professed "Yes, this is what I want" and like St. Francis, as we hear the Gospel, we affirm "I'm going to do that." Jack posed questions for us to consider before delving more deeply into joy and helped us to use formation tools, particularly including the Liturgy of the Hours, readings of the day, and the words of St. Francis.

Each speaker showed us a different perspective on Franciscan Joy. We were shown how St. Francis with his followers paralleled Jesus with his disciples, together learning in faith and purpose. We had lots of sharing time and fellowship. As we grow in our faith and our Franciscan vocation, our understanding of joy changes. St. Francis had a very long and painful conversion that left him always wanting more. Once Francis recognized what he wanted he ran to it. Nothing else mattered!

Thank you to each and every one of our amazing formation team members that helped make this a retreat one that I will remember for a long time. I am filled with joy!



### Highlighting Steve!



Steve Shields, OFS, is our Regional Formation Director. He is a great resource for all of us pertaining to anything Franciscan! Steve leads a team of six Formation District Representatives who coordinate with and support the work of your Fraternity Formation Directors. Steve professed as a Secular Franciscan on September 11, 2005, at St. Bernard's Fraternity

in Leominster, MA. He lives on Cape Cod with his wife. Together they have three grown sons and a dog. Steve worked as a Project Manager for most of his career and loves music. He helps to lead our Region with his thoughtful analysis, prayerful presence, articulation, and coordination skills. Your Regional Minister and Executive Council depend on him as he is a treasure trove of knowledge about our Order and Region. Steve's deep faith and love of everything Franciscan are gifts for which we are most grateful. Thank you for saying "Yes" and accepting your role in humble service to the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region.

## Who is on your Regional Formation Team?

Regional Formation Director: Steve Shields, OFS

District Formation Representatives:

District 1 (VT)	Tom Giblin, OFS
District 2 (Central MA)	Mike Herlihy, OFS
District 3 (ME)	Sandy Thompson, OFS
District 4 (NH)	Mary Galpin, OFS
District 5 (Boston Area)	Francine Gikow, OFS
District 6 (South Shore)	Jack McDermott, OFS

## What does your Regional Formation Team do?

Your District Formation Team Representative:

- Maintains contact with all fraternity Formation Directors in their district
- Assists fraternity Formation Directors with questions relating to formation
- Delivers ongoing formation, if requested
- Attends regular Regional Formation Team meetings and Zoom Calls
- Prepares District Formation Reports
- Assists in the planning and delivery of the annual Regional Formation Conference

Your Regional Formation Director

- Assists with questions and issues related to formation in the region
- Shares formation information and updates (e.g. Formation Fridays)
- Works with the Regional Executive Council on formation topics
- Brings formation questions and issues to the region or National for clarification
- Leads the Regional Formation Team
- Coordinates the annual Regional Formation Conference

**We are here for you!**

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### Visit these Franciscan Websites

Regional Website

[www.stelizabethofs.org](http://www.stelizabethofs.org)

National Website

[www.secularfranciscansusa.org](http://www.secularfranciscansusa.org)

International Website

<https://ciofs.info>

Early Franciscan Documents

<https://digitalcollections.franciscantradition.org>

**They have lots of great information on our order and charism!**

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## Serving on Our Regional Formation Team

Jack McDermott, OFS

Formation Team Representative, District 6

Father Rijo came for dinner and told us he wanted to be a priest since he was 14 years old. He is charismatic, loves God, and is driven to serve. Father Rijo impressed me. He knows who he is and what God wants of him. I envy those of firm purpose. Then I thought, 'I know who I am and God's purpose for me.' I am a Franciscan, by God's calling, and my purpose is to live my Rule of Life (God forgive me when, through human weakness, I have not lived it well).

One of the tasks that fell to me as a Franciscan was to represent District 6 on the Regional Formation Team. The person who filled that position moved to another roll on the Regional Council and I was asked to fill the position. At first, it was getting to know the district formation directors, pass on their issues, concerns, and suggestions to the regional formation team and keep track of the district formation status for reporting purposes. As time went by, we, the formation directors in District 6, would share topics, techniques, and experiences. We exchanged experiences with issues in formation and I believe that that might prove to be the most useful outcome of our discussions. We also discussed our best topics for ongoing formation that we might share them. In a short time learned that these formation directors are dedicated to their vocation and that they have a deep faith. They motivated me. I came to know them and I was impressed.

I encourage you, if you are a formation director, to reach out to your district formation team member. You have resources available to help you with the task of being formation director (in my opinion the most demanding task in the local fraternity). The Regional Formation Team was created to help you with formation in any way that we can.

As Franciscans, it is about serving one another. I remember a story about St. Francis, how, early in his vocation, he was unsure if God was calling him to a life of contemplative prayer or a life of service. Francis sought God's will by sending messages to St. Clare and a friar known for his sanctity and wisdom, Brother Silvester. The response from Clare and the friar was that he was to do both. So, in typical fashion Francis divided his day literally in half and spent half of each day in prayer and half in service; in the spirit of St. Francis, the Regional Formation Team is eager to serve you.



## St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region—District Highlights

### District I (Vermont) Update

Jane Hosmer, OFS, District Councilor



Almost twenty members and guests from the three fraternities that constitute District one of our Region (St Mary of the Angels, Maximillian Kolbe, and Sacred Heart fraternities) attended our prayerful and informative August 3 district gathering with the theme, "DARE TO BE CLARE!"

We gathered in the chapel of the University of Vermont Catholic Center after some opening remarks by Jane Hosmer, District Councilor. An opening prayer was said by Sarah Anderson, OFS, RSA, followed by the singing of "The Blessing of St Francis", introduced by Marie Clardy, OFS, with her husband, Tom, acting as our mentor.

Following the events in the chapel, the group moved to the meeting area of the Center where a hymn, "In the Footprints of Jesus", was sung communally and directed by Marie, who then presented a wonderfully informative history of St Clare. Many new insights were given and discussion ensued.

A potluck lunch and lively fellowship followed the morning session. For the afternoon session, Marie had set up a table with books and pictures related to St Clare and sights in Assisi for attendees to peruse. Marie used historical context to enhance our understanding of St Clare's extraordinary life journey.

As a bonus, we were briefly visited by the new bishop of VT, Bishop John McDermott. He is certainly aware of the Franciscans, especially due to the presence of Deacon Bob Begley, OFS, a member of St Mary of the Angels fraternity, as well as the presence of two Sisters of the Eucharist who are assigned to ministries in Burlington, VT.

### District 2 (Central Massachusetts) Update

Francine Gikow, OFS,  
District Councilor

District 2 has been very busy this fall. There were two major presentations- one a retreat hosted by St. Bernard's fraternity (Leominster, MA) and a "Celebration of the Stigmata" presented by District 2 fraternities with St. Francis fraternity in Tewksbury offering their location.



The theme for St. Bernard's retreat was "Franciscan Peace in the Modern World" which was well attended by members of their fraternity. The "Celebration of the Stigmata" program was also well attended and included participation by two fraternities within the district, along with 3 participants outside of District 2. Unfortunately, one fraternity, who was planning on attending, could not participate due to the illness of their members. Hopefully in the future, more district-wide celebrations and formation can be planned.



### **District 3 (Maine) Update** Dean Astumian, OFS, District Councilor

Praise be to God! On October 3, Bishop James Ruggieri, OFS, presided at the Transitus accompanied by Fr. Patrick Finn, and Fr. Michael Sevigny, OFM Cap at the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. The St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity in Lewiston coordinated the event with the Prince of Peace Parish in Lewiston. Representatives from the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist as well several Secular Franciscan fraternities and the community participated.

During the service, the faithful recited St. Francis' "Praises of God," heard a passage recollecting St. Francis' final moments on earth, listened to a recitation of St. Francis's Canticle of Creation, paused in silent prayer, and joined in singing hymns to beautiful organ accompaniment.

Bishop Ruggieri reflected on the sufferings that St. Francis endured in his life. "He lived, breathed, and embraced the joy of the Gospel. Everything, everything about Christ: the joy: the

suffering, and the hope" while reminding all gathered that we bring the Gospel to life through our lives. At the conclusion of the service, the congregation processed outside the basilica where the bishop blessed the city.

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### **District 4 (New Hampshire) Update** Mark Koski, OFS, District Councilor

Jesus' Peace and Blessings! It has been a busy fall, I have been privileged to attend two fraternities who have had new councils elected and one fraternity that had a joint Pastoral/Fraternal visitation. At all the visitations, our brothers and sisters in Christ had a wonderful, joyful, welcoming Franciscan Spirit present showing their love of our Lord, and their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. In conversations with the Ministers, we are going to try and encourage inter-fraternal visitations to get and know each other better and to share the love of Christ. We have also discussed trying to plan some type of district wide event(s) where all the Fraternities can get together as one family.

St Anthony of Padua - Manchester, has been blessed with a new Aspirant Seeker coming to visit, and currently has an enthused Aspirant already participating in Formation.

St. Anthony, - Nashua, NH, has been blessed with a new/former member coming to visit who is back from Hawaii after a 30-year visit there, and currently has (4) brothers and sisters who are participating in Formation. They have been a blessing to this Fraternity with their witness to our Lord.

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### **District 5 (Boston Area) Update** Malvena Driscoll, OFS, District Councilor

St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity in Medford, MA, has been blessed with six new members who transferred from the deactivated St. Anthony's Fraternity. They also professed four new members in November. This certainly is a time of growth! The fraternity is putting together a pray-at-home ministry for its members who are no longer able to come to meetings. Congratulations and thanks to you for your vocations and wonderful ministry.

St. Margaret of Cortona Fraternity in Roxbury and St. Francis and Clare Fraternity in Boston are both slated to have elections in early December and 2025, respectively along with Fraternal and Pastoral Visitations. Please keep in prayer these Sisters and Brothers as they discern their new servant leaders. Boa sorti and Paz y bien a todos vosotros!

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## District 6 (South Shore) Update

Kevin Cushing, OFS, District Councillor

Congratulations! On Saturday, October 26, 2024, the San Damiano emerging Fraternity from Auburndale, MA celebrated the profession of six new Secular Franciscans. The rite was held during Mass at St. Anthony's Shrine in Boston. Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Tom Conway, OFM, Fr. Sam Fuller, OFM Cap, and Fr. Cid Joseph, OFM. The emerging fraternity is sponsored by the St. Francis Fraternity in Milton. Praise be to God for this blessed day and congratulations to the newly professed! Our prayers are with you.



Left to right in the photo:

허정숙 Jungsook Sophia Heo, OFS  
크리스티나 타보르스키 Christina Taborsky, OFS  
이화영 Hwayoung Lina Yu, OFS  
우진경 Jinkyung Elisabeth Woo, OFS  
김혜란 Hyeran Agnes Kim, OFS  
김상희 Catherine Sanghee Kim Lee, OFS

축하합니다

Congratulations!



St. Mary of the Portiuncula Secular Franciscan fraternity members from Hanover MA celebrated Sr. Mary Dolorey Osowski OSF's 70th Jubilee in religious life at St. Pius X Parish in Milton, MA. She has been the fraternity's Spiritual Assistant, and we are thankful for her ministry to us. Congratulations and our love to you, Sister!

Pictured from left to right: Sandy McManus OFS, Stephanie Whiting OFS, Sue Lyons OFS, Myra Doran OFS, Carole Reilly OFS, Gerry Smith OFS, Teresa Vermette OFS, Clare True OFS, Evelyn Musto OFS, Linda Edmonds OFS, Sr. Dolorey OFS, Deb Bailey OFS, Mary Von Freymann OFS, Dave Tonaszuck OFS, Carole Draheim OFS, Margaret Jenkins OFS, Clare Urbanowicz OFS.

## "Thank You"

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I am still overwhelmed and humbled by your most generous gift to me on the occasion of the closure of my ministry to you as Regional Spiritual Assistant. I went on a private retreat with Pam, who blessed me with her presence. She drove me everywhere. She was Martha to me as I tried to be Mary. There was a diocesan retreat for priests at the time we were there, and so we had to go out for our meals-which was a treat. Not having to prepare prayer times or having to schedule time for talks gave us more time to let the Holy Spirit direct us to what God's plan was for us. We spent time sitting with Jesus in the tabernacle, sitting with the friars during Liturgy of the Hours, attending Mass at St. Martha's. and meeting up with Deacon Peter and Deb Bernier, both OFS, who were helping with the priest retreat. I could go on regarding the retreat and the surprises God planned for me during this time for Him. Thank you to all of you for making this time possible. Thank you also for your gifts, cards, phone calls, emails, prayers and thoughtfulness. I continue to reflect on the experience of the retreat and all the gifts received from it. It was truly great to be free to focus on "God alone". Please know all of you and your intentions were with me in prayer.

Peace, Joy, Love and All Good, Alice, OFS

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### Franciscan Youth and Young Adults Prayer for Youth

We offer to you, Loving God, the gifts and needs of youth. Bless them with your guiding grace as they face the challenges and opportunities in their lives. Touch their hearts with the gentleness of your love, that they may know they are valued and valuable beings. Send your spirit of hope to their lives, that they may believe in themselves and know they are needed in this world. Grace them with the gift of joy that they may celebrate life through laughter and tears alike. Guide us, as we continue to grow in appreciation of the many gifts of young people, in the ministry opportunities we offer to them, in the journey of faith we walk with them, in our shared mission as a community called to discipleship in the world.

We ask this in Jesus' name, and through the intercession of Saints Francis, Clare, Elizabeth and Louis. Amen.

Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Duncanville, TX

If you are interested in forming a Franciscan Youth/ Young Adult group or would like to be our Regional FY/ YA Animator, please contact [danspoffordofs@gmail.com](mailto:danspoffordofs@gmail.com).

## Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Prayer

Dear Jesus, who sits at the right hand of the Father in Heaven,

When we are shaken by war and terror  
When mothers cry tears of blood and beg that  
this cup be lifted from them  
And it is not lifted...

May we, who follow you in the footsteps of Saint Francis, the one who embraced your cross so unreservedly,

We who profess a desire to enter this mystery...

Be given the will to seek an authentic solidarity,

The clarity to speak,

The courage to act,

And the grace to empty ourselves in pursuit of a world where justice and peace are no longer an ideal, but a living reality,

in the certain knowledge that our labor, as it is in your name, will not be in vain.

Amen

The mission of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation is to assist the professed Secular Franciscans as they reflect on their relationship with God as manifested in the fruits of conversion in their lives. This with special regard to the daily choices made in the areas of justice, peacemaking and respect for all created things and people; as brothers and sisters of penance, bringing life to the Gospel and the Gospel to Life.

Please pray for peace in our hearts, in our Church, in our Country, and in the World.

Source: [www.secularfranciscansusa.org/jpic/](http://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/jpic/)  
Joe Makley, JPIC Animator OFS-US

### Elizabeth of Hungary Region Executive Council

Dan Spofford, OFS— Regional Minister

Mary Galpin, OFS—Regional Vice Minister

Kathryn Swegart, OFS—Regional Secretary

Gloria Harys, OFS—Regional Treasurer

Jane Hosmer, OFS—District 1 Councilor

Francine Gikow, OFS—District 2 Councilor

Dean Astumian, OFS—District 3 Councilor

Mark Koski, OFS—District 5 Councilor

Malvena Driscoll, OFS—District 6 Councilor

Stephen Shields, OFS—Formation Director

Sarah Anderson, OFS—Regional Spiritual Assistant

Pamela Deres, OFS— Regional Spiritual Assistant

Fr. Cid Joseph, OFM—Regional Spiritual Assistant



## Ecumenical/ Interfaith: Your Path, My Path – On Common Ground

Ron Lacey, OFS

Chair, National Ecumenical/Interfaith Committee

Lauren Artress is an Episcopal priest. In the early 1990s she rediscovered the labyrinth, a medieval meditation tool, and brought it to Grace Cathedral in San Francisco; from there, a labyrinth renaissance began.

If you haven't walked a labyrinth, do. They're easy to find nowadays; according to the website Labyrinth Locator, we have 117 of them in Massachusetts alone – at churches of all denominations, monasteries, retreat centers, schools, even town squares. There are no rules; just follow the path. You may pray, think about a question, meditate on Scripture, or simply empty your mind and see where the labyrinth takes you.

Artress's groundbreaking book – *Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Practice* – first appeared in 1995. “In this time of growing turmoil,” she says, “people need an enemy. We need to make people wrong, instead of allowing them to be different.” That was written in 1995. How much worse the situation is today – in the world, the Church, even in the family of Franciscan Orders! “We do not have sufficient tools that encourage people to meet one another on common ground.” That's how Artress saw it thirty years ago. To me, the lay of the land looks far worse today.

But every now and then, we see a glimmer of hope. I recently came across an article written by Brother Tyler Grudi, OFM, a friar of Our Lady of Guadalupe Province, for New Ways Ministry: “In Shades of Franciscan Brown, A Lesson on the Rainbow of Love.” It's a beautiful read, and thought-provoking. Brother Tyler talks about the three years he spent at Serra House, a discernment residence run by the friars, while he was a student at St Bonaventure University.

Serra House did for Brother Tyler what a fraternity *should* do for us: “Living in Serra House allowed me to learn from and grow with people I may not have chosen to live with on my own.” To be honest with you, I don't always find much diversity in our fraternities, not even across the United States as I work with the Ecumenical/Interfaith Committee; but life gives us a rich diversity of people “to learn from and grow with,” doesn't it, no matter how uniform and predictable we try to make it? Brother Tyler says these residents and discerners were different in every possible way – in their ethnicity, their politics, their sexual orientation, everything. “Our house offered space for self-discovery and freed us from expectations that we had to conform to traditional gender/sexuality roles. We were allowed to be normal students, and many of us

dated and had girlfriends or boyfriends.” And the most beautiful, most important thing that Brother Tyler shares is this: “The friars never judged us. They accepted us every step along the way. [They] didn't want pious, carbon-copies of St. Francis. They wanted me as I was, without exceptions, for that is who God was calling.”

Brother Tyler leaves us with two recommendations: journey with others – *all* others; and let them “define their own experiences.” As he explains it, that's the Franciscan way. “And trust that God is already at work in their lives.”

Journey with others. The labyrinth is an archetype; it works for everyone, every time, no training needed, and there are no right or wrong answers. Its twists and turns take us to surprising places; but it is unicursal – there's only one path, and it leads us to the center . . . and then back out to this beautiful world to be a blessing.

I have yet to walk the same labyrinth twice, though I've walked the ones at Harvard, Quincy Market, and Boston College many times – same path, different journey, every time. If I don't have the same experience twice, you and I certainly won't! As we wind through the labyrinth, we find ourselves getting close to the center, then turned back to the edge, but every step leads us closer to the journey's end. The same is true of life, isn't it? Let's learn to accept everyone “every step along the way.”

If you are interested in being the Regional Ecumenical/ Interfaith Animator, please contact Dan Spofford at [danspoffordofs@mail.com](mailto:danspoffordofs@mail.com)



Labyrinth at The Casa Franciscan  
Retreat Center in Scottsdale, Arizona.

### The Herald

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Summer 2025 Issue—June 15, 2025  
Winter 2025 Issue: December 15, 2025

**Congratulations to our Newly Elected Councils!**



**St Francis Council – Milton. MA**

*From left to right:*

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Jack Sheridan, OFS    | Formation Director  |
| Linda Beliveau, OFS   | Treasurer           |
| Kathy Sheridan, OFS   | Secretary           |
| Roberta Oliveira, OFS | Minister            |
| Aida Longhi, OFS      | Vice Minister       |
| Clare Smith, OFS      | Councilor           |
| Fr. Sam Fuller, OFM   | Spiritual Assistant |



**St Michael and the 9 Choirs of Angels Council, Rochester, NH**

*Left to Right:*

- |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Linda Howlett, OFS      | Councilor          |
| Gloria Hayes, OFS       | Minister           |
| Louise Lamarca-Gay, OFS | Treasurer          |
| Linda Strohecker, OFS   | Formation Director |
| John Wentworth, OFS     | Vice Minister      |
| Holly Wentworth, OFS    | Secretary          |
| Joseph Blair, OFS       | Councilor          |



**Greccio Council - Derry, NH**

*Left to Right:*

- |                            |                                    |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Diane Brown, OFS           | Councilor                          |
| Joanne Brown, OFS          | Treasurer                          |
| Diane Cunningham, OFS      | Vice Minister                      |
| Lisa Cyr, OFS              | Minister                           |
| Sharon Nolin, OFS          | Secretary                          |
| James Monteiro, OFS        | Formation Director                 |
| Deacon John Kobrenski, OFS | Councilor (not pictured)           |
| Br. Damian Johnson, OFM    | Spiritual Assistant (not pictured) |



**St Mary of the Angels Council  
St. Johnsbury, VT**

*Left to Right:*

- |                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Deacon Bill Begley OFS | Vice Minister       |
| Anne Cote OFS          | Treasurer           |
| Shoshana Cote OFS      | Secretary           |
| Anita Wellman OFS      | Councilor           |
| Jane Hosmer OFS        | Formation Director  |
| Frances Rawden OFS     | Minister            |
| Sarah Anderson, OFS    | Spiritual Assistant |





**St. Margaret of Cortona Council  
Dorchester, MA**

Left to Right:

- |                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Manuel Monteiro, OFS           | Councilor           |
| Maria de Lourdes Gomes, OFS    | Formation Director  |
| Domingas de Pina, OFS          | Vice Minister       |
| Alice Gomes, OFS               | Treasurer           |
| Sergio Monteiro, OFS           | Minister            |
| Celeste Pina, OFS              | Secretary           |
| Antonia Baptista, OFS          | Councilor           |
| Friar Claudino Vieira, OFM Cap | Spiritual Assistant |

**Being a Part of Our National Fraternity**

Dan Spofford, OFS, Regional Minister

We are a part of a larger family! Your fraternity is a part of a District, a Regional, a National, and an International Order. Every year, our National Fraternity Council meets in a different part of the United States. This year the Chapter was at The Casa Franciscan Retreat Center in Scottsdale, Arizona for 5 days. The Chapter is attended by the Regional Ministers or their delegate, the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants (CNSA), the National Executive Council, and non-Voting participants. Prayer, formation, and concelebrated Mass were central to our time together. The weather was in the 90's every day and we together worked on business every day from morning until evening. I particularly loved the Lectio Divina meditations from St. Francis' documents. It was amazing how our hearts open up to the teachings and writings of our Seraphic Father as we reflect on them.

We have about 10,000 professed members and candidates in the United States. We have about 400 in our St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region. The number of persons in initial formation are significant and help to offset the decreases. The "Tau" is our National newsletter and is currently sent out by mail once annually. It is also emailed out a couple of times during the year, therefore it is very important that email addresses are kept current in the National Database by your fraternity minister and secretary. The "Tau-USA" keeps us all informed as to what is going on in our Order from a National perspective. A lot of work has been done on our National Website and it has loads of great up-to-date information and resources. *(continued on page 12)*



The St. Elizabeth of Hungary Regional Executive Council wishes you and your loved ones a blessed Advent and Christmas Season!

Pictured below: The National Fraternity at the 2024 Chapter in Phoenix Arizona. The National Fraternity is comprised of all the Regional Ministers and the National Executive Council.





## St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region has a Secular Franciscan Bishop!

Bishop James Ruggieri, OFS, was ordained and installed as Bishop of Portland, Maine on May 7, 2024, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Portland, Maine.

He was professed in St. Clare of Assisi Fraternity in Providence, RI, on April 13, 2024.

(Continued from page 11)

At the Chapter, we had reports, presentations and discussions on the State of our Order, finances and budget, JPIC, Formation, and Franciscan Youth/ Young Adults. We were updated by our International Councilor, as well as Communications Accessibility, Database, and Ecumenical/Interfaith Committees. The CNSA did an awesome presentation on conflict resolution and hosted a (continued from page 11) question-and-answer forum. We spent an entire day on Servant Leadership and role- played scenarios at the end of the workshop. We discussed and approved separate guidelines for Virtual Meetings, Record Retention, Fraternal Accompaniment, Councils in Conflict, and Suspension or Dismissal of a Member or Removal from Office. These as well as a new Franciscan Code of Conduct are available on the National Website for your reference and use.

Please know how privileged, honored, and humbled I felt being able to be there on your behalf. It was a totally different experience for me to be a part of our National Council and to participate in its workings. There are so many wonderful, smart, faithful, and loving Secular Franciscans. I encourage you to say “yes” to being a leader in our Order at any level. We are challenged to grow and use our talents for the glory of His kingdom. Praise be to Jesus and my love to you. God has placed me at your service.

## Upcoming Events

### Spring Retreat

4/11-13/2025

St. Basil's, Methuen, MA

*Everyone is welcome as we grow in Franciscan spirituality and fellowship!*

### Regional Chapter 2025

5/17/2025

St. Thomas Aquinas, Derry NH

*All ministers, regional executive council,*

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## 800th anniversary of Francis' writing of the Canticum of the Creatures

2025 is the third year of a four year celebration of significant events in the life of Francis.

2023 — Greccio—(1223)

2024 — The Stigmata (1224)

**2025 — Canticum of the Creatures (1225)**

2026 — Easter of St. Francis (1226)

Go to Franciscan Centenary Celebration – Secular Franciscan Order – USA ([secularfranciscansusa.org](http://secularfranciscansusa.org)) for materials for formation and celebration.

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## Requiescat in Pace

### Our Lady—Bedford, MA

Helen Belanger, OFS—8/3/2024

### Sacred Heart—Plattsburgh NY

Barbara Gladue, OFS—7/17/2024

### Saint Anthony—Boston, MA

Dan Scannell, OFS—8/16/2024

### Saint Francis—Medford, MA

Rita Ferullo, OFS—10/5/2024

### Saint Francis—Tewksbury, MA

Margaret Johnson, OFS—9/24/2024

### Holy Family—Norway, ME

Joyce Ryley—11/4/24

### Sowers of the Word—Lewiston, MA

Gregory Jones, OFS—10/12/2024