



St. Anthony Fraternity Newsletter

Jan 2023

Vol 30 Issue 25

At the December Gathering, those present received a very special Christmas gift - - a copy of the recently published and updated Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order. While the Rule itself has not changed, the updates have to do with the new English Translation of the three-volume series, Francis of Assisi: Early Documents edited by Regis Armstrong OFM Cap., Wayne Hellmann, OFM Conv., and William J. Short, OFM, published between 1999-2001. The translation only affected the *Prologue of the Rule*. Footnotes have been added that are helpful to further understanding.

Included in the update of the Rule is a letter from Tibor Kauser, OFS, Minister General of the Secular Franciscan Order dated June 24, 2018, the 40th anniversary of the Rule approved by Pope Blessed Paul VI on June 24, 2018. Excerpts from The Apostolic Letter of Approval, *Seraphicas Patriarcha*, are included also.

Reading, studying, loving, and living the Rule of the Secular Franciscan grounds us in our vocation as Secular Order Franciscans. In his letter of 2018, the Minister General, describes the rule as: a gift; a call, and invitation; a document of inspiration; a helping tool in the everyday; and a beauty and joy. He also challenges us to answer the questions:

- What is the Rule for me, in my personal life?
- What is the Rule for us as an International Fraternity, on all its levels?
- What does it mean for us to celebrate the Rule?

During the upcoming issues of the Newsletter there will be articles on the answers of our Fraternity to these questions and the questions found in the Celebrate the Rule Cards published by CIOFS. Theses can be found at info@secularfranciscansusa.org.

CIOFS FORMATION
THE RULE
The Challenge

Do I love the Lord?
Mk 12:30
"Christ, the gift of the Father's love, is the way to Him." Art 4

- 1=never;
- 2=rarely;
- 3=sometimes;
- 4=often;
- 5=always

How have I shown my love for the Lord today?

40 Celebrating
years
Of the OFS Rule
1978 - 2018

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Council Meeting – Fri Jan 13
Fraternity Gathering– Sun Jan 22

FORMATION

Orientation Phase

Sun. Jan 8 - Franciscan Family
Sun. Feb 12 – Ecclesiology and
Theology of the Laity

Candidacy Phase

Sat. Jan. 28 – Chapter 33
Franciscan Family Connections

Newly Professed

Sat. Jan 21- 10 am to 12 noon
OFS & The World; OFS & The Holy Spirit

January Birthdays



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Jeanette Schlicher Jan. 21
Bill Parras Jan. 28

*thank
you*

Group 1 – Ernestine Sedillo, Bill Parras,
Connie Jo Martinez, Tommie Page,
Carol Ann & Ed Dzienis, Felis Armijo,
and Consuelo Chavez
for providing the food for our
Fraternity Gathering on January 22.

Financial Statement for Oct/Nov 2022

	Oct	Nov
Monthly Donors	13	16
INCOME		
Regular Contributions	655.00	830.00
Endowment Interest	50.57	52.25
Exceptional Income (Formation Books)	30.00	20.00
Subtotal for Exceptional Income	30.00	20.00
TOTAL INCOME	735.57	902.25
Transfer from Savings	675.00	
TOTAL DEPOSITED	1410.57	902.25
EXPENSES		
Recurring Expenses		
Spiritual Asst. Stipend	75.00	75.00
Council Admin, Supplies	17.10	
Infirmarian Team		
Formation Expenses		38.91
Newsletter Administrative Supplies/Printing	64.46	29.95
Newsletter Postage	36.00	36.00
Website Fee		
Poor Clare's Donation	75.00	75.00
Franciscan Friars Donation	50.00	50.00
Regional Fair Share		
Contingency Fund Transfer to Savings	50.00	50.00
Subtotal Recurring Expenses	367.56	354.86
EXCEPTIONAL EXPENSES	675.00	
Minister's Hotel/Registration		
Subtotal for Exceptional Expenses	675.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	1042.56	354.86
Beginning Balance	5364.67	5732.68
Ending Balance	5732.68	6280.07
CONTINGENCY FUND		
Beginning Balance	3927.33	3303.46
Transfer from Expenses	3987.46	50.00
Earned Dividend	-675.00	
Total Contingency Fund	3303.46	3353.46

Message from the Minister . . .

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

Brothers and sisters in Francis, I greet you in this “new” year with a spirit of thanksgiving and praise as I ask you these questions:

How many “new” years has each one of us faced up to now? How many times have we resolved to eat better, exercise more, be kinder, be more grateful, etc.....? To answer these questions, we can calculate it on a yearly basis, a weekly basis, a daily basis and even a several-times-a-day basis. Oh yes, but New Year’s Day is THE day...Then the day passes, and we are back to our usual selves as the year goes on. I cannot help but analogize this to our daily conversion experiences. We, as Secular Franciscans and as children of God are called to daily conversion. And as many of us have shared, several-times-a-day conversions! We all have learned and can attest that daily conversion is not an easy undertaking. It is easy to make the promise, but hard to keep it. The only answer that I can come up with is that we must fall - otherwise, why could God let it happen? I think it is because when we fall, we seek God’s mercy.

God created us to know, love, and serve Him. If we do not know Him, how can we know if we have offended Him? If we do not love Him, how will we know how to give and receive his love? If we do not serve Him, how can we know how to serve others through Him? God is eternal and He fulfills His promise to us every second of every day. He does not falter – He does not need a reminder or a resolution. Perhaps we should just live everyday with the intention of knowing Him, loving Him, and serving Him. Then, we will never need to make another resolution.

Injoyful praise and thanksgiving,

Your servant minister, Israela

Profession Anniversaries

Jeannette Feldman ** John Fishel ** Nancy Fishel ** Thomas McCord

Gloria Quesada ** Socorro Romero on the 17th Anniversary of their

Profession on January 22, 2006

Felis Otero-Armijo ** Consuelo Chavez on the 5th Anniversary of their

Profession on January 28, 2018

“The Wonder of His Love” Gathering at Christmas



Gerry Rohrkemper, OFS, selects one of the three kings and shares that just like the kings followed the star until they found the Newborn King; this past year with the death of her husband she has kept on following the star. “I didn’t know where I was going, but I kept on following the star.”



**On the Path to Profession—Our Aspiring Secular Order Franciscans
Celebrating Fraternity Christmas Traditions**

Front Row: Candidates: Felice Truscio and Adrian Montoya

**Back Row: In Orientation: Lisa Barczak; Rena Xuereb, OSF, Formation Director;
Lisa Trujillo, Geri Blanco, Reina A Romero, Ann Sims, Martha Ramirez**

Spiritual Director's Message

Dearest sisters and brothers of St. Francis,

While introducing his Christmas homily, a wise priest shocked the assembly by stating: "Christmas is worthless!" Pausing, after an audible gasp, he continued: "Christmas is worthless—unless we allow Jesus to be re-born in our hearts again and again"

Now that the Liturgical Season of Christmas has transitioned into Ordinary Time, we may put our prayerful reflections on the Gospels into Christian-Franciscan action.

And may you, and I, take those words to heart to make our Franciscan lives better while gathering in Gospel fraternity.

In peace and goodwill,
Br. Gordon, OFM
Spiritual Assistant



Our comfort, support, and prayers for Connie Jo Martinez on the death of her son; and to Adrian Montoya on the death of his mother.

Our prayers for healing, and for the restoration of the health of
Abraham Placencio Hazel Herrera Irma Lente

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Our Mission Statement

We, the fraternity of St. Anthony, inspired by the vision of St. Francis, commit ourselves to the Gospel as our Way of Life; "Going from Gospel to Life and Life to the Gospel". We believe that we are called to be renewed continually through the celebration of the Eucharist and go forth to rebuild the Church through our witness.

We are the Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis (The Secular Order) in the United States of America. We live our vocation in Our Lady of Guadalupe Empress of the Americas Region. Our Franciscan Community is the St. Anthony Fraternity located in Albuquerque, New Mexico