



St. Anthony Fraternity Newsletter

Feb 2023

Vol 31 Issue 26

MINISTER ISRAELA GARCIA, OSF, TO SERVE ON CENTENARIES TASK FORCE

The National Executive Council of the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order of the USA has appointed our Minister Israela, along with Vickie Klick, OFS, Chair, Deacon Terry Barber OFS; Patrick Martin OFS; Carolyn Townes, OFS; and Terri Leone, OFS to the Centenaries Task Force from 2023 to 2026. The Conference of the Franciscan Family has Created guidelines for organizing the Franciscan Centenaries. This will be a celebration of the five significant events in the life of St. Francis. These are: The Rule (1223-2023), Christmas at Greccio (1223-2023), Stigmata (1224-2024), Canticle of Creation (1225-2025), and Easter of St. Francis (1226-2026). The members of the Centenaries Task Force will review the guidelines; create a plan for national activities (Zoom or possibly at Chapter) for each theme; and will create a calendar of national and regional events.



Israela said regarding her service on this task force, “I am honored and a bit nervous to dive into this task. I know I have the support of our Fraternity, the Region, and our Franciscan brothers and sisters throughout the world who are praying constantly for each other, and that gives me peace. I appreciate all of you who reached out to offer your help. I will take you upon on your offers. Please send me any ideas you may have so that we can begin to create the 800th year Franciscan celebrations ever! I will be sharing continuously with the Task Force as we begin to put our ideas into motion. I would like to thank Jane DeRose-Bamman and the National Executive Council for entrusting me and the other appointees with this opportunity to serve our Franciscan Family.”



A HUGE FRANCISCAN FAMILY CELEBRATION

The entire Franciscan Family is coming together for these celebrations. The basic purpose is to direct our gaze to the future and to invigorate the richness of our charism and strengthen our identity. The centenaries invite us to live according to the concept of receiving love and transforming it into self-giving and giving back to others
As Francis did. He not only received divine gifts but also chose to give them back.

Calendar of Events

Council Meeting – February 10

Fraternity Gathering – February 26

FORMATION

Orientation Phase:

Sun. Feb 12 – Ecclesiology and Theology
of the Laity, Part 1
Sun. Mar 12 – Ecclesiology and Theology
of the Laity, Part 2

Candidacy Phase:

Sat. Feb 25 – General Constitutions and
National Statutes
Sat. Mar 11 – Clare of Assisi

February Birthdays



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Joanne Elfers – Feb 3
Lydia Wroten – Feb 19
Ed Dzienis – Feb 24

Thanks Hospitality Group 2 –
for your service at our Fraternity Gathering
on February 26

Victor & Rena Xuereb, Mary Lou Narvaez,
Rex & Jeannette Schlicher, Gerry Rohrkemper,
Margaret Martinez, Abraham Placencio

Two-Month Financial Statement for 2022		
	NOV	DEC
Monthly Donors	16	14
INCOME		
Regular Contributions	830.00	808.00
Endowment Interest	52.25	50.57
Exceptional Income (Formation Books)	20.00	5.00
Subtotal for Exceptional Income	20.00	5.00
TOTAL INCOME	902.25	863.57
Transfer from Savings		
TOTAL DEPOSITED	902.25	863.57
EXPENSES		
Recurring Expenses:		
Spiritual Assistant Stipend	75.00	75.00
Council Administration Supplies		
Infirmarian Team (Misc. Exp.)		
Formation Expenses	38.91	34.67
Newsletter Administration Supplies/Printing	29.95	27.98
Newsletter Postage	36.00	36.00
Website Fee		
Apostolate: Poor Clares (Donation)	75.00	75.00
Apostolate: Franciscan Friars (Donation)	75.00	75.00
Fair Share to Regional		
Contingency Fund (Transfer to Savings)	50.00	50.00
EXCEPTIONAL EXPENSE (Rule Book)		250.00
Subtotal Exceptional Exp.		250.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	354.86	598.65
BEGINNING BALANCE	5732.68	6280.07
ENDING BALANCE	6280.07	6544.99
CONTINGENCY FUND		
Beginning Balance	3303.46	3353.46
Transfer from Expenses	50.00	50.00
Earned Dividend		
TOTAL CONTINGENCY FUND	3353.46	3403.46

*Message from the Poor Clare Monastery of Our Lady of Guadalupe
809 East Nineteenth Street, Roswell, NM 88201*

Peace and blessings.
December 12, 2022

Our dear Brothers and Sisters in St. Francis,

On today's sweetly singing feast of Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe, we are bringing all your intentions before this sweet and compassionate Mother, trusting in her tender and merciful love for your families and all those who are dear to you especially those who are suffering.

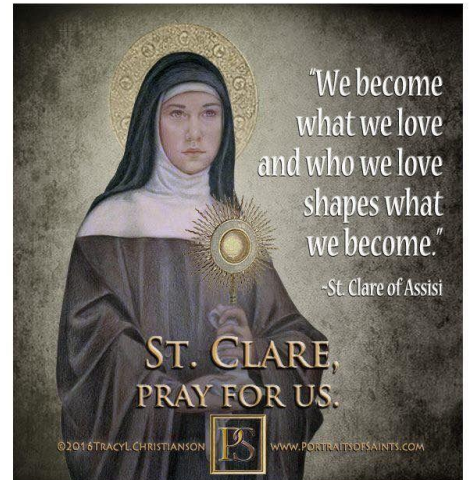
Today's liturgy applies to Our Lady the words of the psalm: "In you, all find their home." I encouraged the sisters to find their home in her, and learn from her the ways of prayer, mercy and compassion that will help us to become homes for one another, and for the needs of the entire world.

Mary entrusts this mission to all of us, her children, but it is our calling in a particular way, through our consecrated vocation. Thank you for your generous support that helps us to continue to provide a heaven for every need and sorrow, and the comfort of spiritual closeness for all those who turn us with their petitions.

God definitely wants to emphasize the role of our Blessed Mother in preparing Jesus' home in our hearts, for the great

Marian solemnities guide us along the spiritual journey of Advent. Since Pope Francis has expanded the memorial of Our Lady of Loreto, placing it on the Church's universal calendar, we now honor our heavenly Queen three times in swift succession under her various titles: the Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Loreto, and Our Lady of Guadalupe. We thank Israela for her reflection in the November newsletter, underscoring the essential importance of Mary in the dramatic moments of our lives. May our Blessed Mother be your constant companion, teaching you how to live your blessed calling more fully and more faithfully each day, and leading you to Christmas joy!

Gratefully, in our coming King,
Your Poor Clare nuns



*Prayers to our Patroness, St. Clare,
for the health of Clare Domenici*

Send cards and letters to :

Clare Domenici , Advantage Assisted Living,
1760 Rincon Road, SE, Rio Rancho, NM
87124

*Prayers for the health of
Abraham Placencio and
Consuelo Chavez. Prayers
for Adrian Montoya and
Connie Jo Martinez and
Abraham Placencio for
comfort as they grieve the
loss of loved ones.*

Fraternity Gathering - January 22, 2023

By Francis Lucero, O&F

We opened our gathering with Rena Xuereb and Marilyn Migliarini leading the Evening Liturgy of the Hours. The Liturgy was beautiful with our petition prayer response: “Renew the wonders of your love, Lord.” May we follow St. Francis’ example, and be Our Lord’s ears, mouth, hands and feet to Renew the wonders of Our Lord’s Love.

Reflecting on the gathering I found that the theme of UNITY flowed throughout our gathering. How better to renew the wonders of our Lord’s love than by being united—serving in Unity. Our gathering demonstrated to us how the Franciscan Family’s charism calls us to unity and growth.

Our Minister, Israela Garcia, shared letters from the National Fraternity and from the Conference of the Franciscan Family. Israela said we are being called to increase vocations, consecrations, and servant leadership. She also announced the invitation from the International Council to attend the Chapter of Mats in Rome in November 2024.

Israela called on Adrian Montoya to share his experience Attending the Council Meeting as part of his Candidacy Formation. He shared his experience and expressed his gratitude to the Council for their hard work.

Ed Dzienis read two letters, one announcing the appointment of Israela to the Franciscan Centenaries Task Force; and the other announcing the 800th year anniversary celebrating the major events in the life of our Seraphic Father St. Francis and the years of the event’s occurrence with the corresponding year for celebration: Later Rule 1223-2023; Christmas at Greccio 1223-2023; Stigmata 1224-2024; Canticle of Creation 1225-2025; Easter of St. Francis 1226-2026.

Continuing with the theme of Unity, the letter from the Conference of the Franciscan Family was an excellent example of our unity as a Franciscan Family. It was signed by the Friar Minors, the Capuchins, the Conventuals, the Third Order Regulars, and the Secular Order Franciscans. Brother Gordon gave us an excellent recap and examples on the various Orders in our Franciscan Family. He spoke about the Poor Clares in Roswell who are cloistered and continuously pray for us; the Province of Order of Friars Minor here in Albuquerque who offer masses for us and officiate at our professions.

Our fraternity is blessed to have Brother Gordon, OFM, as our Spiritual Assistant, and we are grateful for the wisdom, knowledge, and experience he shares with us. Reflecting on the Gospel of the day, Brother Gordon spoke about how we are to be the lesser brothers and sisters in the world taking on the menial jobs. May we be like St. Clare. Even though she was sick, she insisted on changing the bed pans of her sisters. Brother Gordon suggested we choose each other as our apostolate—if your brother or sister looks down and out, build him/her up. United as a Franciscan Family, it is up to us to give back to others the gifts that Brother Francis and Sister Clare gave us.

Watch the inauguration of the Franciscan Centenaries that took place on January 7, 2023.

<https://youtube/v1dx9FRnMlw>


The themes of these yearly celebrations from 2003-2006 will focus on these growth themes for each of us as Franciscans: Our being in Christ, Our being Brothers and Sisters; Our being in Communion, and Our being in the world.

CIOFS FORMATION
THE RULE
The Challenge

Do I love my neighbors? (Mt 22:39)
"Seek to encounter the living and active person
of Christ in their brothers and sisters" Art 5

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

What areas of my life have I been willing to
give to God?



40 Celebrating
years
Of the OFS Rule
1978 - 2018

On February 2, 2023, Carol Ann and Ed Dzienis celebrated the 22nd Anniversary of their Profession as Secular Order Franciscans.

This is how they responded to the question: What is the Rule for you in your personal lives?

“As we consider the 22nd anniversary of our Profession, we look to the Rule as anchoring our lifestyle both in a secular and spiritual way. It is the roadmap in serving as our guide in all aspects of our lives! “

Message from the Minister . . .

Dear brother and sisters in Christ and Francis,

Have you noticed how quickly time passes by and suddenly we are preparing for Lent? Have you ever heard the term: from feast to fast? This month we make the transition from Christmas feasting to Lenten fasting. We will probably spend our Lenten days changing our behaviors and withholding from our bodies certain foods. We will be filling ourselves instead with the Bread of Life—Oh! But what a feast that is!

I was asked once what the meaning of Lent was to me and how it made me feel. I blurted out, “Joy!” I think I got some funny looks; but in that moment, I felt true joy. I went on to explain how each day of Lent was bringing us closer to the Resurrection of our Savior and how we had the opportunity to help Him carry His cross for the salvation of all the world. I consider that opportunity to be a true blessing and I pray that all of us can experience the joy that our brother Francis expects from us as we continue diligently on our journey with Christ along the narrow path to Calvary and Salvation.

Your servant minister and sister,

Israela

Spiritual Assistant's Message

Dearest sisters and brothers in St. Francis—

It's a comin'! LENT, that is. How 'bout we think *twice* about this season, instead of doing the same 'ol things.

Too often, our minds are distracted (or latched onto) the wording of the Ten Commandments *only* to base our penitential spirituality. But as mature Christians, these guidelines *should be* . . . rudimentary. Many (most?) of us can check off several of the Ten as never did (and never would do) that.

However, if/when we page forward to the Gospels, dispersed throughout, we read of the Commands of Jesus (*for example*, Mt. 4:17, 5:44-45, 16:24-25, 28:8-9; Lk. 21:29-36; Jn 13:34-35, 14:11, 14--to list a few). And, let us also recall "The Lord's Prayer", "The Beatitudes", and most importantly, "The Last Final Judgement (Mt. 25: 31-46).

In these versus we are challenged to grow beyond our hands pressed together in prayer. We are called to trust the power of prayer (like the Apostles in Pentecost) leave the "Upper Room" of our lives and enter the marketplace to give witness to the "Good-God News".

As Franciscans of Penitence, let us gain strength in our prayerful numbers from our Gatherings to move from "Gospel to life".

In peace and goodwill,

Br. Gordon, OFM – Spiritual Assistant

"From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Mt. 4:17) "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes the sun rise on the bad and the good and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust." (Mt. 5:44-45) Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Mt. 16: 24-25) Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage. (Mt. 28:8-9)



February 22 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, During this time we commemorate what Jesus went through during His forty days in the desert. He not only fasted but had to endure Satan’s taunting. (Luke 4:1-9)

So the season of praying, fasting, and almsgiving will have us adjusting our focus and perspective in these areas.

The Lenten season will have many of us preparing Lenten meals. You may have a recipe or two you may want to share with our brothers and sisters at the Fraternity Gathering on February 26. Here are recipes for three traditional New Mexican Lenten foods.

Torrijas 3 eggs, 4 tbs flour, 2 tsp salt, 1/2 tsp baking powder, lard or shortening, 3 cups red chile sauce.

Separate eggs; beat whites until stiff, beat yolks and add to whites, Mix well; add flour, sifted with baking powder and salt, mix well and add to eggs. Use enough lard or shortening in a skillet so that it is about 2 inches deep. Drop the egg mixture by tablespoons into hot grease . Brown on both sides. Drain on paper towels. Heat the red chile sauce and drop the torrijas into the chile sauce. Simmer gently for about 10 minutes.

Quelites 1 pound fresh spinach, 1 tbs shortening, 3 tbs chopped onion, 1/2 teas crushed red chile, salt to taste.

Wash spinach well, chop coarsely and steam about 10 minutes or until tender. Saute the onion in shortening, mix in drained spinach, chile, and salt, and cook for an additional 5 minutes.

Sopa – Capirotada 1 cup sugar, 2 cups water, 6 slices toasted bread (toast bread in oven) , 2 tbs butter, 1 tsp cinnamon, 1-1/2 cup grated longhorn cheese, 1 cup raisins.

Caramelize sugar, add water and cinnamon and boil until sugar is dissolved. Place a layer of bread in a casserole dish; add cheese and raisins. Repeat until all ingredients are used. Add butter. Pour caramelized syrup over mixture and bake in 325 degree oven until the syrup all absorbed by the bread.

Fraternity Contacts

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St. Anthony Fraternity
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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