

# St. Anthony Fraternity Newsletter

## January 2025

### Contemplating the Humble Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

The Saint Anthony Fraternity devoted its December Gathering to the beauty of the Christmas season, celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In the tradition of the December gathering, fraternity members contemplated the humble birth of Jesus by selecting various pieces of the nativity scene and sharing with those present how the pieces chosen embodied a special meaning. As our Minister, Israela Garcia, shared in her December newsletter message, “Thank you, Father Francis, for creating the Creche so that we could re-live the birth of Jesus in such a beautiful way.”



Matty Miguel, SIMS, reflected on Mary’s anticipation of becoming a mother and how she became an adoptive mother of sorts to her nieces and nephews after her sister’s passing.



Gerry Rohrkemper reflected on the shepherds who were living their regular lives when they experienced the wonder of Christ’s birth. She reflected on the recent and wonderful surprise of her sister coming to live with her.



The smallest lamb in the nativity scene spoke to Bill Parras and reminded him of his challenges of feeling small during his year-long journey of healing a deep wound on his foot following surgery. He reminded us how the fraternity is of great importance to all SAF homebound.



Nancy Singh chose the backward looking sheep and reflected on recent changes in her professional life and how Jesus calls his sheep to follow Him.



Baby Jesus swaddled in the manger.



Gina Lubeck reflected on the creche and recounted precious childhood memories of attending Christmas mass with her family in Shanghai China and how she wrote to Saint Nicholas at Christmas time.

# Important Dates and Reminders

## January

- **Council Meeting** January 18 1:00 p.m. at A Becoming Place | 1350 Lakeview Rd SW

- **Fraternity Gathering**

Jan 26 1:00 p.m. at A Becoming Place | 1350 Lakeview Rd SW

Please bring:

- Donations of non-perishable food for the St. Felix Food Pantry.
  - New/gently used clothing donations for Francis House.
- Our Fraternity meal will be hosted by Hospitality Group 1:

Lisa Barczak, Consuelo Chavez, Vivianne Gonzales, Felis Otero-Armijo, Tommie Page, Bill Parras, Martha Ramirez, Ernestine Sedillo

Our Fraternity's December donation to the St. Felix pantry was **57 pounds of food!**

From April to December 2024, we donated a total of **592 pounds of food!**

Thank you for your generosity!



Clothing donations from the Fraternity were delivered to the Trinity Catholic Worker House at 1925 Five Points Rd SW where three refugee families and others are housed.

Your generosity made a difference to your neighbors in need.

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## Active Fraternity Members Can Voluntarily Complete Archdiocese Virtus Training

- The Archdiocese of Santa Fe requires those who directly or indirectly interact with minor children in church activities complete the Virtus training. It has been clarified that the training is not required of our Fraternity members. However, if interested, active Fraternity members can voluntarily complete the Virtus Training. Virtus Training can be completed online anytime, or in person. See website for details. Certification is good for five years.
  - Website: <https://archdiosf.org/victims-assistance>
  - Go to the left side bar and find "Links" then "VIRTUS Online – English"
  - Direct link: [https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/37415/reg\\_2.cfm?theme=0](https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/37415/reg_2.cfm?theme=0)
  - You may send certificate of completion for Fraternity records to Jeannette at [jgcase@yahoo.com](mailto:jgcase@yahoo.com) and cc: Minister Israela at [director@bailabaila.com](mailto:director@bailabaila.com)

# Minister's Message



Happy New Year!

In the spirit of a new year and new beginnings, I would like all professed St. Anthony Fraternity members to renew our commitment “to follow Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi”:

“Let us bless our Lord and God, living and true; to Him we must attribute all praise, glory, honor, blessing, and every good forever.” We thank you, Lord, for calling us to the Franciscan Way of Life. We ask Your pardon for all our shortcomings, weaknesses, and transgressions against our commitment to the Gospel Life and against the Holy Rule of our Order. We pray that You will allow us to experience once again the fervor and readiness of that day when we responded to Your grace of ongoing conversion by entering the Order of Penance after the example of Saint Francis of Assisi. With all of our hearts and the whole of our beings, we renew once again our Profession-Commitment to the Gospel Way of Life according to the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, until the end of our days. Most high and glorious God, grant also that we may live in peace and harmony with all of creation, with all our brothers and sisters of the human family, and especially those with whom we share the gift of our Catholic Christian faith. May we give an ever-more effective witness by our lives of simplicity, minority, humility, penance and service to the great gift we have received from You: our Franciscan calling to “go forth as witnesses and instruments of the Church’s mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by our life and words.” “All praise be Yours, O Lord, through all that You have made!” Amen

*Adapted from the Prologue of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order and Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order*

Peace and All Good,  
Your servant minister - Israela



## January Birthdays

- Matty Miguel, SIMS, Jan 4
- Brother Gordon, OFM Jan 19
- Jeannette Schlicher, OFS Jan 21
- Reina Romero Jan 24
- Bill Parras, OFS Jan 28



## January Profession Anniversaries

- Bill Parras 1/23/2022
- Linda Williams 1/23/2022
- Consuelo Chavez 1/28/2018
- Felis Otero-Armijo 1/28/2018
- Jeannette Feldman 1/22/2006
- John Fishel 1/22/2006
- Nancy Fishel 1/22/2006
- Gloria Quesada 1/22/2006
- Pat Rocco 1/22/2006



## Eternal Rest

Grant to them, O LORD  
and may perpetual light  
shine upon them.

May the souls of the  
faithfully departed,  
through the mercy of God,  
rest in peace. Amen



We have learned that our dear sister,  
Connie Jo Martinez passed away on  
January 17. Her services are as follows:

**January 29 6 pm** Rosary at Garcia Mortu-  
ary at 717 Stover Ave SW in Albuquerque.

**January 30 11 am** Funeral mass at Holy  
Rosary at 5415 Fortuna Rd SW, in Albu-  
querque.



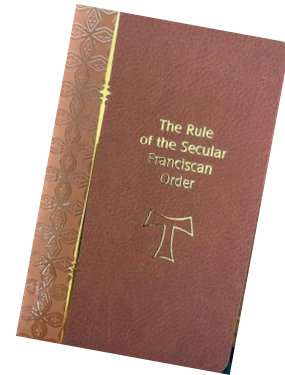
Love to read about our St. Francis  
and Clare? Love to read more about  
our faith?

Visit our Fraternity's Lending Library  
at the Gathering!

You can take a book and/or leave a  
book. Enjoy!



# Reflecting on the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order



## Rule One

The Franciscan family, as one among many spiritual families raised up by the Holy Spirit in the Church , unites all members of the people of God — laity, religious, and priests — who recognize that they are called to follow Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi . In various ways and forms but in life-giving union with each other, they intend to make present the charism of their common Seraphic Father in the life and mission of the Church.

**Commentary** (*Official Commentary prepared by the USA National Spiritual Assistants' Commission.*)

This first chapter details the place of the Secular Franciscan Order in the Church, in the Franciscan Family, and in the history of the Order itself The first paragraph shows how the Franciscan Family, as one of the many spiritual families in the Church, is united with all the people of God by the call of the Holy Spirit and the following of Jesus Christ. Still, in addition to this, the way of Francis gives the Franciscan Family, with its common charism but varied expressions, a distinctive cast, as it strives for holiness and binds together the laity, religious and clergy in the life and mission of the Church.

# Treasurer's Report

SAINT ANTHONY FRATERNITY, OFS			
TWO MONTH FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR		2024	
		November	December
MONTHLY NUMBER OF DONORS		15	16
#	<b>INCOME</b>		
1	Regular Contributions:	515.00	893.64
2	Endowment Interest:	87.26	73.08
	Exception Income:		
3	Chapter Donation	120.00	0.00
4			
5	Subtotal Exception Income (Item 3+4)	120.00	0.00
6	TOTAL INCOME (Items 1+2+5)	722.26	966.72
7	Transfer from Savings:		
8	TOTAL DEPOSITED (Checking Acct.) (Items 6+7)	722.26	966.72
	<b>EXPENSES</b>		
	<b>RECURRING:</b>		
	Spiritual Assistant Stipend	100.00	100.00
	Council Administration Supplies		0.00
	Infirmarian Team (Misc. Expenses)		38.73
	Formation Expenses	42.94	139.29
	Newsletter Admin. Supplies/Printing	13.52	52.72
	Newsletter Postage		
	Website Fee:		
	Apostolate: Poor Clares (Donation)	100.00	100.00
	Apostolate: Franciscan Friars (Donation)	75.00	75.00
	Fair Share to Regional:		
	Contingency Fund (Transfer to Savings)	50.00	50.00
9	Subtotal Recurring Expenses:	381.46	555.74
	<b>EXCEPTIONAL EXPENSES</b>		
	Anniversary Catering		
	Elections Becoming Place Room Rentals		450.00
	San Felipe de Neri donation (San Jose Donation Anniversary)		150.00
	Retreat Picnic Check		250.52
10	Subtotal Exception Expenses:	0.00	850.52
11	TOTAL EXPENSES (Items 9+10)	381.46	1,406.26
	<b>BEGINNING BALANCE (Checking Acct.)</b>	6,168.78	6,509.58
	<b>ENDING BALANCE (Checking Acct.) (Items 8-11+12)</b>	6,509.58	6,070.04
	<b>CONTINGENCY FUND: (Available Savings Funds)</b>		
	Beginning Balance	4,552.92	4,654.06
	Transfer from Expenses	100.00	50.00
	Earned Dividend	1.14	0.99
	TOTAL CONTINGENCY FUND	4,654.06	4,705.05



Lisa Trujillo visited with homebound Fraternity member, Alcaria Valdez, OFS before Christmas.



## **Fraternity Contacts:**

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<b>Vice-Minister</b>	<b>Nancy Singh</b>	<b>865-389-4353</b>	<b>singh_nancy@yahoo.com</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Gerry Rohrkemper</b>	<b>505-873-2657</b>	<b>gmrsfo@aol.com</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Adrian Montoya</b>	<b>505-440-1203</b>	<b>atmontoya@yahoo.com</b>
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<b>Infirmarian</b>	<b>Linda Williams</b>	<b>951-776-7486</b>	<b>WLINDAE1950@aol.com</b>
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<b>Br. Gordon Boykin</b>	<b>OFM</b>		

**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 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.**