

St. Anthony Fraternity Newsletter

April 2025

March Gathering Focused on Saint Feast Days in March



The March 23, 2025 Fraternity Gathering began with a prayer service in honor of St. Joseph's feast day which is celebrated on March 19.

"As the husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus, Joseph had a very important role. Joseph became a model of faithful service to others by placing Mary and Jesus' needs before his own. He shows us to look after each other with compassion, care, and concern.

St. Joseph is an example to us of how an ordinary person can have extraordinary love for others."

Formation Director, Jeannette Schlicher, then led the Fraternity in discussion and around-the-room sharing about the life of St. Patrick whose feast day is celebrated on March 17.

The Fraternity contemplated the similarities between the lives of St. Patrick and St. Francis, even though St. Patrick lived roughly 800 years before St. Francis. The discussions covered their pre-conversion lives, their personal conversion experiences and how they each responded to God's call.



Christ

Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart
of every man
who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of
everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.

- Saint Patrick's Breastplate

Important Dates and Reminders

April

- **Council Meeting** April 11 at 6:00 p.m. at A Becoming Place | 1350 Lakeview Rd SW

- **Fraternity Gathering**

April 27 2:00 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 March donation to the St. Felix pantry was 33 pounds of food!

Thank you for your generosity!



Your generosity makes a difference to your neighbors in need.

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

Upcoming Meetings

Meeting Location: A Becoming Place | 1350 Lakeview Rd SW

Council Meetings

5/9/25 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

6/6/25 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Fraternity Gatherings

5/25/25 | 2:00 - 5:00 PM

Please bring flowers or roses for Mother Mary — see page 6.

6/22/25 | 2:00 - 5:00 PM

May Fraternity meal will be hosted by Hospitality Group 2:

Mary Lou Narvaez, Angela Ortiz, Reina Romero, Gerry Rohrkemper, Geri Salazar, Rex and Jeannette Schlicher, Ann Sims, and Lisa Trujillo

Minister's Message



HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA

HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

Happy Easter, brothers and sisters in Francis!

I hope that you all had a very special Lenten season and that you received the news of His Resurrection as joyfully as I... Thank God for the wonder of life and for the miraculous ways that He shows Himself to us every day.

As some of you may know, my brother (Joshua) fell twenty feet from a rooftop as he was finishing up the servicing of the five air conditioners at my dance studio. This happened on Friday of the week before Holy Week. I was in a Fraternity Council Meeting when I got the frantic call that Joshua had fallen from the roof and that paramedics were on their way. I was in shock and I went back to the meeting and sat down.

It was quiet for a moment. Brother Gordon led us in a special prayer for Joshua, we quickly finished the meeting and I rushed to the hospital. When I got to the Emergency Room window, they could not find his name in the computer. After more searching, the gentleman at the desk looked at me kindly and said he would take me to him. This gesture ignited an uproar from the waiting room as people yelled that they were there first or that they had someone back there too. I was briskly escorted through the double doors and through a hallway jam packed with suffering people that were in pain because of gashes, broken limbs and so many other horrible things. I wondered why this nice man was so quiet and just led me patiently back to a private, dimly lit room.

My brother was lying down and in a brace. His eyes were closed. I placed my hand on his and told him that I was with him. He opened his eyes and I asked him how he was doing and he said he was doing fine. He was talking just fine and I sat next to him as we talked for the next 7 – 8 hours. He had an MRI, a CT scan, some X-rays and blood draws every hour. In between this busyness, there was a calm that I cannot put into words. We talked about life and death, what would happen if... We talked about how in the split second that he fell to the ground, he remembered what our father had told him as a little boy. He told him that if he was ever falling from a high place, that he should turn to the side and completely relax his body.

(Our father was a paratrooper in WWII.) Fifty years after Joshua heard that advice, he remembered it in the split second that he needed it. When he fell, he fell in a tiny space between a huge boulder and the building. He was knocked out for a while, but walked himself to the ambulance.

Continued on page 4

Minister's Message-Continued

We talked a lot about God and His will for us. We talked about our faith and so many other things... We talked about our mother, how we felt her presence and how much we love her. He told me I didn't have to stay – that I could go home to which I told him that I wasn't leaving.

In the early morning, different doctors came in and told us that they could find NOTHING WRONG with him. They said that they had never treated a fall that hadn't resulted in either death, severe injuries or handicap. The only thing they were able to find was that he was low on potassium for which they wanted to give him some capsules. I told them that he had fasted that day and they said that was probably why he was low on potassium. They offered him pain meds or a prescription for pain meds and my brother said: "No, thank you." They smiled as they told him that he could go home. I made Joshua some hot chocolate and toast as the sun was coming up and I went to my altar, got on my knees and emotionally praised my Lord and my God. There is a reason Joshua is here. There is a reason we are all here. In the light of the Resurrection, we are all made new. Let us not waste the opportunity.



April Birthdays

Carol Ann Dzienis OFS April 16

Pat Rocco OFS April 18

Linda Williams, OFS April 25



April Profession Anniversaries

Clare Domenici 4/12/2018
Affiliate

Barbara Heilman, OFS 4/23/1995

Save the Dates

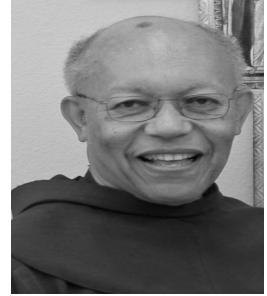
October 17,18, 19, 2025

The annual OFS National Fraternal Visitation to our Region will be held this year in Albuquerque (not in El Paso) at the Crowne Plaza in Albuquerque. Mass will be held on Saturday, Oct 18 at 4 p.m. at San Felipe de Neri Catholic Church.

Spiritual Assistant's Message

Dearest sisters and brothers in St. Francis,

Some time ago, I was privy to overhear a friar comment that, when preaching, we are not “to raise Hell, but to lower Heaven.”



As I have learned of (and accepted) the special and unique love that God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) has for me I find it understandable in my life. Also, we each realize that in doing so, God never “pulls the rug out from under us.” It is always the same ol’ (NEW) blessed message: “Love one another as I have loved you.” (Ref. 1 Cor. 13:4-8a, 13; Jn. 13:34)

As the Lenten liturgical readings steer us closer and closer to Holy Week, our learning from the age-old teaching of the Scriptures, confirm that we have placed ourselves on the right and steadfast path as Franciscans living “from Gospel to life, and life to Gospel.”

In Christ and Francis,
Br. Gordon, OFM
– Fraternity Spiritual Assistant

Upcoming Formation Sessions

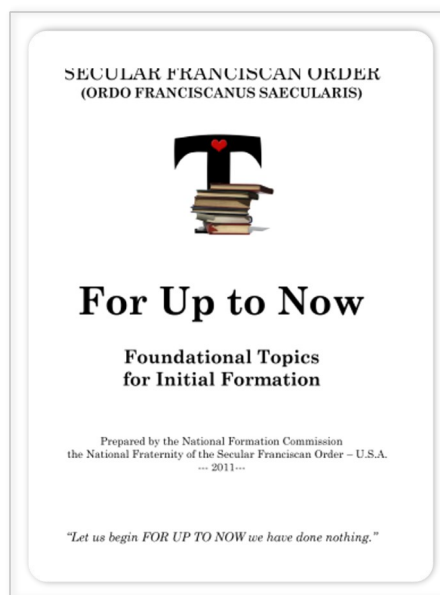
Candidacy Formation Sessions:

May 10 and May 24

The FUN Manual

Chapter 13: JPIC and Social Catholic
Social Teaching—Session One

Chapter 13: JPIC and Social Catholic
Social Teaching—Session Two



Inquiry Formation Sessions:

May 3 and May 17

The FUN Manual

Chapter 7: Vocation

Chapter 10: Charism and Mission

Any donations for snacks and bottled water for SAF Formation, Inquiry and Orientation classes are appreciated.

Flowers for Mother Mary

Please bring flowers or roses (fresh cut or potted) for Our Blessed Mother for the May Fraternity Gathering.

We will honor our Mother with the flowers during the gathering.

After the gathering, we will exchange the flowers amongst the group. Everyone can take flowers home to continue to honor our Blessed Mother.



Reflecting on the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

Rule Four

The rule and life of the Secular Franciscans is this: to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people⁶. Christ, the gift of the Father's love, is the way to him, the truth into which the Holy Spirit leads us, and the life which he has come to give abundantly⁷. Secular Franciscans should devote themselves especially to careful reading of the gospel, going from gospel to life and life to the gospel.



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

4. The second chapter of the rule is a thorough and detailed description of the Secular Franciscan way of life. The first part (#4-#6) gives the meaning of gospel living in the Franciscan tradition. Then conversion and worship are explained as the necessary preconditions for achieving this gospel life (#7-#8). Finally, paragraphs #9-#19 describe the manner of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ by how the Secular Franciscans live (#10-#14) and what they do (#15-#19). In the light of scripture and the teachings of Vatican II, this chapter is envisioned as a program for evangelization: how we ourselves are evangelized after the manner of Francis and secondly how we evangelize others.

Paragraph #4 summarizes the heart of the rule: the very core of gospel life is intimate union with Christ, or in the words of St. Paul, "the life I live now is not my own; Christ is living in me" (Gal 3:20). And so, the Secular Franciscan, alive with the spirit of Francis, knows and experiences the Lord Jesus intensely, binding one's own person with the person of Christ.

Treasurer's Report

SAINT ANTHONY FRATERNITY, OFS					
TWO MONTH FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR				2025	2025
				February	March
MONTHLY NUMBER OF DONORS				20	17
					Comments
					Thank you!
#	INCOME				
1	Regular Contributions:			1,014.00	738.00
2	Endowment Interest:			80.32	86.04
	Exception Income:				
3	Calendars			10.00	0.00
4	Books			76.00	156.00
5	Subtotal Exception Income (Item 3+4)			86.00	156.00
6	TOTAL INCOME (Items 1+2+5)			1,180.32	980.04
7	Transfer from Savings:				
8	TOTAL DEPOSITED (Checking Acct.) (Items 6+7)			1,180.32	980.04
	EXPENSES				
	RECURRING:				
	Spiritual Assistant Stipend			100.00	100.00
	Council Administration Supplies			1,096.50	0.00
	Infirmarian Team (Misc. Expenses)				Note: 50 new Rituals
	Formation Expenses			887.89	0.00
	Newsletter Admin. Supplies/Printing			73.66	0.00
	Newsletter Postage			166.80	0.00
	Website Fee:				
	Apostolate: Poor Clares (Donation)			100.00	100.00
	Apostolate: Franciscan Friars (Donation)			100.00	100.00
	Fair Share to Regional:			2,640.00	0.00
	Contingency Fund (Transfer to Savings)			50.00	50.00
9	Subtotal Recurring Expenses:			5,214.85	350.00
	EXCEPTIONAL EXPENSES				
	Elections Becoming Place Room Rentals				
	San Felipe de Neri donation (San Jose Donation Anniversary)				
	Retreat Picnic Check				
10	Subtotal Exception Expenses:			0.00	0.00
11	TOTAL EXPENSES (Items 9+10)			5,214.85	350.00
	BEGINNING BALANCE (Checking Acct.)			6,721.65	2,687.12
	ENDING BALANCE (Checking Acct.) (Items 8-11+12)			2,687.12	3,317.16
	CONTINGENCY FUND: (Available Savings Funds)				
	Beginning Balance			4,789.37	4,840.29
	Transfer from Expenses			50.00	50.00
	Earned Dividend			0.92	1.02
	TOTAL CONTINGENCY FUND			4,840.29	4,891.31



Fraternity Contacts:

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Br. Gordon Boykin	OFM		

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<https://franciscansalbuquerque.sfousa.org/>

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.