



Completing the Journey to Profession



Rena Xuereb, Formation Director guides Candidates Felicie Truscio and Adrian Montoya through Liturgy of the Hours

At the March Fraternity Gathering, the announcement of the plans for the Profession of Felicie and Adrian was met with applause and excitement. Their Profession will be held on Sunday, October 22, 2023, at the Franciscan Becoming Place. The two-day Retreat prior to Profession will be held on Friday, August 11, the feast day of St. Clare, and Saturday, August 12, also at the Becoming Place. Plan on accompanying Adrian and Felicie on these occasions, and continue encouraging and supporting them on their path to Profession .

Profession is a gift of the Holy Spirit. As we learned in Formation, Epiclesis is the calling down of the Holy Spirit to be poured down so that we follow in the footsteps of Christ in the Franciscan evangelical life. With the Holy Spirit, we walk the walk of St. Francis and are strengthened to commit to the Gospel life.

Calendar of Events

Council Meeting - April 14

Fraternity Gathering - April 23

On-Going Formation:
 "Follow Me", pp. 59-63, For All the Saints: St. Francis's Five Point Plan for Salvation

Orientation Phase

Sun. May 14 - The Creed

Candidate Phase

Sat. May 13 - Francis and Divinity

Sat. May 27 - Franciscan Theology
 and Spirituality



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April Birthdays

Edith Bohan - Apr 1

Hazel Herrera - Apr 12

Joan Sanchez - Apr 14

Carol Ann Dzienis - Apr 16

Pat Rocco - Apr 18

Linda Williams - Apr 25

Abraham Placencio - Apr 27

Two-Month Financial Statement 2023		
	Jan	Feb
Monthly Donors	16	16
INCOME		
Regular Contributions	1165.00	484.00
Endowment Interest	52.56	52.25
Exceptional Income Franciscan Journey Textbooks	55.00	100.00
Subtotal for Exceptional Income	55.00	100.00
TOTAL INCOME	1272.26	636.25
Transfer from Savings		
TOTAL DEPOSITED	1272.26	636.25
EXPENSES		
Recurring Expenses:		
Spiritual Assistant Stipend	100.00	100.00
Council Administration Supplies		13.28
Infirmarian Team (Misc. Exp.)		
Formation Expenses	33.10	
Newsletter Administration Supplies/Printing	46.60	13.44
Newsletter Postage	36.00	37.80
Website Fee		
Apostolate: Poor Clare's (Donation)	100.00	100.00
Apostolate: Franciscan Friar (Donation)	75.00	75.00
Fair Share to Regional	2250.00	
Contingency Fund (Transfer to Savings)	50.00	50.00
Subtotal Recurring Expenses	2690.60	389.52
EXCEPTIONAL EXPENSES		
Subtotal Exceptional Expenses		
TOTAL EXPENSES	2690.60	389.52
BEGINNING BALANCE	6544.99	5126.65
ENDING BALANCE	5126.65	5373.38
CONTINGENCY FUND		
Beginning Balance	3407.31	3492.40
Extraordinary Dividends	34.07	
Transfer from Expenses	50.00	50.00
Earned Dividend	1.02	
TOTAL CONTINGENCY FUND	3492.40	3542.40

The Stations of the Cross

“We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You.”

“For through Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.”

Ed Dzienis and Tommie Page led us in praying the Stations of the Cross . The altar in the chapel — the crown of thorns, the nails, and the face of Christ — visual reminders of Christ’s suffering. We sang the Stabat Mater and meditated on the Passion of Christ.



Some notes from the gathering on March 26

On-Going Formation:

The Liturgy of the Hours (LOTH)

We may be familiar with LOTH, but very often because we don’t understand it, LOTH may be a marginalized part of our prayer life. Rena Xuereb, Formation Director, began by distributing a “keeper” of a handout she had prepared to get us from familiarity to understanding. She took time for questions, comments, and dialogue.

The Liturgy of the Hours is a group of Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Readings formulated by the Church for chant or recitations at stated times of the day. Historically, it goes back to a Jewish practice of prayer recitation at certain hours. It

was continued in the early Christian Church and continues today. Its purpose is to sanctify the day and all that goes on throughout the day.

In our Franciscan way of life, by Rule and General Constitution, (Rule 2, Article 8, and Article 14:4) we pray the LOTH because it unites us to the Church universal; it is liturgical; it is scriptural; it flows from and into the Mass; it is the very prayer of Jesus himself.

According to Hilarin Felder, The Ideals of St. Francis of Assisi, p.402, Francis “chanted the psalms with such interior recollection as if he beheld God present. Although he suffered from
(Continued on Page 4)

LOTH (continued from page 3)

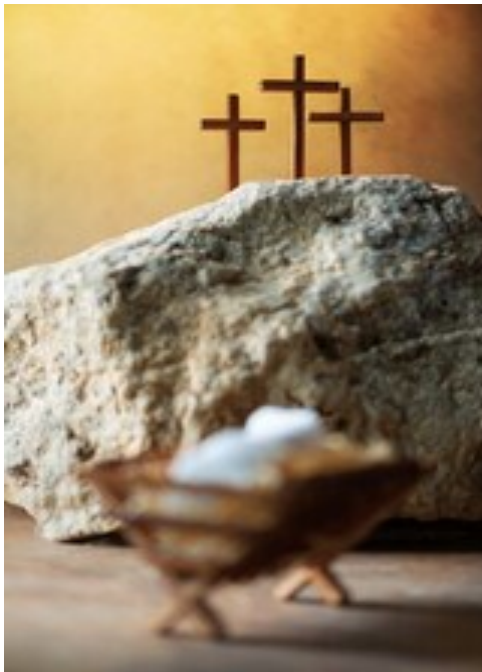
illness of his eyes, his stomach, his kidneys and his liver, he would not lean on anything while reciting the Office, prayed in an upright position, with his hood thrown back, never allowing his eyes to wander or interrupting in any way.”

Rena went over the basic structure of Evening Prayer from the handout. She stated when we stand or sit; and, she outlined the role of leaders and the community. From the Introductory Prayers to the Concluding Prayer and Blessing, this ongoing formation on LOTH, and this handout was designed to assist us as we pray Evening Prayer as a fraternity at our monthly gatherings, and daily as individuals. There was discussion on books versus digital formats for LOTH. The preference and reason for that preference were shared. The ultimate goal of this formation topic was to work toward having a clear

understanding of LOTH; to make the LOTH a priority in our Franciscan Spiritual life; and in Fraternity, to make our monthly LOTH prayer service more reverent and with less distraction.

Following are some guidelines for Evening Prayer at our monthly Fraternity Gathering:

- ◆ Be on time. Gathering begins at 2. All should be ready to begin.
- ◆ Leaders be well prepared. If those leading get off track, don't correct them. The leaders should be able to help each other to get back on track.
- ◆ Slow down. We have a tendency to rush through our prayers.
- ◆ Bring the LOTH handout to the gathering until this dialogue between God and our Fraternity is natural, reverent, and effortless.



A Message from the Spiritual Assistant

Dear sisters and brothers in St. Francis,

When you think about it, the greeting “Happy Easter!” means so much more than the greeting “Merry Christmas!” Yet each mean YES to the Father’s will. The YES to the incarnation was through Mary’s *fiat* (“Let it be done onto me according to your Word.”) While the YES to the resurrection was said through Jesus’ “Not my will, Father, but yours be done.”

Christmas was by the way of the wood of the manger; Easter was by the way of the wood of the cross. Christmas was from the womb; Easter was from the tomb. And Mary was with her most beloved son from his birth through his “death”.

As Franciscans—we, too are called to be faithful to the Lord and his Church from our Profession to our re-birth into a new life. Our journey of the cross will not be as intense as that of our beloved savior; still a journey of the cross nevertheless.

During the days between now and Pentecost, may our spirits remain composed and fixed on our individual call to redemption. May we strengthen our resolve to be patient with one another as Jesus was patient with his chosen band. Because we (as his newly chosen band) are called to give example to each brother and to each sister in St. Francis.

In peace and goodwill,

Brother Gordon, O.F.M., Spiritual Assistant

Minister's Message

Happy Easter Season! Alleluia!!!

I pray that this season of Easter brings you all peace and joy as we celebrate the newness of life that God our Father promised, that Jesus fulfilled and that the Holy Spirit magnifies.

In the last weeks of Lent and especially during Holy Week, I encountered many people that were struggling in various ways. Some were struggling with family issue, friendship issues, community issues and many more. I kept telling myself that these were all opportunities to join our sufferings to the cross. After so many encounters, I began to feel a little bit of despair — and that is the most awful feeling ... I felt the evil one dragging me down to depths that I have never encountered before and I begged God to please help me. Here Jesus is carrying his cross to Calvary — and I'm asking for His help. How does that make any sense? The answer must be that, in his great mercy, He allowed me that suffering and temptation. I felt tremendous guilt that I wasn't strong enough to fend off the feeling of loss and abandonment that I felt. Then, it was Easter Sunday...

Praise be to God! He does make everything new and He continues to give us the opportunities and challenges that we need only to strengthen us and to make us grow spiritually.

Peace be with us all as we continue our journey towards Him. Alleluia!!!

Your Servant Minister,

Israela



Welcome Back! We are so happy to see you!
Paul and Margaret Martinez and Jeannette Schlicher



Frances Lucero
Clare Dominici
Elizabeth Chavez
Marilyn Migliarini
Rosina May

Profession Anniversaries

Hazel Herrera 5-23-1965 58 yrs

Margaret Martinez 5-15-2005 18 yrs

Michael O'Hearn 5-23-1983 40 yrs

*thank
you*

Hospitality Group 1 - for fixing our
meal for the April Gathering

Ernestine Sedillo, Connie Jo Martinez,
Tommie Page, Bill Parras, Felis Armijo,
Ed & Carol Ann Dzienis, and
Consuelo Chavez

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Our MissionStatement

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.