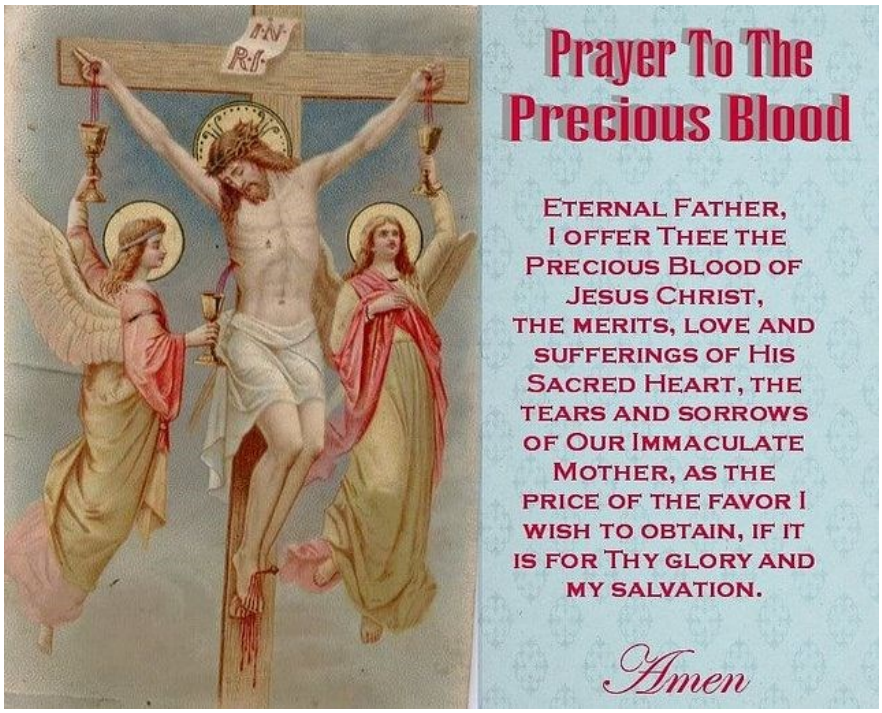
# St. Anthony Fraternity Newsletter

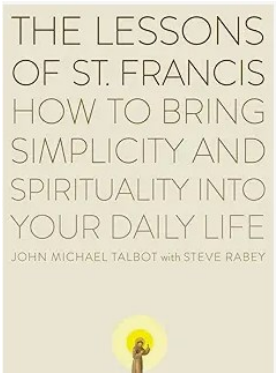
## August 2025

## July Fraternity Gathering
## Focused on the Precious Blood of Jesus

The July 27, 2025 Fraternity Gathering began with a prayer service led by Minister Israela Garcia, which focused on the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ as adapted from Mason Caldwell's Biblical Prayers.




The Most Precious Blood Jesus prayer is a heartfelt devotion that honors the sacrificial blood of Christ, recognizing its power for redemption and healing. The prayer invites believers to reflect on the significance of Jesus' sacrifice and to seek His mercy and protection. Through this sacred invocation, one finds solace and strength in the transformative love of God.




The Fraternity then read together and discussed Chapter 2 "Simplicity" (pages 17-21) from the book *The Lessons of St Francis* by John Michael Talbot.

Spiritual Assistant, Brother Gordon Boykin, spoke with the Fraternity on the topic of prayer.

St. Clare of Assisi developed a specific form of Lectio Divina that uses a four-step visual contemplation which emphasizes gazing, considering, contemplating, and imitating Christ.

Brother Gordon reminded the fraternity of how St. Monica prayed faithfully and unceasingly for her son, St. Augustine. And, also, how Blessed Mother Teresa experienced a "dark night of the soul" for close to 50 years and still persevered in her ministry to the poor and dying, reminding us to trust in "the wait." Brother Gordon reminded us that God always answers our prayers with a yes, a no, or wait.

# Important Dates and Reminders

## August

- **Council Meeting** August 8 at 10:00 a.m. at A Becoming Place | 1350 Lakeview Rd SW
- **Fraternity Gathering:** August 24 **2:00 p.m.** at A Becoming Place | 1350 Lakeview Rd SW

Please bring to gathering:

- *The Lessons of St Francis* by John Michael Talbot. The August gathering will focus on Chapter 2 "Simplicity," (only pages 21-25). Fraternity members will share insights from their readings at the gathering.
- Donations of non-perishable food for the St. Felix Food Pantry. Please consider including protein-based canned items like chicken, pasta with meat, peanut butter, tuna and similar.
- New or gently used adult clothing donations for the Francis House which is located in the "International District" of Albuquerque, on Zuni St. Items most in need: men's and women's clothing, socks, underwear and shoes or sandals. Please pray for the ministry of the Francis House which assists vulnerable residents of Albuquerque.
- Our Fraternity Meal will be hosted by Hospitality Group 1:

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

Our Fraternity's July donation to the St. Felix Pantry was 68 pounds of food!

For your generosity in supporting those most in need in our community.

## Upcoming Meetings

**Meeting Location:** A Becoming Place | 1350 Lakeview Rd SW

| Council Meetings | Fraternity Gatherings |
|---|---|
| 9/12/25 \| 10:00 a.m. | 9/28/25 \| 2:00 - 5:00 PM |
| 10/10/25 \| 10:00 a.m. | 10/26/25 \| 2:00 - 5:00 PM |

**September 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

**October Fraternity meal will be hosted by Hospitality Group 3:**
Israela Garcia, Gina Lubeck, Frances Lucero, Adrian Montoya, Nancy Singh, Felicie Truscio, Linda Williams

# Minister's Message

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Brothers and Sisters in Francis,

Did anyone notice all the traffic this past week? Fall is coming… School is back in session and families are scheduling all of their Fall activities. There is a certain energy and anticipation in the air.

Many of us are coming closer to, and entering into, the Fall season of our lives. Some of us are entering the Winter season of our lives. Our lives change through the challenges we have faced, through the relationships we have had, through the joys we have experienced and through the sorrows we have borne.

The beautiful thing about the seasons of life, is realizing the continuous way that God remains by our side no matter in what season we are living. As God remains with us daily through the Holy Spirit, so we remain (through the Holy Spirit) with our loved ones: our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We remain with our other family members, our neighbors, our co-workers, our Franciscan families and strangers. We remain to continue the work of our Franciscan vocation in our families and in the world.

It is our responsibility to live our Franciscan charisms boldly and energetically so that everyone around us will be touched in a positive and loving way. We must do this in humility as Francis teaches us. It is by a resolute example and with the confidence of knowing God and trusting God.

May we be instruments of peace in the world.

Peace,
Israela

## August Birthdays

Nancy Singh, OFS August 13
Ann Sims, Candidate August 20
Frances Lucero, OFS August 22
Irma Lente, OFS August 27

No profession anniversaries in August.

# Save the Dates

**August 22-23, 2025 — Holy Family Church**
562 Atrisco Drive SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105

You are welcome to join eight Franciscan Friars from the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe as they celebrate significant milestones in their Journey

- Ordination 8/22 5:30 p.m. (3 Friars)
- Solemn Vows Profession 8/23 10 a.m. (5 Friars)

**August 30, 2025 — Holy Family Church**
562 Atrisco Drive SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105

There will be a Franciscan Spirituality Event, which will be hosted by Father Richard Rohr, OFM, on Saturday, August 30th, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church's Parish Hall. Starts with Registration, Coffee & Donuts at Parish Hall, and then it will be moved to the Church. A freewill donation is accepted. An optional Lunch in the Parish Hall will follow for the cost of $10.

**October 17,18, 19, 2025 —** The annual OFS National Fraternal Visitation to our Region will be held this year in Albuquerque at the Crowne Plaza. Mass will be held on Saturday, Oct 18, at 4 p.m. at San Felipe de Neri Catholic Church. **Registration is due August 15.** Non-delegates/observers must pre-pay Saturday's lunch and dinner with registration.

*See emails from Fraternity Secretary, Gerry Rohrkemper, for details on all the above events.*

FRANCISCAN FRIARS
Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe

## Please Pray For...

July 21, 2025

Richard Rohr, OFM, of Holy Family Friary in Albuquerque, New Mexico, suffered a minor stroke and is at home recovering. He will visit a hospital on Thursday to consider having vascular surgery. Please keep Richard in your prayers.

# Formation News

The Fraternity's two formation groups are entering the final stages of their current formation phases and launching into exciting new phases.

The Inquiry group, with **Ryan McRae** and **Angela Ortiz**, is working to complete the Inquiry phase and begin the next steps to prepare for advancement into the Candidacy I phase in October.

The current Candidacy I group: **Lisa Barczak**, **Geri Blanco**, **Martha Ramirez**, **Reina Romero**, **Ann Sims**, and **Lisa Trujillo**, is in the final phase of Candidacy I and will begin Candidacy II in October.

Please continue to pray for the Fraternity members in formation and for our Formation Director, **Frances Lucero**, and team members.

***Please note:*** No classes will be held on Saturday, August 23 for the Inquiry or Candidacy groups to allow those in formation to attend the Ordination Mass at Holy Family parish.

# Spiritual Assistant's Message

Dearest sisters and brothers in St. Francis,

A hint of a new season is upon us. As we begin the wind down of summer, and as children and young adults return to school and families get back to their routines; may we pray for peace and non-violence in our world. Together, our collective prayers are powerful.

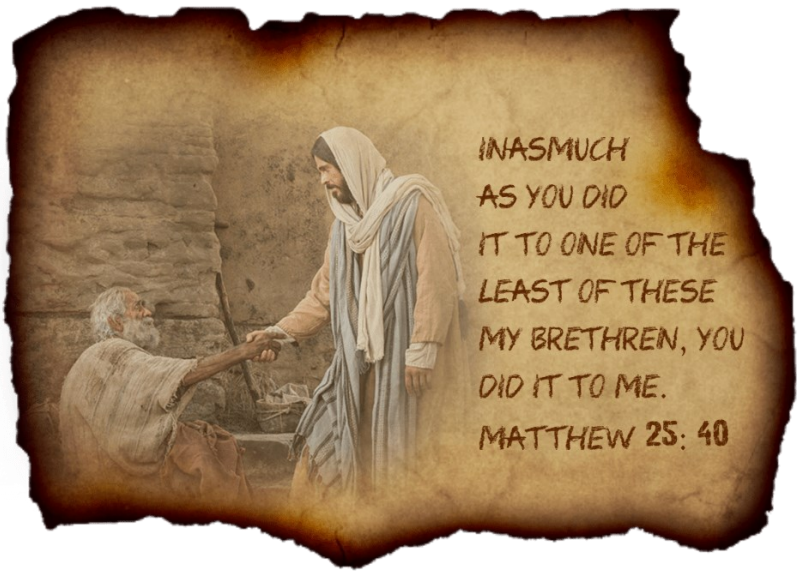
May we also recognize the many needs of the poor, the meek, those who hunger and thirst and those who are persecuted (Matthew 5). Whatever we do for the least of these, we do for Jesus. (Matthew 25).

In different ways, we are blessed with food, shelter, safety, and friends to the degree that our homeless sisters and brothers are restricted from imagining. We sometimes forget that the majority of street people are on the street because (if they maintain work), they don't make enough to prioritize the expenses of food, shelter, and transportation. And those who have the added horror of substance abuse or addiction can't think straight. Sadly, many of them seem to lack a prioritized spiritual life. Regardless, though, each person demands our respect and attention -- rather than disdain, gossip, or avoidance. Customarily, their "shopping cart mobile home" goes from the uncomfortable cold of winter to that of the heat of summer. (Recall that Jesus, himself, was a street person who mooched off the hospitality of friends, fans, and townsfolks.

Another blessing as Franciscans is that, at least monthly, we obligate ourselves to join with other sisters and brothers in Fraternity to celebrate togetherness in living the example of "the Rule" from Gospel to life and life to Gospel. Let's act as if the "unknown" sister or brother that we un-see at the Fraternity Gathering becomes a "temporary" personal apostolate to become known to our heart and a new part of our Franciscan life.

May Jesus and Francis to witness to you through one another,

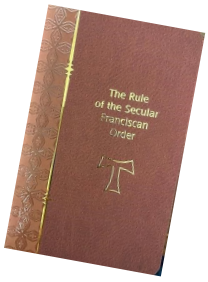
Br. Gordon, O.F.M.



# All Fraternity Members are Valued.

Fraternity members, Lisa Barczak (not pictured) and Gina Lubeck (right) spent an afternoon last month visiting homebound member, Marilyn Migliarini (left) last month.

## Reflecting on the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order




***Rule Eight***

***As Jesus was the true worshipper of the Father, so let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all they are and do . Let them participate in the sacramental life of the Church, above all the Eucharist. Let them join in liturgical prayer in one of the forms proposed by the Church, reliving the mysteries of the life of Christ.***

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

The other precondition is to make worship of the Father as central in our own lives as it was in Christ's. The Secular Franciscan then, communicates and unites with the Lord through the sacraments (again, especially the Eucharist), the liturgy of the hours, contemplation and any other expression of prayer.

# Treasurer's Report

| # | SAINT ANTHONY FRATERNITY, OFS<br>TWO MONTH FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR | 2025<br>June | 2025<br>July | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **MONTHLY NUMBER OF DONORS** | 9 | 10 | *Thank you!* |
| # | **INCOME** | | | |
| 1 | **Regular Contributions:** | 255.00 | 495.00 | |
| 2 | **Endowment Interest:** | 85.05 | 86.95 | |
| | **Exception Income:** | | | |
| 3 | **Calendars** | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 4 | **Books** | 40.00 | 0.00 | |
| 5 | **Subtotal Exception Income (Item 3+4)** | 40.00 | 0.00 | |
| 6 | **TOTAL INCOME (Items 1+2+5)** | 380.05 | 581.95 | |
| 7 | **Transfer from Savings:** | | | |
| 8 | **TOTAL DEPOSITED (Checking Acct.) (Items 6+7)** | 380.05 | 581.95 | |
| | **EXPENSES** | | | |
| | **RECURRING:** | | | |
| | **Spiritual Assistant Stipend** | 100.00 | 100.00 | |
| | **Council Administration Supplies** | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| | **Infirmarian Team (Misc. Expenses)** | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| | **Formation Expenses** | 11.63 | 60.42 | |
| | **Newsletter Admin. Supplies/Printing** | 19.20 | 19.20 | |
| | **Newsletter Postage** | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| | **Website Fee:** | | | |
| | **Apostolate: Poor Clares (Donation)** | 100.00 | 100.00 | |
| | **Apostolate: Franciscan Friars (Donation)** | 100.00 | 100.00 | |
| | **Fair Share to Regional:** | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| | **Contingency Fund (Transfer to Savings)** | 50.00 | 50.00 | |
| 9 | **Subtotal Recurring Expenses:** | 380.83 | 429.62 | |
| | **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)** | 380.83 | 429.62 | |
| 12 | **BEGINNING BALANCE (Checking Acct.)** | 3,680.98 | 3,680.20 | |
| | **ENDING BALANCE (Checking Acct.) (Items 8-11+12)** | 3,680.20 | 3,832.53 | |
| | **CONTINGENCY FUND: (Available Savings Funds)** | | | |
| | **Beginning Balance** | 4,993.38 | 5,044.41 | |
| | **Transfer from Expenses** | 50.00 | 50.00 | |
| | **Earned Dividend** | 1.03 | 1.07 | |
| | **TOTAL CONTINGENCY FUND** | 5,044.41 | 5,095.48 | |

**Fraternity Contacts:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
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| **Secretary Gerry Rohrkemper** | **505-873-2657** | **gmrsfo@aol.com** |
| **Treasurer Adrian Montoya** | **505-440-1203** | **atmontoya@yahoo.com** |
| **Formation Dir. Frances Lucero** | **505-321-6077** | **franceslucero@yahoo.com** |
| **Councilor 1 Vacant** | | |
| **Councilor 2 Tommie Page** | **505-452-0915** | **pagetomasita@gmail.com** |
| **Infirmarian Linda Williams** | **951-776-7486** | **WLINDAE1950@aol.com** |
| **Spiritual Assistant Br. Gordon Boykin OFM** | **505-249-5774** | **gboykin@friars.us** |

**St. Anthony Fraternity**
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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.**