St. Anthony Fraternity Newsletter

November 2025

October Fraternity Gathering

The October 26, 2025 Fraternity Gathering began with a prayerful Rite of Admission ceremony for Inquirers Ryan McRae and Angela Ortiz. Ryan and Angela presented their request to enter the St. Anthony Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order, and Minister Israela Garcia shared that she and the Fraternity were pleased to accept it. Now, Ryan and Angela begin their time of formation in preparation for their permanent commitment.

(L to R) Br. Gordon Boykin, Angela Ortiz, Israela Garcia, Frances Lucero, Yolanda Chavez, and Ryan McRae

Gerry Rohrkemper gives Ryan and Angela their Tau crosses.

Glenn Rosendale, Founder of the Catholic Worker Francis House, spoke with the Fraternity at its October Gathering to share information about the mission and work of the Francis House, and to describe the current needs for feeding our unhoused neighbors in the International District on Zuni St SE. Regularly scheduled donations of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are needed. The Fraternity is organizing its response. Candidate Lisa Barczak is leading the effort and will share more at the next gathering.

The Francis House winter wish list consists of the following items:

- Gently used blankets or sleeping bags, tents
- New men's and women's underwear
- New or gently used men's and women's athletic shoes, sweatpants, athletic pants, or leggings
- Hand/toe warmers
- Men's jeans sizes 30 – 36
- Cloth totes/backpacks
- Female hygiene items
- Snack and sandwich-sized ziplock-style plastic bags
- Dog leashes and collars
- Leftover yarn (one of the volunteers knits beanies)

Important Dates and Reminders

November

- **Council Meeting** November 7 at 10:00 a.m. at A Becoming Place | 1350 Lakeview Rd SW
- **Fraternity Gathering:** November 16 1:00 p.m. at A Becoming Place | 1350 Lakeview Rd SW
  - We will be celebrating the feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary at the Gathering.

Please bring to gathering:

- OFS Ritual book, Christian Prayer book, and *The Lessons of St Francis* by John Michael Talbot. The November gathering will focus on Chapter 3 "Joy," (only pages 37-39). 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.
- Donations for the Francis House on Zuni St. See wish list on front page. 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 October donation to the St. Felix Pantry was 39 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
12/5/25 | 10:00 a.m.

Fraternity Gatherings
12/21/25 | 1:00 - 4:00 PM

December 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

November Birthdays

Dolores Cortez, OFS November 4
Ryan McRae, Candidate November 16
Alcaria Valdez November 21

November Profession Anniversaries

No profession anniversaries in November.

Minister's Message

Brothers and Sisters in Francis,

When I was a young girl in Catholic school, we always knew that Thanksgiving was coming up on the calendar when we were given handouts of various images to color. Whether it was a pilgrim scene, a pumpkin, a cornucopia or a turkey – we were always excited! We would make our yearly turkey from the outline of our hands, sign them and tape them to the walls. It was always a warm feeling knowing that, soon, we would be gathering with our families around the table of plenty. Some years were less plentiful than others, but the feeling was always the same.

I do remember wondering why we never had a cornucopia on our table like the ones I colored in school. When I think of a cornucopia, it represents to me an overflowing of all sorts of delicious foods. I wondered if only the "rich" people had cornucopias…

We, at St. Anthony Fraternity, have an opportunity to provide for a small portion of our Albuquerque homeless community. We listened to Glenn from the Francis House last month regarding the need for sixty (60) peanut butter and jelly sandwiches every Saturday of the month and for sixty (60) ham and cheese sandwiches every 4th Friday of the month. That is 300 sandwiches a month – actually, more if there happen to be five Fridays or five Saturdays. When I begin to think of how much of a commitment this will be, I have to remind myself that there are six other days of the week that we will be moving about our daily lives eating more than one peanut butter and jelly sandwich for the day.

When we meet for our Gathering this Sunday, we will have sign-up sheets with an invitation to participate in whichever way you are able. I pray that we will offer from the cornucopia of our overflowing hearts our time, our talents and our finances to make this possible for our brothers and sisters on the streets. It may seem like a lot of work and commitment, but I know that our work and commitment can be a cornucopia of overflowing love for someone who may be experiencing the hardship and hunger of life on the streets.

Matthew 25:35-36
For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

May we embrace every brother and every sister with the love with which Francis embraced the leper.

Peace to you and your families,

Israela

Formation Schedule

November

Candidates (Year 1 and Year 2) and Formators: please refer to direct communication from Formation Director, Frances Lucero, for November class details.

Friendship and Fraternity

Active Fraternity Members:

Please make your November visits to your Homebound members and in-quire about anything they may like or need for the upcoming Christmas sea-son.

Also, when visiting homebound, take a form for their excused absence sta-tus with the Fraternity. The form will be provided to you at the Gathering. Please assist your homebound member in completing their form, if needed, and have them sign form.

Friendship and Fraternity

Adrian Montoya and Lisa Trujillo (not pictured) visited Pat Rocco in late Octo-ber.

Pat had clothing and shoes to donate to the Francis House and household goods for St. Vincent de Paul. Pat shared that since becoming a Franciscan, she has stopped shopping and is living more simply. A great example for all of us who want to live the Gospel as St. Francis did! See this month's Rule Reflection on page 6 for more to consider.

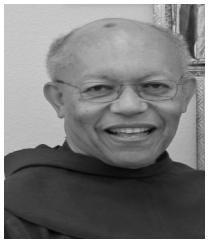
Israela Garcia enjoys a visit with Marilyn Migliarini.

Save the Dates T

The International Day of Secular Franciscan Solidarity will be recognized on November 17, 2025, the feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary. For more information, see the email sent to you titled, "NAFRA-RVM International Day of Secular Franciscan Solidarity."

Reminder: 2026 Secular Franciscan Order "Q" (21st Quinquennial Congress), a national gathering for Secular Franciscans to renew their calling and celebrate with their family. It will take place from July 29 to August 2, 2026, in Lexington, Kentucky, at the Griffin Gate Marriott Golf Resort & Spa. Early bird registration through 12/31/2025 at https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/21st-quinquennial-congress-q2026/

Spiritual Assistant's Message



Dearest sisters and brothers in St. Francis,

This year continues to zip by. In less than two months, it'll be a be a new year.

Also, I'm still amazed and thankful that our "new" Pope is a native person from the U.S. (May God continue to direct him courageously.)

Another thing that I reflect in awe the date November 28. This is yet another Marian feast. You probably remember the sad and shocking violence that drenched the nation of Rwanda in blood and gore because of its genocidal civil war in 1981. The two warring tribal sides were the Hutus [HOO-tooz] and the Tutsis [TUT-zeez]. Although each group was a mix of tribal and Catholic religions, the tribal part prevailed in a butchering war lasting about 100 intense days and nights.

Amazingly, about a year or so before this, Mary had a series of appearances to the villagers of Kiebeho [KEE-beh-ho] warning them a bloody catastrophe if they didn't turn from their tribal hatred to forgiveness through praying the Rosary–particularly the Sorrowful Mysteries. Eventually, the carnage of everyone (including the elderly, sick, pregnant women, and innocent children) ended. Mary's apparitions resumed by way of several devout "visionaries."

The local bishop asked that the Vatican sent a delegation of officials to investigate the circumstances, miraculous events, and cures that hundreds continued to experience or witness. After many months, the Vatican officials confirmed the events at Kiebeho, Rwanda. Mary asked to be known as "Mother of the Word." On November 28, 2005 the Vatican granted her request, along with other pious devotional practices.

Mother of the Word, guide us to reconciliation with our Franciscan sisters and brothers through an increased devotion to living the Gospel to life and living our lives to mirror the Gospel.

Br. Gordon, O.F.M., Fraternity Spiritual Assistant

Fraternity News

Fraternity members, Adrian Montoya, OFS, and Lisa Trujillo (Candidate Year 2) entered into the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony on Saturday, November 8, 2025, at Holy Family Church in Albuquerque. Congratulations to the newlyweds!

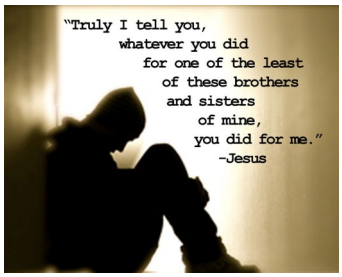
Ideas for Helping at the Franics House during the Christmas Season

Did you know Francis House is one of the only feeding sites open in the International District on holidays?

If you would like to make PB&J, ham and cheese sandwiches, or soup **on** the holidays in December and January, please text or call Stella Lavis at (505) 448-5748 for more details.

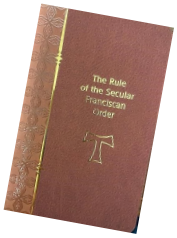
Baking cookies over the holidays? Why not make an extra batch or two for Francis House? Please place cookies in ziplock-style bags and deliver any day the Francis House is open. The Francis House is located at 8016 Zuni Rd. SE, Abq, NM 87108

Hours:
Mon and Tue 8 am to 10 am
Fri and Sat 8 am to 12:30 pm
Sun 8 am to 11 am



Matthew 25:40

Reflecting on the OFS Rule



Rule Eleven

Trusting in the Father, Christ chose for himself and his mother a poor and humble life, even though he valued created things attentively and lovingly. Let the Secular Franciscans seek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs. Let them be mindful, that according to the gospel, they are stewards of the goods received for the benefit of God's children. Thus, in the spirit of "The Beatitudes", and as pilgrims and strangers on their way to the home of the Father, they should strive to purify their hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power.

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

Simple living also takes shape by reducing material needs, by curbing a thirst for possessions and the domineering power that comes from ownership, and by using all God's gifts in a spirit of generosity, justice, and moderation. Gospel poverty for Secular Franciscans, then, consists in acquiring possessions justly, keeping needs to a minimum, and using what they have as custodians for the generous benefit of others. In this way, they live for the kingdom of God and not for this world, according to the charter for happiness given in "The Beatitudes."

Treasurer's Report

	SAINT ANTHONY FRATERNITY, OFS			
	TWO MONTH FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR	**2025 September**	**2025 October**	
	MONTHLY NUMBER OF DONORS	10	14	*Thank you!*
#	**INCOME**			
1	**Regular Contributions:**	495.00	655.00	
2	**Endowment Interest:**	99.17	86.95	
	Exception Income:			
3	**Calendars**	0.00	0.00	
4	**Books**	0.00	0.00	
5	**Subtotal Exception Income (Item 3+4)**	0.00	0.00	
6	**TOTAL INCOME (Items 1+2+5)**	594.17	741.95	
7	**Transfer from Savings:**			
8	**TOTAL DEPOSITED (Checking Acct.) (Items 6+7)**	594.17	741.95	
	EXPENSES			
	RECURRING:			
	Spiritual Assistant Stipend	100.00	100.00	
	Council Administration Supplies	0.00	0.00	
	Infirmarian Team (Misc. Expenses)	0.00	61.49	
	Formation Expenses	0.00	0.00	
	Newsletter Admin. Supplies/Printing	0.00	0.00	
	Newsletter Postage	0.00	156.00	
	Website Fee:	0.00	180.00	
	Apostolate: Poor Clares (Donation)	100.00	100.00	
	Apostolate: Franciscan Friars (Donation)	100.00	100.00	
	Fair Share to Regional:	0.00	0.00	
	Contengency Fund (Transfer to Savings)	50.00	50.00	
9	**Subtotal Recurring Expenses:**	350.00	747.49	
	EXCEPTIONAL EXPENSES			
	Rite of Admission Retreat Supplies (snacks, refreshments, tableware, docorations)	0.00	464.02	
10	**Subtotal Exception Expenses:**	0.00	464.02	
11	**TOTAL EXPENSES (Items 9+10)**	350.00	1,211.51	
12	**BEGINNING BALANCE (Checking Acct.)**	4,192.96	4,437.13	
	ENDING BALANCE (Checking Acct.) (Items 8-11+12)	4,437.13	3,967.57	
	CONTINGENCY FUND: (Available Savings Funds)			
	Beginning Balance	5,146.57	5,197.61	
	Transfer from Expenses	50.00	50.00	
	Earned Dividend	1.04	1.09	
	TOTAL CONTINGENCY FUND	5,197.61	5,248.70	

Fraternity Contacts:

Minister Israela Garcia	**505-450-5267**	**director@bailabaila.com**
Vice-Minister Nancy Singh	**865-389-4353**	**singh_nancy@yahoo.com**
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
P.O. Box 6881
Albuquerque, New Mexico
87197-6881
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.