St. Anthony Fraternity Newsletter

September 2025

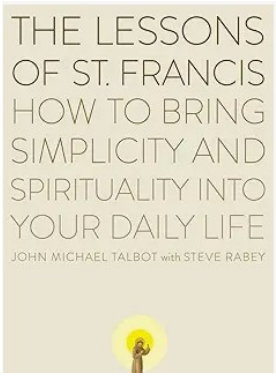
August Fraternity Gathering
Focused on St. Clare of Assisi (1193-1253)

In honor of her August 11 feast day, the August 24, 2025 Fraternity Gathering began with a prayer service led by Vice Minister Nancy Singh, which focused on St. Clare of Assisi.

Before St. Clare was born, her mother, Ortolana, stood before the cross praying that the Lord would help her in the danger of childbirth. She heard a voice that told her she would give birth to a great light, which would illuminate the world. St. Clare's faith and devotion to the Crucified Christ continue to lead others closer to God, the one true light.

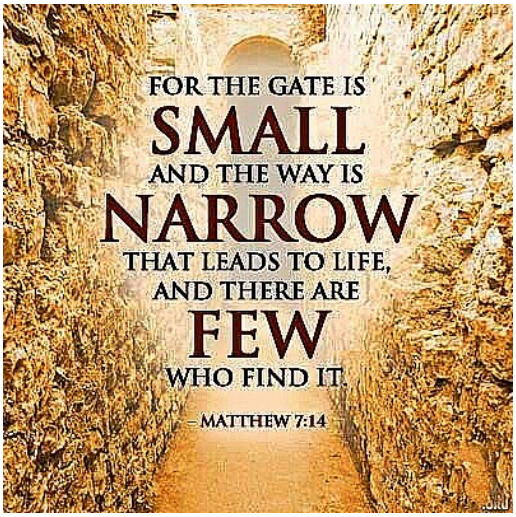
From a young age, Clare had always loved God. However, something changed once she heard St. Francis preach about God's love. Suddenly, deep within her soul, she felt a longing for a closer, more personal relationship with Jesus. God had used Francis to plant a seed in her that would slowly mature over time. The waiting to leave her privileged life of nobility and join Francis in poverty was difficult, but she trusted God to show her the way and the time.

"Let us be very careful therefore that, if we have set out on the path of the Lord, we do not at any time turn away from it through our own fault or negligence or ignorance, nor that we offend so great a Lord and his Virgin Mother, and our blessed Father Francis…." —Testament of St. Clare.



The Fraternity then read together and discussed Chapter 2, "Simplicity" (pages 21-25) from the book *The Lessons of St Francis* by John Michael Talbot.

Spiritual Assistant, Brother Gordon Boykin, spoke with the Fraternity on the Gospel reading of the prayer service, "the narrow gate." Matthew 7:12-14.



Important Dates and Reminders

September

- **Council Meeting** September 12 at 10:00 a.m. at A Becoming Place | 1350 Lakeview Rd SW
- **Fraternity Gathering:** September 28 **2:00 p.m.** at A Becoming Place | 1350 Lakeview Rd SW

Please bring to gathering:

- Christian Prayer book for the Liturgy of the Hours.
- *The Lessons of St Francis* by John Michael Talbot. The August gathering will focus on Chapter 2 "Simplicity," (only pages 26-31). 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 2:

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

Our Fraternity's August donation to the St. Felix Pantry was 66 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
10/10/25 | 10:00 a.m.	10/26/25 | 2:00 - 5:00 PM
11/7/25 | 10:00 a.m.	11/16/25 | **1:00 - 4:00 PM**
	** *Note new time in November.* **

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

November 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

Minister's Message

Sisters and Brothers in Christ and Francis,

The first thing I would like to do is offer thanks for the opportunities that I have had to serve you as Minister of our local Fraternity. We often discuss servant leadership when elections are near, or when we have an event or celebration to plan.

When I was in formation, I would look forward to the next step of my journey in formation which included different celebrations and planned retreats. I had the luxury of just "showing up" to enjoy the wonderful feast of all the wisdom I would be fed during the Retreats, Visitations and Professions. I was never disappointed and remember feeling as though I would be happy being in formation forever!

When we are called by the Holy Spirit to a religious vocation, there is joy – true joy. There is the feeling that we have finally found what has been missing in our lives and that we have found our place in the order of God's plan. We make our Profession and feel that we have "arrived"… We will see other people joining us at Gatherings wanting to know more about our Order, we will meet people randomly who ask us what our Tau represents and why we wear it every day. This is FUN!!!

What we are oblivious to is that we will not be comfortable for very long. Yes, we live Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel, but there is work to do. I can personally attest to what goes on "backstage". There are so many good Franciscans doing the work necessary to keep our Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis alive. From our Local Fraternities to the Regional, National and International levels, there is continuous movement to assure that our Order will, not only survive, but thrive. Our Franciscan family has survived 800 years thus far, and that is why our 800 th Centenary is so important. We are a link in the chain that will connect us to the future generations of Franciscans.

As Secular Franciscans, we live our lives in the secular world, and it can be challenging at times. Not that community or cloistered life would be any easier – everyone has their purpose and mission. In whatever position or Order we are, each one must be a leader because others are depending on us to continue the mission of our Seraphic Father, Francis.

I encourage everyone to register for our upcoming retreat on Saturday, October 11 at Casa Guadalupe – Franciscan Studio so that we can, once again, be fed and so that we can help those being prepared for the Rite of Admission on October 26 during our Gathering. Registration Forms will be sent by email to the Fraternity and will also be available at our September Gathering. Please invite other members of our Franciscan Family to register as well.

Peace and ALL good to you, my Franciscan Family.
Your sister in Christ and Francis,
Israela

September Profession Anniversaries

Regina Lubeck September 6, 2020
Frances Lucero September 6, 2020

September Birthdays

Arthur Lente September 2
Israela Garcia September 6
Ernestine Sedillo September 6
Clare Domenici September 7
Marilyn Migliarini September 11
Lisa Trujillo September 16

Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Our Fraternity was blessed to witness the ordination to priesthood of three Franciscan Friars from the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe on August 22, 2025 at Holy Family Church in Albuquerque: Noé Alfaro Casas, OFS, from San Miguel de Allende, Mexico; Raphael Nnabuikem Ozoude III, OFM, born in Los Angeles, raised in Nigeria; and Matthew Thomas Ryan, OFM, from Covington Kentucky.

On August 23, 2025, five friars professed solemn vows at Holy Family Church as they committed their next step in Franciscan religious life: Br. Edgar Alberto, OFM, of El Salvador, Br. Daniel Cruz, OFM, from Blythewood, South Carolina, Br. Jimmy Kernan, OFM, from Syracuse, New York, Br. Adolfo R. Mercado, OFM, from Sacramento, California, and Br. Joshua Richter, OFM, from Hamilton, Ohio,

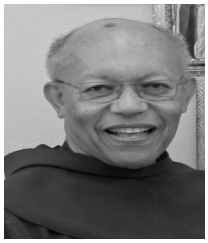
You can read and see more here: https://friars.us/article/2025/08/28/three-friars-ordained-to-priesthood and here: https://friars.us/article/2025/08/05/5-friars-to-profess-vows--3-to-be-ordained-in-august

On August 30, 2025 at Holy Family Church in Albuquerque, Father Richard Rohr, OFM, hosted a Franciscan Spirituality Event. All who attended received the words of wisdom and Franciscan perspectives he shared. His beloved dog, Opie, also took part.

OFS National Visitation

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 for Saturday's meals for non-delegates/observers is now closed.

Spiritual Assistant's Message



Dearest sisters and brothers in St. Francis,

Most of you know and understand that each Sunday is a direct celebration of the greatest mystery– the Resurrection. *Sometimes* we are surprised (during the Liturgical Season of Ordinary Time) that the focus of Sacred Scripture is *in*direct to the Resurrection. Such an occasion was Sunday, September 14: the Solemnity of the Exultation of the Holy Cross, the feastday of which, is always on September 14. But, it takes years for it to rotate to falling on a Sunday.

Recall that our beloved Francis annually chose this time for a mini-retreat. One year (1224), just three days after the solemnity, Francis reflected in prayer: "Lord, I ask you for two graces before I die: to experience in myself, as much as possible, the suffering of your cruel passion; and to feel from you the same love that drove you to sacrifice yourself for us." So the above date, over the centuries, is known as the Franciscan feast of the Holy Stigmata. Last year (2024) was the 800th commemoration of his event.

The instruction it offers for us today is that prayer is not an end in itself, or a personal amassing of God's grace, *e.g.*, "I say/said my prayers." But, simply: "I pray/-ed," thus opening ourselves to the will of *God*.

All prayer is answered*!* It's just that the answer isn't always "yes." Sometimes, the answer is "wait,"–as with St. Monica; and, sometimes, the answer may be "no," because God knows best. True and humble prayer opens us to accept God's will.

May Francis (and Clare) forever be our guides,
Br. Gordon, O.F.M.
– Fraternity Spiritual Assistant

Formation Schedule

Unless otherwise noted, classes are held at the San Jose Mission Church at 2110 Los Luceros Road NW in Albuquerque.

September

- Candidacy (1st year) September 13, 2025 - FJ - Chapter 29: Servant Leadership
- Inquiry September 13, 2025 - FUN - Franciscan Movement II
- Formator Class 3 September 19, 2025 - General Constitutions on the Council and Formation
- Candidacy (2nd year) September 27, 2025 FJ - Chapter 30: Fraternity Life
- Inquiry September 27, 2025 LOH - Session I

October

Retreat: October 11, 2025 8am to 4:30pm, at Casa Guadalupe/Franciscan Studio, 1204 Stinson St. SW, Albuquerque, NM

- Formator Class 4 October 24, 2025 - FUN Manual and Pathway to Profession
- Candidacy (2nd year) - October 25, 2025 FUN - Francis and Fraternity
- Inquiry October 25, 2025 (FJ) LOH - Session II

Letter from the Poor Clares

Poor Clare Monastery
of Our Lady of Guadalupe
809 East Nineteenth Street
Roswell, New Mexico 88201-7599

Peace and blessings
July 5, 2025

Our dear Brothers and Sisters in St. Francis,

The weeks following Pentecost were a feast of feasts in the Church's liturgical calendar. We pray that you have received many blessings from our Lord as we celebrated so many of the facets of our faith. Corpus Christi is a favorite, and this year it was doubly so as we closed years of the Eucharistic Revival, united with Catholics throughout the country in thanking God for all that has taken place. We pray that it is a stepping stone into a stronger and more vibrant Eucharistic life for many. It has already borne much fruit and has been an inspiration for us as we look for ways we can better love Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

As summer proceeds we look forward to celebrating the golden jubilee of our Mother Abbess, thanking God for all the graces of these fifty years of her Poor Clare life. Preparations are well underway with extra choir practices and various surprises in the works. It will be a great day indeed, leading us into the novena of our Mother St. Clare.

We are always so grateful for your faithful and faith-filled generosity – and image of God's sacrificial love. We ask Him to care for you and your families in every best way and guide you in your lives of service to His Gospel.

Gratefully, in our Mother St. Clare,

Your Poor Clare Sisters

"Thank you for the birthday card with all the notes from my brothers and sisters! It was really special to me. Please let everyone know ho much I appreciate it!
Peace and all good," ~Marilyn Migliarini

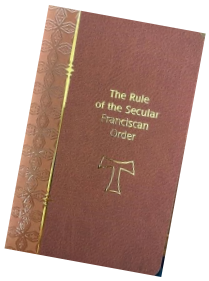
Reflecting on the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

Rule Nine

The Virgin Mary, humble servant of the Lord, was open to his every word and call. She was embraced by Francis with indescribable love and declared the protectress and advocate of his family15 . The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently.

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

First of all, Mary's self□giving and prayer are set up as the primary example of gospel living. Devotion to her has always been a hallmark of the Franciscan calling, both as a way of expressing love for her and as an important way of finding Jesus himself.



Treasurer's Report

	SAINT ANTHONY FRATERNITY, OFS		
	TWO MONTH FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR	2025 July	2025 August	Comments
	MONTHLY NUMBER OF DONORS	10	14	*Thank you!*
#	**INCOME**			
1	**Regular Contributions:**	495.00	705.00	
2	**Endowment Interest:**	86.95	73.28	
	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)**	581.95	778.28	
7	**Transfer from Savings:**			
8	**TOTAL DEPOSITED (Checking Acct.) (Items 6+7)**	581.95	778.28	
	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	60.42	67.85	
	Newsletter Admin. Supplies/Printing	19.20	0.00	
	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:**	429.62	417.85	
	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)**	429.62	417.85	
12	**BEGINNING BALANCE (Checking Acct.)**	3,680.20	3,832.53	
	ENDING BALANCE (Checking Acct.) (Items 8-11+12)	3,832.53	4,192.96	
	CONTINGENCY FUND: (Available Savings Funds)			
	Beginning Balance	5,044.41	5,095.48	
	Transfer from Expenses	50.00	50.00	
	Earned Dividend	1.07	1.09	
	TOTAL CONTINGENCY FUND	5,095.48	5,146.57	

Fraternity Contacts:

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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
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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.