

St. Anthony Fraternity Newsletter

August 2026

Fraternity's Pre-Profession Retreat for Candidates was held in July

The St. Anthony Fraternity Council, along with other Fraternity members, planned a spirit-filled pre-profession retreat for its six candidates and all Fraternity members at the Norbertine Community's Santa de la Vid Abbey in Albuquerque's South Valley. All enjoyed the amazing retreat!

On Friday, July 17, the retreat began with an opening prayer and a welcoming by Minister Israela Garcia. Father Arthur Anderson, OFM, gave an opening talk.

The retreatants then gathered in the Abbey's church for Compline (nighttime prayer), which was followed by a social gathering. Retreatants enjoyed music and singing by Rita, Mia, and Linda, all who support the Archdiocese of Santa Fee 100 mile Pilgrimage Walk for Vocations.

On Saturday, July 18, retreatants gathered again in the Abbey Church for Lauds (morning prayer) and after enjoyed breakfast together. Father Arthur Anderson then spoke at the morning conference. Fraternity formation candidate Angela Ortiz and her granddaughter then performed a liturgical dance set to scripture and music. Retreatants then participated in activities of their choosing, including confession, Eucharistic Adoration, meditative walks on walking trails, a labyrinth, a Way of the Cross, or visits to the Norbertine Library.

Next, retreatants participated in the Absorbeat Prayer led by Spiritual Assistant Brother Gordon Boykin, OFM. After lunch, participants enjoyed personal reflection time and additional opportunities for confession.

The afternoon rounded out with another talk from Fr. Arthur Anderson, OFM. Minister Israela Garcia led the group in Franciscan Facts and FUN. All attended a 4:00 p.m. Mass in the Abbey Church, which was followed by vespers (evening prayer). See page 4 for photos.

Please Join us for the

Rite of Profession

for our Candidates:

Lisa Barczak
Martha Ramirez
Reina Romero
Geri Salazar
Ann Sims
Lisa Trujillo-Montoya

Holy Mass

August 23, 2026

2:00 p.m.

San Jose Mission Church
2010 Los Luceros
Albuquerque, NM 87104

(Fulfills Sunday obligation)

Reception Following

The Rite of Profession Mass and Reception will serve as the Fraternity's August Gathering.



Important Dates and Reminders

August

- **Council Meeting:** August 7 at 10:00 a.m. at A Becoming Place | 1350 Lakeview Rd SW
- **Fraternity Gathering:** August 23 Rite of Profession at 2:00 p.m. at the San Jose Mission Church on 2110 Los Luceros (see front cover).

You may continue to bring any donations you can make to these ministries:

- Donations of non-perishable food for the St. Felix Food Pantry. Please consider including protein-based canned items such as chicken, pasta with meat, peanut butter, tuna, and similar.
- The St. Felix Pantry is raffling a $25,000 Carrier air conditioning system donated by Affordable Service Plumbing and Heating as it works to keep up with rising demand and falling donations. Raffle tickets cost $40 each, and all proceeds will go directly toward buying food for local families. Tickets can be purchased in person at St. Felix Pantry. Tickets are on sale now through August 21, and the winner will be announced on August 22.

- Donations for the Francis House on Zuni St. Men's and Women's socks and underwear continue to be in need by the guests served. Sweats and hoodies, and men's jeans and casual pants (sizes 32, 34, 36) are always appreciated, too. Individual packages of body wipes are also on the wish list. Please pray for the ministry of the Francis House, which assists vulnerable residents of Albuquerque.

Our Fraternity's July 2026 donation to the St. Felix Pantry was **45** 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
9/4/26 | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	9/27/26 | 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
	NAFRA Zoom session at 1:00 p.m. (See page 6)
10/2/26 | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	10/25/26 | 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

The September 27th Fraternity meal will be hosted by Hospitality Group 1:
Lisa Barczak, Consuelo Chavez, Adrian Montoya, Felis Otero-Armijo, Tommie Page, Martha Ramirez, Lisa Trujillo-Montoya

Minister's Message



Sisters and Brothers in Christ and Francis,

Peace and all good! We have returned from the Quinquennial renewed and joyful! We have returned to our normal, everyday lives of living in a secular world.

What does that look like after you have just spent four entire days with fellow Franciscans from around the country and world?

While in Kentucky, we ate together, we spent time talking together, we shopped together, we laughed together, we sang together and we prayed together. We had time to share our experiences with others through the Little Fraternities as well as in spontaneous conversations that were struck up by just seeing someone wearing the Tau. We were reunited with old friends and made new friends. Those four days flew by…

Again, what does returning to our secular world look like?

To me, it looks like we have much work to do… we must work extra hard at holding on to the peace and joy that we shared at the "Q". We need to share our "Q" experience with the rest of our Fraternity so that we can spread that peace and joy to our brothers and sisters who could not attend. One of our sisters who attended the "Q" even mentioned that we should have a Mini "Q" in our Region!

I am happy that we were all inspired by all that we learned and shared with our extended Franciscan family. I was thrilled that some of our Candidates were able to attend the "Q" and it has been especially satisfying for me to watch our Candidates grow in their faith and wonder.

I hope to see many of you at the Profession of our six Candidates. I understand that not everyone can attend, so I ask you to keep us all in prayer – especially our Candidates as they profess to a NEW way of life in Francis and Christ.

May we all continue to pray for and bless one another as we continue on our journey and **<u>do what is ours to do</u>.**

Paz y Bien,

Your servant minister - Israela

August Birthdays

Nancy Singh August 13
Ann Sims August 20





No Profession Anniversaries in

July 17-18, 2026 Pre-Profession Retreat





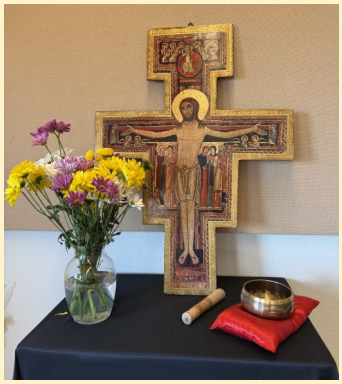
Saturday 18 July 2026

Morning Conference (9:30-10:30AM)

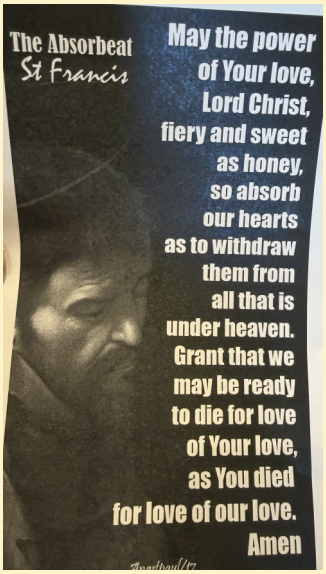
Antiphon: "In God's Presence"
In God's presence, there is comfort;
in God's presence, there is peace.
When we seek to know God's heart,
we will find such blessed assurance
in the presence of our God.















"We're proof that the Spirit that called Francis is calling us."
— Fr. Arthur Anderson



Fraternity Members attended the 2026 "Q"







Archbishop Gabriele Giordano Caccia is Papal Nuncio (Apostolic Nuncio) to the United States and presided . at the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) Quinquennial Congress.

Photos and videos from the Q can be found here: https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/updates-from-the-q-july-29th-through-august-1st-2026/

What did you enjoy the most about the Q?

"I enjoyed sharing with my sisters and brothers in my Little Fraternity!" — Gerry Rohrkemper, OFS



"Participating in the Holy Mass and receiving the Blessed Eucharist offered by the Papal Nuncio was truly spiritual and a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Our National Minister and sister, Jane De Rose-Bamman, and the Papal Nuncio, proved to be joyful and inspiring as they participated in the entertaining talent show!" — Reina Romero

"What I enjoyed the most about the Q. Wow, It wasn't just one thing, the masses, daily LOH, daily presentations and Eucharistic Adoration meeting new Secular Franciscans all set in a beautiful setting. It was great!" — Martha Ramirez

"Being able to reconnect with former fraternity members and other Secular Franciscans was truly a gift. I was able to converse with others during the meals, liturgies, and social activities, which broadened my understanding of what is occurring in different parts of the country and how they are implementing the Rule." — Nancy Singh, OFS



Reina Romero and National Spiritual Assistant, Fr. John DeLaRiva, OFM Cap.

"I enjoyed leading the "Little Fraternities" each day of the Q and reconnecting with our brothers and sister from the US and abroad. I pray that St. Francis' Easter may impress on us his life long prayerfulness in nature and his lifelong embrace of Perfect Joy. May we Rekindle the Flame of St. Francis' Easter by sharing our Q experiences with our local St. Anthony Fraternity. — Frances Lucero, OFS

Formation Schedule

All sessions held at the San Jose Mission at
2110 Los Luceros Rd. NW.

Candidacy 1



August 29, 2026 1pm - 3pm
(FJ) Chapter 19: **A Simple Way to Live**

September 12, 2026 1pm - 3pm
(FJ) Chapter 20: **Freedom to Love**



Save the Date for the last NAFRA Centenary Zoom Event!

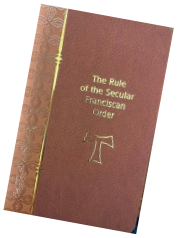
We will celebrate the 800th anniversary of St. Francis' transitus.

Sunday, September 27, 2026
1:00 p.m. Mountain Time

We will watch together before our 2:00 p.m. September Gathering at A Becoming Place. Those who need to can watch the event from home via Zoom. (Reach out to Gerry or Israela if you need to link to register.)

More information is forthcoming.

Reflecting on the OFS Rule



Rule Twenty

The Secular Franciscan Order is divided into fraternities of various levels — local, regional, national, and international. Each one has its own moral personality in the Church . These various fraternities are coordinated and united according to the norm of this Rule and of the Constitutions.

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

Ordinarily, the gospel life of Secular Franciscans outlined in the second chapter is developed and sustained within the framework of an organized community, called a fraternity, in each locality. Hence, "fraternity" is the topic of chapter three. These fraternities are living and active communities. They serve as expressions of loving and trusting relationships between members and as a legal unit of government. They exist on various levels and have their own special character. They are given life and direction by their lay leadership and particular characteristics by their local needs. They exist with the approval of the Church and are nurtured by new members who have been prepared for commitment. Their meetings and contributions express their will to, and sense of, community. Their spiritual growth is developed through the assistance of clergy and Religious.

The chapter begins with outlining fraternity as the characteristic of all Secular Franciscan groupings, whether local, regional, national, or international. A new dimension given to Secular Franciscan life because of this paragraph is an awareness of (and, hence, a mandate to achieve) a fraternity spirit and style operating on levels beyond that of the local fraternity. Regional, national, or international groupings are not just a federation of independent, semi-autonomous fraternities or a forum for exchange, but actually a fully operating community with its own character, interactivity and authority as defined by the statutes.

Treasurer's Report

	SAINT ANTHONY FRATERNITY #101, OFS TWO MONTH FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR	2026 June	2026 July	Comments
	MONTHLY NUMBER OF DONORS	19	17	*Thank you!*
#	**INCOME**			
1	**Fair Share / Regular Contributions:**	495.00	516.00	
2	**Endowment Interest:**	83.10	87.32	
	Exception Income:			
3.1	**Donations for Pre Profession Retreat**	0.00	140.00	
3.2	**Pre Profession Overnight Lodging at Abbey**	310.00	270.00	
3.3	**Ritual Book Purchase**	15.00	0.00	
4	**Memorial Donations for Mary Lou Navarez**	180.00	0.00	
5	**Subtotal Exception Income (Item 3+4)**	505.00	410.00	
6	**TOTAL INCOME (Items 1+2+5)**	1,083.10	1,013.32	
7	**Transfer from Savings:**	0.00	2,000.00	*transfer from savings for Pre Profession Retreat*
8	**TOTAL DEPOSITED (Checking Acct.) (Items 6+7)**	1,083.10	3,013.32	
	EXPENSES			
	RECURRING:			
	Spiritual Assistant Stipend	100.00	100.00	
	Council Administration Supplies	0.00	0.00	*Annual PO Box renewal*
	Infirmarian Team (Misc. Expenses)	116.21	0.00	*Postage and Supplies*
	Formation Expenses	0.00	45.95	*Printing and Supplies*
	Newsletter Admin. Supplies/Printing	0.00	23.90	*Printing*
	Newsletter Postage	0.00	82.00	*Postage*
	Website Fee:	0.00	0.00	
	Apostolate: Poor Clares (Donation)	100.00	100.00	
	Apostolate: Franciscan Friars (Donation)	100.00	100.00	
	Apostolate: Francis House Catholic Worker (Donation	0.00	0.00	
	Fair Share to Regional:	0.00	0.00	
	Contingency Fund (Transfer to Savings)	50.00	50.00	
9	**Subtotal Recurring Expenses:**	466.21	501.85	
	EXCEPTIONAL EXPENSES			
	Pre Profession Retreat Norbertine Spirituality Center	0.00	2,258.00	*Venue fee: rooms, conference rooms, breakfast*
	Pre Profession Retreat Food	0.00	301.08	*Food, Snacks and Drinks*
	Pre Profession Retreat Prinitng	0.00	87.06	*Printing*
	H20 Project Donation	234.34	0.00	*Region to forward to H20 Project*
	Visitation Donation to Our Lady of Guadalupe Region	200.00	0.00	
	St Anthony & Espiritu Santo Holy Family Church Banner	250.00	0.00	
10	**Subtotal Exception Expenses:**	684.34	2,646.14	
11	**TOTAL EXPENSES (Items 9+10)**	1,150.55	3,147.99	
12	**BEGINNING BALANCE (Checking Acct.)**	2,711.60	2,644.15	
	ENDING BALANCE (Checking Acct.) (Items 8-11+12)	2,644.15	2,509.48	
	CONTINGENCY FUND: (Available Savings Funds)			
	Beginning Balance	5,630.96	5,682.12	
	Transfer from Expenses	50.00	50.00	
	Earned Dividend	1.16	0.82	
	Transfer from Savings to Income	0.00	-2,000.00	*transfer to checking for Pre Profession Retreat*
	TOTAL CONTINGENCY FUND	5,682.12	3,732.94	

Thank you to everyone who contributes to our Fraternity's Fair Share - your support helps keep our fraternity living out our charism together. Peace and All Good.



Fraternity Contacts:

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Councilor 2 Tommie Page	**505-452-0915**	**pagetomasita@gmail.com**
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https://franciscansalbuquerque.sfousa.org/

Find us on Facebook: Secular Franciscan Order—OFS-St. Anthony Fraternity, Albuquerque NM

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.