

March 2018
Volume 20, Issue 3

Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis
Order Franciscan Secular
Five Franciscan Martyrs Region
St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity
St. Petersburg, Florida



St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity meets every third Sunday of the month, except July and August, at 10:30 a.m. in the Conference Rm, Most Holy Name of Jesus, 5800 15 Ave So, Gulfport FL 33707

Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis

ORDER FRANCISCAN SECULAR

St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity Newsletter

<https://www.facebook.com/OFSPadua/>

The Minister's Message

by Bob Johnston OFS

A Joyous Celebration

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Formation Director:

D. Susan Pivec, OFS

Councilors-at-Large:

Loretta Johnston, OFS

Frederic Wheeler, OFS

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What is a profession? The act of taking the vows of a religious community, a principal calling, or vocation. (Webster dictionary definition.) I think it is that definition that perfectly defines the "why" we are here today. We as Secular Franciscans are unique in that we are an approved religious order in the church. We do not take vows in the clerical sense but we do make a solemn promise to remain a part of the OFS as a lifetime commitment. This is not to be taken lightly, and we know as we completed the formation of the candidates today that they are clear in their promise and commitment to this fraternity and to the larger Franciscan family.

As I think back to my own life I often spoke with Loretta about the feeling that I would have become a formal Religious if we had not been married and I often said that I had wished that there was a place for secular people to formally commit themselves to the service of the church in a way similar to those in religious life. I always remembered my commitment to the Franciscans and even though I was inactive for many years my heart was always connected to our fraternity.

As we celebrate Betsy, Elena, and Judy's profession we are made richer for their promise and it speaks to our fraternity that God still is at work in all of us through our commitment to one another and the Church.

We must always re-commit ourselves whenever we celebrate these professions and realize again that we are forming a lifelong promise to love, serve, and minister to our group and to the church as we empty ourselves in service to each other and fraternity.

It is critical in the age in which we live that we recognize that without our hands, Christ and Francis has no-one with which to reach out to the world around us. Without our hearts, Christ's heart full of love cannot be brought to those we interact with. Without our mind's focused in prayer and service to the people in our own unique worlds, Christ's love may not reach the very people who are most important to us. We, in a very special way can be the body of Christ love present in the world in a way that the more formal Religious may not be in a position to accomplish.

We thank the professed today and welcome you fully into the Franciscan family and know beyond doubt that you will expend yourselves in service, love and joy to the world around you.

Thank you Elena, Betsy and Judy and welcome to your home in the Secular Franciscans!!!

CONGRATULATIONS to our newly professed members!!!



Judy Born is a retired librarian and organized the library collections at St. Mary Our Lady of Grace, which includes our Secular Franciscan collection. She's a Daystar volunteer and has served as a Eucharistic Minister to the sick for many years. She enjoys spending time with family, friends and her two miniature dachshunds.

She's the proud mother of Carina and Erik, and helps care for her granddaughter, Georgia. Judy's two sisters, Janet and Rose, still live in Michigan and were able to join us today. Judy has a degree in Soviet Area Studies from Michigan State University and a Master's degree in Library Science from the University of Michigan. She is currently improving her Russian language skills for a Russian River Cruise this summer with her college roommate.

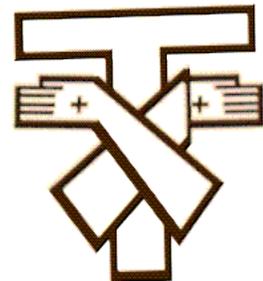


Elena Kelly I am following in my mother's footsteps, I will be professing as a Franciscan on March 18th. My hope is that the good Lord will bless me with keeping an open, spiritual mind & heart, accepting without judgement those who enter my life. Paz y bien.



Betsy O. West, was born and raised in Michigan, married and has two grown children and one grandson. In the 1980s she went back to finish her college degree and earned a BA and MFA from Hunter College, NY, NY (studio Art and second BA in creative writing). During that time, she worked in New York City in a large law firm as a support staff member. About 1980 she became a member at St. Ignatius Loyola Church in Manhattan. She bought and still owns a house in Utica, New York when her schedule allowed her to be in Utica Friday through Monday, where she attended St. Frances De Sales church and Historic St. John's Church, and became active in those church communities.

Over the years Betsy has taught various private creative writing workshops and art classes, has produced art and has had various other jobs and interests. Betsy retired in 2008, moved to St. Petersburg in 2009, where for several years she basically was her father's health advocate (although she says he was quite healthy despite being in his 90s). She is currently a member at Espiritu Santo Church in Safety Harbor, and works with homeless people when she can.



Profession Anniversary Congratulations!



Joan Keefe, OFS 4/2/61
Joseph Halloran, OFS 4/8/90
Rosalie Coyne, OFS 4/17/83
Francine Mailhot, OFS 4/21/85

Happy Birthday!



Barbara Oshesky, OFS 4/04
Mike Mendez, OFS 4/13
Jason Johns, OFS 4/17
Jim Gillis, OFS 4/18
Bob Johnston, OFS 4/22



Goodie Table

Assigned to bring refreshments for the
April Fraternity meeting.
Jim Gillis
Jason Johns
Bob Johnston



THE FINAL DAYS OF JESUS
March 24th 10:00am to 2:30pm
At Most Holy Name Of Jesus, Gulfport FL
Fr Jack McDowell OFM Presenter

The journey will begin after the morning Mass, and end with confessions from 2:30 to 4:00 pm. We will have additional priests available for confessions.

Light refreshments will be provided between Mass and the retreat. Bring a bag lunch for the afternoon break. If you would like to order a bag lunch for \$5 contact the office to pre-order.

Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.
Phil 2:8-9



Ongoing Formation

by D Susan Pivec, OFS

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Franciscan Focus

Therefore, as the truth of the man of God's simple teaching and life became known to many, some men began to be moved to penance and, abandoning all things, joined him in habit and life. The first among these was Bernard, a venerable man, who was made a sharer in the divine vocation and merited to be the firstborn son of the blessed Father, both in priority of time and in the gift of holiness.

For this man, as he was planning to reject the world perfectly after his example, once he had ascertained for himself the holiness of Christ's servant sought his advice on how to carry this out. On hearing this, God's servant was filled with consolation of the Holy Spirit over the conception of his first child. "This requires counsel from God", he said.

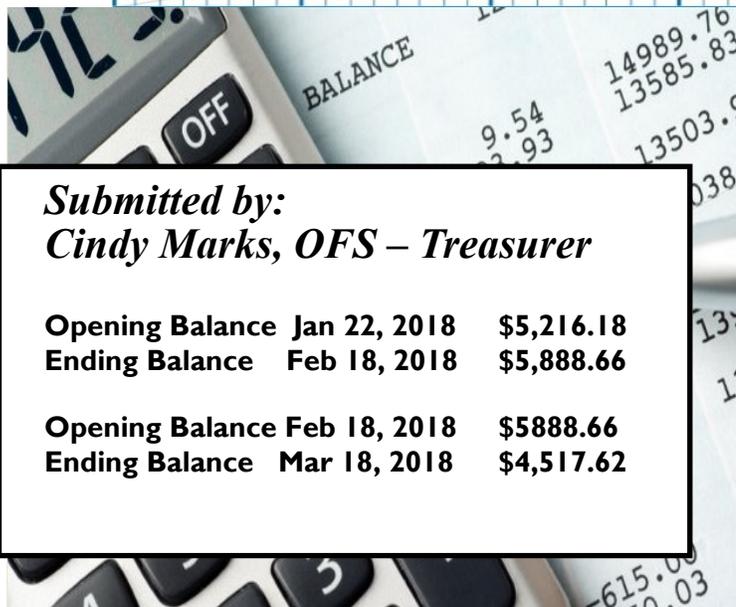
When morning had broken they went into the church of Saint Nicholas, and after they had prepared with prayer, Francis, a worshiper of the Trinity, opened the book of the Gospels three times asking God to confirm Bernard's plan with a threefold testimony. At the first opening of the book this text appeared: 'If you will be perfect, go, sell all that you have, and give to the poor.' At The second: 'Take nothing on your journey.' And at the third: 'If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.' "This is our life and rule," the holy man said, "and that of all who wish to join our company. Go, then, if you wish to be perfect, and carry out what you have heard."

Reflection Questions

Ongoing Formation:

- 1) Francis took these words of the gospel literally and made them the basis of his life. Which Scripture passages have impacted your life and aided your vocation?
- 2) How have these Scriptures impacted your Franciscan journey?

TREASURER'S REPORT



*Submitted by:
Cindy Marks, OFS – Treasurer*

Opening Balance	Jan 22, 2018	\$5,216.18
Ending Balance	Feb 18, 2018	\$5,888.66
Opening Balance	Feb 18, 2018	\$5888.66
Ending Balance	Mar 18, 2018	\$4,517.62

PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE OUR FRATERNITY IN YOUR PLANNING OF CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Withdrawals from 401(k)s and IRAs become required after age 70½.

WHY NOT CONSIDER A CHARITABLE DONATION “TAX FREE” to the St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity.

ANOTHER WAY to keep our fraternity financially sound is to **Create a bequest.** (Simply put a paragraph of instruction in your will or attach a codicil for this purpose. You can request a copy of a codicil for this purpose from our Treasurer.) You can accomplish much the same result by adding the name of our fraternity to your IRA or life insurance policy beneficiary form.

Living My Franciscan Vocation

Sometimes we need to re-visit our Franciscan vocation and ask whether we are truly living as Franciscans. Of course, a daily review of our rule would be helpful and support us on our journey. We could also ask ourselves the following questions to help stay on track:

Do I have an intense love of the Eucharist and a desire to stay close to our Lord Jesus Christ through the reception of the Eucharist on a regular basis?

Do I make an effort to spend time with my Franciscan brothers and sisters—at the local fraternity and through prayer and outreach to our brothers and sisters around the world?

Have I chosen to live a simple life, allowing me to have a genuine spirituality which has no pretense?

Have I chosen to live a life of Gospel poverty. My belongings are there for my use. I am not attached to them. Thus, I am free to truly live the poverty of the Gospel.

Am I working on my humility, helping me to be free from pride and arrogance?

Do I have a true sense of minority? Am I the servant and not the superior to others?

Am I allowing God to work in my life, trusting in his unconditional love?

As part of daily conversion, am I looking at things in my life that I should change so that I can become more like Jesus?

Do I see a transformation in myself because I am open and willing?

Am I the messenger of peace in the world as Francis was—in my family, in my fraternity, in my community?

(From VOX Franciscana 19 Winter 2017-2018
By the Formation Commission)

