



# The Joyful Messenger

Winter 2025

## SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

### Five Franciscan Martyrs Region

#### REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

**Jeane Swaynos, OFS**  
Regional Minister

**Janice Novello, PhD, OFS**  
Regional Formation Director

**Marcia Stambouljian, OFS**  
Regional Secretary

**Sheila Solomon, OFS**  
Regional Vice Minister

**Karen Rooney, OFS**  
Regional Treasurer

#### REGIONAL FAMILY COUNCILORS

**Rachel Ahern, OFS**

**Mark Banschbach, OFS**

**Larry Bleau, OFS**

**Awilda Guadalupe, OFS**

**Kelly Otero, OFS**

**Margie Sweeney, MD OFS**



#### STANDING APPOINTMENTS

**Mark Banschbach, OFS**  
Webmaster

**Theresa A. Zesiewicz, OFS**  
Electronic Newsletter Editor

**Hilda Aguilera, OFS**  
Multi-Cultural Liasion

**Janice Novello, PhD OFS**  
Youth and Young Adult  
Apostolate (YouFra)

# MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Five Franciscan Martyrs Region of the Secular Franciscan Order is to walk in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi by bringing the gospel to life and life to the gospel and promoting a sanctified family life.

## Message from Jeane Swaynos, OFS FFMR Regional Minister

### Annual Chapter Meeting

Our next Annual Regional Chapter is May 16-18 at San Pedro. The registrations will be on the website at the end of March. This will be a visitation from the National region. Donna Hollis, OFS and Father Jerome Wolbert, OFM will be conducting the visitation. Father Jerome will be arriving on May 10th and leaving May 25th. We are trying to coordinate a schedule for him enabling him to visit as many fraternities as possible. *Call if you have questions. Jeane Swaynos 407-462-0808*

### Youth Day

On March 29th we will be having a day for high school students at St. Francis of Assisi in Apopka. The flyer is below.

### Past Event

GRECCIO EVENT – Here are some pictures of the presentation on January 19th at Mary, Queen of the Universe by Father Tim Daly OFS



Food Line



Mother of the Living Gospel



San Damiano in Summerfield



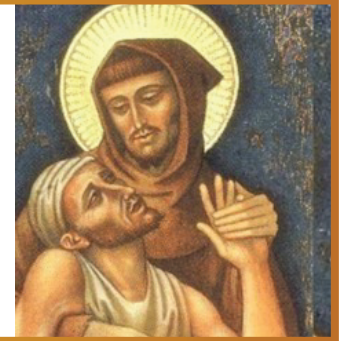
Greccio presentation





Group Picture

# FRANCISCAN YOUTH RETREAT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SATURDAY MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup> 9-4 PM



## St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

834 South Orange Blossom Trail Apopka, Florida 32703

**Presenter: Father Roy Joseph, OFM Cap.**

This is an opportunity to connect with high school students in the area. Mass and Confessions will be available along with inspirational talks and activities. Bring a friend.

**RSVP by March 22nd** - Jeane Swaynos, OFS 407-462-0808  
Lunch will be provided – Text or Call if more information is needed.

**Please bring a dish to share from your culture and small items for the poor.**

### SOME SUGGESTIONS

Soap	Razors	Long Sleeve Shirts <i>(for the migrant workers)</i>
Washcloths	Shaving Cream	Rain Ponchos <i>(for the migrant workers)</i>
Toothpaste	Belts	Men's Pants <i>(small and medium)</i>
Toothbrushes	Backpacks	Shoes
Deodorant	Hats	New Underwear <i>(especially small boxer shorts)</i>
Bug Spray	Socks	Sun Screen

**Also Present:** Father Tobias Wirmum, OFM Cap  
Father Tim Daly, OFS

# The Georgia Martyrs, Venerable Servants of God, to be Beatified

## 27 January 2025

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The Most Reverend Stephen D. Parkes, Bishop of the Diocese of Savannah, announced that on January 27, 2025, Pope Francis authorized the promulgation of the Decree concerning the martyrdom of the Servants of God Pedro de Corpa and Companions, of the Order of Friars Minor, killed in odium fidei ("hatred of the faith") in September 1597.

The publication of the Decree declaring that the friars were true martyrs for Christ is an official act that paves the way for the celebration of the rite of beatification. From this day forward and until beatification, Friar Pedro de Corpa, Friar Blas Rodríguez, Friar Miguel de Añon, Friar Antonio de Badajóz, and Friar Francisco de Veráscola are entitled to the title of "Venerables."

Details regarding the rite of beatification will be forthcoming.

From Pam Nagle, OFS:

<https://thegeorgiamartyrs.org/en/27-english/162-the-georgia-martyrs-venerable-servants-of-god-to-be-beatified>

## More News

### Jeane Swaynos, OFS, Regional Minister

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#### **Theresa Zesiewicz, OFS**

It is with a bit of sadness I write this article. Theresa Zesiewicz OFS, who has been our newsletter editor for 12 ½ years is stepping down. This is her last newsletter. She has given us a tremendous gift, and her perseverance, giving spirit, and wonderful attitude will be hard to replace. Somehow, she often made our words run smooth and seem like they were written by someone else. She now has many new and upcoming commitments that have called her away and need her energy. We are letting her go reluctantly but know the Holy Spirit will be laying the path for her to continue to grow and move forward. This remarkable Franciscan, who has written and edited our words for many years will be missed beyond words. We sadly accept this change with faith, and know she will be guided and influenced by the Holy Spirit who has so much more for her to do. This valuable asset to our Franciscan region will be called in another way. We will look to where He places her next.

**From Theresa:** Thank you to Jeane Swaynos, Marcia Stamboulion, Janice Novello, Marie Thomas and Pat Wolfert who all helped tremendously with the newsletter over the years. The job connected me to incredible people in the Region. I am amazed by your love, community, and compassion towards others. You are truly inspiring. God bless, and hope to see you around.



## **Hilda Aguilera, OFS**

Hilda has been a Family Counselor for St. Margaret of Cortona Family in the southern area for over 6 years. Due to health and family reasons, she has asked to resign. She has done so much for her fraternity and the others surrounding her, and she will be difficult to replace. She was the organizer of the only pure Spanish fraternity in the region, and performed many apostolic works with her families. I always admired how she worked through her illness and kept watch over her 6 fraternities through these past years. She may not have been able to visit, but kept watch through emails and phone calls. I remember when Brother Lombardo arrived in Miami and she hosted a dinner for Father Francis from Rome and the other Friars in the area. These are some of the many things we thank her for. She will be missed at the regional level but will remain a strong force in her local fraternity Espejo de Cristo/St. Francis of Assisi, Hialeah.

# **Newsletter Editor Position Open!**

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Due to Theresa stepping down as our “Joyful Messenger” editor, we are in search for a new editor of our newsletter. We are seeking at least one volunteer for this job who will be the main editor. The newsletter is published 4 times a year. We have a support team in place to help you with this process. If you are apprehensive, you can accept this on a trial basis. If you sense the Holy Spirit calling you for this, please step up and say YES. I assure you blessings follow. You will not be alone.

Please email me at [swaynos@cfl.rr.com](mailto:swaynos@cfl.rr.com)

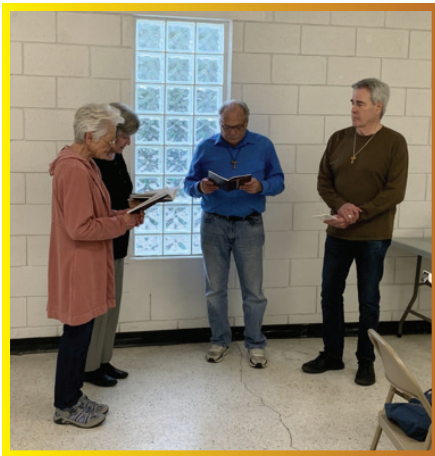
- Jeane

# News From the Fraternities

## St Bonaventure Fraternity Fleming Island

At the gathering on January 18, 2025, St. Bonaventure Fraternity in Fleming Island received Kathleen Patneau and Barbara Warren in the Rite of Admission. These candidates are the fruits of a “Come and See” event the Fraternity hosted in 2022.

It was also our first gathering in our new space at Sacred Heart Mission Church in Green Cove Springs.



And.....

On November 16, St Bonaventure Fraternity had its annual Day of Reflection for 2024. It was facilitated by Fr Nick Mormando, OFM Cap. The gathering ended with reconciliation and Mass celebrated by Fr Nick. We are looking forward to Fr Nick’s return in 2025.





# Little Flowers Fraternity

## Daytona Beach

Gale Petrizzo was professed at the Basilica of St. Paul in Daytona Beach.



Gale Petrizzo Profession  
September 14th, 2024  
(L to R)  
Marcia Stamboulia, Minister.  
Fr. Patrick Quinn, TOR, Pastor,  
Our Lady Star of the Sea, New Smyrna Beach  
Gale Petrizzo, O.F.S.



Francis & The Sultan (Our play)  
October 12th, 2024  
(L to R)  
Fr. Tim Daly, O.F.S.: The Sultan's Guard  
Marcia Stamboulia, O.F.S.: Minister  
Jim Fiori, O.F.S.: St. Francis  
William Moore, O.F.S.: Sultan Malek el-Kamil



Admission of Fr. Anthony Hamaty, O.F.S.  
December 14th, 2024  
(Front Row, L to R) Marcia Stamboulia, O.F.S: Minister | Mary Jane McMenamy, O.F.S.: Formation Director |  
Fr. Tim Daly, O.F.S. | Louise Taylor, O.F.S.: Vice Minister | Dianne Chandlee, O.F.S.: Treasurer  
(Back Row: L to R) Jim Fiori, O.F.S. | Fr. Anthony Hamaty, O.F.S.

## Padre Pio Fraternity

### Jensen Beach

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In December we had a Christmas Celebration at the Ziegler residence with a carry-in brunch, followed by games put together by our Formation Director Irene and her daughter, Christy. We also had singing of several Carols both new and old. A fun time was had by all.

January was our Day of Recollection with Fr. Nicholas Mormando. The day began with Mass by many of those who participated. Following breakfast, we opened with the Rite of Admission for Maria Burger and then handed the microphone over to Father for the morning sessions.

Following lunch, everyone had an opportunity for confession and then the day concluded with a final talk and discussion.

We were pleased to have 33 OFS members and a guest present for an inspiring, joyful day, and have already set a date for 2026

Pax et Bonum

## St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity

### Boynton Beach

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The St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity in Boynton Beach celebrated Christmas with a Potluck Luncheon on Sunday, January 5th at St. Mark Church. The fraternity members enjoyed community time along with a delightful array of entrées, salads, and delicious desserts.





**And.....**

On August 22rd, the Feast of the Queenship of Our Lady, Dan Ferron was professed as a Secular Franciscan and member of St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity at St. Mark Church. Spiritual Assistant Fr. Richard Florek, OFM Conv. was the main celebrant of the noon Mass with Pastor Fr. Bob Benko, OFM Conv., concelebrating the Mass. A lovely luncheon was held in the Madonna Room to celebrate Dan's very special day.



Dan Ferron at profession with Fr. Richard Florek, OFM Conv



Carol Knight, OFA, Dan Ferron, OFS, Sylvia Chai, OFS and Fr. Richard Florek, OFM Conv

# St. Francis of Assisi – Espejo de Cristo fraternity

## 20 Year Celebration

**St. Francis of Assisi – Espejo de Cristo fraternity** is celebrating 20 years since profession and 16 years since our fraternity was canonically established. The members celebrating the anniversary are: Maria Vidal, Julio Prosopio, Luis Montero, Reny Aguilera and Hilda Aguilera.

La fraternidad San Francisco de Asís - Espejo de Cristo está celebrando 20 años de profesión y 16 años de nuestra fraternidad canónicamente establecida. Miembros celebrando aniversario son: Maria Vidal, Julio Prosopio, Luis Montero, Reny Aguilera y Hilda Aguilera.





# San Damiano Fraternity

## Ruskin

The San Damiano Fraternity in Ruskin, Florida held our annual Epiphany Party on Sat., January 4, complete with a reenactment of the arrival of the Three Kings, a potluck luncheon, Christmas carol singing, prayer, and lots of love and laughter.



## St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity

### Gulfport, Florida

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On September 21, 2024, Fr. Randy Roberts, OFM, presented a two-hour retreat entitled “A Month of Sundays Spiritual Direction for a Postmodern World,” to the St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity in Gulfport. Fr. Randy lives in the St. Anthony Friary in St. Petersburg and is a retired Air Force and VA Chaplain.

Congratulations to Jane Huber, OFS, Joe Feraca, OFS, and Maria Elena Sisco, OFS! They were professed as Secular Franciscans and members of the St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity on November 16, 2024, at Most Holy Name of Jesus Church in Gulfport. Fr. Randy Roberts was the celebrant of the Profession Mass and Jim Gillis, OFS, was the Minister. Serving as Witnesses were Kathleen Gerber, OFS, and Lori Ann Hebert, OFS.





Pictured above from left to right: Kathleen Gerber, Lori Hebert, Jim Gillis, Jane Huber, Joe Feraca and Maria Sisco. Standing behind Maria was Fr. Randy. Judy Born, OFS, who served as one of the Readers, can be seen behind by the ambo (pictured between Jane and Joe).

After Mass, a luncheon was enjoyed in the Parish Hall by the celebrating fraternity members and guests. Shown above from left to right: Fr. Randy, Jim Gillis, Jane Huber, Joe Feraca and Maria Sisco.



Some members of the St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity (Gulfport) gathered at Cody's Original Roadhouse—Bay Pines in St. Petersburg on December 23, 2024, to have a dinner outing with homebound member Ann Hill, OFS. Shown to the left from left to right: Jim Gillis, Tom Heid, OFS, Ann Hill, and Maria Halloran, OFS. Elena Starr, OFS, sits in front on the right. Also sitting with this group but not in the picture is Diego Valencia.



Kristen Noakes-Fry, OFS, Judy Born,  
Maria Sisco and her husband Matthew.



On December 27, 2024, some members of the St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity got together at Leverock's Restaurant in St. Petersburg to visit with Priscilla Romano, OFS. Although Priscilla now resides in Warner Robins, Georgia, she has remained an active, but excused, professed member of the fraternity in Gulfport, as the nearest OFS fraternity to her home in Georgia is a two-hour drive one way.

Shown above from left to right: Grace Krist, OFS, Priscilla Romano, Tom Heid and Lori Hebert.

Shown above to the right from left to right: Judy Born, Jane Huber, Maria Halloran, and Priscilla's husband Len. Also attending this event but not in the picture is Jim Gillis.



# Our Lady of Guadalupe Fraternity

## Tallahassee

On November 24, Our Lady of Guadalupe Fraternity had a “Fransgiving” lunch with 23 professed, candidates, Spiritual Assistants-in-training, family, and friends gathered.





# San Damiano Fraternity

## Ruskin

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This past Sunday the Region celebrated Greccio at Mary Queen of the Universe. There were roughly 75 to 80 people who attended the lunch/presentation and service including both Secular Franciscans and shrine visitors/guests! We gloriously had Father Anthony celebrate the noon Mass with Father Tobias, Father Tim Daly (Diocesan priest/secular Franciscan) and Father Mark (from the shrine) concelebrating. The mass was packed, with the faithful filling the pews. There was plenty of food - physical and spiritual - and a great time to be in community with each other. With multiple fraternities preparing and bringing food we had a Franciscan feast!

Thank you to those in Lady Poverty who assisted with the food, preparations, and cleanup.

- Rita, Diane, Bill, Jeane, Tony, Ester, Victoria, Joan and Sara.  
Katherine Ramsay, OFS