



The Joyful Messenger

Spring 2026

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

Five Franciscan Martyrs Region

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Regional Minister	Jeane Swaynos, OFS
Regional Vice Minister	Sheila Solomon, OFS
Regional Formation Director	Janice Novello, OFS, PhD.
Regional Secretary	Marcia Stamboulian, OFS
Regional Treasurer	Karen Rooney, OFS
Regional Spiritual Assistants	Friar Alberto Bueno TOR, Friar Randall Roberts OFM Cap., Friar Rodolfo Ramon Cabrera OFM Cap.

REGIONAL FAMILY COUNCILORS

Rachel Ahern, OFS
Mark Banschbach, OFS
Larry Bleau, OFS
Awilda Guadalupe, OFS
Kelly Otero, OFS
Margie Sweeney, OFS



STANDING APPOINTMENTS

Webmaster	(vacant) – need volunteer
Electronic Newsletter Editor (pro tem)	Larry Bleau, OFS – need volunteer
Multi-Cultural Liaison	(vacant)
Youth / Young Adult Apostolate (YouFra)	Janice Novello, OFS, PhD
Database Manager	Pat Wolfert, OFS

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

Regional Elective Chapter May 15-17

On May 16 of this year, we will be voting for a new Regional Executive Council. The election will be presided by Christine Blood, OFS, our Area Councilor, and Father John DeLaRiva, OFM Cap., who serves on the CNSA Board and the NAFRA support staff will be the Ecclesial Witness.

The election will take place Saturday afternoon, but it is important that you are present early Saturday morning for roll call. Being part of the election process for the new regional team is an important part of your responsibility as a minister. If you cannot attend, it is necessary that you send a delegate to represent your fraternity.

When you read the biographies, you will find dedicated and experienced individuals who are willing to serve you in a leadership role for the next three years. Do not be afraid to nominate people from the floor. This is often where we see the hand of the Holy Spirit at work.

For those who do not need to attend the election we hope to have some activities in place for you Saturday afternoon. We are seeking volunteers to help with this, please let us know.

Committees and Appointments

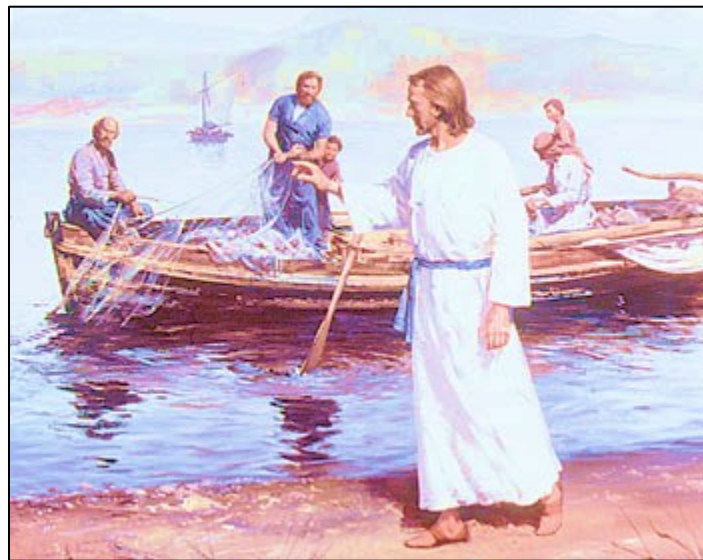
Even if you are not running for an office, and even if you do not plan to attend the Regional Elective Chapter, you can still contribute to the FFMR efforts. We encourage all of you to volunteer in any way you can. There are currently committee and standing appointments that need to be filled. These are not elected positions, but are filled by volunteers from local fraternities throughout the Region.

Committees and Appointments (cont.)

- **Web Page** – We need volunteers to help maintain the web page and keep it relevant and up to date. See Larry Bleau for details.
- **Newsletter** – We need an editor for the “Joyful Messenger.” This publication is released four times a year, and we are looking for someone with a fresh perspective to take on this challenge. See Larry Bleau for more details.
- **JPIC – Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation** – We need someone to take on this responsibility. It involves contacting each of the fraternities on a monthly basis to help share resources with the other fraternities. This would also involve maintaining a connection with NAFRA and staying aware of the resources that are available. See Janice Novello for more details.
- **Music Ministry** – We need volunteers to help with the music at our liturgy and other parts of the annual meeting. See Jeane Swaynos for more details.

Service and Prayer

As Franciscans, we are called to serve one another in fraternity and humility. Please keep this election and our regional fraternity in your prayers, asking the Holy Spirit to guide us in choosing those who will lead with wisdom, generosity, and a true spirit of service. Together, may we continue to build a vibrant fraternity that reflects the joy and peace of the Gospel. ✨



Candidates for Regional Executive Council

RACHEL AHERN

Rachel Ahern is a member of St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity in Clearwater, FL. Rachel has been professed since 2014, although she feels as though she's always been Franciscan; her confirmation name is Francis!

Rachel has degrees in English Literature and Classics and taught at the college level for ten years. She worked at Ruth Eckerd Hall, a live performing Arts center, where she last served as the Ticket Office Manager before retiring in 2020.

Rachel has served her local fraternity as Treasurer and Minister of her fraternity and has served the last three years as a Family Councilor for the St. Thomas More Family. Rachel enjoys the travel and getting to “put the faces with the names” as well as enabling her Franciscan brothers and sisters to strengthen and enjoy their relationships with other fraternities in the Region. Rachel also serves as Registrar for our annual regional meetings, “another great way to get to know people throughout the Region.”

Rachel's goals for the Order are to continue to develop our regional families and identity and by helping fraternities to stay in touch with others through family meetings, regional gatherings and larger events throughout the region.

She is running for the offices of Minister, Treasurer, and Family Councilor.

LARRY BLEAU

Larry Bleau is a member of the San Damiano Fraternity in Summerfield. He has been an active member of the Secular Franciscan Order since his Profession in 1988. In fraternities in both Maryland and Florida, Larry has served in many roles including Minister, Vice Minister, Secretary, Formation Director, Treasurer, webmaster, and newsletter editor.

Larry holds B.S. degrees in Computer Science and Computer and Information Science. His professional experience includes work as a Programmer Analyst at the University of Maryland, as well as software design and development, computer programming, and computer operations. He also has experience preparing taxes for H&R Block.

In addition, Larry has extensive volunteer experience within the Catholic Church and the broader community.

If elected to serve as Treasurer, Secretary, or Family Councilor, Larry's goals include:

- Continuing to ensure strong communication and cooperation among the Regional Executive Council, as well as local and national fraternities
- Creating a digital archive for the Region
- Providing monthly spending reports to the REC (Treasurer role)
- Maintaining regular contact with local fraternities to foster a strong sense of family and regional support

WILLIE GUADALUPE

Willie Guadalupe is a member of the San Damiano Fraternity in Summerfield. She has been an active member of the Secular Franciscan Order since her Profession in 2004 in Jonesboro, GA where she has experience as the fraternity minister. Will has served on both the FFMR and the Brothers and Sisters of Saint Francis Region (Alabama, Georgia, North and South Carolina, and Tennessee), councils. Currently, Willie serves as a fraternity spiritual assistant and is the National Multicultural Commission Chairperson. Fluent in Spanish, Willie's past experience includes International Councilor.

Willie's work experience comprises Information Assurance Manager for the Federal Government working both overseas and at military installations. She has Defense Information Technology Security Certification, Branch Automation Officer Certification as well as various technical training.

Willie is hoping to be elected to the position of Vice Minister or Family Councilor.

CAROL KNIGHT

Carol Knight is a member of the St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity in Boynton Beach. She has been an active member of the Secular Franciscan Order since her Profession in 2003. In her fraternity Carol has served in the roles of Minister, Vice Minister, Secretary, and Councilor. For her fraternity (and the region) Carol has created forms, documents, ceremonies (Right of Profession) and spreadsheets. She has also maintained the fraternity's attendance, calendar, minutes, and timelines.

Carol has a Catholic school education and has worked as office administrator and manager with experience in a multitude of areas under these auspices. Some of Carol's duties when working included: payroll, bookkeeping, review of insurance and equipment proposals, computer and IT assistance, software testing, and hospitality. She is trained on database software and other programs.

Carol would like to use the above-mentioned skills to serve the region if elected to the position of Family Councilor.

VICTORIA R. MARTINEZ

Victoria R. Martinez is a member of the Our Lady Poverty Fraternity in Winter Park. She has been an active member of the Secular Franciscan Order since her Profession in 2019. In her fraternity Victoria is serving as a councilor at large. Victoria's outreach and volunteer work includes serving as a lector, Eucharistic Minister, Extraordinary Minister to the Sick. She has worked as a grief support coordinator, devotional speaker and prayer service coordinator.

Victoria has set up virtual retreats, prayer services and outreach to homebound parishioners.

Victoria has a PhD in Human Development, a Master's degree in Child Development and a Master's degree in Pastoral Care. Victoria is a Board-Certified Chaplain with a Palliative Care Specialty with the National Association of Catholic Chaplains. She presently works as a Pastoral Care Clinical Chaplain. Lastly, Victoria has completed the OFS Spiritual Assistant training.

She is interested in serving as a Family Councilor.

DR. JANICE NOVELLO PHD

The eldest daughter of a Catholic Family, Janice went to Catholic School from Elementary through college. Her husband, Michael, had the same Catholic Faith background and education. It was love at first sight. She says God has given them a son and daughter, their spouses, and four precious grandchildren.

She was professed in 2012, and the Portiuncula Fraternity appointed her a Councilor the next day. She has served as Secretary, Formation Director, Vice Minister and Minister, as well as the tech person for their Wednesday Evening Prayer.

She began to volunteer for the Region when she was still a Candidate. She loved seeing and praying with my Brothers and Sisters. She was honored with the first JPIC Award and volunteered to be the Youth/Young Adult Animator. She served as a volunteer for the National Chapter at San Pedro, represented our Region by chauffeuring NEC members when they met in Sarasota, piloted the Instrumentum Laboris Initiative, and was blessed to serve as the Region's Vice Minister and Formation Director.

Nationally, she is a Commissioner for Youth/Young Adults, and a Core member of the Franciscan Family Forum, which develops monthly Prayer and Reflection sessions on Zoom for Franciscan Priests, Brothers, Sisters, Seculars and Poor Clares.

She believes we are blessed with many wonderful Fraternities filled with talented men and women. Her goals are to find ways for us to connect more frequently to work and pray together; develop a program to assist those Lapsed members who wished to return to Active status; and glean ideas to keep those members who can no longer attend gatherings ways to continue in their Franciscan vocation and journey.

She is interested in serving as Minister or Formation Director.

KELLY OTERO

Kelly Otero has served as Minister and Formation Director of her fraternity, and as Family Councilor for the Region. She made her profession on June 21, 2014, and has been blessed to serve the St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity in DeBary in several leadership roles. She was elected Vice Minister for three years, followed by six years as Minister, and recently began her current service as their Formation Director.

She has also had the privilege of serving on the Regional Executive Council as a Regional Councilor, an experience that she says deepened her love for the Franciscan family and broadened her understanding of our shared mission.

She has been nominated for two positions: Secretary and Family Councilor. She trusts that the Holy Spirit will guide her to the place where she is most needed and where she can serve with humility, joy, and fidelity to our Franciscan charism. Pax et Bonum!

KAREN ROONEY

Karen Rooney was professed in 1996 and is a member of Encounter Fraternity. She has served as their Minister since 2019. She is also the current Treasurer for the Region, where she has served two terms. She works as a full-time accountant. She is married, likes to run races with her daughter, has four grown children and 15 grandchildren who are under age 15. She has been formed as a Spiritual Assistant and has written several books on prayer and reflection.

Karen is hoping to be elected as Formation Director.

SHEILA SOLOMON

Sheila Solomon is a member of the St. Clare Fraternity in Ave Maria. She has been an active member of the Secular Franciscan Order since her Profession in 2001, entering the St. Joseph of Cupertino Fraternity in Ellicott City, MD. Sheila has served as fraternity Councilor, Minister, Vice Minister, and Secretary. She has also served on the formation team. Regionally, Sheila has served as Family Councilor and Vice Minister. In her parish Sheila has served as lector, Eucharist Minister both at Mass and to the homebound, and parish council.

Sheila received a BS degree in special education, an MS degree in Educational Psychology and a reading specialist certification. She taught special education until retiring in 2015. She currently prepares special needs children to receive their sacraments of reconciliation, first communion and confirmation.

Sheila is hoping to be elected to the position of Vice Minister or Family Councilor.

MARGIE SWEENEY

Margie Sweeney is Minister of Mother of the Living Gospel Fraternity in Orlando, FL, which was canonically established in 2023. She has been an active member of the Secular Franciscan Order since her Profession in 2006, entering the St. Joseph of Cupertino Fraternity in Mt. St. Francis, IN. Margie has served as a minister, vice-minister, interim formation director and spiritual assistant. She is a Family Councilor for the Five Franciscan Martyrs Region. Margie received the Regional and National JPIC awards in May and October of 2013, respectively, for her work in establishing and running the nonprofit, Helping Hands Healing Ministries, Inc., which serves the poorest of the poor in developing countries.

Margie served on the parish council for her local church in Louisville, KY, in 2001 when she took her first medical mission trip to Africa, landing in Nairobi, Kenya on September 11, 2001. This was a life-changing trip that led to her forming the above-mentioned nonprofit and subsequently discerning a vocation to the Secular Franciscan Order.

Margie is a family physician. She has helped train medical students, nurse practitioners, and medical residents during her medical career. She retired from medical practice in March 2026. She is married and has two adult children and three grandchildren.

Margie is hoping to be elected to the position of Minister, Vice Minister, or Formation Director.

MARGARET WENDEL

Margaret Wendel is a member of the San Damiano Fraternity in Summerfield. She has been an active member of the Secular Franciscan Order since her Profession in 1991. Margaret has held several positions in her fraternity. These include Minister, Vice Minister, Formation Director, and Councilor. She is a spiritual assistant in the region and considers herself as a servant leader.

Margaret, who has a BA degree, has served in the army (reaching the rank of Sargent) and ran the local post office. She is a humble tireless worker who has good organizational skills.

Margaret is hoping to be elected to the position of Vice Minister, Family Councilor, or Formation Director

JEAN ZIEGLER

Jean Ziegler is a member of the St. Padre Pio Fraternity in Jensen Beach. She has been an active member of the Secular Franciscan Order since her Profession in 2007 acting as fraternity secretary. Jean has acted as a substitute for the regional secretary taking notes at a regional meeting. She is a Eucharistic Minister in her parish, has been a member of the parish council and chaired a task force committee in a large hospital.

Jean is a registered nurse who has held supervisory positions. She has always enjoyed what she does and puts others first. Jean is open to new experiences within the Franciscan Order and is willing to help in any way she can.

Jean is hoping to be elected as a Family Councilor.

Prayer to St. Francis

from Pope Leo XIV

Pope Leo XIV shared with leaders of the Franciscan order on the occasion of the beginning of the 800th anniversary of St. Francis' death the following prayer.

“Saint Francis, our brother, you who eight hundred years ago went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace, intercede for us before the Lord.

You recognized true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano, teach us to seek in him the source of all reconciliation that breaks down every wall.

You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war and misunderstanding, give us the courage to build bridges where the world raises up boundaries.

In this time afflicted by conflict and division, intercede for us so that we may become peacemakers: unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ.”

Amen.

Contributed to the newsletter by David Bowen, OFS, St. Clare, Ave Maria Fraternity Councilor

A Letter from Our New Provincial and National Spiritual Assistant

Below is a letter to the Regional Ministers of our Order, which Jeane would like to share with you as we welcome Fr. Cid.

An Introduction Letter to Regional Ministers

Dear Regional Ministers,

Peace and all good.

I write to greet you fraternally and to introduce myself as I step into the ministry previously exercised by Fr. Jerome. I am grateful for the trust placed in me, and I look forward to continuing the beautiful collaboration between our Franciscan families.

My name is Fr. Cidouane Joseph, OFM, though most people simply call me Fr. Cid, and I happily answer to both. I was born and raised in Haiti. I arrived in the United States in 2002 and began my Franciscan journey soon after. I made my first vows in Wilmington, Delaware in 2006, and my solemn vows at St. Francis of Assisi Church on 31st Street in New York in 2009. I was ordained a deacon at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC in 2010, and a priest at Holy Name of Jesus Church in New York in 2011.

My experience with the Secular Franciscan Order began even earlier, at Holy Name of Jesus Church on 96th Street and Broadway, where I first encountered the Seculars and felt drawn to their spirit and dedication. I later began serving officially as local Spiritual Assistant to the Rosa Mystica Fraternity and then as Regional Spiritual Assistant to Solanus Casey Region. Over the years, I have served at various levels - local SA, regional, and provincial, each step has deepened my appreciation for the Secular vocation.

I am humbled and happy to receive this new obedience as Provincial Animator (SA) and National SA, and I look forward to continuing this journey with you. Working with the Seculars has strengthened my own life as a friar; it has reminded me again and again of the beauty of our shared charism and the vitality of our Franciscan family.

Please know that I am here to support you in any way I can, especially the fraternities bonded to Our Lady of Guadalupe Province. I am aware that accompanying the entire United States is a real challenge, but with your collaboration and fraternity, I am ready to give it my best.

The best way to reach me is at cjoseph@friars.us.

Thank you for your “yes” - your service gives me the courage to add my own “yes.” Thank you for all you are doing to strengthen the bond between our Orders and to keep our vital reciprocity alive and fruitful. I look forward to working alongside you and to seeing many of you at the Q in July.

With gratitude and fraternal peace,

Fr. Cid Joseph, OFM

Provincial and National Spiritual Assistant

My Experience as a Regional Minister

by Jeane Swaynos, OFS

This will be my last article for the Joyful Messenger as your minister. I am not going far, just changing direction. Here are some key points of what I have learned over this 12-year tenure as your minister and Vice Minister I thought I should share with you. Know I still remain with you but in a different capacity. Always know I am just a phone call, text message, or email away.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP IS SERVICE, NOT CONTROL

In Franciscan spirituality, the minister is not the boss of the fraternity – he is the servant of the fraternity. I learned authority works best when it is open and respectful. Fraternities responded more by my example than my instruction. I found allowing the regional council to have a voice and giving an atmosphere to speak and disagree was necessary for growth. They know they are needed. Real leadership often meant doing unnoticed work in a timely manner and always being available to listen. It involves learning about the sheep in your flock, having compassion and sincere love for them and their families.

PEOPLE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN PROGRAMS

Regional plans, statutes, guidelines, and meetings matter, but people carry the charism. Fraternities grow through relationships, not policies. This takes time to personally meet the fraternities and build these relationships. Listening is often more powerful than speaking. I found that individuals brought wounds and hopes to their fraternity meetings. Some desperately wanted to be heard. They came in with different levels of commitment, and I only learned this through listening, visits, phone calls, and text messages. I often found their physical and emotional challenges insurmountable. I learned spiritual growth happens slowly and the tree has to be ripe to grow but I had to carry the watering can.

KEEPING A FRATERNITY STRONG TAKES CONSTANT CARE

Fraternities are beautiful – but they are also human. Misunderstandings happen easily, and strong personalities sometimes clash. This happens quickly. Some members do not like conflict, so they quietly withdrew and stopped coming. I learned unity rarely happens automatically and it must be protected through charity and patience. There was a need to

revitalize true compassion and love for each other. This is cultivated much like a garden with love and respect for each other. I often found I just needed to listen with compassion, letting them know I sincerely cared and they too at one time cared for each other. I often become an active peacemaker and reminded them, they too, were peacemakers.

NOT EVERYONE WILL BE HAPPY WITH YOU

One of the hardest lessons in leadership is that some people will disagree with your decisions. I am a people pleaser and have trouble sleeping when some of my feathers are disrupted with members of the fraternity. Sometimes my intentions may have been misunderstood and a few resented authority and the need to follow rules. Understanding this was often based in fear and displayed with anger and resentment. They were at a point where they were not ready to listen and needed their voice to be heard. Often, I had to develop a detachment from approval until I could reach them. This was often resolved with prayer and reflection, discerning if I acted with humility, justice, and love.

GOD WORKS SLOWLY IN PEOPLE

Spiritual formation is rarely quick. I found people changed slowly but beautifully. Some unwillingly left the order due to aging and life changing situations. There were a number of fraternities that became deactivated. It was hard to see this as the natural rhythm of life. I was softened with new members who brought fresh life. I was not as patient as St. Francis in allowing time for grace to slowly grow.

THE MINISTER MUST ALSO BE CONVERTED

Perhaps the greatest discovery was leadership forms the leader. I never had the intention to be a leader and never sought this goal. The situation presented itself and without realizing it, being Regional Minister was in my lap. When I visited you through visitations, elections, retreats, and profession you continually fed my spirituality. You did this through your personal interest in me and taught me how to let go. I watched you undergo tragedies and disappointments without anger or resentment. Over the years you taught me deeper humility, patience with imperfections, and reliance on prayer rather than strategy. You helped me understand the Order belonged to God, not me. I entered the role thinking I would guide others but in reality, both you and God guided me.

LET IT GO

I am not in charge. When events do not follow my timeline, I get upset and think God is not listening. I easily forget God's timeline is perfect, not mine. It takes a while for me to move out of the way and let Him do His job. Patience has never come easy for me and waiting for God to respond has always been difficult. I now better understand I am just the conduit that protects the electric current that comes from the Holy Spirit.

Is My Fraternity a Nonprofit?

Larry Bleau OFS

Several fraternity ministers have asked me about the tax status of their fraternity. The answer: You are an unincorporated, not-for-profit religious organization under section 501(c)(3) of the tax code. Here's how that came about.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization; that is, its purpose is not to make a profit, and the reason (there are many reasons one can be recognized as a not-for-profit) is its purpose: a religious organization.

IRS has what is called a group exemption ruling. This allows related organizations to take part in the same not-for-profit tax status as the umbrella organization. The USCCB has obtained a group ruling exemption, and under it, many other organizations have 501(c)(3) status. One of these is the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order (NAFRA, also OFS-USA). NAFRA is incorporated; that is, it has a juridical person, it is a distinct legal entity.

Within NAFRA are many organizational parts which are organized geographically; these are regions. We are within the Five Franciscan Martyrs Region, which was created in 1992. Regions are not incorporated, but are considered operationally part of NAFRA, although they have their own tax id, budget, council, etc.

Within a region are its local fraternities. After a fraternity is canonically established, it becomes a constituent part of the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order. It also obtains its own tax id and informs its region; no fraternity is incorporated. Thus, every local fraternity that is canonically established is also a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization by virtue of its inclusion in the group ruling exemption issued to the USCCB. By this every fraternity is a part of the whole: we are all included under NAFRA and under the US Catholic Church.

What does this imply for a fraternity's operations? Find out in the summer edition.

News From the Fraternities

Lady Poverty Fraternity Winter Park, FL

Lady Poverty Fraternity hosted a Peace Service at San Pedro Retreat Center in Winter Park, FL, on Saturday, February 21. The service was initiated in 2024 when peace poles were donated by the fraternity to San Pedro to encourage prayers to end the war in Ukraine and all wars throughout the world. Clergy, adults, and students participated by leading prayers for peace in multiple languages to show unity with the whole world. Each year a peace pole highlighting the Franciscan greeting “Peace and Good” is presented to a Catholic School. This year the students of St. John Vianney Catholic School in Orlando was highlighted in the service and provided a choir who sang songs for peace and students who prayed for peace in their native language. A peace pole with the Franciscan greeting in ten different languages: English, Portuguese, Spanish, Arabic, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Creole, Mandarin, German and Gaelic- representative of the students and staff, was presented to the principal Gloria Del Orbe for installation at their school campus. Bishop Moore High School and St. Andrews Catholic School received peace poles in the services held in 2024 and 2025 respectively for their campus.



San Damiano Fraternity Ruskin, FL

The San Damiano Fraternity (Ruskin) welcomed Fr. Kevin Yarnell as its Spiritual Assistant at their December 1 gathering. Fr. Kevin is pastor of St. Anne Catholic Church in Ruskin, where the members gather each month. Fr. Randall Roberts, Assistant Regional S.A., presided over Fr. Kevin's installation.

Fraternity members are Blessed to share their Franciscan journey with Fr. Kevin, and grateful for his spiritual guidance and energy. They pray for the ability to enrich his Spiritual Journey as well.



Fraternity members hosted a Day of Reflection for over 95 people at Prince of Peace Catholic Church, Sun City Center, on March 14, 2026. Fr. Francisco Arredondo, OFM Cap., presented *The Seven Crosses of St. Francis*, based on the writings of St. Bonaventure. This spiritual classic details the spiritual obstacles St. Francis encountered on his journey through spiritual Purification and Illumination to Unity with Christ. Fr. Francisco inspired everyone with a closing question for reflection: “What do I need to let go of on my personal spiritual journey following in the footsteps of Francis to grow in Franciscan Spirituality?”

Secular Franciscans from four fraternities in the St. Thomas More Family and members of four local parishes participated in this inspiring day that included Morning Prayer, Mass, fellowship, and the opportunity to learn more about St. Francis of Assisi as we strive to bring the Gospel to Life and Life to the Gospel. (See pictures below.)



Fr. Francisco speaking to attendees (above). Picture of group (below).



St. Bonaventure Fraternity Fleming Island, FL

On November 15, 2025, St Bonaventure Fraternity held its annual Day of Reflection. The facilitator for the Day of Reflection was Fr. Nick Mormando OFM Cap. The day ended with Mass during which Irina Cevallos made her permanent profession (below). The profession was also presided over by Fr. Nick. The fraternity looks forward to July 2026, when four of its candidates will be professed.



The Fraternity was also pleased to have Dr. Mary Soha give a presentation about the Martyrs of La Florida at its January gathering. Dr. Soha is the vice-postulator for the Canonization Cause of the Florida Martyrs. Some of the martyrs are to be beatified in Savannah in October 2026.



Finally, the fraternity held its election on March 21. Congratulations to their newly elected Council: Tamra Catt (Minister), Dora Lafont (affectionately known as Nani, Vice

Minister), Valerye Milleson (Formation Director), Tammy Feil (Secretary), Carl Fisher (Treasurer), and Penelope (Penny) Coron (Councilor). Pray for them in their new roles.

St. Anthony of Padua Boynton Beach, FL

St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity in Boynton Beach enjoyed a Christmas Celebration on January 4th. The afternoon began with a Franciscan Epiphany Extraction Prayer Service, followed by the breaking and sharing of the Oplatek wafer, and the Epiphany House Blessing in the Madonna Meeting Room. A delicious potluck luncheon was enjoyed by all.

