



# OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS MESSENGER

Issue Number 59

July 2025

## From Our Regional Minister

*Dear Franciscans,*

Thanks be to God and thank you for your prayers, the National Chapter of Election went smoothly. Many thanks to the previous council members Jewel Jasmins, Martin Deschênes, George and Sherrill Guimond, Catherine Payne, Debbie Tessier, Fr Peter Knappen OFM Conv, Fr Alix Poulin OFM Cap, and Fr Benjamin (Ben) Ripley OFM for serving and leading us. Fr Ben will serve at St Francis of Assisi parish, Montreal.

The current council members are: Jewel Jasmins (minister, international councilor), Martin Deschênes (VM Francophone), David Bouchard (VM Anglophone), Debbie Tessier (Formation Director), and Heather Thompson (Secretary). The Spiritual Assistants are Fr Peter Knappen OFM Conv, Fr Alix Poulin OFM Cap, and Fr. Regi Mathew OFM. Please pray for them. Please look at the national bulletin for pictures of the chapter of elections.

Please join us at the upcoming events (info is below):

- Zoom Novena to Our Lady of the Angels July 24-Aug 1 and the Celebration on August 2.



**St Bonaventure OFM**  
Cardinal, Seraphic Doctor  
1221-1274  
Feast day July 15  
[Link to HIS LIFE](#)

- St. Mary's fraternity in Calgary is inviting us for barbecue at Mt. St. Francis on August 10, please RSVP by August 4.
- Online Spiritual Assistant Course starts on September 17.

Please promote the Franciscan spirituality among the young adults by encouraging and/or subsidizing them financially for the Festival of Tents (Aug 29-Sep 1, 2025). Your fraternity can also provide financial help. Please contact [olotaofs@gmail.com](mailto:olotaofs@gmail.com).

*Your servant,  
Lanny*



**St Lawrence of Brindisi OFM Cap**  
Priest & Doctor of the Church  
1559-1619  
Feast day July 21  
[Link to HIS LIFE](#)

**Excerpt from a discourse by St Bonaventure on:**  
*He who knows Jesus Christ can understand all sacred Scripture*

The outcome of the fruit of reading holy Scripture is by no means negligible: it is the fullness of eternal happiness. For these are the books which tell us of eternal life, which were written not only that we might believe but also that we might have everlasting life. When we do live that life we shall understand fully, we shall love completely and our desires will be totally satisfied. Then, with all our needs fulfilled, we shall truly know *the love that surpasses understanding and so be filled with the fullness of God*. The purpose of the Scriptures, which come to us from God, is to lead us to this fullness according to the truths contained in those sayings of the apostles to which I have referred. In order to achieve this, we must study holy Scripture carefully and teach and listen to it in the same way.

If we are to attain the ultimate goal of eternal happiness by the path of virtue described in the Scriptures, we have to begin at the very beginning. We must come with a pure faith to the Father of Light and acknowledge Him in our hearts. We must ask Him to give us, through His Son and in the Holy Spirit, a true knowledge of Jesus Christ, and along with the knowledge a love of Him. Knowing and loving Him in this way, confirmed in our faith and grounded in our love, we can know *the length and breadth and height and depth* of His sacred Scripture. Through that knowledge we can come at last to know perfectly and love completely the most blessed Trinity, whom the saints desire to know and love and in whom all that is good and true finds its meaning and fulfillment.

**On St Lawrence of Brindisi and Marian Theology**

**by Cuthbert Gumbinger OFMCap**

Specialists in Mariology declare that the sixty-two sermons of St Lawrence's *Mariale* form a complete *summa* of this matter, prominent in Marian literature not only at his time, but ever since.

The Saint explains the primary principle of Marian theology: the physical and divine maternity of Mary in regard to Christ, the God-Man, and her spiritual maternity in regard to all Christians. He develops also the secondary principles: uniqueness, convenience, eminence, and likeness to Christ the Redeemer in regard to Marian truths. The saint proves the singular privileges of the Mother of God: her immunity from all sins, even original; her fullness of grace; her perpetual virginity of soul and body, and her glorious Assumption into Heaven, body and soul. Lawrence also presents and defends the specific mission of Mary, both in the eternal decrees of God and in the facts of her being the Mother of Christ and the spiritual Mother of His Mystical Body. He teaches also that she is Mediatrix of all graces and Queen of the Universe. Finally, the Saint defends the legitimacy, the nature, and the acts of Marian cult against the attacks of the Protestants.

Prayer Intentions for Vocations in OFS 2025 (from CIOFS)

**JULY:** *For young people to find clarity and courage as they follow Jesus in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi.*

**AUGUST:** *For all the candidates who are preparing to make their professions in the Secular Franciscan Order.*

## Feast of Our Lady of the Angels

### Zoom Novena

**July 24 – August 1, 2025**

6:30pm PT / 7:30pm MT / 8:30pm CT

Intention: Peace in the World

Rosary • Reflection by David Bouchard • Sharing

Zoom Meeting ID: 856 8825 2287

Passcode: 715488

August **Zoom Celebration**  
2nd **To be confirmed**



### Link to Zoom Novena:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85688252287?pwd=HSNcVzcPiF37oaams1GQ2eh7lz8M2x.1>

## Novena Prayer to Our Lady of The Angels

*O Virgin of the Angels, who has for centuries established your throne of mercy at the Portiuncula, hear the prayer of your children, who trust in you. From this truly holy place and the habitation of the Lord, so dear to the heart of Saint Francis, you have always invited all men to love. Your tender eyes assure us of a never failing motherly help and a promise of divine help to all those who humbly have recourse to your throne, or who from afar, turn to you to ask for help. You are, indeed, our sweet Queen and our only hope. O Lady of the Angels, obtain for us, through the intercession of blessed Francis, pardon for our sins, help us to keep away from sin and indifference, so that we shall be worthy of calling you our Mother for evermore. Bless our homes, our toil and our rest, by giving us that same serenity we experience within the walls of the Portiuncula, where hate, guilt and tears turn into a song of joy like that once was sung by the Angels and the seraphic Francis. Help those who are in need and hungry, those who are in danger of body and soul, those who are sad and downhearted, those who are sick and dying. Bless us, your most beloved children, and we pray you, bless also with the same motherly gesture, all those who are innocent, together with those who are guilty; those who are faithful, together with those who have gone astray; those who believe, together with those who are in doubt. Bless all humanity, so that all men acknowledging that they are God's children, would find through love, real Peace and real Good. Amen*



## Chapter of Mats National Election 2025-28

Minister: Jewel Jasmins

Vice Minister Francophone: Martin Deschenes

Vice Minister Anglophone: David Bouchard

Secretary: Heather Thompson

Treasurer: Roger Boisvert

Formator: Debbie Tessier

Spiritual Assistants: Fr Peter Knaapen, OFMConv

Fr Alix Poulin, OFMCap

Fr Regis Mather, OFM

[Strangers and Pilgrims](#)



The tiles from the contest **"The Canticle of the Creatures"** in which students from K to G12 participated have been installed at Mount St Francis. Last June, the Holy Spirit was at work beautifully leading the project to create the mosaics, finding the right spot for their installation with the help of Fr. Dan Gurnick OFM and Sean (a discernor young man that was visiting the Mount), and my self. All with the approval of Br. Michael Perras OFM, who was happy and excited with the final result. If you have the opportunity to visit the Mount, don't forget to stop by and see the mosaics graciously installed honouring St. Francis 800th Anniversary of the Canticle of Creation. Enjoy the Summer! *With peace and joy,* Maritza Chouza, Director of Youth

### Save the Date

**- Pray the Franciscan CROWN ROSARY together!**

On the first Saturday of each month.

**Next.. Feast of Our Lady of the Angels!! 2025 Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 7pm PT/8pm MT/9pm CT**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486098310?pwd=R1VOZ3EvdWMraG1PTTYxb1p1WllvQT09>

Meeting ID: 864 8609 8310 Passcode: 741246

### - Franciscan Book Club

The Franciscan Book Club will resume meetings on Sunday **September 7, 2025** with discussions of the book *A Franciscan View of Creation* by Ilia Delio (OSF). Those wishing to join the book club or obtain additional information may contact Miriam Liem at [ofsmiriam@gmail.com](mailto:ofsmiriam@gmail.com) or Marlene Welch at [Patmarlocel@gmail.com](mailto:Patmarlocel@gmail.com).

## Franciscan Festival of Tents



Please pass this invitation on to the *young adults* in your community. If you or your fraternity would like to sponsor a *young adult* from your parish or fraternity, please contact [maritzachouza@gmail.com](mailto:maritzachouza@gmail.com) or [davidandcathybouchard@gmail.com](mailto:davidandcathybouchard@gmail.com)

Thank you! Peace and joy, *Maritza Chouza, ofs*

*Link to register:* [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1i8spQ56e1FF4a-wOzVYeb-bvxxfv2pqfAgYLAZLF9nQ/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1i8spQ56e1FF4a-wOzVYeb-bvxxfv2pqfAgYLAZLF9nQ/viewform?edit_requested=true)

*Link for photos & more info:*

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1shoWvZYpllfZcvPyl085oYj7bZKK\\_WK7/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1shoWvZYpllfZcvPyl085oYj7bZKK_WK7/view?usp=sharing)

### 2025 Franciscan Barbeque: THE CANTICLE OF CREATION 800 Year Anniversary

MOUNT ST FRANCIS, COCHRANE, AB - AUG 10. 2025 11 AM

HOLY MASS, BBQ LUNCH & PROGRAM TO FOLLOW

SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTION: 15\$/PERSON - CLOSING PRAYER 2:45 PM

*We invite each fraternity (or members from) to be part of the program. The theme is The Canticle of Creation. This may include a song, a poem, a dance, a discussion question, a cultural piece, a skit etc. Please confirm with Erika before the Sunday of August (July 27) if your fraternity will have an item for the program.*

*Kindly RSVP by Aug 4, 2025 Erika Bancila [bancila@telus.net](mailto:bancila@telus.net) 403-835-8505*

Our Lady of the Angels Messenger, Secular Franciscan Order of Western Canada Region

July 2025 Minister Lanny Hui, ofs [lanny.hui@gmail.com](mailto:lanny.hui@gmail.com)

Editor Colleen Finlon, ofs [cmariiefinlon@gmail.com](mailto:cmariiefinlon@gmail.com)

