



OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS MESSENGER

Issue Number 61

September 2025

From Our Regional Minister

Dear Franciscans,

What a weekend! On Saturday September 20, I was so blessed to meet the ministers and representatives from 22 fraternities on zoom. One hour after the meeting, I was heading to the Vancouver airport to leave for Winnipeg to meet, in person, with the members of Immaculate Conception and St Anthony's. Meeting with OFS members from my fraternity and beyond have been the source of grace and consolation for me. Many thanks for the warm welcome and hospitality.

As we begin to prepare for the regional chapter, please take a look at the regional statute, if there are any changes that need to be made. Do not hesitate to voice out your concerns.

In the past few months a few fraternities have elections of their council members. Many thanks for the generosity of the past and the newly



The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Feast Day Sept 8th

[DOGMA](#)



St Joseph of Cupertino

The Flying Franciscan

Feast Day Sept 18th

[HIS LIFE](#)

elected council members. May God give you the graces you need to serve your fraternity. Also, I'd like to ask the local fraternity council members to take a look at the local fraternity handbook, if any revision (adding material, correction to typo or error, omission) needs to be made. I know what I would like to be changed and I would appreciate your input very much.

Please let me know, many thanks in advance!

Thank you for prayers for the sick and the suffering in our region; please continue to pray for them.

*Your servant,
Lanny*

*Lord, help me to live this day,
quietly, easily. To lean upon
Thy great strength, trustfully,
restfully. To wait for the
unfolding of Thy will, patiently,
serenely. To meet others,
peacefully, joyously. To face
tomorrow, confidently,
courageously.*

St Francis of Assisi



The Feast of the Stigmata of St Francis

Sept 17th

A modern biographer, Andre Vauchez, says: *"What happened on La Verna on an undetermined day in September 1224? It is difficult to say with any precision, as Francis [himself] did not mention it in his writings, and he forbade from speaking about it those rare persons who came to observe the traces of the wounds. It is thus only after his death and before his burial that a certain number of witnesses were able to actually see them on his flesh."*

We do know the setting. By 1224 Francis's health was rapidly failing, yet in late summer he decided to make an arduous journey from Assisi to a favorite hermitage on Mount La Verna in Tuscany. His purpose was to go apart at this critical stage in his life with a few companions to observe the *"Lent of St. Michael"* — a forty-day retreat devoted to prayer and fasting

from the Assumption to the feast of the Archangel. This particular day, Francis had gone apart from the others to meditate more intently on the Passion of Christ when something happened. [THE WHOLE ARTICLE](#)

It is almost one year now that we visited the uncorrupt body of our dear **St Pio of Pietrelcina** at the church in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy during our pilgrimage to Assisi. I took this photo myself and still tremble at it. His Feast Day is September 23rd as he passed into eternity in 1968, a modern-day saint for us to behold. [HIS LIFE](#)



From Our Director of Formation

October is just around the corner. Now is a good time to give thanks to God for all the blessings showered down on us every day. It is also a good time to say *Thank You* to our OLOTA **Franciscan Book Club** leaders - Miriam and Marlene - and to our Secular Franciscan Brothers and Sisters who meet each month to share and learn more about theology from a Franciscan perspective. This season we are reading "The Franciscan View of Creation: Learning to Live in a Sacramental World." In the second book in the Franciscan Heritage Series, the Franciscan Sister and Theologian, Ilia Delio, OSF shares her insights on a Franciscan view of creation. Sister Ilia speaks of the bond of compassionate love between Francis and the Crucified Christ. She says "By surrendering himself and daring everything for love's sake, the earth became Francis's home and all creatures his brothers and sisters. This led him to love and respect the world around him and in him and made him a truly humble person." Sister Ilia reminds us that love has the power to unite and transform and "The heart whispers that love is the greatest power for good in the universe." She tells us that it was love that bound Francis to the things of creation and opened Francis's eyes to the truth of God in creation." *Mary, Queen of the Franciscan Order and Our Lady of the Angels, pray that we may see God's love in all of creation.*

Catherine McNiff, ofs

On Course for September

This is the month that some great things are starting up again on zoom!

- The **Franciscan Book Club** began again on September 7th and continues monthly. (More information below if you want to join in.)
- The **Spiritual Assistant Course** designed and presented by *Br Gerry Clyne, OFM* began on September 17th. It was designed for Spiritual Assistants but is now open to all. Eighteen Franciscans across our region will deepen in Franciscan spirituality.
- The **National Formators Course** began on September 22nd lead by new National Director of Formation, *Debbie Tessier, ofs*. Four Franciscans will deepen their understanding of formation initially and ongoing in the lives of all.

Prayer Intentions for Vocations in OFS 2025 (from CIOFS)

SEPTEMBER: *For new true vocations to the Secular Franciscan Order through the intercession of all the Franciscan Saints.*

OCTOBER: *For a fruitful and close collaboration between the OFS fraternities and the spiritual assistants to promote vocations to the Secular Franciscan Order.*

Save the Date

- *Pray the Franciscan CROWN ROSARY together!*

On the first Saturday of each month.

Next... **2025 Oct 4th** @ 7pm PST/8pm MST/9pm CST

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

Meeting ID: 864 8609 8310 Passcode: 741246

- **OLOTA Franciscan Book Club**

Next... **October 5, 2025** with discussions of the book *A Franciscan View of Creation* by Ilia Delio (OSF)

Contact Miriam Liem at ofsmiriam@gmail.com or Marlene Welch at Patmarlocel@gmail.com

- **Novena with ST FRANCIS on zoom!**



Join the **NOVENA** Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 864 8609 8310

Passcode: 741246

Celebrate together the Feast of our Seraphic Father!

---<<<+SOCIAL+CORNER+>>>---



The new council of *Little Flowers of St Francis Fraternity* in Kelowna, BC on Sep 13, 2025 at Seton House of Prayer. (L to R) *Linda Adams*: Formation Assistant, *Anne Engel*: Treasurer, *Paulette Wolfe*: Vice Minister, *Maria Levko*: Minister, *Lindael Rolstone*: Secretary, *Anna O'Hagan*: Vice Minister, Interior BC.



St Mary's Fraternity in Calgary, AB on Sept 21, 2025 celebrated their **Anniversary of Professions**.
L to R: *Mario Nieddu* (25 yrs), *Deacon Thomas O'Toole* (15 yrs), *Marie Semenoff* (30 yrs), *Eddy Massetti* (30 yrs), *Patrick Coffey* (40 yrs)



St Mary's Fraternity in Calgary, AB
Lake Agnes Hike on July 19, 2025.



OLOTA Minister Lanny Hui, ofs visits
Immaculate Conception Fraternity
in Winnipeg, MB.



OLOTA Minister Lanny Hui, ofs visits
St Anthony Fraternity in Winnipeg, MB.

St Anthony Fraternity of
Winnipeg's new council.



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

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