



OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS MESSENGER

Issue Number 63

November 2025

From our REGIONAL MINISTER

Dear Franciscan Sisters and Brothers,

In November, we remember our deceased loved ones including our deceased fraternity members, we transition to a new liturgical calendar year, and we make preparations for Advent and Christmas. We also remember how God has truly given all of us the grace to be where we are. There are many things to be thankful for: the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, our lives, the opportunities to love God, our family, fraternities, neighbours, and friends.

On November 17, we celebrated the memorial of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, our patron saint. Let us take the time to read about her life and ask God, through her intercession, to give us the grace we need to lead a holy life as a Secular Franciscan Order. How can she or other Franciscan saints inspire us? What does it mean to be holy as a Secular Franciscan in the situation given to each of us? Perhaps it can be as simple as smiling for others, calling or visiting the shut-ins in the parish, donating online or helping the local food bank, or being available to the fraternity to be nominated as a council member. Whatever it is, if we ask God sincerely and attentively, we will find the

our thoughts, prayers, and actions God will surely grant us the gift of down the request of increase of As far as holiness is concerned, action such as serving the poor take an administrative role as a fraternity. And yet, serving as a path to holiness. Seemingly small tongue and choosing loving words our others and taking the lesser Francis chose to do. We are called particularly those who are right in our fraternities, and neighbours. together! At the regional level, we

Elections: the national council has been contacted, accommodation at UBC Kelowna has been reserved, gathering venue at Corpus Christi has been booked, transportation is being planned, a tentative schedule has been proposed, a potential speaker is being contacted, timeline and tasks are being drawn, resolution and nominations committees have been formed. Big questions are: would you like to serve at the regional level and is there any item in the regional statutes you would like to change? Please feel free to email/text/call me with your questions, suggestions, comments, or just to say 'hi'. If you think that a regional council position is daunting, you are not alone but you may not be correct. For me, no council position is as daunting as giving birth or raising a child, which many of you have experienced. Many thanks for all of your prayers and your warm fraternal welcome whenever I see you (which always brings me joy!).



answer. Let us always remember in that we are God's beloved and that the Holy Spirit. He will never turn faith, hope, and charity.

many of us would prefer to be in and the needy, and prefer not to council member of our local council member with love, is also a things as deciding to hold our when provoked and being kind to (least favourable) place, is what St. to love and inspire others, front of us: our family members, Let us walk this path to holiness are preparing for the Chapter of

Your servant, Lanny

From our REGIONAL DIRECTOR of FORMATION

As we start thinking about Advent let us look at what Saint Athanasius, a fourth century bishop from Alexandria, Egypt has to tell us: "The Lord did not come to make a display. He came to heal and to teach suffering people. For one who wanted to make a display the thing would have been just to appear and dazzle the beholders. But for him who came to heal and to teach, the way was not merely to dwell here, but to put himself at the disposal of those who needed him, and to be manifested according as they could bear it."

I wish you the joy of the Advent Season.

Catherine McNiff, ofs

COMING UP SOON!

2026 Winter Young Adult Retreat (18-35)

Mount St Francis Retreat Center in Cochrane, AB

"Listening in the Spirit Conversations" based on the writing of St Bonaventure

Friday January 2nd to Sunday 4th. Cost: \$230

For more information and to register please contact Maritza Chouza at

maritzachouza@gmail.com



St Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity in Saskatoon, SK collected various articles and delivered them to homeless men in October: blankets, 70 pairs of socks, men's underwear, toques, toothpaste, tooth brushes, soap, deodorant, combs. They studied the Seven Beatitudes (A Blueprint for Franciscan Life) and in November Fr Denis, Spiritual Assistant guided all through the Spiritual Works of Mercy. In December they will be collecting and delivering articles for women and children as well as going through the Corporal Works of Mercy in January.

The Saint Anthony of Padua Fraternity in Richmond, BC recently elected a new council. Shown from left to right: Fr. Manoj, Lanny Hui, Anita Ongaro, Secretary, Maritza Chouza, Formation Director, Stephanie Chua, Treasurer, Aleta Atengco, Minister and Adelaide Dede, Vice Minister.



Members of Little Flowers Fraternity in Kelowna, BC gathered with Alice McCrea and her family to celebrate her 98th Birthday on Oct 26th. Alice blew out her candles and ate a whole piece of her favorite Cappuccino Cheesecake made by her nieces.

Prayer Intentions for Vocations in OFS 2025 (from CIOFS)

November: *For the elderly, sick and the retired OFS brothers and sisters.*

December: *For Secular Franciscan married couples, that their spousal life in the Franciscan spirit will inspire other couples to follow Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi.*

Save the Date

- Pray the Franciscan CROWN ROSARY together!

On the first Saturday of each month.

Next... 2025 Dec 6th @ 7pm PST/8pm MST/9pm CST

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486098310?pwd=R1VOZ3EvbWMraG1PTTYxb1p1WllvQT09>

Meeting ID: 864 8609 8310 Passcode: 741246

- OLOTA Franciscan Book Club

Next... **Dec 7th 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

-National Formation Course

6 modules beginning January 12, 2026

[Click here for more info & Application Form](#)

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

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