



OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS MESSENGER

Issue Number 67

March 2026

From our REGIONAL MINISTER

Dear Franciscan Sisters and Brothers,

Happy 5th Sunday of Lent everyone! St. Francis often expressed his gratitude to God who exists in all creation, including his followers. I am inviting you to do the same. God's love is expressed or manifested in many things.

For me, this Lent is beautiful, not because I have done what I planned to do, but largely because I have seen God's love in many of you who continue to inspire me with your love to our fraternal family and order in those

- who listen, simply show up and are present to offer help
- who came to events despite their health challenges (including pain) and distance (as far as 6-7 hrs. driving, or taking the ferry) or costs of riding Uber to an event.
- who prioritize serving the poor and needy around us
- who pray faithfully for one another (every day at 6:30am!)
- who provide administrative help "behind the scenes"
- who take the time to care for one another
- who simply have a good time enjoying each other's company
- who go out of their comfort zones.
- with kind, encouraging, and forgiving words are being exchanged.
- who hang in there and not give up despite the challenges.

You are instruments of God's love in many ways; I am very privileged to witness it as it affirms that I am a beloved child of God! We had the BC Chapter of Mats yesterday (I'm sorry, I forgot to take a picture of all of us!) I am very grateful to all speakers, to Fr. Richard Au (the pastor of Our Lady of Fatima), the members of St. Agnes of Assisi fraternity who hosted the Chapter, and to participants, including those from Salmon Arm, BC!

Ongoing events: daily morning prayers, monthly evening prayer, and book club **Upcoming events:** Alberta Chapter of Mats (May 23, 2026), Chapter of Elections (Kelowna July 2-5, 2026), Novena to Our Lady of the Angels (July 24 - August 1), Pilgrimage to Assisi (September 27 - October 11, 2026)



***Hosanna in the Highest!
Blessed is He who comes in
the name of the Lord!
Matt 21:9***



**St Frances of Rome (d.1440)
Feast Day March 9th
[HER LIFE](#)**

*Have a blessed Holy Week, everyone!
Your servant, Lanny*

From our REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF FORMATION

In this year's Encyclical written by Pope Francis before his death and continued by Pope Leo XIV, the words of "Dilexi Te - I Have Loved you" speak of "Monastic Wisdom for the Modern Soul." When Pope Leo reminds us that every Christian is called to be monastic, he is not telling us to flee to the desert but to cultivate an inner silence with detachment from greed and an availability to others. Pope Leo tells us that every act of hospitality - from welcoming a migrant to sharing a meal with a poor person, from supporting our local school to visiting a "shut-in" - brings the spirit of monastic care into our families, our parishes and our communities.

On a personal level, I recently came "face to face" with monastic care at Mass at Saint Joseph's Chapel at the Franciscan Friary in Victoria, BC as Brother Jaques welcomed us to Mass with a smile and a Mass booklet and Secular Franciscans and familiar parishioners said "hello" and Father David invited us "down" for coffee afterwards.

That's where I spoke to Loretta - A ninety-year-old parishioner with a big smile and a big heart ... Loretta has a supply of chocolate bars in her bag. Loretta gives a chocolate bar to each homeless person she meets as a way of making eye contact, engaging with the person, being present to him or her, respecting the dignity of the person. Loretta spent her teaching career in the Yukon and in Yellowknife. Now she is using her teaching skills every day to help a recently arrived friar from

Mexico to learn English and to feel "at home" in Canada. Loretta has embraced Pope Francis and Pope Leo's call to "Listen to the cry of the poor."

Catherine McNiff, ofs

Excerpt from: Celebrating the Easter of St Francis of Assisi 1226-2026

In contemporary society, we rarely think about death, not only because it reminds us that we are limited creatures, but also because it exposes the false security we get from believing that we are masters over time and life. Francis of Assisi, on the other hand, welcomed Sister Death with song, because he understood that death is not the termination of everything but the end that allows us to enter into full communion with God. Indeed, life is a gift that must be given back: "Hold back nothing of yourselves for yourselves, that He Who gives Himself totally to you may receive you totally!" (Letter to the Entire Order 29, FF 221).

For the rest of this article click onto [CENTENARIO](#) page 19.

COMING UP SOON.....

OLOTA REGIONAL CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS JULY 2-5, 2026

**Fraternity Ministers & Delegates please send in your application forms
before JUNE 1, 2026 to lanny.hui@gmail.com**

CLICK HERE FOR [APPLICATION FORM](#)

Young Adult Retreat: CHRIST IN THE HEART OF FRANCIS



As we celebrate the Jubilee year of St Francis of Assisi, we held a young adult retreat at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Richmond, BC on March 14, 2026 with **Christ in the Heart of St. Francis** as the theme. We gathered together with joyful hearts from 9 am to 9 pm. We listened to four talks in the Spirit of Francis and broke up into small groups for discussion after each talk. The topics were: *Rebuild my Church, Encounter with the Leper, Francis and Sultan Malek al Kamil* and the last talk, *Live the Gospel* by Fr. Joseph Nguyen OFM. We also enjoyed a prayer

walk in a Franciscan view of creation led by Fr. Dan Gurnick, OFM. We accommodated the schedule to have Reconciliation, Holy Mass, Praise and Worship, Adoration, Benediction followed by farewells. We had the opportunity for fellowship between talks and meals, wrapping up the day with thankful hearts, looking forward for the next retreat along with planning monthly gatherings. Thank you so much for all the prayerful support that we have received from the Secular Franciscan members and a special thank you to St Anthony of Padua fraternity in Richmond and to OLOTA council for providing the snacks and drinks for the retreat; and to the Parish staff for providing the meals. This ministry is possible and blessed with all the Franciscan work. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us and give you all a blessed Easter season.

*Maritza Chouza, ofc
OLOTA Minister of Youth*

Our new ***OLOTA Daily Morning Prayer Circle*** is on Zoom!

Our shared intention is simple & deeply Franciscan: to pray for an increase in vocations to the First, Second, Third Orders & YouFra

What We Pray Together (for 30 minutes)

*Morning Offering - Liturgy of the Hours - Prayer to Attract Hearts of the OFS
Franciscan Family Chaplet Prayer - Secular Franciscan Prayer for the Youth
Psalm from the Little Office of the Passion*

6:30 AM (BC), 7:30 AM (AB), 8:30 AM (MT/SK)

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87194635029?pwd=JbIYxdyR4L3l2HWccz6lA4b9cBDyL4.1>

Meeting ID: 871 9463 5029 **Passcode:** 382440

Contact: ofsmiriam@gmail.com 604-819-1204

Prayer Intentions for Vocations (from CIOFS)

Mar 2026: For brothers and sisters who are discerning their vocation to the Secular Franciscan Order. Apr 2026: For the light of the Holy Spirit to guide the members of OFS local fraternities and councils responsible for helping discern true vocation.

All intentions for 2026 from: the Holy Father, OFS/YouFra, OFS Vocations.

Save the Date

Attn: **FRANCISCAN CROWN ROSARY & BOOK CLUB CANCELLED**
for EASTER CELEBRATIONS in APRIL. **Back in May!**

- **Come & See: Why be a Secular Franciscan???**
3 zoom sessions for INQUIRERS & friends of SFO
March/April/May 2026 (SEE POSTER BELOW)

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

On the first Saturday of each month.

Next... **2026 May 2nd @ 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.. **Sunday, May 3rd 2026 @ 6pm PST.** Discussion on

The Franciscan View of The Human Person by Dawn M. Nothwehr, OSF

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

WHY BE A SECULAR FRANCISCAN?



Do you want to:

- * develop a deeper faith life?
- * be a person of peace?
- * make the world a better place?
- * meet in community with your brothers & sisters?
- * care for our fragile environment?

If so, maybe you are being called to the *Secular Franciscan* way of life. Please join Liam & Catherine, Secular Franciscans, for three one hour Initial Formation Support Sessions on zoom this Spring in the comfort of your own home. All are welcome to attend the sessions.

Dates: Wednesdays March 25, April 29 & May 27, 2026

Time: 6 pm BC Pacific/ 7 pm AB Mountain/ 8 pm SK, MT Central

Please register with Marlene at patmarlocel@gmail.com before Friday, March 20, 2026.



...whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.
Matt 25:40

WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!



St Mary's Fraternity of Calgary had a Rite of Admission Ceremony (C) with Deacon Tom leading (L) on March 15, 2026. Guest speaker Deacon Ferdie Gayos spoke on the topic, Horizon of Hope. (R)

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

March 2026 Minister Lanny Hui, ofs lanny.hui@gmail.com

Editor Colleen Finlon, ofs cmarielifinlon@gmail.com

