

OUR LADY of THE ANGELS Messenger

Issue Number 68

EASTERTIME 2026

From our REGIONAL MINISTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

April 22 was Earth Day; it is one of the 365 days to be kind to our mother Earth. As Secular Franciscans, it is our responsibility to be kind to our environment, not just on April 22, but all year around. Would you throw trash to our mother, in this case mother Earth? (I am sorry if I make you feel bad; I am also guilty!) How can we avoid throwing trash to our mother Earth?

We are getting close to the regional Chapter of Election. If your fraternity has not registered, please remind your council to register, soon! Finally, please double check the regional statutes and see if anything needs to be changed/updated.

As all fraternities in the western region are less than 50 members, all can send 2 voting delegates. Let me know if I can help with the registration process. Please also consider who can be nominated for a council position at the regional level.

By this time, you have probably heard of AI for Artificial Intelligence. I downloaded the ChatGPT app months ago but have used it once or twice to test it. Just now another idea to test it came up: "Write a 250-word article about servant leadership based on Franciscan Spirituality". I am quite impressed with what came up, it talks about humility and minority, and the servant leader seeing others as brothers and sisters instead of subordinates.

I would invite you to use AI as a springboard of our reflection/discussion: Do we know enough to confirm its content? We should not completely trust everything manmade, AI included, after all everything man-made is imperfect! Double-check it with your parish priest or the spiritual assistant. An idea: perhaps ask ChatGPT to cross-reference it with the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Finally, thank you for your prayers:

- for one another,
- for first, second, and third order regular,
- for reconciliation and peace in our hearts, families, countries and among nations
- for those who has no one to pray for them
- for the success of the Regional Chapter of Election July 2-5, 2026

If you have not, please pray for the intentions above. Many thanks in advance!



**CHRIST IS RISEN!
HE IS RISEN INDEED!
ALLELUIAH!**

Your servant, Lanny

From our SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT

He is not here; for He has been raised, as He said. Mt 28:6



In the Resurrection we are assured that there are no doors that are eternally closed. Every time we close a door, or one is closed on us, God opens another for us. The Resurrection assures us that God never gives up on us, even if we give up on ourselves, that we can be forgiven when we repent and return to his love. God's love is mighty than all our sins combined. The passion of Jesus is a reminder that even when people acted on him;

misjudged, betrayed, beaten, humiliated, taunted, stripped naked, nailed to the cross to die, he continued to show his love and forgiveness to them. He continued to breathe the life of God in them.

The stone has been rolled back and the tomb is empty; resurrected life cannot be contained. Like the first believers, we so often must continue to live even with our dashed hopes and our misunderstanding of God's mysterious power. Like the first believers, we come to the tomb and expect to find death, but instead we find signs of a new life we cannot even begin to comprehend. The tomb can be seen as a chamber built of stones; stones like self-interest, resistance to change, a hardened heart, an unrepentant spirit, self-righteousness, misunderstanding, violence and materialistic view of life. These are the mini tombs that we bury ourselves and these are what bury God within us. We are human and we cannot at times avoid falling into sin and evil. God becomes hidden beneath the weight of our evils. Like Jesus, we too will have our crucifixions. More than one tomb awaits us. Yet, God raises to life those who hear his voice, just as he did with Jesus.

Easter, the feast of the Resurrection, gives us the joyful message that we are a "Resurrection people." This means that we are not supposed to lie buried in the tomb of our sins and evil habits. While the Easter mystery does not deny the reality of suffering, pain and sorrows, it does proclaim reason for hope in the human condition. It enables us, even in the most difficult and desperate of times, to live our lives in hopeful certainty of the fulfillment of the resurrection at the end of our life. Hence, Resurrection is not just a question of one day, after death, rising from the dead, but it is also about daily rising from the many mini tombs within which we so often find ourselves. Once risen, we live for God's interests, values, beliefs, goals and attitudes. This leads to a new life founded on love and mercy, a life filled with lasting peace and happiness. Easter reminds us that life is worth living. It gives us the Good News that no tombs can hold us down any longer; not the tombs of despair, discouragement, doubt, or death itself. We are called to rise with the Risen Lord and experience his real presence in all the events of our lives. *Jesus is Risen... wish you a Blessed Easter!*

Br Manoj Xalxo, OFM

From our REGIONAL DIRECTOR of FORMATION

At the daily Mass at Saint Michael's Cathedral Basilica in Toronto the other day, Father Edwin has a simple message for the parishioners, visitors and all of us online. He says "How am I living out my life like Jesus? Am I patient? Am I kind in my words, my actions, my attitude, not allowing anger to disturb my peace but having faith, trusting in God?... a simple message yet a profound reminder to all of us every day.

Catherine McNiff, ofs



The Jubilee Year of St Francis 1226 – 2026

We are so thankful to Pope Leo for honoring the Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi. On Oct 3 each year, the Franciscan family celebrates the death of our seraphic father, St Francis of Assisi. We hope and pray that this holy person lives on in our lives so that everyone can share in the blessing of his saintly life. If you have time to read a biography about St. Francis, you will come to know why we consider him so important. May I recommend a book, *The Way of St. Francis* by Br Murray Bodo, OFM.

David Bouchard, ofs
VM, Alberta South

From ST BONAVENTURE: Minor Life, Chapter VII, St Francis' Death, articles 1 & 5

- *First lesson:* Francis now hung body and soul upon the Cross with Christ; the fervor of his seraphic love raised him up to God and he was consumed with zeal for souls, so that he shared his Lord's thirst for their salvation. He could no longer walk because of the nails protruding from his feet, and so he had himself carried, half dead as he was, about the towns and villages. Like "the second angel coming up from the east" (Ap 7:2) of whom St John speaks in the *Apocalypse*, he enkindled the hearts of Gods servants with a divine fire, and set their feet on the way of peace, marking their brows with the seal of the living God. He longed with all his heart to return to the humble beginning he had made at first, and to nurse the lepers once more, as he had done before, making his body which was already worn out with toil, serve him once again, as it had served him before.

- *Fifth lesson:* Then he asked them to read the passage of St John's Gospel which begins, "Before the paschal feast began" (Jn 13:1); only a partition of flesh now separated him from his Beloved and he would listen to the beat of his voice in the Gospel phrases. All God's mysteries had been finally accomplished in him and he died quietly, praying and singing a psalm. His holy soul was freed from his body and absorbed in the abyss of eternal glory.

That very moment one of the friars, a disciple of the saint who was well known for his sanctity, saw his soul being borne on a white cloud over many waters straight to heaven, under the appearance of a radiant star. It shone with the beauty of a pure conscience, clad in the glory of his outstanding merits; the abundance of grace he had received and the Christ-like virtues he had practiced bore it aloft so surely that nothing could delay its entry into the vision of eternal light and glory.

Saint Zita of Lucca was a member of the Third Order of St Francis. Lucca is in Tuscany; and since the Third Order was widely propagated there after its founding, this holy servant girl of the thirteenth century would quite naturally join its ranks. Zita was born at the village of Monte Sagrati in 1218, at the time that St Francis was entering upon his career as a knight-errant of Christ. Her parents were poor, devout Christians; an older sister afterwards became a nun; and her uncle Graziano was a saintly hermit. When she was twelve years old, Zita went to Lucca, eight miles from her home, to be a servant girl of the Fatinelli family which carried on a prosperous wool and silk weaving business; and she remained in their employ until she died forty-eight years later. Her daily work became a part of her religious life. She was wont to say: servant girl is not pious, if she is not industrious; work shy piety is sham piety." At the same time, she led a very prayerful and penitential life. She rose nightly for prayer; and daily she attended the first Mass in the adjacent church of San Frediano. The good food she received for herself she gave to the poor and lived on waste scraps or fasted. She wore only the poorest clothes and never put on shoes, even in winter. 1218-1278: Feast Day April 27th [More on her life.](#)



COMING UP SOON.....

OLOTA REGIONAL CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS JULY 2-5, 2026

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

[CLICK HERE FOR APPLICATION FORM](#)

Prayer Intentions for Vocations (from CIOFS)

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.
May 2026: For the development of the culture of vocations in our fraternities.

[All intentions for 2026 from: the Holy Father, OFS/YouFra, OFS Vocations.](#)

Save the Date

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

On the first Saturday of each month.

Next... **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** @ 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

-OLOTA Daily Morning Prayer Circle *on zoom!*

We pray together for 30 minutes for an increase in Franciscan vocations:
Morning Offering – Liturgy of the Hours - Prayer to Attract Hearts of the OFS
Franciscan Family Chaplet Prayer - 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=JblYxdyR4L3l2HWccz6lA4b9cBDyL4.1>

Meeting ID: 871 9463 5029 Passcode: 382440

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

2026

OFS National Presentation

THE TRINITY & St FRANCIS



Friday, May 22: *The Holy Spirit & Saint Francis*
by Sr Mary Margaret Delaski, FSE (1hr)

Friday, May 29: *God the Father, Son, Holy Spirit
& Saint Francis*
by Grace Aboshougwe Magasbor, ofs (1hr)

Friday, June 5: *The Most Holy Body & Blood of
Jesus Christ & Saint Francis*
by Fr Peter Knaapen, OFM Conventual (1hr)

On Zoom: 4:00 pm PT/5:00 pm MT/6:00 pm CT/
7:00 pm ET/8:00 pm AT

The one hour presentations will be recorded and made
available with captions in French and Korean.

Register by one week before selected presentation(s) to
deborahdessier57@gmail.com or cmariiefinlon@gmail.com

What's Happening!!!



St Clare of Assisi Fraternity of Coquitlam, BC participated in a ministry fair at St Clare of Assisi Parish in Coquitlam on Sunday, April 19, 2026. They created a table display, newsletter, poster & brochure and spoke with parishioners about the Secular Franciscan Order.

Br Abraham Joseph, Rector of Blessed Frederick Janssonne Shrine in Trois Rivieres, Quebec was invited to St Joseph the Worker Parish in Richmond, BC by Br Dan Gurnick to give a Parish Mission on *The Easter Joy of St. Francis* from April 18-20. Members of St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity attended as well as Br Martin & from Vietnam, Br Vincent.



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