

# OUR LADY of THE ANGELS Messenger

Issue Number 69

MAY 2026

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

As this is almost the end of the council term, please feel free to ask any of the regional council members any questions such as what we have done, our experiences during the term (highs and lows points), and learned; or perhaps something new fraternity such as young adult ministry. gathering minutes ask. I do not want to with emails irrelevant



what we have tips on trying within your starting youth or We can make our available, if you overwhelm you to you.

A request: if your discussed who will be at of Election July 2-5, council. A fraternity member can go. Thank

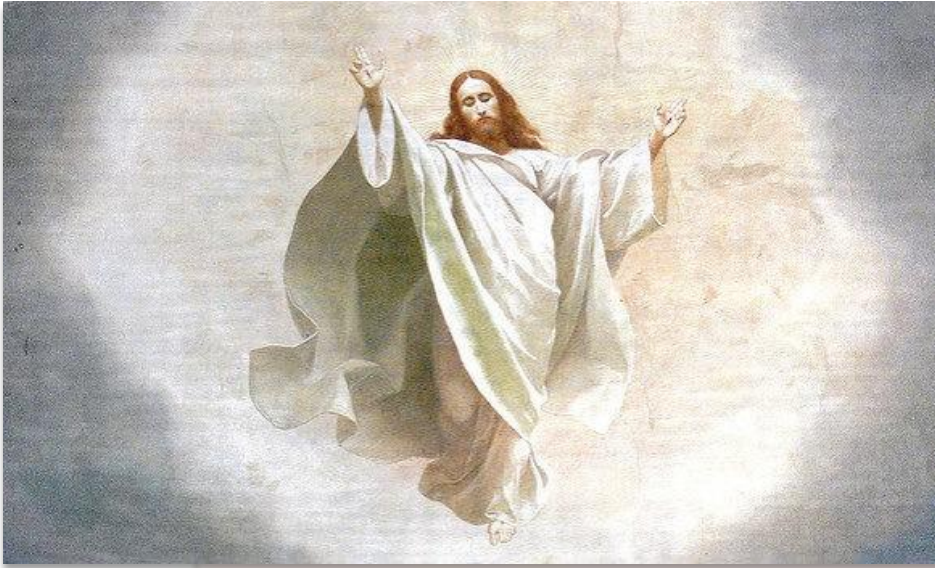
***Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful & kindle in them the Fire of Your Love! Send forth your Spirit & they shall be created, & You shall renew the face of the earth!***

fraternity has not the Regional Chapter please remind the minister plus another you in advance!

Many of you have daily devotion to Mama Mary especially this month. If you haven't already, talk to her in your prayers e.g. I asked her how she can say "yes" immediately though she was perplexed at the time of annunciation. The answer I got was "through repeating saying "yes" in doing the will of God". By the time of Annunciation, she was trained already; so no discernment is needed. She was trained to say "yes" and do the will of God perfectly. Her free will is in-line with God's will. When we were children, our free will, made us decide to obey our parents; as our trust in our parents increased and relationship with them deepened, we followed their guidance more despite difficult tasks they asked. We would readily say "yes", like Mama Mary at the time of Annunciation. So, try to converse with Mama Mary, the Holy Spirit, then Jesus when you pray the rosary next time.

Many thanks again to those who pray for our fraternities and the success of the Regional Council everyday either in private, during fraternity gatherings, or on zoom at 6:30 am BC / 7:30 am AB-SK / 8:30 am MB.

*Your servant, Lanny*  
Regional Minister



*In my  
Father's  
house there  
are many  
rooms...  
I go to  
prepare a  
place for  
you  
...so that  
where I am  
you may  
also be.  
John 14:2-3*

### *From our SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT*

**Jesus Wants Disciples, Not Just Admirers:** *“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”* St Theresa of Avila

What Jesus wants is disciples, not just admirers. Jesus taught people, healed the sick, comforted the poor and sorrowful, fed the hungry-had compassion for them, raised the dead to life, ate with tax collectors and sinners-forgave their sins, and confronted the Pharisees and Scribes, etc. We should do the same things: We should become teachers, preachers, healers, comforters, providers, life givers, forgivers, and non-judgmental friends to the less-than-pious. Of-course, our present world needs more of such people to make this world a peaceful and better place for all to live.

There are many who admire Jesus for who He is and what He did, but lack in living what He calls us to. Many fail to act on his command *“go and do likewise.”* (Lk 10:37) We imitate Jesus when we try to do things for the same reasons He did. In this view, imitation is carrying on the actions of Jesus. Moreover, in doing this, we enter an authentic relationship with Jesus and with those for whom we do these things; because Jesus is not a religion but a relationship. When we live and do things for the love of Jesus and others, then all we do and our sacrifice is acceptable to God. When we share our time, talent and treasure with the less fortunate filled with a generous heart, we receive manifold in return by a generous God. Without a doubt, God blesses the generous giver. And truly, it's in giving that we receive, thus living is giving.

Wherever we go, the Lord Jesus wants us to bring the good news and blessings of his kingdom to as many people as we can. Jesus calls us the salt of the earth. He wants us to bring the flavor of his goodness and holiness into every area of society we are engaged in. Jesus calls us the light of the world. He wants us to make him known and loved by helping people to see the radiance of his love and truth and the beauty of his kingdom. That is why Jesus continues to commission his followers throughout every age to *“make disciples of all nations”* (Mt 28:19). A disciple of Jesus is a dedicated follower and learner who commits to his teachings, emulates his life, and carries out his mission. Thus, all baptized are chosen, consecrated and commissioned to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God.

*Br Manoj Xalxo, OFM*

## *From our REGIONAL DIRECTOR of FORMATION*

In the Franciscan Book Club this month we are “dipping our toes into the water” as we look ahead to September and Volume Three of the Franciscan Heritage Series called *The Franciscan View of the Human Person* by Sister Dawn Nothwehr, OSF, Assistant Professor of Ethics and Director of the Master of Divinity Program at the Catholic Theological Union, Chicago. In this work by Sister Nothwehr, OSF we explore the major themes in the Franciscan View of the Human Person. We are asked what it means when we read “Humans are deified by the Incarnation, redeemed through the Passion and nurtured by the Eucharist.”

All humans have an inviolable dignity because God created each person through love and for love and each human being bears “*God’s very image and likeness.*” (Gen. 1:26) Sister Dawn Nothwehr tells us that each person is unique yet joined to all others in a common humanness and even though each person sins, “*God’s generous love abounds and we are continually called to the very heart of God.*” Along with this gift from God, we are also co-creators and co-redeemers with God, with the responsibility to use our gifts and talents for the good of all of creation, but especially for the poor. We are called to treat all other human beings with respect out of deference to the divine image of God.

Sister Nothwehr mentions that human existence is deified by the Incarnation. Jesus, Christ, the Son of God, became one like us - a physical and spiritual being. God is choosing to show His love for us in the way that we could understand, in the person of Jesus. Sister reiterates that “*Our way to wholeness and holiness is to become like Christ, fully human, developing our God-given gifts and talents as completely as we can and sharing them with others.*”

In their writings and in the way Francis and Clare lived, they confirmed the goodness of the human body. Their individual struggle to see bodily goodness was an important part of each one’s journey of conversion. Sister Nothwehr tells us that “*Women’s bodies are not sources of evil*” as many have believed for centuries and reminds us that it was through a human body - Mary’s - and with a human body - Jesus - that God entered our world and “*We experience union with Christ bodily as we receive Eucharistic bread and wine.*”

Because we have experienced pain and suffering in our own lives, Sister reminds us “*We can realize the depth and breadth of God’s deep love for us in the Passion.*” It is this love that compels us to conversion of heart, to actions of love, of justice and of “*Contemplation of the one who draws us close*” and enables us to respond to others with sensitivity and kindness.

Sister Nothwehr tells us to “*Follow Jesus’ example, as one who ‘...emptied Himself of Godly power and prestige.’*” (Phil 2:7) She comments “*Humans are at their best when they surrender themselves to God’s love and care.*” Ironically, it is then that we are most powerful and free. It is then that the power of love is ours to use in the service of others, especially the poor.”

*Catherine McNiff, ofs*

### **FRANCIS & THE HOLY SPIRIT** by Pat McCloskey, OFM

One of the Church’s most beautiful liturgical prayers is the Pentecost Sequence (*Veni, Sancte Spiritus*), a Latin poem attributed to Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, an older contemporary of St. Francis, who died in 1228. After an invitation to come from heaven, the Holy Spirit is described as “*the Father of the poor! Come, source of all our store! Come within our bosoms shine. You of comforters the best; You, the soul’s most welcome guest; Sweet refreshment here below.*” Perhaps no other prayer equals this entire text as an expression of God’s wildly generous providence for and compassion on all creation, especially human beings.

*“Heal our wounds, our strength renew; On our dryness pour your dew; Wash the stain of guilt away. Bend the stubborn heart and will; Melt the frozen, warm the chill; Guide the steps that go astray.”*

The text closes with:

*“On the faithful who adore And confess you, evermore In your sevenfold gift descend. Give them virtue’s sure reward; Give them your salvation, Lord; Give them joys that never end. Amen. Alleluia.”* (cont’d on pge 8)

**SALUTATION of the  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

*By St Francis of Assisi*



Hail, holy Lady,  
Most holy Queen,  
Mary, Mother of God,  
Ever Virgin;  
Chosen by the most holy Father in heaven,  
Consecrated by him,  
With his most holy beloved Son  
And the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.  
On you descended and in you still remains  
All the fullness of grace  
And every good.

Hail, his Palace,  
Hail, his Tabernacle,  
Hail, his Robe,  
Hail, his Handmaid,  
Hail, his Mother.  
And Hail, all holy Virtues,  
Who, by the grace  
And inspiration of the Holy Spirit,  
Are poured into the hearts of the faithful  
So that, faithless no longer,  
They may be made faithful servants of God  
Through you.



**St Amato Ronconi, OFS**

1226-1292

Feast Day - May 8

Ronconi lived a life of penitence and dedicated all his works to the poor through the construction of chapels and hospitals. One such hospital still exists in his home of Rimini, Italy. The residents in this town recognised his good deeds and hailed Ronconi as a saint in his own lifetime.

More on [HIS LIFE](#).

**Our Dearly Departed**

*Rest in peace, faithful ones!*

Alice H McCrea, OFS  
1927-2026  
Little Flowers  
Fraternity  
Kelowna, BC 21 years  
Franciscan  
Missionaries  
of Charity 40 years



Mabel V Flore, OFS  
1927-2026  
San Damiano Fraternity  
Salmon Arm, BC  
OFS 44 years

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## Save the Date

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

On the first Saturday of each month.

Next... **June 6th @ 7pm PST/8pm MST/9pm CST**

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

Meeting ID: 864 8609 8310 Passcode: 741246

### - **Franciscan Book Club**

Next... **Sunday, June 7th @ 6pm PST.** Discussion on

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

Contact Miriam Liem at [ofsmiriam@gmail.com](mailto:ofsmiriam@gmail.com) or Marlene Welch at [Patmarlocel@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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  
[deborahessier57@gmail.com](mailto:deborahessier57@gmail.com) or [cmariiefinlon@gmail.com](mailto:cmariiefinlon@gmail.com)

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](mailto:lanny.hui@gmail.com)

[CLICK HERE FOR APPLICATION FORM](#)

**Prayer Intentions for Vocations (from CIOFS)**

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

**June 2026:** For those OFS brothers and sisters who experience crisis in vocation.

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



Newly elected council for  
*Mary Queen of Peace Fraternity*  
of Pincher Creek, AB. (L-R)  
Clayton Twigg – Formation Director  
Joanne Bywaters – Minister  
Carolyn Twigg – Vice Minister  
Barbara Bastien – Treasurer  
Bonnie Downie - Secretary

Newly elected council for  
*St Clare Korean Fraternity*  
of Edmonton, AB.  
(L-R) Lydia, Anne, Timothy,  
Felicitas, Nicolas, Thomas



# FRANCISCAN YOUNG ADULT ONE DAY RETREAT



As we continue celebrating the Jubilee year of St Francis of Assisi, we held our second young adult one day retreat on May 2nd at St. Joseph's Friary in Victoria, BC. The theme was "Christ in the Heart of St. Francis." With joyful hearts, we began the retreat with Holy Mass at 9 am. There were three talks in the Spirit of Francis followed by discussion in small groups after each talk. The topics were: Rebuild my Church, Encounter with the Leper, and Proclaiming the Gospel. We also enjoyed a prayer walk and Franciscan view of creation led by Fr Dan Gurnick, OFM.



Between talks, we had opportunities for Reconciliation and quiet time. It was a good day to socialize and get to know each other. We ended the day full of thanksgiving at 5:30 pm looking forward to future activities to share our Franciscan Spirit. We are grateful to the friars in Victoria for their hospitality and for providing lunch. Thanks also to Friar Dan Gurnick for helping with the organization. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us. I am always grateful to the Secular Franciscans for keeping us in their prayers. Have a happy Pentecost!

Maritza Chouza, ofs  
Minister of  
Youth



**YOUNG ADULT  
Franciscan  
FESTIVAL of TENTS**

- FRANCISCAN SPIRIT**  
Mass, reconciliation, prayers, talks
- COMMUNITY**  
Small group faith discussions, socializing + more
- FUN & GAMES**  
Icebreaker improv, karaoke, relay races
- CREATION**  
Connect with nature

**OUR LADY OF VICTORY CAMP**  
41203 Range Rd 11  
Lacombe Country, AB

**FRIDAY SEPT 4TH**  
7:00 PM  
—  
**SUNDAY SEPT 6TH**  
1:00 PM\*

**COST: \$125**  
Includes food, water, showers and accommodation. Bunk beds available or bring your own tent.

**FOR YOUNG ADULTS 18-39**

To register please complete the form and e-transfer your registration fee to [ofkubla@gmail.com](mailto:ofkubla@gmail.com). You will receive confirmation and a parking list.  
For more information [maritza.chouza@gmail.com](mailto:maritza.chouza@gmail.com)

Scan to register!

## FRANCIS & THE HOLY SPIRIT (cont'd from pge 3)

This lyrical text would certainly have appealed to St. Francis, who wanted to insert into the Rule of 1223 that the Holy Spirit is the true minister general of the Order. The time to do that officially had unfortunately already passed (2C 193).

According to Optatus van Asseldonk in the *Dizionario Francescano*, St. Francis uses the term "Holy Spirit" 38 times in his writings, almost always in a Trinitarian context. The Capuchin scholar notes that Francis saw God's creative, redeeming, and saving action as a common work of the three Persons, under the leadership of God the Father. This is eloquently expressed in [Chapter 23 of the First Rule of 1221](#).

The Holy Spirit always promotes unity and peace. In Admonition 8, Francis quotes St. Paul:

*"No one can say Jesus is Lord, except in the Holy Spirit; and There is not one who does good, not even one."*

Francis continues:

*"Therefore, whoever envies his brother the good that the Lord says or does in him incurs a sin of blasphemy because he envies the Most High Himself Who says and does every good thing."*

In the Salutation of the Virtues, Francis prays:

*"Most holy Virtues, may the Lord protect all of You from Whom You come and proceed. There is surely no one in the whole world who can possess any one of You without dying first."*

The Holy Spirit is an essential component of the "great humility" of service praised at the conclusion of the [Canticle of the Creatures](#).

Francis urged the friars to announce with God's blessing:

*"Fear and honor, praise and bless, give thanks and adore, the Lord God Almighty in Trinity and in Unity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the Creator of All"* (Rule of 1221, Chapter 21).

In a world where many of the Catholic Church's fiercest critics were sure that they represented the Holy Spirit's critique of that Church in the thirteenth century, Francis and his most authentic followers were open to the grace of the Holy Spirit and resisted the temptation to examine everyone else's conscience on the basis of what they thought the Holy Spirit was telling them.

(from [www.franciscantradition.org](http://www.franciscantradition.org))

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

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*Pax et Bonum!*