

OUR LADY of THE ANGELS Messenger

Issue Number 71

July 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Here is the link to the [new regional council members](#). Thanks to God and many helping hands (practically everyone who attended!), the Chapter of Election in Kelowna went well. My heart has been filled with gratitude for God's grace and YOUR efforts: planning, preparing, sending your fraternity delegates, driving to Kelowna, flying to Kelowna, helping in the kitchen, buying food, voting, nominating, accepting nomination, accepting election, participating in discussions, praying, fraternal talks with one another, giving Spiritual talks, proposing resolutions, voting, setting aside time to be here with our brothers and sisters, and many other things you have done that only God knows! Many thanks to all of you!



Deep gratitude to the outgoing council members (Anna-Maria O'Hagan, Catherine McNiff, Clemence Jung, and David Bouchard) for all the things you have done to serve our fraternities. You have been willing to collaborate with me with your wisdom despite my shortcomings. I will continue to rely on your support (if you don't mind!).

Special thanks to Colleen for the phenomenal work to make sure that we had a venue and were all fed and to David for accommodation arrangement!

*Peace and all good,
Lanny*



Meeting ID: 864 8609 8310 Passcode: 741246



Celebrating the Easter of Saint Francis 1226-2026 (from Centenario EN)

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 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, FF221). At the end of his days, Francis contemplated his life and discovered the presence and action of the Lord everywhere. Thus, in his Testament he repeats, like a refrain: "The Lord gave me, Brother Francis... The Lord gave me such faith in churches... The Lord gave me, and gives me still, such faith... And after the Lord gave me some brothers, no one showed me what I had to do, but the Most High Himself revealed to me that I should live according to the pattern of the Holy Gospel" (Testament 1-14, FF110-116). This is the same attitude shown by Clare of Assisi when she wrote her Testament, in the last days of her life. In fact, she, too, recognized God as the Divine Giver, to whom thanks must be given for all the gifts he bestows, especially the gift of her vocation (cf. Testament of St. Clare 1-2, FF2823). The celebration of the 800th anniversary of the Easter of Francis of Assisi invites us to contemplate our life, both personally and as a Franciscan Family, with the eyes of faith, and by doing so, perceive the divine presence and action in everything, even in the difficult and dramatic situations we have experienced or are experiencing now. It is an opportunity to thank God for all the gifts he has bestowed on us, particularly for the gift of Francis of Assisi and his evangelical life, which has become our charism, articulated in different nuances of discipleship and apostolate, and which today still has the strength to call out to women and men of all cultures, both inside and outside the Catholic Church. As his passing drew near, Francis said to his brothers: "Let us begin, brothers, to serve the Lord God, for up until now we have done little or nothing.' He did not consider that he had already attained his goal, but tireless in pursuit of holy newness, he constantly hoped to begin again. He wanted to return to serving lepers" (1 Celano 103, FF 500). The Easter of Francis of Assisi reminds us that every day is an opportunity to start fresh, to renew our response to the call of the Lord. He sends us forth as brothers and sisters to the whole world, to bear witness to Him in word and deed, so as to draw everyone to the love of God (cf. Prayer Inspired by the Our Father 5, FF 270). Finally, celebrating the passing of the Poverello is an occasion to remember that we are all called to holiness, and that like Francis, we are invited to reflect the beauty of the Gospel and of our Franciscan vocation, because "holiness is the most attractive face of the Church (Gaudete et exsultate 9).

From our DIRECTOR of FORMATION

Hello & Blessings to all! I wish to introduce myself and extend my deepest gratitude for your confidence in electing me as your new Regional Formation Director. I must admit I take on this position with some trepidation as I try to fill Catherine's huge shoes and navigate this new role, but I promise to give it my Scout's best! At the same time, I am excited to get to know all of you and humbly welcome all suggestions on how best to serve you.

A little of my background: I live in Olds, Alberta and am a recently retired nurse. I was professed as a secular Franciscan in September 2002. A couple of the positions I have held within my local Holy Spirit Fraternity have been with Formation. I Can't believe how these 24 years could have passed so quickly but I believe it speaks to the huge importance of ongoing formation for all of us! It is Holy Spirit glue that unites us and keeps us firmly planted! Please feel free to reach out to me.



*Peace & all good,
Audrey Gross, ofc*

From our regional DIRECTOR of JPIC

Since this is the first opportunity to address the region as an elected director, I would like to introduce myself as a prelude to connecting directly with the existing members of the JPIC committee soon. My fraternity is St. Pio in Red Deer, and I have been professed for two years this fall. Age wise I have just turned the corner, and I reside now as a widower for the past 7 years and continue to live in central Alberta. Through the years our family has supported the church in various ministries, especially focusing on the disadvantaged near at home and afar. To be clear, my focus going forward will be to join in with what is on the table in terms of existing initiatives and at the same time look for opportunities with a prayerful, collaborative and discerning eye going forward.



Blais MacSween, ofc



St Veronica Giuliani

Poor Clare, Capuchin

1660 – 1727

Saint & Mystic

Feast Day July 9

*“I have found Love, Love
has let himself be seen!”*

[On Her Life](#) [On Her Diary](#)

[From Pope Benedict XVI](#)



11 Martyrs of Damascus

Damascus, Syria 1860

Fr. Manuel Ruiz López

Fr. Carmelo Bolta Bañuls

Fr. Engelbert Kolland

Fr. Nicanor Ascanio Soria

Fr. Nicolás María Alberca Torres

Fr. Pedro Nolasco Soler Méndez

Br. Francisco Pinazo Peñalver

Br. Juan Jacob Fernández

The 3 Maronite Laymen

(The Massabki Brothers)

Feast Day July 9

[Their Martyrdom](#)

[Their Sainthood](#)

Saint Francis of Assisi was
canonized on July 16, 1228
by Pope Gregory IX and
his Feast Day is October 4th.

From ***The Journey of the Mind to God*** by Saint Bonaventure (*Feast Day-July 15*)
Mystical wisdom is revealed by the Holy Spirit

Christ is both the way and the door. Christ is the staircase and the vehicle, like the throne of mercy over the Ark of the Covenant, and the mystery hidden from the ages. A man should turn his full attention to this throne of mercy, and should gaze at him hanging on the cross, full of faith, hope and charity, devoted, full of wonder and joy, marked by gratitude, and open to praise and jubilation. Then such a man will make with Christ a Pasch, that is, a passing-over. Through the branches of the cross he will pass over the Red Sea, leaving Egypt and entering the desert. There he will taste the hidden manna, and rest with Christ in the sepulcher, as if he were dead to things outside. He will experience, as much as is possible for one who is still living, what was promised to the thief who hung beside Christ: *Today you will be with me in paradise.*

For this passover to be perfect, we must suspend all the operations of the mind, and we must transform the peak of our affections, directing them to God alone. This is a sacred mystical experience. It cannot be comprehended by anyone unless he surrenders himself to it; nor can he surrender himself to it unless he longs for it; nor can he long for it unless the Holy Spirit, whom Christ sent into the world, should come and inflame his innermost soul. Hence the Apostle says that this **mystical wisdom is revealed by the Holy Spirit.**

If you ask how such things can occur, seek the answer in God's grace, not in doctrine; in the longing of the will, not in the understanding; in the sighs of prayer, not in research; seek the bridegroom not the teacher; God and not man; darkness not daylight; and look not to the light but rather to the raging fire that carries the soul to God with intense fervor and glowing love. The fire is God, and the furnace is in Jerusalem, fired by Christ in the ardor of his loving passion. Only he understood this who said: *My soul chose hanging and my bones death.* Anyone who cherishes this kind of death can see God, for it is certainly true that: *No man can look upon me and live.*

Let us die, then, and enter into the darkness, silencing our anxieties, our passions and all the fantasies of our imagination. Let us pass over with the crucified Christ *from this world to the Father*, so that, when the Father has shown himself to us, we can say with Philip: *It is enough.* We may hear with Paul: *My grace is sufficient for you;* and we can rejoice with David, saying: *My flesh and my heart fail me, but God is the strength of my heart and my heritage for ever. Blessed be the Lord for ever and let all the people say: Amen. Amen!*

2026-2029 OLOTA Western Region Council

Minister: Lanny Hui **Vice Ministers:** BC Coastal: Carmen Moorhouse BC Interior: Christine Reeves
AB N: Issac Reyes AB S: Erika Bancila SK&MB: Paulette Matovich

Regional Spiritual Assistant: Fr. Manoj Xalxo, ofm **Secretary:** Michelle Butt **Treasurer:** Gary Jose

Director of Formation: Audrey Gross **Director of Youth:** Maritza Chouza

Director of JPIC: Blaise MacSween **Director of Communications:** Colleen Finlon

On The CENTENARY

Articles on the Centenary have been posted in the past in **OLOTA Messenger**. As cited previously, the main sources are the two following websites available in English. You can bookmark them to read and view the many articles and images published there.

- Centenari Francescani: [Home - Centenari Francescani](#)
- EWTN Vatican: [Holy Year of Saint Francis: 8th Centenary of his Life](#)

The **Franciscan Vision Global Summit** has been featuring monthly presentations on zoom internationally since the Centenary celebrations began in 2023. Reports on the presentations were made by Colleen Finlon and Marlene Welch and published in our **OLOTA Messenger** during 2023 and the first three months of 2024. You may access them on [OLOTA.org](#) For 2023 scroll down to get them in the archives.

Our **OFS Canadian National Website** features a schedule with links to the Centenary events since 2023. [800th Centenaries - Secular Franciscan Order Canada](#)

Prayer Intentions for Vocations (from CIOFS)

July 2026: For young people to find clarity & courage as they follow Jesus in the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi.

August 2026: For all the candidates who are preparing to make their professions in the OFS.

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

Save the Date

Pray the Franciscan **CROWN ROSARY & VESPERS**

On the first Saturday of each month.

Next... **August 1st** @ **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, **September 6th** @ 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

Young Adult Franciscan Festival of Tents

Our Lady of Victory of Camp in Lacombe, AB

from **September 4–6, 2026**

(see poster below)



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

What's Happening!



Celebrating 30 years of Profession Irene Manning St. Pio Fraternity

(June 9, 1996 - at Sacred Heart Parish, Red Deer)

Today as I look back, I am filled with deep gratitude - for the people,
the love, the faith and all the lessons along the way.
I give thanks for the countless blessings, the friendships and the quiet
miracles along the way.

I am still being shaped by this journey and I'm so grateful to keep
walking it.



CONGRATULATIONS!!!



A Fraternal Visit

by Br Manoj Xalxo, ofm
with Little Flowers
Fraternity in Kelowna
on July 7, 2026.
Maria Levko, Minister.



Permanent Professions

June 14, 2026

at St Mary's Fraternity of Calgary, AB

L-R: Heather Shilling (Formation Dir)

Celso Ruy, Ceciely Ruy

Fr.Dennis Vavrek OFM

Elaine Schnitzler, May Depositar

Erika Bancila (Minister)

Linda Schultz (Formator)

Temporary Professions

June 14, 2026

at St Mary's Fraternity of Calgary, AB

L-R: Heather Shilling (Formation Dir)

Murdoch Macleod (Formator)

Lance Berrington, Jennifer Lim

Fr.Dennis Vavrek OFM

Lillian Gilles, Jordan Gibson

Rosa Lynberg (Formator)

Erika Bancila (Minister)



Calgary Diocese Renewal Conference

April 18, 2026

Franciscans representing their parishes:

Kathy Macleod, Murdoch Macleod

Lynn Spicer, Marlene Welch

Ceciely & Celso Ruy

Jennifer Lim, Lillian Gilles

OLOTA
Chapter of Elections 2026
Kelowna, BC



Our Lady of the Angels, Secular Franciscan Order of Western Canada Region
July 2026 Minister Lanny Hui, ofs lannyhui@gmail.com
Editor/Publisher Colleen Finlon, ofs cmariiefinlon@gmail.com