

OUR LADY of THE ANGELS Messenger

Issue Number 72

August 2026



Hello Everyone!

Happy beginning of the end of summer! I hope you've had a wonderful summer; there is still an opportunity to do a summer activity since this is only the beginning of the end! If you are not big on AI, give it a try such as "fun activities in greater Winnipeg area in September" - here are the results: "In September, you can enjoy the St. Norbert Farmers' Market, take a scenic bike ride along the Assiniboine River, and visit the Canadian Museum for Human Rights for guided tours. Additionally, events like the Fall Fair at Red River Exhibition Park and the Ashern Rodeo offer exciting activities for all ages." Try it for your area such as Calgary, Edmonton, Kelowna, Red Deer, Vancouver.

Right after the regional chapter of elections, some of council members have been on the move: approaching local fraternity ministers, organizing an annual retreat, organizing the Novena to Our Lady of the Angels, and publishing the monthly messenger.

In the meantime, some fraternity members from Western Canada are faithfully praying for the council members every morning at 6:30am BC / 7:30am AB-SK / 8:30am. Many thanks for all you do. Also, the book club, organized by some fraternity members, is still running. Please contact Miriam Liem at ofsmiriam@gmail.com if you are interested.

This year, Seasons of Creation is between September 1 - October 4, please consider doing an activity together. Please visit seasonofcreation.org for some ideas. We also hope to plan the online Novena to St. Francis September 24 - October 2, so that you can celebrate the Transitus of St. Francis on October 3. Please ask the friars around you to find out about special events...



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Feast Day Aug 15th [ABOUT HER](#)



St Clare of Assisi (1194-1253)

Feast Day Aug 11th

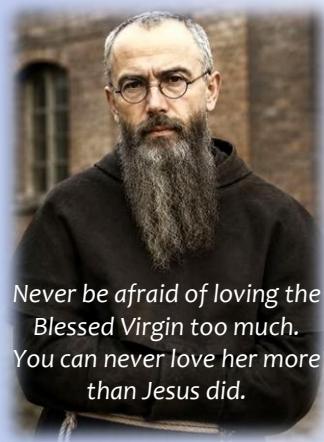
[HER LIFE](#)

The Blessing

I bless you during my life and after my death, as I am able, out of all the blessings with which the Father of mercies has blessed and will bless His sons and daughters in heaven and on earth and which a spiritual father and mother have blessed and will bless their spiritual sons and daughters.

Always be lovers of your souls and those of all your sisters. And may you always be eager to observe what you have promised the Lord. May the Lord always be with you and may you always be with Him.

by St Clare (1253)



Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did.

St Maximilian Kolbe (1894-1941)

Feast Day Aug 14th

[HIS LIFE](#)

...celebrating the 800th Anniversary of the Easter of St. Francis. Looking ahead, the week of the poor is Nov 9 - 16, 2026. Please consider having fraternity activities for the poor.

Finally, I would like to share with you the excerpt from The Third Consideration of the Sacred and Holy Stigmata of St. Francis (from the Little Flowers of St. Francis of Assisi): “Do you know,” asked Christ [to Francis], “what I have done to you? I have given you the Stigmata which are the insignia of My Passion, so that you may be My standard-bearer. And as on the day of My death I descended into limbo and by virtue of these My Stigmata delivered all the souls whom I found there, so so I grant to you that every year on the anniversary of your death, you may go to Purgatory and take with you to the glory of Paradise all the souls of your three Orders, the Friars Minor, the Sisters, and the Penitents, and likewise all others whom you shall find there who have been especially devoted to you. In this way you may be conformed to Me in death as you have been in life.” I hope the excerpt above give you some consolation that your time in purgatory will be less than one year.

*Your servant,
Lanny*

From our DIRECTOR of FORMATION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Allow me to share some questions I’ve been pondering since accepting my nomination as your new Regional Formation director.

- **Is it possible to strengthen fraternities by increased collaboration within OLOTA through sharing of ideas for both initial and on-going formation?**
- **Do candidates feel supported enough in the process of initial formation?**
- **Do we recognize individual strengths of fraternity members and encourage participation for all to participate in ongoing formation at the regular gatherings?**



- Is there excitement among members to attend the gatherings, do they feel a deepening of their Franciscan vocation through the activities and discussions provided by on-going formation?
- When concerns or conflict arises within fraternities, how can we respond more effectively?
- How can we continue to “be there” for our home-bound members?

May the Holy Spirit guide me and all our Franciscan brothers and sisters to a deeper awareness of our calling to follow Christ in the footsteps of St Francis. Grant me wisdom to know when to listen and when to speak that I may know God’s will in seeking answers. Amen.

Audrey Gross, ofs

From our VICE MINISTER, BC Coastal

While I was busy planning my retirement which began July 2027, the Holy Spirit had a good chuckle and decided to insert His own plans into mine! I did not see this coming!!! I have been a professed Secular Franciscan since October 2016, and I am the current minister of St. Clare of Assisi Coquitlam fraternity in BC. I live in Coquitlam with my husband and I work full-time as a Post Secondary Career Advisor at a public secondary school. I am a longtime parishioner of St. Clare of Assisi parish and have served the parish in many different capacities. I thank you all in advance for your prayers as I endeavour to learn my new role of support to fraternities in the BC Coastal Region. With an open heart and an open mind, I will do all I can to serve you. May the Lord Bless and Keep you all!



Pax et Bonum,
Carmen Moorhouse, ofs

From our VICE MINISTER, BC Interior

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this new role and to allow Our Lord to work through me. I come to this ministry as a child of God, a daughter, a mother to my son, a sister, and a proud godmother to two nieces. Professionally, I serve as an Administrative Assistant for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Nelson. I hold a diploma in Communications, Culture and Journalism and am completing a degree in Social Work. Living in West Kelowna, BC, I find joy in music, writing, and deepening my relationship with God. I first felt called to the Secular Franciscan Order in 2008; professed in 2012. Since then, I served as secretary of my local fraternity, Little Flowers of Saint Francis, as facilitator of the Apostolate of the St. Peregrine Prayer Circle. My prayer is to serve wherever God leads, with humility, grace, and an open heart.



Christine Reeves, ofs

From our VICE MINISTER, AB South

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My journey in the Franciscan family has been a true blessing especially since May 2017 when I was professed in the OFS. I served as a treasurer between 2017 and 2020 and have been serving as Minister of St. Mary’s Fraternity since 2020. I’m stepping into my new role with a willing heart and open ears. My goal is to support our Regional Minister and the Regional Council, the local Ministers and walk alongside each member especially in the AB South Region to strengthen the Franciscan community, grow in faith, peace, love and charity as set out in our Rule of life. I’d like to thank my predecessor David Bouchard for all his great work and wish him many blessings on his activities focused on National initiatives. I have been married for almost 30 years and have one son. I am a Transportation Engineer by profession and I’m an



active member of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish in Calgary. God gifted me with a strong sense of community, especially the Franciscan Family. Please keep me in your prayers as I learn to serve the Franciscan community better every day. May the Lord bless each of you and guide our work together.

Erika Bancila, ofs

From our regional DIRECTOR of JPIC

From Southern Alberta through Salmon Arm and on to the coast there has been a warm reception with OLOTA representatives. Upon my return to Red Deer I hope to stop in the Okanagan that I skirted initially due to the wildfires. Very insightful to meet one to one with those I am able to capture and gain a sense of learning from their perspective within their own region especially in reference to JPIC. It also enables one to see how the framework of OLOTA as it has developed by talking with those that have lived it for a large part of their lives and are supporting the initial desire to witness first in order to serve.



*with gratitude,
Blaise MacSween, ofs*

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)

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

Sept 2026: For new true vocations to the Secular Franciscans through the intercession of all the Franciscan Saints.

[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 **Sept 5th @ 7pm PST/8pm MST/9pm CST**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486098310?pwd=R1VOZ3EybWMraG1PTTYxb1p1WllvQT09>

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

October 3, 2026 is 800 years since our seraphic Father Francis passed into eternal life and there are events we can ponder about the Portiuncula, where Francis chose to leave this life on earth. The Portiuncula was the third chapel given to him that he and his followers literally repaired as the message came to him in San Damiano Chapel which was the first church he repaired. Francis also repaired a second chapel, St Pietro della Spina. The Portiuncula was given to Francis by the Benedictines in 1211. It was originally built by hermits from the Valley of Josaphat (Kidron Valley) in the Holy Land around 355 AD who brought relics from the Blessed Virgin's tomb site. The chapel was called Our Lady of the Valley of Josaphat or of the Angels referring to her Assumption with the heavenly angels. Legend has it that you could hear the angels singing there at times. It was the third chapel Francis rebuilt, and it became the Cradle of the Franciscan Order. Francis on his deathbed there entrusted it to his brothers. It was there Francis wrote the Rule and established the Order of Friars Minor. In 1216 Our Lady with Christ child appeared to Francis there where he asked for the Portiuncula Indulgence that Pope Honorius III ratified. The chapel became too small to accommodate all the pilgrims, and the large Basilica of Our Lady of the Angels was built over the Portiuncula in 1566-72. The Portiuncula was preserved and remains a holy place of pilgrimage for all.

Sources: ewtnvatican.com, franciscanpenancelibrary.com

What's Been Happening!

BC Coastal had a summer gathering on August 8 to celebrate the Feast of St Clare hosted by Vice Minister Christine Reeves in West Kelowna.



On August 17, *Little Flowers Fraternity* in Kelowna joined in celebrating the 30-Year Anniversary of Holy Priesthood with Bishop Gregory Bittman of Nelson Diocese. They also celebrated his good health after months of serious illness.

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

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

September 2026 Minister Lanny Hui, ofs lannyhui@gmail.com

Editor/Publisher Colleen Finlon, ofs cmarielifinlon@gmail.com

Pax et Bonum!