

OUR LADY of THE ANGELS Messenger

Issue Number 74

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Hello Everyone,

Thanks be to God for your presence for one another in your fraternity and beyond and for the gifts you shared with one another: a smile, a hello, a phone call, a cup of drink, a prayer, and other expressions of love for one another. A group of us, 22 people, had the opportunity to celebrate the 800th Feast of St. Francis in Assisi. After “surviving” the turbulent flight from Montreal to Rome, we visited the Franciscan sites: +Santuario di Fonte Colombo where St. Francis wrote the second rule to the Franciscan order +Santuario di Greccio where St. Francis oversaw the reenactment, with live people, of the story the birth of Christ +Santuario della Foresta, where St. Francis wrote the “Canticle of the Creatures” +Santuario di Poggio Bustone, where the first Franciscan fraternity was created and where St. Francis realized that, even as a sinner, he was forgiven and loved by God +Assisi, where we visited Franciscan Basilicas and churches and celebrated the Transitus of St. Francis and the Feast of St. Francis +La Verna, where St. Francis received the Stigmata +Gubbio, where St. Francis restored the relationship between the town residents and a wolf +San Giovanni Rotondo where we visited St. Padre Pio Sanctuary. The other sites we visited were Sanctuary of the Holy House in Loreto, Tomb of St. Rita and Eucharistic Miracle in Cascia, Eucharistic Miracle in Lancia, Monte Sant’Angelo (cave where St. Michael appeared in 490), Benedictine Abbey (tombs of St. Benedict and St. Scholastica) in Montecassino, the museum of Piero della Francesca paintings in Sansepolcro. Thanks to the fraternity members of St. Mary’s (Calgary): May Depositari and Erika Bancila and Fr. David Norman ofm who organized the tour. I was very Benjamin Ripley ofm at Bustone and Fr. Alix Giovanni Rotondo. To visited the highlight another and the during the pilgrimage. celebrate Mass, pray Holy Hours, and Rosary one another during Dave we also learned Bonaventure.



Upcoming events in the region are fraternity elections and/or pastoral visit of Immaculate Conception (Winnipeg, MB), St. Anthony’s (Maple Ridge, BC), St. Francis of Assisi (Vancouver, BC), and San Damiano (Salmon Arm, BC). Also, I find it encouraging that some fraternities collaborate to facilitate initial formations of inquirers despite the distance.

Our next regional council meeting is November 6, 2026. Please continue praying for one another as we continue our journey as Secular Franciscans.



surprised to see Fr. Santuario di Poggio Poulin ofmCap in San me more than the sites we was the presence of one community we formed It means a lot for me to the Liturgy of the Hours, together, and get to know our meals. Thanks to Fr. the spirituality of St.

Your servant, Lanny

From our DIRECTOR of FORMATION

Blessings everyone!

I had the great fortune to celebrate the 800th anniversary of St Francis's passing at Mount St Francis in Cochrane this year with the Friars and other dear brothers and sisters of the Secular Franciscan order. The theme of the weekend was so aptly titled "Sowing the Seeds of Peace", something so greatly needed in our world! Some beautiful take-a-way thoughts to ponder....

- Peace doesn't come from finding a lake with no storms, it comes from having Jesus in the boat. (John Ortberg)
- We can only obtain peace when we realize that apart from God, we can do nothing.
- At the heart of peace is the fear of being deprived of something ie; health, our youth etc.
- Truth is not accessible outside of love. Truth must be bathed in kindness and mercy.
- "Lepers" reveal our own leprosy; some people serve to remind us that we don't like to see our own prejudices.
- Like a satellite dish we need to be turned in the right direction, we all have parts of our hearts that resist turning to God.
- Peace is the natural fruit of trust; joy is the fruit of peace.
- We must be faith/trust driven, if driven by fear, we will always be anxious.



*Peace and all good,
Audrey Gross, ofs*

From our DIRECTOR of JPIC

Blessings,

Where are we?... yes, the joy sharing the work done by our regional JPIC committee last year. The result of this work was sitting on my desk in the form of four overall seasonal initiatives upon arrival to this chair. What a wonderful gift they have been for me to start conversation and adapt them to suit for example during a recent national workshop for the upcoming 'Week of the Poor' from the 9th of November to the 15th. At this time, I spoke about the active components of the 'Social Justice Issues' document directly relating to poverty that was identified for the season of Lent. It is my hope that we can reach all the fraternities and pass on some good stuff that is easily relatable while highlighting important national and regional events.



Blaise MacSween, ofs



St Daniel & Companions

Angelus, Samuel, Donulus,
Leo, Hugolinus & Nicholas

Franciscan Martyrs of Ceuta 1227
Feast Day October 10th

[Their Sacrifice](#)

Rome Conference on Unarmed & Disarming Peace: The Church's Emerging Paradigm Shift to Gospel Nonviolence 9-10 September 2026



Inspired by Pope Leo's references to the "unarmed and disarming" peace of Christ and organized by Pax Christi International, the recent Rome conference on this theme, which I was pleased to attend last month, affirmed that nonviolence lies at the very heart of the Gospel. In his opening keynote address, Cardinal Charles Bo of Myanmar spoke accordingly, encouraging us to "put nonviolence at the absolute center of Catholic life and teaching." "Nonviolence," the Cardinal proceeded to explain, "does not entail retreating from danger or accepting injustice. Rather, it is a refusal to emulate the very evil we seek to eradicate. This approach demands greater courage than resorting to arms to solve problems. Nonviolence is not for cowards. It is the story of profiles in moral courage in human minds taken over by the grace of eternal Love." Putting the nonviolence of Jesus at the center of Catholic life and teaching will require serious reflection and, if we are truthful, repentance and conversion. For, as the Conference Prayer by Hildegard Goss-Mayr acknowledged, "our Church, the people of God, has betrayed this central message of the Gospel many times and participated in wars, persecution, oppression, exploitation and discrimination." More specifically, it will require re-evaluation of the Church's traditional reliance on the theory of the "just war" and, by the same token, the concept of "legitimate defence." Having acknowledged that we have a great deal to learn from Gandhi and Martin Luther King regarding nonviolent alternatives to the violence that afflicts our world, Cardinal Bo invited us to anchor ourselves in the Gospel and "bravely champion a new paradigm of legitimate defense—one that relies on the unstoppable power of active nonviolence rather than the destructive illusion of military force." Cardinal Bo concluded by citing the words of the Peace Prayer traditionally attributed to our Seraphic Father Francis, inviting us to make them "our active mission": "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love." The Rome Conference concluded similarly, with an inspiring pilgrimage to Assisi. The first station of the pilgrimage, fittingly, was in front of the Basilica of St. Francis next to "Il Ritorno/The Return," the moving statue commemorating Francis' return to Assisi after he had renounced the violence of the armed Crusade and shortly before, in obedience to the Lord's calling, he became a passionate, lifelong troubadour of the unarmed and disarming peace of Christ.

Paul Vanderham, OFS Minister
St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Edmonton

This month our Franciscan family celebrated a very special historical 800-year Anniversary of our seraphic father Francis' passing into eternity on October 3rd and the feast day of his Holy Sainthood on October 4th. How did you spend this time? Who did you spend it with? What will you remember most? Share with us! I will begin. Firstly, I had the blessing of praying the Novena of St Francis on zoom with Franciscan brothers and sisters of OLOTA Sept 24-Oct 2. We prayed the beautiful novena liturgy together each night and then shared. On the evening of Oct 3rd, I attended Holy Mass followed by attending our OFS booth at my ICC parish ministry fair. We shared a St Francis Prayer card, brochures and almond cookies as we with visited parishioners. Then I returned home to our OLOTA zoom first Saturday Crown Rosary gathering. We read the Transitus together and prayed the Crown Rosary. As we read his very words that night, we were moved by the moments we spent with our Lord in commemorating the life and death of our Saint Francis.

Colleen Finlon, ofs



Encountering St. Francis' Poverty & Peace Along the Forest Trail

On August 8, 2026, St. Andrew Kim Dae-geon Parish (Pastor: Fr. Park Jun-hyeok Francis) had a special seven-sense spiritual pilgrimage with the theme 'Secret Forest; Who is St. Francis?' to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the passing of St. Francis of Assisi. The preparation and planning began six months prior to the event by the members of St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity (Korean). The objective was to help the faithful deepen their understanding in the spirituality of St. Francis and strengthen fellowship and unity within the parish community. After the Saturday morning mass, parishioners gathered in front of the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary as pilgrims and began the guided walk of seven stations near Tynehead Regional Park. The seven stations are:

1. Presentation of St. Francis' life
2. God's calling to Francis: Rebuild My Church. What is my calling?
3. Conversion: St. Francis's encounter with a leper leads him to encounter with Jesus in the poor and the least.
4. Detachment and poverty
5. St. Francis, the peacemaker, encountered with Sultan
6. Unity of community at the Mount La Verna and stigmata
7. The testament and passing of St. Francis

Each pilgrim holds a cue card to help them meditate between stations. At each station, the specific theme was presented through performance of acting, music, and dance and quiz games. After the seven stations, there was a special demonstration of the plenary indulgence in commemorating the centenary. A pilgrim mentioned that St. Francis felt much closer after participating in the event: "It was a grace-filled event after which I realized how important it is for me to practice self-emptying and peacemaking in day-to-day circumstances." Another pilgrim stated, "The six months of dedicated preparation and planning by the Secular Franciscans and parishioners' participation make this event very meaningful as the celebration of the centenary coincides with the 50th anniversary of the parish establishment."

*Submitted by Agatha C. H. Tchoi, ofs
St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity, Surrey
(Korean)*

Save the Date

The Week of the Poor is proposed by the Ministers General of the Franciscan Family to mark the 800th anniversary of the Transitus (death) of St. Francis of Assisi. It is intended as a global initiative encouraging Franciscan communities to engage deeply with people experiencing poverty. The Week of the Poor concludes on the World Day of the Poor established in 2017 by the Vatican.



For preparation of the Week of the Poor from the National OFS Workshop, Oct 17, 2026.

[Week of the Poor Presentation PPT](#), [Week of the Poor Presentation PDF](#),
[National Workshop Minutes](#), [Breakout Room 4 Notes](#)

Pray the Franciscan **CROWN ROSARY & VESPERS**

On the first Saturday of each month.

Next **Nov 7th** @ 7pm PST/8pm MST/9pm CST

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

Meeting ID: 864 8609 8310 Passcode: 741246

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)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87194635029?pwd=JblyxdyR4L3l2HWccz6lA4b9cBDyL4.1>

Meeting ID: 871 9463 5029 Passcode: 382440

Contact: ofsmiriam@gmail.com

604-819-1204

May the Lord give you peace!

Prayer Intentions for Vocations (from CIOFS)

Oct 2026: For a fruitful and close collaboration between the OFS fraternities and the spiritual assistants to promote vocations to the Secular Franciscan Order.

Nov 2026: For the elderly, the sick and the retired OFS brothers & sisters.

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

What's Happening!



BC Coastal Fraternity members were invited to gather at St Joseph the Worker Church in Richmond to a celebration of the Transitus. Fr Manoj Xalxo, ofm was the celebrant.



St Clare Fraternity of Chilliwack, BC celebrated the Transitus at St Mary's Church on October 4th with new inquirers Deacon Greg Canero & wife.



Little Flowers Fraternity of Kelowna, BC participated in the Immaculate Conception Parish ministry fair & monthly breakfast with an OFS display. They shared Transitus cards with the Prayer of St Francis on the back along with almond cookies & brochures on October 3 & 4.



Pilgrimage to Assisi for the Oct 3rd 800 Year Celebration of St Francis' passing into eternal life. Organized by May Depositar and Erika Bancila of St Mary's Fraternity of Calgary with Fr David Norman, ofm.



Hello all!

I am very grateful for the opportunity to continue serving on the OLOTA council as Director of Youth, and I want to express my gratitude for your trust and support in this ministry. Since I began my formation with the Secular Franciscans in 2015, I have lived my faith with true joy. St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi inspire me to keep my life Christ-centered in all that I do. My formators, the fraternities I have belonged to, and the Friars and Secular Franciscans I have met have all contributed deeply to my spiritual growth. Having been involved in youth and young adult ministry since 2015, I desire to help young people discover that living simply and building a relationship with Jesus eases our earthly journey. The youth inspire me to look at life with hope. Even in times of uncertainty, we know that nothing is impossible for God. When we dedicate our hearts to His service, the Holy Spirit will always guide us, just as He did with St. Francis. I am truly thankful for the brothers and sisters God has given us in this vast Franciscan family. Please reach out to me if you have any ideas for youth or young adult activities with your fraternity. I would be happy to listen to you. God bless you with peace & joy!

*Maritza Chouza, ofs
OLOTA Director of Youth*



Br Manoj



Carmen



Christine



Erika

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

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Pax et Bonum!