

## St. Kateri Tekakwitha Region, OFS

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## Regional Executive Council

Minister- Mary Momot, OFS

Vice-Minister- Carol Onufer, OFS

Secretary- John Balmer, OFS,

Treasurer- Craig Miller, OFS

Formation Director- Layna Maher, OFS,

Regional Councilors- Linda Quaranto, OFS,

Roderick Quebral, OFS & Barbara Quebral, OFS

Regional Spiritual Assistants (RSA):

Mary Frances Charsky, OFS & Sr. Pat Larkin, OSF



## Regional Minister's Message

Peace be with all of you my dear brothers and sisters! I began my new ministry as Vice- Minister of our Region by calling and introducing myself to all the Ministers. Who knew that just a short time later I would be in the position of Minister of our Region with the resignation of Joanne Lockwood.

After much prayer and discernment, I have decided to accept this position. We are blessed with a very strong Regional Executive Council and we work together well as a team. Our two main goals are (1) continued formation for the entire Region and, (2) to work with those fraternities that are struggling or in difficulty, and helping them to become stronger. I ask you to please pray for one another; pray for all our fraternities and for our Region. Pray for our Council that we make good decisions. And please pray for me! This position has many challenges but, I promise to all of you that I, and our Council, will do the very best that we can. May God bless all of you and our entire Franciscan family!

Mary Momot, OFS, Regional Minister

## NOTICE!

Due to the coronavirus situation and with the guidance from our civil and religious leaders all meetings have been cancelled until further notice! For all gatherings 30 days or more away, please check with the contact person to inquire whether or not that the meeting will/will not be held.

Remember to continue praying the Liturgy of the Hours, the rosary and your daily prayers with renewed interest, asking God to protect us all from this viral pandemic. Pray for our priests as they continue to tend God's flocks, and pray for our healthcare workers working on the frontlines to keep us all healthy.

Wear your masks and gloves and maintain the guidelines for social distancing.



Fr. Lester Bach ,  
O.F.M., Cap.

## In Memoriam

Remembering Fr. Lester Bach, O.F.M., Cap. who met Sister Death February 02, 2020 at the age of 88.

Fr. Bach wrote several books on Franciscan Spirituality and Secular Franciscan formation . For most of his religious life, Fr. Lester was involved in ministry to the Secular Franciscan Order. We blessed to have him visit our Region in the past.

## Ongoing Formation

**What can I do?** Article 44.3 of the General Constitutions calls for ONGOING FORMATION. While this is a function of fraternity meetings, members are also responsible for their own formation both in and out of fraternity. Formation includes four aspects:

- (1) teaching about the Catholic faith,
- (2) Franciscan topics,
- (3) Contemporary topics (Catholic authors, Laudato si, etc),
- (4) Prayer (Franciscan prayer life; praying the scriptures.)

Since we cannot be together right now here are some ideas to help us strengthen our Franciscan vocation:

Franciscan Intellectual Tradition video lectures  
<https://franciscantradition.org/resources/video-clips>

Writings of/about Francis and Clare  
<https://franciscantradition.org/early-sources>

Metanoia videos by Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR <https://thewildgooseisloose.com/metanoia>

Custodian of the Tradition (excellent articles) <https://franciscantradition.org/resources/custodians-of-the-tradition>

## News From Around the Region

### **CHECK OUT OUR NEW REGIONAL WEBSITE!**

Bob Stronach had been hard at work updating our Regional Website. Be sure to check it out!

Here's the link: <https://kateriregion.org/>

### **St. Marianne Cope Fraternity, Syracuse, NY**

On behalf of our Council, I am pleased to announce that on March 04, 2020, we received a letter from Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv, on behalf of Fr. James McCurry, OFM Conv, appointing Deacon Philip Slominski, OFS, as our new Spiritual Assistant. Submitted by: Ray Porzio, Minister.

### **Share your news and announcements**

Please Email your news to:

John Balmer, Secretary: [jbalmers@gmail.com](mailto:jbalmers@gmail.com)

Or

Mary Momot, Minister: [mmomotofs@gmail.com](mailto:mmomotofs@gmail.com)

## Message From Sr. Pat Larkin, Regional Spiritual Assistant Regarding the COVID19 Virus

Dear Brothers and Sisters, We need to reinforce and take this pandemic as an opportunity to make our fraternity connections stronger. Despite physical distance, we need to emphasize social connections and depending on the skills in the local fraternity this can be done by letters, phone calls, e-mails and/or zoom. Let's consider wellness checks, assurance of prayers, updates, inspirational messages, encouragement, and/or finding if assistance is needed - most of all - just listening to each other. You can form prayer partners who check in everyday, once a week, or whatever works. Be creative using the gifts and abilities of your members to do what they can.

May St. Marianne Cope and St. Kateri Tekakwitha who both dealt with the effects of contagious diseases, protect us. Love and prayers, Sr. Pat

## News from Around the Nation

### 20th OFS Quinquennial Congress 2021: JUBILEE! August 2021 Secular Franciscans will celebrate the 800th anniversary of the approval of our 1221 Rule.

**What is a Quinquennial?** The dictionary defines it as an event that happens every five years. In our Franciscan history, we recall that Francis would gather the members of the Order for a chapter of mats – where the members of the Order would take up their mats and meet for the purpose of prayer, formation, sharing and jubilation. We continue that tradition. Every five years, members of our National Family gather for the same purpose. Our documents call this a “National Congress,” and this gathering has come to be known as the “Quinquennial,” or “Q” for short. Of course, today, we are far more comfortable – we don't have to sleep on mats – but our intention is the same. *More info to come.*