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## Regional Executive Council

Minister- Mary Momot, OFS  
Vice-Minister- Carol Onuffer, OFS  
Secretary- Vacant  
Treasurer- Craig Miller, OFS  
Formation Director- Layna Maher, OFS,  
Regional Councilors- Linda Quaranto, OFS, (E)  
Roderick Quebral, OFS (W1), Barbara Quebral, OFS, (W2)  
Linda Robinson, OFS (C)  
Regional Spiritual Assistants (RSA):  
Mary Frances Charsky, OFS & Sr. Pat Larkin, OSF



## Regional Minister's Message

Peace be with you my dear Brothers and Sisters,

The National chapter was held virtually Oct 21-24. It was good to see and chat with the other ministers. We had wonderful speakers and we got many things accomplished.

As we look forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas who knows what changes may occur in the next two months. The only thing we can be sure of is cold weather! Our world is still turned upside down and I know we all look forward to better days ahead. Keep in mind our goal is Heaven and we should be living lives worthy of that goal. Please keep our national minister, Jan Parker, in your prayers as she undergoes cancer treatment. You can mail her at 190 Rockaway Dr. O'Fallon, MO 63368 Please know of my daily prayers for all of you!! Mary Momot, OFS

## Devotion to Our Lady (2 Celano 198)



### HIS DEVOTION TO OUR LADY TO WHOM HE ESPECIALLY ENTRUSTED THE ORDER

<sup>198</sup> He embraced the Mother of Jesus with inexpressible love, since she made *the Lord of Majesty* a brother to us. He honored her with his own *Praises*, poured out prayers to her, and offered her his love in a way that no human tongue can express. But what gives us greatest joy is that he appointed her the Advocate of the Order, and placed under her wings the sons to be left behind, that she might protect and cherish them to the end.

**Oh Advocate of the Poor!**

**Fulfill towards us your duty as protectress  
until the time set by the Father!** FA:ED, vol. 2, 374

## The OFS Rule

### Chapter Two: The Way Of Life

#### Article 13

As the Father sees in every person the features of his Son, the firstborn of many brothers and sisters, so the Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ.

A sense of community will make them joyful and ready to place themselves on an equal basis with all people, especially with the lowly for whom they shall strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ.



*"This is my commandment:  
love one another as I love you"*  
John 15:12

## Devotion to the Nativity (2 Celano 199-200)



### HIS DEVOTION TO THE LORD'S NATIVITY AND HOW HE THEN WANTED ALL TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE

<sup>199</sup> He used to observe the Nativity of the Child Jesus with an immense eagerness above all other solemnities, affirming it

was the Feast of Feasts, when God was made a little child and hung on human breasts. He would kiss the images of the baby's limbs thinking of hunger, and the melting compassion of his heart toward the child also made him stammer sweet words as babies do. This name was to him like *honey and honeycomb* in his mouth.

When there was discussion about not eating meat, because it was on Friday, he replied to Brother Morico: "You sin, brother, when you call 'Friday' the day when unto us a Child is born. I want even the walls to eat meat on that day, and if they cannot, at least on the outside they be rubbed with grease!"

<sup>200</sup> He wanted the poor and hungry to be filled by the rich, and oxen and asses to be spoiled with extra feed and hay. "If ever I speak with the Emperor," he would say, "I will beg him to issue a general decree that all who can should throw wheat and grain along the roads, so that on the day of such a great solemnity the birds may have an abundance, especially our sisters the larks." FA:ED, vol. 2, 374-375

## Regional News

### **Formation Workshop: Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 9:30-11:30 AM**

Local formation teams will be invited to attend the December 12th session via Zoom.

Sr. Pat Larkin will be leading a session on Greccio, where Saint Francis of Assisi staged the first-ever nativity scene. If you are interested in joining the session please contact your local formation director or email Layna at [Layna.Maher@gmail.com](mailto:Layna.Maher@gmail.com)

### **Dates to Note and Celebrate**

Nov. 29th: Feast of All Saints of the Seraphic Order

Dec. 8th: Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Dec. 12th Formation Zoom Workshop- *Greccio*

Dec. 15th: Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the Franciscan Order

Dec. 25th: Feast of the Nativity

Jan. 1st: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Jan. 9th: Formation Zoom Workshop—*Mary, Our Mother and Model*

### **Share your news and announcements to:**

Layna Maher, [Layna.Maher@gmail.com](mailto:Layna.Maher@gmail.com)

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

OR Your Regional Councilor

## Message From Sr. Pat Larkin, OSF, Regional Spiritual Assistant

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This month as we look forward to Thanksgiving, we have so much for which to be grateful. Among our blessings is the encyclical, *Fratelli tutti*, in which our blessed father St. Francis is used as a model for today's world. Pope Francis gives a wonderful description of Fraternity in paragraph 8 of the introduction. "It is my desire that, in this our time, by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity-Fraternity between all men and women. Here we have a splendid secret that shows us how to dream and to turn our life into a wonderful adventure. No one can face life in isolation... We need a community that supports and helps us, in which we can help one another to keep looking ahead. How important it is to dream together... By ourselves, we risk seeing mirages, things that are not there. Dreams, on the other hand, are built together. Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all."



## News from NAFRA: National Fraternity Council of the OFS

The National Chapter was held via Zoom. The National Council voted and approved a new theme for the National Fraternity. The new OFS-USA 2020-2021 theme is ***Live a Life Worthy of Your Call***. Let us strive to do so every day.

We received a request from Tibor Kauser, OFS General Minister, for fundraising for the OFS members in Beirut who suffered damage due to the explosion in August. Checks (fraternity or individual) should be made to the St. Kateri Region with Beirut in the memo line and mailed to our regional treasurer, Craig Miller, 19 River St. Binghamton, NY 13901