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Regional Executive Council

Minister- Carol Onuffer, OFS
Vice-Minister– Layna Maher, OFS
Secretary– Kim Gardener, OFS,
Treasurer- Craig Miller, OFS
Formation Director– Patti Dushane, 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 all of you my dear brothers and sisters!
Thank you to all for the input on our Regional Chapter. While most people said they enjoy meeting in person, there was a clear majority that did not want to meet in-person in April. Therefore, we have re-scheduled an in-person Chapter for September 9th and 10th at the Christ the King Retreat Center in Syracuse. Please hold the dates. More information and registration details will be coming in the next few months. We are looking forward to being able to come together as a Regional Fraternity and hope to see many of our Brothers and Sisters.

With Much Peace,
Carol Onuffer, OFS , Regional Minister

Excerpts from INSTRUMENTUM LABORIS: Animate & Guide with Servant Leadership

"Each brother and sister of the Fraternity should remember the sense of co-responsibility, which commits him/her to work as a team alongside the "servant leaders."

"Secular Franciscans have to keep in mind that whatever they do for the Order is always a fraternal service."

"Saint Francis chose for himself and for his spiritual family the pattern recommended by the Lord Jesus to his followers when he washed the feet of his disciples at the last Supper, and said to them: "You call me Master and Lord, and rightly; so I am. If I, then, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you must wash each other's feet. I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you".

April 2nd Regional Formation Zoom Session

The Regional Formation Team will present a Servant Leadership formation session on Saturday, April 2nd. The session will include prayer, an opportunity for small group discussions, sharing, and singing. We hope to see you and many other beautiful Franciscan faces as we gather to celebrate our gift of faith and vocation.

- 9:00 Logon for Morning Prayer, Liturgy of the Hours (Optional)
- 9:30 Servant Leadership Session
- 11:30 Closing Prayer

[Click here to register](#) OR email Layna.Maher@gmail.com OR mfcharsky@gmail.com

The Zoom link will also be emailed on March 24th and 31st to Local Ministers, Formation Directors and Spiritual Assistants to share.

**"...whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant."
(Matthew 20:26)**

Prayer and Support For Ukraine



Let us join together in prayer for the people on all sides of the conflict in Ukraine using this prayer for peace [from Pope Francis](#).

Franciscan friars are working selflessly and courageously to bring hope to the men, women, and children of Ukraine.

Father Danyil Botvina, OFM, the Provincial of the Franciscan Province of St. Michael the Archangel in Ukraine has sent an urgent request for funds to help provide food, medicine, and shelter to the refugees living through this tragedy.

The province has 16 friaries with 65 friars serving 54 parishes in Ukraine. As you read this, women and children are seeking food and protection at the friaries as the country undergoes siege by the Russians.

The friars plan to stay and serve the people of the war zone. Read more about their work and a way to contribute at the [Franciscan Missions website](#).



franciscanmissions.org

Regional News

St. Bonaventure University Announces the Secular Franciscan Conferences (No Charge)

The Crib, the Cross, the Eucharist: A Secular Franciscan Spirituality

The Secular Franciscan Conference this summer will be devoted to the three great mysteries of Christ's life: the Crib, the Cross, and the Eucharist. We will learn how Francis was devoted to these three realities and how they became the foundational mysteries of his Franciscan movement. **Join Secular Franciscans from across the country on three Saturdays: May 14, June 11, and July 9th. All sessions will be on Zoom from 12 PM - 2 PM.**

[Click here to register](#) or visit the SBU website

Summer Dates to Note and Celebrate

Aug. 2nd Feast of the Portiuncula

Aug. 14th SFO Day in Fonda

St. Maximilian Kolbe OFM, Conv.

Share your news and announcements to:

Layna Maher: Layna.Maher@gmail.com

Carol Onufer: Carolann471@gmail.com

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

Chapter 2 Article 6 of The Rule states: -- they have been united more intimately with the Church by Profession. Therefore they should go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words.

Mary Frances Charsky and I attended a discussion group on the Rule of 1221 during which many wonderful thoughts were expressed about living the Rule. The Rule does not provide simple ways for doing rather it tries to outline points for living relationships ... the greatest one is with the Lord and we are not to stint on our time in prayer. This prayer is not just when we say Office or go to Church. It is constant dialogue throughout the day: asking for help, thanking God or giving praise for the beautiful sunset etc.

The hard ground of daily living taught Francis to recognize the Spirit's voice in ordinary circumstances. We are not to crave applause. We show ourselves as joyful, cheerful and constantly gracious in the Lord. We can express truthfully when we feel grumpy but do not allow heavy feelings to tyrannize us or our relationships with others. We also take on the sensitivity of Jesus as he helped the poor, sick and hopeless people he encountered. As we travel the roads of the world we proclaim the Word of God without using words but with preaching based on works.

With Peace, Sr. Pat OSF

Scholarships Available for the Q! August 3rd-7th, the Sheraton, Phoenix AZ



Regional scholarships of \$250. are available to help defer costs of the Q. It's our JUBILEE! Come celebrate with your Franciscan family the 800th Anniversary of our Order and the 100th Anniversary of our National Quinquennial Congress! To apply for the scholarship please send your request in writing to **Craig Miller, OFS, Regional Treasurer, 19 River St. Binghamton, NY 13901**. Include your contact info and a statement of how participating in the Quinquennial will help you in your Franciscan journey.

For more Q information and to register for the Q go to: www.secularfranciscansusa.org