



"FROM GOSPEL TO LIFE AND LIFE TO GOSPEL"

ST. CLARE FRATERNITY NEWSLETTER

St. Clare Fraternity, Stafford Springs, CT

July 2026

MAY GOD GIVE YOU PEACE!

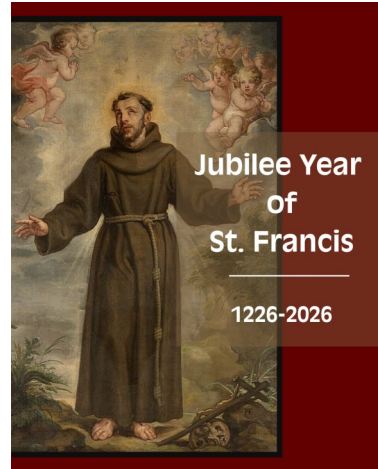
Our celebration of the Jubilee Year of
St. Francis continues!

PILGRIMAGE to ST. STANISLAUS BASILICA

Saturday, July 18th

Meet at St. Edward upper parking lot, we will
carpool leaving at 8:15 a.m.

Please bring chips, desserts to share.



*"When we pray
the voice
of the heart
must be heard
more than that
proceeding from
the mouth."*

St. Bonaventure



FRATERNITY LIFE

Monthly Gatherings:

Fraternity Gathering
Saturday, July 25, 2026—10 a.m.
St. Edward Parish Center
Hospitality—Corinne

Fraternity Gathering
Saturday, August 22, 2026—10 a.m.
St. Edward Parish Center
Hospitality—TBD

Please remember our Common Fund

OUR FRATERNITY COUNCIL:

Minister: Sandy Comarella, OFS

Vice-Minister: Zofia Fitzgerald OFS

Secretary: Nancy Rudek, OFS

Treasurer: Joe Comarella, OFS

Formation Director: Diane Garabedian,
OFS

Councilor: Barbara Peirola, OFS

Spiritual Assistant:

Father John Koziol, OFM Conv

CONTACT US:

comsandy@cox.net

St. Clare of Assisi, Patroness of our Fraternity

POPE LEO'S

PRAYER INTENTIONS

July 2026 -FOR RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

August 2026—FOR EVAN- GELIZATION IN THE CITY.

Let us pray that in large cities, often marked by anonymity and loneliness, we may find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative ways to build community.

OFS INTENTIONS

July 2026

For the national fraternities of Congo Brazzaville and Indonesia.

August 2026

For the national fraternities of Ireland, El Salvador and the 2nd Pan-African Congress.

Thoughts from your minister:

My friends,

I enjoyed the recent daily readings from the Prophet Hosea. Usually thought of as a "prophet of doom", the book of Hosea is also a book of God's enduring love, patience, infidelity, repentance - all those perfect themes of a great summer novel. The perfect summer romance - God shows his love for the people of Israel over and over and the people of Israel turn their back on Him, treating Him like dirt. As I journey with Hosea, it challenges me to reflect on my own faithfulness, my own obedience, my own willingness to follow into the wilderness and trust, as both the hymn and the prophet's book tell me.

God uses the prophet and his marriage to teach us about love and faithfulness. I have been blessed that in 43 years of marriage, I can only imagine the pain and the anger and devastation that infidelity causes. Hosea gave Gomer everything. God told him to love her, and he gave her his heart. And in spite of it all, she was unfaithful numerous times. God tells Hosea to take her back, to give her another chance. Hosea obeys. And the pattern repeats itself - forgiveness, infidelity, forgiveness - until the author finally moves to from the metaphor of Hosea and Gomer's marriage to the reality of Israel's betrayal of God. In Hosea, chapter 7, God talks of the wickedness of the people, their guilt and their anger. He calls Ephraim "silly and senseless", Israel arrogant. Woe and ruin to them! The next chapters talk of corruption, punishment and punishment. Like a good novel, I wait for approaching doom, something spectacular along the lines of the flood of Noah.

But there is no flood. There is no punishment. There is only God's love, God's enduring love and call to repentance. In the beautiful words of the hymn Hosea, "don't let fear keep us apart...long have I waited for your coming home to me and living our new life".

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FRATERNITY MATTERS

A REMINDER: Our monthly gatherings are a "privileged time" of fraternity and community. A time for us to share and grow together in our Franciscan vocation. If you cannot attend a gathering, and are not permanently excused, please contact one of the council members to let us know you will not be attending so that your absence may be appropriately recorded. Thank you.

MAY WE BE INSTRUMENTS OF PEACE Continue to pray for peace in the Ukraine, the Holy Land, Iran, Haiti, the Sudan and all those places in the world torn apart by war, civil unrest, violence and fear. Please also for peace and unity in our country.

FEAST DAYS

July 14—Francis Solano (Greta)

July 15—Bonaventure (Helen)

July 21—Lawrence of Brindisi

*July 30—Blessed Solanus Casey,
Patron of our Region (Marion)*

*August 2—Our Lady of the Angels,
Portiuncula*

August 11—Clare of Assisi

WE PRAY FOR:

*Vocations to all branches of the
Franciscan family, especially to the
vocation of priesthood and the OFS*

*For the repose of the soul of Ray Ku-
ehl*

*Healing for fraternity members Ma-
rie, Nancy R., Nancy L., DeDe ,
Rich, Lynn, Greta , Anne, Marion,
Carolyn, Pat, Charlotte, Mabel , Al-
bert, Rich*

*Healing for: Father Jude, Brother
Vincent, Tom, Ronald C., David D.,
Bob G., Laraine D., Koren, Mary,
Clare, Kerry, Jared, Kevin, Tracey,
Angela, Samantha, Mike, Chris*

*For an end to the war in Iran,
Ukraine and in all places affected by
war, violence, and the lust for power.*

*For an end to the gun violence in our
country*

For all migrants and refugees

*Peace, healing and justice in our
country and in the world*

In thanksgiving for all our blessings.

AMEN.

To add names to the prayer list, please
contact Corinne.

FORMATION

UNDERSTANDING THE LEVELS of the OFS

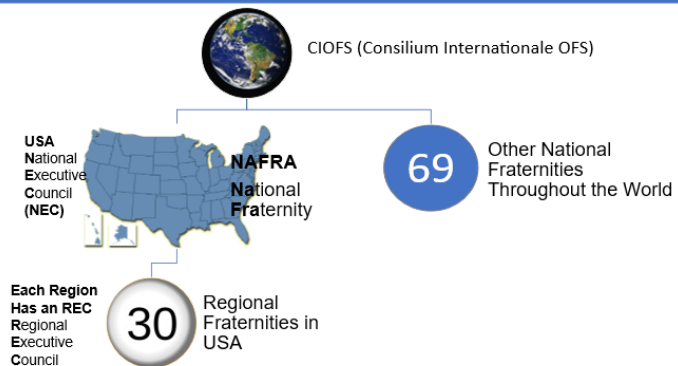
In his visitation report to our fraternity, Father Cid suggested that we take time to review the structure of the OFS and to come to a better awareness of where our local fraternity fits in the greater Secular Franciscan family.

OFS Rule

Article 20 *"The Secular Franciscan Order is divided into fraternities of different levels – local, regional, national and international..."*

Article 21 *"On various levels, each fraternity is animated and guided by a council and minister who are elected by the professed according to the constitutions..."*

International Structure of Secular Franciscan Order



LOCAL FRATERNITY

Local fraternities, such as ours, are the foundation of the OFS. It is in the local fraternity that Secular Franciscans find support and encouragement in living out their vocations.

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OUR RULE of LIFE

PROLOGUE: EARLIER EXHORTATION OF SAINT FRANCIS TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF PENANCE

Concerning those who do not do Penance (cont.)

And no matter where or when or how man dies, in the guilt of sin, without penance or satisfaction, though he can make satisfaction but does not do it.

REFLECTION: No one knows the hour when the Lord will call us home, thus our need for always seeking the mercy of God. How often do I take the time to seek God's mercy, to make things right with others, to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation?

Thoughts from your minister (cont.)

Hosea, like most prophets, didn't want to be a prophet. He didn't want to marry a prostitute. He didn't want to face the wrath of the people of Israel as he called them out for their unfaithfulness and their sinfulness. But he did, going to the wilderness where God spoke to his heart.

Interestingly, as the Hosea readings came to end, the next reading was Isaiah's call to prophecy. Isaiah 6:8 calls out "Whom shall I send?" and Isaiah responds "Here I am...send me". I often wonder when the world looks back in 50, 500, 2300 years, who will they see that answered that call. By baptism, we're all called to be priests, prophets, and kings. Who will say "Is it I Lord?"; "Here I am...send me". I guess that's another summer novel.

Grace, peace and hope,

Sandy

NATIONAL PRAYER for VOCATIONS to the SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

O Good and Gracious God, God of mercy,
compassion, generosity and love,

As we live our lives today in the model of St.
Francis, choosing daily to live the Gospel
life,

Help us to help others to recognize their
vocation as a Secular Franciscan that you
have already planted in their heart.

Help us, so that together we may all work
to bring the Gospel to life.



AMEN!

Marian R. Crosby, OFS

OFS Prayer for Vocation— July 2026

For young people to find clarity and courage
as they follow Jesus in the footsteps of St.
Francis of Assisi.

SAVE the DATES!

Monday, August 10—Transitus of St. Clare—6:30 pm— St. Edward Church

Regional Day of Recollection - September 19, 2026—9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

St. Anthony of Padua Church 149 S Pine Creek Rd, Fairfield, CT

Regional Chapter—November 14, 2026—9:00 AM—3:00 PM

This Chapter will be a Visitation from our National Fraternity and Spiritual
Assistant

St. Pius X Church 310 Westfield St., Middletown, CT

UNDERSTANDING THE LEVELS of the OFS (cont.)

The local **Fraternity Council** “animates and guides” the life of the fraternity. It consists of a minister, vice-minister, secretary, treasurer and formation director, who are elected to 3-year terms. The Spiritual Assistant is also a voting member of the council. Fraternities can choose to elect general councilors, who have full voting rights on the council.

REGIONAL FRATERNITY

Local fraternities are gathered into regions. There are 30 regions in the US. We belong to Blessed Solanus Casey Region, which includes fraternities in CT, RI, Western Mass., Cape Cod and the lower Hudson Valley of NY down to Harrison.

The **Regional Fraternity** consists of all members of our region. The **Regional Fraternity Council** is composed of the local ministers and the elected Regional Executive Council.

The **Regional Executive Council (REC)** consists of a minister, vice-minister, secretary, treasurer, formation director and general councilors, according to the Regional Guidelines. Each is elected to a three-year term. The Regional Spiritual Assistant(s) are also voting members of the REC. In Blessed Solanus Casey region, we elect a formation director (in some regions this is an appointed position) and 5 general councilors. Assignments for the general councilors are made by the REC to address the needs of the region. Typically, these involve staying in contact with a given number of fraternities, answering questions from local ministers, and conducting fraternal visitations and/or presiding at local elections as delegated by the regional minister.

Our current REC members are:

Minister: Janet Angelillo, OFS; Vice Minister: Joseph Krans, OFS; Secretary: Patricia Reynolds, OFS; Treasurer: John Szolnoki, OFS; Formation Director: Lauren Ingrassia, OFS; Councilor: Christopher Jeffcoat, OFS; Councilor: Mary Peabody, OFS, Councilor: Charles Angelillo, OFS; Councilor: Meg Styles, OFS and Regional Spiritual Assistant: Fr. Cid Joseph, OFM.

NATIONAL FRATERNITY

The **National Fraternity** consists of all Secular Franciscans in the US.

The **National Fraternity Council** is composed of the 30 regional ministers and the elected National Executive Council.

The **National Executive Council (NEC)** consists of a minister, vice-minister, secretary, treasurer, 3 national councilors and an International Councilor, according to the National Statutes. The President-in-Turn of the CNSA is also a voting member of the NEC. In the US, the formation director is an appointed position.

CIOFS - CONSILIUM INTERNATIONALE ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARIS

International Presidency- CIOFS Council of the Secular Franciscan Order

Members of the International Presidency are elected for 6-year terms, and include a Minister General, Vice Minister General and 7 councilors from across the world. The secretary and treasurer are appointed positions.