



**"Celebrating the Rule:
800 Years of Peacemakers in Christ thru Nonviolence"**

**Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region
Annual Regional Gathering**

August 11-13, 2023



Brothers and Sisters of Saint Francis Region
Secular Franciscan Order
Alabama · Georgia · North Carolina · South Carolina · Tennessee

WELCOME TO OUR 2023 ANNUAL REGIONAL GATHERING

Ridgecrest Conference Center, Black Mountain, NC

Celebrating the Rule: 800 years of Peacemakers in Christ thru Nonviolence

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Opening Prayer

Oh, my dear God,

we pray for the guidance of your most Holy Spirit.

Enlighten our minds and give us courage to serve.

Help us to speak the truth to one another in a spirit of love.

Help us to openly listen to and witness one another.

Give us humility and a spirit of good will toward one another.

Teach us the way of dialogue which is the way of love.

Help each of us to discover "what is ours to do."

Not our will Lord, but Thy will be done.

Glory to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



"Let us begin, for up to now, we have done nothing."

- St. Francis of Assisi

"May the Lord be with us always, and wherever we are, may we be with Him always."

- St. Clare of Assisi

BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS REGION
ANNUAL REGIONAL GATHERING
Life Way Conference Center - Ridgecrest, North Carolina

August 11-13, 2023

FRIDAY August 11 – Feast of St. Clare

- 2:00pm Meeting - REC (Johnson Springs Board Room)
- 4:00pm Registration – Johnson Spring Second floor
(Franciscan Family of Greensboro Fraternity)
- 5:00pm Liturgy of the Hours Evening Prayer (Johnson Spring 2nd Floor, 2 A-C)
- 5:30 - 6:30 Dinner buffet (tickets required) (Main Dining Room)
- 7:00pm Welcome, Opening Prayer (Johnson Spring 2nd Floor, 2 A-C)
- 7:15 Presentation – Marie Dennis, OFS
Instructions of Breakout Sessions - David Cruz Uribe
- 8:30 Happy Centenary, Franciscan Family! - Social & snacks
(Johnson Springs Second Floor)

Choir practice for cantors and musicians (Johnson Spring 2nd Floor, 2 A-C)

SATURDAY August 12

- 7:15-8:15 Breakfast buffet (tickets required) (Main Dining Room)
- 8:30 Franciscan Crown Rosary (Johnson Spring 2nd Floor 2 A-C)
- 9:00 Celebration of the Eucharist, Procession to Eucharistic Chapel
Commissioning of New Spiritual Assistants
(Stigmata of St. Francis Fraternity)
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Presentation – Marie Dennis, OFS with breakout groups
(Johnson Spring 2nd Floor, 2 A-C)
- 12pm Lunch buffet (Main Dining Room) (tickets required)
- 1:15-2:15 Regional Fraternity Council Meeting – (Johnson Springs 5 A-D)
Apostolate: Gleaning bags for Society of St. Andrew
Instruction on Liturgical Prayer Forms – Deacon Tom Shaver, OFS

- 2:15 **Small Group Meetings**
 YouFra – Board Room 3rd floor by elevator
 JPIC – Johnson Spring 2 A-C – One corner of main meeting room
 Multicultural – Johnson Spring 5 A-D meeting room
 Formation – Johnson Spring 2 A-C – Other corner of main mtg room
 Spiritual Assistants - Johnson Spring meeting room 4 A-D
- 3:30 Break
- 3:45 Speaker - Marie Dennis with Breakout sessions
 (Johnson Spring 2nd Floor 2 A-C)
- 5:00 Liturgical Office of the Twelve Our Fathers
 (Johnson Spring 2nd Floor 2 A-D)
- 5:30-6:30 Dinner buffet (tickets required) (Main Dining Room)
- 7:00 Recognizing and Remembering Our Sisters and Brothers:
 (Johnson Spring 2nd Floor 2 A-D)
 New Councils New Attendees Anniversaries Newly professed
 Renewal of Commitment for All Professed (see prayer on pg. 20)
 Memorial for Deceased Members of Region
 (Fraternity of St. Clare Winston-Salem)
- 8:30 Social & snacks – Johnson Springs 2nd Floor

******* Reminder check-out is 10am Sunday morning*******

SUNDAY August 13

- 7:15-8:15 Breakfast buffet (tickets required) (Main Dining Room)
(Time to check out)
- 8:30 Lectio Divina (Johnson Spring 2nd Floor 2 A-C)
- 9:00 Presentation – Fr. Cid Joseph, OFM (Johnson Spring 2nd Floor, 2 A-C)
- 10:30 Celebration of the Eucharist (Johnson Spring 2nd Floor, 2 A-C)
- 11:30 Adjournment - Closing Comments and Prayer

***BSSF All-Fraternity Apostolate of Blessing our Gathering Space
 Please assist us in putting the rooms in the order we found them.***

*****Sign-up sheets for Adoration, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers,
and Next Year's ARG Planning Committee
on table in the back of the room*****

*****Please sign the Remembrance Book for our Sister and Brothers in
the Ukraine Fraternity, on table in the back of the room ****

**FRANCISCAN BOOKS AND ARTICLES WILL BE FOR SALE
(St. Francis Springs Prayer Center)
Johnson Spring Building – 2nd Floor, room 3 A-D**

***A Chapel will be open for Eucharistic Adoration 9:45 AM Sat until
9:45 AMSun.**

Please sign up to spend quiet time with our Lord.

(Chapel: Mountain Laurel Building, lower level - conference room #5)

Our ARG Apostolates

Prepare Gleaning Bags for the Society of St. Andrew
Leave Our Gathering Space Blessed
Carbon Off Sets

* see gleaning table area for info on all three

Our ARG activities encapsulate the themes and spirit of the
Celebration of the Rule.

The following guide contains direct excerpts from the Centenary Guidelines and
offers prompts and exercises to help groups or individuals to consider Our Being
In Christ, in Our Brothers and Sisters, in Communion and in the World.

*The basic purpose for celebrating the centenaries is to direct our gaze to the future
and to strengthen our Franciscan identity and charism.*

– Coordination Committee for the Franciscan Centenary

2023 ANNUAL REGIONAL GATHERING ATTENDEES

Honored Guests

Marie Dennis, OFS – Keynote Speaker

Fr. Cidouane (Cid) Joseph, OFM, Provincial Spiritual Assistant, Holy Name Province

AREA ONE

ALABAMA

St. Joseph Cupertino – Bessemer (6)

Gabrielle Cruz-Uribe, OFS, Treasurer & BSSF Area 1 Councilor

David Cruz-Uribe, OFS, Formation Dir. & BSSF Multicultural Commission Chair

Mary Erwin, OFS

Ronald Erwin, OFS Candidate

Kelly Horwitz, OFS Candidate

Christine Washington, OFS Minister

GEORGIA

Immaculate Conception – Jonesboro (2)

Laura Cleary, OFS, Minister

Jan Pitts, OFS

Stigmata of St. Francis – Johns Creek (16)

Jack Farren, OFS

Emmanuel Gwak, OFS

Josephine Gwak, OFS

Sherry Kridle, OFS, Secretary

Jan Murina, OFS, Vice Minister

Danny Navarro, OFS

Helen Neff, OFS, Councilor

Mike O'Brien, OFS

Jo Ann Rademacher, OFS

Sari Reid, OFS

John Reid, Guest

Chris Reynolds, OFS

Deacon Tom Shaver, OFS, Treasurer

Lori Shaver, OFS

Lisa Springfield, Inquirer

Margi Williams, OFS, Minister & BSSF Area 1 Councilor

St. Elizabeth of Hungary – Augusta (13)

Susan McArthur, OFS, Minister

Judy Ankuta, Inquirer

Becky Bresanhan, OFS, Councilor & BSSF Area 2 Councilor

Theresa Christie, OFS, Councilor

Richard Herdegan, OFS

Dot Hueber, OFS

Tricia Jackson, Guest

Debra Lembo, Guest

Carrie Murga, Guest

Peg Saam, OFS, Vice Minister

Martha Roman, OFS, BSSF Vice Minister

David Roman, OFS

Maria Smith, OFS, Councilor

The Five Georgia Martyrs –St. Simons Island (0)

Franciscan Martyrs of Siroki Brijeg – Blairsville (5)

Stephen Smith, OFS

Matthew Moore, OFS, Minister

Jennifer Moore, OFS, Vice Minister

Kathi Traywick, OFS

Phyllis Howell, OFS, Councilor

St. John Vianney Emerging Fraternity – Lithia Springs (0)

NORTH CAROLINA

Padre Pio – Raleigh (21)

Rachel Bongiorno, OFS

Travis Bongiorno, OFS

Mercedes Cooley, OFS

Courtney Cantrell, Orientee

Lee Cunningham, OFS, BSSF Area 3 Councilor

Ellen Ferrone, OFS, BSSF Minister

Linda Forero, Guest

Michael Hancock, OFS, Secretary

Judy Newell, OFS, Candidate

Chris Peffley, OFS, Councilor

Anna Rzewnicki, OFS

Deacon Phil Rzewnicki, OFS

Zubair Simonson, OFS, Treasurer & BSSF Treasurer

Carolyn Townes, OFS, BSSF JPIC Animator

David Shick, OFS, Vice Minister
Gladys Whitehouse, OFS
Debbie Wickwar, OFS, Candidate
Laurie Wilburn, OFS
Sharon Winzeler, OFS, Minister & Communio Editor
Char Witosky, OFS, Formation Director

St. Maximilian Kolbe – Charlotte (6) Commuters (3)*

Frances Acosta, OFS
Lina Beauregard, OFS
Gabe Conway, OFS
Mark Ceraldi, Inquirer*
Janet Ceraldi, OFS*
Denise Hicky, OFS*
JC (Jungyeon) Liu, OFS, Minister
Jennye Taylor-Johnson, OFS, Vice Minister
Jerome Wagner, OFS

St. Elizabeth of Hungary – Elizabeth City (2)

Dory Davis, OFS, Minister
James Davis, Guest

Fraternity of St. Clare – Winston-Salem (7)

Bob Dorsch, OFS, For. Dir & BSSF FY/YA
Jerry Griffin, OFS
Janice Howell, OFS, Secretary
Betti Longinotti, OFS, Minister & BSSF Area 3 Councilor
Mary Miller, OFS, Councilor
Elsa Sabio, OFS, Candidate
Hernan Sabio, OFS, Candidate

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament – Burlington (7)

Irene Crowder, OFS, Minister
Flo Echevarria, OFS
Brian Ward, OFS, Formation Director
Paul Bobak, OFS
Rose Ann Bobak, OFS, Secretary
Joe McKnight-McKenna, OFS, Vice Minister
Mary McKnight-McKenna, Guest

St. Francis of the Hills – Hendersonville (6) Commuter (1)*

Brenda Harris, OFS, Minister
Joanita Nellenbach, OFS, Secretary
Gene Ray Magruder, OFS, Treasurer
Gina Roe, OFS, Candidate
Mark Taylor, OFS, Formation Director*
Yong Sun Thompson, OFS, Councilor
Nancy Torres, OFS

Fraternity of Brother Francis – Newton (8) Commuters (5)*

Rita Borst, OFS, Councilor
Renaye Chapman, Orientee
Paula Coleman, OFS
Dr. Brenda Draper, Guest*
Donald Macnamara, OFS, Councilor*
Esther Kelly, OFS, Minister
Dr. Doug Miller, OFS*
Karen Miller, Inquirer*
Mike Oeser, OFS, Secretary
Lynn Oeser, OFS, Formation Director & BSSF Formation Director
Xiomara Palma, OFS, Councilor
Linda Robinson, Inquirer*
Jane Wilson, OFS

St. Thomas More – Wilmington (6)

Linda Keir, OFS, Secretary
Robert Pape, OFS
Peggy Pape, Guest
Jeanie Wool, Inquirer
Gary Wool, OFS
Mike Yamat, OFS, Minister

Franciscan Family of Greensboro – Greensboro (4)

Jeanne Carter, OFS, Secretary
Georgette Schraeder, OFS, Councilor
Bob Pearson, OFS, Councilor
Judith Walsh, OFS, Treasurer

Blessed Fr. Solanus Casey – Morehead City (3)

Pat Kasprzyk, OFS, Formation Director
Joan Rogers, OFS, Minister
Bob Sabisch, OFS, Treasurer

St. Clare – Asheville (1) Commuters (7)*

Gail Carroll, OFS, Formation Director*

Cathy Champon, OFS, Minister

Louisa Emmons, OFS*

Barbara Freeman, OFS, Secretary*

Gwen Hobson, OFS, Vice Minister*

Tony Lazaro, OFS, Councilor*

Jill Varney, OFS, Treasurer*

Alan Wyatt, Guest*

SOUTH CAROLINA

Our Lady of Good Counsel – Greenville (4)

Valerie Baronkin, OFS, Minister

Ingrid Ireland, OFS, Candidate

Alice Ramos, OFS, Vice Minister

Elizabeth Oughton, OFS

Fraternity of Blessed John Duns Scotus – Murrell's Inlet (7)

Joanie Penney, Inquirer

Ted Penney, Inquirer

Marilyn Oberembt, Orientee

Mary Sacavage, OFS, Minister, BSSF Secretary

Eric Schwartzkopf, Orientee

Mickie Seese, Orientee

Barbara Umpeley, OFS, Secretary

Crucified Christ – North Charleston (0)

St. Michael the Archangel – Spartanburg (1) Commuters (8)*

Sara Nell Boggs, OFS, Minister

Carol Drum, OFS, Treasurer*

Paula Duncan, OFS, Formation Director*

Shizuko Klatte, OFS*

Lynn Skinner-Johnson, OFS*

Jim Johnson, OFS, Councilor*

Sandra Rodriguez, OFS*

Bonnie Wacker, OFS, Vice Minister*

Betsy Witt, OFS*

St. Clare of Assisi – Aiken (7)

Tony DaVino, OFS
Elizabeth DaVino, Guest
Pat Hunter, OFS, Formation Director
Carole King, OFS, Vice Minister
Karen Perry, OFS, Minister
Staci Siler, OFS, Candidate
Mary Welsh, OFS, Treasurer

Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary – Bluffton (6)

Judy Graff, OFS, Minister
Larry Graff, Guest
Barbara Gloven, OFS, Candidate
Debbie Clisham, OFS
Kathy McInerney, OFS, Candidate

Mother Cabrini – Anderson (4) Commuters (4)*

Charlie Comberrel, OFS, Formation Director
Martha Comberrel, OFS, Vice Minister
Cindy Gravely, OFS
Renee Hvizdos, OFS*
Andrew Hvizdos, Guest*
Sharral Jenson, OFS, Candidate*
Nanette Perron, OFS, Minister
Norene Smith, OFS*

St Padre Pio, Newly Forming Group - Indian Land (15)

Mel Bancker, Inquirer
Barbara Bancker, Inquirer
Helen Carter, Inquirer
Rose Clawson, OFS, Candidate
Patte Kennedy, Inquirer
John Myers, OFS, Candidate
Lenore Myers, OFS, Candidate
Louanne Pelletier, Inquirer
Spike Pelletier, Guest
Lonny Persica, OFS, Candidate
Vickie Persica, OFS, Candidate
Tom Veltri, OFS, Candidate
Mary Veltri, OFS
Fran Zabel, Inquirer
Gordon Zabel, Inquirer

TENNESSEE

Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin – Franklin (7)

Margaret Guitard, OFS
Kathleen Kirkpatrick, OFS
Deacon Simeon Panagatos, OFS
Anne Panagatos, OFS
George Tutaj, OFS, Minister
Ellen Marie Tutaj, OFS, Formation Director
David Joseph Weir, Vice Minister

Channel of Peace – Chattanooga (8)

Gail Campbell, OFS
Kevin Ford, Orienteer
Barbara Garrison, OFS
Ann Hammers, OFS
Daryl Moffit, OFS, Candidate
Paul Semmens, OFS, Minister
Brian Tierney, OFS, Treasurer
Geri Toeller, OFS, Secretary

Sts. Francis and Clare – Knoxville (5) Commuters (3)*

Bonnie Ameche, OFS, Councilor
John Michael Fox, OFS
Lindy Grace, OFS, Secretary*
Terry Paradis, OFS, Vice Minister*
Paul Rock, OFS, Minister
Carolyn Rock, Affiliate
Jean Schneider, OFS, Formation Director*
Kristen VonClef, OFS

NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILS

Channel of Peace, Knoxville, TN

March 12, 2023

Paul Semmens, OFS, Minister*
Ron Johnson, OFS, Vice Minister
Geri Toeller, OFS, Secretary*
Brian Tierney, OFS, Treasurer*
Chris Liakos, OFS, Formation Director
Karen Humphries, OFS, Councilor
Kathy Stephens, OFS, Councilor
Ann Albee, OFS, Councilor
Msgr. Al Humbecht, Spiritual Assistant

Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary, Bluffton, SC

March 4, 2023

Judy Graff, OFS Minister*
Yoli Hackey, OFS Vice Minister
Kathleen Sheehan, OFS Secretary
Carmen Stratos, OFS Treasurer
Christine Lukesh, OFS Formation Director
Peggy Cleary, OFS Councilor
Mary Houser, OFS Councilor
Ken Wessling, OFM, Spiritual Assistant

Seven Dolours of BVM, Franklin, TN

June 17, 2023

George Tutaj, OFS, Minister*
David Joseph Weir, OFS, Vice Minister
Stephen Brace, OFS, Secretary
Sofia Grey, OFS, Treasurer
Ellen Marie Tutaj, OFS, Formation Director*
Joshua Strobe, OFS, Councilor
Rev. Bala Showraiah, OFM, Sp. Assistant

Bl. John Duns Scotus, Garden City, SC

February 18, 2023

Mary Sacavage, OFS, Minister*
Barbara Umpleby, OFS, Secretary*
Kathleen Barnes, OFS, Treasurer
Paul DiStefano, OFS, Formation Director

Mother Cabrini, Anderson, SC

February 5, 2023

Nanette Perron, OFS Minister*
Martha Comberrel, OFS Vice Minister*
Deacon Sal Cancelli, OFS Secretary
Cindy Gravely, OFS Treasurer*
Charlie Comberrel, OFS Form. Dir.*
Fr. Bob Menard, OFM, Spiritual Asst.

Franciscan Martyrs of Siroki Brijeg, Blairsville GA

November 12, 2022

Matthew Moore, OFS, Minister*
Jennifer Moore, OFS, Vice Minister*
Pat Tomczyk, OFS, Secretary
Ron Tomczyk, OFS, Treasurer
Ruth McCart, OFS, Formation Director
Phyllis Howell, OFS, Councilor*
Linda McKnight, OFS, Councilor
Julie Fields, OFS, Councilor
Jean Schnider, OFS, Spiritual Assistant

Franciscan Family of Greensboro, Greensboro, NC

May 7, 2023

Kathy Gallucci, OFS, Minister
Susan Russell, OFS, Vice Minister
Jeanne Carter, OFS, Secretary*
Judith Walsh, OFS, Treasurer*
Jeanne Kiley, OFS, Formation Director
Bob Pearson, OFS, Councilor*
Georgette Schraeder, OFS, Councilor*
Joe Vodenichar, OFS, Councilor

(* Attending)

WELCOME OUR NEWLY PROFESSED...

Channel of Peace – Chattanooga, TN

Christopher Liakos, OFS Nov 13, 2022

Sts. Francis and Clare – Knoxville, TN

Jessica Trentham, OFS May 6, 2023

St Joseph of Cupertino, Bessemer, AL

Kelly Horwitz, OFS* Nov 5, 2022

Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Franklin, TN

Margaret Guitard, OFS* Joshua Strope, OFS May 28, 2023

Stigmata of St Francis – Johns Creek, GA

Allison Salemo, OFS Danny Navarro, OFS* Jack Farren, OFS*
Lori Shaver, OFS* Tams Nicholson, OFS All June 3, 2023

Franciscans of Siroki Brijeg – Blairsville, GA

Phyllis Howell, OFS* Linda McKnight, OFS Nov 12, 2022

Fraternity of Brother Francis – Newton, NC

Jane Wilson, OFS* Nov 12, 2022

Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary – Bluffton, SC

Debbie Clisham, OFS* Barbara Gloven, OFS* August 6, 2022

St Elizabeth of Hungry - Augusta, GA

Cindy Craig, OFS Tom Fait, OFS* Debi Hull, OFS All April 29, 2023

Our Lady of Good Counsel – Greenville, SC

Alice Baird, OFS* February 15, 2023

Padre Pio – Raleigh, NC

All on July 15, 2023

Dave Abell, OFS Rachel Bongiorno, OFS* Travis Bongiorno, OFS*
Mary Cockrill, OFS Mercedes Cooley, OFS* Valorie Davis, OFS
Brian Denison, OFS Anne Evangelista, OFS Alma Hammer, OFS
Richard Hammer, OFS MaryLou Holloway, OFS Maureen McFadden, OFS
Nkem Okereke, OFS Janette Perez, OFS Henry Sims, OFS

* **Attending**

Spiritual Assistants of the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region
and the fraternities they serve:

Sr. Kathleen Ganiel, OSF	Fraternity of Saint Clare
Fr. Stephen Hoyt	Saint Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity
Msgr. Al Humbrecht	Channel Of Peace
Hugh Macsherry, OFM	Padre Pio
Fr. William McIntyre, OFM	The Five Georgia Martyrs
Fr. Robert Menard, OFM,	Saint Francis of The Hills
Fr. Robert Menard, OFM,	Mother Cabrini
Joanita Nellenbach, OFS	
Paul Pantiru, OFM Conv.	Immaculate Conception
Jean Schneider, OFS	Franciscan Martyrs of Siroki Brijeg
Georgette Schraeder, OFS	
Deacon Tom Shaver, OFS,	Spiritual Assistant Training
Ken Wessling, OFS	Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary
Pat Wilkerson, OFS	Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament
Joyce Wawrzynski, OFS	Seven Dolors of the BVM

Those in Spiritual Assistant Formation:

Charlie Comberrel, OFS
Helen Neff, OFS
Peg Saam, OFS
Deacon Phil Rzewnicki, OFS
Chris Reynold, OFS
Theresa Christie, OFS

Let us pray for our dearly departed brothers and sisters...

Sts. Francis and Clare - Knoxville, TN

Patricia Belle Carrasco, OFS June 28, 2023

Franciscan Martyrs Siroki Brijeg – Blairsville, GA

Jerry Rousseau, OFS September 21, 2022

Caroline Richbourg, OFS January 4, 2023

Our Lady of Good Council, Greenville, SC

Ladonna Sexton, OFS June 14, 2023

Franciscan Family of Greensboro – Greensboro NC

Betty Micca, OFS September 21, 2022

Mary Ann Ceh, OFS January 12, 2023

St. Michael the Archangel-Spartanburg, SC

Ed Babin, OFS March 5, 2023

Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary – Bluffton, SC

Christine Sheridan, OFS October 18, 2022



PRAY THE RULE

Liam McCarthy, OFM

O Lord, our God, we intend to make present the charism of our Seraphic Father Francis in the life and mission of the Church, in various ways and forms but in life-giving union with one another. By our profession, we pledge ourselves to live the Gospel in the manner of St Francis by means of our Rule approved by the Church (Arts. 1-3). Help us, we pray, so that daily we may:

- observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of St Francis, going from gospel to life and from life to the gospel (Art. 4);
- seek to encounter the living and active person of Jesus Christ in our brothers and sisters, in sacred scripture, in the Church and in the Eucharist (Art. 5);
- go forth as witnesses and instruments of the Church's mission among people, proclaiming Christ by our life and words (Art. 6);
- conform our thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by the radical interior change which the Gospel calls "conversion", making use of the sacrament of reconciliation on the way to renewal (Art. 7);
- let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all we are and do (Art. 8);
- imitate the Virgin Mary's complete self-giving in her openness to your every word and call (Art. 9);
- faithfully fulfill the duties proper to our various circumstances in life (Art. 10);
- seek the proper spirit of detachment and purify our hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power (Art. 11);
- acquire the purity of heart needed to set ourselves free to love God and our brothers and sisters (Art. 12);
- accept all people as your gift, Lord, and an image of Christ (Art. 13);
- exercise our responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of service (Art. 14);
- be in the forefront of promoting justice by the testimony of our human lives and by courageous initiatives (Art. 15);
- esteem work both as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption and service of the human community (Art. 16);
- cultivate the Franciscan spirit of peace, fidelity and respect for life in our families, striving to make it a sign of a world already renewed in Christ (Art. 17);
- respect all creatures, animate and inanimate "as bearing the imprint of the Most High" (Art. 18);
- be bearers of peace and messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, as immersed in the resurrection of Christ, we serenely tend towards Sister Death and our ultimate encounter with you, our Father (Art. 19).

All this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Brother. Amen.

**BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS
SCHEDULE OF VISITATIONS AND ELECTIONS
2023 - 2024**

* confirmed

V+ follow-up visit (observers in parentheses)

**Annual Regional Gathering August 11-13, 2023
Ridgecrest Conference Center**

Date	Minister	Fraternity	E/V	Councilor	SA
Sept 8-9*	Laura Cleary	Immaculate Conception, Jonesboro, GA	V	Becky (Margi Williams)	Deacon Tom
Nov 10-11*	Karen Perry	St Clare of Assisi, Aiken	V	Becky Bresnahan	
Nov 12*	Mike Yamat	St. Thomas More, Wilmington,	E	Lee Cunningham	
Nov	Sara Nell Boggs	St Michael of the Archangel, Spartanburg, SC	E	JC Lui	

2024

9-Jan	Susan McArthur	St Elizabeth of Hungry, Augusta, GA	E		
Jan 10*	Margi Williams	Stigmata of St Francis, Johns Creek, GA	E		
Feb 18*	Paul Rock	Sts. Francis and Clare, Knoxville, TN	E		

Pastoral Visitors have not yet been identified pending the commissioning of the new Spiritual Assistants at ARG.

**“Your Servant Leaders”
BSSF Regional Executive Council**

Minister: Ellen Ferrone, OFS
Vice Minister: Martha Roman, OFS
Secretary: Mary Sacavage, OFS
Treasurer: Zubair Simonson, OFS
Formation Director: Lynn Oeser, OFS

Spiritual Assistant:

Area 1 Councilors: Gabrielle Cruz-Uribe, OFS, Margi Williams, OFS
AL: Bessemer
GA: Blairsville, Johns Creek, Jonesboro, Lithia Springs
TN: Chattanooga, Knoxville, Franklin

Area 2 Councilors: JC Liu, OFS, Becky Bresnahan, OFS
GA: Augusta, St. Simons Island
NC: Asheville, Charlotte, Hendersonville, Newton;
SC: Aiken, Anderson, Charleston, Greenville, Bluffton, Spartanburg

Area 3 Councilors: Lee Cunningham, OFS, Betti Longinotti, OFS
NC: Burlington, Elizabeth City, Greensboro, Morehead City,
Raleigh, Wilmington, Winston Salem
SC: Garden City

Appointed Positions

Communio Editor: Sharon Winzeler, OFS
Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Animator: Carolyn Townes, OFS
Multicultural Commission Chair: David Cruz-Uribe, OFS
Youth/Young Adult Fraternal Animator: Bob Dorsch, OFS

Prayer Coordinators (online prayer requests)*

Area 1: John Martin, OFS Area 2: Dot Heubner, OFS
Area 3: Robert Sabisch, OFS

**(Local fraternity prayer liaisons submit prayer requests to Area Councilor)*

RENEWAL OF “OFS” PROFESSION COMMITMENT

Let us bless our Lord and God, living and true;
to Him, we must attribute all praise, glory, honor,
blessing, and every good forever.

All Professed Secular Franciscans together:

We thank you, Lord, for calling us to the Secular Franciscan Order.

We ask Your pardon for all our shortcomings,
weaknesses, and transgressions against our commitment
to the Gospel life and against the Rule.

We renew once again our commitment to the Gospel life,
according to the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order,
until the end of our days.

Grant also that we may live in harmony with
our brothers and sisters, and that we may give witness
to younger people of the great gift we have received from you:

our Franciscan calling to “go forth as witnesses and instruments
of the Church’s mission among all people,
proclaiming Christ by our life and words.”

Most High and Glorious God, grant that we may live justice and peace.

All praise be yours, O Lord,
through all that you have made.

Amen.

Celebrating the Rule: 800 years of Peacemakers in Christ thru Nonviolence

Speaker: Marie Dennis OFS, Peace Educator, 2022 recipient of Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace Award.

Each morning in the Benedictus, we pray the gospel with the words *“in the tender compassion of our God, the Dawn from on High shall break upon us, and guide our feet into the Way of Peace.”*

The Dawn from on High is a light beyond imagination and guides many feet through many paths into the Way of Peace that Christ calls us into. Our speaker this weekend will share with us her story and the path that she has been guided through her work in speaking about and promoting Nonviolence in our world.

Let us use this time together to listen and discern, when we depart, go forth to do what is ours to do.

Our Regional gathering this year is marked by the Franciscan Family Centenary: Celebrating the Rule

cen·ten·ar·y the hundredth anniversary of a significant event; a centennial



Reflections on the Franciscan Centenaries (The Rule & Greccio)

Our Being in Christ:

The Rule consists in “Observing the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ” (Later Rule 1:1, FF 75). - Coordination Committee for the Franciscan Centenary.

- How are we growing to love and better understand the rule we have professed?

ARG Activities:

Prayer intention: Let us pray intentionally for Peace on Earth through nonviolence.

Liturgical Prayer

Article 8 of the SFO Rule states: *The members of the Secular Franciscan Order are to join in the liturgical prayer in one of the forms proposed by the church reliving the mysteries of Christ.*

Page 103 of the Secular Franciscan Ritual lists suggestions on how Secular Franciscans may fulfill this responsibility. Here are a few suggestions:

- Liturgy of the Hours
- Crown Rosary with scripture
- Lectio Divina
- Office of the Twelve Our Fathers.
- Eucharistic Adoration or Solitary Prayer

Choose one of the following articles of the Secular Franciscan Rule: 4, 8, 9,10. Reflect on it.

- How am I being in Christ as I seek peace?
- What resolution can I make to imitate the peace of Christ more deeply?

Notes

Our Being Brothers and Sisters

“For if a mother loves and cares for her son according to the flesh. How much more diligently must someone love and care for his brother according to the Spirit?”

(Later Rule 6: 8, FF 91) - Coordination Committee for the Franciscan Centenary.

Let us rediscover the fundamental importance of the rule for Protecting and nurturing fraternal life.

- How am I being an instrument of peace in Fraternity?

ARG Activities:

Let us make new relationships with our brothers and sisters and foster old ones. Find a brother or sister that you do not know. Share the story of your Franciscan life.

Choose one of the following articles of the Secular Franciscan Rule: 5, 12, 20-26. Reflect on it.

Personal Fraternal challenge activities:

- Consider exchanging contact information with a newly met brother or sister.
- Consider sitting at dinner (or inviting) with a brother or sister that you haven't met.

Notes

Our Being in Communion:

“Steadfast in the Catholic Faith, we may observe poverty, humility and the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ as we have firmly promised.” (Later Rule 12:4 FF 109) Coordination Committee for the Franciscan Centenary.

- How am (are) I (we) *being* making present our Franciscan Charism in the Church?

ARG Activities:

- Let us commit to wear and bear our Tau in our parish communities and witness to the peaceful action and presence of the WAY with piety and faithfulness to the promises of poverty, chastity and obedience to our Rule.
- Attend Mass and Eucharistic Adoration
- Recognition of members (anniversaries, newly professed, etc.) and Memorial service for deceased.
- Renew the Profession of our Rule

Choose one of the following articles of the Secular Franciscan Rule: 1,2,3, 5, 6,7. Reflect on it.

Notes

Our Being in the World

[They are] “not to quarrel or argue or judge others when they go about in the world”

(Later Rule 3:10, FF 85). - Coordination Committee for the Franciscan Centenary

- In witnessing to our profession of living our Rule in Fraternity and minority how are we (and will) we collaborate in building bonds of unity with society and the institutions that compromise it?

ARG Activities:

Let us call on the Holy Spirit for the gifts of wisdom and understanding, counsel fortitude, knowledge, piety and Fear of the Lord that our feet are firmly guided in the Way of Peace through nonviolence.

Let us ask the Lord to grant us the grace to follow our Lord Jesus Christ and bear wrongs and insult patiently with love and compassion.

Let us remember the examples of nonviolence of our Seraphic Father, Francis, who bore with silent patience insults and physical blows from rocks and dung; who kissed a leper, gave food to bandits, who met with the Sultan in wartime, and a wolf in peace time, and who later in life would retreat into Christ immediately with prayer when treated with unkindness or neglect.

Let us remember the faithfulness of St. Clare while poor health found her in danger of invaders to her home. She fled only to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. With great faith, purity of heart, tears, and the help of her sisters, she raised the monstrance to the invaders and they retreated.

Choose one of the following articles of the Secular Franciscan Rule: 13, 14 ,15 and Article 22.3of the general constitution. Reflect on it.

My Being in the World:

- How will I move and be the peace of Christ with other churches, in community and in the world? How will I seek to be the perfect Love (Charity) Of Christ
- Can I commit to words and language of peace to others? Seeking to understand?
- How will I bear insult with love and patience?

Reflection Notes