

# LA TILMA

**NEWSLETTER OF OUR LADY OF GUADLUPE  
EMPRESS OF THE AMERICAS REGION #75**

Spring 2023

*“Listen, discern, go  
Forth”*

## **Message from Regional Minister**

**Sofia U. Villarreal, OFS**

Dearest Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Francis, Clare:

My best wishes to all and a continued blessing upon you! We have again come together with our words spoken to us from NAFRA three very important words to make us know the value of our lives as OFS -Vocation, Communication and Relationship. How can we not apply this in our fraternities? The Lord has spoken to us and continues to speak to us by these yearly themes and by messages sent for the well-being of our fraternities. I have thought of all of us and have heard from you in writing, texting, e-mail, calls, Facebook, zoom meetings and finally coming together in person. Now we have no reason to say or to keep us from being connected with each other. This is how we will live our Vocation, Communication and Relationship with each other. The words of Our Lord is being heard, and/or especially lived out in our lives.

We are in this Pascual Season and walking with Jesus. The strength and courage to go forward is a challenge but he has shown us it can be done through faith. May our journey be a complete undertaking from now until we are called to be together with our Lord.

For the meantime, now we can again have time to see how we will fulfill our Franciscan responsibilities and how they will be applied as members of our fraternity. Information from emails, messages from Region, National and International. along with the prayers requests that you sent us has been a blessing and a way to share with each other.



Our regional calendar continues to keep you connected with other fraternities with dates and in Elections, Orientations and Visitations. Please keep them on your schedule. Some dates are still changing made at your request and we will keep editing.

Now to our Calendar two activities which are very important: Item # 1 Celebrating the Centenaries to see to the future and to keep our Franciscan identity and charism 2023-2026 for each year. We have begun this year with the Rule and the Christmas at Greccio at Regional and National level. The others will be announced as they are brought to us. (See Tau USA Fall 2022).

Item #2: We are scheduled for our Chapter of Elections on September 22 -24, 2023. Two members have been assigned to the nominating committee. They are Lita Pino, OFS and Vickie Ortiz, OFS. Nominating Forms will be sent out. Our two committee members and the REC met to carefully generate these forms. Much prayer and thoughts went into them. We learn as we go through our Franciscan journey. During our journey we pray to grow spiritually and in community and service to our brothers and sisters. As written in scripture, “God does not call the qualified he qualifies the called” Exodus 4:10-13.

When we meet in fraternity, be sure that this is done in accordance with all regulations. I am happy to be able to see and be with you personally for our WAY OF LIFE is to put our Rule in action to serve each other.

**Paz y Bien,  
Sofia U. Villarreal, OFS  
Regional Minister**





## MESSAGE/GREETINGS Brother Gordon, OFM

Provincial-Regional  
Spiritual Assistant

Dearest sisters and brothers in St. Francis, As many of our mothers have told us: "The older you get, the faster time flies." I didn't believe my mother then, but I sure believe her now.

The Liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas Lent, and Easter all seemed to have slammed into one another. The events of our busy lives seem overwhelming at times. But, Prayer can help us sort things out. Sometime during the season of Advent, I had my first of two cataract surgeries. The second one took place about a month later. I've worn eyeglasses since fourth grade, so when my vision got blurry, I went for an eye exam to get a prescription upgrade. Surprise! My addition of years meant that I required cataract surgery before being fitted for a new pair of glasses. (My new glasses will be ready May 5.) In the meantime, my old glasses don't work. I notice that I take them off or leave them on to see things more clearly. Of course, this is very frustrating because neither option works for long.

(It's kind of like Einstein's quote: "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.")  
Eventually, I found myself reflecting on the Gospel by Mark (8:22-26)—one of three incidents where Jesus heals blindness. In Mark's telling of an event, he mentions that the man's sight returned gradually. That is, after the first touch for healing, Jesus asked the man: "What do you see?" The man answers: "I see people as walking trees." So, Jesus continued placing his hands over the man's eyes until total healing happened.

Right now, I do see much more than "people as walking trees." For me, everything is fuzzy and super bright. Sometimes I feel short-tempered with myself because I don't see as I'm used to. The blind man's story could help us as Franciscans to be more patient with ourselves, and our sisters and brothers. And the Fraternity Council members could be inspired to be more patient and cooperative with one another.

What I mean is, the Minister is the head of the Fraternity, but not the boss. S/he must not only hear and see the opinions/suggestions of others, but (most importantly) listen to and offer perception into these opinions/suggestions toward the greater harmony of the Fraternity.

Especially during these seasons of Easter and Pentecost, may the above verses from the Gospel by Mark help us to ". . . see [Jesus] more clearly / Love [him] more dearly / Follow [him] more nearly / Day by day."  
(GODSPELL-1971)

*In peace and goodwill,  
— Prov.-Rgn'l. Spiritual Assistant*



## MESSAGE/GREETINGS

Gigi Gregory, OFS  
Regional Vice-Minister



It is so unbelievable that here we are sharing with our brothers and Sisters the events since the winter edition of La Tilma.

We began with the Epiphany Celebration on January 7th, 2023. St. Patrick's Fraternity #109 sponsored the event. The celebration was so joyful, we had singing, good food, prizes galore, and a presentation of the Blessed Mother and 3 Kings (children of members of some of our Fraternities). We were blessed to have representatives from several Fraternities in our area.

In February, we met for our REC meeting and #129 St. Juan Diego had professions.

The Regional Formation team has been providing formation for Fire of Assisi, Forming Group, as they prepare for profession in May. We had several Visitations in which we rejoiced in visiting with our brothers and sisters. Our Regional Budget Meeting proved very fruitful, and our budget was approved unanimously in one hour!

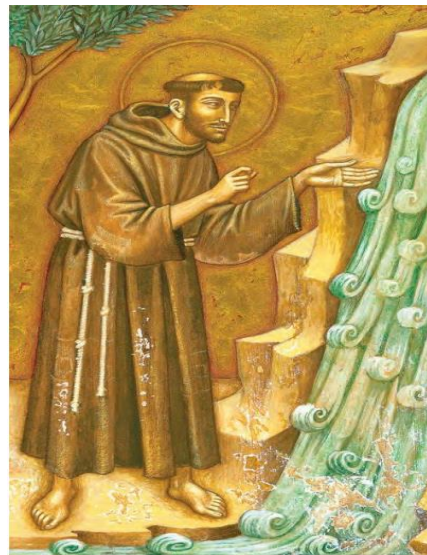
We also supported the Spanish Formation team with attending their presentation on the Centenaries project. Out of the approximately 45 attendees, our region was represented by 24 attendees. Way to go Spanish Fraternities!

Our Regional Formation Director, Carmen Aguilar, gave a presentation on the Rule. Everyone was so complimentary about her lecture.

I have continued to participate in the Franciscan Network for Migrants as part of my JPIC duties. I will be attending the JPIC workshop in May. I am looking forward to bringing back information.

These past four months have been very active and productive. We continue to serve our Region with much love and dedication. Please remember we are always available to serve you with the needs of your fraternities.

Your Regional Vice-Minister,  
*gigi gregory, OFS*



**REGIONAL FORMATION**  
by Carmen Aguilar, OFS

Celebration of the  
Franciscan Centenary

The Franciscan Family is blessed to be a family that is extended throughout the world with brothers and sisters in different Orders, but with the same root and charism of our founder, St. Francis of Assisi.

On October 2, 2021, the General Ministers of the Franciscan Families met in Assisi to plan the celebration of the Franciscan anniversaries of *the Rule, Christmas at Greccio, the Gift of the Stigmata, The Canticle of the Creatures and the Easter of St. Francis* in a single Franciscan Centenary. The anniversaries that we as a Family have already started to celebrate and will continue celebrating in the years to come are events in the life of St. Francis that not only highlight the Franciscan charism, but which we consider special gifts given to the Franciscan Family in our Founder.

In the letter sent by the Ministers General of the IFC-TOR, OFS, OFM, OFM Cap, OFM Conv and TOR, dated October 02, 2021, they presented the themes they organized to celebrate the 800th Anniversary of these beautiful and priceless gifts given by the Holy Spirit to our Family in our Founder, St. Francis of Assisi. I'm citing the beginning of this letter, which starts as follows:

*Conference of the Franciscan Family Assisi, October 2, 2021*

*To all the Friars of our Orders  
To the Franciscan Family*

*Dear Brothers of the First Order,  
Poor Clare Sisters, Brothers and Sisters of the TOR and OFS-YouFra,*

*May the Lord give you peace!*

The next few years will be a time for us to recall some important events from the last years of St. Francis' life. In particular, from 2023 to 2026, we shall be commemorating what we prefer to call a single Franciscan Centenary, which will be held around the 2025 Holy Year. It will take place at different stages in order to commemorate the 800th anniversaries of *the Rule, the Christmas at Greccio (2023), the Stigmata (2024), the Canticle of the Creatures (2025), and the Easter of Francis (2026)*. This Centenary is meant to be a multifaceted event in which several anniversaries will be celebrated.

This series of anniversaries will give us a valuable opportunity to commemorate, in a vivid and inspiring way, the evangelical charism that the Holy Spirit awakened in the church through St. Francis. We would like to celebrate this Franciscan Centenary in profound communion as a Family, in all countries and contexts of the world in which we are present.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us Praise our God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit for such a great and unworthy gift given to us in the vocation that we have received and may we be allowed to celebrate such great gifts to our beloved Franciscan Order in all of its branches with a true Franciscan joy!



## Celebración del Centenario Franciscano

La Familia Franciscana tiene la bendición de ser una familia extendida por todo el mundo con hermanos y hermanas en diferentes Órdenes, pero con la misma raíz y el mismo carisma de nuestro fundador, San Francisco de Asís.

El 2 de octubre del 2021, los Ministros Generales de las Familias Franciscanas se reunieron en Asís para planificar la celebración de los Aniversarios Franciscanos de *la Regla, la Navidad en Greccio, el Regalo de los Estigmas, el Cántico de las Criaturas y la Pascua de San Francisco* en un único Centenario Franciscano. Los aniversarios que como Familia ya hemos comenzado a celebrar y seguiremos celebrando en los próximos años son acontecimientos de la vida de San Francisco que no sólo ponen de relieve el carisma franciscano, sino que consideramos dones especiales concedidos a la Familia Franciscana a través de nuestro Fundador.

En la carta enviada por los Ministros Generales de la CFI-TOR, OFS, OFM, OFM Cap, OFM Conv y TOR, con fecha del 2 de octubre del 2021, ellos presentaron los temas que organizaron para celebrar el 800 Aniversario de estos hermosos e inestimables dones dados por el Espíritu Santo a nuestra Familia en nuestro Fundador, San Francisco de Asís. Cito el comienzo de esta carta, que empieza así:

*Conferencia de la Familia Franciscana  
Asís, 2 de octubre de 2021*

*A todos los Hermanos de nuestras Órdenes*

*A la Familia Franciscana*

*Queridos Hermanos de la Primera Orden, Clarisas, Hermanos y Hermanas de la TOR y de la OFS-JuFra,*

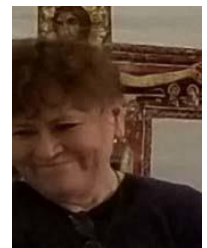
*¡Que el Señor les dé la paz!*

En los próximos años recordaremos algunos acontecimientos importantes de los últimos años de la vida de San Francisco. En particular, del 2023 al 2026, conmemoraremos lo que preferimos llamar un único Centenario Franciscano, que se celebrará en torno al Año Santo 2025. Tendrá lugar en diferentes etapas para conmemorar el 800 aniversario de *la Regla, la Navidad en Greccio (2023), los Estigmas (2024), el Cántico de las Criaturas (2025) y la Pascua de Francisco (2026)*. Este Centenario pretende ser un acontecimiento polifacético en el que se celebrarán varios aniversarios.

Esta serie de aniversarios nos brindará una valiosa oportunidad para conmemorar, de manera viva e inspiradora, el carisma evangélico que el Espíritu Santo suscitó en la Iglesia a través de San Francisco. Queremos celebrar este Centenario Franciscano en profunda comunión de Familia, en todos los países y contextos del mundo en los que estamos presentes.

Queridos hermanos y hermanas, Alabemos a nuestro Dios, el Padre, el Hijo y el Espíritu Santo por tan grande e indigno don que se nos ha dado en la vocación que hemos recibido y que esto nos permita celebrar tan grandes dones a nuestra querida Orden Franciscana en todas sus ramas.

Paz y Bien,  
*Carmen Aguilar, OFS*  
Directora Regional de Formación



## **Regional Multicultural Representative**

**Lita Pino, OFS, Espiritu Santo #133**

**LA TILMA ARTICLE MARCH 12, 2023**

Since I had never attended a Persian-Iranian wedding, I was at a loss as to what to wear. It was an awkward time of day and the dinner following was formal. The wedding ceremony was quite unusual for me since I am Catholic. The attendees were multicultural. We were Native American, Iranian, Asian, Mexican, Spanish, and African American. The service was well attended and very, very colorful and I wondered why I had been so worried about my wardrobe. The reception was held in a large tent which looked like an elegant restaurant. The table settings were beautiful. We were served delicious food. But, to my surprise, we were asked to go get our own dessert! We walked to an area with several booths with hundreds of unusual desserts. We picked whatever we desired and brought them back to our table where we were served coffee and tea. Then, the dancing began! It too was different. The bridal party would change into elegant gowns throughout the evening. The music was mostly modern American and everyone danced with each other whether they knew each other or not.



In my New Mexican Hispanic culture, the dancing always starts with La Marcha de Los Novios. It is led by a couple followed by the wedding party and guests. The traditional meaning of the Marcha is that dancing in a large circle signifies life and at one point the couples split with the groom with all the men forming a line in one direction and the bride and women going another direction. This symbolizes that the newlyweds come from different families and backgrounds. If the dance floor is not sufficient, the march goes around the tables with everyone clapping in time with the music anticipating the turns in the newlyweds' lives ahead. The dancers eventually form a bridge with joined hands, starting with the bride and groom. The bridge represents the many bridges that the couple must build if they are to enjoy married life. Each guest goes under the bridge finally followed by the couple themselves until all has cleared. After that, a circle is formed around the couple indicating there is no beginning or end to their love for each other and the support of the community. Then, the romantic music starts and the bride and bridegroom start dancing, only to be interrupted by the men and women who want to dance with them. The men dance with the bride for a short time, donating dollar bills which are pinned to her dress. The women dance with the groom. (I find it hilarious how the bride keeps the money which will be used for their honeymoon trip. Maybe she's afraid the groom might lose the money. She has it well secured and there's plenty of room on her beautiful gown for the money). The children are always welcomed at our weddings. Of course, they are in their special attire. After the Marcha, they too get onto the dance floor and have a good time. I love attending the different weddings of different cultures. The foods are similar at times. The atmosphere is always festive and joyful. People who haven't seen each other in a long time find themselves married into different cultures, knowing that we are all one family in God's eyes. I could go on sharing the different stories, but I am going to go listen to the Marcha music and maybe practice. Maybe someone will invite my husband and I to lead the wedding Marcha soon!



*Lita B. Pino, OFS*

**Ecumenical and Interfaith Representative**  
**Elizabeth Trevino, OFS – Brothers & Sisters of St. Francis #130**



**BECOMING AND BELONGING: THE INTERSECTION OF IDENTITY AND WELCOME**

*(This was the 11th in a series of exploring the Pastoral Letter against Racism, “Open Wide Our Hearts, The Enduring Call To Love”, by the U.S. Catholic Bishops, exploring healing racism in our Church and Community. It was presented by Ms. Ogechi Akalegbere on April 18, 2023)*

Ogechi, a Nigerian-American is Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Washington and the 2021 winner of the Cardinal Bernardin New Leadership Award from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. She has served as a catechist, lector, pastoral council co-chair, and small group leader at her parish and diocese and is involved as a community organizer and diversity practitioner in her community.

In this presentation Ogechi opened with a prayer by one of her favorite black Catholics that inspires her everyday Saint Thea Bowman:

*Oh Lord, help us to be attentive to your commands.  
Help us to walk in unity. Help us to celebrate who we are and whose we are.  
Help us to overcome selfishness, anger and violence in our hearts, in our homes, in our Church, in our world. Help us to knock down, pull down, shout down the walls of racism. Sexism, classism, materialism, and Militarism divides and separates us.*

*Help us to live as your united people, proclaiming with one voice our faith, our hope, our love, our joy. Amen.*

Ogechi, talks about her life as a black Catholic and her passion for bridge building and social justice.

She shares on what it means to be a welcoming Community to continue to not only analyze who gets to receive the invitation for welcome but what happens after that welcome. She shares some of her tools that she has found helpful. Working and helping in many different Ministries and jobs helping others. She lists all of her jobs and volunteering jobs not to bring attention to herself but to begin the explanation of the first part of this section called Becoming: Understanding who and whose I was.

She goes on to explain all of these jobs and activities contribute to her understanding of Her Identity, but how she worked. She was not always comfortable showing her true self while growing up because of her race and was taught to not be a troublemaker. Ogechi shared that at times she would show up to be whatever version of Ogechi she needed to be in order to be accepted, the reality is everyone has intersections about their identity. Whether it's race, gender, family background. All of that intersect to make us who we are, and she says” I imagine us as individuals being a beautiful piece of intricate fabric all of those identities sewn together to make us who we are as we engage in society whether in our church, our school, or workplace. Hopefully we are able to be ourselves”.

This is only a tip from the beginning of her presentation. Ogechi has a lot to share, and I hope to hear more of her talks. If you are interested in this presentation, you can find it on You-Tube, just type in the headline I have on top of this article. This is a 57-minute video and full of good information if only to remind us of who we can be and who we can help by reaching out to others by being our true selves and accepting others as themselves. I have to mention that this presentation had over 50 participants and some were first timers! This was Sponsored by: Archdiocese of Santa Fe Office of Social Justice and Respect Life, African American Catholic Community of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, Archdiocese of Santa Fe Ad Hoc Committee on Racism with support from The Catholic Foundation. Thank you to the sponsors who have made these presentations possible.

respectfully, *Elizabeth Trevino, OFS*

## *News from our Fraternities*

### Fire of Assisi (forming group) #10002 – Gallup, NM Good Friday Celebration – April 14, 2023



**Front L to R:** Yolanda Chavez, Olga Velez, Donna Herrera, OFS  
**Back L to R:** Rick Macias, OFS, Maria Elena Garcidueñas, OFS, Maria Camarena, OFS, Gregorio Camarena, OFS

### St. Anthony Fraternity #101 – Albuquerque, NM

St. Anthony Fraternity is pleased to announce that Candidates Felicie Truscio and Adrian Montoya are entering the Profession Phase of their journey to become Secular Order Franciscans. Their Profession Ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, October 22, 2023.



*Rena Xuereb, OFS, Formation Director, (left) guides Felicie Truscio and Adrian Montoya as they prepare for Liturgy of the Hours, Evening Prayer*



## St. Margaret of Cortona Fraternity #104 – Carlsbad, NM

Members of St. Margaret of Cortona fraternity participated in and attended the 2023 Easter Egg Hunt/Brunch & Play at St. Edward Catholic Church. The day began with a brunch of hot dogs, chips, nachos, popcorn, cupcakes, cookies, cotton candy, platters of fruit and various drinks. There was also a Face Painter who offered her service to all who wanted an “Easter Spirit” look. The easter egg hunt began with the toddlers and pre-school children, followed by the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, then the older kids. There were 2,000 candy-filled plastic eggs that were hidden in the flower garden of the St. Edward parish hall.

After the easter egg hunt, all went back inside to witness a play presented by the middle and high school Confirmation students. The play was titled “The Prophecy of the Peace of the Old Kingdom”, which is based on chapter 11 from the book of the prophet Isaiah. It was a very enjoyable time for all and the students were enthusiastic as they performed the play. Many parents and other volunteers helped make this gathering a huge success!



## Our Lady of Guadalupe Fraternity #113 – Las Cruces, NM

### **Candidate's Retreat 2023**

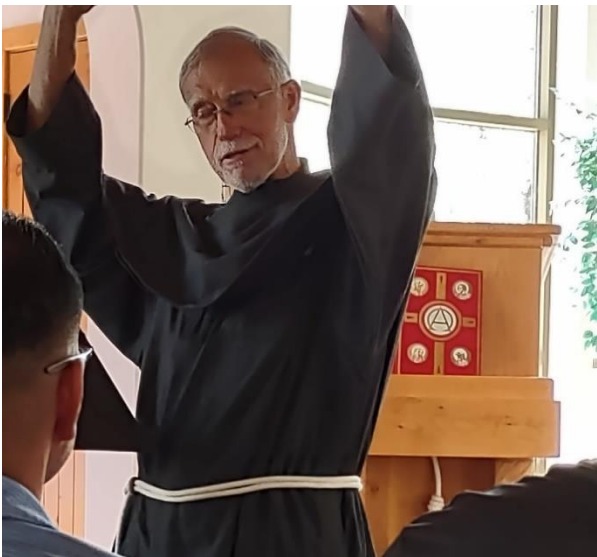
Our Candidates Sandra Busto and Antoinette Bencomo attended a day long retreat to prepare for their Profession to the Order of Secular Franciscans on May 7, 2023. Please keep them in your prayers and attend the Mass of Profession on May 7<sup>th</sup> at noon in the main Chapel at Holy Cross Retreat Center.



The fraternity also had a "Come and See" campaign to spread the word, along with a brochure for this purpose as an invitation to parishes in the Area:

- Las Cruces Parishes
- Cathedral of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
- Santa Rosa De Lima
- Holy Cross
- Our Lady of Health
- St. Genevieve
- St. Albert the Great
- Our Lady of Guadalupe
- San Albino
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help (T or C)

### **Earth Day Event At Holy Cross Retreat Center – April 22, 2023**



Fr. Tom Smith, OFM Conv. (left) and Linda Pribble, OFS, (below) presenting at Earth Day Event



**St. Francis Fraternity #119 (Roswell, NM)**  
**Regional Visitation on March 25, 2023**



**Back L to R:** Reg. SA Br. Gordon Boykin, OFM, Frat. Minister Barbara Stulce-Barrows, OFS, Reg. Vice-Minister Gigi Gregory, OFS, Nat'l Minister Jane De-Rose Bamman, OFS  
**Front L to R:** Reg. Minister Sofia U. Villarreal, OFS, Frat. Treasurer Dolores McKinney, OFS, Reg. Councilor Pedro Alvarez, OFS

**Espiritu Santo #133 – Albuquerque, NM**  
**Elections held April 15, 2023**



**Front L to R:** Luz Elena Tena, OFS, Minister, Lita Pino, OFS, Vice-Minister  
**Back L to R:** Heralio Madrid, OFS, Formation Director; Esther Herrera, OFS, Treasurer; Hugo Godina, OFS, Councilor 1; Ramona Velarde, OFS, Secretary; Joe Pino, OFS, Councilor 2, Regional Minister Sofia Villarreal, OFS, Presider

**Mary Immaculate Fraternity #106 – El Paso, TX**  
**Serving the homeless at the Opportunity Center – April 23, 2023**



Percy Navarrette, OFS, serving plates at the window



Terry Craig, OFS, serving tea



**At the serving line (L to R):** Pedro Alvarez, OFS, Fernando Silva, OFS, Bonnie Franco, OFS, Keely McDonald, OFS, Jenna Brown (David and Grace Akers, OFS, and Eddie Bokker, not shown, serving in the background)

**St. Juan Diego Fraternity # 129 – Lubbock, TX**

**Celebrates Professions – February 11, 2023**

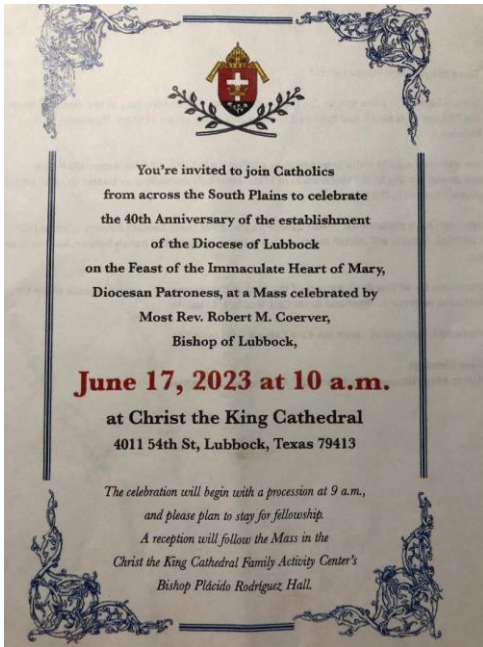


**Front row L to R:** Carolyn Wood, OFS; Grace McGrath, OFS; Carroll Hinkle, OFS; Abel Soto, OFS  
**Back row L to R:** Fr Brian Wood (Carolyn's son); Raquel Harris, OFS; Lanell Ramos, OFS (Minister); Deacon Pete Paniagua, OFS (Formation Director)

**Harriet Boone, OFS, 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday - April 4, 2023**



**Standing L to R:** Bob Rhoades, OFS, Treasurer, Ann Marie Rhoades, OFS, Lanell Ramos, OFS, Minister, and Fran Cimino, OFS, Vice-Minister



**40th Anniversary** to celebrate the establishment of the Diocese of Lubbock



**5K run** April 30th, to benefit the Nurturing Center and Raiders Defending Life Scholarship



**Two seminarians** from Rother House in Plainview, Fr. Jeremy Trull, dir. of Vocations & seminarians of Diocese of Lubbock.  
**Left to right:** Dennis Marcos, Philippines, Antonio La Barbera, originally from Sicily and then Michigan.

**San Luis Rey Fraternity #128 – El Paso, TX**  
**Renewal of Profession held on April 30, 2023**



While standing in front facing the community, members of the fraternity conducted a Renewal of Profession during Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. After Mass, they prayed Morning Prayer and gathered in the hall. They were joined by their family members and had brunch and played a great game of Bingo. At left is a photo of the fraternity members waiting to enter in procession at the beginning of the Mass.

**Front:** Rosie Peña, OFS (*taking the picture*)  
**Back L to R:** Guadalupe Herrera, OFS, Elena Reyes, OFS, Alfonso Vega, OFS, Francisco Castillo, OFS, and Guadalupe Sanchez, OFS



**Inmaculado Corazon de Maria Fraternity #135 – El Paso, TX**  
**Regional Visitation held April 23, 2023**



Minister Leticia Briones, OFS, and other members of the fraternity were present for the Regional Visitation with Regional Minister Sofia Villarreal, OFS, Regional Vice-Minister Gigi Gregory, OFS, and Regional Spiritual Assistant Br. Gordon Boykin, OFM

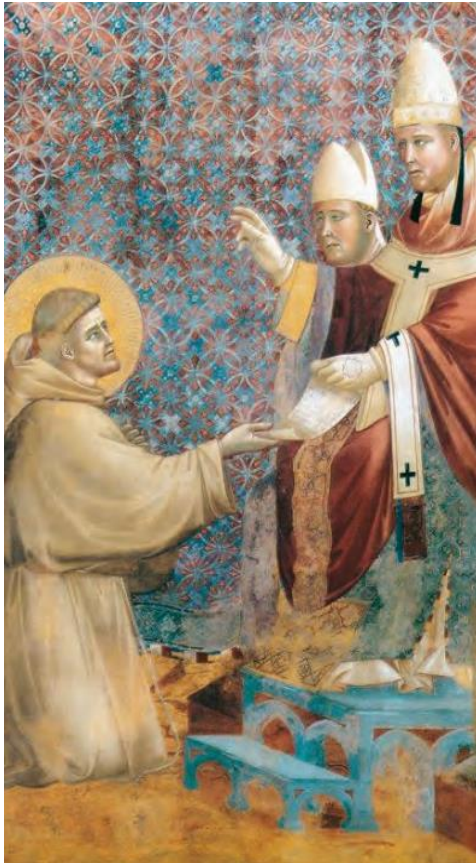


## **Our Lady of Guadalupe Region Presents “The Letter: Laudato Si”**

OFS members from various fraternities gathered together at Roger Bacon Seminary on April 30, 2023, for a Spanish presentation of the “The Letter” by Pope Francis. Members from the Spanish fraternities of Sagrado Corazon de Jesus, Inmaculado Corazon de Maria, San Luis Rey and the English fraternity of St. Patrick attended the presentation. They were also joined by Sr. Mary Soh, FMM, Sr. Odile Coirier, FMM, Fr. Alberto Hernandez, OFM, and Fr. Manuel Paz Ortega, OFM. It was a heartfelt experience and a time for sharing about the Pope’s message.



# Celebrating the Centenary as a Franciscan Family



Celebrating the Rule  
1223-2023

Celebrating  
Christmas at Greccio  
1223-2023



**RECOGNITION OF 50+ YEARS ANNIVERSARY OF PROFESSION**

**St. Anthony #101** – Albuquerque, NM  
Hazel Herrera, OFS – May 23, 1965  
Erma Lente, OFS – May 25, 1962

**San Luis Rey #128** – El Paso, TX  
Alfonso Vega, OFS – June 28, 1964

**St. Francis #121** – Santa Fe, NM  
Betty Valencia, OFS – May 1, 1950

**RECOGNITION OF 25+ YEARS ANNIVERSARY OF PROFESSION**

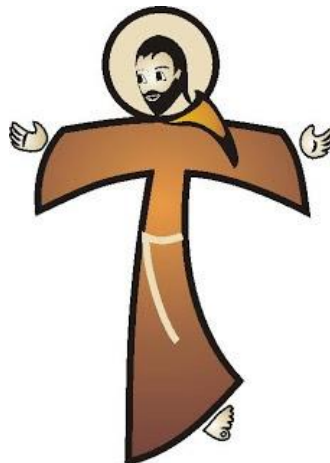
**St. Anthony #101** – Albuquerque, NM  
Michael O’Hearn, OFS – May 1, 1983  
Ernestine Sedillo, OFS – June 25, 1995

**San Luis Rey #128** – El Paso, TX  
Carmen Aguilar, OFS – June 9, 1984  
Imelda Aguilar, OFS – June 9, 1984  
Sonia Marruffo, OFS – June 13, 1980

**Our Lady of Guadalupe #113** – Las Cruces, NM  
Tony DeCorte, OFS – June 13, 1997  
Donna Hollis, OFS – August 11, 1983

**Inmaculado Corazon de Maria #135** – El Paso, TX  
Esther Perez, OFS – June 10, 1990

**St. Francis #119** – Roswell, NM  
Richard Becker, OFS – May 14, 1982  
Jane DeRose-Bamman, OFS – June 4, 1995  
Dolores McKinney, OFS – June 14, 1997





## **TENTATIVE**

### **ELECTIONS/ VISITATIONS/ORIENTATIONS 2023-2025**

**(APRIL, 2023)**

**The following dates for your elections and visitations can be changed according to your needs. This is only a draft with projected dates. It is a work-in-progress.**

#### **ELECTIONS 2023**

**(NOTE: where Visitation and Election are listed together; Visitations will be held in morning with outgoing Council. Elections in the afternoon.)**

#### **2023 TENTATIVE ELECTIONS**

- #114 Santa Isabel de Hungria – Election Retreat/Elections TBD
- #108 Sagrado Corazon de Jesus – Election Retreat/Elections - August 6, 2023, Noon
- #133 Espiritu Santo – Election Retreat/Elections – **April 15, 2023** *Completed*
- #135 Inmaculado Corazon de Maria – Election Retreat/Elections - August 20, 2023

#### **2023 TENTATIVE VISITATIONS**

- #119 St. Francis (Roswell) – March 25, 2023 *Completed*
- #104 St. Margaret of Cortona – March 26, 2023 *Completed*
- #108 Sagrado Corazon de Jesus – **May 7, 2023**
- #135 Inmaculado Corazon de Maria – **April 23, 2023** *2023 Completed*

#### **2024 TENTATIVE ELECTIONS**

- #101 St. Anthony – Election Retreat/Elections TBD - *Elections completed in 2021*
- #109 St. Patrick's - Election Retreat/Elections TBD (3<sup>rd</sup> Sun.) - *Elections completed in 2021*
- #128 San Luis Rey – Election Retreat/Elections TBD (4<sup>th</sup> Sun. 8 am) - *Elections completed in 2021*

#### **2025 TENTATIVE ELECTIONS**

- #106 Mary Immaculate — *Elections completed in 2022*
- #113 Our Lady of Guadalupe – — *Elections completed in 2022*
- #121 St. Francis (Santa Fe) – Election Retreat/Elections TBD – *Elections completed in 2022*
- #129 St. Juan Diego – Election Retreat; Elections TBD - *Elections completed in 2022*
- #130 Bros. & Sisters – Election Retreat; Elections on TBD - *Elections completed in 2022*

#### **ORIENTATIONS**

- #106 Mary Immaculate – scheduled 12/14/22 – *Completed*
- #113 Our Lady of Guadalupe – scheduled 12/14/22 – *Completed*
- #101 St. Anthony – March 26, 2022 – *Completed*
- #121 St. Francis (Santa Fe) – May 21, 2022 – *Completed*
- #129 St. Juan Diego – May 21, 2022 – *Completed*
- #130 Bros and Sisters -May 21, 2022 – *Completed*
- #133 Espiritu Santo

#### **PENDING**

- #107 Queen of Angels – proceeding to deactivation
- #126 Santa Chiara Process and Forms to transition into a cell – Region reviewing Fraternity request
- #10002 “Forming Group” Fire of Assisi TBD; continued guidance with the forming group-*Visitation 6/26/21 completed*  
*Informal Regional Sponsor visit scheduled for April 16, 2023 Completed*  
*Regional Formation Team gives ongoing formation to candidates by Zoom: March 4 through April 29, 2023.*  
*Region conducts Candidate Interviews by Zoom – May 9, 2023*

#### **Future Local, Regional and National Events:**

- April 22 – Regional Budget Approval zoom meeting at noon – Ministers *Completed*
- April 22 – Formation from NAFRA Spanish Formation Team – zoom meeting 4 p.m. MST *Completed*
- April 30 – “The Letter” Laudato Si, presented to the Spanish Fraternities at 2 p.m. at Roger Bacon *Completed*
- May 4 – 7, 2023, JPIC Workshop, St. Louis, Mo. – Regional JPIC Animator attending.
- May 20, 2023, Presentation on Centenary - Ministers
- August 20 – 25, 2023, OFS-USA Chapter, Fraternal/Pastoral Visitation, St. Louis, Mo.
- September 22 – 24, 2023, Regional Chapter/Elections
- October 2023 The process of uniting six provinces will be complete.
- November, 2024 Chapter of Maps, postponed to 2026



### **Call for Articles for LA TILMA**

Articles for future Newsletters must be received as follows:

Summer: By 7/28 /23 for 8/30/23 publication

Submissions may be e-mailed. ALL fraternity members are invited and encouraged to take part and contribute Fraternity News of events—past or present, election results, professions, activities, as well as articles, poetry, etc. Don't forget to state Fraternity Name and Location, as well as your own name and address when making a submission.

**\*\*NOTE: Local Ministers are responsible for ensuring all their local fraternity members receive a copy of this Newsletter either via email or printed, if necessary.**

E-mail articles to TILMA Newsletter

Editors: Sofia: [sofiaofs@yahoo.com](mailto:sofiaofs@yahoo.com) or Gigi: [gggregory@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gggregory@sbcglobal.net)

