



## Our Lady of Guadalupe, Empress of the Americas #75

# LA TILMA

NEWSLETTER OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE,  
EMPRESS OF THE AMERICAS REGION #75

Vol 2: Issue 3 Winter 2022

*Brothers and Sisters*, as our Region continues to stay in communication with our fraternities, I can say that we have constantly done this by having zoom meetings, phone calls, e-mails, and of course, our La Tilma newsletter. We have had a very busy and rewarding year this year.

Our preparations for the Q2022, Aug 3-7 2022, were a success with the participants from our Region, and I believe our Region had the largest group of members that attended. The charter bus experience was an adventure that we will not forget. Our group was very lively in prayer, songs and sharing with each other along the way. The Q sessions were also very good. I hope those of you who attended came home to give testimony. At the same time the Tucson, AZ, day out at the church of Le Bac was good for all that had never been there. Also, not to mention our meal together was not expected but, the food, singing and dancing gave us the joy that we have within as Franciscans. God Bless you all for this time that we spent together. We were told that we should plan for others (keep your hopes up).

Then we went into fast mode to get our Visitation from the National Fraternity on Sept 16-18th ready. It was a little bit of a challenge in finalizing the arrangements with the hotel, but in the end, the Regional Executive Council was able to receive the fraternity ministers, observers and NAFRA visitors with an open heart. We had good attendance from most of our fraternities. Our little outing for dinner at the Riviera Restaurant was also well attended with the music and presentation by our sister Maria Elena and her group (Sagrado Corazon de Jesus #108). Again, this was a joyful time. The Mass (celebrated in Spanish as this is a Hispanic area and all Masses at this church are in Spanish) was at the beautiful San Francisco de Asis church. The Pastor, Fr. Alfredo Devora OFM, said he gave our NAFRA Spiritual Assistants (who con-celebrated Mass with him) spiritual readings in English to proclaim, but they preferred to read them in Spanish. I think they did pretty good with their Spanish. Our Sister Jan Parker wrote a wonderful article about our September Hispanic Month. Later as the closing came about, Gigi and I met with our NEC visitors for final thoughts on the Visitation.

These two events took a lot of our time, planning and making decisions, and had us working practically 24/7 (well mentally, anyway). The REC gave it their all and did the best we could in coordinating these events. We believe they were both very successful gatherings.

Then, I attended the NAFRA Chapter/Elections on Oct 11-16th in the beautiful city of Detroit, Michigan. Sharing, meeting with old and new Regional Ministers is a great experience and made me feel how our Franciscan family has the life of joy, peace and love for each other. Our Regional Spiritual Assistant, Brother Gordon, was also present, along with Arturo Villarreal, OFS, who attended as an observer. Any professed member can be an observer for these gatherings if they wish to attend. It was a full week of information sharing, presentations and socializing with the NEC and the other Regional Ministers that were present. The Day Away to visit the Fr. Solanus Casey, OFM Cap. Shrine at the Solanus Center and our final dinner at Ford's Garage was a beautiful time.

The election of the new National council members was the highlight of the week. Our Lady of Guadalupe Region is pleased that two of her members were re-elected to serve on the National Executive Council, but we are more than pleased that the new OFS National Minister is a member of our Region! Jane DeRose-Bamman, OFS, who previously served two terms as National Secretary was elected as the new OFS National Minister! Jane was a member of St. Anthony Fraternity #101 in Albuquerque, NM, for many years, then transferred to St. Francis Fraternity #119 in Roswell, NM, in 2018. (*Read Jane's message on page 4.*) Donna Hollis, OFS, was re-elected as National Councilor. Donna is a member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Fraternity #113 in Las Cruces, NM. This gathering was a joyous time and gave us a boost in knowing who we are as SECULAR FRANCISCANS!

As for our Region, we can say that our service continues. From our 2023 elections and visitations schedule you can see there is so much more that needs to be done. We also have to prepare for our Regional elections which will occur next year. We will keep you informed and send out information on these events as things are finalized.

May our Lord continue to give you the spirit of service for the good of your fraternity, our Region and for the Order.

God bless you,  
Paz y Bien,

*Sofia U. Villarreal, OFS*  
Regional Minister



P.S. - As you have heard, I am typing with one finger, left-handed. I broke my right arm in a fall and have some bruises on my face, but they're healing fast. Thank you for all your prayers.

Most of all I want to WISH YOU a  
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and a  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



## MESSAGE/GREETINGS

**Brother Gordon, OFM**

**Provincial-Regional Spiritual Assistant**



Dearest sisters and brothers of St. Francis, I invite you to use your imagination. I ask you to settle in a quiet place, then close your beautiful eyes after you read this brief paragraph of instruction.

Imagine a spiral. Imagine one that is conical in shape, with the bottom being the widest part. Imagine each coil not touching another. Now, close your eyes to imagine this. Then open your eyes at will.

This "spiral of life" symbolizes our spiritual relationship with all things and thoughts that comprise our personal lives. It is a way to visualize our journey to God, from birth to re-birth. Many events, like Christmas, repeat in our lives—but on a higher level. If the event is a paramount conversion experience, imagine your spiral coil stretched to a closer level than that of a daydreaming routine.

Our Franciscan lives, too, are on this conical spiral of life. The Christmas event is about to happen again. (For me, it will be the 77<sup>th</sup> time on my spiral. Yet on a 77<sup>th</sup> different level, or coil placement. And, although not anticipating anything out of the ordinary, I hope to have a fulfilling time with family, friars, and friends.) When we meet one another at our December Gathering, we see it as a signpost to the end of this year and a positive coming of the next.

May this *coming* be one of anticipation to be with our sister or brother a present from God through Jesus and Francis. The bow is the tension we feel when we enter the Gathering. This year may we not cling onto our tension so as to be a tightly wrapped present. Let us not plant ourselves in a place hoping not to be bothered or imposed upon. Rather, let us *try* to be more positive, and just a little more outgoing that we may be that "gift that keeps on giving" to one of our sisters or brothers.

May you have a blessed and joy-filled Christmas Season.

With Christ through Francis,

*Br. Gordon Boykin, O.F.M.*

Provincial-Regional Spiritual Assistant

## MESSAGE/GREETINGS

Gigi Gregory, OFS

Regional Vice-Minister



Dearest Family:

As we celebrate Christmas, I am grateful for my faith that has allowed me to weather the challenges in life.

Without our faith, how do we maneuver through life? I often make the comment to my family and friends, "How do you move forward when you lose a beloved person without having faith?" Our faith brings us hope because if there is a God and there is, then there will always be hope.

With hope, comes the desire to give to others less fortunate. I think of the migrants leaping into the Rio Grande River to reach El Paso. Some carrying children for the hope of finding a better life for their children. Just a week ago, El Paso was in the national news because of the number of migrants crossing.

I then remember Matthew 25:42-45 "... for I was hungry, and you gave me no food, I was thirsty, and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger, and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me. Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me...'"

I would offer that weren't Mary and Joseph migrants going into Bethlehem. I pray we have faith, hope and charity to help in any way we can those less fortunate.

A Franciscan Merry Christmas to you, dearest Brothers and Sisters. Let us look towards 2023 with more faith, hope and charity.

*Gigi*  
Regional Vice-Minister



## **NATIONAL MINISTER'S MESSAGE**

(This article originally appeared in the TAU-USA Fall 2022 Issue #107)

by Jane DeRose-Bamman OFS

### **What a Difference Six Months Make**



It's October 15, 2022, about 1:45pm Eastern time, and I have been elected National Minister of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States (OFS-USA) by a majority vote of the members of the OFS-USA Fraternity Council at our Chapter in Detroit, Michigan. I didn't vote for myself, but most of my brothers and sisters did.

Rewind six months. I had already declined nominations to serve on the National Executive Council (NEC) for the next term. I had served six years at the National Secretary. I have been integrating my first vocation (marriage to Brian Bamman – 32 years) with my second vocation (OFS – 27 years) for most of our married life. My husband is a “Fourth Order” Franciscan. Service as the National Secretary was a privilege and honor, but also took up quite a bit of time, so I was ready for a break. Brian and I prayed about it and discerned that it was ok to take my name off the nominations list. What a relief!

Then in July and August 2022, the Scripture readings for Mass on multiple days focused on being open to God's will. We talked about it more than once and thought “What if God wants me to serve?” One of Brian's favorite sayings is, “You can't outgive the Giver.” We reconsidered, concluding that we needed to be open to allow God to work. If elected, God would provide.

The day the applications were due, I submitted the nomination form. Ok, I thought: “Well at least God knows I am open to serving some more...but I hope I don't get elected.”

A week later, the list of nominees was presented to the NEC. To my delight, I wasn't the only one who had heard the daily readings. We had the longest list of nominees for all the positions that anyone could remember seeing. There were so many amazing candidates from all over the United States. I thought that *surely* someone else would be elected. It won't be my turn to serve.

Well, God had other plans, and here I am, National Minister for our nearly 12,000 brothers and sisters in the United States. I am most humbled by this awesome “responsibility to each member” and grateful that it is for “a definite period.” Although I was resisting the nomination, I fully embrace the role now. But I do not serve alone...thanks be to God!

Along with me are the other elected members of the National Executive Council: Vice Minister Diane Menditto, Secretary Susan Ronan, Treasurer Claudia Kauzlarich, International Councilor Mary Frances Charsky and Councilors Cherryle Fruge, Donna Hollis, and Joshua Molidor. Plus Fr. Chris Shorrock, OFM Conv, will be walking with us as President-In-Turn for the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants. We will have a period of adjustment, but I can tell the gifts of each of these servants will complement each other so we can be of great service to the OFS-USA.

Speaking of great service, we cannot thank enough the outgoing Minister Jan Parker and outgoing Vice Minister Mary Bittner. They served the National Fraternity for 13 years each. The co-leadership style they modeled was remarkable. We are the beneficiaries of their love, care, and dedication for the Order. We also say thank you to outgoing International Councilor Awilda Guadalupe and outgoing Councilor Dennis Ross for their many years of service and care. May these servants enjoy a little rest before they begin their next roles in furthering God's plan.

At this Chapter, the National Fraternity Council adopted priorities (Vocations, Communications, Relationships) and the following theme for 2022-2025: “Listen, Discern, Go Forth.” Throughout our term, but especially during this first year, we hope to listen to our members in order to discern their needs and hopes. More on the priorities and theme in future *TAU-USA* editions.

It is interesting that the Chapter of Elections was held in Detroit, Michigan. I was born some 90 miles away in Lansing. After the Chapter, I traveled to Lansing to visit with family. Reflecting on my journey, I realized that my parents planted the first seeds for my OFS vocation. They embody the Franciscan spirit without a formal profession. Also, Brian and I exchanged our wedding vows in Lansing. I found it fitting to go to the place where I received the grace to follow my first vocation and to seek additional grace for my second vocation. I entered the St. Mary Cathedral and prayed with tears in my eyes before Our Lord: “This is your Order. Lead me.”

Thank you for your prayers for the new NEC and also for Brian. Without his support, I would not be able to serve the Order. Consider him a co-minister with me.

On my return flight home to Roswell, New Mexico, I heard the last line of the safety announcement from the flight attendant which I think applies to the NEC in relationship to you: “It's our honor to care for you on your journey.” What a difference six months make! We look forward to journeying with you during the next three years.





***Celebrando 90 Años del Amor de Dios a la Fraternidad  
de la Orden Franciscana Seglar de San Luis Rey # 128 en El Paso, Texas***

*El pasado sábado 29 de octubre del 2022, nuestra Fraternidad de San Luis Rey # 128, tuvo la gracia de celebrar 90 Años de su establecimiento en nuestra ciudad.*

*La celebración principal fue la Eucaristía, la cual fue celebrada por el P. Fr. Gerardo Salgado, OFM (Guardián de la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, y concelebrada por el P. Fr. Emilio Flores, OFM (Guardián del Seminario Franciscano de San Antonio de Padua, por el P. Fr. Alberto Hernández, OFM (Guardián de la Capilla Franciscana de Roger Bacon, y por el P. Fr. Francisco Javier López C. , OFM (sacerdote de Roger Bacon).*

*Entre los invitados tuvimos la gracia de contar con la presencia de hermanos y hermanas de nuestras fraternidades locales: San Patricio, Mary Immaculate, Sagrado Corazón de Jesús e Inmaculado Corazón de María. Por parte del Consejo Regional estuvieron presentes nuestra Ministra Regional, Sofía Villarreal, OFS; nuestra Vice-ministra Gigi Gregory, OFS; nuestra Tesorera Bonnie Franco, OFS; y su servidora, Carmen Aguilar, OFS, Formadora Regional.*

*Después de la Celebración Eucarística, pasamos al Salón Parroquial a compartir la mesa con estos hermanas y hermanos nuestros.*

*Nuestra celebración fue algo muy sencillo pero siento que la sencillez muestra parte de lo que es nuestra identidad como franciscanos. Lo importante y realmente hermoso fue la Celebración Eucarística en la que el P. Gerardo hizo referencia al origen de nuestra Fraternidad. Sus palabras me hicieron traer a nuestra Celebración Eucarística a aquellos hermanos y hermanas que nos han precedido y que estoy segura que estaban con nosotros en el cielo alabando a nuestro Señor y a nuestro Seráfico Padre San Francisco por tan gran regalo para los Franciscanos Seglares en esta Región.*

*El origen de nuestra fraternidad es muy interesante. Nuestra fraternidad se fundó debido a causas políticas y persecución religiosa de ese tiempo en México entre los años de 1915 a 1930. Muchas familias mexicanas emigraron en ese tiempo hacia Estados Unidos, llegando a esta ciudad de El Paso, Texas hermanas y hermanos franciscanos seglares originarios de las ciudades de Chihuahua, Durango, Zacatecas, Aguascalientes y León.*

*En 1925, llegó la Señora Dolores de la Torre a esta ciudad junto con su familia. Ella era Terciaria Franciscana de Aguascalientes y se dio cuenta de que aquí en El Paso había terciarios venidos de México y se puso a visitarlos e invitarlos a acudir a su casa para reunirse regularmente. Estos hermanos se dieron cuenta de que en Tularosa, Nuevo México había sacerdotes franciscanos y se pusieron en contacto con ellos. Los Padres Fr. Agustín Pozos, OFM y Fr. Buenaventura Nava, OFM, accedieron a venir regularmente a El Paso a asistir espiritualmente a estos terciarios que solicitaban su ayuda. Ellos se comunicaron con el Sr. Obispo de El Paso, Monseñor Schuler quien dio su permiso para que estos hermanos se formaran bajo la guía espiritual de estos dos Padres Franciscanos.*

*En Octubre de 1932, cumplidos todos los requisitos canónicos, la Congregación de la Tercera Orden de El Paso fue fundada asignándosele el nombre oficial de San Luis Rey, el santo bajo cuya protección se ponía. La erección de nuestra fraternidad se hizo en la Iglesia de San Ignacio ya que la mayoría de los terciarios pertenecían a esta Parroquia.*

*Gracias por permitirme compartir parte del origen de nuestra Fraternidad, ya que vemos la gracia que Dios otorgó a ella, pasando años después a formar parte de la historia y presencia franciscana en nuestra querida Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Paz y Bien.*

*¡Alabado sea mi Señor por el don de nuestra Fraternidad!*

## ***Celebrating 90 Years of God's Love for the Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order of San Luis Rey #128 in El Paso, Texas***

*Last Saturday, October 29, 2022, our Fraternity of San Luis Rey # 128, had the grace of celebrating 90 years of its establishment in our city.*

*The main celebration was the Eucharist, which was celebrated by Fr. Gerardo Salgado, OFM (Guardian of the Fraternity of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and concelebrated by Fr. Emilio Flores, OFM (Guardian of the Franciscan Seminary of San Antonio de Padua, by Fr. Alberto Hernandez, OFM (Guardian of the Franciscan Chapel of Roger Bacon, and by Fr. Francisco Javier López C. OFM (priest at Roger Bacon).*

*Among the guests, we were graced to have the presence of brothers and sisters from our local fraternities: St. Patrick, Mary Immaculate, Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, and Inmaculado Corazón de María. Members of the Regional Council who attended this celebration were: our Regional Minister, Sofia Villarreal, OFS; our Vice-Minister Gigi Gregory, OFS; our Treasurer Bonnie Franco, OFS; and yours truly, Carmen Aguilar, OFS, Regional Formation Director.*

*After the Eucharistic Celebration, we went to the Parish Hall to share the table with the brothers and sisters from our local fraternities.*

*Our celebration was something very simple but I feel that simplicity is part of our identity as Franciscans. The important and really beautiful thing was the Eucharistic celebration in which Fr. Gerardo made reference to the origin of our Fraternity. His words made me bring to our Eucharistic Celebration all the brothers and sisters from our Fraternity who have preceded us and who I am certain were in heaven praising our Lord and our Seraphic Father St. Francis for such a great gift given to us.*

*The origin of our fraternity is very interesting. It was founded here in El Paso due to political turmoil and religious persecution of that time in Mexico between the years of 1915 to 1930. Many Mexican families emigrated at that time to the United States, arriving in this city of El Paso, Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters from the cities of Chihuahua, Durango, Zacatecas, Aguascalientes and Leon.*

*In 1925, Mrs. Dolores de la Torre arrived to El Paso with her family. She was a Franciscan Tertiary from Aguascalientes and realized that here in El Paso there were Tertiaries from Mexico so she began to visit them and invite them to come to her house to meet regularly. These brothers and sisters realized that in Tularosa, New Mexico there were Franciscan priests and they contacted them. Fr. Agustin Pozos, OFM and Fr. Buenaventura Nava, OFM, agreed to come regularly to El Paso to minister spiritually to these tertiaries who requested their help. They contacted the Bishop of El Paso, Monsignor Schuler, who gave his permission for these friars to help this group of Secular Franciscans with their Franciscan Formation.*

*In October 1932, having fulfilled all the canonical requirements, the Congregation of the Third Order of El Paso was founded and given the official name of San Luis Rey, the saint under whose protection it was placed. The erection was done in the Church of St. Ignatius since most of the tertiaries belonged to that parish.*

*Thank you for allowing me to share part of the origin of our Fraternity as we see the grace that God gave to it, years later becoming part of the Franciscan history and presence in our beloved Parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe.*

*Praise to you O Lord for the gift of our Fraternity!*

*Peace and All Good,*

*Carmen Aguilar, OFS  
Councilor of our Fraternity  
Regional Formation Director*



**San Luis Rey Fraternity #128 - El Paso, TX**

**Celebrating 90 Years of Fraternal Life**



**Below: Members of San Luis Rey Fraternity**





# San Luis Rey Fraternity 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration







Sofia Villarreal, OFS, Regional Minister and Laura Guzman, OFS, San Luis Rey Fraternity Minister



**Regional Multicultural Representative**

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



“Multiculture beyond humans”

We are always referring to St. Francis when it comes to birds and dogs. I started noticing the actions of birds towards each other as I looked out my window. I could see the humming birds flying from our large rose bush to our pine tree, then sneak to drink their food. All of a sudden, I noticed our friendly road runner skipping from branch to branch of the rose bush. Poor birds must be terrified of such a big clumsy bird. Finally, the road runner made it to our porch roof and the hummingbirds gathered and chased each other, drinking their food, while a robin waited for them to leave so he could eat from his bird feeder.

This to me is multiculture beyond humans. We are all created and are connected to the earth by our creator. It also reminded me of when my son was about four years old. He came running to call me because he felt sorry for a white pigeon. A group of brown and gray pigeons were perched on one side of our adobe roof, and the white lonely pigeon on the far side. “Why?” he asked me. All I could say is it’s warmer on that side for her. I, myself, could see the discrimination even among the pigeons. The same is true with our multicultural dog friends. I, sometimes, observe the dogs at Dogtopia, dog daycare, when I pick up my granddog. They play with their own kind. Our golden retriever hangs out with two or three other goldens. I had a talk with him. He just listened and did not understand on treating everyone the same, no matter the breed or color. Oh well, maybe next time!!!

I can’t imagine how disappointed St. Francis would be. Even birds and animals discriminating among themselves! I wish he were here. I am sure they would understand him!!!

*Lita B. Pino, OFS*

Multicultural Representative

OLG Region #75

November 21, 2022



*Our Lady of Guadalupe Regional Visitation*  
*September 16-18, 2022*



*Sofia Villarreal, OFS  
Regional Minister*



**Introduction and Welcome**



*Jan Parker, OFS  
National Minister*



**National Visitors, REC,  
Fraternity Ministers and  
Observers at the Regional  
Visitation**





At left are:  
 Fr. Jerome Wolbert,  
 OFM, and Fr. John  
 DeLaRiva, OFM Cap.  
 (NAFRA Spiritual  
 Assistants), Jan  
 Parker, OFS,  
 National Minister  
 and Joshua Molidor,  
 OFS, National  
 Councilor



*Carmen Aguilar, OFS, Regional Formation Director  
 Presenting formation lesson on the stigmata of  
 St. Francis*



*Dinner at the Riviera Restaurant*



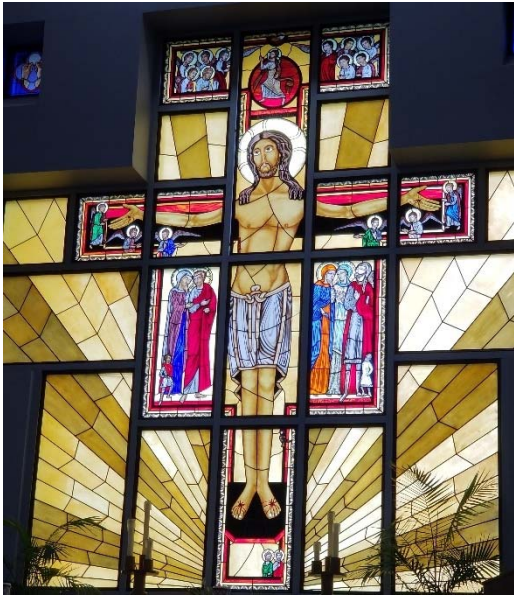


# Dinner, Dancing and Singing At The Riviera Restaurant





**Mass At The Beautiful San Francisco de Asís Church**



*L to R: Fr. John DeLaRiva, OFM Cap., Fr. Alfredo Devora, OFM, and Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM*





## Mary Immaculate Fraternity #106 - El Paso, TX

**30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** - Mary Immaculate Fraternity celebrated their 30 year anniversary of establishment on September 17<sup>th</sup>. There is some truth to the old saying "time flies when you're having fun". It seems like it was only yesterday that I was at the establishment of our fraternity. What a beautiful, Blessed, journey it has been. In the beginning, there were some that doubted the fraternity would last that long. We had some growing pains at first, learning to bond as a family, but with the help of Saints Francis and Clare and the Holy Spirit, we are still here 30 years later. We've experienced the joys and sorrows of life as any family does on our common spiritual path and I pray that our fraternity will continue on for another 30 years. We celebrated our anniversary by attending Mass together at St. Raphael Catholic Church in thanksgiving to the Lord for the gift of fraternity. Then we gathered at Luby's Restaurant for a family dinner. -- Bonnie Franco, OFS



### Transitus – October 3, 2022

Members of Mary Immaculate Fraternity also celebrated the Transitus of St. Francis with the Franciscan Friars at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church. Fr. Miguel as usual had a prayerful service planned, complete with singing, readings from The Life of St. Francis by St. Bonaventure, a scripture reading from the gospel of John and praying the Canticle of The Sun. The service ended with a blessing with a relic of St. Francis. The fraternity truly enjoys participating in this service annually with our brother Friars.



*Mary Ellen Vega, OFS, Grace Akers, OFS, and Bonnie Franco, OFS, kissing the relic of St. Francis*



*Front L to R: Br. Efren, Fr. Tony, Fr. Juan  
Back L to R: Fr. Jarek, Fr. Jorge, Fr. Miguel*



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



**WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!**

Our Lady of Guadalupe Fraternity #113 celebrated the Admission of three new members on November 6, 2002. Admitted to the Order are:

**Manuel Galindo, Viviana Galindo, and Mary Tomasso**



***YOUR FRATERNITY CELEBRATES WITH YOU OUR BROTHER AND SISTERS.***

## Saint Juan Diego Fraternity #129 – Lubbock, TX



Our fraternity of Saint Juan Diego is involved in supporting the Family Promise organization of Lubbock. This organization provides shelter, support and growth opportunities to homeless families with children. We are directly involved in providing “Birthday Boxes” for the homeless children there on a quarterly basis. The photo above lists what is included in each “Birthday Box”. This ministry was started by one of our fraternity members, Elpidia Paniagua, OFS, who used to work for Family Promise before retiring. Below is the website link to Family Promise for additional information on this worthy organization.

<https://www.familypromiselubbock.org/>

Our fraternity also sponsored a table at the Nurturing Center Fundraising Banquet in Lubbock and have decided to make this an annual endeavor. The Nurturing Center provides a safe, comfortable, confidential environment to all women who come to the center who are in need of compassionate and individual tailored assistance during their pregnancy.

We have begun participating in the Diocesan 7 Sisters/6 Brothers apostolate. The 7 sisters of our fraternity will pray an hour in adoration 1 day/week, and the 6 brothers will fast 1 day/week for our Bishop.

We have launched a Facebook page for our Lubbock fraternity. We felt that it was important to get more exposure and give more Catholics an opportunity to learn about us. Our Councilor Matthew Woodruff got it going for us and it looks great! If you have Facebook, this is the link to our page:

<https://www.facebook.com/people/San-Juan-Diego-Fraternity-of-Secular-Franciscans/100085437924881/>

*Lanell Ramos, OFS*  
Fraternity Minister



## Espíritu Santo Fraternity #133

### La Vida de Francisco/The Life of Francis



El día 3 de diciembre 2022, la fraternidad de Espíritu Santo #133 de Albuquerque, NM, tuvo su retiro de Adviento. El padre Andrés fue nuestro guía en el retiro, contamos con la presencia del Asistente Espiritual Regional Hno. Gordon, y con los nuevos aspirantes. Fue algo muy especial, también nos acompañó la tesorera de la fraternidad de Saint Anthony, Tommie Page. Toda la fraternidad estuvo presente, paz y bien.

On December 3, 2022, Espiritu Santo fraternity of Albuquerque, NM, had an Advent Retreat. Fr. Andrés gave the spiritual teachings for the retreat. We were graced with the presence of the Regional Spiritual Assistant, Brother Gordon, and our new Inquirers. It was a very special time. Also in attendance was Tommie Page, Treasurer of St. Anthony Fraternity. All the members of our fraternity were present for the retreat. Peace and Good.





# Members of Espiritu Santo Fraternity At Advent Retreat





RECOGNITION OF 50+ YEARS ANNIVERSARY OF PROFESSION

St. Anthony #101 – Albuquerque, NM  
Marie T. Allen, OFS – March 6, 1955

Sagrado Corazon de Jesus #108 – El Paso, TX  
Maria Guadalupe Herrera, OFS – March 2, 1958

Mary Immaculate #106 – El Paso, TX  
Maria Soledad Batista, OFS – March 23, 1969

St. Francis #121 – Santa Fe, NM  
Geraldine Dirks, OFS – February 9, 1964  
Rosina Silva, OFS – January 29, 1961

RECOGNITION OF 25+ YEARS ANNIVERSARY OF PROFESSION

St. Anthony #101 – Albuquerque, NM  
Avelina Battaglia, OFS – March 28, 1976  
Jeannette Schlicher, OFS – March 13, 1983  
Rex Schlicher, OFS – March 13, 1983

St. Francis #121 – Santa Fe, NM  
Frances Barela, OFS – April 13, 1980  
Mary Dean, OFS – April 18, 1993  
Mela Garcia, OFS – February 9, 1997  
Nona Lee Gregg, OFS – March 9, 1991  
Rosina Martinez, OFS – April 13, 1993

Sagrado Corazon de Jesus #108 – El Paso, TX  
Norma Castillo, OFS – February 7, 1988  
Socorro Gallardo, OFS – March 4, 1990  
Maria Del Refugio Ramirez – February 5, 1993  
Faustino Zamora – February 5, 1995

Santa Chiara #126 – Mescalero, NM  
Rita Calixto-Jarvis, OFS – March 19, 1998

St. Patrick #109 – El Paso, TX  
Socorro Lopez, OFS – January 27, 1987

San Luis Rey #128 – El Paso, TX  
Eva Aguilar, OFS – April 5, 1981  
Francisco Castillo, OFS – April 5, 1987

Our Lady of Guadalupe #113 – Las Cruces, NM  
Lori Grumet, OFS – January 16, 1977

Saint Juan Diego #129 – Lubbock, TX  
Eileen Gerber, OFS – March 1, 1996  
Joe Kcrmenec, OFS – March 25, 1993



**TENTATIVE**  
**ELECTIONS/ VISITATIONS/ORIENTATIONS 2022-2025**

**(DECEMBER, 2022)**

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

**ELECTIONS 2022**

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

**2023 TENTATIVE ELECTIONS**

- #104 St. Margaret of Cortona – Visitation and Election Retreat/Elections TBD
- #114 Santa Isabel de Hungria – Election Retreat/Elections TBD
- #108 Sagrado Corazon de Jesus – Date TBD - *Elections completed in 2020*
- #119 St. Francis (Roswell) – Date TBD – *Conference Zoom mtg held 4/23/22*
- #133 Espiritu Santo - Date TBD - *Elections completed in 2020*
- #135 Inmaculado Corazon de Maria – Date TBD

**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*

**PENDING**

- #107 Queen of Angels – pending further action
- #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 group-*Visitation 6/26/21 completed*  
*Will attend their meeting proposed on January 19, 2023*

**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<sup>st</sup> – *Completed*
- #129 St. Juan Diego – May 21<sup>st</sup> – *Completed*
- #130 Bros and Sisters -May 21<sup>st</sup>– *Completed*

**Future Local and National Events:**

- January 7, 2023, Epiphany Celebration will be sponsored by #109 St. Patrick's Fraternity
- March 9 – 13, 2023, NEC Meeting, St. Louis, Mo.
- May 4 – 7, 2023, JPIC Workshop for Regional Minsters, St. Louis, Mo.
- August 20 – 25, 2023, OFS-USA Chapter, Fraternal/Pastoral Visitation, St. Louis, Mo.
- October 2023 The process of uniting six provinces will be complete.



## Regional Executive Council

Regional Minister: Sofia U. Villarreal, OFS St. Patrick Fraternity #109, sofiaofs@yahoo.com  
Regional Vice-Minister: Gigi Gregory, OFS Mary Immaculate #106, gggregory@sbcglobal.net  
Regional Secretary: Terry Craig, OFS Mary Immaculate #106, t.craig2244@gmail.com  
Regional Treasurer: Bonnie Franco, OFS Mary Immaculate #106, yfranco@aim.com  
Regional Formation Director: Carmen Aguilar, OFS San Luis Rey Fraternity #128, carmagui@aol.com  
Regional 1<sup>st</sup> Councilor: Pedro Alvarez, OFS Mary Immaculate #106, alvarezsr.pedro@yahoo.com  
Regional 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor: Leticia Briones, OFS Inmaculado Corazón de Maria #135, lbriones@flyinterchange.com  
Provincial-Regional Spiritual Assistant: Br. Gordon Boykin, OFM, gordyboy45@aol.com



PAX ET BONUM

“Listen, Discern and Go Forth”  
[NAFRA Theme 2022-2025]

### Articles for LA TILMA

Sofia Villarreal, OFS

Gigi Gregory, OFS

Articles for the Newsletter for the Spring Edition, 2023 must be received by

03/30/2023 for 05/2023 publication

Submissions may be e-mailed. ALL fraternity members are invited and encouraged to take part and contribute Fraternity News or 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 e-mailing the Newsletter to all their local fraternity members.**

E-mail articles to Sofia Villarreal, OFS [sofiaofs@yahoo.com](mailto:sofiaofs@yahoo.com) , or Gigi Gregory, OFS [gggregory@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gggregory@sbcglobal.net)  
LA TILMA Newsletter Editors