

## **COVID-19 A Prayer of Solidarity**

Pray for those who have Covid-19 Coronavirus.  
We Pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable.

We pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety.

We pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety.

We pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate health insurance.

We pray that no family will face financial burden alone.

For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status.

We pray for recognition of the God -given dignity to all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world.  
We pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decision makers.

We pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your church be a sign of hope, comfort, and love to all.

Grant peace.

Grant comfort.

Grant healing.

Be with us Lord. Amen (USCCB)



## **LA TILMA**

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

Vol 1: Issue 2 Summer 2020

***“JOURNEY TOGETHER IN LOVE AND  
COMPASSION”***

### **Message from Regional Minister**

**Sofia U. Villarreal, OFS**

Dearest Ministers in Christ, Francis, Clare and Members.

My greetings to all my brothers and sisters! We are again in communication by writing and praying for the well-being for your family and your fraternity. I have been thinking of all of you and have heard from some of you in writing, texting, e-mail, calls and most current in Facebook and Zoom meetings. What a marvel we have now to keep us connected with each other (2John 1:12). There is no reason for any of us to keep from contacting each other. As all of this is a means of communication, please know that the Word of Our Lord is being heard, said and/or especially lived out in our lives.

The 40 days in confinement of Jesus as he went into the desert and the apostles waiting for the Holy spirit to direct them, we too have had these days in quarantine soon we will have the strength and courage to go forward slowly opening to a safe transition by following all

guidelines given to us for our health, family and community. Take it slowly and do not fear for our God tell us “Do Not be Afraid, I am with you...”( Is 41:10) and also our Blessed Mother tells us also “Let nothing frighten you and afflict you, do not let your heart be burden, Am I not here, that I am your Mother”. Let us trust in them and let us feel safe and secure by holding onto their word.

Now we can again have time to think of how our life as a Franciscan and our responsibilities to our members in our fraternity will be met. We have kept you informed with the emails sent to you by our Region and information coming to us from Nat'l and Int'l. Along with the prayers requests that you sent us we have kept each other in prayer, please share this with each other.

We also are sending and have sent to you our Regional calendar so that you can verify the dates and keep us in prayer when we make Elections, Orientations and Visitations. Please verify the dates and keep them on your schedule. Some dates will be changing so to keep current with your request and ours we will keep editing.

As you see on our Calendar on Oct 10 & 13, 2020, our Region will be celebrating 25 years since the establishment of the Region. We have received great news from the fraternity of St. Patrick #109. They will be the hosting and sponsoring this momentous anniversary celebration. Our date will be on the 10th of October with a Mass at Roger Bacon 10am followed by a presentation and reception. If it is to be and if not, we will keep this date. If your fraternity can schedule a mass at your parish on these dates, we will all be together in prayer and spirit. It all began with the assistance of Fr. Thompson OFM. Meetings, decisions, mappings and getting all our Region's information and procedures were carried out. We also had the blessings of Fr. Arturo Bustamante OFM (RIP), Guardian of Roger Bacon Seminary who gave us an open door to begin our task. We still have three members, within the same fraternity, that worked to have this Region come to be, other members from our Region also aided and came to help in our regionalization. God Bless them all.

Our 100th Anniversary for the Quinquennial scheduled for Aug 18-22, 2021 in Phoenix has been postponed due to the COVID-19 until 2023. Further information will be on the Sept. Issue of the TAU USA. We thank all of you that had planned to attend, but do know it will be a reality.

Another item on March 27-29, 2021 is our Chapter of Elections. This date has been approved by Nat'l and our planning will start. We will be requesting resume applications for the upcoming Chapter Elections. Two or three members will be assigned for a nominating committee. If you would like to step up, please call or email me. Remember we are called to serve, and this is the best way and example to be a witness of your vocation and servant leadership, we accepted this when we professed. Please know that we do not have to know everything, we will learn as we go along and if we have the spirit and dedication to learn. “God does not call the qualified he qualifies the called” Exodus 4 10-13.

Brothers and Sisters these next months will allow some of us to meet again but please be safe and we will need our face masks. Also, if your fraternity meets please be sure that all is done in accordance with all regulations from your parish or at your meeting locations. I am happy to be able to see and be with you personally to begin with our WAY OF LIFE and to put our Rule in action and begin 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:  
It's been almost five months, now, since the U.S. (at least) has suffered being held "hostage" by COVID-19. The virus continues to wreak havoc not only on our health--but, also, on our first-responders, healthcare staffers, places of worship, avenues of education, entertainment venues, *etc.*, *EVERYTHING*. It has even affected our temperament in being a FRANCISCAN.

Like the Early Christians who thought Jesus was going to return the next day, then the next week, then the next month--until they lost track--we have hope of the pandemic *ending*, but have to live with it dragging on, and on, and on. However, if we allow the positive nature of our vocation to enlighten us, time will be more of a friend.

As the "Liturgy of the Hours" and the Eucharist steer us through the month of August, we notice nine Franciscan-themed days to celebrate: on the 2nd is the *Portiuncula* [port-see-UNK-oo-lah] "Little Portion of Our Lady/St. Mary of the Angels"; the 4th St. John Vianny, O.F.S. (the Curè d Àrs); the 8th St. Dominic, O.P. (Founder of Order of Preachers--"the Dominicans"); the 11th St. Clare of Assisi, P.C. (co-founder of the "Poor Clare" nuns); and the 14th St. Maximillian Kolbe, O.F.M. Conv. (Auschwitz Concentration Camp martyr).

As we come out of the cabin fever of spring, and enter into a long hot summer, let's entertain ourselves with some Franciscan homework. Use an electronic device to solve our curiosity about the above people and places. We may also be inspired by what we read and challenged by the words that evoke our enthusiasm to follow them as they followed Francis, as he followed Jesus, as we follow *both*. For, even during boring times, the Christian-Franciscan challenge to come out of ourselves for others is still quite the call to which to respond.

In Christ, Francis, and Clare,  
Br. Gordon Boykin, O.F.M.  
~ Provincial-Regional Spiritual Assistant

**MESSAGE/GREETINGS**  
**Gigi Gregory, OFS**  
**Regional Vice Minister**

This has been a challenging year! We all are dealing with Covid-19. Covid-19 has changed our lives and how we live. Schools are closed, we stay 6' apart, we wear masks, so now we fail to recognize family members let alone friends in our masks! We stay indoors, some of us are losing our tans. The groceries we bring into our home go through a decontamination process. We wash our hands first, soak our fruits, vegetables in soapy warm water, rub hand sanitizer on packages. And, then we wash hands again.

And, let us not forget the violence and oppression against people of color. I have a friend who is a priest. He tells me how when he travels home to Africa to visit his family, he is customarily detained because of his color. Often time, he misses his flight and has to wait until the next day to start his journey home. He says every time he approaches the airport his stomach knots up. He knows he cannot express anger because surely security would have him jailed.

So, we have health and racism issues that have marred the beginning of this year. So, what do we do? We are Franciscans. Yes, we pray, we offer novenas, we fast but we also must have the boldness and courage to stand against these issues. We stay home as much as we can. In the United States, at this moment, there are over 3 million Americans that have contracted the Coronavirus. Let us continue to protect ourselves, our families and our brothers and sisters, wear a mask, practice social distancing, and continue to wash your hands frequently!

The Regional Council continues to function and meet with the help of teleconferencing. If your fraternity is still not gathering, please check into the free teleconferencing information sent out to all the Regional distribution list. We are also giving a great deal of effort of staying in touch with our brothers and sisters. If you do not hear from us, call us I absolutely love to talk to you!

With much love y con mucho amor, gigi, ofs  
Your Regional Vice-Minister

**Two of our Regional “Essential workers”**

**Suzanne & Victor Yebra OFS**  
**Minister and Secretary of Queen of Angels #107**



I have been working as a nurse since 1994. I had an opportunity to work in the NICU – Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Pediatric Neonatal Transport Team where I learned to help parents care for their tiny, sick infants. Learning how precious life is in caring for the most innocent and vulnerable neonates, some as small as 500 grams in weight and seeing their growth and eventual discharge as healthy infants, was a true miracle. Currently as an OR nurse, I treat everyone with respect; patience, and kindness, helping patients feel safe and comfortable as possible for their surgery. As a Secular Franciscan since September 17<sup>th</sup> 2011, I have had many opportunities to follow St. Francis to our Lord Jesus Christ by practicing love of God with my whole heart; soul, and mind, and loving my neighbor: 1 Corinthians 16:14 “Let all that you do be done in love.” I continue to be patient and kind to all I meet and try to see Christ in them. I do all I can to keep myself safe as well as my patients. With all that is going on in the world, it is so important even on the busiest day, to be under Our Mother Mary’s mantle by praying the Rosary daily; fasting, being in a state of grace, staying close to the sacraments and finally going from Gospel to life and life to Gospel.

Suzanne Yerba, OFS, Regional Secretary



**Our Lady of Guadalupe # 113**  
**Minister Ordained Deacon in**  
**the Diocese in Las Cruces**



John Eric Munson and Lisa Munson, his wife in third pew.

Ten men were ordained as permanent deacons, and one was ordained as a transitional deacon at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Sunday, June 14, 2020.

John-Eric Munson, OFS, Minister of Our Lady of Guadalupe Fraternity #113 in Las Cruces, New Mexico was among the ten men ordained. This service was unlike others due to social distancing measures, in person-participation at the ordination Mass was limited to those needed for the celebration, which included those being ordained and the required clergy. The public was able to watch the ceremony via live stream on the diocesan website.

**PROFESSIONS SAGRADO CORAZON DE JESUS #108**



La Orden Franciscana Seglar del Sagrado corazón de  
Jesús #108  
le da Gracias a Dios por haber llegado a este día en  
que los Hermano/a

***Julieta López***  
***Nohemí Willms***  
***Roberto Rosales***

Tomarán La Profesión.

Nos permitimos invitarlos  
a que nos acompañen **Espiritualmente y en oración**  
el 11 de Agosto 2020 a las 12:00 pm  
Roger Bacon College 2400 Marr St. El Paso TX  
79903

LA Celebración Eucarística será presidida por

**Fray Albert Hernández O.F.M.**  
Asistente Espiritual de la OFS  
Y  
**Fray Lázaro González O.F.M.**



**“Comenzemos a servir,  
hermanos, pues lo que hemos hecho  
ahora es poco o nada”**

**San Francisco de Asis**





### ***“Christmas in July at St. Francis #121 in Santa Fe”***

*In May of 2011, a proposal by a fraternity member to the council asked that all members of the St. Francis Fraternity participate in contributing items to a Santa Fe local homeless shelter that ministered to the many homeless men and women in Santa Fe during the bitter winter season. The Council voted to contribute a large sum of money for that winter season. It was learned the following year that the summer season was when the homeless shelters needed help the most. The majority of the donated items during the Christmas season from many parishes and other local churches had been exhausted by late spring. In June 2012 the Council decided to ask St. Francis Fraternity members to participate in purchasing and gathering items such as men’s and women’s socks ; and underwear in various sizes; first aid bandages, small containers, ibuprofen, antacid, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, antiseptic mouthwash, body washes, small soap, disposable razors and other personal care items. The Council also asked members what specific homeless shelters they wanted to help and the majority of them decided that it should be left to each member what group she or he wanted to purchase items for. We eventually started referring to this project as “Christmas in July” because clothing for men and women, children, infants, and teens began to be included in the donations and sometimes a few occasional small toys for children would be brought in. Usually for July gathering, the members have brought in their items and help organize, bag and box into categories for men, women, children, infants and teens and then a few members volunteered to distribute to the various shelters in the city of Santa Fe that same day. Each member has devised her or his method of gathering items for the “Christmas in July” (year-round, one big shopping day or perhaps just dropping the loose coins into a container and donating the money). Many of the members have looked forward to participating. For the year 2020 (because of COVID-19 virus), each member who had gathered items made the delivery themselves to the shelter of their choice.*

*By: Vicky Ortiz OFS Minister of Santa Fe Fraternity #121*



## **Love One Another**

1. Be at peace with one another (Mark 9:50)
2. Don't grumble about one another (John 6:43)
3. Be of the same mind with one another (Romans 12:16,15:5).
4. Accept one another (Romans 15:7)
5. Wait for one another before beginning the Lord's supper (1 Corinthians 11:33)
6. Don't bite or devour one another (Galatians 5:15)
7. Don't provoke or envy another (Galatians 5:26)
8. Gently, patiently bear with one another (Ephesians 4:2)
9. Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
10. Bear with and forgive one another (Colossians 3:13)
11. Strive to do good for one another, and don't repay wrong for wrong (1 Thessalonians 5:15)
12. Don't slander one another (James 4:11, 5:9)
13. Do confess sins to one another (James 5:16)
14. Love one another (John 13:34, 15:12; Romans 13:8; 1 Thessalonians 3:12, 4:9; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 3:11, 4:7, 11:2; 2 John 5)
15. Humble serve one another in love (Galatians 5:13)
16. Bear with one another in love (Ephesians 4:2)
17. Greet one another with a kiss of love (1 Peter 5:14)
18. Be devoted to one another in love (Romans 12:10)
19. Honor one another above yourself (Roman 12:10)
20. Value one another as more important than yourself (Philippians 2:3)
21. Serve one another humbly in love (Galatians 5:13)
22. Wash one another's feet (John 13:14)
23. Don't be proud, but associate with one another regardless of social position (Romans 12:16)
24. Submit to one another, especially in household relationships (Ephesians 5:21)
25. Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another (1 Peter 5:5)
26. Do not judge one another, and don't put a stumbling block in the way of a brother or sister (Romans 14:13)
27. Greet one another with a holy kiss (Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12)
28. Carry one another burdens (9 Galatians 6:2)
29. Speak truthfully to one another (Colossians 3:9)
30. Encourage one another concerning the resurrection (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
31. Encourage and build up one another (Thessalonians 5:11)
32. Spur one another on toward love and deeds (1 Hebrews 10:24)
33. Pray for one another for healing (James 5:16)
34. Offer hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)



## Ámense los Unos a los Otros

1. Tengan paz unos con otros. (Mateo 9, 50)
2. No murmuren entre ustedes. (Juan 6, 43)
3. Tengan un mismo sentir los unos para con los otros. (Romanos 12, 16; 15, 5)
4. Acéptense mutuamente. (Romanos 15, 7)
5. Cuando se reúnan para la Cena, espérense los unos a los otros. (1Corintios 11, 33)
6. No se muerdan ni devoren mutuamente. (Gálatas 5, 15)
7. No se provoquen o envidien mutuamente. (Gálatas 5, 26)
8. Con toda humildad, mansedumbre y paciencia, sopórtense unos a otros. (Efesios 4, 2)
9. Sean más bien buenos entre ustedes, perdonándose mutuamente. (Efesios 4, 32)
10. Sopórtense unos a otros y perdónense mutuamente. (Colosenses 3, 13)
11. Miren que nadie devuelva mal por mal, antes bien, procuren siempre el bien común. (1Tesalonisenses 5, 15)
12. No hablen mal unos de otros. (Santiago 4, 11; 5, 9)
13. Confiésense mutuamente sus pecados. (Santiago 5, 16)
14. Ámense los unos a los otros. (Juan 13, 34; 15, 12; Romanos 13, 8; 1Tesalonisenses 3, 12; 4, 9; 1Pedro 1, 22; 1Juan 3, 11; 4, 7, 11; 2Juan 5)
15. Sírvanse por amor los unos a los otros. (Gálatas 5, 13)
16. Sopórtense unos a otros por amor. (Efesios 4, 2)
17. Salúdense unos a otros con el beso de amor. (1Pedro 5, 14)
18. Ámense cordialmente los unos a los otros. (Romanos 12, 10)
19. Estímense en más cada uno a los otros. (Romanos 12, 10)
20. Consideren cada cual a los demás como superiores a sí mismo. (Filipenses 2, 3)
21. Servirse unos a otros humildemente en el amor (Gálatas 5:13)
22. Ustedes también deben lavarse los pies unos a otros. (Juan 13, 14)
23. No se complazcan en la altivez, atráiganse más bien por la humildad. (Romanos 12, 16)
24. Sean sumisos los unos a los otros en el temor de Cristo. (Efesios 5, 21)
25. Revístanse todos de humildad en sus mutuas relaciones. (1Pedro 5, 5)
26. Dejemos, por tanto, de juzgarnos los unos a los otros, juzguemos más bien que no se debe poner tropiezo o escándalo al hermano. (Romanos 14, 13)
27. Salúdense unos a otros con el beso santo. (Romanos 16, 16; 1Corintios 16, 20; 2Corintios 13, 12)
28. Ayúdense mutuamente a llevar sus cargas. (Gálatas 6, 2)
29. No se mientan unos a otros. (Colosenses 3, 9)
30. Consuélnense, pues, mutuamente con respecto a la resurrección. (1Tesalonisenses 4, 18)
31. Confortense mutuamente y edifíquese los unos a los otros. (1Tesalonisenses 5, 11)
32. Fijémonos los unos en los otros para estímulo de la caridad y las buenas obras. (Hebreos 10)
33. Oren los unos por los otros para ser curados (Santiago 5,16)
34. Sean hospitalarios unos con otros sin murmurar. (1Pedro 4, 9)

## **Regional Formation News**

**Dear Ministers, Formation Directors and Formation Team.**

**In view of the new developing Formation resources by National, our Regional Minister, Vice-Minister and myself analyzed and discussed what we can do to be fully prepared to present the renewed formation program initiative to the Region, once it is completed by National. As always, this was done with much discernment and prayer. Therefore, it was decided that a restructure of the previous Formation structure needed to be incorporated. Thus, our Minister Sofia Villarreal, our Vice-Minister Gigi Gregory, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd Councilors, Pedro Alvarez & Lety Briones and I will be heading the team that will work directly with the fraternities' Ministers and Formation Directors to communicate and respond to any of the formation questions, concerns and/or needs they have in formation. Our goal is to also provide guidance. We will have other brothers and sisters that will be dedicated to specific fraternities in the areas that the Region covers: El Paso, Las Cruces, Mescalero/Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Gallup/ Mescalero/ Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Gallup/Lubbock, Carlsbad, Roswell and Plainview. Two teams will be established: an English one to cover the needs of our English, and a Spanish Team to cover the needs of our Spanish fraternities. Those team members will be announced after August 24th.**

**Again, I want to thank you for the work you all have done in the past to serve us brothers and sisters in our Region and the work that you have done to serve the fraternities you were assigned to. It is our hope that you will be able to serve your fraternities as needed in other areas.**

**Please pray so that we will be able to fulfill the needs of our regional fraternities in the**

**new path that the National Formation Committee is working on.**

**Fraternally yours,  
Carmen Aguilar, OFS, Regional  
Formation Director**

### **Elizabeth Trevino OFS Ecumenical and Interfaith Representative**



I am reporting on my status as the Regional Ecumenical and Interfaith Representative.

I emailed the message Pope Francis: Call for day of prayer and fasting. We as Franciscans are called to unite with our brothers and sisters of all religions! We are not alone.

On May 18, 2020 The information for the Laudate Si two-part online seminar on Ecology of Listening a pastoral approach to environmental justice. June 6, 2020 To my surprise my 17year old granddaughter asked for support and prayer because she was going to the Black Lives Matter protest. Of course, my husband and I were very proud of her and we went to support her. It turned out peaceful and it made us feel proud of everyone there. Most of them were from high school to college age.

It amazing how much we can learn from our youth. They see no color only human beings!

I am going to learn a lot from this position, and I think I'm going to be very busy!

July 21, 2020, I took part in the Ecumenical-Interfaith Video Conference. The conference was presented "to learn more about ecumenism and interfaith relations and to hear how building relations with people of different denominations and faiths can help to build the Kingdom of God". Mike Carsten, OFS, Chair for the Committee and I will be meeting by teleconference/phone within a month.

***Regional Multicultural Representative***  
**Lita Pino OFS, #133 Espiritu Santo, Past Minister**



**LIVING WITH “CORONA” IN NEW MEXICO**

Every morning since Covid-19 came to us, I wake up asking, “What day is it? Is it Monday, Friday, Sunday? It’s as if one day runs into another. When will this end? Will life ever be the same? We know there is no end and life will never be the same as we knew it. We humans do not like change, yet God always calls on us to change. He gives us the strength to better our spiritual life.

Had we been aware of the sick, the poor, the hungry? Had we thought of the unfortunate, the homebound, the aging, the immigrants, prisoners, people in nursing homes, caregivers, doctors, nurses, scientists? No, we were too busy thinking of ourselves. Then here comes “Corona” to make us aware of the world around us. I ask, “Why”? The answer is. Why not?

When I became aware of Covid-19, I thought it wasn’t going to affect our state. I always thought of New Mexico as being pure and immune to such things. Then reality hit. Our Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham woke us up. Our state went on lock down. Our Archbishop, John Wester followed suit. He announced our churches were closed. That meant no daily mass, no Sunday mass, no visits to our Blessed Sacrament. Then came more bad news. Funerals had limited attendance and no communion. There went our spiritual life! Then, our social life came to a halt. No restaurants, no state fair, no balloon fiesta, no parish fiesta or activities. With that came loss of income for our diverse people, with most of our city being brown people. After the protests, that became even worse, especially for the Orientals and Asian since the virus was mistakenly and unfortunately being blamed on them.

The world as we knew it was crumbling down all around us. At this time, I started thinking of my life as a child. We didn’t have any of the above, but we had family and friends. I lived in a village where the lay people led us in prayer. We had rosaries and velorios (wakes) in the different homes for their patron saints. I learned to love San Isidro because we had a procession on May 15<sup>th</sup>, blessing the fields. We children were allowed to dress in our First Holy Communion clothes and wear crowns made from asparagus branches and wild yellow roses. As we processed up and down the road and fields, our rose petals fell and blessed the ground. What was left of them, we blessed the acequia waters. All this was to call on San Isidro to ask God to shower us with rain for good crops. I brought that tradition with me and got involved in 1990 with the San Isidro group in my Holy Family parish. Every May 15<sup>th</sup> I coordinate the celebration of San Isidro and his wife Maria. San Isidro was born in 1070, a century or so before St. Francis, and they are so much alike in their history of prayer, love of children and animals.

On the evening of July 4<sup>th</sup>, with the sound of “firework bombs” all over our city, we felt the anger, fear, and frustration because of Covid-19. It gives new meaning to prayer and good deeds. I kept thinking of all the hungry people that could be fed with the money spent on these legal and illegal fireworks. I think of how lucky I am to have lived in our village of San Acacio. There we loved and cared for each other, in praying and helping each other through rough times. We were all poor, but never felt or knew it. How beautiful to see God in each other? This July 4<sup>th</sup> people were celebrating freedom. Freedom from what, their selfishness. Freedom should be giving service to others, caring for others. Instead, it is doing what I want and getting what I want. It is shooting fireworks until 2 a.m. It is depriving people and domestic animals of their health and sleep. Freedom to some is not wearing a mask. It is not caring for their brothers and sisters in Christ. (Ref: Galatians 5: 13-26)

I hope our city and country wake up soon and go back to our old way of living. Loving and caring for others and not just for ourselves and our own selfishness.

## Viviendo con “Corona” en Nuevo México

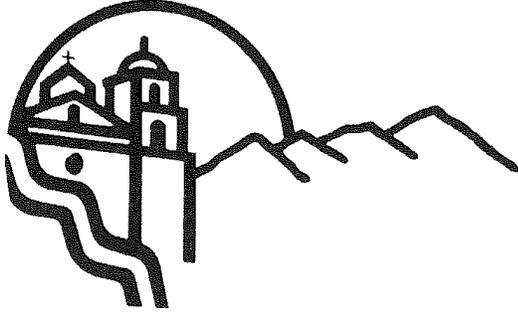
Lita B. Pino, OFS

*Regional Multicultural Representative*

*Our Lady of Guadalupe Region, #75*

*(Traducida por Esther Herrera, Candidata OFS, # 133 Espiritu Santo Fraternidad)*

Todas las mañanas desde que el Covid-19 llegó, me levanto preguntando, ¿Qué día es hoy? ¿Es lunes, viernes o domingo? Es como si un día se confundiera con el otro. ¿Cuándo terminará esto? ¿La vida volverá a ser la misma? Sabemos que no hay fin y la vida nunca será la misma de antes. A los humanos no nos gusta el cambio, pero Dios siempre nos llama a cambiar. Nos da la fuerza para mejorar nuestra vida espiritual. ¿Nos hemos preocupado de los enfermos, los pobres, o los hambrientos? ¿Hemos pensado en los desafortunados, los confinados en el hogar, los ancianos, los emigrantes, los prisioneros, las personas en los asilos, los que cuidan los enfermos, los médicos, las enfermeras, los científicos? No, estábamos demasiado ocupados pensando en nosotros mismos. Entonces nos llega el Corona para concientizarnos del mundo que nos rodea. ¿Y me pregunto por qué? y la respuesta es, Por qué no? Cuando me di cuenta del Covid-19, pensé que no iba a afectar a nuestro Estado. Siempre creí que Nuevo México era inmune a tales cosas. Entonces la realidad nos golpeó. Nuestra Gobernadora Michelle Lujan Grisham nos despertó. Nuestro estado se cerró. Nuestro Arzobispo John Wester hizo lo mismo. Anunció que nuestras iglesias estarían cerradas. Eso significaba que no habría Misa diaria, ni Misa Dominical, ni visitas al Santísimo Sacramento. Después vinieron más noticias malas. Los funerales tendrían asistencia limitada y sin la Santa Comunión. **¡Ahí se terminó nuestra vida espiritual!** Entonces, nuestra vida social se detuvo. Sin restaurantes, sin feria estatal, sin fiesta de globos aerostáticos, sin fiesta parroquial o actividades. Con eso vino la pérdida de ingresos para nuestra gente, siendo la mayoría gente de color en nuestra ciudad. Después de las protestas, eso empeoró aún más, especialmente para los asiáticos, ya que desafortunadamente los culparon de ello. El mundo como lo conocíamos se estaba desmoronando a nuestro alrededor. En este momento comencé a pensar en mi niñez. No teníamos nada de lo anterior, pero teníamos familiares y amigos. Viví en un pueblo donde los laicos nos guiaban en la oración. Teníamos rosarios y velorios en las casas con su Santo Patrón. Aprendí a amar a San Isidro porque teníamos una procesión el 15 de mayo, para bendecir los campos. A los niños se nos permitía usar la ropa de la Primera Comunión y coronas hechas de ramas de espárragos y rosas amarillas silvestres. Mientras procesábamos por el campo, los pétalos de rosas caían al suelo y bendecían la tierra, y los pétalos que quedaban, se usaban para bendecir el agua de la acequia. Todo esto era para pedirle a San Isidro que le rogara a Dios que nos mandara la lluvia para tener buena cosecha. Traje esa tradición y me involucré en 1990 con el grupo de San Isidro en la parroquia de la Sagrada Familia. Cada 15 de Mayo coordino la celebración de San Isidro y su esposa María. San Isidro nació en 1070, un siglo antes de San Francisco, y ellos son muy parecidos en su historia de oración, el amor por los niños y los animales. En la noche del 4 de Julio, con el sonido de los fuegos artificiales por toda nuestra ciudad, sentimos la ira, el miedo y la frustración debido al Covid-19. Le da un nuevo significado a la oración y las buenas obras. Seguí pensando en todas las personas hambrientas que podrían ser alimentadas con el dinero que se gasta en estos fuegos artificiales legales e ilegales. Pienso en lo afortunada que soy de haber vivido en nuestro pueblo de San Acacio. Allí nos cuidábamos y nos queríamos, rezábamos unos por los otros. Nos ayudábamos en los momentos difíciles. Todos éramos pobres, pero nunca lo sentimos ni tampoco lo supimos. Qué hermoso era ver a Dios entre nosotros. Este 4 de julio la gente celebraba la libertad. ¿Libertad de qué?, de su egoísmo? **La libertad es ayudar y cuidar a los demás.** En cambio, es hacer y obtener lo que uno quiera, es estar disparando fuegos artificiales hasta las 2 am. y privar a las personas y a los animales domésticos de su salud y de su sueño. La libertad para algunos no es usar una máscara. No es cuidar a sus hermanos y hermanas en Cristo. (Ref: Gálatas 5: 13-26) Espero que nuestra ciudad y país se despierten pronto y regresen a nuestra antigua forma de vida. Amar y cuidar a los demás y no solo a nosotros mismos y a nuestro propio egoísmo.



# Franciscan Friars

PROVINCE OF SAINT BARBARA ♦ Office of the Provincial  
Minister

*An Open Letter to  
My White Sisters and Brothers  
Who are Roman Catholic  
June 8, 2020*

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

May the Lord give you peace.

I am writing this open letter to you as a fellow Roman Catholic since I am assuming that because of our faith tradition we hold certain truths in common, that we are all deeply loved unconditionally by God, that we all have a complete dignity that recognizes we are made in the image and likeness of God, that all of us are truly brothers and sisters to each other. We seek the common good. This letter, while addressed to those of my faith tradition, is also offered to believers in other traditions and to nonbelievers in the hope that we may all be in dialogue.

These past few days in our country have been simply incredible. The continuing economic free fall of our economy with over 40 million unemployed, the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic and the horrendous death of so many and the latest incidents of systemic racism is on everyone's mind. We know that both in the economy and in the reality of the pandemic African Americans, Native people and others of color are disproportionately affected. This is clear. We who are white simply do not experience this systemic racism directly nor do we experience our cultural reality the same way as our brothers and sisters of color.

In our country there is a very long history of violence and oppression against all people of color, especially African Americans that is a direct result of slavery. The killing of George Floyd is simply the latest act of violence against African Americans in a very long history. Why have we as a country not made much progress in eradicating the evil of racism? Why is it systemic?

And this is where I begin to have difficulty with this letter because I know there is a part of me that does not want to offend or make others feel uncomfortable, especially other people who are white like me. The truth is that racism continues in our country because it benefits those of us who are white. Period. Full stop. I think we owe it to George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and all those who have died by violence to admit this truth. As a white man I do not like this uncomfortable feeling when I admit this, but the reality is that until I am able to sit with this

uncomfortableness, live with it, and ask God to help change my heart, all will continue as it has in the past. To admit to white privilege and realize that I continue to benefit from it is a hard pill to swallow. But if I truly wish to live my faith fully, I need to embrace justice completely, realizing that God's grace will help me. I need to pray for His help realizing that racism is a spiritual wound. We white people need to be outraged at the racism in our culture and only when enough of us are truly outraged will systemically change take place.

How did I end up in the place I am? I am not an autonomous individual floating in space. I grew up in a place, at a time in a particular family. I was 13 years old, living in Northcentral Florida, when Martin Luther King was assassinated. At that time my school was still segregated. My mother did not lie awake at night fearing I would be killed by the police when I was a teenager going out at night with my friends. I lived in a completely white world and knew no African Americans and no other person of color. I would like to think my family was "good." I never got a lesson in whiteness, I just picked it up as the way things are and was socialized into a certain view of the world that I would later understand as racist, very racist. All of us have been scared by the social sin around us.

If all that I have written above is true, and I do believe it to be true, then what should I do? What concrete actions may I do? Is there something I could offer to my Catholic sisters and brothers in ways of suggestions? I pledge myself to do the following. I would like to suggest that you and the communities or families you live in develop your own, realizing that what we are attempting might be considered little, but we must begin somewhere.

- I need to just sit with being uncomfortable and realize that is ok if I make other white people uncomfortable. The truth is that I have benefited and continue to benefit from white privilege. This is hard for me to admit.
- My commitment to justice needs to clearly take priority. I need to stop worrying about offending others when in conversation about racism.
- I need to study and reflect more on racism. I am rather ignorant of the history and realize that the history I learned as a youngest is not complete.
- I need to reflect on my life as friar and a friar-priest in relationship to racial issues. Have I ever given a workshop or lecture on racism? Have I preached on it? I am so embarrassed to say I cannot come up with a concrete example.
- I need the courage to speak out or confront my family, friends, and fellow Franciscans when I see or hear bigotry.
- I need to be more pro-life. Pope Francis said on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. "we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life." I agree totally.
- I need to support those protestors in the streets who are peaceful. The right to peaceful protest is guaranteed by our Constitution and is a patriotic act. Please be careful and mindful of the pandemic and if I cannot protest myself because of my age and health I can certainly cheer those on who are out. Any violence is morally wrong.
- I need to donate to funds that help protestors who have been out on the streets by giving to bail funds, or legal aid, or other organizations who are struggling against racism and its victims. I can also give some money from my monthly allowance.

- I need to be sure to vote and encourage others to vote.

Fr. Bryan Massingale in the conclusion of his book *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church* writes the following: "Social life is made by human beings. The society we live in is the outcome of human choices and decisions. This means that human beings can change things.

What humans break, divide, and separate, we can- with God's help- also heal, unite, and restore. What is now does not have to be. Therein lies the hope. And the challenge."

Let us continue to walk forward together as we struggle for total racial equality. I am under no illusion that this journey will be easy, but we simply must begin once again, building on the struggle of others before us.

Lastly and most importantly I need to pray. We all need to pray. A couple of weeks ago we celebrated Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit. Let us all pray that the Spirit will guide us forward and give us the courage to do the right thing. Let us pray for the intersection of the Saints and the Blessed Mother. The US Catholic Bishops recently offered a prayer to overcome racism.

#### PRAYER TO OVERCOME RACISM

**Mary, friend and mother to all, through your Son, God has found a way to unite himself to every human being, called to be one people, sisters and brothers to each other.**

**We ask for your help in calling on your Son, seeking forgiveness for the times when we have failed to love and respect one another.**

**We ask for your help in obtaining from your Son, the grace we need to overcome the evil of racism and to build a just society.**

**We ask for your help in following your Son, so that prejudice and animosity will no longer infect our minds or hearts but will be replaced with a love that respects the dignity of each person.**

**Mother of the Church, the Spirit of your Son Jesus warms our hearts: pray for us. Amen.**

I am convinced that if we give ourselves more completely to the Lord he will come to our aid and help us do what we do not have the strength to do. We are all in this together.

Sincerely and fraternally yours. David Gaa, OFM



Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Barbara President  
of the Trustees of the Ministries of the Province

**20th Quinquennial Congress**  
**“To celebrate and renew our Franciscan calling in the spirit of conversion”**

*Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic  
the Congress has been postponed.  
(The TAU-USA, September 2020 edition  
Will provide further information.)*



**Celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Empress of the Americas  
Region #75  
Will be celebrated on October 10<sup>th</sup>  
Mass at Roger Bacon 10AM  
2400 Marr St., El Paso, Texas**

**(We encourage you to have a Mass requested at your parish)**



**RECOGNITION OF 25+ YEARS ANNIVERSARY PROFESSIONS**

<i>Arthur Lent</i>	<i>St Anthony # 101</i>	<i>October 22, 1945</i>
<i>Sr. Martha Delgado OSF</i>	<i>Bro. &amp; Sisters of St. Francis #130</i>	<i>August 29,1947</i>
<i>Teresa Holguin</i>	<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe # 113</i>	<i>July 1961</i>
<i>Flora Guzmán</i>	<i>Sagrado Corazón De Jesús #108</i>	<i>October 2, 1972</i>
<i>Jose Moreno</i>	<i>Sta Isabel #114</i>	<i>October 1975</i>
<i>Arturo Villarreal</i>	<i>St. Patrick #109</i>	<i>October 3, 1981</i>
<i>Sofia U. Villarreal</i>	<i>St. Patrick #109</i>	<i>October 3, 1981</i>
<i>Maria Luis La Chica</i>	<i>St. Patrick #109</i>	<i>October 3, 1981</i>
<i>Adelina Frisbie</i>	<i>St. Patrick #109</i>	<i>October 11, 1981</i>
<i>Refugio Álvarez</i>	<i>San Luis Rey #128</i>	<i>October 3, 1983</i>
<i>Donna Hollis</i>	<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe #113</i>	<i>August 11, 1983</i>
<i>Grace Rocha</i>	<i>Sagrado Corazón de María #135</i>	<i>October 4, 1985</i>
<i>Refugio Chávez</i>	<i>Sagrado Corazón de Jesús #108</i>	<i>October 3, 1987</i>
<i>Sharon Evans</i>	<i>St. Margaret #104</i>	<i>October 2, 1988</i>
<i>Victor Lopez</i>	<i>St. Francis #121</i>	<i>October 29, 1989</i>
<i>Fred Bates</i>	<i>St. Anthony #101</i>	<i>October 29, 1989</i>
<i>Alcario Valdez</i>	<i>St. Anthony #101</i>	<i>October 29, 1989</i>
<i>María de Jesús Flores</i>	<i>Sagrado Corazón de Jesús #108</i>	<i>October 4, 1990</i>



**Norma Maldonado, Jorge Maldonado, Susana Beltran, Flora Guzman, Amada Ibarra & Julieta Lopez**



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW COUNCIL**  
**SAGRADO CORAZON DE JESUS #108**

On August 23, 2020, a new council for Sagrado Corazon de Jesus #108 was elected at Roger Bacon College, El Paso, Texas. Please keep them in your prayers as they serve their brothers and sisters in their roles as servants' leaders. Presiding at the elections was Sofia Villarreal, OFS, Regional Minister.

The new council is listed below:

***Susanna Beltran, OFS, Minister***  
***Flora Guzman, OFS, Vice Minister***  
***Julieta Lopez, OFS, Secretary***  
***Norma Maldonado, OFS, Treasurer***  
***Jorge Maldonado, OFS, Formation Director***  
***Amada Ibarra, OFS, Councilor***

## **ELECTIONS/ VISITATIONS/ORIENTATIONS 2020-2021**

**(August 2020)**

### **ELECTIONS**

- #133 Espiritu Santo - Election Retreat on **2/08/20**, Sat.; Elections on **2/09/20** (3<sup>rd</sup> Sun.) (**Completed**)  
#108 Sagrado Corazon de Jesus – 9:00 a.m. Retreat and Election on **8/23/20** (**Completed**)  
#109 St. Patrick – Election Retreat on **9/19/20**, Sat.; Elections on **9/20/20**  
#126 Santa Chiara Transitioning into a cell  
#114 Santa Isabel de Hungria – Election Retreat on **11/14/20**, Sat.; Elections on **11/15/20**  
#128 San Luis Rey – Election Retreat on **11/28/20**, Sat.; Elections on **11/29/20** (4<sup>th</sup> Sun. 9 am)  
#121 St. Francis (Santa Fe) - Election Retreat on **4/10/21**, Sat.; Elections on **4/11/21** (2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. 10 am)

### **VISITATIONS**

- #101 St. Anthony **Cancelled/TBD**, (meets 4<sup>th</sup> Sun, @ 2 pm)  
#107 Queen of Angels **Cancelled/TBD**, (meets 2nd Sun. 10:30 am)  
#104 St. Margaret of Cortona **Cancelled/TBD**, (meets 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. at 8 am)  
#106 Mary Immaculate **Cancelled/TBD**, (meets 1st Sun. @ 2 pm)  
#113 Our Lady of Guadalupe **Cancelled/TBD**, (meets 1st Sun., 1 pm)  
#121 St. Francis (Santa Fe) **Cancelled/TBD**, (meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. 10 am)  
#135 Sagrado Corazon de Maria **Cancelled/TBD**, (meets 1st Sun. after 11 am Mass)  
#133 Espiritu Santo **7/18/21**, (3<sup>rd</sup> Sun.)

(All cancellations were due to the Coronavirus and were requested by letter from the Ministers)

### **ORIENTATIONS**

- #113 Our Lady of Guadalupe **7/12/20** (**Completed**)  
#133 Espiritu Santo **9/26/20**

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

- July 9 – 12, 2020 Summer Seminar, Loretto Univ., PA - **TBD**  
July 16, 2020 Franciscan Mentors WS, Pallottine Renewal Center, St. Louis Mo.  
“From Anger to Joy: Our Emotions in the Process of Conversion” - **TBD**  
July 21, 2020 Ecumenical and Interfaith Video Conference, 6 – 7:30, CDT  
August 21 – 22, 2020 Formation Director Workshop, **ZOOM session**  
Sept. 10 – 14, 2020 FY/YA Animator Training, Missouri (has been postponed)  
October 10, 2020 25<sup>th</sup> Celebration of the Anniversary of our Region at Mass at Roger Bacon  
(**Actual date of Anniversary - October 13, 2020** – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Empress of the Americas, Region #75)  
October 20 – 25, 2020 NEC/Chapter/Meeting, Detroit., MI. (**TBD**)  
October 30, 2020 REC Meeting at 10 a.m., (Location-**TBD**)  
November 14-20, 2020 CIOFS/Chapter/Elections, Rome, Italy  
2021, March 25 - 28 – REC/Elections/Chapter/Visitation  
2021, August 18 – 22 “Q” – Phoenix, AZ, Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel  
2021, October 26 -31 NEC/Chapter/Meeting



**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE EMPRESS OF THE AMERICAS REGION #75**  
**March 6-8, 2020 Chapter Meeting**

**Regional Executive Council**

**Regional Minister Sofia U. Villarreal OFS St. Patrick Fraternity #109 sofiaofs@yahoo.com**

**Regional Vice Minister Gigi Gregory OFS Mary Immaculate #108 gggregory@sbcglobal.net**

**Regional Secretary Suzanne Yerba OFS Queen of Angeles #110 sdemock21@aol.com**

**Regional Treasurer Vicka Earl OFS Mary Immaculate micasa@elp.rr.com**

**Regional Formation Director Carmen Aguilar OFS San Luis Rey Fraternity #124  
 carmagui@aol.com**

**Regional 1<sup>st</sup> Councilor Pedro Aguilar OFS Mary Immaculate #124  
 alvarez.pedro@yahoo.com**

**Regional 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Leticia Briones OFS Sagrado Corazón de María #124  
 lbriones@flyinterchange.com**

**Provincial-Regional Spiritual Assistant Br. Gordon Boykin, OFM  
 gordyboy45@aol.com**

**Ministers**

**Present at March 2020 Chapter Meeting**

***Abraham Placencio OFS St. Anthony #101***  
***Lupe Galindo OFS St. Margaret of Cortona #104***  
***David Aker OFS Mary Immaculate #106***  
***Norma Maldonado OFS Sgdo Czn de Jesús #108***  
***Adelina Frisbie OFS (Rep) St. Patrick #109***  
***Ernest Jacquez OFS (Rep) Our Lady of Guadalupe***  
***#113***  
***Antonio Eres OFS Sta. Isabel de Hungría #114***

***Vicki Ortiz OFS St. Francis #121***  
***Virginia Flores OFS St. Chiara #126***  
***Eva Aguilar OFS San Luis Rey #128***  
***Elizabeth Trevino OFS St. Juan Diego #129***  
***Candy Vasquez OFS Bros&Sisters of St Francis #130***  
***Margarita Muniz OFS Espiritu Santo #133***  
***Leticia Briones OFS Sgdo Czn de Ma. #135***  
***Rick Macias OFS Fire of Assisi #10002***

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

**Naomi Trujillo, OFS**

Articles for future Newsletters must be received as follows:

Winter: By 11/30 for 12/30 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 making copies/ e-mail of the Newsletter for all their local fraternity members.**

E-mail articles to Naomi Trujillo OFS, LA TILMA Newsletter, Editor [trujillo.naomi@yahoo.com](mailto:trujillo.naomi@yahoo.com)

### **NOTES**

