



Messengers of Joy

Newsletter for the St. Junipero Serra Region, SFO

Summer 2026

MINISTER
FRED STEIN, OFS

VICE MINISTER
DAVID TERCERO, OFS

FORMATOR
KATHLEEN MOLARO, OFS

TREASURER
EDD RINGLEIN, OFS

SECRETARY
NOREEN RINGLEIN, OFS

COUNCILORS
MARTHA ARELLANO, OFS
DIRK WOHLAU, OFS
BRIAN SIMMONS, OFS
SARA INGALLS, OFS
MICHAEL WHARTON, OFS

DATABASE MANAGER
DIANNE PRIOR, OFS

REGIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT
BRO. JUAN JOSE JAUREGUI, OFM

**RSA LIAISON;
COMMUNICATIONS &
OUTREACH**
DCN. MARK KRONCKE,
OFS

St. Francis' Relics Coming to San Francisco!



Relics of Saint Francis of Assisi will visit San Francisco for the first time in history from October 16th through November at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption.

See the letter from Archbishop Cordileone regarding the visit of St. Francis's relics to San Francisco on page 11.



WWW.SJSR-SFO.ORG

The Joy of Professions!



Newly Professed: Won Sook Lee (Clara), Jeong-eun Lee (Theresa), Euseok Na (Francisco),
Youngwha Jung (Clara), Won Sook Choi (Clara), and Soon Ae Shim (Theresa).

Friars: Fr. Joyful Joyson Thomas, OFM, Cap., Fr. Francisco (Ki-soo) Kim, OFM, and Br. Zeno Im, OFM.

Recently, two Korean-speaking fraternities, **St. Paul Chung Hasang** of San Jose, and **Sung Antonio** of San Francisco, joined together for a shared celebration of the profession of their newest Sisters and Brothers! Please keep our newest Secular Franciscans in your prayers as they live out and continue to grow in their vocations.

Welcome to the New St. Mary Fraternity Council!



Recently, St. Mary Fraternity in Visalia held their elections for new servant leaders on the fraternity council.

Pictured here are the new servant leaders:
(not in order)

Ralph Colucci (minister)

Lauren Powers (vice-minister)

Ben Heavrin (secretary)

Gloria Colucci (treasurer)

Veronica Apodacca (formation director)

John Paine, and **Rosemary Correa** (councilors)

From the Minister's desk ...



¡Siempre Adelante!

That is St. Junipero Serra's catch phrase. For me, inspiration to move forward often involves looking back. Today's news and events, while important, so often make me want to "gird up" to come to grips with so many unsaintly aspects of our worldly interaction. Oh, the news these days! Reflection on the lives of the saints, along with sacramental grace here and now: Those are things we can rely on to keep our message relevant, adding perspective to our efforts to make sense of this beautiful yet topsy-turvy existence.

Father Serra suffered much throughout his service to the poor, and his own spirit of prayer retains a lasting influence on our Region here in Northern California as well as the history of the state.

To go out and preach, we need a message - it can be the wonder (not folly) of the cross or examples of virtue which are highly instructive to people, no matter what their level of formation.



The mission of San Francisco de Asís del Valle de Tilaco is the most isolated of the five in the Sierra Gorda. Founded by Fray Serra in 1754, before he left for Alta California.

June already? We are just in time for St. Anthony of Padua's feast day on the 12 of June. Many of us OFS do not realize that St. Francis named Anthony as Provincial Minister of Northern Italy in 1226, only five years before Anthony died in Padua at age 36.

If you read his hagiography, you will certainly find things that stand out as exemplary of St. Anthony's title of "Pride of the Franciscan Order."

– Continued on page 10 –

Franciscan Day of Reflection With Brother Austin Cambon, OFM Cap



Saint Anthony's Retreat Center
43816 Sierra Drive, Three Rivers, CA

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2026

Schedule Of The Day

9:00 AM: Gather for Mass – Saint Clair's Catholic Mission,
43590 Alta Acres Drive, Three Rivers, CA 93271

10:00 AM: Bring Your Own Morning Snack for After Mass

10:15-10:30 AM: Gather at Entrance of Retreat House

10:30 AM – 10:35 AM: Opening Prayer with Brother Austin

10:35 - 11:15 AM: Spiritual Walk with Brother Austin
(Rosary for those who can't Walk)

11:15 – 12 Noon: Stations of the Cross

12 NOON: Lunch (*Bring A Sack Lunch and/or Order Lunch*)
Lunch is \$18.00 *** The Retreat House has to plan for lunch!

1:00 PM: Talk with Brother Austin

1:45 PM: Prayer Intentions and Seven Crown Rosary

1:45 - 2:00 PM: Evening Prayer.



****** Please You Must Call Suzin by Monday, June 22, to order Lunch***

559-972-7584



Thanks For Attending!!!

Day of Reflection
With Father Gregory Beaumont

A Day of Devotion and Prayer
Welcoming All Members of Lay, Secular,
Oblate, and 3rd Order Religious Communities!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026

Saint Malachy Catholic Church -
407 East E Street, Tehachapi, CA



10:00 AM: Gather

10:15 AM – 10:45 AM: Welcome/ Liturgy of the Hours

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM: Reflection – Father Gregory

11:00 AM – 12:30 - Visit the Norbertine Sisters In Their Monastery

12 Noon - Lunch

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM: Reflection – Father Gregory

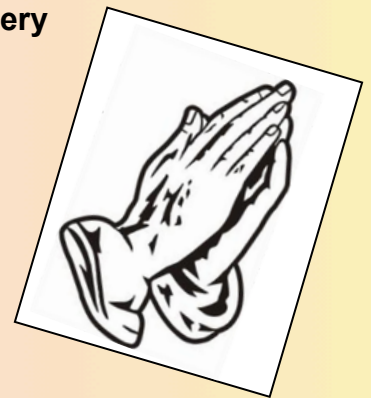
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM: Prayer Intentions/Stations of the Cross

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM Quiet Time In Church

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet/CONFESSIONS

4:30 PM: Liturgy of the Hours

5:30 PM Mass



We look forward to Sharing this Day of Prayer with you!!!

***** Please Call Suzin Levine to RSVP if you will be attending - 559-972-7584**



A Franciscan Novena Justice and Peace
Pilgrimage, presented by the
St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity
of Sacramento

We create change and support for justice, peace, and integrity of creation by remembering that we stand on the shoulders of the giants who have gone before us. We offer the following novena of Sacramento Sacred Places of Remembrance as a tool for reflection in service of action following the Franciscan tradition of preference for the poor and marginalized.

We invite you to visit each of the nine novena sacred places in the Sacramento area, to reflect on the historical meaning of each place, and to pray along alone or in a group with the novena prayer aid.

Visit each place over a span of months or in a single day. Visit one place which may have special meaning for you. But, above all, spend some time remembering In order to guide us all in creating positive change for future generations. For maps, directions, and prayers please go to the Pilgrimage Resources page.

[CLICK HERE FOR PILGRIMAGE START AND RESOURCES](https://stfrancisfraternitysacto.org/news/franciscan-novena-pilgrimage/)

<https://stfrancisfraternitysacto.org/news/franciscan-novena-pilgrimage/>



Meet a Franciscan Saint ...

Saint **Margaret of Cortona**

A Witness of Mercy and Transformation

The life of Saint Margaret of Cortona is a powerful reminder that God's mercy can transform every human story. Born in 1247 in Laviano, Italy, Margaret experienced hardship early in life after the death of her mother. As a young woman searching for love and security, she entered into a relationship with a nobleman and lived with him for several years outside of marriage. Together they had a son, but Margaret's life changed dramatically when her companion was tragically murdered. This moment of loss became a turning point that awakened within her a deep desire for conversion and a renewed relationship with God.

Seeking a new path, Margaret moved to Cortona, where she embraced a life of prayer, penance, and service. Determined to live a life of reparation, Margaret first supported herself by caring for wealthy, sick women. Eventually, she gave up paid work and dedicated herself entirely to serving the poor and the sick, living only on alms. She joined the Third Order of St. Francis, and some years later, her son also entered the Franciscan Order.

In 1286, she received official permission to continue her charitable work permanently. Other women joined her, and together they formed a group of Franciscan tertiaries known as the *Poverelle*, or "Poor Ones." She also founded a hospital in Cortona and established the Confraternity of Our Lady of Mercy. Her compassion led her to serve the poor and sick, and she helped establish charitable works, including efforts to care for the vulnerable in her community.

Rather than allowing her past to define her, Margaret allowed God's grace to reshape her future. Many came to recognize her wisdom, holiness, and deep prayer life. She died in 1297 and was canonized in 1728.

Saint Margaret of Cortona remains an inspiring example of repentance, hope, and transformation. Her life teaches that holiness is not about having a perfect past, but about responding faithfully to God's invitation to begin again.

Keep These Dates Open!

800th Jubilee of St Francis of Assisi **CAPUCHIN EVENTS** WESTERN AMERICAN PROVINCE

National Shrine of St Francis

San Francisco, CA

October 3rd – Transitus of St. Francis

October 4th – 11 AM Mass – Feast of St. Francis

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone

Our Lady of the Angels Parish

Burlingame, CA

September 13, 2026 – Centenary Opening Mass

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone

December 10, 2026 – Centenary Mass and Reception

Relics of St Francis and St Clare

Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption

San Francisco, CA

October 16 – November 26, 2026

Relics of St. Francis and St. Clare will include both breviaries, the bandage from Francis' side wound, and the stretcher (board) that held his body.



Mission San Antonio de Padua, Jolon, CA



Photo credit: ID 347825933 © Joe Sohm | Dreamstime.com

Shortly after meeting Anthony, our Father Francis exhorted him to go out to preach and convert souls throughout Italy, but only in ways in which the spirit of prayer was kept alive in Anthony and the brethren. So that is our ideal, too. Is that not what we want in following Francis's way?

Another fine educator who left the comforts of academic life to mix it up with hardscrabble poor was our own Regional namesake, Fray Junipero Serra Ferrer (Feast Day July 1). He took the name Junipero in honor of Brother Juniper, whom Francis loved and sent out (despite Juniper's simplicity and over-the-top generosity) to found hermitages throughout Italy.

For Serra, that inspiration turned into a 5-Mission chain in the Sierra Gorda Mountains near Mexico City and a 21-Mission Chain in Alta California. Sadly, Serra's historical role has been tarnished by revisionist narratives.

We must always remember his protective gift of peace and safety to converts who were themselves victims of (anti-religious) political and greedy intrigue. Father Serra suffered much throughout his service to the poor, and his own spirit of prayer retains lasting Influence on our Region here in Northern California, as well as the history of the state.

Fred Stein, OFS



May 2026

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

Pope Leo XIV has [decreed](#) that from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027, “a special Year of Saint Francis shall be proclaimed, in which every faithful Christian, following the example of the Saint of Assisi, shall become a model of holiness of life and a constant witness of peace.”¹

As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has stated, we are called to be witnesses of peace by boldly proclaiming the dignity of the human person and working for the protection of all human life. In this Year of Saint Francis, may he help us to see the beauty of life in all of creation, and in particular, in the weakest and most vulnerable among us.

Our Franciscan religious communities offer [online resources](#) to help the faithful deepen their relationship with God through Franciscan spiritual practices.

I am very pleased to share with you that for the first time in 800 years, relics of Saint Francis of Assisi will be coming from Italy to the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption on Friday, October 16, and will be on display for veneration through November at the Cathedral from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. More details will follow in the coming weeks on our [webpage](#) dedicated to Saint Francis.

In honor of this special year on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of the Transitus (death) of Saint Francis, I have designated several locations where the faithful may make a pilgrimage and pray devoutly to fulfill the conditions for receiving a plenary indulgence²:

- National Shrine of Saint Francis of Assisi
- Mission Dolores Church
- Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in East Palo Alto
- Mission San Rafael
- Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption

I encourage the faithful to participate in this special year of Saint Francis and avail themselves of the many graces in this time of spiritual renewal in the Church.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Salvatore J. Cordileone
Archbishop of San Francisco

¹ Angelo Cardinal De Donatis, “Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary on the occasion of the Eighth Centenary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi, by which a special Jubilee Year is proclaimed, with associated Plenary Indulgences, 16.01.2026.” (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2026).

² To gain a plenary indulgence, in addition to excluding all attachment to sin, even venial sin, it is necessary to perform a prescribed work designated by the Church (such as praying the stations of the cross in a church or visiting one of the designated pilgrimage sites) and fulfill the following three conditions: sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Pope.

Prayer for Servant Leadership

Here is the official Prayer for the Servant Leader from the Secular Franciscan Order, which can be used in personal or communal prayer to cultivate humility, truth, and peace in leadership:

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like your own.
That we come together in your name – Lord Jesus, make this my desire.
That we all allow the interests of your Kingdom to win out,
That your love and truth guide us always,
That we truly listen to each other and speak in freedom and simplicity,
That we not think in categories of winning and losing,
That we recognize your gift and your project,
That we always choose whatever gives you the most glory.

From the desire to always be right
From the desire to impose my point of view,
From the desire to win out over others,
Lord Jesus, free me.

From the fear of conflict,
From the fear of making a mistake,
From the fear of looking bad,
Lord Jesus, free me.

From rejecting those who see things differently,
From listening only to those who see things as I do,
From all prejudices that prevent me from listening,
Lord Jesus, free me.

From thinking only of myself,
From the difficulty to admit I am wrong,
From all desires and attachments that keep you from acting in me,
Lord Jesus, free me

Pour out on us, O Lord, we pray, a spirit of truth,
understanding and peace,
that we may know with all our hearts what is pleasing to you and
with one accord, pursue what we have come to know.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen



JUBILEE YEAR OF
SAINT
FRANCIS

1226- 2026

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed the special Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027.

All members of Franciscan religious orders and the faithful can obtain plenary indulgences for visiting any conventional Franciscan church or place of worship anywhere in the world dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi.

This page (link below) provides a locator for Franciscan sites operated by the Conventual and Capuchin orders and the Order of Friars Minor.

The list is not exhaustive, as the Pope considers all churches dedicated to St. Francis as pilgrimage sites.

Here are the conditions for obtaining the indulgence:

- Follow the usual conditions of a plenary indulgence: sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion, and prayer according to the intentions of the Holy Father
- Participate in the Year of Saint Francis by visiting, in the form of a pilgrimage, any Franciscan conventual church or place of worship anywhere in the world dedicated to Saint Francis or connected to him for any reason
- Devoutly follow the Jubilee rites or spend at least a reasonable period of time in pious meditation and raise prayers to God
- Conclude with the Our Father, the Creed, and invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Clare, and all the Saints of the Franciscan Family.

[Search here for pilgrimage sites](#)

**Saint Francis, our brother, you who eight hundred years ago
went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace,
intercede for us before the Lord.**

**You recognized true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano,
teach us to seek in Him the source of all reconciliation
that breaks down every wall.**

**You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war and misunderstanding,
give us the courage to build bridges
where the world raises up boundaries.**

**In this time afflicted by conflict and division, intercede for us
so that we may become peacemakers:
unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ.**

Amen

Prayer of Pope Leo XIV

What Is a Spiritual Assistant?

by Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM
Former National Spiritual Assistant
(now in Rome for studies)

Full article at:

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/2025/10/what-is-a-spiritual-assistant/>

How would you describe spiritual assistance to someone who is not a Secular Franciscan? I have to answer this even for a lot of the friars that I try to recruit to serve. To help someone understand quickly, we have to be nearly complete, very concise, and entirely correct. Think of a priest you know who has never served as a spiritual assistant – what would you say to try to recruit him?

What

You might start with the things you see a spiritual assistant do – attend meetings of the fraternity, its council, and initial formation sessions; serve on the council but not voting in elections or financial issues; provide spiritual input and oversee formation and the spiritual/liturgical life of the fraternity. But the most important role is to “guarantee” the Franciscan charism of the fraternity, which speaks to how we serve as much as what we do.

How

Spiritual assistants are not supposed to be directive, although sometimes they must direct. They should support the fraternity, but they also have to challenge its members. Spiritual and pastoral assistance has to be kind, but there are times when the lost sheep has to be found, and there are times they don't want to be told they are wandering away, especially when they drag or push others.

Listening is an important part of spiritual and pastoral assistance. Therefore, the assistant listens and helps others to listen – and to voice their messages in a way that they are more likely to be heard.

Who

Part of the role of the spiritual assistant is the relationship. We think immediately of someone to make sure the fraternity is connected with the friars, but this relationship is more than facilitating a connection. Canon Law (CIC 303) requires the friars to provide an *altius moderamen* for each fraternity, a “higher moderation” or outside perspective.

Have you ever been part of a group that got waylaid by one charismatic member? I know this never happens in our fraternities (smile), but maybe in a different type of group. The Church insists that every association of the faithful needs this outside moderation, someone to come in from outside to provide a check to “guarantee the Franciscan charism.” Just as a referee can't be part of a team on the field, the assistant is someone outside the fraternity who walks with the fraternity.

The shepherd is not a sheep but walks with them. This is part of our answer to “who” can be a spiritual assistant.

The region is always discerning people who may answer a call to serve as a spiritual assistant. If you or your fraternity know of someone who seems to have the qualities of a spiritual assistant, and they have been professed for at least five years, please let us know at: information@sjsr-sfo.org

Are you, or someone you know, feeling called to serve in the ministry of Spiritual Assistant for the St. Junipero Serra Region? If so, we would like to help you discern your vocational call to servant leadership in this vital role. Please contact us through the SJSR Website or the SJSR email, and we will respond!

St. Junipero Serra Region
AREA COUNCILORS' FRATERNITY ASSIGNMENTS

AREA 1 - Sacramento Area: Sara Ingalls, OFS

St. Francis & St. Clare / Paradise
Little Portion / Auburn
St. Francis / Sacramento
St. Francis / Reno
Blessed Giles of Assisi / Twain Harte

AREA 2 - East & North Bay Area: Michael Wharton, OFS

Il Poverello / Petaluma
St. Thomas More / El Cerrito
St. Junipero Serra / Walnut Creek
St. Elizabeth / Oakland
Mt. Alverno / Redwood City
Servants of God / Oakland (Chinese Speaking)

AREA 3 - Peninsula Area: Dirk Wohlau, OFS

St. Francis of Assisi / San Francisco
St. Anthony of Padua / San Francisco
Sung Antonio / San Francisco (Korean speaking)
Our Lady of Angels / Burlingame
St. Paul Chung Hasang / San Jose (Korean speaking)

AREA 4 - Central Valley Area: Brian Simmons, OFS

St. Joseph / Bakersfield
Sacred Heart / San Jose
St. Mary / Visalia
St. Michael / San Miguel, Atascadero
St. John the Baptist / Fresno
Junipero Serra of Carmel / San Juan Bautista

Multicultural Councilor: Martha Arellano, OFS

San Felipe de Jesus / Oakland (Spanish speaking)
San Pedro Bautista y Companeros Martires (Spanish speaking)
Santisima Trinidad / Greenfield* (Spanish speaking)

*David Tercero, OFS, to help w Santisima Trinidad

Important Links



[SFO-USA](#)

[Our Lady of Guadalupe Province \(OFM\)](#)

[San Damiano Retreat Center](#)