

The Herald

Newsletter of St. Elizabeth of
Hungary Regional Fraternity

Secular Franciscan Order

Winter 2021



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Message from our Regional Spiritual Assistant

"Gospel to life and life to Gospel"

Dear Sisters and Brothers,
Peace and all good!

Can you believe that I am at a loss for words?

We are now in a new year and what can be said that hasn't been said on all the zoom times we have shared over the past months.

While struggling with a message for you, I received a card from a friar that speaks to my heart. The words, mixed with some of my own, convey what I feel called to say to you at this time.

We feel the Joy of Christ's birth, and yet there are so many who are not feeling joy, but rather hunger, pain, illness or the loss of loved ones.

Can we bring them food, ease their pain, care for them in their illness, or grieve with them in their loss of spouses, daughters, sons, or friends?

I believe we can.

We feel the Hope of new life among us, but there are others who are feeling despair, loneliness, and isolation because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Can we be there for them bringing them hope, being a friend, connecting with a card or a phone call?

I believe we can.

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We feel the Love of family and friends, even though there may be miles between us, this love will never fade. Can we be that Love for others who have no family, no friends?

I believe we can.

We celebrate Love being born among us, God's Love made human, where human love means caring for those who have nothing and putting our Love into action. Can we put our Love into action?

I believe we can.

Thank you for all you have done for God's poor over the year 2020. May you be blessed in the New Year as you have blessed so many others among us. 2020 may bring tears to your eyes as you see how generosity can make Christ come alive.

In the midst of these uncertain and dark times, God has lain among us under a Star. And His bright light cuts through the darkness and uncertainty, which begins to dissolve away.

What changes the world is what we give birth to in obscurity and dust, within the frustration of lives that will always seem too small for us. (Rolheiser)

Can we change the world?

I believe, as Franciscans, WE MUST!

With Christ's Love and mine,

Alice, OFS

P.S. Ron and I have hearts filled with gratitude for all your prayers and cards as he recovers from his hip replacement. We are able to journey toward wellness because of you. We are blessed.

Professions

Two of our fraternities managed to have safe and well-celebrated professions this Summer and Fall:

St. Francis, Tewksbury MA
8/15/2020
Robert Paolluci, OFS
Patrick Ring, OFS

St. Michael and the 9 Choirs of Angels, Rochester NH
10/18/2020
Louise LaMarca-Gay
Armand Villemont
Melanie Villemont

Congratulations!

From the Minister's Desk

To say 2020 was a difficult year, is such an understatement. However, some blessings can be found around our region. Members who could not attend their monthly meetings because they were excused, had the opportunity to participate in meetings via conference calls and/or Zoom meetings.

I'm personally very grateful for the technology. Being able to see my Franciscan brothers and sisters in a Zoom meeting gave me great peace of mind that they were well and weathering the Pandemic. We were able to catch up, share our stories, and grow spiritually. We missed the hugs and food, but we'll get back to that. I don't know when, but I see hope.

I want to thank all the councils around our great region for all the work they have done keeping in contact with their fraternity members during this difficult year. Please keep up the great work!

Live a Life Worthy of Your Call

Theresa Pratt, OFS

Live a Life worthy of your call is the 2020-2021 OFS-USA Theme. I hope all of you will spend time over the next year reflecting on these words and challenging yourself to begin again for as St. Francis told us: *'for up to now we have done nothing'*.

Personally, I'll be asking myself each day am I truly living all the articles of our rule. I do this by reading one article each day and challenging myself to live that article better than I have. We are not cafeteria Franciscans, only living the articles that are easy for us. We are called to live all the articles. We must reflect on each article and put into action what we are called to do. Article 2 of our rule states: *...By their profession they pledge themselves to live the gospel in the manner of Saint Francis by means of this rule approved by the Church.* We use the General Constitutions, National Statutes, and Regional Guidelines to help us know what needs to be done.

If you are having trouble living out one of the articles, take it to your fraternity. If your fraternity family is all struggling with the same article, contact the appropriate members of the Regional Executive Council to help. The REC is here to help! If you have a general question contact, your Regional District Councilor. If you have a formation issue, contact our Regional Formation Director. If you are having problems figuring out how to reach out to youth and young adults, contact our Regional FYYA Animator. You get the picture! We're here to help and we want to help.

The Regional Executive Council is well aware that we are not to usurp the authority of the local council. As article

33 of the General Constitutions states: *The councils of higher levels should not do what can be adequately carried out either by the local fraternities or by the council of a lower level. They should respect and promote their vitality so that they fulfill their duties properly. The local fraternities and councils concerned should commit themselves to carry out the decisions of the international council and the other councils of higher levels, and to implement their programs, adapting them when necessary to their own situation. The REC can, however, clarify, answer questions, and/or give guidance if asked. We serve you!*

Franciscans are blessed to have a fraternity to help them grow spiritually. Article 22 of our rule states that our fraternities “*should be the privileged place for developing a sense of Church and the Franciscan vocation and for enlivening the apostolic life of its members.*” Our fraternities must be a place where people are able to respectfully dialogue about hard issues, where we can grow closer to Jesus, where we serve each other, and we reach out to people who need our help via our apostolates.

I’m grateful for this theme. I think I’ll learn a lot by spending time thinking about and acting upon what I discern I must do to truly live a life worthy of my calling. My wish for 2021 is that everyone in the region will spend time with this theme and grow spiritually through the process.

Formation Conference, November 7, 2020
Fraternity and Formation During a Pandemic

Jack Sheridan, OFS

“Our model for Fraternity is the Holy Trinity. The Father and the Son are eternally co-producing their love for each other. That love between the Father and the Son is the Holy Spirit.”

The conference began with the Liturgy of the Hours led by Roberta Oliveira and other members from St. Francis Fraternity, Milton MA.

After a brief overview by Stephen Shields about using Zoom, Jack Sheridan introduced the theme for the day: to share experiences of how we continued to maintain fraternity during the pandemic.

The first presentation was given by Francine Gikow, member of the regional formation team and a member of the national formation team. She described how fraternity is modeled on the Trinity. It is hard to capture her beautiful thoughts that set the tone for the rest of the day. Here are a few points:

- The Father and Son are eternally co-producing their love for each other.
- That love between the Father and the son is the Holy Spirit.

- The Trinity is a fraternity of love.
- Jesus, as man, was not alone. He had a Holy Family.
- Pope Paul the VI called Nazareth a school where we begin to understand the life of Jesus, the life of silence and the lesson of family life and work. Lessons from the domestic life of Mary, Joseph and Jesus teach us harmony of love and simplicity.
- Fraternity is domestic Church, a privileged place, a little church,
- The Father called it (the Church and the fraternity, the privileged place where we experience Church) into existence, the son established it, and the Holy Spirit fills it with power and grace.
- Fraternity of professed members, is a school of love, given for each other and for the world.

After her presentation we broke into groups via Zoom. There we shared our experiences on maintaining fraternity and discussed Francine’s talk. Breaking into groups of five using Zoom was a new experience for most of us. The groups were randomly selected and brought a personal touch to the Zoom experience.

Stephen Shields did the wrap up based on the “chat” in Zoom. Steve Recommended that fraternities should support Zoom financially. Theresa offered financial support from the Regional council if the fraternity is unable to do that.

After a short break we returned to share best practices, our second conference. Roberta Oliveira shared how her fraternity has used zoom for prayer and other meetings. Francine Gikow shared on a small group method to keep connected. Sue Hardy shared how her fraternity used simultaneous in-person and zoom meetings

After lunch Sandra Thomson led us in prayer “Francis and Scripture.”

The 3rd session we had a Q & A session and we continued to share best practices from other fraternities. One particular group of questions focused on how you handle Ceremonies of Introduction and Welcoming for those entering Inquiry, Rite of Admission for those entering Candidacy, and Rite of Profession. Guidelines can be found on the national website, secualfranciscanusa.com.

Alice Aubuchon ended the meeting with prayer “Francis and Prayer.”

I would like to thank the formation team and the presenters for all the work they did in preparing and conducting this conference and all of you who attended and enriched the day by your presence.

A Message from The Regional JPIC Animator

Charles Falla, OFS

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I pray everyone is well and that you and your loved ones had a very Merry Christmas. I also hope everyone is staying healthy and safe with the ongoing Pandemic.

I would like to share the following from a recent homily, given by Pastor Father Michael Della Penna, OFM, of St. Leonard of Port Maurice Parish in the North End of Boston. 'I keep hearing that Christmas is very different this year. It actually is not. It never changes. Christmas is always about Jesus, and celebrating his birthday.'

I agree with Father Michael... his words resonated with me. Christmas has not changed. It is still about the love we share. It is about Jesus as the truth, the way, and life. At this time, we need to continue to grow closer to him. We can do this in prayer, trusting him to work within us, strengthening our faith. He will teach us how to learn to love more. He wants us to be just like him... to imitate him. In living the Gospel let us continue to open our hearts, surrender and trust in Jesus daily. In doing this, we will receive his mercy.

I pray for everyone; that you will be blessed with good health, joy, peace, and may God bless you always. Happy New Year!

After 15 years as JPIC animator, Charles has stepped down to concentrate on his parish work. Thank you, Charles, for your faithful service!

Update on the Sabino Family's Immigration Status

Kim Tison, OFS

Immigration at last notified Bakhita that she could begin completing the visa process for Frances, Severine and Gloria. The complicated process of gathering financial records for the government took four months.

As sponsor for our Sudanese family, transcripts of my tax returns for the last three years were required, in addition to copies of my birth certificate and passport, proof of my income for the last four months as well as a copy of my current employment contract with the Biddeford School Department and expenses. Sponsor papers entail more than twelve pages of financial disclosure.

Bakhita has the same amount of paperwork including all of her financials and proof that her mother, Mary, and younger brother Augustino, have no income.

Bakhita's Immigration attorney scrutinized her submission, searching for mistakes of omission before she mailed all documentation to the National Visa Center in the United States a month ago. She is now waiting for the Center to

approve what she sent.

Upon approval, the Visa Center sets up her family interview date on very short notice at the American Embassy in Nairobi. Bakhita then has a small window of time to travel to Kenya to meet her brother Frances, sister Severine, and surviving niece Gloria in Nairobi where she will act as interpreter.

A medical examination for each person is required two weeks prior to the interview in the medical facility of the Embassy. All natives of South Sudan awaiting immigration are processed only at the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi.

During their interview Bakhita will be interpreting. All documents will be scrutinized, including applications, medical, and sponsor documentation. When the Consul decides that all is in order, the United States Embassy will issue their visas a few days later. Upon notification of permission to immigrate, a small window of time for flights to be booked from Kenya to Boston occurs. Bakhita and her three remaining family members will travel from Nairobi with her to America.

The process of getting her sister, her brother and her niece to the US will involve a significant expense for travel, lodging, food, transportation and the necessary medical checkups. After setting up the interview at the Embassy, Bakhita will be able to provide the Region with estimates to see where we can help.

Bakhita sends prayers heavenward daily for all our Regional members. Her thankfulness is everlasting.

Regional Formation Team

Theresa Pratt, Regional Minister
Alice Aubuchon, Regional Spiritual Assistant
Sandra Thompson, Regional Spiritual Assistant
Jack Sheridan, Regional Formation Director

District Formation Directors

Tom Giblin, District 1
Stephen Shields, District 2
Pat Brandwein- Ball, District 3
Teresa Baker, District-4
Francine Gikow, District-5
Jack McDermott, District 6

The Herald

52 Frederick St Unit 18,
Dracut, MA 01826

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Schedule of Newsletter Deadlines:
Summer 2021 Issue: June 15, 2021
Winter 2021/2022 Issue—December 31, 2021

Faith and Racial Equity

Joe Makley, OFS

During the Summer of 2020, I attended a course called *Faith and Racial Equity*, facilitated by Carolyn Townes, our national JPIC animator. The participants were members of the national JPIC commission, joined by members of the National Executive Council. The content came from JustFaith ministries. Carolyn's facilitation allowed for everyone to have a say, to share stories, and also to learn a great deal about the effects of structural racism. We prayed. We read the books from the series, but also heard voices from a guest speaker and a number of short video segments. The intention was for us to use this experience at the national level to create further learning opportunities in our regions and local fraternities.

I have heard from a few members who questioned our involvement in racial equity. "Why should the JPIC commission or the NEC presume to educate me about racism?" Well, we don't do it because it's easy, or because every member wants to hear about it. We do it because the seculars in the US, through our apostolates, have historically and naturally been a part of the movement for racial justice, and current events have italicized the unfinished state of that effort. In the words of the US Bishops: "People are still being harmed, so action is still needed."¹ In their 2018 pastoral letter, *Open Wide our Hearts*, they further compare inaction on racism to a "sin of omission."² It's time to refresh and re-animate, in the spirit of ongoing conversion.

I won't duplicate the detailed summary of these issues provided in the Fall 2020 issue of the TAU, (the one with the planet Earth on the cover) by the Mother Cabrini region,³ or the excellent history by William Wicks⁴ in the same issue. I am on my fourth re-reading of those. There is a basic message: Racism continues to hurt people of color. We need to hear this, to understand it better, and to be more visible in our work against it. We all have our long-held opinions, our stories, and our preferred media, but there is much, much more we can learn. If we are to honor the cries of our brothers and sisters of color, education must also lead to action, as it did with our *Action for Interracial Understanding* apostolate in the early sixties.⁵

If I could get you to read just one book, it would be *I'm Still Here*, by Austin Channing Brown. When you throw out a term like white privilege, the inevitable pushback comes from the need for a shared definition of that term. When my OFS brother said to me "structural racism doesn't exist," it is likely he had a different understanding from the people who experience it every day. If you are indoors, you can deny, if you wish, that it is raining. If you are outside being rained on, this is a privilege you do

not have. Structural racism may be a point of argument for white people, but for people of color, it is simply a fact of their environment.

I was an English teacher in the 80s in rural Maine, and having come from an urban setting, I was shocked at the cluelessness of the students on racial issues. They were still attending minstrel shows in blackface. In my classroom closet I found a stack of old paperbacks of Howard Griffin's *Black Like Me*, blew the dust off and handed them out. This summer I saw a Black Lives Matter march in Bethel, a small and very white town up the road. That surprised me and it gives me hope. It also reminds me that working against racism is more than just being worldly and educated and knowing what not to say, and that my own contributions have been insufficient, to put it kindly.

So, I am ready to begin again, seeking to understand and to walk a mile with our brothers and sisters of color. A proposal will be forthcoming at the regional level for JPIC animators and other interested members. Let us pray, and ask questions, read books and listen to stories. Let us work toward a new solidarity and see what actions may ensue from a shared faith, expressed in love.

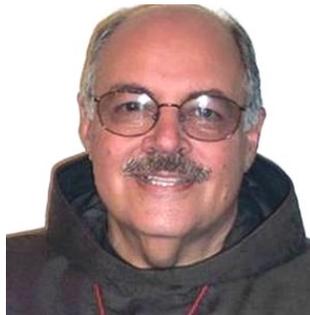
¹*Open Wide Our Hearts, the enduring call to love: a pastoral letter against racism*. 2018, United States Conference of catholic Bishops, Washington DC. P.7

²Ibid, P.4

³TAU-USA, Fall 2020. "Racism-What's a Secular Franciscan to Do?" P.9

⁴TAU-USA, Fall 2020. "Race Relations and the Secular Franciscan Order," P. 12

Passing of Father Gerald ("Jerry") DiGiralamo



Fr. Jerry DiGiralamo, S.A., died peacefully at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Boston on Sunday, December 20, 2020, at the age of 75. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1981. Fr. Jerry was a Franciscan Friar of the Atonement for 60 years, and worked for 12 years in the

Archdiocese of Boston as Director of the Chapel of Our Savior, where he served as Associate Pastor and Guardian/Director.

Fr. Jerry was the Spiritual Assistant for Blessed Lucius Fraternity in Brockton, who meet in the Chapel of Our Savior. He was much loved, and will be very much missed by the fraternity and the region.

Franciscan Youth and Young Adult Update

Heather Cherniack, OFS

This year has been quite a busy year. We had our first National Animator training. This Region now has three new trained Animators. Lynette Dobbs, OFS has been kind of enough to submit an article about what this was like.

We also have a new YouFra Regional Spiritual Assistant. Fr. Joseph Powell, OFM, who is at St. Thomas Aquinas in Derry, NH has agreed to take this position and the Immaculate Conception Province has agreed to allow it.

We did have a great Advent Holy Spirits Series which was virtual and highlighted some of the themes of Fratelli Tutti. This should soon be available on the Regional website.

Below is a statement from our National YouFra (FY/YA) Commission. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to your Regional Animator, Heather Cherniack, OFS at 781-408-1023.

“But any kind of social or cultural discrimination in basic personal rights on the grounds of sex, race, color, social conditions, language, or religion, must be curbed and eradicated as incompatible with God's design.” (Gaudium Et Spes: The Church in the Modern World, Vatican II, 1965, #29)

Statement from the United States Secular Franciscan Youth and Young Adult Commission Regarding Racism and Our Responsibility to Young People

Saint Francis of Assisi devoted his life to rebuilding the Church, healing wounds, and bringing peace as well as dignity to all. Secular Franciscans are called to follow in his footsteps. Living Christ-centered lives is essential especially in light of racism that permeates our society. We are called to seek the divine seed in all God's children and strive for unity. Racism only brings hatred where there should be love and is counter to our Franciscan charism.

The Franciscan Youth and Young Adult (FY/YA) Commission challenges our brothers and sisters to animate young people in this important work. In order to do that, we must prepare ourselves first. Recent events have forced all of us to identify systemic racism in society. It is not enough to simply say this is a problem for someone else. The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, which we profess to live, demands that we “be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of [our] human lives and [our] courageous initiatives.” (art. 15) We see many young people already participating in social justice action and they need our presence, Christian example, and support. It is important that young people

know their stance against racism is valid. Secular Franciscans are called to help them discern an appropriate response based on a gospel perspective. Through study, dialogue, and prayer we have a responsibility to grow in our own Franciscan charism and our knowledge of Catholic Social Teaching. Only then can we walk confidently with our young people as we confront difficult issues together.

We are specifically directed by our Rule to “foster communion with” youth and young adults, and to adopt “appropriate means for growth in Franciscan and ecclesial life.” (art. 24) In other words, we invite youth and young adults on the journey toward finding Christ within themselves and others. They are hungry for change. Secular Franciscans need to be ready to support young people as they discern their role in society, the Church, and the world.

Some Secular Franciscans may not currently be working with official youth fraternities (YouFra). However, genuine relationships found in our families, among our friends, and in our fraternities should not be discounted. When the Holy Spirit creates an opportunity for dialogue or action, we need not be afraid. If we are properly prepared, we are able to listen with openness in our hearts and speak truth with love and peace, “For the Holy Spirit will teach [us] at that moment what [we] should say.” (Luke 12:12)

This is a time to work together in assisting our youth and young adults in achieving their own goals against the evils of racism. The FY/YA Commission is committed to educating ourselves then stepping forward in solidarity with our young people, remaining faithful to our Franciscan spirituality. We ask that you consider the same challenge.

Fr. Joseph Powell, OFM, Appointed Spiritual Assistant for the Regional FY/YA Commission



Fr. Joe Powell, OFM, pictured here with Heather Cherniack, OFS, Regional FY/YA Animator, will serve as Spiritual Assistant to Region's FY/YA Commission.

Fr. Joe celebrated his Solemn Vows while at his first assignment at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Derry, NH.

He was ordained a priest at St. Thomas in 2015 and after three years of ministry at various parishes in Canada, he has returned to St. Thomas Aquinas as Administrator.

Fr. Joe says, “I look forward to being part of the Regional YouFra movement. Happy New Year and God's blessings!” Thank you, Fr. Joe!

National FY/YA Animator Training

Lynette Dobbs, OFS

From July 13th to September 21st, approximately 35 professed members from around the United States gathered weekly via zoom to learn about Franciscan Youth and Young Adult programs and to share their personal experiences and insights. A couple of us from our fraternity decided to attend, mostly out of curiosity; after all, we are small and not even established yet. Every week brought new insight as our minds filled with ways to bring what we were learning to life.

So why would youth and young adult ministry concern us? After all, God led us to Him, surely He'll lead them. Won't He?

Have you looked around your parishes lately and taken note of how many young people are in the pews? What I mean by young are those ages 14-35. Some parishes are overflowing with youth and young adults; yet I would suspect that most would have a hard time finding more than a handful of young people among the more prevalent older people in the pews.

Why is this?

For many of us we can remember what our society looked like 50 years ago. It was a much different place back then. There was still an abundance of churches that catered to certain neighborhoods defined by nationality, race, employment and other things that served as a community hub for the neighborhood. Extended families were still common in many places with 3 generations under one roof. Christian values were throughout mainstream media with shows like "Leave it to Beaver" or radio with Cardinal Fulton Sheen. Catholic schools were abundant as were religious who often taught at these schools having a great influence on those attending.

Many of these dynamics that were once abundant in our society are seen less today if at all in some places. Without the support of these, many of our young are influenced by a secular culture that appears to be turning away from God at great speeds. No wonder we are seeing less youth and young adults in many of our parishes.

Just as St. Francis was called to "rebuild the Church", so are we! But how?

We learned many things during these weeks together. Among them was the importance of meeting young people where they are at on their journey. Three elements sat at the core of needs when working with groups of youth or young adults. The first is PRAYER as we encourage their search for a personal relationship with God. FORMATION is also important. Not in the sense of teacher/student; but rather with openness and shared

questions. Thirdly, social justice is particularly important. Young people want ACTION not just talk and getting information about issues.

Often fraternities are made up of 'well-seasoned' people. Some may even believe they are too old to reach out to the younger generations. I do not remember the exact wording, but as someone put it, "when the old and the young get together, the result can be a new beautiful!" There is a lot to be said for that. Young people have a lot to offer. They may do things differently, but still are searching for God as many of us have. Although it may be in different ways, different doesn't necessarily mean wrong. It's just means different. We as older adults have much to offer them such as gentle guidance, much listening and mentoring. By guiding, listening, mentoring and letting the Holy Spirit lead, we can help bring youth and young adults back into our parishes, perhaps even into our fraternities someday.

It is important to remember that ministering to youth and young adults is not making 'little Franciscans'. There is an opportunity for YouFra groups to form; however, it is important to start by simply entering into relationship with young people and helping them on their journey to enter into a relationship with Christ, our Lord.

How do we do this?

It can be as simple as engaging with young people you meet in everyday life such as family and friends. Your fraternity may assist or help with youth ministry. Our fraternity has considered doing a one session program from Catholic Climate Covenant with the youth ministry program. Perhaps inviting youth and/or young adults to join you in a project. Your fraternity may be able to assist young adults in developing and providing a prayerful event for other young adults in the area. Our region has sponsored Holy Spirits which has brought young adults together to talk about subjects pertinent to living their faith day to day in a secular world that promotes values different than those of the church.

The list of ideas is plentiful. Find out who the young people are in your parish and what their needs are. By starting here, you just may be surprised at how easy it is to help them come together and grow in their relationship with Christ.

If we are to participate in repairing the Church as St. Francis did, then we must support those who are the future of the Church. We can depend on society to have the same influence on our youth and young adults as it did in the past. This ministry falls on all of us and can bring so many rewards to the Church, future generations and ourselves.

St. Elizabeth of Hungary
Regional Fraternity
of the Secular Franciscan Order
52 Frederick Street, Unit 18
Dracut, MA 01826

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Requiescat in Pace

St. Anthony, Manchester NH

Lucille Aubert—9/25/2020

Rita Kelley—7/27/2020

Joan Kozinski—9/20/2020

St. Anthony, Roxbury MA

Helen Dennis—4/18/2020

Constance McGrath—11/12/2020

Kate Rodrigues—9/17/2020

St. Mary of the Portiuncula, Hanover MA

Kevin Ward—1/18/2020

Blessed Lucius, Brockton MA

Fr. Jerry DiGiralamo—12/20/2020

St. Francis of Assisi, Lewiston ME

Mickey Madori—11/11/2020

St. Mary of the Portiuncula—Hanover MA

Anna Moran—8/7/2020

Bruce Peters—8/15/2020

James Sheehan—9/8/2020

St. Francis, Tewksbury MA

Susan DeQuattro—6/13/2020

St. Francis of Assisi, Lynn MA

Elaine Bennett—7/27/2020

Lauretta Cormier—7/29/2020

St. Francis of Assisi, Medford MA

Jean Mernin—10/11/2020

St. Anthony, Nashua NH

Martha Corriveau—9/16/2020

Patricia Golding—7/15/2020

Sacred Heart, Plattsburgh NH

Shirley Phillips—10/7/2020

7 Joys of the BVM, Kennebunk ME

Cecile DuBois—10/31/2020

St. Michael & the 9 Choirs of Angels, Rochester NH

Marie Boucher—7/23/2020

Diane Fells—1/1/2021

St. Joseph, Berlin NH

Annie Bergeron—12/3/2020

Norman Roy—10/17/2020

Mission Statement

The Mission of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Region of the Secular Franciscan Order is to proclaim and witness to the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, inspired by the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, by promoting and supporting the local fraternities in the Northern New England area.

Together, through the lives of diverse Catholic men and women in local fraternities, we profess commitment to these ideals. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we strive to humbly serve all people, especially the poor and forgotten.

We celebrate joyfully the gift of life in all creation and recognize God's living presence in the world.

Upcoming Events

Regional Retreat 2021	TBD-Virtual Conference
Formation Conference 2021	TBD-Virtual Retreat
Franciscan Day 2021	8/28/2021
Regional Chapter 2021 (Visitation & Election)	11/5-7/2021

Jubilarians

St. Anthony, Manchester NH

60 years professed

Lucille Pinard, OFS—5/9/1951

St. Bernard, Leominster MA

50 years professed

Horace Turner, OFS—1/15/1961

Congratulations!

Cover Photo: Borderland State Park, Sharon MA,
by Theresa Pratt, OFS