

State of the Order 2024

**OFS-USA Chapter
Franciscan Renewal Center
Scottsdale, Arizona
September 18, 2024**

**Jane DeRose-Bamman OFS
National Minister, OFS-USA
on behalf of the National Executive Council (NEC)**





**WE ARE
CALLED TO:**

ANIMATE

AND

GUIDE



VOCATIONS

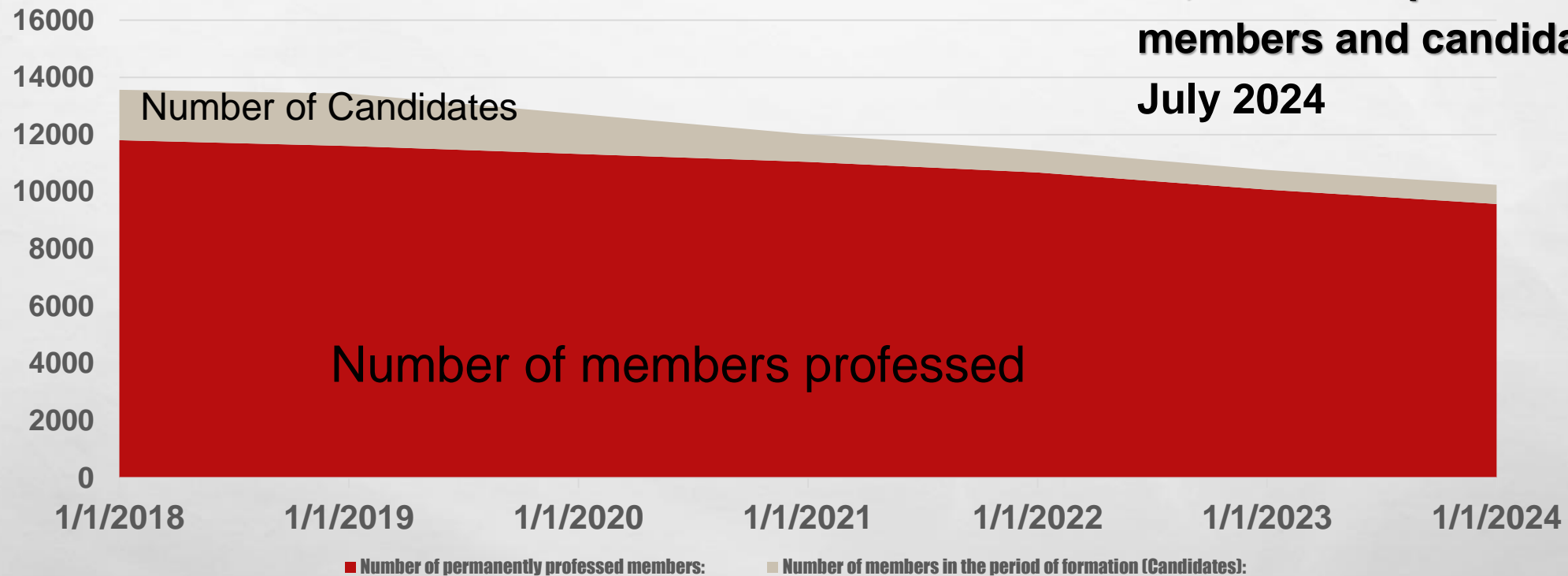


OFS International Councilors from around the world on a trip to Mount LaVerna

VOCATIONS

Number of OFS and Candidates 2018 – July 2024

**10,232 active professed
members and candidates as of
July 2024**



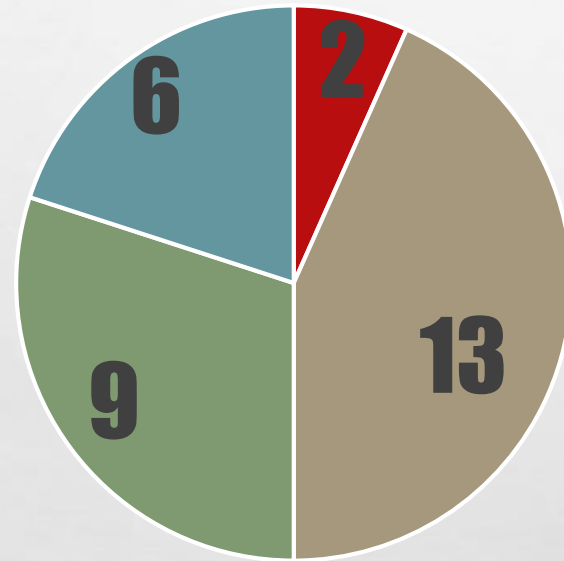
ARE WE GROWING OR SHRINKING?

- **25 Regions decreased - maximum 70-member decrease (1.7% - 23.8% decrease)**
- **5 regions increased - maximum 34-member increase (6.5% to 9.7% increase)**

ARE WE GROWING OR SHRINKING?

- Each region has Candidates, Aspirants, and Seekers
6 – 98
- Potential 5% to 24% increase

BREAKDOWN OF REGIONS BY TOTAL MEMBERS



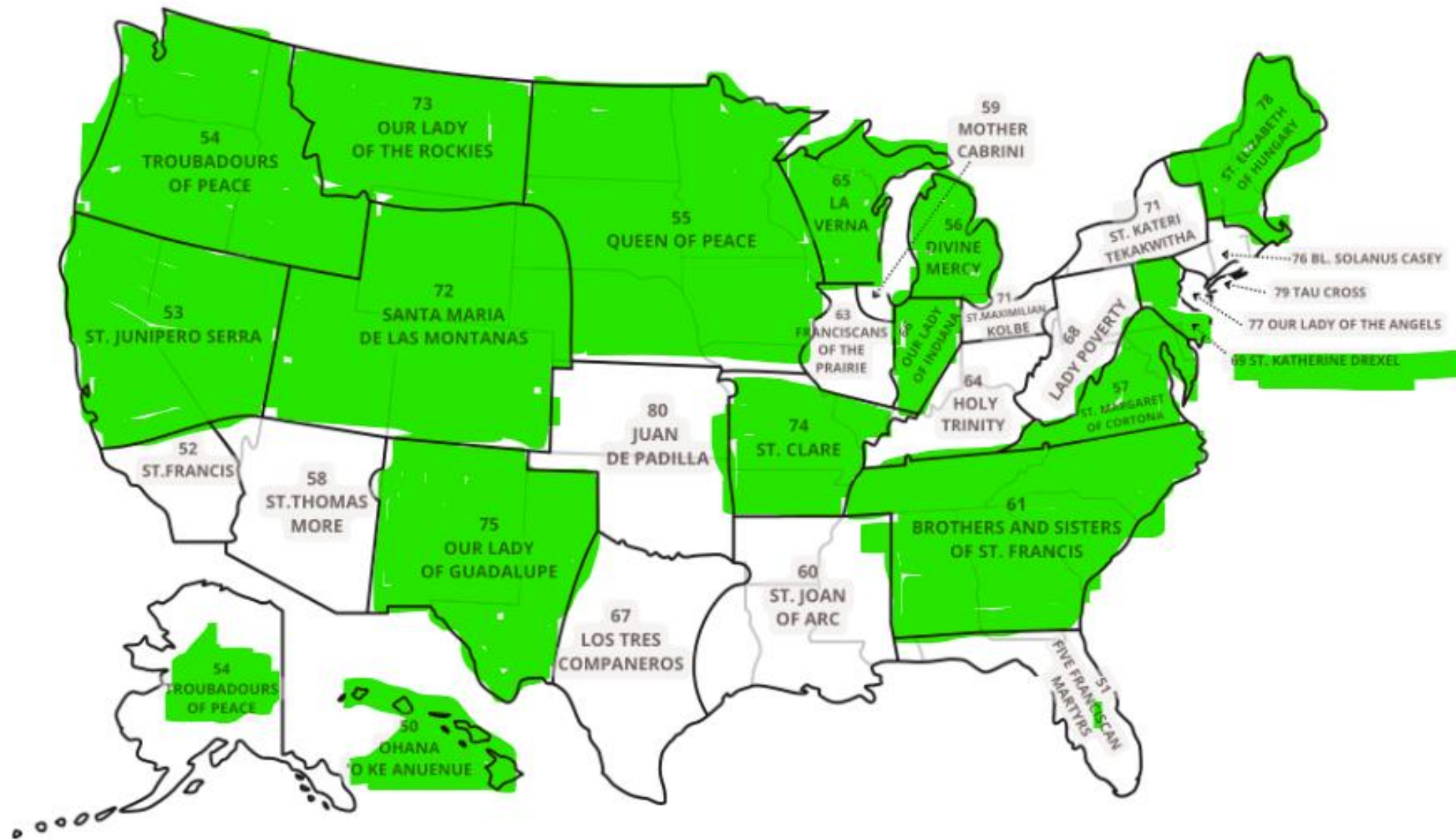
- <100
- 101 to 300
- 301 to 500
- 501+

VOCATIONS

Fraternities

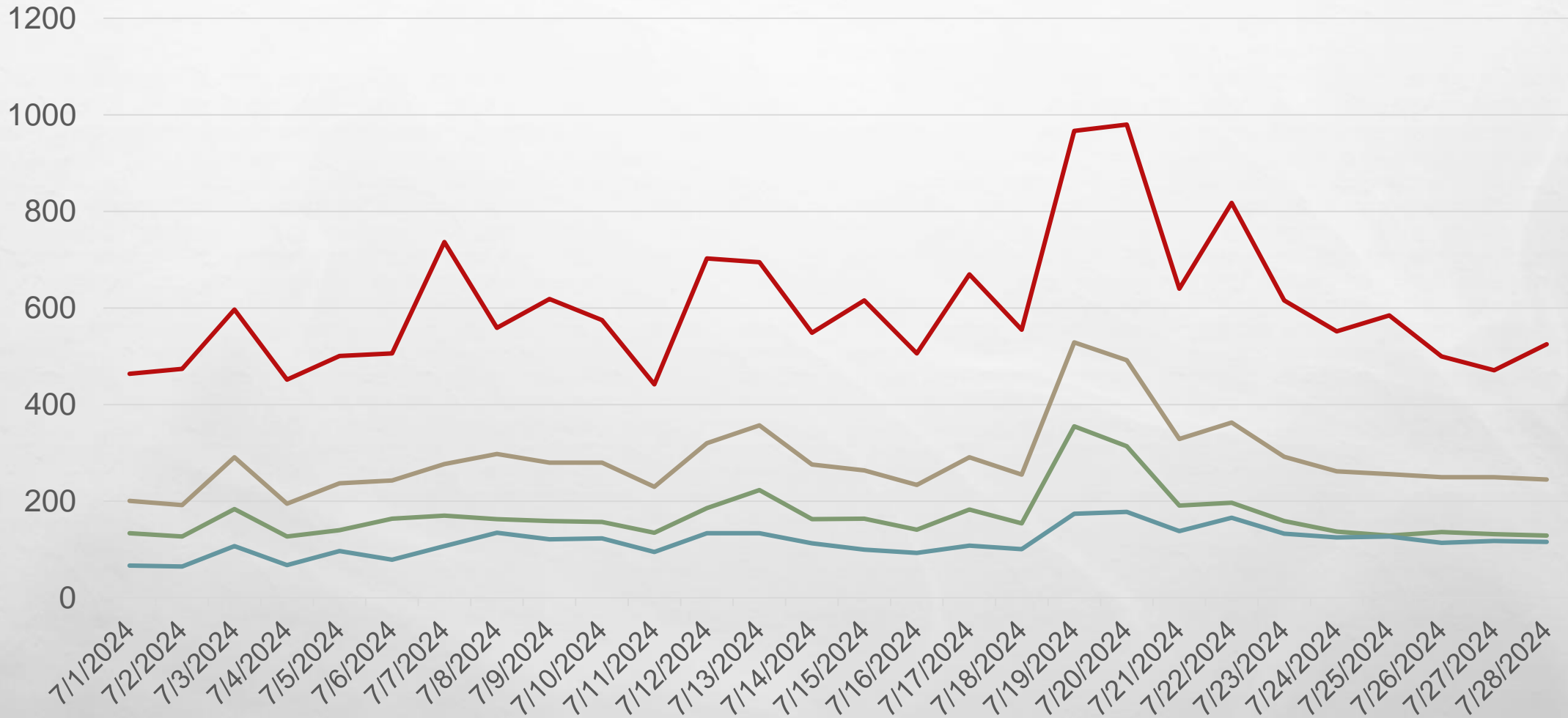
- **Deactivations –**
 - **13 deactivated Fraternities in 2023**
- **Emerging Communities and Newly Forming Groups –**
 - **22 active EC or NFG**

Regions with Emerging Communities or Newly Forming Groups



OFS-USA Website Activity

July 2024



— Page Views — Unique Visits — First Time Visits — Returning Visits

Promoting Vocations –

- **Participation in the 10th annual Eucharistic Congress**

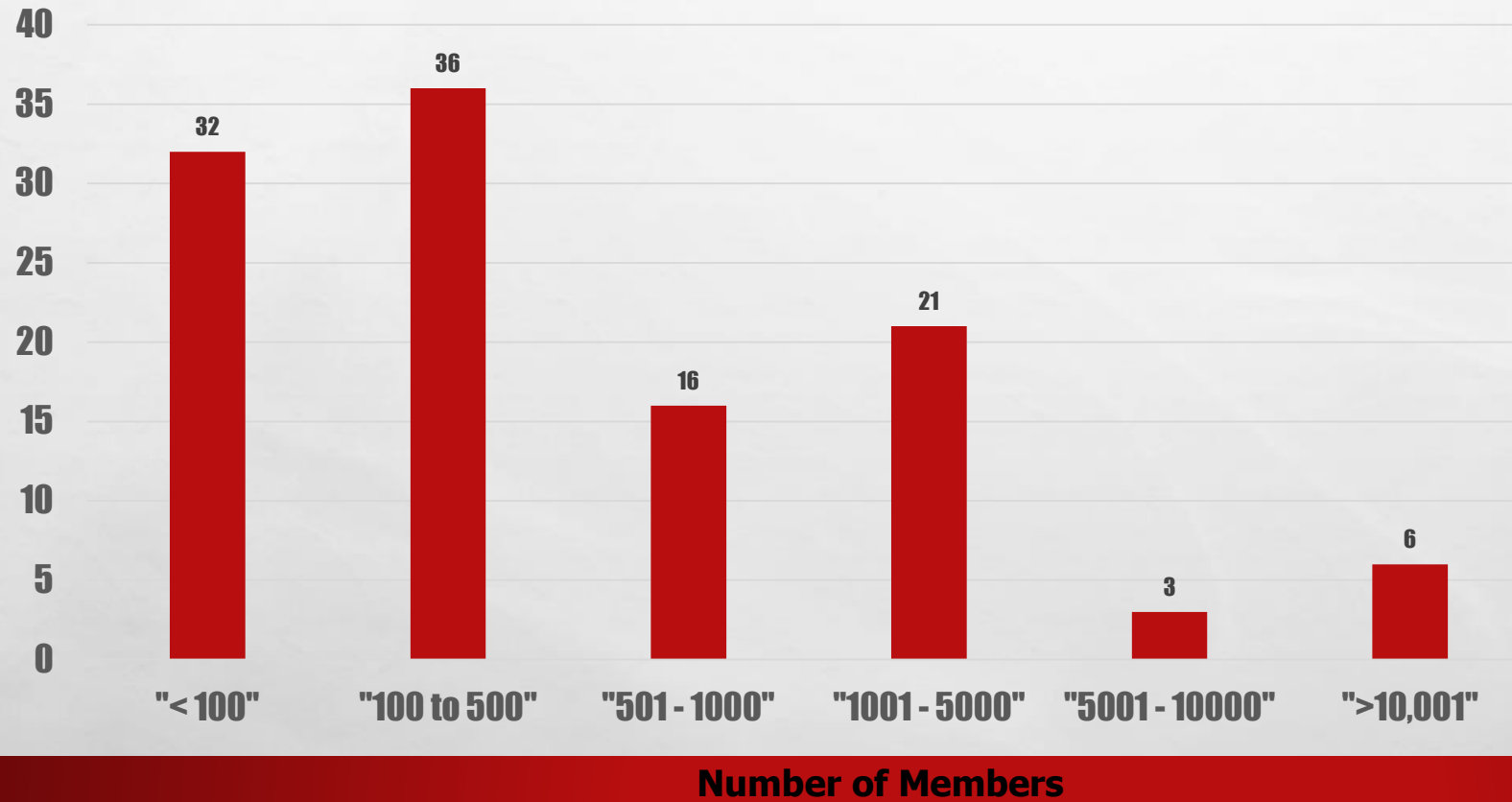


NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Congress**

VOCATIONS

How does it compare worldwide?

National Fraternities Worldwide



National Fraternity	Number of Members
Italy	18304
Mexico	15879
India	15200
Korea	14264
Brazil	13622
USA	12240

COMMUNICATIONS



COMMUNICATIONS

- **Recent achievements and continued efforts**





Secular Franciscan Order - USA

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The Secular Franciscan Order was established by St. Francis of Assisi more than 800 years ago. Our purpose is to bring the Gospel to life where we live and where we work. We look for ways to embrace the Gospel in our lives and try to help others to do likewise.

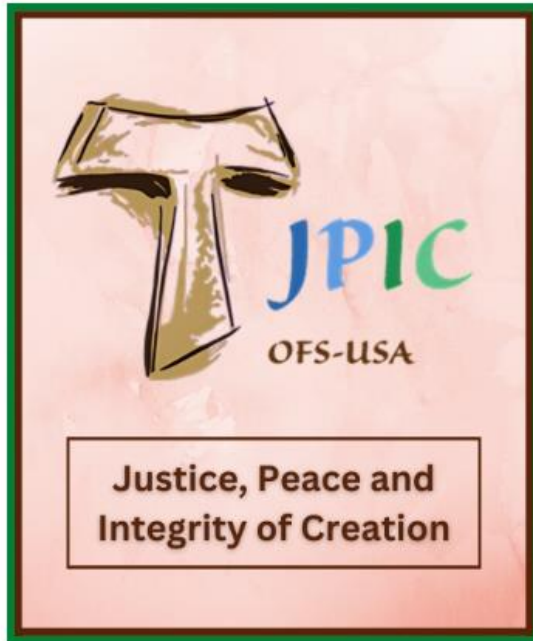
Gospel to Life Bookstore - 🔍 👤 🛒

now open!

Introducing ...
The New

The Ritual of the Secular Franciscan

JPIC



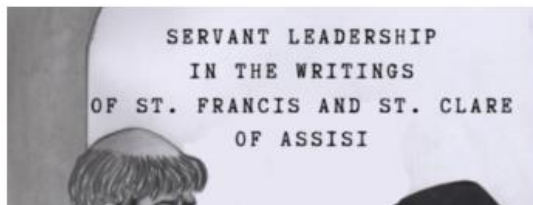
ECUMENICAL / INTERFAITH



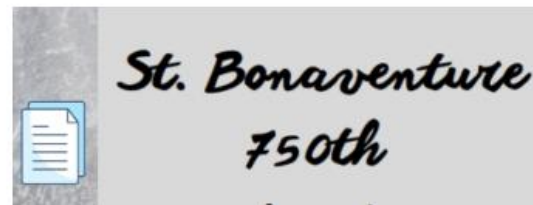
QUINQUENNIAL CONGRESS



FORMATION-CIOFS (EN-ES)



FORMATION-CIOFS (EN-ES)



CIOFS LETTER (EN-ES)





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Regional Contacts and Map

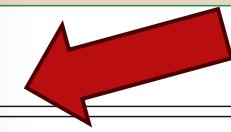
Are you called to the Secular Franciscan Life?

Find a Fraternity near you

Regional Contacts and Map

Frequently Asked Questions

Send Us a Message



List of Regional Contacts

If you are viewing this list on a small screen, it may be necessary to scroll to see the regional contact in

the region's name.

A map of the OFS-USA regions can be found below this list.

Region	Regional Contact	Email Address	Regional Website
Blessed Solanus Casey (76)	Joseph Krans	contact@solanuscaseregionofs.org	https://www.solanuscaseregionofs.org/
Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis (61)	Ellen Ferrone	ellenferrone@gmail.com	http://www.bssfsfo.org/
Divine Mercy (56)	Kathleen Carsten	kathleencarstio@gmail.com	https://divinemercuryregionofs.org/



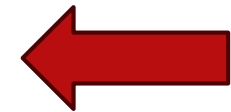
Secular Franciscan Order - USA

Map of Local Fraternities

A list of contact persons is below interactive map.

A map of our regions can be found at the bottom of the page.

If you notice any inaccuracies, please send an email to MapAdmin@secularfranciscansusa.org.



Quick Start Instructions:

- Use the map below like any Google map to find your location.
- Zoom out to see the local fraternities in the vicinity indicated by markers that look like the purple one to the right.
- Click on any marker to find the name of the fraternity, where it meets, and the region it belongs to.
- Once you know this, you can use the list of Region Contacts below the map to get additional, more detailed information.



[+ Click Here for Detailed Instructions](#)

Sources for Secular Franciscan Books and Supplies



Gospel to Life Bookstore

The revised **Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order** is available for pre-orders. See the new online bookstore to order all our offerings:

<https://gospel-to-life-bookstore.square.site/>


Email: GospelToLifeBookstore@gmail.com

Smoky Valley Printing

Many important Secular Franciscan books, manuals, and documents are available via mail/phone order from Smoky Valley Printing

- To view or print the order form download: [Smoky Valley order form](#)
- Payment must accompany the order. Check or money order only.
- **If necessary, prepayment can be waived on bulk orders.** Please consult OFS-USA Treasurer Claudia Kauzlarich at claudiakauz.sfo@gmail.com

Smoky Valley Printing



Printable Books and Materials

- [Servant Leader's Handbook 2024 edition](#)
- [Updated changes to the 2010 edition of the Servant Leader's Handbook](#)

IQ Fast Print

For Up to Now, the national formation manual (also known as **The FUN Manual**), can be purchased from IQ Fast Print at <http://iqfastprint.com/for-up-to-now.html>. The package includes an unbound, three-hole punched book and a CD. It is available in English or Spanish. Please allow 5-6 days for delivery.



TAU-USA
Summer 2024 Issue 112

A PUBLICATION OF THE
NATIONAL FRATERNITY OF THE
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

WE ARE LOVE



Mission to Share the Vision

The TAU-USA, a publication of the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States, is a vital communication link between the OFS-USA members, candidates and all professed Secular Franciscans throughout the United States. It is intended to inform, inspire, and challenge.

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Sally Parnock Chisley, OFS |
| | | | | CFSA President-in-turn
Fr. John De La Riva, OFM Cap |
| | | | | Conference of National
Spiritual Assistants:
Fr. Christopher Paragolis, TDM
Fr. Jerome Vincent, OFM
Fr. John De La Riva, OFM Cap
Fr. Sarah Taylor, OFM Conv |

TAU-USA
Summer
2024

COMMUNICATIONS



- **Communications Summit**
 - **Met virtually three times**

COMMUNICATIONS



- **Communications Committee**

- **Website**
- **Database**
- **Tau USA**
- **Vocations/1-800-FRANCIS**

- **Translations**
- **Multicultural**
- **Social Media**
- **Accessibility**

COMMUNICATIONS



- **Communications Summit**
 - **protocol/procedures for consistency in communications representing OFS-USA**
 - **Establish guidelines for social media**
 - **Confirm process for translations of documents**

Regions with Fraternities/Groups with Primary Language Other than English



COMMUNICATIONS

- **Communications Summit**
 - **Bulk emails**
 - **Facebook posting – tweaked based on accessibility suggestions**
 - **Translation of transfer document**



COMMUNICATIONS

- **Commission Workshops**
- **Meet and Greet with new
Regional Executive Councils (RECs)**
- **Guidelines – clarifying topics**

RELATIONSHIPS



***“Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?
And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said,
‘Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever
does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and
sister and mother.’”***

Matthew 12:48-50

RELATIONSHIPS

- **Quarterly NAFRA Council Meetings (October 2023, April 2024 and July 2024)**
- **Within the Order**
 - **Visitations – 6**
 - **Elections - 8 (plus three more this year)**
- **YouFRA**

RELATIONSHIPS

- **International participation**
 - **attendance at Chapter**
 - **participation on the Int'l Formation Secretariat**
 - **General Vice Minister**
- **Participation in the Korean Congress**

WHAT ELSE?



ISSUES OR PROJECTS FOR NAVIGATION

- Requests from Regions – Issues
 - 4 Regions have recommended dismissal of a member
 - Councils in Conflicts
 - In Person vs Virtual Participation
 - Records retention

PUBLICATIONS

- Ritual
 - Updated August 2024
 - New Look
 - Plan to translate key rites and ceremonies into Spanish and possibly Korean
 - Planning fillable booklets for Rite of admission and rite of profession

- National Formation Commission is pilot testing first book for initial formation

FUTURE

- Preparation for 2026 Q
- Additional servant leadership workshops
- Chapter of elections in sept 2025

CHAPTER 2025 PREPARATION

- **National Statutes Article 11**
- **Chapter of Elections – 9/13/2025**
- **Slate of Candidates – 7/13/2025**
- **Nominations Committee – 5/13/2025**

CHAPTER 2025 PREPARATION

- **potential persons to serve as Nominations Committee Chairs by November 1, 2024.**
- **Notified CIOFS and CAS regarding date of election – 06/14/2024**
- **Audit of Financials (GC Art. 54.3 and 66.2(I); N.S. Article 4.5) - prior to the elective chapter.**

