



National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order USA (OFS-USA)

2018 ANNUAL REPORT to CIOFS

According to the articles 51.2b, 62.2g and 66.2h GGCC, the OFS Fraternities send an annual report to the higher-level Fraternity. Please complete the questionnaire and send it to the Presidency before April 1st.

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **This report describes the last year, which was:** 2018
2. **This is the report of the National Fraternity of:** USA
3. **Report made by (name):**
National Minister Jan Parker, OFS (contact) ofsusaminister@gmail.com
National Vice-Minister, Mary Bittner, OFS (contact) mbittner@umich.edu
4. **Date of last National Elective Chapter:** October 2018
5. **Date of last Fraternal Visit:** November 2016
6. **Date of last Pastoral Visit:** November 2016
7. **Postal address of the National Council:**
National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order USA
1615 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202-6492
8. **Was there a change in the composition of the National Council during the last year? If so, what changed and why?** None other than from regularly scheduled elections.
9. **If there is an Executive Council: was there a change in the composition in the last year? If so, what changed and why?**

A new Executive Council was elected in October 2018.

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Minister: | Jan Parker OFS | ofsusaminister@gmail.com |
| Vice-minister: | Mary Bittner OFS | mbittner@umich.edu |
| Secretary: | Jane DeRose-Bamman OFS | ofsusasecretary@gmail.com |
| Treasurer: | Claudia Kauzlarich OFS | claudiakauz.sfo@gmail.com |
| International Councilor: | Awilda Guadalupe OFS | awilda.guadalupe@gmail.com |
| Councilor: | Donna Hollis OFS | donnadancerfeet@aol.com |
| Councilor: | Josh Molidor OFS | joshuamolidor@yahoo.com |
| Councilor: | Dennis Ross OFS | dennisross212@gmail.com |
| | Fr. Christopher Panagoplos TOR | XtoferTOR@aol.com |
| | President-in-turn, Conference of National Spiritual Assistants | |

10. **Did you get by purchase/donation/inheritance or sell/donate/lose assets/properties during the last year? If so, please give a short description.** The National Council receives ongoing donations from its OFS members throughout the year. They are earmarked for different causes, among them, disaster relief, formation training, and our CIOFS Solidarity Fund. We also received some small bequests from our members, but not a major one.

11. **Do you have questions/requests/suggestions to the Presidency? This can be with regard to any subject!**

11.1 On October 15, 2016 the CIOFS Presidency sent four supporting documents to provide guidelines for Art. 58, Art.76.2/94.5, Art. 77.2, and Art. 81.3 of the General Constitutions. Some sections of these supporting documents were difficult to understand. Might you review the translation and consider using simpler language?

11.2 Our National Statutes, confirmed by the International Presidency on July 24, 2013, state the following:

OFS-USA National Statutes Article 8.6

During those meetings of the National Fraternity Council at which elections occur, the members of the outgoing and of the incoming National Executive Council, *upon election and even prior to formal installation*, are members with full rights of the National Fraternity Council until the end of said meeting.

Our National Fraternity has always interpreted Art. 8.6 as follows: during the election, a non-capitular elected to an Executive Council position immediately joins the electorate. We understand “full rights of the National Fraternity Council” to include the right to vote in the election.

Such a situation occurred during our 2015 National Fraternity elections. This article of our National Statutes was brought to the attention of the Presider and Ecclesial Witness. After conferring with our outgoing National Minister and with the Ecclesial Witness, the Presider made the decision that the newly elected member of the Council would not be allowed to join the electorate.

Please explain your interpretation of this article. Why do “full rights” not include voting?

B. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

| <i>Number of Local/Regional Fraternities in National Fraternity</i> | January 1 last year | December 31 last year |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Canonically established Local Fraternities: | 593 | 586 |
| Emerging Local Fraternities: | 43 | 45 |
| Canonically established but inactive Local Fraternities: | 54 | 54 |
| Regional Fraternities: | 30 | 30 |
| | | |
| <i>In the National Fraternity</i> | January 1 last year | December 31 last year |
| | | |
| Number of permanently professed members: | 11,807 | 11,604 |
| Number of temporary professed members: | --- | --- |
| Number of members in the period of formation: | 1,762 | 1,827 |
| | | |
| Number of Fraternities/groups of Franciscan Youth: | 0 | 0 |
| Number of members of Franciscan Youth: | 0 | 0 |
| | | |
| Number of groups of Franciscan Children: | 0 | 0 |
| Number of Franciscan Children: | 4 | 4 |
| | | |
| Number of OFS Fraternities of permanent deacons: | 0 | 0 |
| Number of OFS permanent deacons: | 96 | 96 |
| | | |
| Number of Fraternities of OFS priests (Const. 35,2): | 0 | 0 |
| Number of OFS diocesan priests: | 30 | 30 |
| | | |
| Number of OFS Bishops: | 0 | 0 |
| | | |
| Number of groups of members with private vows (36 GGCC): | 0 | 0 |
| Number of members with private vows: | 8 | 8 |
| | | |
| <i>Number of Local Spiritual Assistants in the National Fraternity</i> | January 1 last year | December 31 last year |
| OFM: | 96 | 77 |
| OFM Conv: | 33 | 27 |
| OFM Cap: | 54 | 42 |
| TOR: | 17 | 14 |
| Poor Clares: | 7 | 6 |
| 3 rd Order Franciscan religious brothers and sisters: | 64 | 46 |

| | | |
|--|-----|------|
| Other religious brothers and sisters: | 9 | 6 |
| Diocesan priest/deacons: | 46 | 49 |
| Members of OFS: | 95 | 75 |
| TOTAL number of local spiritual assistants: | 421 | 359* |
| Number of Local Fraternities without Spiritual Assistants: | 151 | 147 |

If there is a change in numbers between January 1 and December 31 of the last year of more than 5 %, please give an explanation.

*Note that many of our local spiritual assistants now serve more than one fraternity.

We have been working to find Spiritual Assistants for all our local fraternities. Although we have made some progress, still 25% of local fraternities in the US (the same percentage as one year ago) have no assigned Spiritual Assistant. The shortage of Spiritual Assistants is more acute in certain areas of the country. Eight of our 30 Regions report that eight or more of their local fraternities are without a Spiritual Assistant.

THE NATIONAL FRATERNITY

1. **Did the National Fraternity have special formation projects/activities, and/or pilgrimages, and/or other spiritual activities (retreats, conferences etc.) in the last year? Please give a short description.**

Two significant and very successful formation events were held in 2018.

The first event was a Regional Spiritual Assistant Workshop held August 29 – 30, 2018. It was organized and facilitated by the OFS-USA Conference of National Spiritual Assistants. Presentations included “Build with Living Stones,” “The Role of the Spiritual Assistant — The Call Within the Call — Our Effort, God’s Grace” and “Rules and Guidelines for Selecting and Appointing a Spiritual Assistant.” This event was very well attended.

The second event was a Formation Visioning Workshop, held Aug. 30 to Sept. 2, 2018. There were over 70 attendees including the National Executive Council, the National Formation Commission, Regional Formation Directors, Regional Spiritual Assistants, and twelve invited professed Secular Franciscans with a passion for formation. Our purpose was to strengthen the focus on formation in the USA in response to the challenge set by CIOFS, that came out of the 2017 General Chapter. The event included several inspired presentations, after which we broke into groups to discuss the following pivotal questions:

- What would the ideal Order look like?
- What is God’s direction for the Order?
- Who does God want us to be?

The feedback from the small discussion groups included artistic expressions of the vision. We listed the many ideas and felt a sense of awe at how the Spirit had moved among us.

The next portion of the workshop centered on specific areas which participants chose according to their interests and areas of expertise. These groups discussed the following questions:

- Relative to your topic, what needs to change in order to achieve the vision?

- What will formation in this area look like in light of God’s vision for our Order?

In the weeks following the workshop, the National Formation Commission (NFC), in collaboration with the National Executive Council (NEC), developed a plan to bring this vision to life. In April 2019, a select group of 30 OFS including the NFC and NEC members, will gather to set the plan in motion. Seven or eight task force groups will be developed to implement the particular directives from the Visioning workshop, and those of CIOFS as well, impacting both initial and ongoing formation across our National Fraternity. We expect to re-work the “For Up to Now (FUN) Formation Manual” and bring greater emphasis to the Rule and Constitution, Scripture, Franciscan Sources, Franciscan Spirituality and Fraternity. Multiculturalism, inclusivity and special learning needs are uppermost in our minds as we develop new resources.

Both of the above formation events were funded in part by a grant from the Duns Scotus Secular Franciscan Formation Trust Fund. Grants from this fund also support some regional formation efforts.

Other 2018 formation projects include the review and transfer of all digital formation materials to the new national website; an increase in communication among Regional Formation Directors and formation team members on the NAFRA-FORM List-serv; regular phone calls to individual Regional Formation Directors from Formation Commission members; the completion of an updated version of the Handbook for Formation Directors; ongoing encouragement and support for Formation Directors across the country, and, in conjunction with the Celebration of of the 40th Anniversary of the OFS Rule (see below), encouragement of local and Regional fraternities to emphasize the Rule in their ongoing formation during the yearlong celebration.

2. **Did the National Fraternity have special social projects/activities in the last year? Please give a short description.**

OFS-USA Website

The OFS-USA launched our new website <https://secularfranciscansusa.org> It has many wonderful features and has been very well received.

Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the OFS Rule

The National Fraternity gave special emphasis to the Jubilee Year celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the OFS Rule at our Annual Chapter, as well as at Regional gatherings across the country. In September 2017, the National Fraternity voted to adopt the following as the National Theme for 2018: “Renewed and Confirmed: Live the Treasure! Celebrating 40 years of our OFS Rule.” The General Minister’s June 24, 2018 letter announcing the Jubilee Year, was published in our National newsletter TAU-USA, and was posted on our website. During this Jubilee Year, each issue of the TAU-USA highlighted this celebration of the Rule. We published the “Celebrate the Rule” cards from CIOFS and received much positive feedback. A full list of initiatives as well as many resources to celebrate the Rule were posted on our website: <https://secularfranciscansusa.org/guidelines-forms-other-resources> (Click on 40th Anniversary of the Rule of 1978.)

Special Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Section in TAU-USA

In response to a great need for ongoing formation on JPIC issues, we published a special 9-page section in the Fall 2018 Issue of TAU-USA specifically focused on JPIC as part of our OFS Rule. Topics included:

- Living Our Rule: Justice, Peace and Care for Creation
- Walking with Both Feet: Franciscan Action Network / Franciscans International ¹
- A Gentle and Courteous Spirit (dealing with civility in public discourse)
- Peacemaking: *Making peace with one's enemies before sundown*
- JPIC Goals / Being and Doing
- Our Holy Rule: A Document of Love and Peace

Additionally, our JPIC Commission Animator publishes resources for Advent, World Day of Peace, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, the Season of Caring for Creation; provides an annual “12 Weeks of Franciscan Peace” program; and updates the “Animate Peace” Facebook page. The OFS-USA gives out an annual JPIC Award at our national chapter, and sponsors an annual water project.

Multicultural / Inclusivity

Our order in the United States is growing as a culturally diverse institutions and it will become even more diverse in the future. We currently have about 1,127 professed members belonging to fraternities which predominantly have languages (and cultures) other than English: Korean, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Polish and French. It is a challenge to ensure that we have formation material available in all the different languages. Our Multicultural Councilor has begun reaching out to Regions that have local fraternities from other cultures to address their needs. In addition to building awareness of our various cultural and language needs, much progress was made on translating the “Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order” as edited by Benet Fonck OFM and our “Essential Documents of the Secular Franciscan Order” books. These will soon be published and made available.

Vocations Committee

A new Vocations Toolkit is a great achievement, making it very easy to present a “Come and See” event. All materials in the Toolkit are available in English, Spanish and Korean, and the prayer card is also available in Vietnamese. We maintain our 1-800-FRANCIS phone line for inquiries, and our new website has garnered, on the average, 6-8 inquiries each week. Various postings on the website also appear on social media (Facebook and Twitter) expanding our digital presence. (For copy of the Vocations Tool Kit see <https://secularfranciscansusa.org/guidelines-forms-other-resources>)

Ecumenical/Interfaith Committee

Our Ecumenical/Interfaith Committee seeks to bring an authentic ecumenical and interfaith spirit and understanding to the ongoing renewal of the Secular Franciscan Order. The Committee’s focus is to encourage and empower fraternal relationships through respectful dialogue with our ecumenical interfaith sisters and brother. The Committee annually presents a workshops/retreat on Franciscan Unity, and organizes frequent interfaith meetings. In 2018 they created a video that is used as a formation tool to open up understanding of our Franciscan calling in all walks of life and faith experiences. The Committee’s active presence in our National Fraternity reminds us to be intentional as we continue to build ecumenical and interfaith relationships.

National Database

¹ The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) formulated the campaign “Two Feet of Love in Action.” This foundational tool describes two distinct, but complementary, ways we can put the Gospel in action in response to God’s love: social justice (addressing systemic, root causes of problems that affect many people) as well as charitable works.

Work continues on updating our National Database to take advantage of new technology and new security. It will have many advantages over our old database. It will include all OFS-USA members and will be linked to our new website.

3. Did the National Fraternity organize activities related to Youth and/or Franciscan Children in the last year? Please give a short description.

Our Franciscan Youth and Young Adult Commission has focused this past year on implementing the directives set at our 2017 Gathering on the Topic of Youth. This has been a year of building the commission, setting the foundation and initiating contact with those OFS already involved, or who are interested in working with Youth. There is certainly a renewed interest in this priority. Here are the highlights from 2018:

- Franciscan Youth and Young Adult information has been uploaded to the new website, with links attaching necessary documents for fraternities.
- Several articles were published in TAU-USA: Fostering Communion with our Youth and Young Adults; How to Get Started; and Servant Leadership in FY/YA.
- 17 Regions (out of 30) have officially appointed Youth Animators—several others have appointed temporary Animators, and a few regions have more than one Animator appointed. Four regions are working toward starting a YouFra group.
- Provided information to animators including “Ten Ways to Get Ready for FY/YA.”
- Provided an Ongoing Session for Fraternities to use: Our Responsibility to Youth: What do the Documents Say?
- Communication with many non-OFS, Franciscan organizations attempting to connect with others who serve young people in our country.
- Financially supporting five young adults to attend the YouFra International Gathering and World Youth Day in January 2019.
- Created a document clarifying qualifications for YouFra Spiritual Assistants.
- Working on Young Adult Formation sessions based on Articles of the Rule.
- Working on Power Point which explains the Mission Statement.
- Working on detailed retreats that regions/fraternities can use, a resource list, and various aids for animators to use.

4. Are the materials and letters sent by the Presidency of the International Council of the OFS received regularly by the National Council? Do you use the formation material on the CIOFS website? How are these publications used? Do you have any suggestions to make? Yes. We greatly appreciate the inspiring letters from our General Minister Tibor Kauser; we publish them and refer to them often. We receive and disperse all materials sent to us from the Presidency. Many of our fraternities use these documents and letters for formation.

Suggestions: When a letter or other document is sent by email, it would be helpful to have a description in the subject line, and also within the body of the email. This would help us a great deal. It would also be helpful to be alerted when new formation material is uploaded to the website. Thank you.

5. Do the National and Regional Spiritual Assistants have access to the publications of the General Spiritual Assistants? How are these publications used? Do you have any suggestions to make? We are aware that these publications are available. They are used by some of our Formation teams and some of our Spiritual Assistants.

Suggestion: It would be helpful to be alerted when a new issue of Koinonia, or other publications from the General Spiritual Assistants, have been uploaded to the website. Thank you.

6. Are the members of the Fraternities sensitive to the need for economic contributions for the support of the structures of the OFS at the various levels? Does the National Fraternity have problems covering its costs and/or the financial contribution to the International Fraternity?

We make every effort to communicate the importance of supporting the OFS at all levels, and we see great successes. Nationally we are able to give grants to support formation efforts at the local and regional levels. We regularly donate to the CIOFS Solidarity Fund, and we have budgeted \$20,000 to support the CIOFS Terms of Reference.

In addition, as our members, both in the USA and abroad suffered from disasters, our members, once again opened their hearts and purses to assist. Consequently, over \$30,000 was collected and distributed to aid our affected brothers and sisters. This outreach was in addition to the traditional contributions made annually at our Chapter which this year amounted to \$12,000 distributed among 12 charities – some OFS-run, others church or Franciscan-based. We are fortunate that our brothers and sisters in the USA are so generous and open to the needs of others, especially our OFS family.

7. How is the contact of the National Fraternity with the Bishops and the local Church communities? Our brothers and sisters at all levels have outreach activities associated with the local Church and diocesan bishops. At our National Meeting, we discussed our outreach efforts, especially to our bishops. Many ideas were put forth – some presently happening and others offered as opportunities.

8. In regards to the last FPV report, what is the status of the recommendations' implementation by the National Council and Minister? For pending matters, please indicate any action plan, specifying implementation times.

We have reviewed and implemented the following recommendations from the 2016 Fraternal and Pastoral Visitation Report:

- The process for moderators at meetings of the National Fraternity Council was implemented and worked well at our 2017 & 2018 National Chapters.
- The National Executive Council prepared the 2017 & 2018 reports to the regional ministers based on priorities and not activities, as recommended.
- A multicultural chairperson was appointed in 2017 to address the needs of our multicultural brothers and sisters.
- The National Formation Chair is attending all National Executive Council meetings, as are the JPIC Chair and our new FY/YA Commission Chair.
- Our NAFRA Formation listserv has provided for greater communication among all Regional Formation Directors and the National Formation Commission.
- Formation based on OFS-USA and CIOFS directives is a priority. We are working diligently to strengthen the use of “one and only formation material.”
- We have improved the method of mentoring of newly elected Regional Ministers.
- The 2018 State of the Order presented at Chapter and publicized widely gave emphasis to the “Sense of Belonging.” Additionally, our priority for 2018-2021 is fraternity at all levels.

- In addressing the need to form our Spiritual Assistants, we held a meeting of all Regional Spiritual Assistants (RSA's) in August 2018 and will again have a gathering of RSA's in August 2019. RSA's were also included in our 2018 our Formation Visioning Session. Communication among RSA's and the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants (CNSA) has greatly improved. The CNSA is currently updating the OFS-USA Handbook for Spiritual Assistance.
- In 2017, and continuing into 2018, we improved our method of donating to various charities. We now have a committee to review the applications. This has made for a much smoother process.
- We continue our efforts to provide suitable and well-prepared Spiritual Assistants for fraternities at every level. We are thankful that after four years we now have a Conventual Friar appointed to the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants, and our CNSA is now complete, strong and active. Due to the decline in the number of religious in the different Franciscan Orders, many lay OFS are currently being formed or already serving as spiritual assistants at local and regional levels in various fraternities. In spite of this, some regional fraternities, and 147 of the 586 local fraternities present in the USA are still without Spiritual Assistants. The CNSA is working diligently to improve this situation. This will take time. We are also aware that a religious Spiritual Assistant is first of all, a witness of the Franciscan charism and a sign of communion of the OFS with the rest of the Franciscan family; that being the case, we are concerned about the decline in the number of religious who are able to journey with and serve the OFS-USA.
- The Visitors have asked that the OFS-USA be in the forefront of renewing the Church (Go, rebuild!) giving as an example, that OFS must not shy away from getting involved in politics, always in conformity with the teachings of the Church. How to form our members in this matter is an ongoing goal for our servant leaders.

9. Did you experience grave problems in your National Fraternity? If so, please give a short description. In what way do you think CIOFS could help?

Our National Fraternity certainly experiences challenges, but we are not faced with grave problems. A short description of some of these issues follows:

Two long-term challenges intrinsic to our times

1. Providing each local fraternity with a Spiritual Assistant in the face of declining numbers of vowed religious in the 1st, 2nd and TOR Orders (discussed above).
2. Ensuring timely and adequate communication between the various levels of fraternity, between the OFS and others in the Church and the Franciscan family, and between the Order and Catholics who might have an OFS vocation. Our current efforts in these areas are described in the answers to Questions 2, 7, and 8 above.

Franciscan Action Network

The National Fraternity continues to experience some challenges relative to our association with Franciscan Action Network (FAN). While many of our members are very supportive of FAN, some challenge its Catholicity, Franciscanism or its actions. (For more details, see the report sent to Jenny Harrington on March 25, 2018.) It is clear that the polarization on this issue in our Order reflects the polarization of our society in the USA.

We are working with our members, our National Fraternity and with FAN to address the issues, emphasizing formation on Gospel living, unity within diversity, and acceptance of different ways to approach the issues of our society. Examples of our efforts include the special JPIC section in the TAU-USA, noted above, and a JPIC panel presentation at the

National Chapter in 2018. The JPIC panel featured Sr. Marie Lucey OSF, a member of the FAN staff, Fr. Kevin Queally TOR, former National Spiritual Assistant and Joe Mackley OFS, a member of the National JPIC Commission. The panel provided a better understanding of FAN's mission; addressed how and when we speak with a Franciscan prophetic voice; and the effectiveness of civil disobedience.

At the 2018 the National Fraternity discussed the situation and again overwhelmingly voted to support FAN. Of note, late in 2018, David Seitz, OFS, was appointed to be our representative on the FAN Board of Directors. David represents us well, and is in frequent communication with the National Executive Council regarding FAN activities. We will re-visit the question at our 2019 National meeting.

Issues with local fraternities and individual OFS members

During the last year, we have been addressing issues with fraternities and members – providing special visitations, mediations, and recommendations. Although these issues are rare occurrences, they are certainly challenging and time consuming.

What can CIOFS do?

Please pray for the well-being of our members and of the Order. We also ask for your prayers that we, as servant leaders, always follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

10. What are the strong points of your National Fraternity?

We are blessed in so many ways! The entire National Fraternity is a hard-working and supportive whole, with many strengths. The newly elected National Executive Council works very well together. Our talents are varied, and we find that each of us on the Council offers these talents joyfully and generously. There is a willingness to ask ourselves if we are meeting the needs of the brothers and sisters. We often ask our brothers and sisters, “What can the NEC do for you?” We work hard to respond to all requests. Across our National Fraternity there is a willingness to set goals, to meet challenges and to resolve conflicts that may occur. We listen to each other, respect each other, and are flexible in serving the Order. Our many very talented and willing servant leaders give generously of their time, and we have the means to provide many material resources for our National OFS Family. Many of our members have access to current technology that enhances our communication efforts.

11. What else do you think is important to mention about the National Fraternity in the last year?

We believe we have included all the important points.

12. If you have special plans for the present or the next year, please give a short description.

Formation Visioning Initiatives Workshop – April 2019

As mentioned above, in April 2019, a select group of 30 OFS including the NFC and NEC members, will gather to set an ambitious plan into motion. Seven or eight task force groups will be developed to implement the particular directives from the Visioning workshop, and those of CIOFS as well, impacting both initial and ongoing formation across our National Fraternity. We expect to re-work the “For Up to Now (FUN) Formation Manual” and bring greater emphasis to the Rule and Constitution, Scripture, Franciscan Sources, Franciscan Spirituality and Fraternity. Multiculturalism, inclusivity and special learning needs are uppermost in our minds as we develop new resources.

Regional Spiritual Assistant (RSA) Workshop – August 2019

In August 2019, we will have another Regional Spiritual Assistant (RSA) workshop, funded by a grant from the Duns Scotus Trust Fund. This event will be facilitated by the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants. We expect several Provincial Spiritual Assistants to be in attendance as well. We hope to raise awareness of our need for well-formed Spiritual Assistants at every level.

Communication with OFM Provincials RE: Merger of Provinces

Six of the seven OFM Provinces in the USA will be merging in the coming years. One of our goals for this coming year is communication with the OFM leadership in cooperation with this merger, and the effect it will have on the OFS-USA, especially in the area of Spiritual Assistance.

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Workshop for Animators– August 2019

Our JPIC Commission will present a workshop this year titled “Handling Conflict with Lessons from St. Francis and the Wolf of Gubbio.” The focus will be on prayer and formation with emphasis on peacemaking, non-violence, social justice and morality.

Preparations for 2021 Quinquennial Congress

Our Quinquennial (“Q”) Congress Committee has been working since 2017 to prepare for the 2021 OFS-USA National Congress, known as “the Quinquennial” or “Q.” At this 2021 “Q” we will celebrate the 800th anniversary of *Memoriale Propositi* (the Rule of 1221) and also the 100th year anniversary of the first Quinquennial Congress held in the United States. Our theme is JUBILEE.

In conclusion, we truly appreciate the support and attention which the Presidency provides – through visitations, special visits (e.g. Quinquennial), and other communication. We hold you in prayer and thank God for your dedication and love of our Order. May God bless you and keep you!

Peace and all good!

Approved by National Executive Council – March 15, 2019

Place and date

*St. Louis, Missouri, USA
March 15, 2019*

Signature

*Jan Parker, OFS
National Minister OFS-USA*

To be signed by the National Minister after approval by the National Council.