



Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity

July-September 2026

Susan Solloway Celebrates 50th Jubilee



Top from left: Susan Solloway, Sharon Solloway, and Sr. Agnes Marie Regan.

Bottom: Susan Solloway receives a blessing.

On April 19th, Susan Solloway, at Ss. Peter and Paul parish, Huntington, celebrated the 50th anniversary of her profession as a member of the Secular Franciscan Order.

The celebration began with a Mass celebrated by Father Tony Steinacker, Susan's pastor. In his sermon, Father Tony focused on Susan's faithfulness to the Church and to the OFS. He compared her with the two disciples in the Gospel story for that Sunday, the Walk to Emmaus.

After the homily, Susan came forward accompanied, by Sister Agnes Marie, OSF. Standing before Father Tony, she renewed the profession that she made 50 years ago. Father Tony blessed her, and then the many members of her family and friends congratulated her.

Following the Mass, Susan was joined by her family and friends at a reception in her honor. Younger guests listened and learned many things from Susan's history as a Franciscan. She related that she was professed in 1976 under the 1888 Rule approved by Pope St. Leo XIII. It was two years after her profession that the Rule of 1978, approved by Pope St. Paul VI, was put in place.

Susan reflected on the reality that her late husband, Jack, as well as Jack's parents were also celebrating the 50th anniversary of their professions that day, but in heaven. She also talked about the nine people in her own family who had become Franciscans, including her daughter Mary Jo and her sister-in-law, Sharon, both of whom were present.

She told about her 50-year history as a Franciscan, beginning in Huntington with St. Felix Friary, built by the Capuchin Friars in 1928.

It is fair to say that Susan Solloway has used her 50-year Franciscan vocation to influence her family, her fraternity, her parish, and her world by bringing the Gospel message to others by the example of her life.

A Word from Our Regional Minister...

Peace to All My Brothers and Sisters:

As we all know, August is the month we honor our Mother Mary's Assumption. While we pay special tribute to her on this day, our appreciation, devotion, and love for her should extend far beyond the day and be reflected in our lives every day of the year.

Saint Francis honored Mary at all times. He viewed her as our Mother because she bore the Lord who became our Brother, an advocate for his order, and the model of perfect discipleship. Article 9 of our Rule states: "The Virgin Mary, humble servant of the Lord, was open to his every word and call. She was embraced by Francis with indescribable love and declared the protectress and advocate of his family. The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently."

The Seven Virtues of Mary represent the spiritual and foundational practices of Mary. They are Faith, Hope, Charity, Humility, Patience, Perseverance, and Obedience. We as Franciscans should practice these virtues everyday of our lives. Now, this is not always an easy task, as many of our days are filled with challenges and obstacles. Yet it is during these difficult moments that we need to practice Mary's Seven Virtues the most. I know that on any given day I may struggle with one or more of these virtues, especially patience and obedience. However, by looking to Mary as our example, we can strive to grow in virtue and strengthen our faith, even when the path before us is difficult.

Here are some prayers you can say to honor Mary Our Mother:

Holy Virgin Mary

Holy Virgin Mary there is no one like you in the world among women, Daughter and Handmaid of the most high, sovereign King, the heavenly Father, Mother of our most Holy Lord Jesus Christ, Spouse of the Holy Spirit. Pray for us, with Saint Michael the arch-angel and with all the powers of heaven and with all the saints together with your most holy beloved Son, Lord and Teacher. Amen

A Salutation of the Blessed Virgin Mary [Ritual, pg 131]

Hail O Lady, Holy Queen, Mary, holy Mother of God, Who are the Virgin made Church, Chosen by the most Holy Father in heaven whom he consecrated with His most holy beloved Son and with the Holy Spirit the Paraclete, in whom there was and is all fullness of grace and every good. Hail His Palace! Hail His Tabernacle! Hail His Dwelling! Hail His Robe! Hail His Servant! Hail His Mother! And Hail all You holy Virtues which are poured into the hearts of the faithful through the grace and enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, that from being unbelievers, You may make them faithful to God.

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to your do I come; before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

So my dear brothers and sisters, my challenge to all, is to increase your daily devotion to Mary in your everyday prayer life [365 days]. Say one of the above prayers, say one or all of the Marion Prayers, say a rosary everyday, or whatever prayer you like. To me Mary was and still is a very important part of our Catholic history. Think about it. Without Mary's YES, without Joseph's Yes, without Jesus, where would all of us be today?

God Bless

Sue Daly, Our Lady of Indiana Regional Minister

The Formation Corner

May the Lord give you peace!

As some of you know, I am a prolific knitter. I've learned a lot about life with a skein of yarn and knitting needles in my hands. I still wonder at the results of the work.

For example, one strand of yarn can be made into many, many unique stitches, but those stitches are still connected into a single fabric because they are made from that one strand. Fraternity life is like that. Each fraternity is made up of however many unique persons (stitches), but all are bound by their common vocation and profession (fabric).

To consider it further, this could be likened to our Trinitarian God. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are unique but equal Persons (stitches), but one God (fabric): a community of God, in other words. Therefore, our fraternities are imitations of the Trinitarian life: a community of Franciscans.

To be this community, however, we need to cooperate with the Holy Spirit. A skein of yarn, in and of itself, can do nothing without the knitter; just as we can do nothing without the working of the Holy Spirit. The knitter works to transform the yarn into something both useful and beautiful; the Holy Spirit works to transform each of us into persons who are both useful and beautiful. (I don't know about you, but I find it difficult to think of myself as beautiful. I know my faults/imperfections far too well. Yet that is how what we are to become.)

St. Francis had another way to illustrate the way that we are supposed to respond to the working of the Holy Spirit within us. He said that we should be as pliable to the Holy Spirit as a dead body is to someone who raises the body's arm. It offers no resistance whatsoever because it has no will of its own, just like the yarn has no will of its own. Both rely on the working of a master.

How are you then transformed into someone who is both useful and beautiful to God?

As we grow in our Franciscan vocation, may we remain docile to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our lives and become the useful and beautiful people that we are meant to be.

Peace and all good!

Your little sister,

Barb Braley, OFS, Regional Formation Director

Lady Clare Fraternity, Kokomo

On May 17 (feast of Paschal Baylon), Fr. Peter Vanderkolk and Katelyn Hurd made their permanent commitment to the Secular Franciscan order in a profession ceremony celebrated at the Poor Clare monastery in Kokomo, Indiana.

Pictured at right: Dcn. Stout; Dcn. Springer; Fr. David Huemmer, OFS; Fr. Peter Vanderkolk, OFS; Poor Clare sisters; Katelyn Hurd, OFS; Benjamin Hurd; Elaine Stiner, OFS (Formation Director); Stephanie Donham, OFS (Minister).



Profession Anniversaries

HOLY FAMILY

7/15/1975 Donna Carteaux
7/18/2021 Teri Queitsch
8/3/2013 Vicki Jacobs,
9/19/2021 Maureen Bobilya,
9/19/2021 Kathleen Makovic

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

7/13/2008 Cyndi Pilot
7/16/2022 Ray Daly
7/16/2022 George (Jorge) Muniz
7/16/2022 JoAnn Podemski
7/18/2015 Amy Porter
7/18/2015 Julie Scalise
8/19/2023 Martin Bickel
8/19/2023 Shane Perley
8/25/1990 Sandra Waggoner
9/15/2018 Mickey By,
9/15/2018 Sue Daly
9/15/2018 Karen Gunter
9/16/2017 Deborah Jankowski
9/16/2017 Andre Thangam
9/18/2021 Jerry Harker
9/18/2021 Cindy Nikoloi
9/18/2021 Caroline Ramirez

LADY CLARE

8/11/2010 Ronald Morrow
9/17/2014 Mary Compton
9/17/2014 Aida Ianson
9/17/2014 Marguerite Sayers

LITTLE PORTION

9/28/2013 Andrea Carberry
9/28/2013 Alan Sutliff
9/28/2013 Kristi Sutliff

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

7/18/2020 John Bacon
7/18/2020 Christine Casiello
7/18/2020 Carmen Farfan
7/18/2020 Carol Hoffman
9/11/1982 Elke Huisman
9/14/1985 Paul Biegel

PEOPLE OF PEACE

7/11/2021 Joe Doll
7/11/2021 James Martin
9/8/2019 Mary Hammond
9/16/2017 Dcn. James Kitchens

PEREGRINOS DE LA PAZ

8/5/2018 Juan Manuel Barriga Serrano
8/5/2018 Eduber Santos Bonilla
8/5/2018 Martha Ferreyra
8/15/2021 Juanita Camacho
8/15/2021 Juan Manuel Escobedo
8/15/2021 Norma Patricia Escobedo
8/15/2021 Yrma Sanchez
8/15/2021 David Serrato
8/15/2021 Alejandro Sevilla
8/11/2017 Rosa Lemus

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

None

ST. ANTHONY

9/1/2018 Joan Studnicky

ST. BONIFACE

7/14/2007 Virginia Anson
9/5/2020 Vanda Rascoe
9/19/2015 Cheri Irons

ST. CHARLES

7/27/2003 Nancy Steinhofer
7/27/2003 Joyce Wesner
9/19/1999 Jackie Didier
9/23/2012 Richard Cain

ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS

8/16/2020 Edward Shultz
8/19/1996 Paul Devitt

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

7/22/2001 Joan Myers
7/22/2001 Steven Talbott
7/27/2003 Tim Husted
8/28/2005 Carol Schaefer
8/28/2005 Jean Wonderly
9/3/2011 Veronica Kromer
9/22/2013 Brian Buettner
9/22/2013 Becky Kimpel
9/25/2016 Chris Bercaw
9/25/2016 Gloria Reyes

ST. ROSE OF VITERBO

8/15/2016 Mary Goltry



HAPPY PROFESSION
Anniversary!

SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT FORMATION

Sr. Anita Holzmer, OSF, Regional Spiritual Assistant, is soliciting names of anyone who might feel called to become a Local Spiritual Assistant.

A Local Spiritual Assistant walks with a local fraternity by ensuring fidelity to the Franciscan charism, by being directly involved in both initial and ongoing formation and is a member by right of the local fraternity Council with a voice in all matters and a vote in all matters except finances and Chapters of Elections.

If you are interested or would like to suggest someone, please contact Sr. Anita at holzmeran@gmail.com or (260) 409-7126.

FROM OUR LADY OF LOURDES FRATERNITY, CEDAR LAKE

On April 18, 2026, Angela Vargas, OFS, and Sharon Marmalejo, OFS, celebrated 25 years of profession in the Secular Franciscan Order. Other milestone anniversaries were Diane Losiniecki, OFS, 30 years, Linda Silverio, OFS, 20 years and Cindy Varenkamp, OFS, 10 years.

Pictured at left: Christine Casiello (Councilor), Angela Vargas, Mary Ann Meschi (Minister), Diane Losiniecki, Terri Spretnjak (Vice Minister), and Cindy Varenkamp.



After holding several Come and See events at various parishes, Our Lady of Lourdes Fraternity was blessed with 7 people interested in pursuing whether or not God is calling them to be Secular Franciscans. Our formation team held their first interviews in April, and we began their first orientation meeting in May.

Our beloved Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Don Blaeser, OFM, resigned due to age and health as well as distance that made it too difficult to continue serving us. May was his last month but we didn't say goodbye as we plan to fete him in July with a special goodbye/happy birthday send-off at our regular gathering. He served as our fraternity's Spiritual Assistant in the 1990s and again from July 2021 to May 2026.

I was at Goodwill this morning. I picked up a Dave Ramsey book and noticed it was thick for some reason. I flipped to the back of the book and there was a passport! (and a rosary pamphlet). I opened the passport and recognized the surname from our parish.

I had the book in my cart, with other purchases, and became frustrated at checkout because the person in front of me had two carts full of clothes. I left the checkout lane to look over some items I had passed up, and also I returned the book to the rack, forgetting that the passport was inside. On the way home I remembered the passport. I checked the parish directory and texted a family with that surname. I told them the story and suggested they go to Goodwill and retrieve the passport for that family member. An hour later I received a text that they did, indeed, retrieve the passport, stating they had been looking for it for over two years!

And this happened on the Feast of St. Anthony of Padua, Patron of Lost Items. What a Franciscan blessing!

Contributed by Kathleen White

**Our Brothers and Sisters Who
Have Been Visited by Sister Death**

Laura Hoffman 4/22/2026 St. Charles **Kianre Eouanzoui** 5/6/2026 St. Anthony
Fr. Ron Rieder, OFM Cap 6/18/2026 St. Joseph Province, Appleton, WI
Sr. Agnes Marie Regan, OSF 6/27/2026 Motherhouse, Mishawaka

October 3 Day Away at the St. Joseph Retreat & Conference Center in Tipton, IN

This retreat begins with Morning Prayer and ends with Adoration, Daytime Prayer and Benediction. In between, guests will enjoy two conferences. Mass, lunch and time for personal reflection will round out the day.

9 am – Welcome in St. Joseph Chapel	11:45 am – Mass
9:10 am – Morning Prayer	12:30 pm – Lunch
9:40 am - Conference 1 –	1:30 pm – Adoration
10:30 am – Break	2:30 pm – Daytime Prayer/Benediction in St. Joseph Chapel

10:45 am – Conference 2 – 3 pm – End of Day – Carpenter's Shop open
Led by Fr. David Huemmer, OFS, Chaplain, and Deacon Marty Stout, St. Joseph Retreat & Conference Center

Cost: \$35, includes Keltie & Co. Catering lunch. Please let us know of any dietary restrictions. Carpenter's Shop gifts will be open at the end of the retreat.

Participants: Minimum 5

Register at stjosephretreat.org

St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity

It is with great joy that the Secular Franciscan Order of St Mary of the Angels Fraternity, St John, IN, announces that parishioners Isabelle Skurka and Natalie Shrader, along with Astrid Fry-Hussey and Blane Roberts from the Gary Diocese entered into their Permanent Profession in the Secular Franciscan Order on March 21, 2026, celebrated at SJE Day Chapel. After three years of prayer, discernment, study, and service they made a solemn promise to God and the community of Franciscans throughout the world in the context of Mass and prayer to focus on service to others.

Deacon Phil Coduti, OFS, was Minister for the Secular Franciscan Order during the Rite of Permanent Commitment to the Gospel Life and Franciscan, Br. Loren Connell, OFM, celebrated the Mass. Professed OFS, parishioners, families, and friends attended.

Professed Secular Franciscans make a lifelong commitment to live the Gospel life, to follow Jesus in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi and are led by the Holy Spirit to serve, pray and care for our less fortunate brothers and sisters. They wear the Tau cross as a Franciscan sign of their vocation to the world.

St Mary of the Angels Fraternity, which is part of Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity, serves in Gary, IN, at several soup kitchens, homeless shelters, halfway houses and wherever help is needed.



UNITY DAY

August 8, 2026

9:30 am – 3:00 pm

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 3155 CR S 200 W, Kokomo

Presenter: Br. Jerry Schroeder, OFM Cap Theme: The Easter of St. Francis

There will be a free table in the back of the room. We will also have drawings for door prizes.

Regional Resources will be open except during Mass and Br. Jerry's presentations.

The annual memorial service for all those brothers and sisters who have died since Unity Day 2025 will conclude the event.

Both monetary and "wish list" donations for the Kokomo Poor Clares will be collected again this year. **Please place items on the table inside the church entryway only.**

Their wish list is as follows (only what's on this list please!):

Gluten-free granola/protein bars that do not have sugar-alcohols in them, such as KIND bars (or equivalent) or Nature Valley PROTEIN bars, Kirkland also carries something similar

Bars of Dial soap and/or other deodorant soap

Some **fragrance-free** hypoallergenic baby wipes

White cardstock for card making

No. 10 business envelopes

Any canned fruits and vegetables, **no beans** this time (for fruit-only 100% juice or no sugar added, no heavy syrup please).

Vitamin C (both 500 mg and 1,000 mg)

Unscented laundry soap (several bottles)

Mouthwash --mint flavor is fine

Ammonia

Cans of WD-40

Aluminum-free deodorant

Black ball point pens

JUBILEE YEAR OF ST. FRANCIS

During the eighth centenary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi, an Extraordinary Jubilee Year has been announced by Pope Leo from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027.

During this special year it is hoped that St. Francis will inspire all people to become models of holiness and witnesses of peace. All are welcome to visit the Monastery of the Poor Clares to pray at the small shrine of St. Francis in the back of the chapel. Visitors are welcome to ring the monastery doorbell daily from 9:00-11:00 am or from 2:00-4:00 pm to visit the shrine and venerate the first-class relic of St. Francis. In honor of this jubilee year, a plenary indulgence may be gained by those who visit any Franciscan church, including the chapel of the Poor Clares. Leaflets are available in the chapel that further explain the prayers and conditions for the plenary indulgence.

"We, the Secular Franciscans of Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity, are called by virtue of Baptism and Confirmation to holiness. We are committed by our Profession to living the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in our time according to the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi for the rebuilding of the Church.

With the help of Mary our Advocate, Protectress, and Patroness, we will foster prayer, vital fraternities, and communication. We will provide direction, support and resources to local fraternities for understanding and implementing the Rule, the General Constitutions, and the National Statutes of the Secular Franciscan Order, and our Regional Fraternity Guidelines."

2026 CALENDAR

7/11	9:30 (ET)	REC, Zoom (if needed)
8/8	9:30 (ET)	Unity Day, St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo
9/15		Deadline for Oct-Dec regional newsletter submissions
10/3	9:00 (ET)	Day Away at Tipton Retreat Center
10/10	9:30 (ET)	REC, Zoom
11/14	10:00 (ET)	Fall Chapter of Mats, St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo
12/15		Deadline for Jan-March regional newsletter submissions

International Website: www.ciOFS.org

National Website:

www.secularfranciscansusa.org

Regional Website: www.olirf-OFS.org

To join OUR LADY OF INDIANA list-serve, send a blank email to:

olirf+subscribe@googlegroups.com

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*The Regional newsletter is published in January, April, July, and October on the first of the month. The deadlines to submit news, such as professions, retreats/days of reflection, election results, etc., are due by the 15th of the month prior to publication. **Ministers**, please email submissions to: Barb Braley at bbraley345@gmail.com.*