

The Porter

St. Conrad Fraternity, Annapolis, MD
Secular Franciscan Order – January 2026
<http://stconradannapolis.sfousa.org/>

The Porter deadline for February is the 4th. Please send news, prayer requests, poems, or interesting items that you think other members may enjoy to: Joan Faltot, 715 Maiden Choice Ln, Apt CC122, Catonsville, MD 21224, or send by email to jd6bouv@verizon.net.



Fraternity Meeting

Saturday, January 17, 2026
Mass at 8:30 AM at Our Lady of the Fields
1070 Cecil Avenue South, Millersville
Followed by Fraternity Gathering in Room 203/204

Special Outreach

Franciscan Center in Baltimore (see page 4)

Refreshments



Group A: (First name between A – Jo) New Groups !! (see page 5)
Don't forget your coffee cup.

Liturgy

Group B: (First name between Ju – Z) - LOH – Saturday, Week 1 Ordinary Time

Prayer Requests



For physical and spiritual healing of: Toby Harkleroad, Bob Ranke, Tessie Chitty, Al McGee (Ruth's brother-in-law), Ed Shea (Ruth's son), Teresa Booher (Ruth's daughter), Dennis Mallon (broken hip), Emily McGeady, Jerry Miante, Dr. Alex Demyan, Jude Dodge's niece, Catherine Gonzalez's mother, Monica's daughter, Jude Dodge, Margaret Jackson, Audrey Donnelly, Audrey Bushée, Bill Chitty, Kathleen Sievers, Harry Thompson, Jackie Chaplin (sister of Kathleen Sievers), Ed Sievers (Kathleen's husband), Kellie Eye (granddaughter of Susan Greif), Jimmy Wilbourne, Gerard Malka (brother of Genny Wilbourne), Carolyn Malka (sister-in-law of Genny Wilbourne). *Please help keep this list current. Additions and changes should be sent to Joan at jd6bouv@verizon.net*

Birthdays

Tessie Chitty – 1/21
Kathleen Sievers – 2/10
Joan Kvetkas – 2/10
Linda Haney – 2/16

Profession Anniversaries

Margaret Jackson 2/8/1998

Council Meeting

Friday, February 6, online.

Upcoming Events

Our Capuchins will be having their Annual Mass for Life in the Crypt at the National Shrine at 11 am on the Day of the March for Life January 23th.

Upcoming Events (cont'd)	Saturday, February 7, 2026. 9:30am- 4:00pm Day of Reflection for Inquirers and Candidates to the Secular Franciscan Order. <i>Embracing the Gospel Life: Conversion, Commitment, Faith, Service.</i> (See flyer on page 7 for additional information.)
	June 5-7, 2026. St. Margaret of Corona Regional Retreat. Priestfield Center. Celebrate the Region’s 2026 “Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation” theme with a Spiritual Retreat focused on making JPIC-driven choices in our daily lives.
	28 July – 02 August, 2026. 21st Quinquennial Congress - <i>The Easter of Francis: Rekindle the Flame.</i> (Early Bird discounts end December 31, 2025) Location: Marriott Griffin Gate Golf Resort & Spa, 1800 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY. https://ofs-usa.regfox.com/21st-congress-secular-franciscan-order-usa



Minister’s Minute

My dear Franciscan Sisters and Brothers,

As we welcome the beginning of a new year, I want to extend my prayers for peace, joy, and renewal to each of you. The turning of the calendar offers us an opportunity to reflect on the journey we have shared and to look forward with hope and faith to the year ahead.

This past year has been filled with both challenges and blessings, and through it all, our community has remained rooted in the spirit of St. Francis—living the Gospel, serving others, and supporting one another in love. As Secular Franciscans, let us continue to seek simplicity, humility, and charity in all our actions, bringing the light of Christ to our families, parishes, communities, and the world around us.

May the coming year deepen our commitment to the Franciscan way and strengthen our bonds of fraternity. Let us pray for guidance and grace as we strive to live out our vocation with renewed enthusiasm. May the Lord bless you and keep you and may the peace of St. Francis fill your hearts throughout 2026.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful, healthy, and spirit-filled New Year!

I encourage you to reach out to one fraternity member that you normally don’t communicate with between meetings. Share a bit of New Year’s joy.

In love of Saints Francis and Clare,
Ruth

January Fraternity Meeting

Traditionally, the January Fraternity gathering is planning our calendar for 2026. Please make some time to pray about the direction you want our fraternity to take during 2026. There will be some time for discussion of ideas.

You are encouraged to come with suggestions for speakers, books, videos, spiritual topics, field trips, etc. You are encouraged to bring information about your suggestions- either info about a speaker or topic you want to learn more about, or a book or video to “show and tell”.

Bus Tokens

Catherine Gonzalez reports that the bus tokens were “very appreciated”.

A Meditation from Br. Connor Bannon, OFM Cap



Today, as Franciscans, we rejoice in the Most Holy Name of Jesus.
Saint Bernardine of Siena says of Jesus' Name:

*"Glorious name, gracious name, name of love and of power!
Through you sins are forgiven, through you enemies are vanquished,
through you the sick are freed from their illness,
through you those suffering in trials are made strong and cheerful.
You bring honor to those who believe, you teach those who preach,
you give strength to the worker, you sustain the weary.
Our love for you is ardent and glowing; our prayers are heard.
The souls of those who contemplate you are filled to overflowing,
and all the blessed in heaven are filled with your glory.
Sweet Jesus, grant that with them we too may reign
through this your most holy Name."*

Like Saint Francis before him, Saint Bernardine's love for Jesus was so ardent, and his preaching so powerful, that people were often moved to cast off the little vanities weighing down their hearts, and throw them into a great, burning bonfire.

Today, we will not need a great, burning bonfire.
But we will imagine one... in our hearts.
If you are willing, gently close your eyes.
Take a slow, deep breath.

(pause — inhale deeply, exhale slowly)

Bring to mind one small vanity, one distraction, one burden you would like to say goodbye to this year.

(pause — allow time for reflection)

Maybe it is an addiction...
a digital device...
a habit...
a thought...

or something else you're holding onto...

(pause — breathe deeply, visualize)

Now imagine a fire burning within your heart.
This is a tended fire, patiently fed by Jesus himself.
Not wild... but warm.
Not consuming... but steady.
A gentle flame, burning with God's love.
See its soft glow spreading through your chest.
Feel its warmth filling your heart, reaching every corner,
enveloping you in peace... in light... in love.

(pause — allow the image to settle)

When you are ready, bring your small burden to the

fire.
Hold it there for just a moment...
and then let it go.

(pause — breathe slowly, imagine release)

See it touch the flames.
Feel it soften... melt... and disappear.
Hear it crackle and burn.
Notice how its weight lifts from your heart,
how the warmth of the fire grows brighter and fuller, filling the space left behind.

(long pause for reflection)

Now imagine Jesus looking at you,
his eyes full of compassion.
Listen as he says to you:
"My Name is all you need."

(pause — breathe deeply, let the words sink in)

Let those words echo quietly within you...
slowly... gently...

(5–10 seconds of silence)

Say to Jesus: "Your Name is all I need."
And place everything into his hands.

(pause — gentle breath in, slow exhale)

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

(end in stillness)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you for your continued generosity !!!

*Fraternity contributions can be mailed to:
Joe McHugh
1740 Tedbury St
Crofton, MD 21114*

November Balance		\$4,053.5
FFA Stipend	(\$100)	\$3,953.45
SA Stipend	(\$100)	\$3,853.45
OLF Stipend	(\$100)	\$3,753.45
<u>Outreach:</u>		
Little Portion Farm	(\$1,120)	\$2,633.45
Bus Tokens	(\$105)	\$2,528.45
December Deposit/Balance	\$2,335.00	\$4,863.45

Monthly Donations

The council has voted to eliminate the monthly designations on our monthly giving. All donations will go into the Common Fund. This will enable our fraternity to support one charity each month (in addition to our regular expenses) and have funds available to donate to unexpected emergencies around the region, country or world. In January, our special outreach will go to the Franciscan Center. Please call Ruth Shea if you have any questions.

January Outreach: Franciscan Center -- from Jean Gaes

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This month our chosen outreach is the Franciscan Center in Baltimore. Our fraternity has been contributing to its mission, both personally and financially, for over 40 years. Just in January, their newsletter mentioned the following helpful outreach activities for this month. Please consider adding to your monthly donation to support this worthy cause. Here is a link to their website if you want to find out more:

<https://www.fcbmore.org/>

- ❖ Dignity Plates Culinary Training Academy- vocational training creates chefs for Baltimore area businesses
- ❖ Share Baby provides critical items that babies need. We partner with ShareBaby for our monthly distribution of baby diapers, baby formula and children’s clothing. We know that baby items are super expensive so please share this information. The distribution will be from 10am till 1pm.
- ❖ TAU ETA ZETA Chapter of ZETA PHI BETA will host their annual Heart for the Homeless event at our Franciscan Center on Saturday, January 24th from 11am till 1pm. The Heart for the Homeless Event could help so many of our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness. Many resources will be offered !! Items that will be handed out: Food !! Fresh food as well as pantry food, winter clothing, shoes and boots, undergarments, blankets toiletries (deodorant, soap, lotion, tampons, etc)
- ❖ Every Monday is a MedStar Day. The MedStar Mobile Health Center is at our center from 10am-4pm.
- ❖ Haircut Tuesdays on the third Tuesday of every month
- ❖ Lunch is served M-F from 10am-1pm
- ❖ Dinner is served on Tuesday & Wednesday from 5:30 pm to 7pm

New Groups for Refreshments and Liturgy Duties at Fraternity Gatherings

The council has decided to create two new groups and have assigned members to groups based on their first name. For lack of a better team name, Group A consists of active members with first names starting with letters AJo. Group B consists of names between JU thru Z. The table below shows the members in each group. And as our January gathering will focus our fraternity vision for 2026, considering thinking up some “team names” for Group A and Group B.

<u>Group A</u>	<u>Group B</u>
Antoinette Eijikeme	Judith Tyrrell
Catherine Gonzalez	Linda Haney
Cynthia Fowler	Louise Ryan
David Weir	Marie Shelton
Dianne Beaven	Mary Anne Novak
Emily McGeady	Mary Cicero Gemmell
Genevieve Wilbourne	Nancy Poniatowski
George Ryan	Pat Tyrrell
Jeanne Ann Wilbourne	Ruth Shea
Jeanne Gaes	Susan Greif
Joan Faltot	Tara P. Turner
Joseph McHugh	Teresita Chitty

March for Life January 23 – from Judith

Our Capuchins will be having their Annual Mass for Life in the Crypt at the National Shrine at 11 am on the Day of the March for Life January 23th.

The following prayer was Given in Rome, at Saint Peter's, on March 25th, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, in the year 1995, during the seventeenth year of Pope John Paul II Pontificate.

O Mary,
bright dawn of the new world,
Mother of the living,
to you do we entrust the cause of life
Look down, O Mother,
upon the vast numbers
of babies not allowed to be born,
of the poor whose lives are made
difficult,
of men and women
who are victims of brutal violence,
of the elderly and the sick killed
by indifference or out of misguided
mercy.

Grant that all who believe in your Son
may proclaim the Gospel of life
with honesty and love
to the people of our time.

Obtain for them the grace
to accept that Gospel
as a gift ever new,
the joy of celebrating it with gratitude
throughout their lives
and the courage to bear witness to it
resolutely, in order to build,
together with all people of good will,
the civilization of truth and love,
to the praise and glory of God,
the Creator and lover of life.

JUSTICE, PEACE, AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION (JPIC) -- IMMIGRATION

U.S. Bishops Issue a “Special Message” on Immigration from Plenary Assembly in Baltimore Special Message (Nov. 12, 2025)

<https://www.usccb.org/news/2025/us-bishops-issue-special-message-immigration-plenary-assembly-baltimore>

The bishops voted overwhelmingly to issue this rare “Special Message” voicing “our concern here for immigrants” at their annual fall plenary assembly in Baltimore. It was a near-unanimous statement—a rare achievement for the bishops.

Two days later the administration’s “border czar” Tom Homan called the U.S. Catholic bishops “wrong.”

The National Secular Franciscan Order joined with the U.S. Bishops to address our Order’s concern for the evolving situation impacting immigrants in the United States. OFS regional ministers from across the country worked together to achieve a near unanimously approved statement on immigration. How the unity of the Bishops and OFS leadership serves as an example for our region and our fraternities. As Secular Franciscans, our setting aside personal political sentiments to respond to what we are being asked of by the Church.

In response to this call to action by the Church on December 15th, Secular Franciscans from 17 fraternities in the St. Margaret of Cortona Region came together via Zoom, to offer initial impressions of the USCCB statement, and also begin a dialogue on ways we are able to respond as individual Secular Franciscans, fraternities, and a region. Our regional meeting was moderated by Janice Benton, OFS, St. Francis Fraternity and Pat Boye, OFS, Regional JPIC Chair with comments and background presented by Joe Makley, OFS, National JPIC Animator.

The response that was finalized by the National Fraternity is “*Call to Franciscan Accompaniment*” and is provided below.



THE NATIONAL FRATERNITY of the SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER – USA

nec.ofs.usa@gmail.com www.SecularFranciscansUSA.org 5000 Colerain Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45223-1213

CALL TO FRANCISCAN ACCOMPANIMENT

DECEMBER 11, 2025

Fellow Secular Franciscans,

In solidarity with Pope Leo XIV, our bishops, and all the Church, Secular Franciscans are called to be present in society in this moment. We’ve heard from seculars across the country about their distressing experiences, including members who are US citizens carrying their passports with them and refraining from speaking Spanish in public. Fraternity members have stopped attending regional gatherings. Others are afraid to go to church or their court appointments, or even to leave their homes. These are firsthand accounts.

The Church’s response can be read in the US Bishops’ “special message,¹” of November 12, containing statements of grief, lamentation, disappointment, and concern, but also encouragement, hope, and prayer. Striving for peace regarding this delicate situation, the bishops “pray for an end to dehumanizing rhetoric and violence, whether directed at immigrants or at law enforcement,” and they insist that “*Human dignity and national security are not in conflict. Both are possible if people of good will work together.*”

Our Rule (Article 15) challenges us to act courageously for justice. At the same time, we must be bearers of

peace and seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue (Article 19). OFS members have reported that they are answering this challenge in many regions, with courtroom or legal assistance, education, family support, donations, food drives, etc. A JPIC-based process at the fraternity level would be to assess local needs, and identify a gap that the members can fill as an apostolate. The JPIC office of the OFM province, Our Lady of Guadalupe, has a list of suggested activities.

Also, the USCCB has been very clear in asking for support from lay Catholics for *Comprehensive Immigration Reform*. Catholic elements of reform are listed here. Most urgently, the right to *due process* must be reestablished. Suspending this fundamental right (which also exists in canon law) is a grave threat to justice, and to human dignity.² "Apparent ethnicity" can legally be one "relevant factor" for immigration stops,³ but according to our catechism, this is unjust.⁴ Advocating for the poor, the maligned and marginalized, is holy, prophetic work. The USCCB offers resources to develop Christ-centered policy in support of immigrants.

Please join us in prayer for hearts to be changed for a greater dialogue for a long-term solution.

Prayer: ***To the God of our ancestors, who freed the Israelites,
Give us the grace to assist our brothers and sisters from other lands
And follow your command to welcome the stranger
With actions that are peaceful, loving, and visible.
We ask this in the name of your only Son Jesus, who lived as a migrant
in Egypt and who, when reading
in the synagogue, announced the freedom of the captives.
Amen***

In Christ's peace, The National Fraternity Council of the Secular Franciscan Order USA

¹ <https://www.usccb.org/resources/USCCB%20Special%20Message%20on%20Immigration.pdf>

² OFS General Constitutions #22, "... They should take clear positions whenever human dignity is attacked by any form of oppression or indifference. They should offer their fraternal service to the victims of injustice."

³ *Noem v. Vasquez Perdomo*: https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/24pdf/25a169_5h25.pdf

⁴ Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1935

Go forth as witnesses... proclaiming Christ by our Life and our Words. (OFS Rule Article 6)

POPE ST. JOHN XXIII SFO, DAVIDSONVILLE, MD

Our minister (Ruth) and the minister of Pope St. John XIII (Ann Marie Pessagno) have discussed having meetings together occasionally. Unfortunately, their meetings are on Wednesday evening and several of our members do not like to drive at night. But carpools are possible. Still the ministers are discussing it and will keep the other informed when they have special programs. Some possible opportunities are listed below. Call Ruth for more details.

- ❖ Saturday, January 24, 9:30-2:30 - day retreat at St. Anthony's Shrine – arranged by Pope John XXIII fraternity. Topic: Pope Leo's "Dilexi te" and forgiveness lecture in afternoon. Cost \$35 (cash) on day of event. Bring bag lunch.
- ❖ A movie meeting with discussion with our fraternity, possibly Saturday, April 18th at OLF. Movie: on Maximin Kolbe
- ❖ February 4, join with Pope John XXIII at their meeting time 7-9 PM in Davidsonville for talk by Fr. Jude Winkler on the Psalms.

THE FRANCISCAN COOK – *From the kitchen of Ruth Shea*

Do you like making bread, or perhaps have never tried. This is a delicious, **EASY** recipe from the New York Times for No Knead Tuscan bread.



In a medium bowl, place:

- ✓ 3 cups of bread flour
- ✓ 1 ½ teaspoons of salt
- ✓ 1 package of yeast or 2 ¼ teaspoons of bulk yeast

Stir in gradually 1 ½ cups of water. If it is too dry, add a little more water.

Stir until mixed and the dough looks “shaggy”.

Cover bowl and let sit for 4 hours.

Next ...

Turn dough out onto oiled surface (I use a silicone sheet- but just countertop works), turn dough oiled side up and let rest while oven is heating to 450°. While over is heating, place heat resistance dutch oven or cast iron baking dish with cover into oven to heat. Once oven has reached 450° - very carefully remove baking container from oven and remove cover. (It will be very hot- so take care). Place the bread dough into ungreased container, cover and return to oven, bake for 30 minutes, carefully remove cover and return to oven for another 10 minutes until golden brown on top. Remove from over, place on rack for as long as you can stand it before cutting into this delicious bread! It is great served with olive oil and herbs or butter. Enjoy!

FRANCISCAN FAMILY APOSTOLATE

Christmas Wishes 2025

Dear friends and benefactors of Franciscan Family Apostolate,

As I began writing these few words of Christmas Blessings, little did I know that these wishes are timing with the bells tolling the departure of Alan Ouimet, the Founder of FFA-USA to our heavenly home. Alan loved to be with his family and dear ones, especially during Christmas; destiny has him in the Home of the Father. He passed away on 14 November 2025 after a prolonged battle with abdominal illness. We will forever miss him, his warmth, laughter and wit; however, his legacy of love for the poor and sincere piety will stay forever. The good he did in this world makes his name for ever remembered. The FFA-USA, his eternal monument, is a marvelous story of care and providence. The Diocese of Alleppey in India, has been the focus of FFA activities since 1973 and I can never value the worth it has brought to the families and children of this diocese. Charity under FFA was not mere material support; it was knitting a personal and lasting bond of relationship between the donors and donees.



He was our cherished guest here at the Bishop's House. Alan's visits to Alleppey meant a world for the

beneficiaries of FFA; and many knew him personally and closely. On a personal note, I got acquainted with Alan when I was still a teenager, aspiring to priesthood. Alan was instrumental in involving Ms. Mary Schubert (late) from Minneapolis, MN, who covered my tuition fees and the medical care of my mother throughout the long period of the seminary days. The most cherished moments I had with him, however, were those hours of vivacious conversation on all topics under sun, some related to Church life administration, abuse, history, spirituality; some were of politics and sociology. Alan was a consummate converser at the end of the day all conversations took resilient turn to true piety and love for poor, the bottom lines of Christian living in Alan's world. We kept our contact alive through correspondence and phone throughout.

I thank each of you for your support to the poor through FFA. It is clear and true way of loving Jesus, the Divine Son. The Lord of Nativity teaches the ways of simple and unsullied joys and leads us to the table of fellowship with the poor; through sharing and caring for them, we welcome the Son of Man, who holds his blessing and approval for those who are compassionate: "as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." (Matt 25:40). In Alleppey, for some years now, we keep "lunch with the poor" on Christmas Day. It makes Christmas beautiful beyond telling. Christmas is a feast of a welcoming home: "receive one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of the Father" (Rom 15:7).

To you and your dear ones, a grace-filled Christmas and New Year!

+ James Anaparambil
Bishop of Alleppey

Christmas Letter from Josey Menimol

Our dear loving Fraternity members,

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a grace filled New Year. May you have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of His Love at Christmas and always.

We were very ad to hear about the death of our FFA director Mr. Alan J. Ouimet on 14 Nov. Our Bishop offered memorial Mass on 19th Nov and I attended the Mass and prayed for the repose of his soul.

Received your generous help and thank you very much. It is using for our medical needs, educational needs and our daily needs. We both are continuing medicines and goes for medical check up thrice in a year. I got temporary work in a hospital (cleaning). My husband is working in a shop near by our house. Due to his sickness he is not going for regular work. My children are studying. The eldest daughter Josni is in the 10th grade, second daughter Sera is in the 6th grade and the youngest daughter Juvana is in the kinder gartn. We are living the paternal house. Thus goes our news.

Hope and pray that you are all keeping in good health. We remember you all in our daily prayers. Once again thanking you for you love and concern you are showing towards us.

Menimol Josey

ALAN J. OUIMET, O.F.S. OBITUARY

Alan J. Ouimet, O.F.S., passed away peacefully on November 14, 2025, leaving behind a profound legacy of faith, service, and compassion that touched countless lives around the world. Born on February 12, 1937, in the Bronx, NY, Alan was the son of Camille Henri Ouimet and Alexandra Gilbert and the brother of Raymond, June, and Lillian—all of whom predeceased him.

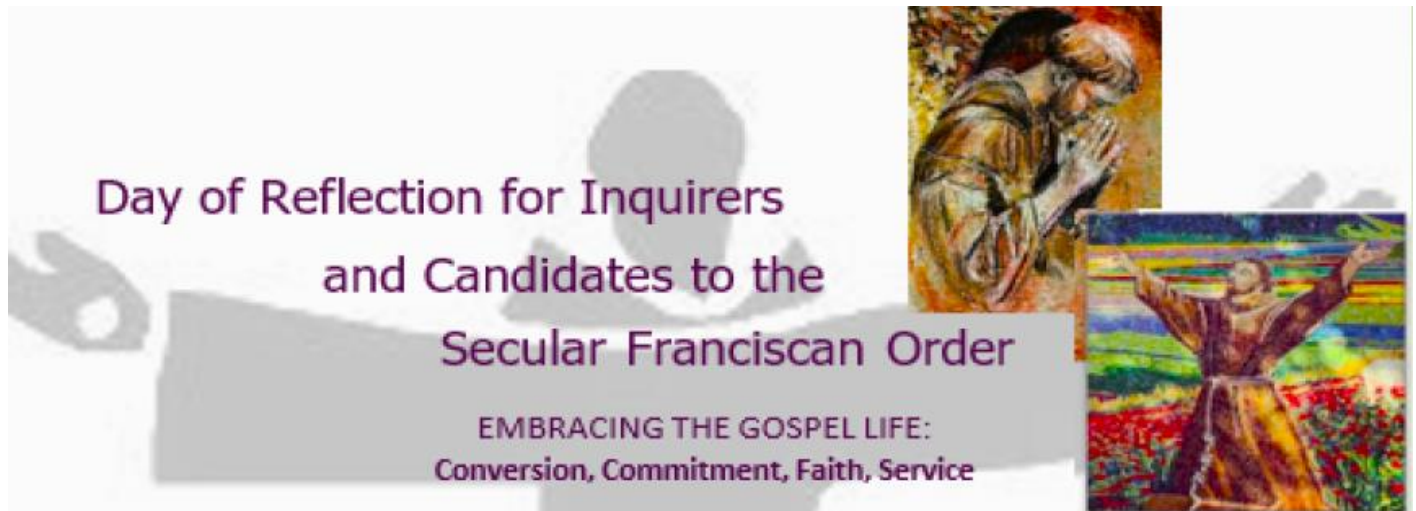
A graduate of Saint John's University (BA) and the University of Connecticut (MA), Alan paired a sharp intellect with a generous heart. Alan dedicated his life to public service and uplifting the poor, supporting families, and living the dictum of his patron Saint Francis: preach the Gospel always—use words when necessary. In 1957, he began a career at the Justice Department that would include combatting the Ku Klux Klan during the Civil Rights Era and rolling up organized crime syndicates before moving into counterintelligence and counterterrorism, the issues that became the main focus of his 31-year career. After retiring with distinction in 1988, Alan served as Director and Trustee of an association dedicated to assisting the families of federal employees in need.

Alongside his government career, Alan joined the Secular Franciscan Order in 1967 and began a commitment to the less fortunate that ultimately shaped every chapter of his life. In 1971, he founded the Franciscan Family Apostolate (FFA) to assist the destitute poor in India. The apostolate began as a small sponsorship program, providing \$5 monthly scholarships for struggling families in Alleppey (Alappuzha), Kerala, and later expanded to Andhra Pradesh. In time, the FFA built houses, equipped clinics, hospitals and hospice care, provided micro-credit loans, coordinated HIV/AIDS programs, and afforded educational opportunities for young people. Over five decades, it has provided an estimated \$22 million in assistance and support to the poorest of the poor.

In the decades that followed his retirement from the government, Alan devoted himself fully to the FFA and to expanding outreach to vulnerable communities in the United States and around the world. He was a founding director of the Connecticut Urban Education Foundation, serving at-risk children in New Haven. He was also a founding director and later chairman of the Heart 2 Heart Foundation, USA, supporting children with HIV/AIDS in Kenya. Alan's work among the poor earned him numerous honors, including the Bene Merenti Award from Pope John Paul II (1987), the Humanitarian Award of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI (2003), and a nomination for the Saint Francis Peace Award of the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order (2010).

At the center of Alan's life was his family. He is survived by his beloved wife of over 60 years, Mary Theresa, with whom he shared a devoted and faith-filled marriage; their four children and their spouses—Matthew and Julie Ouimet, Mark and Anna Ouimet, Jennifer and John Christensen, and Claire and Stuart Coller. He was a proud and loving grandfather to Alexandra, Perseus, Clara, Kaylee, Cassidy, Luke, and Emie, who brought him endless joy.

Alan's lifelong commitment to the poor began as a promise to God he made in 1970 during a time of fear for Mary's health—a promise he honored faithfully every day thereafter. Alan lived in the footsteps of Francis of Assisi, who taught, "Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received—only what you have given." His life was a testament to those words: engaging, generous, reliable, and transformative.



Especially designed for Candidates and inquirers! OFS professed members are also invited



Br. Michael Meza, OFM-Cap is our presenter for the day. The presentation will give much food for thought about how your life will change after profession to the Secular Franciscan Order. This event is also good for current professed members to refresh their commitment to our OFS life.

Saturday, February 7, 2026
 Time: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm
 Cost: \$50, Lunch included

Location: Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land
 1400 Quincy St. NE
 Washington, DC

ALL ARE WELCOME !

The Day of Reflection is especially for inquirers and candidates to learn more about our Franciscan spirituality and way of life, and to seek deeper discernment about their decision to accept and profess into the vocation of the Secular Franciscan Order.

- ❖ **Fraternity Formation Directors are especially encouraged to attend** with their candidates and inquirers, as there will be time for discussion amongst your group.
- ❖ **All OFS members are welcome** to attend as this event can refresh and renew your commitment to profession



REGISTRATION – Deadline January 30, 2026

To register, click on this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/2025DayofReflectionCandidatesInquirers#/>

Please note that payment can be made electronically on this page or a check can be written and mailed in. A registration is not confirmed until payment is received. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Riga Colleran at ricolleran10@gmail.com or 703-310-9958.