

For Further Information
Please contact
(Effective through June 2013)

Sr. Linda Mershon, FSPA,
Chair
TOR-FCN Governing Board
608-791-5280
lmershon@fspa.org

Sr. Maureen McCarthy, OSF
TOR FCN Co-Novice Minister
mmccarthy@sssf.org
314-561-4110

Sr. Rose Wisniewski, OSF
TOR FCN Co-Novice Minister
rosew4@att.net
314-561-4111

*The sisters and brothers...
wherever they are...
diligently and fervently show
reverence and honor
to one another.
They... also foster
unity and communion with
all the members of the
Franciscan family
(TOR Rule I.3).*

July 2013



**A Novitiate Experience
Rooted in our Common
Franciscan Tradition**



*Led by God, let them begin
a life of penance,
conscious that all of us
must be continuously and
totally converted.
(TOR Rule II.6)*

Nature of the TOR FCN

The Third Order Regular Franciscan Common Novitiate was established in July 2009 as a collaborative effort of thirty-two Third Order Regular Franciscan women's congregations. It is centrally located in St. Louis, Missouri.

The TOR FCN novitiate provides a time for deepening one's single-hearted love of God, expressed outwardly in a joyful and energetic spirit of service to others. It is a time for continued discernment of the vowed life. The TOR FCN community fosters a familial relationship with others who are also committed to living the Gospel life of continual conversion.

Why a Franciscan Common Novitiate?

A Franciscan common novitiate addresses the need for an integrated novitiate in which novices may experience and better appreciate varied expressions of the Franciscan charism among Third Order Regular congregations. Because many Franciscan groups have fewer entrants, a common novitiate allows the collaborating communities to pool their best resources and assure the novices a community of peers in which to share their novitiate journey under the guidance of well-prepared novice ministers.

Highlights of the Program

- Life within a Third Order Regular evangelical community
- Initiation into a balanced rhythm of contemplation and service
- Acquaintance with the larger Franciscan family through participation in an Inter-Franciscan novitiate program
- Development of Franciscan spirituality, prayer, and ongoing conversion of mind and heart
- Study, reflection, sharing, and integration of Franciscan history, theology, and spirituality
- Study of the vows, ecclesiology, Catholic social teaching, liturgy and prayer with novices of other traditions
- Growth in awareness and investment in global concerns
- Ongoing discernment of a call to Franciscan life

Program Calendar

The novitiate experience is comprised of nine months of the canonical year. The program begins in mid August and ends in mid May. The novices spend some time during the Christmas season with their home congregations. They remain at the common novitiate for Holy Week and Easter.



320 East Ripa Avenue,
St. Louis, MO 63125-2897.

The TOR-FC is located on a 3rd floor wing of the SSND Central Pacific Provincial House in St. Louis, MO. The grounds are beautiful and include access to nearby walking and bike trails along the Mississippi River.

Elements of Our Mission

The Sisters of the Third Order Regular commit to a partnership of interdependence while welcoming novices desirous of living an evangelical conversion of life in a spirit of contemplation, poverty, and minority. As ecclesial persons, we seek to fulfill the purpose of the novitiate according to the universal law for the Institute of Consecrated Life and the particular law, the Constitutions of each participating congregation. The joint novitiate provides a rootedness in the common tradition of the Third Order Regular Franciscan family and celebrates the varied charismatic expressions manifested by the participating congregations.