

2025 Annual Report



Table of Contents

Executive Director	1
Convocation of Canonical Leaders	2
National Board President	3
Treasurer	6
Commission of JPIC	13
Commission for Life & Mission	15
Commission of Member Engagement	19

COVER IMAGE BY SR. NANCY EARLE, SMIC



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Julianne E. Wallace, D.Min.

Since joining the Federation in February 2025, I have approached my new role with both a sense of responsibility and of hope for what lies ahead. My perspective is naturally oriented toward the future, but I have also spent my first ninety days listening, learning, and researching the challenges and barriers that have affected the Federation's recent success. This period of discovery has been invaluable, allowing me to better understand the unique strengths of our community as well as the obstacles we must address to move forward together.



While the accompanying reports below offer a thorough and honest account of the past year's activities, I would like to focus my remarks on the road ahead. On the whole, we are making steady progress in our journey to professionalize our nonprofit. We are committed to building robust systems and processes that will ensure the long-term sustainability of the Federation. This ongoing transformation is both exciting and essential as we prepare to meet the challenges and embrace the opportunities that the future holds. I am energized by the dedication I have witnessed within our community, and I look forward to working alongside each of you as we continue this important work together.

I recognize that times of transition can bring with them a sense of uncertainty. As we embark on significant changes within the Federation, it is only natural that questions and doubts may arise. These feelings are a normal part of any journey of transformation. Yet, in the midst of this change, I invite each of you to keep your hearts and minds open—to envision not only a vibrant and sustainable future for the Federation, but also to see the unique and essential role you play in shaping that future. This invitation is not a call for blind trust, but rather an encouragement to cultivate curiosity and active engagement. Imagine a Federation where the rich and diverse Franciscan charism flourishes in new and unexpected ways, touching lives and communities far beyond what we can see today. Achieving this vision will require the dedication and participation of all of us. To our founding TOR members, your leadership and generosity are the foundation upon which we can build fiscal sustainability and a lasting charismatic legacy. To new Franciscan communities—TOR, First Order, Seculars, and Poor Clares—we welcome your fresh perspectives and the unique energy you bring to our shared mission. And to all Franciscan-hearted individuals, we extend an open invitation for you to join us, to share in this journey, and to help carry the charism forward into the future. The road ahead may seem daunting, and it is understandable to feel apprehensive. Yet, I encourage you to meet this moment with a spirit of curiosity and hope, and to trust in the positive intentions that unite us. Let us each ask ourselves: What can I do to ensure the vitality and flourishing of the Federation for years to come? Together, through openness, collaboration, and faith, we can build a future that honors our past and embraces the possibilities that lie ahead.

I want to highlight several key priorities that will guide my leadership. I am committed to exploring innovative ways to honor the Federation's rich legacy while expanding our reach to new communities and individuals. A critical focus will be addressing our current deficit budget with determination and transparency. Over the next three years, I will work diligently to achieve a balanced budget by fiscal year 2028, ensuring the Federation's financial health and sustainability. Below, you will find a list of additional priorities that I will be working to accomplish throughout 2025.

My commitment to you, our members, is to serve the Federation with the same curiosity and creativity I invite in each of you. I trust that, together, we will be led to new opportunities and deeper unity as a community. I truly believe that, by working collaboratively, we can build a future where the Franciscan Federation not only survives, but flourishes—serving as a beacon of hope, community, and transformation for all who seek to live out the Franciscan charism.

Priorities for 2025

- **Implementing a New Membership Model:** Responding to the dues shortfall from our first model revision, we are currently updating the membership model. The new membership model will be the result of careful reflection, a deep commitment to community, and a forward-thinking approach to shared responsibility. We believe this model will strengthen our Federation and empower every member to make a meaningful impact.
- **Improving Communication and Data Management:** We are actively working to resolve database and communication issues within our membership, ensuring greater connection and efficiency.
- **Launching a Mini-Giving Campaign:** Planning is underway for a mini-giving campaign in Fall 2025 to offset our deficit budget for FY 2025.
- **Strategic Planning:** We are developing a strategic plan focused on fiscal sustainability and membership growth, setting clear priorities for the coming years.
- **Brand Refresh:** An update to our logo is about to begin, reflecting our renewed vision and commitment to the future.
- **Community Engagement:** We are planning several in-person events over the next two years to foster connection and collaboration among our members.

CONVOCAION OF CANONICAL LEADERS REPORT

Sr. Janet Gardner

The CCL was busy creating a new model of service to our congregational leaders this past year, working closely with the Federation's Board. The CCL reviewed and approved the amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and revised Bylaws to ensure they meet our new and changing needs as an organization. Three CCL Designated Directors, who serve as the Members of the Corporation, were elected. The Coordinating Committee created policies for the CCL and have submitted them to the Board for inclusion in the policy manual.

To meet the needs of the Canonical Leaders, several Zoom meetings were planned throughout the year to engage our leaders on topics of critical interest. Presentations from congregations creating collaborative associations, those collaborating with other entities and plans for congregational archives were offered. The CCL also met during the 2024 LCWR Conference in August, 2024 to share the activities and plans of the Federation.

Congregational leaders were encouraged to engage their members in the various activities of the Federation. It is our hope that the energy and promise surging through the Federation will allow all of us to share the beauty and vitality of our Franciscan charism.



Executive Committee

Sr. Janet Gardner – Chair
Sr. Leonette Kochan– Secretary
Sr. Jeanne Bessette – Board Liaison
Sr. Renita Brummer
Sr. Janice Jolin
Sr. Nancy Linenkugel

NATIONAL BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jeanne Connolly

“It’s a new dawn, it’s a new day, it’s a new life, and I feel good...”—the refrain from Michael Bubl e’s *Feeling Good* captures the spirit of this moment for the Franciscan Federation. I feel hopeful about the newness God offers us as we continue the call to “rebuild the church” in today’s world. We are not blind to the risks and challenges, but neither were St. Francis and St. Clare, nor the lay penitents spreading Gospel love more than 800 years ago.



In late August 2024, the National Board began implementing the work initiated in the first half of the year. Under revised bylaws and articles of incorporation, the board now includes five vowed Franciscans (three elected canonical leaders) and five laypeople—four affiliated with Third Order communities. For the first time, a layperson was elected president, marking a significant milestone in our evolving identity.

The change in the board's composition is another sign of the changes taking place within the Federation. The Federation's foundresses (and founders) established a legacy that provides a fertile soil for new seeds and new life. Recognizing that canonical members can no longer solely support our finances, we are exploring expanded forms of membership and broader partnerships rooted in Franciscan values.



National Board Members

Jeanne Connolly
Darleen Pryds, Ph.D.
Kevin Ryan
Jeanne Bessette, OSF
Betsy Savare
Michael Higgins, TOR
Celeste Crine, OSF
Michelle Balek, OSF
Michael Fenn
Sandra Lyons, OSF

In September 2024, we said goodbye to Sara Marks, the Federation's first lay Executive Director, who laid the essential groundwork necessary for the national office to carry out its responsibilities. From September through December, the board of directors focused on defining what was needed now. Information gathered from the Listening and Learning sessions helped define the needs.

In January 2025, we hosted a Membership Forum celebrating 2024 milestones, including our new legal name: Franciscan Federation of the United States, which conveys the breadth of the “new” Federation. Sr. Mary Beth Ingham, CSJ, reminded us “how the Franciscan tradition holds the most fertile earth to plant the seeds for a future of hope.”

We believe the world still longs for a Franciscan Renaissance, and so we invested in new leadership. After a national search, we welcomed Julianne Wallace, D.Min., as Executive Director and reorganized the National Office.

I am deeply grateful to our board members, CCL and commission co-chairs, volunteers, staff, and all members and partners. I am also grateful to former staff members, Sara Marks, Eunice Park, and Fifty Juliana, who toiled to bring forward the tools to widen our tent.

Let us continue to nurture the new seeds as a new dawn, a new day, and a new life awaken in a world craving Franciscan spirituality.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Kevin, W. Ryan

A Franciscan Renaissance is in the air! I introduce my first Annual Report as Treasurer, acknowledging that the Franciscan Federation is rich in its history of association with the many U.S.A. Congregations aligned as Franciscans of the Third Order Regular. As in the beginnings several decades ago, the Federation is experiencing a new rebirth. Impacted by the changing dynamics of religious life and the emerging presence of laypersons seeking alignment with Franciscan values and spirituality, our tent is expanding and this new day challenges us as we continue our mission to provide umbrella services for Franciscans throughout this country.

I first thank Father Frank Scornaienchi, T.O.R. for his many years of commitment to the Federation in spearheading Conference planning, organizational planning and his decade of service as our Treasurer. Happily, Fr. Frank continues to participate actively as a member of the Board's Finance Committee. I also thank the National Board for their confidence in me to continue as the Treasurer.



In the months that I can report on the activities for FY2024, I would identify several significant actions and accomplishments:

- We have continued to review and adjust our financial management and reporting, introducing more readable and transparent financial statements
- We have begun to better align financial data into strategic planning databases
- We also have begun to review Board policies and procedures for the conduct of Financial matters and are targeting the adoption and utilization of a policies and procedures operating manual in 2025.
- We have been preparing during the period of Administrative transition to enable a smooth change in operational leadership.
- We have reviewed comments and suggestions elicited via the Listening and Learning sessions to improve our financial viability.
- We welcomed a second full-time employee to the National Office, securing approximately \$70,000 in funding to support this role. While this addition has strengthened our team, it is important to recognize that relying on short-term fundraising for this position poses challenges for long-term sustainability. Our immediate plan is to continue fundraising efforts to maintain this role, while exploring more stable funding solutions for the future.
- We marked the first implementation of our new dues collection model. We experienced a significant decrease in dues revenue because of the new model, prompting us to begin revising the model to ensure greater stability and effectiveness in the years ahead.

Following once again on Fr. Frank's comments regarding the Federation's transformational growth and in the spirit of a new Franciscan Renaissance, we aspire in our financial management to continue to strengthen our financial foundation and grow our reserve funds. These funds are absolutely essential to provide value and benefit to our membership thru new programs and services.

We are one of four legs of the proverbial stool, supporting all of our efforts. The other three legs are Membership, Programs and Services provided and our Advancement Efforts. We four components serve to assure our stability as we position ourselves for growth.

As we begin our experience for FY2025, we welcome our new Executive Director Julianne Wallace, D. Min. and express our confidence that the future is open to new expressions of creativity and avenues of relationships.

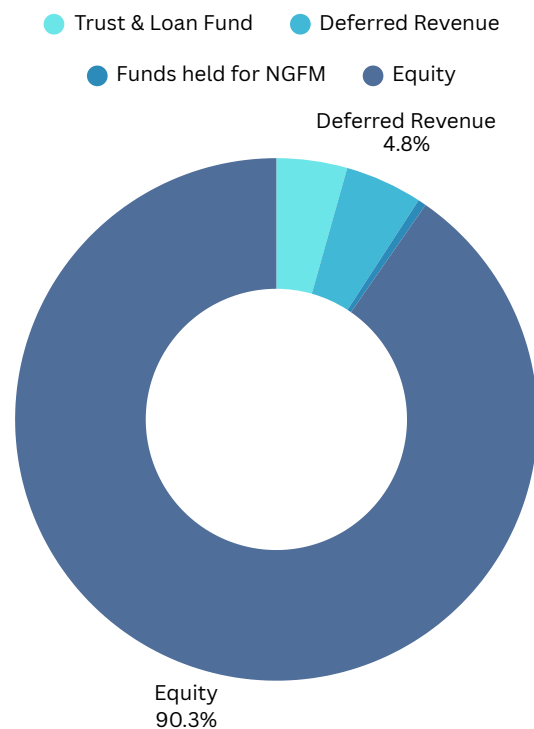
Finance Committee

Kevin Ryan, Chair
Michael Fenn
Frank Scornaienchi
Thomas Fenn
Frank Pellegrino

BALANCE SHEET 2024

Assets	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2024
Cash Checking	\$26,620.53	-\$1,243.00
Investment Fund	\$547,820.15	\$536,902.00
Total Assets	\$574,440.68	\$535,659.00
Liabilities& Equity	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2024
Accounts Payable	\$897.74	\$0.00
Trust & Loan Fund	\$28,500.00	\$29,000.00
Deferred Revenue	\$25,577.00	\$31,729.00
Funds held for NGFM	\$3,706.07	\$3,400.00
Equity	\$515,593.87	\$598,771.00
Total	\$574,274.68	\$662,900.00

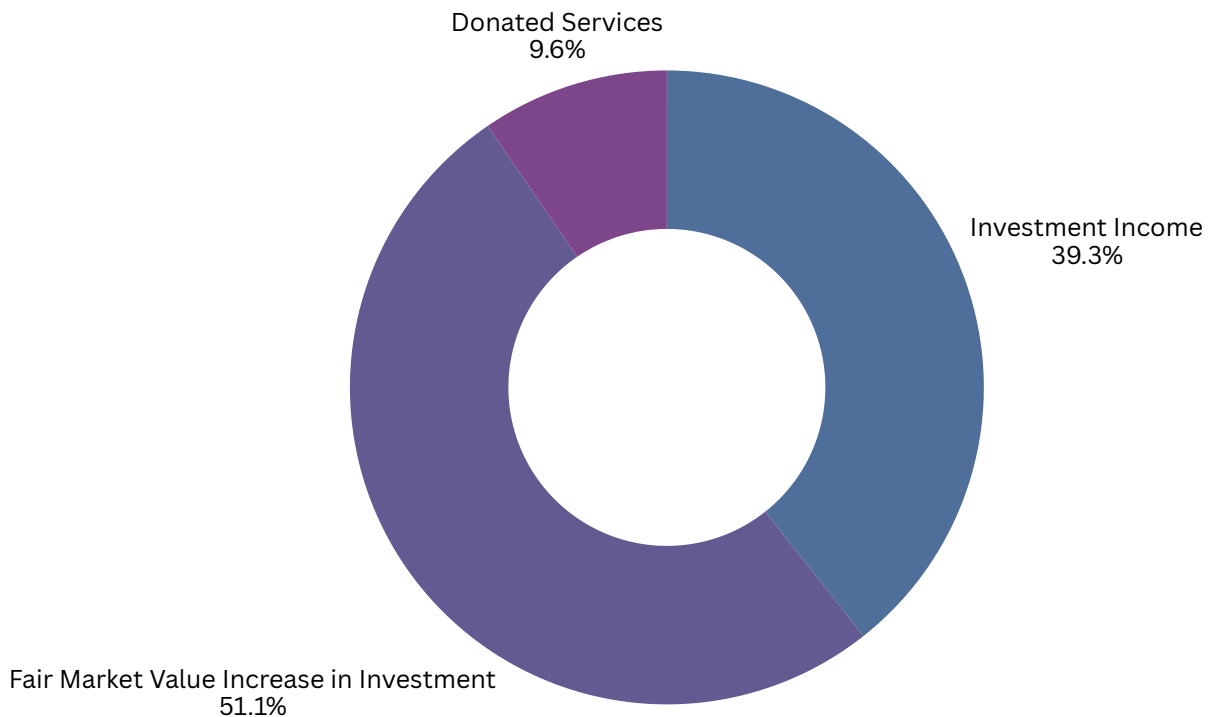
Liabilities & Equity 2024



INCOME 2024

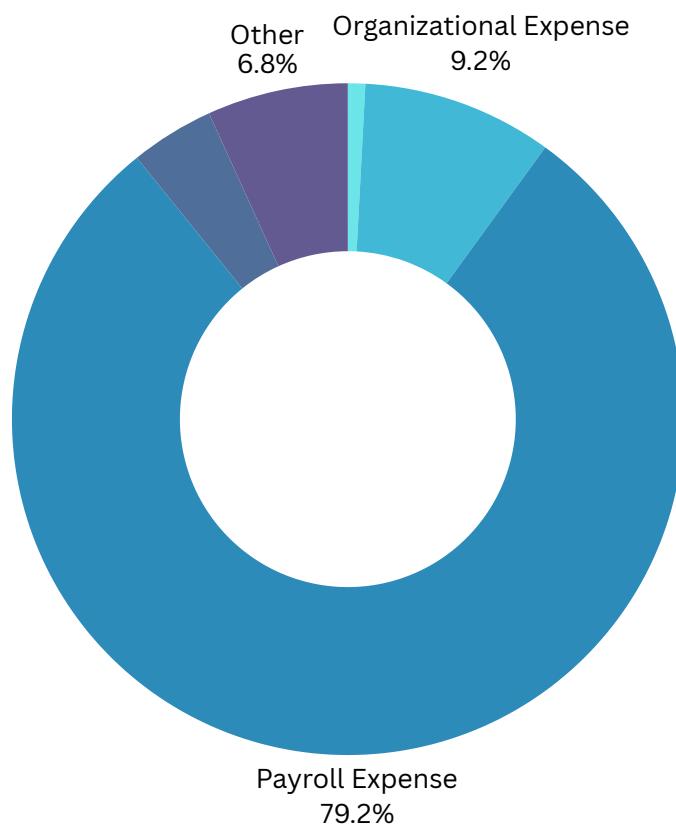
Income	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2024
Membership	\$72,354.00	\$64,043.00
Sales/Services	\$589.00	\$0.00
Conference/Programs	\$84,877.00	\$9,065.00*
Gifts, Donations, Grants	\$29,229.00	\$124,587.00*
Investment Income	\$17,591.00	\$17,192.00
Fair Market Value Increase in Investment	\$46,806.00	\$22,322.00
Donated Services	\$7,744.00	\$4,179.00
Total Income	\$260,190.00	\$241,288.00

*Conference/Programs connotes suspension of National Conference. **Gifts, Donations, and Grants included a special appeal of Operational expenses of approximately \$70,000



USE OF INCOME 2024

Use of Income	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2024
Administration	\$8,610.00	\$88,383.00
Conference/Programs	\$168,859.00	\$1,666.00
Organizational Expense	\$17,198.00	\$18,282.00
Payroll Expense	\$103,058.00	\$157,981.00
Donated and Specialized Services	\$27,339.00	\$8,039.00
Other	\$7,959.00	\$13,532.00
Total Use of Income	\$333,023.00	\$287,883.00
Net Income	-\$72,833.00	-\$46,595.00



Commission of JUSTICE, PEACE, AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION (JPIC)

During 2024, the Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) executive committee and full JPIC commission met on alternating months with the intent to continue our collaboration with the Franciscan Action Network (FAN) in presenting a series of Environmental Racism webinars. The overarching goal was to implement the Federation’s 2022-2023 JPIC Resolution. *“We, the members of the Franciscan Federation, renounce the egregious sin of environmental racism that exists in the United States and globally. We recognize the disproportionate impact of environmental hazards on people of color and are called to work for environmental justice.”*

Each webinar focused on a different issue and different location. “Urban Heat Island Disparities in Richmond, VA”; Cicero, Illinois: Underwater and Under Pressure; and Protect Oak Flat: Preserving a Sacred Site in Arizona from mining”. All representing areas where Franciscans are in ministry and where our country is facing the threat of Environmental Racism.

All webinars were recorded providing our Federation members an opportunity to attend in person or at a later date and time. Members also have the opportunity for advocacy, responding to an action item.

The Commission of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) has and will continue to focus on specific justice-led issues, recognizing the interconnectedness of all peoples and creation. In providing education and resources through these webinars, we continue to help our Franciscan family address issues of care for creation—environmental justice.

Our Franciscan values lead us to be in community with one another, taking action to protect each other’s integrity of life & human dignity, and to be agents of positive change in our communities. At the same time, we recognize there are other issues we need to advocate for: Human Trafficking, Human Rights, Peacemaking, Immigration, Racism. We encourage all members of the Federation to do your own research on the issues specific to your city or community. Contact us and we will do our very best to respond with webinars, action alerts, and on-going education.

Commission Members

Chairperson: Pat Millen, OSF
Co-Chair: Kelly Moltzen, OFS
National Office Liaison: Eunice Park
Caryn Crook, SOSF
Michele Dunn, OFS
Liz Fuhr, OSF
Carolyn Townes, OFS

COMMISSION FOR LIFE AND MISSION

The Commission for Life and Mission is composed of three active committees: **Formation and Education**, the **Franciscan Intentional Communities Network**, and the **Emergent Group**. The chairs of each subcommittee form the coordinating/executive committee for the Commission and meet quarterly for mutual support, information sharing, and to have an opportunity to hear any updates from the National Office.

Formation and Education, Sr. Susan Marie Pleiss, OSF, Chair

Formation and Education generally meets every other month and endeavors to continue identifying resources and ensure these are available to a wide range of Franciscan seekers via our website. Over the past year, we have been guided by three objectives:

1. to look specifically at the needs of new members to feel welcomed and properly introduced to the wealth of resources within our website;
2. to attend to continuous improvement of the Resource section of the website, especially for those seekers unfamiliar with the Franciscan tradition;
3. and to make regular contributions to the Damiano newsletter.

Currently, we are in the final stages of preparing an “E-Welcome” packet for new members, to be sent out as an attachment to a welcome letter from the Executive Director to all new members. Our “Resources Task Force” has the specific technical skills necessary to constantly improve the search function for our Resources page. Finally, over the past year several members of our Commission have contributed short articles for The Damiano newsletter.

A major ongoing need for our subcommittee is to identify useful resources that exist in the Franciscan world (especially in Third Order congregational Formation and Charism Services Offices) but are not in appropriate formats for our 21st Century audience. Ideally, resources need to be in digital formats, assembled in series of shorter packets of information so they can be utilized easier by a wider audience. This is an ambitious project that will require time, technical skills, and possibly a source of funding over the life of the project.

The Emergent Group, Br. Ian Boden, OLF, Chair

The Emergent Group engages with diverse voices across the Franciscan family and charism in a process to help shape future directions and priorities. Beginning in January of 2024, our second Emergent cohort was convened and met six times with a facilitator as they held the question “What in this moment of time requires a Franciscan response?” Twenty-two voices from across the Franciscan family and charism were engaged in this dreaming and visioning process. Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Lutheran voices were included as well as male, female, and a range of ages. Care was also taken to include those who were vowed members of religious orders, those who were associate members of congregations and some who were neither.

Several themes emerged from this process, including: Franciscan Ecumenism, LGBTQ+, Cultural Diversity, Shared Resource Management, Christian Nationalism, Doctrine of Discovery, Land Justice, Mental Health Advocacy and Awareness, Homelessness, and the Global Climate Crisis. A number of these themes were also raised with the first Emergent Cohort several years ago. In the coming months, The Emergent Group is looking to convene a stage two process that will explore a couple of the themes raised up and find tangible and actionable ways the Franciscan Federation can act and engage with the uplifted priorities.

FICN Coordinating Group, Sr. Diane Tomkinson, OSF, Chair

The FICN Coordinating Group met regularly via Zoom throughout the year for mutual support and to continue developing and expanding our network. We shared various program documents and best practices with one another, particularly helpful to emerging communities such as Canticle House in developing materials for new Franciscan Intentional Communities. A goal identified at our 2024 annual meeting was to create and share media content about FICN communities. Accomplishments related to this goal included an article on the House of Discernment published in the Winter 2025 issue of NRVC's Horizon magazine, and one on Canticle House included in the spring 2025 issue of The Damiano.



Core group members gathered in Aston, PA, at the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, from April 6-10 for FICN's annual meeting. (Sr. Maria was unable to attend at the last minute due to a health issue.) In addition to time for faith sharing and mutual relationship, the group joined the Canticle House community for dinner and prayer one evening. Other sessions focused on diverse community living and conflict resolution, developing and/or updating program documents, and ways to integrate and support new intentional communities into our network. A hybrid Zoom session on April 9 included Carmen Barsody, FSLF from Faithful Fools Street Ministry, along with three guests exploring possible new Franciscan Intentional Communities: Br Steve Grieco, Fr. Greg Plata, and Wanda Guthrie (part of a new ecumenical Franciscan group). Beginning this fall, we agreed to expand our bi-monthly Zoom sessions to two hours, with the first hour for the core coordinating group, and the second hour to include these and future representatives of emerging intentional communities.

Each committee of the Commission for Life and Mission remains committed to expanding participation in our work, particularly reaching out to Vowed Ecumenical Franciscans, Associates, Cojourners, Companions, and other charism-carriers. Our shared goal is to extend the Federation's reach, enrich its resources, and strengthen our network of Franciscan voices. For more information, please contact lifeandmission@franfed.org

COMMISSION FOR MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Nearly 450 people joined speakers Father Murray Bodo, Eunice Park and Darleen Pryds for our First Annual Virtual Retreat, Journeying from the Crib to the Cross, held twice at the beginning of 2024. The days were filled with inspiration and connection, delighting and engaging diverse groups of Franciscan sisters, associates, and seculars, among others, with stories, reflection and conversation around the story of Greccio, Franciscan journeying and Francis' Stigmata.

Commission Plans in 2025

2nd Annual Virtual Retreat celebrating the 800th anniversary of the Canticle of Creatures together held in February.

A time of experimentation with a new offering: Franciscan Connection Circles, providing a time for Franciscan Federation Members to meet virtually and grow in Franciscan connection and understanding.

Planned for June, in collaboration with the JPIC Commission, the Canticle of Creatures, Author Roundtable with Keith Douglas Warner, OFM, Ilia Delio, OSF, and Pamela Wood, to discuss the new, expanded edition of Care for Creation, released earlier in the year.

Purpose

The Commission of Member Engagement's purpose is to inspire a sense of inclusion for the members of the Federation, as well as to offer invitation to potential members. This Commission will inspire Federation members to engage in grassroots efforts to keep the Franciscan spirit alive throughout the year and to engage Federation members in building relationships with each other. This includes the implementation of a virtual annual federation retreat.

Federation Virtual Retreat

Commission Members

Sister Meg Earsley, FSPA, Co-chair
Kristin Moline, Co-chair
Sister Anne Amati
Verleah Kosloske
Jeanine Morozowich
Maryann Mueller





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franfedoffice@franfed.org

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