



## **OFS: *Secular Franciscan Order (& YouFra)***

*The Third Order of St. Francis in Ireland.*

### **National Newsletter February 2025**

“To follow Jesus in the footsteps of St. Francis”

Website: [ofsireland.org](http://ofsireland.org)



### **Matt Talbot Centenary June 7<sup>th</sup> 2025**

Matt Talbot was a humble Dublin workman whose life of prayer and penance has become well known since his death on June 7<sup>th</sup> 1925. He was a dedicated member of the Third Order of St Francis. The National Council encourages all Fraternities to consider marking Matt Talbot's centenary and to “begin again” to promote his cause as a patron of addiction. OFS Ireland members are asked to pray for his Beatification. The prayer is in our new Green books or available on the Irish Bishops' Drugs Initiative website [Venerable Matt Talbot – IBDI](#).

### **Matt Talbot and the Popes**

Matt was declared Venerable by Pope St Paul VI who visited his grave when he was a Cardinal. Pope St John Paul II had a devotion to Matt and expressed a wish to beatify him. When a young man, the Pope had written an article on Matt in Polish. During his 2018 visit to Ireland, Pope Francis stopped to pray at Matt's tomb in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Seán McDermott Street.

### **Matt Talbot and the Knights**

The Knights of Saint Columbanus (KOSC) have taken the initiative to mark the centenary of his death. In June 2025 there will be ‘Centenary for the Venerable Matt Talbot Weekend Services and a Cathedral visit’ in Dublin. The visit of Matt Talbot's relics around Ireland has been organised and supported by the Knights . ([‘Never too late’ to fight addiction - Matt Talbot's centenary launch - The Irish Catholic](#)). OFS Fraternities might consider organising a centenary event with their local KOSC. Matt Talbot RTE documentary <https://youtu.be/dbLl7nv1hi0?feature=shared>

### **Being familiar with Our Rule to enable our daily Conversion**

Lay Franciscans follow the Rule of St. Francis which reminds us that our conversion is daily – we change, we grow, we come closer to the vision the Lord has for us. In a sense, our rule has experienced conversion, too. Through our 800-year history, our rule has changed and grown to become the rule our Seraphic Father Francis envisioned for us. Our present rule was approved by Saint Pope Paul VI on June 24, 1978. It took 12 years of editing and re-editing before it was accepted and approved. And, today, it inspires us to live as true Franciscans, joyfully serving the world, joyfully reaching out for the cause of peace, justice and integrity of creation, joyfully embracing our families and our work, ensuring the dignity of all, joyfully living a life of prayer, going from Gospel to life and life to the Gospel. What a treasure we have in the Rule. Have we read it recently? Are we living it as we could? We should continuously re-visit it. Read it carefully and thoughtfully. Let it inspire us to action as Secular Franciscans.

*VOX Franciscana • 20 • Summer 2018*

### **Caring for our Members**

Members who cannot attend meetings due to family or work commitments, or who are sick and housebound are very important to our Fraternities, and continue to be full members of the OFS family. Fraternity Councils should consider having someone responsible for outreach (or re-establish the role of infirmarian). Perhaps members could volunteer to regularly give a copy of the newsletter (in person, by post or via email) to these sisters and brothers.

### **Contributions to running the OFS**

*The subject of money is always a delicate Franciscan topic. However, we need funds to run the Order: locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Fraternities should consider sending their yearly donation to the National Council, which needs the money for a number of expenses such as maintaining a national office, and being represented at international chapters. Fraternities and members are asked to contribute according to their means. This does not apply to those unable to pay due to their circumstances.*

**Thanks to all contributors.** Items ideally 50 to 100 words. Feedback welcome. Send items to [irelandofs@gmail.com](mailto:irelandofs@gmail.com)