



# OFS: Secular Franciscan Order (& YouFra)

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

## **National Newsletter September 2025**

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

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



### **National Assembly Saturday September 6<sup>th</sup> 2025 Merchant's Quay Dublin**

#### Theme: Instruments of Peace

Agenda has been distributed by our National Secretary. It is important that all fraternities are represented.  
If you can't be there, please pray for its success.

**St. Charles of Sezze**

1613-1670

“I am nothing...only a tool in the hands of Providence, a lowly instrument at the service of St. Joseph.”



#### **Wisdom of St Charles OFM**

God does not command us to live in hairshirts and chains, or to chastise our flesh with scourges, but to love Him above all things and our neighbour as ourselves

*St Charles of Sezze is not a well-known saint. In this article, John Jennings, of the Galway Fraternity, introduces us to this impressive Franciscan.*

Born to poor farmers, Charles was admitted to the order at San Francesco convent in Nazzano and received the habit in 1635. Later he reflected that his vocation came from a need to follow a life of poverty and beg alms for the love of Christ. He wanted to go on the missions, but ill health prevented it. He never requested priestly ordination, despite his parent's protests. (They had dressed him up when a toddler in Franciscan Robes, with cord and hood). He had various duties in several friaries: he was a cook, a gardener, a beggar, none of which he was particularly skilled or qualified for. It is reported that he set fire to the kitchen of a Friary while cooking. He was seen by some as a 'disaster waiting to happen'. However, sometimes with the sign of the cross he was able to multiply food for those who needed it. He noted specifically that the more food the Friary gave to the poor, the more was donated. The Lord, in reward, gave him many charisms which he attempted to keep hidden. He had hidden stigmata and gifts of miracles and prophecies. He was often sought out for advice by prominent ecclesiastics and three different popes. He put his insights into writing: 'The Grandeur of the Mercies of God'. He died at the friary in 1670 and was canonized by Pope St John XXIII in 1959.

### **Monthly International OFS - YouFra Prayer Intentions for September 2025**

#### Holy Father: For our relationship with all creation.

Let us pray that, inspired by St. Francis, we may experience our interdependence with all creatures, loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

**OFS:** For the national fraternities of New Zealand, Australia, Slovakia and USA.



#### Pope Leo and Synodality

In his first public address, moments after his election, the new pope said: "We want to be a synodal Church, a Church that moves forward, a Church that always seeks peace, that always seeks charity, that always seeks to be close above all to those who are suffering."

*Ed: The topic of synodality is a priority for the Church in the present time. We hope to provide some articles in the newsletter exploring what synodality means for OFS Ireland.*

#### Franciscan Feast Days in September

- 10<sup>th</sup> Bl. Martyrs of Japan, Franciscan First Order and Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1622-1632
- 17<sup>th</sup> Stigmata of our Holy Father Francis
- 18<sup>th</sup> St. Joseph of Cupertino, Conventual Friar (1603-1663)