



2026 : Celebrating the Easter of St Francis

2026 is a very important year for all the Franciscan family when we celebrate 800 years since the birth into eternal life of our Holy Father Saint Francis. In contemporary society, we rarely think about death, not only because it reminds us that we are limited creatures, but also because it exposes the false security we get from believing that we are masters over time and life. Francis of Assisi, on the other hand, welcomed Sister Death with song, because he understood that death is not the termination of everything but the end that allows us to enter full communion with God. The celebration of the 800th anniversary of the Easter of Francis of Assisi invites us to contemplate our life, both personally and as a Franciscan Family, with the eyes of faith, and by doing so, perceive the divine presence and action in everything, even in the difficult and dramatic situations we have experienced or are experiencing now. It is an opportunity to thank God for all the gifts he has bestowed on us, particularly for the gift of Francis of Assisi and his evangelical life, which has become our charism, which today still has the strength to call out to women and men of all cultures, both inside and outside the Catholic Church. The Easter of Francis of Assisi reminds us that every day is an opportunity to start fresh, to renew our response to the call of the Lord. He sends us forth as brothers and sisters to the whole world, to bear witness to Him in word and deed, so as to draw everyone to the love of God. Finally, celebrating the passing of the Poverello is an occasion to remember that we are all called to holiness, and that like Francis, we are invited to reflect the beauty of the Gospel and of our Franciscan vocation, because “holiness is the most attractive face of the Church” (ref Gaudete et Exsultate (Rejoice and Be Glad) 3rd apostolic exhortation Pope Francis, 2018). From [Celebrating the Easter of Francis of Assisi 1226-2026 - Frati Francescani](#)

Radio Maria: OFS Feature on January 8th

The Franciscan Hour 4pm every Thursday.

Fr. Peter George Flynn OFM Conv.

Maurice O'Brien, OFS Cork Fraternity President, will be interviewed by Fr Peter about the Secular Franciscan Order in Ireland. This is a great opportunity to highlight the continued presence of the Franciscan Third Order in Ireland. We are grateful to Maurice for taking this initiative and we will pray for its success. **PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD.**

You can listen via Saorview Channel 210, Radio Maria website, Radio Maria app and on DAB if you're in Leinster. The Franciscan Hour also available on podcast at this link: [The Franciscan Hour – Radio Maria](#)



See Page 2 for photos of OFS events around Ireland

Pope Leo and the Practice of the Presence of God

A German journalist recently said to Pope Leo : “tell me one book, besides St. Augustine, that we could read to understand who Robert Prevost is”.

Pope Leo replied: “ There’s several I thought of, but one of them is a book called, “**The practice of the presence of God**.” It’s a very simple book, by someone who doesn’t even give his last name, **Brother Lawrence**, written many years ago. But it describes, if you will, a type of prayer and spirituality where one simply gives his life to the Lord and allows the Lord to lead. If you want to know something about me, that has been my spirituality for many years.

This year we hope to feature some excerpts from Brother Lawrence’s book in the OFS Newsletter.



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

Website: ofsireland.org



Professions in Cork

Two new tertiaries, **Kay O'Regan OFS** and **Frank Keating OFS** were professed on Wednesday December 3rd 2025 in Cork. The photo includes Fr. Michael OFM and Maurice O'Brien, President OFS Cork. It was taken at the St. Francis altar with its beautiful frescoes.



Profession in Athlone

OFS Athlone celebrated a Profession recently in the historic Franciscan Friary in Multyfarnham.

The photo shows members of OFS Athlone. Yvonne Ferry, Liam Fox, Fionnuala Price, **Newly Professed Mary Daly Scanlon OFS**, Eithne McLoughlin, Carmel Feeney & Betty O'Neill



Rite of Admission in Galway

On December 14th the Galway Fraternity welcomed **Aisling O'Rourke and Robert Comber**. The Rite of Admission was held during the Advent Retreat in the Abbey Church. The Galway Fraternity was joined by members of OFS Ennis and OFS Athlone. A joyful fraternal celebration was held afterwards in the Friary.

Aisling and Robert will now begin the next phase of formation.

Every day as long as this “today” lasts, keep encouraging one another (Heb. 3:13)