



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

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

## National Newsletter March 2026

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

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



### IMPORTANT National Elections: August 8<sup>th</sup> 2026

**800 years  
1226-2026**

**Nominations** are open for officers to serve on the **OFS Ireland National Council**. Any Professed OFS member may submit nominations. The election will be held at the national chapter on **Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup> 2026** in Cooke Street, Dublin (behind the Franciscan Church in Merchant’s Quay). Eligible for nominations are fraternity members who have been professed two years, have experience of animation or leadership in an OFS council, and show active participation in a local fraternity. However, the main requirement is to be passionate about the OFS Franciscan Lay vocation and committed to the growth of the OFS in Ireland. Elections will be held for the following eight positions:

**President (Minister), Vice-President (Vice-Minister), Secretary, Treasurer, Formation Director, International Councillor, Justice, Peace and Care of Creation (JPIC) Officer, Communications and Vocations Officer.**

Nomination papers have been sent to the Regions. Please return the completed Nomination Papers to: **Mary Tiernan, National Secretary**, 3 St. Mary’s Terrace, Chapelizod, Dublin 20 P962 or email to [tiernanmh@gmail.com](mailto:tiernanmh@gmail.com) : to arrive not later than 1st July 2026. Please consider serving on the National Council as the Council is needed for the OFS in Ireland to continue functioning, and subsequent holding of Regional and Local Elections. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. The Elections will be presided over by **Dina Shabalina** from the Secular Franciscan Order in **Ukraine**. **All Fraternities** are asked to send **at least** one member to the National Elective Chapter.

Above all, **please pray** for a successful national election.

### YouFra Elections

The YouFra fraternity held their elections on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February in the Abbey Galway. The election was presided over by Bridget Kearney from the local OFS fraternity. Officers from L to R.

**Róisín** (Secretary), **Aisling** (Vice-President/Vice-Minister), **Ross** (President/Minister), **Leon** (treasurer) and **Rosah** (formation).

The YouFra fraternity are planning to visit Assisi this year to celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of St Francis. They will start fundraising soon.

*Any contributions will be welcome!*



### Elections put down roots!

We can often wonder why we need to have so many elections with Rules, Constitutions and Statutes. However it is worth listening to what Pope Francis says to young people in the *Apostolic Exhortation Christus Vivit*. His words also apply to the not-so-young. We all need to put down roots, or we will have nothing to support us!

*"Sometimes I have seen young trees, beautiful, raising their branches to the sky, always seeking more, and they seemed like a song of hope. Later, after a storm, I found them fallen, lifeless. Because they had few roots, they had spread their branches without rooting well in the earth and thus succumbed to the onslaughts of nature. That is why it pains me to see that some propose to young people to build a future without roots, as if the world began now. Because 'it is impossible for someone to grow if they do not have strong roots that help them to be well supported and anchored to the earth. It is easy to "fly away" when there is nothing to hold on to, nothing to cling to'*

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