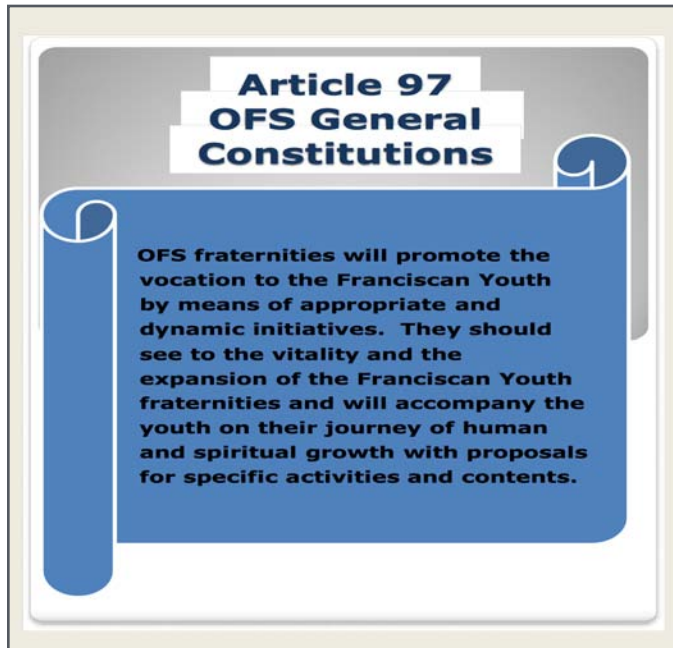


**Youth & Young Adults Commission – Christy & Sue Nelson, OFS**  
**“Promoting the vocation by means of appropriate and dynamic initiatives!”**

Greetings to our dear Franciscan Brothers and Sisters from your new Youth & Young Adults (YYA) Commission Co-Chairs, Sue and Christy Nelson, OFS. We are excited to partner with you on your Franciscan outreach efforts to young Catholics! We welcome your ideas as we work with the National Council to facilitate a robust YYA initiative.

tremendously challenging at times, they are also spiritually enriching and fraternally energizing. Special thanks to all who helped us on this journey so far – you know who you are! *An extraordinary thank you to Kathy Adams, OFS, Cyndy Garwood, OFS, and our new YouFra friends in the United States and abroad who have helped guide our efforts and generously shared their unique talents.*



As a mother-daughter team, we are hopeful about reaching across generational boundaries. We are forever grateful to the young Catholics in our family and inner circle who have continuously re-focused our efforts. These young, future Franciscans will someday come to realize how critical they have been in leading/steering our calling. As a Franciscan, the daily presence of the young people in our lives is a constant reminder that we are being called to ensure this next generation is exposed to Franciscan spirituality.



Sue Nelson, OFS

As we were considering this new role, we did significant research, but it was the counsel of the precious priests in our lives that was a beacon for our path. One priest said, *“Sue and Christy this isn’t a matter of ‘yes’ or ‘no,’ but a question of ‘are you being called to do this?’ and clearly you are!”* We share this personal conversation with you in our first communication in the *TAU* as we pray that those of you who are also being called by the Holy Spirit for this vital work in our Order will join us on this journey. We request your prayers for the YYA efforts across our country. We’ll be happy to share information regarding our backgrounds/bios in future correspondence to help you get to know us better, but right now we are anxious to GET STARTED.



Christy Nelson, OFS

### A Special Thank You

First of all, please allow us to express our gratitude to Our Lady of the Angels local fraternity in Edwardsville, Illinois, and the Franciscans of the Prairie regional fraternity for their support and prayers in our efforts over the last few years. As we attended the Q and the JPIC/YouFra Confab, our interest in supporting the spiritual growth of young Catholics has evolved into a passion for expanding Franciscan activities to this critical demographic. With the many challenges facing our fraternity leadership, we’d like to extend our deepest appreciation to those who said “Yes!” or “Ok, Let’s go ahead and try it.” when we requested fraternal support on the local, regional and national levels.

We certainly have grown to better understand that supporting OFS YYA initiatives can be controversial and even unpopular. Together, we must strive to look beyond our own needs and encourage and engage those who are the future of our Order. We are reminded constantly that although our efforts for YYA are



Youth & Young Adults Commission – Christy & Sue Nelson, OFS  
 “Go, Rebuild My Church”

**YYA (Youth & Young Adults)  
 “2 By 2 Fraternal Challenge”**



**YYA (Youth & Young Adults) Activities!**

Partner with young Catholics to collect Hoodies before & after masses and distribute to local charity

Invite young Catholics to the Children's Hospital ward with Franciscans and wear costumes to entertain young patients (conducted by one fraternity and ranked as one of their most fun events!).

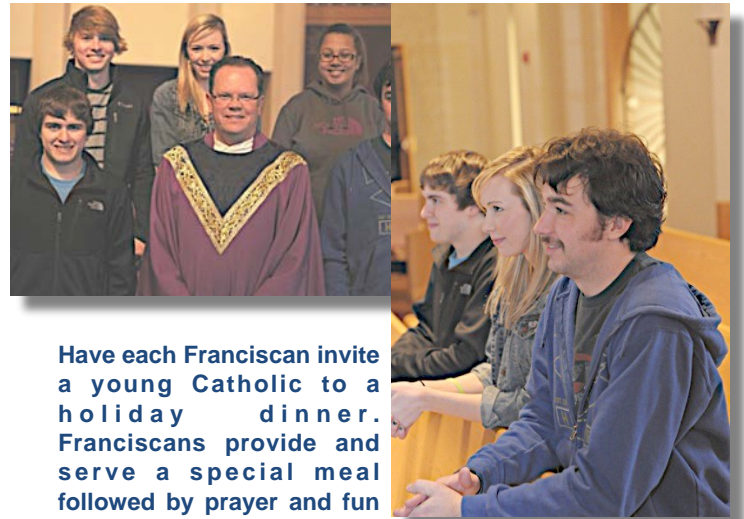
Invite young Catholics to help prepare the local fraternity's baskets for the needy for Thanksgiving

Provide a one-day event on Franciscan spirituality for young Catholics including guest speakers and thought-enriching activities



Partner with local catholic schools to distribute books on St Francis to all 4<sup>th</sup> graders and include a sticker inside the cover with fraternity contact info

(suggested and sponsored by an OFS Candidate and repeated by other fraternities)



Have each Franciscan invite a young Catholic to a holiday dinner. Franciscans provide and serve a special meal followed by prayer and fun activities

Two Franciscans gather with two young Catholics for coffee and discuss a chapter of Francis of Assisi, by Thaddee Matura, OFS. “To be understood, we must first strive to understand.” Begin by asking for their observations and questions – it’s about them!

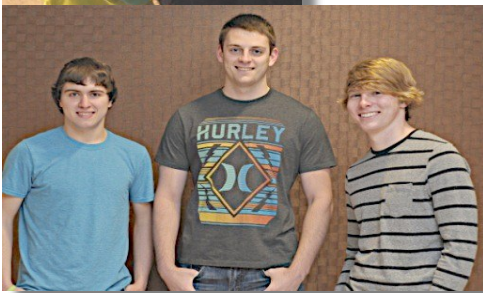
Have young Catholics volunteer their time with Franciscans to help with the Special Olympics

Youth & Young Adults Commission – Christy & Sue Nelson, OFS  
“Accompany the Youth on Their Journey of Human & Spiritual Growth”



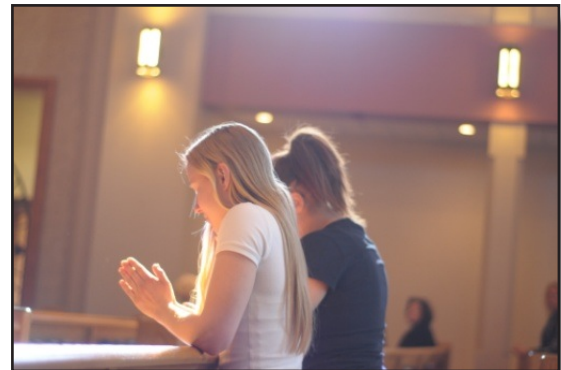
**YYA (Youth & Young Adults) Activities!**

Two Franciscans request a special meeting with the young leaders of the local Catholic youth group to explain who we are and ask for suggestions of ways to build a partnership



Establish an annual Franciscan visit with a local Catholic Youth Group for Pizza &

Prayer. Fraternity purchases the pizza and leads the evening Liturgy of the Hours.



Offer to provide the Catholic grade school principal gift cards for an essay or poster contest on St. Francis & St. Clare. Have the fraternity read and judge the entries at a gathering

Invite two local young Catholic leaders to meet with the local fraternity council each quarter to discuss the fraternity’s upcoming calendar of events and the best opportunities to invite young Catholics OR ask for suggestions of what we might do that would appeal to them (and their friends!)

**YouFra Groups  
In the United States**

If you are an emerging or existing YouFra Group in the US, contact us directly to enable us to get you updated information to help you network with peer fraternities:  
[suenelsonofs@yahoo.com](mailto:suenelsonofs@yahoo.com) &  
[christynelsonofs@yahoo.com](mailto:christynelsonofs@yahoo.com)



Second YouFra International Assembly – Croatia 2014

*Please send us  
news of your  
YYA Activity successes  
and include  
pictures/videos.*

*One region  
will be recognized  
for Outstanding  
YYA Outreach!*

*Note: For those under 18, obtain notarized parent/guardian signed authorization for unlimited photo use by OFS.*