



Sisters of Saint Francis of the Providence of God

PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

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Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God Elect New Leadership Team

(Pittsburgh, PA, June 12, 2025) After 103 years, the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God journey continues. At the Congregation's 24th General Chapter held May 25-June 4 in São Paulo, Brazil, Sister delegates elected their new leadership team, who will guide the Congregation for the next four years. Sister Rute Almeida Guimarães, OSF was re-elected to serve as General Minister for a second term, Sister Joance dos Santos, OSF was chosen as Assistant General Minister and Sister Maria Jose da Conceição, OSF, Sister Joanne Brazinski, OSF, and Sister Maria Goretti Avanzi, OSF were elected to serve as General Councilors. The leadership team will take office on July 1, 2025, and oversee the mission, ministries and outreach of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God in the United States and Brazil.

General Chapter is a significant milestone for the Congregation held every four years. In addition to electing new leadership, the Sisters discern how they will continue to live their Franciscan mission, respond to the needs of the world, and care for each other. "Sowers of Peace and Hope" was chosen as the 2025 General Chapter theme, reflecting our Franciscan charism, as well as the theme of the 2025 Jubilee Year proclaimed by Pope Francis: Pilgrims of Hope.

Founded in Pittsburgh, PA in 1922, the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God are dedicated to their Franciscan mission of serving persons in need, caring for the Earth and working for justice and peace. Sisters serve in education, healthcare, social work, advocacy, spiritual council, parish support, and other efforts, outreach and collaboration shaped by the unique needs of the communities they serve in the United States and Brazil. For more information, visit osfprov.org.

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Photo Caption: Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God General elected 2025-2029 General Council to lead the Congregation in the United States and Brazil: General Minister Sister Rute Almeida Guimarães (center, candle), Assistant General Minister Joance dos Santos (left), and General Councilors Sister Maria Goretti Avanzii (2nd from left), Sister Maria Jose da Conceição (2nd from right), and Sister Joanne Brazinski (right).



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Brief History of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God

Responding to the needs of the United States after World War I, 22 Lithuanian members of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth in Des Plaines, IL felt called to form a new congregation to serve growing Lithuanian Catholic Communities. The Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God was founded on March 12, 1922 with the support of several priests and Lithuanian parishes. The fledgling community was initially sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis of Millvale in Pittsburgh, PA and trained in the Franciscan way of life. As the Congregation's Franciscan spirituality blossomed, their mission expanded to go where Providence would lead them to serve all persons through education, healthcare, pastoral services and parish ministries. Sisters served Catholic schools, hospitals and other ministries throughout the East Coast and Midwest, as well as California, New Mexico and other areas of the United States. In 1938, the community began a mission in São Paulo, Brazil that grew into a province and later became home of the Generalate in 2015. Providence also called Sisters to serve in international missions outside the United States and Brazil, including Lithuania, Bolivia, Haiti, Ethiopia and the British West Indies. Inspired by St. Francis of Assisi, the Sisters celebrated their 100th anniversary in 2022 and continue to serve through various ministries and outreach in the United States and Brazil.

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