



FRATERNITAS

A ministry of the Franciscan Friars in Singapore ministering to youth and young adults



ANNUAL REPORT

Director's Message



Friar John-Paul Tan
OFM

Dear Friends and Supporters of Fraternitas,

Greetings of Peace and all Good!

I am happy to present to you our Annual Report sharing with you how the Lord has continued to bless us with growth and new initiatives.

Fraternity has been a blessing for us and we acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit that inspires this vision of journeying into God in fellowship.

One feature that we have intentionally implemented, responding to the call of Pope Francis is Synodality.

Much of our progress would not have been possible if not for the leadership that our Core Teams have played in the different communities under Fraternitas. This aspect of differentiated co-responsibility sits nicely with the Franciscan spirit of "Haecceitas". Blessed Dun Scotus spoke about the uniqueness of each thing and thus it blends in nicely with recognising the unique dignity of each person and how they can contribute to the building up of Fraternitas.

This concept has its genesis in St Francis' Canticum of Creatures (we are celebrating the 8th centenary of its composition!), in which the saint recognised the unique place of all creatures in creation.

I invite any young person aged 18-35 who might be seeking a community to journey and grow in personal & spiritual maturity, to come and visit one of our fraternities. While recognising the uniqueness of each, we also invite them to actualise their unique gifts, to be who God had intended them to be.

Fraternally,

Friar John Paul Tan OFM

Contents



zbe teszi a legy fel
mozva rakjuk. Több bö
rakjuk üvegekbe. A cukrot
Magvobb üvegekbe

- 2 **Director's Message**
Fra. John-Paul Tan OFM
- 4 **The Team & Our Fraternities**
- 5 **Franciscan Young Adults**
Journeying into God in the footsteps of St Francis and St Clare
- 7 **Franciscan Youth**
Gospel Living through St Francis and St Clare
- 9 **Canticle**
A Fraternity of Young Creatives
- 10 **F35**
A growing fraternity fostering faith, fraternity, and formation with Franciscan spirituality.
- 11 **Sequela Christi**
An annual pilgrimage led by Friar John-Paul Tan
- 13 **Forging Ahead**
2025 & Beyond



he Team

**DIRECTOR, FRIAR JOHN-PAUL TAN OFM
TWO NEW STAFF MEMBERS
11 INTERNS IN 2024**

Creativity, flexibility, and agility are key to Fraternitas' service. Year-round internship opportunities allow young people to experience participation in the Church's mission firsthand, fostering a sense of ownership and contribution. Working in Fraternitas creates a space for bonding between our staff and embracing the Franciscan vision of each person's uniqueness.

Are you called to serve in our mission in the Church? Check out our website - <https://fraternitas.sg/jobs> for more details on our internship opportunities at Fraternitas.



Our Fraternities

Fraternitas as a body, is composed of smaller communities (or fraternities) - each serving a special area of interest or need. As the fraternities grew and evolved, new models and approaches to ministry have also been transforming to address emerging scenarios.

We have four fraternities within Fraternitas, catering to the interests and needs of those who come and explore our community.

Find out more about our fraternities and what we have achieved in 2024 in the next few pages!



Franciscan Young Adults



Franciscan Youth



Canticle



735



Fraternitas Website



Fraternitas Linktree



Franciscan Young Adults

Journeying into God in the footsteps of St Francis and St Clare

In 2024, Franciscan Young Adults (FYA) remained committed to **deepening faith, building fraternity, and fostering formation.**

Throughout the year, members journeyed together through **22 Lectio Divina sessions** engaging in scripture reflection and faith-sharing across all branches.

Formation remained a key pillar, with **7 Human Formation sessions** focusing on personal and faith development and **7 Franciscan Formation sessions** enriching our understanding of Franciscan spirituality.

Strengthening Bonds

A year of fellowship, prayer and formation.

Beyond formation, community life flourished with **4 Fellowship Gatherings, 2 Laudate Night sessions & Countless shared meals** that strengthened bonds among members.

A highlight of the year was **Jamboree 2024**, a 3D2N retreat that brought **over 50 of us** from the fraternity together for an immersive experience of prayer, formation, and fraternity.

Jamboree 2024



Laudate Night



Fraternali-tea 2024



Franciscan Formation



Lectio Divina





Franciscan Young Adults

Journeying into God in the footsteps of St Francis and St Clare

A Fraternity in Mission

*Evangelising and serving
the Church and society*

FYA Members continued to serve in their **home parishes** and engaged in outreach within the wider Church and society.

Many actively volunteered and attended the historic **Papal Mass during Pope Francis' visit to Singapore**, coming together to **witness and contribute** to this momentous occasion.

Separately, as part of his Asian tour, Pope Francis met with interreligious youth at Catholic Junior College, where **Nicole Law, Head of Communications for FYA**, took the stage with the Pope, **representing FYA in a global conversation**.



"Franciscan Young Adults for me has been a place of **encounter, creativity and communion** with my fellow brothers and sisters. I know that no matter what I am experiencing in life, I have my fraternity behind me, **cheering me on and praying for me**. We have come such a long way, journeying together into God and we continue to **welcome those curious about the Franciscan spirituality to join us**. *St Francis and St Clare pray for us!*"

-Nicole Law, FYA Head of Communications



As FYA continues to grow, it remains a thriving fraternity where young adults **journey together in faith, mission, and fraternity**. Rooted in **Franciscan spirituality**, it seeks to be a welcoming space where members can deepen their spiritual lives, build lasting friendships, and serve both Church and society.



FYA Linktree



Franciscan Youth

Gospel living through St Francis and St Clare

In 2024, Franciscan Youth (FY) continued building our fraternity, providing a space for youth (aged 16 to 21) to grow in their faith together.

Through our bi-weekly formation sessions where the Word of God is **presented through experiential activities**, we created a safe space where each youth can **grow in fraternity, be living witnesses of our faith, and discover God's plan for them.**

Some key activities organised included **Art Jam** (*using art as a form of prayer*), **Popcorn Night** (*discovering how God speaks to us through the media*), **Praise and Worship sessions**, and our annual **FY Amazing Race**. These activities were some of the many exciting sessions that we had in store for our youth.

This past year, FY organised
22 SESSIONS
& 1 MISSION TRIP



During the FY Core Team retreat in October 2024, the Core Team reflected upon the theme of **"Quo Vadis, where are you leading us, Lord?"**

God revealed a desire in the hearts of the Core Team for **intentionality and accompaniment in journeying with the youth**. God also affirmed the Core Team's desire for our fraternity when we witnessed the spiritual maturity of our FY fraternity with youth **volunteering to step up to run sessions and as facilitators** during our annual SENT2024 mission trip.

Franciscan Youth has become a community where I can grow in my faith while having fun with friends. The **supportive and welcoming environment** allows us to be our authentic selves and build strong bonds with each other. Each session provides an opportunity to **reconnect and deepen our understanding of our faith** together.

My experience as a Youth Facilitator for SENT2024 allowed me to serve God and others in a different capacity, sharing the joy of my past SENT2023 experience with everyone I encountered.

Every moment in FY has been a **blessing, strengthening my faith and deepening my journey with God**. The friendships, experiences, and opportunities to serve have shaped me in ways I never expected, and I am grateful to be part of such a **meaningful fraternity**.

-Raphael Koh, FY Member





Franciscan Youth

Gospel living through St Francis and St Clare

SENT2024: Answering the Call to Serve

In December 2024, FY organised its second post-confirmation mission trip to Penang, Malaysia. 'SENT2024' saw us bringing 18 post-confirmation youth and 4 youth facilitators (*who were participants of 'SENT2023'*) to experience an overseas mission.

This trip aimed to **anchor the youths' sense of belonging in our universal Church**. Highlights of the trip included visiting and engaging the elderly at the Little Sisters of the Poor (*an elderly home in Penang*), visiting Catholic churches across Penang (*including the **Minor Basilica of St Anne***), and participating in the parish life of Risen Christ Church (*Penang*).

It was our hope that the youth would **grow in their faith and discover God**, through discovering themselves in unfamiliar and sometimes uncomfortable spaces, and God's providence was apparent through the participants' testimonies of **great joy and faith following the mission trip**.



Church of the Holy Name of Mary



Little Sisters of the Poor



At the top of Penang Hill!



Minor Basilica of St Anne

As FY continues to grow, we pray that the fraternity continues to move in accordance to God's will. We seek to invite more youth to **come and journey together in faith, friendship and discovery**, as we continue living the Gospel through St Francis and St Clare.



FY Linktree





Canticle

a fraternity of young creatives

Journeying together in discovering our God-given talents and channeling it for self-knowledge, spiritual growth and ministry

This year,

Canticle is excited to introduce **SacroSpeco**, a sacred space where **faith and creativity come together**. Inspired by St Francis' deep love for creation, SacroSpeco invites individuals to explore and express their faith through art.

The name SacroSpeco, meaning "Sacred Caves" in Italian, pays homage to the sanctuaries where St. Francis of Assisi often withdrew for prayer and contemplation. Tucked within the mountain's crevices, these caves hold profound symbolism, reflecting the pierced side of Christ, a place of **refuge, grace, and deep spiritual encounter**.



Over the course of six weeks, participants gathered every Friday to embark on a journey of artistic discovery. **Through creativity and shared reflection**, they not only deepened their own self-understanding but also formed meaningful connections with others who share a common love for both faith and art.

"Now on my third round of SacroSpeco, the creative process has been a **calming and transformative experience** for me. Although I initially felt uncomfortable with praying through art, the safe space to create and share freely has helped me open up and share my ideas through creativity. One thing that really helps is the absence of pressure to create something aesthetically pleasing, and to just create **whatever comes to mind**."

-Ryan Peter Tan, Canticle Member



Canticle Linktree



F35

A growing fraternity for adults above 35, fostering faith, fraternity, and formation with Franciscan spirituality.

Introduced

and formed towards the end of 2024, the F35 fraternity is still in its early stages and continues to develop organically.

Designed for adults aged 35 to 45, it offers a space for members to deepen their faith, fraternity, and formation while navigating the unique challenges of this life stage.

As a new and evolving fraternity, F35 shapes itself around the needs of its members, fostering a **mature formation approach** that supports career transitions, strengthening relationships, parental care, life-stage crises, and human formation for mid-life challenges.

With a clear vision for growth, F35 continues to establish itself as a **structured and supportive community** where members journey together in **faith and fraternity**. Rooted in Franciscan spirituality, it remains committed to **refining its formation programs, strengthening fellowship, and expanding mission opportunities to meet the needs of established adults.**

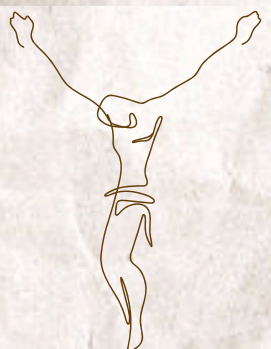
The way of the Lord is not always easy, but as a fraternity, we **learn from one another and draw strength together**. Amidst the uncertainties of life, I find peace and hope in contemplation as I reach out and meet new people in our fraternity.

And when F35 was formed (by the grace of God), I met so many new brothers and sisters with whom I could **share deeply about our struggles and issues associated with adulthood**- from health to relationships and inner healing - forming deep fraternal bonds as **spiritual companions and accompaniments** to each other.

On the occasion of the fifth anniversary of FYA, I am appreciative of what St. Francis said in his Testament, "The Lord gave me brothers, no one showed me what I had to do, but the same Most High revealed to me that I had to live according to Gospel life."

For this, I give thanks to God and to each of you who have walked this path with me. May we continue to **accompany and inspire each other in our Fraternity.**

-David Wong, F35 Core Team Member





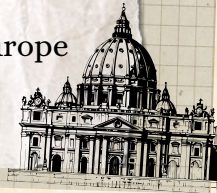
Sequela Christi

An annual pilgrimage led by Friar John-Paul Tan OFM

From 2019 to 2024,

200 PILGRIMS

have travelled to Europe
& Holy Land



Sequela Christi, meaning **"Following Christ"** in Latin, embodies the call to live in imitation of Jesus. This year, young adults from diverse backgrounds embarked on a profound 16-day Franciscan pilgrimage across Spain, France, and Portugal, guided by Friar John Paul Tan OFM. The pilgrimage was **rich with encounters** at some of the most sacred sites in Christendom.

From the awe-inspiring Santa Maria del Mar and Sagrada Familia in Barcelona to the serene Basilica of Montserrat and the historic Arantzazu Sanctuary, each stop **deepened the pilgrims' connection to their faith**. The journey also led them to the majestic Salamanca Cathedral and culminated in the revered Santiago de Compostela, the resting place of St. James.

Along the way, the pilgrims delved into the lives of great saints from different religious orders—St. Ignatius of Loyola, **founder of the Jesuits**; St. Teresa of Ávila, **the great Carmelite mystic**; and St. Peter of Alcántara, **a Franciscan reformer**—each offering a unique path of holiness.

The pilgrimage would be incomplete without visiting the beloved Marian shrines of Lourdes and Fatima. These sacred sites left an indelible mark on the hearts of all who prayed there, **strengthening their devotion and deepening their call to follow Christ**.

As Sequela Christi 2024 comes to a close, the **journey of faith continues**. With 2025 marking the Jubilee Year, a time of renewal and grace, we look forward to next year's pilgrimage—an invitation for more young adults to **walk in the footsteps of Christ and embrace the call to holiness**.



Sequela Christi 2024 for me was almost like **a visit to the saints**, entering their homes and places where they once ate with others felt surreal. It is easy to forget that St. Therese of Avila, St. John of the cross or St Ignatius were all real people and **some did not live very differently than us**.

I will never forget visiting Montserrat where St. Ignatius surrendered his sword to Mother Mary, what a privilege to be at a place where such an amazing event took place. His physical surrender of the sword represented his full spiritual surrender to God! It must have been a huge relief for him. Praying the rosary at Lourdes and Fatima, with different people from different walks of life was a **strong reminder to me that we never walk alone in the faith**.

How privileged I felt, to be able to pray in these places where she was once seen by the human eye. **The sense of peace and tranquility that flooded my soul could almost be described as a taste of heaven**. The air, the atmosphere, the adoration, it felt different in these places, **you could feel she was still there**, somewhere, among the crowd and candles...

-Timothy Wong, Sequela Christi Pilgrim



Sequela Christi
Linktree

Forging Ahead: 2025 & Beyond

As Fraternitas continues to grow, 2025 presents new opportunities to deepen our commitment to faith, fraternity, and mission.

Strengthening Formation & Community

Formation remains a pillar of Fraternitas. We will continue refining our **Franciscan Formation, Theology of the Body (TOB), and Human Formation sessions** while developing F35's formation to address mid-life challenges. Strengthening inter-fraternity collaboration will foster deeper connections across FYA, FY, F35, Canticle, and Sequela Christi, reinforcing our shared journey of faith.

Expanding Mission & Outreach

Our mission extends beyond our gatherings. Following the success of **SENT 2024**, FY will continue post-confirmation engagement, while FYA expands its **social outreach and parish initiatives**. With the **2025 Jubilee Year**, Fraternitas looks forward to new opportunities to contribute to the wider Church's mission.

Growing in Innovation & Sustainability

With the **introduction of year-round internships** and initiatives like **Sacrospeco by Canticle**, we are committed to empowering young people to **encounter God through creativity, service, and leadership**. The Fraternitas Office will **enhance onboarding, engagement, and digital outreach** to ensure long-term sustainability.

Moving forward in Faith

Rooted in our **Franciscan charism**, we move ahead with **openness, trust, and a shared commitment to grow together**. As we embrace the journey ahead, may our fraternity continue to be a light of faith, mission, and fraternity in the world.



*We invite the youth and young adults
who feel called to discern with us in
their journey, to*

Come & See



*We are also grateful to our benefactors
over these few years of our development
and continue to pray for their indulgence
and support.*

Support our Mission

The Order of Friars Minor (S) Ltd - Fraternitas
UEN:201016236M7FR



Thank You
*May the Lord bless you,
and keep you in his peace.*