



BOARD REPORT

January 27, 2026

Board & Governance

- We welcome Don Evers to Franciscan Ministries' Board of Directors!
- Congregational Leadership, after careful deliberation and prayer, decided to accept the Board recommendation to pursue selling the building on Hatmaker. Per Leadership's request, we are in conversation with Price Hill Will. They have also requested we connect with a realtor for an appraisal.
- Franciscan Ministries Trade Name Renewal has been completed (5yr renewal).

Staffing Changes

- There will be an increase in hours for our Program Assistant in 2026 as office, admin, and program needs and responsibilities shift. She will also be assisting with identifying and writing grants. She is already full-time at 30 hours so this will not affect benefits. This was mentioned to Leadership and considered in the budgeting process.

Development – 2025 wrap up

- 2025 gift and grant total reported from Donor Perfect = \$177,555
- This amount includes the following:
 - \$5,596 received in December from the 2025 appeal
 - \$350 received this month as of the 23rd from the appeal – *not included in total above*
 - \$85,000 – Gift to Tamar's Center from Estate of Paul Wenzel – *TO BE REDIRECTED*
 - \$38,990 – The Peddler Thrift Store (Q1 - \$10,382; Q2 - \$14,306; Q3 - \$14,301)
 - Q4 check arrived in January for \$17,537.81 – *not included in total above*
 - \$ 6,000 – sale of Chrysler Town & Country van
 - \$ 5,300 – donation from Mary Ann Kerscher towards electrical upgrade and AC units for Tau
 - \$ 700 – donation from past Tau chaperone towards electrical upgrade and AC units for Tau
 - \$ 709 – donation from Tau group for vouchers
 - \$ 208 – Get One. Give One. mini-campaign for vouchers
 - \$ 405 – Piggest Raffle 2025
 - \$12,200 – Grants Received in 2025
 - \$4,500 grant (*from 2024 award year*) - Church of the Incarnation - the student voucher program
 - \$1,900 raised (*from 2024 award year*) - SeedMoney campaign - Garden fence and faucet fund
 - \$1,750 grant - Archdiocese of Cincinnati, CRS local funds – water costs for Garden
 - \$4,050 grant (*from 2025 award year*) - Church of the Incarnation - the student voucher program

General Information / Considerations for the Board

- As of January 1, the FM staff was added to the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor's health/dental/vision plan administered by Christian Brothers and provided through Aetna. Staff continues to try to work through this transition and the number of obstacles that they have come across in the process. Christian Brothers, to this point, has been very difficult to work with. Staff are trying to remain hopeful that once these initial wrinkles are addressed it will be a positive change for all.
- Due to the closing of Tamar's, the executors of the Wenzel Estate have requested that the funds received, if at all possible, be transferred to another Cincinnati Franciscan ministry because programming of the original intention is no longer available through FM. Their preference is the St Anthony Shrine on Colerain Ave as Mr Wenzel had ties to that community. The estate itself is already closed.

- There has been an ongoing credit card complication ever since Sarah Wagner resigned. When FM (Renee, Holly, Marci, Don) went and met with our USBank rep to add Holly James to the card upon her hire and to update cards, we discovered that the credit account we use is not usually used for non-profits. As it was set up, Sarah was still connected to the account in such a way that we could not remove her without completely closing the account, and we could not add anyone to the account without her signature. To close and reopen a similar account, someone from FM would have to sign on as “owner” so to speak. Don discouraged this option, and no one at FM felt comfortable taking on this role. We applied for a non-profit account that does not have this signatory requirement. We were denied (from what our rep can determine) due to the fact that our past 990s reflected that we operate at a loss (much in part due to the \$100,000 cap we maintain). We have been revisiting this regularly trying to submit updated numbers to see if we now qualify to shift. With the most recent 990 is now in play, Renee and Marci are scheduling a new meeting with our USBank representative.

Programs

The Community Garden

- The season closed without incident, as usual. 2026 paperwork went out to returning and wait listed gardeners in late November, with forms and fees due January 31. We are currently working to take in fees and facilitate the process. Depending on the weather and travel difficulties, we may extend the date.

Haircuts from the Heart

- Episcopal Retirement Services has currently suspended its participation in the Mobile Program. There was a concern reported by a resident through their internal system stating that he had been nicked during services and that it was not acknowledged or responded to. I have met with and spoken to Smiley about this, and she states that she was unaware that the incident had occurred. I am in continued conversation with ERS, and they are considering renewing participation. Smiley and I have, in addition over the last several months, had a few conversations and coaching regarding her role and FM’s expectations for it.
- Haircuts at MMH continue weekdays from 8:30a-12:30p. All is going smoothly at this time.
- The voucher program continues to provide services for an average of 23 students per month. There have been 30 reimbursed already this month (as of January 23rd).
- Marci and Madison will be travelling to Church of the Incarnation in March (rescheduled from November) to give a presentation as part of the application process for a grant for the voucher program. We have received monies from them each of the last three years. This is the last year we are eligible until re-invited. again.
- Included at end of document is a testimonial from the voucher program.

Tau House

- We are working to identify service locations for the summer. Spring sites have already been identified and confirmed. Aside from this, the winter months typically consist of paperwork and payment collections for the upcoming year. We have already had a booking for 2027.
- We are still looking for a handy-man to help install the structural pieces necessary to be able to install 2 window AC units in the space currently housing transom window on the two sleeping floors at Tau – **recommendations welcome.**

Tamar’s Center

- Most items from Tamar’s have found new homes; a few items remain at the Barn to be parceled out.
- The only items remaining at Tamar’s Center are furniture type items. A few of these items may still be taken by ReStore or New Life Furniture, and some have been claimed by the Associates and FM and need to be moved to St Clare or Tau House. There is a chance that Marci’s sons and a few of their friends may be able to assist in moving them with the rental of a UHaul – these young men all need service hours for scholarships they hold at college. However, there is still a chance we may need to hire a moving company for the remaining furniture. The House is running on minimal utilities, and staff is occasionally going down to spot check. Additionally, the security system and cameras are still running.

Student Voucher Program Testimonial - January 2026

The Student Voucher Program is incredibly important to me and the students I serve.

Earlier this school year, I noticed a young man who had been missing school frequently and was struggling to turn in assignments. His appearance had changed, and his hair looked matted and unkempt. I pulled him aside—not to discipline him, but to check on him and make sure he was okay.

During that conversation, I learned that his mother had passed away over the summer and that he was now being raised by his grandmother. Like many children navigating grief and major life changes, he was carrying far more than anyone could see.

I offered him a hair voucher several times, but he declined. Still, something told me not to stop there. I reached out to his grandmother to see if there was anything else we could do to support him. When I explained the Student Voucher Program, she paused and then told me to go ahead and give him one.

I gave him the voucher on a Friday.

Later that week he returned to school, his hair was freshly braided—and the difference was immediate. He walked in smiling, standing taller, and more engaged. His confidence had clearly been restored.

That voucher did far more than provide hair care. It gave a child dignity, confidence, and a sense that someone cared.

This program truly changes lives in ways that go beyond appearance, and I am deeply grateful for the impact it has on our students and families.

Thank you, Mrs. Carmen Daniels, Cincinnati Public Schools