

Dear Brothers & Sisters



January 2015

Newsletter of the

Northwest Franciscan Community of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Palatine, Illinois

Secular Franciscan Order

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Submission deadline is the last Tuesday of each month.

For privacy, all personal addresses, phone numbers, email, prayer intentions, and (for non-council members) last names are removed from this web version.

From the Minister

I hope everyone had a joyful and blessed Christmas, and enjoyed celebrating the New Year!

During ongoing formation at last month's gathering, we discussed ways to improve fraternity participation in our Bingo Apostolate at St. Joseph's. This apostolate is a valuable way that we can give back to the Little Sisters, who so graciously let us use their facilities every month.

We decided to list out the full year's bingo schedule – as opposed to sharing it one month at a time – so that everyone (Professed, Candidates, and Inquirers) can pick at least one month for which to volunteer. Please see "Bingo Dates for 2015" on page 2 to determine when you can volunteer, and then sign up at our January gathering or contact our Bingo Coordinators, Sisters Kay and Mary Kay – see our "Apostolates: Bingo" section for details.

■ **New Bingo Coordinators.** As mentioned in last month's newsletter, Sister Kay is serving as our new Bingo Coordinator, and we had asked for one more Professed to also co-serve as a Bingo Coordinator. Thank you to Sister Mary Kay for taking on this role!

■ **2015 Guides for the Liturgy of the Hours.** The guides arrived last month, and if you haven't yet picked up your copy, please see me at this month's gathering so that I can give it to you.

■ **Fair Share is Due.** The \$35 Fair Share (formerly called *Per Capita*) is due in March. The Fair Share is a yearly obligation for all *Professed* Secular Franciscans, which includes our shut-in and temporarily excused members, and supports our Regional and National fraternities. It is separate from our Common Fund donations, which benefit our fraternity.

Please give our Treasurer, Brother Tom, your Fair Share at this or next month's gathering, or you can mail it to him. If possible, please make out a separate check for the Fair Share. If \$35 is a financial burden for you at this time, contact Brother Tom. ☒

At This Month's Gathering ...

■ **Ongoing Formation.** Professed brothers and sisters, please read **Reflection 45** in *To Live As Francis Lived*. Jot down your answers for all "Questions for Reflection" and "Application to Daily Life", and be sure to read the recommended scripture passages and Franciscan writings.

Please be aware that **all Professed** are to attend ongoing formation and our monthly gatherings. If, for whatever reason, you're unable to attend, you *must* call our Minister, Lisa.

■ **Communion Service & Social Time.** Everyone, please join us at 7:30 p.m. for a Communion Service, followed by a brief business meeting and social time (remember to bring your own mugs). ☒

Our Apostolates

■ **Bingo.** Meets one night per month at 6:30 p.m. in St. Joseph's activity room. See "Bingo Dates for 2015" on page 2 for a list of available dates. For more information, call Sisters or Mary Kay.

Next Monthly Gathering:

Monday, January 12, 2015

St. Joseph's Home
80 W. Northwest Hwy., Palatine

6:30 p.m.: Professed brothers and sisters, please arrive at this time for Ongoing Formation. Candidates are encouraged to observe.

7:30 p.m.: Start of our Gathering
with Communion Service,
followed by a business meeting
and social time. All welcome!

* * *

**You must call Lisa
if you cannot attend.**

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Our gatherings are at 7:30 p.m. on
the **second Monday** of each month.

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■ **Franciscan Outreach.** We collect items for delivery to the guests at Franciscan Outreach's Marquard Center. Call Sister Stephanie for more information.

■ **Prayer & Praise Ministry.** For our brothers and sisters unable to attend our gatherings due to poor health or transportation issues. For more information, or if you're ill or know of someone who's ill, please call our Infirmarian, Sister Jackie.

■ **Prayer Shawl Ministry.** We interweave prayers along with God's love, care, and warmth into the stitches as we knit or crochet shawls for others. For more information, contact Sisters Sue or Cyndy.

■ **Support (Money, Materials).** Quarterly donations from our Common Fund of any excess funds available *after* fraternity costs go to the following: Franciscan Missionary Union, Franciscan Outreach, Poor Clares (Palos Park, IL), Amazon Relief.

■ **Youth Prayer Partners.** Coordinated by Brother Tom, this apostolate matches up fraternity members with children preparing for First Communion or Confirmation. We last prayed for Confirmands at St. Thomas of Villanova (Palatine), and will pray again for a new group of students when we have more details. For more information, call Brother Tom. ☒

Bingo Dates for 2015

Please pick at least one month for which to volunteer, and sign up at our January gathering or contact our Bingo Coordinators. All dates are **Thursdays**.

■ January:	15	■ July:	16
■ February:	26	■ August:	20
■ March:	19	■ September:	17
■ April:	16	■ October:	15
■ May:	21	■ November:	19
■ June:	18	■ December:	17 ☒

Excerpt from *Message for the 2015 World Day of Peace*

by Pope Francis (#2)

Conversion to Christ, the beginning of a life lived *Christian discipleship*, thus constitutes a *new birth* (cf. 2 Cor 5:17; 1 Pet 1:3) which generates *fraternity* as the fundamental bond of family life and the basis of life in society.

In the Book of Genesis (cf. 1:27-28), we read that God made man *male and female*, and blessed them so that they could increase and multiply. He made Adam and Eve parents who, in response to God's command to be fruitful and multiply, brought about the first *fraternity*, that of Cain and Abel. Cain and Abel were brothers because they came forth from the same womb. Consequently they had the same origin, nature and dignity as their parents, who were created in the image and likeness of God.

But *fraternity* also embraces variety and differences between brothers and sisters, even though they are linked by birth and are of the same nature and dignity. As *brothers and sisters*, therefore, all people are in relation with others, from whom they differ, but with whom they share the same origin, nature and dignity. In this way, *fraternity* constitutes the network of relations essential for the building of the human family created by God. ☒

Anniversaries This Month

- 11: **Stephanie and Lou**, Professed in 2010.
13: **Connie**, Professed in 2000.
14: **Susan and Bonnie**, Professed in 2008.

*God's blessings for your years of
Franciscan living!*

Calendar

January

- 12: Monthly Gathering
26: Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Arlington Heights Memorial Library

February

- 09: Monthly Gathering
23: Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Arlington Heights Memorial Library

Remember in Your Daily Prayers

- All infirm, shut-in, and deceased fraternity members.
- All Candidates and Inquirers and their formation instructors.
- Our entire Franciscan Family, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd (Secular & Regular) Orders: For strength in commitments, increase in vocations, and the work we do, especially for Franciscan Outreach, Franciscan Missionary Union, the Poor Clares in Palos Park, and Amazon Relief.
- The guests of Franciscan Outreach's shelter and soup kitchen: That they know God's loving care and overcome the difficulties that keep them homeless.
- Little Sisters of the Poor and the residents of St. Joseph's Home.
- Our families and loved ones.

Please pray that our fraternity and all Franciscans:

- Live the Holy Rule we've professed,
- Bring the Gospel to Life, and Life to the Gospel in the spirit of Francis,
- Live simply so that others may simply live, and
- Are active and participate in the Franciscan apostolates.