

# Dear Brothers & Sisters



June 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

In honor of our fraternity's patronal feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on June 13, our Spiritual Assistant, Brother Patrick, has arranged for Fr. Charles to celebrate Mass for us at this month's gathering.

After Mass, we will joyfully welcome Kathy and Faith into the Candidacy phase of their Franciscan journey to Profession. May they know that our prayers are with them as they continue to grow in their vocation.

■ **Birthday Celebration for Sister Eddie.** Continuing the celebrations, during social time we'll celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Sister Eddie.

Sister Cyndy is coordinating the party – which will feature cake and decorations – and said, “We are celebrating Eddie for who she is to us, no gifts. Eddie has told me and others that she has been so thankful for the flowers, birthday wishes, and get well wishes, from all of us. She has had birthday celebrations with family and friends. Feel free to bring a card if you like and any goodies for our celebration. Remember to bring any leftovers home.” ☒

## At This Month's Gathering ...

■ **Ongoing Formation.** Professed brothers and sisters, please read **Reflections 51-52 (which brings us to the end of the book!)** 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.

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

## Common Fund Report

**April** beginning balance: \$1,727.02, deposits: \$0 (*no April gathering*), expenses: \$48.27, ending balance: \$1,678.75. ☒

## Our Apostolates

■ **Bingo.** Meets one night per month at 6:30 p.m. in St. Joseph's activity room. Everyone, please see the sign-up sheet at our gathering and pick one month for which to volunteer. For more information, call Sisters Kay or Mary Kay.

■ **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.

## Next Monthly Gathering:

Monday, June 08, 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 Mass, followed by a business meeting and social time.

All welcome!

\* \* \*

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

\* \* \*

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

■ **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. ☒

## "Bearers of mercy, of reconciliation and of peace"

Excerpts from Pope Francis' address to the 2015 General Chapter of the Order of the Friars Minor

The dimension of fraternity also belongs in an essential way to evangelical witness. In the Church of the origins, Christians lived fraternal communion to such a point as to constitute an eloquent and attractive sign of unity and charity. The people were astonished to see Christians so united in love, so disposed in the gift and forgiveness of one another, so solidaristic in mercy, in benevolence, in mutual help, unanimous in sharing the joys, the sufferings and the experiences of life. Your Religious Family is called to express this concrete fraternity, through a recovery of mutual trust – and I underscore this: recovery of mutual trust – in inter-personal relations, so that the world sees and believes, recognizing that the love of Christ heals wounds and renders only one thing.

In this perspective, it is important to recover the awareness of being bearers of mercy, of reconciliation and of peace. You will fulfill this vocation and mission fruitfully if you are ever more an "outgoing" Congregation. Moreover, this corresponds to your charism, attested also in the "*Sacrum Commercium*." Narrated in this account on your origins is that it was requested of the first Friars to show which was their cloister. To answer, they went up a hill and "pointing out all around the earth where their sight reached, said: 'This is our cloister' " (63:GG 2022).

... How important it is to live a Christian and religious existence without getting lost in disputes and gossip, cultivating a serene dialogue with all, with meekness, mildness and humility, with poor means, proclaiming peace and living soberly, content with what is offered to us! This also requires a determined commitment to transparency, to the ethical and solidaristic use of goods, to a style of sobriety and spoliation. If, instead, you are attached to the goods and riches of the world, and place your security there, it will be the Lord Himself who will strip you of this spirit of worldliness in order to preserve the precious patrimony of minority and poverty to which He has called you through Saint Francis. Either you are freely poor and minor, or you will end up being stripped. ☒

## To Observe the Gospel

Excerpt from "Twentieth Anniversary of the Rule" by Emanuela De Nunzio, OFS in *The Cord* (48.3, 1998)

What does it mean for Secular Franciscans "to observe the gospel"? Above all it means to know God as Father, to have Jesus Christ as the inspiration, model, and criterion of our every action, and to allow ourselves to be guided by the Spirit of the Lord. It also means to realize in our apostolates the love of others in a spirit of service; to work in a context proper to our secular state, witnessing a life of penance as continual conversion to the gospel; to realize a universal fraternity in Christ; to dedicate ourselves to the works of mercy, to the promotion of justice and peace, and to the safeguarding of creation. ☒

## Anniversaries This Month

03: **Eddie**, Professed in 1974.

04: **Catherine**, Professed in 1984

06: **Tom**, Professed in 1977.

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

## Calendar

### June

08: Monthly Gathering

22: Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Arlington Heights Memorial Library

### July

13: Monthly Gathering

27: 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.