

# Dear Brothers & Sisters



September 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

We held our Day of Recollection last month with Fr. Robert Pawell, OFM and had a good turnout of fraternity members as well as over 20 guests from Brother Jacoba (Chicago), St. Clare (Oak Brook), St. Francis (Crystal Lake), St. Francis-St. Louis (Chicago), St. Maximilan Kolbe (Libertyville), and Wellspring (Chicago) fraternities.

Thank you to everyone who brought potluck items (our table was overflowing with wonderful food!); Brother Patrick, who arranged for our speaker and coordinated reservations at St. Colette's; Brother Tom, who graciously picked up canned soda from Sister Stephanie when she was unable to attend at the last minute due to illness; Sister Stephanie, for contacting us to make arrangements for the soda while she was ill; and Sister Kay, who went out of her way to ensure that we had nametags available for our guests.

■ **Council Elections This Month.** In order to accommodate our Regional presidors who will arrive at 7:30 p.m., we will begin at **6:30 p.m. in the Chapel** with a Communion Service, after which we'll move to the library at 7:30 p.m. for the elections (no Ongoing Formation). Afterward, we'll have social time in the Ice Cream Parlor. To celebrate the elections, **everyone, please bring a snack or dessert to share during social time.**

Thank you to Sister Geri for serving as our Nominating Coordinator over these past months. If you would still like to nominate someone, or yourself, please call her. Nominations can also be made at the election. While only active Professed brothers and sisters may make nominations and vote, it's important for Candidates to attend in order to observe the election process, and help with the procedures if called upon. For an overview of the election process and the names of nominees so far, see "Fraternity Elections" on page 2; please prayerfully consider each person for the positions mentioned.

■ **Transitus Next Month.** As we've been mentioning all year, our October gathering will be replaced by a celebration of the Transitus of our Holy Father Francis on **October 3 (Saturday)** at St. Joseph's. We will begin the liturgy at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel, after which we will have social time; there will be no ongoing formation. Because the Transitus celebration counts as our monthly gathering, if, for whatever reason, you're unable to attend, you *must* call our fraternity's new minister (that will be the gathering after our fraternity elections). ☒

## Common Fund Report

**July** beginning balance: \$1,855.45, deposits: \$312, expenses: *none*, ending balance: \$2,167.45. ☒

## 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.

## Next Monthly Gathering:

Monday, September 14, 2015

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

**6:30 p.m.:** Communion Service

**7:30 p.m.:** **FRATERNITY ELECTIONS** in the Library, followed by social time.

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**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.

■ **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. ☒

## Fraternity Elections

As we prepare for our fraternity elections, it's helpful to review the process that will take place. We will follow the "Celebration of the Fraternity's Chapter of Elections" in Chapter Two of our *Ritual*. The evening will begin with the Professed brothers and sisters sitting in one area, and Candidates (and any others) in another. This is to identify those voting (active Professed) from non-voting members (Candidates and others).

Our Regional presiders will call the election to order. After the invocation of the Holy Spirit and a short reading from the Sacred Scriptures or from the writings of St. Francis, an opening prayer will be offered, after which we'll conduct the elections in accordance with our *General Constitutions (GC)*, Articles 77-78.

We'll begin with the office of **minister**: "An absolute majority of the votes of those present, cast in secret, is required for the election of the minister." Next is the **vice-minister**, followed in the same manner as the minister, after which are the **councilors**. (GC, Article 78.1-3)

"[A member serving as a teller] announces the result of the elections; the [Presider] confirms the election according to the *Ritual* if all has been carried out properly and those elected have accepted their office." (GC, Article 78.4) After all positions are elected, the new officers will be sworn in immediately, after which we'll conclude with prayer.

So far, the nominees are:

- Minister: Stephanie
- Vice-Minister: Geri
- Formation Director: Mimi, Sue
- Secretary: Marc
- Treasurer: Tom

As a reminder, if you would like to nominate someone or are interested in serving, please call our Nominating Coordinator, Sister Geri. For detailed information on all council positions, see "Council Elections" on pages 2-4 of our May newsletter. ☒

## Anniversaries This Month

*There are no anniversaries this month.*

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## Calendar

### October

#### 03: Transitus

TBD: Council Meeting

### November

09: Monthly Gathering

TBD: Council Meeting

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## 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, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> (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.