



## **From the Minister**

For those of you who were able to attend our regional event of the Feast of the Portiuncula... Thank You! There was an awesome turn out of about 75 Franciscans. It was so good to see others in person...we all needed that. But now, sadly due to the increase in COVID numbers and the Delta variant causing a decreased safety factor of meeting in person, our next regional event on September 11, will be in Zoom format. Our theme will be:

Called to Fraternal Service: Animating and Guiding From Where You Are.

Both Brother Jerry and I will be presenting. And how appropriate that this is addressed two days before our own fraternity elections and also before our own Mother Cabrini region has its elections in December.

We are all called to servant leadership...to animate and guide. Jan Parker our National Minister states, "We should always seek new ways that help the development of the Fraternities and the spiritual life of the sisters and brothers, being open to and responding to the signs of the times." All brothers and sisters are co-responsible for the life of the fraternity to which they belong. We are responsible not only for the life of our own local fraternity, but for the entire Order. ... We must ask ourselves...What is my part?

Pope Francis said, "It is true that our God is the God of surprises. Each day carries another surprise!... We will never move forward if we do not have the courage to break the mold, for our God impels us to do the following: **TO BE CREATIVE ABOUT THE FUTURE.**"

So be looking for the flyer to RSVP to the event on September 11th. And please, I pray that each and every one of you look within your hearts to see how you might step up and practice servant leadership within our Franciscan family.

I pray for all of you as we continue on this Covid journey. Trust in our God. There is a plan.

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## **Our Monthly Gathering**

Our monthly gathering will be on **Monday, September 13, at 6:30 p.m. in Breakout Room 1** at Holy Family Parish, 2515 Palatine Road in Inverness. There will be a fraternity member in the narthex to guide you to this room. This will be our triennial fraternity election of council members for the coming three years. All professed are required to attend and vote. The Constitutions require a quorum for an election to be valid.

The minister will send a current slate of candidates to all professed members via email. On the evening of elections, candidates can also be nominated from the floor. The person nominated must be present to accept or refuse the nomination.

There will not be a specific Liturgy for this evening or formation time. Please bring your own beverage and a small snack that can be shared with your sisters and brothers. Thank you.

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## **And So We Pray ...**

### **PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER**

#### **Universal intention - An environmentally sustainable lifestyle**

We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

#### **LET US PRAY...**

*This prayer was prayed thirty years ago at a conference on St. Francis and ecology. It is even more needed today and companions the Papal Intentions for September.*

Great Spirit God, you hovered over your creation from the very beginning. You also made a great gamble when you asked human beings to be stewards of this earth. You have withheld your hand as we have continued to misuse, overuse and pollute our Mother Earth. You have continued to create us and love us even though we have not always loved ourselves, our brothers and sisters, the many animals you have asked us to share this planet with, the plants, the water, the air. We ask your forgiveness, patient God, for our abuse of your many gifts. We ask that you give us eyes of love again for all living things, eyes of reverence for that which we did not create, eyes of healing for that which we have destroyed and overlooked.

As little Brother Francis tried to teach us, we praise you for Brother Sun, Sister Moon and all the stars. We praise you because of Brother Wind and Sister Air and the lovely clouds. We praise and thank you through Sister Water and Brother Fire. We praise you, God, Lover of all lives, for our sister, Mother Earth, who produces all our food, our medicine, our beautiful flowers. We live in constant thankfulness for all of Nature, which “bears the likeness of You, Most High”.

We will start again, Holy Spirit, to re-create all things in beauty. Be with us—with your Eternal Beauty. Amen.

Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM

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## **Profession Anniversaries**

There are no specific anniversaries to celebrate this month.

May we all pray in deep gratitude for the abundant blessings that our God has showered upon us, not because we are secular Franciscans, but only because we are His children whom He loves more than we can fathom.

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## Council Members

<b>Minister</b>	Susan Gribbon, OFS	<i>minister@nwfranciscans.org</i>
<b>Formation Director</b>	Jackie Leo, OFS	<i>formation@nwfranciscans.org</i>
<b>Secretary</b>	Tim Panzica, OFS	<i>secretary@nwfranciscans.org</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kathy Fischer, OFS	<i>treasurer@nwfranciscans.org</i>
<b>Spiritual Assistant</b>	Jerry Stecker, OFS	<i>sa@nwfranciscans.org</i>
<b>Councilor-at-Large</b>	Kay Crnich, OFS	

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

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## Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2021

<b>Monday, Sept. 13</b>	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in <b>Breakout Room 1</b> at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. Fraternity Elections will be held at this gathering. It is of great importance for all professed to attend this meeting and vote.
<b>Sunday, Sept. 26</b>	Council Meeting, Minister's home at 1 p.m.
<b>Monday, Oct. 11</b>	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in Breakout Room 1 at Holy Family Parish, Inverness.
<b>Monday, Nov. 8</b>	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in Breakout Room 1 at Holy Family Parish, Inverness.
<b>Monday</b>	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in Breakout Room 1 at Holy Family Parish, Inverness.
<b>Sunday, Nov. 21</b>	Council Meeting, Minister's home at 1 p.m.
<b>Monday, Dec. 13</b>	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in Breakout Room 1 at Holy Family Parish, Inverness.

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## Common Fund

Please remember the Common Fund donation each month. This is the only source of income to offset our fraternity expenses.

All council members have been very conscientious in approving only those expenses that are truly necessary for the well-being of the fraternity.

If you forget your donation on a gathering night, send it to our Treasurer, Kathy, afterward.

Thank You.

## Amazon Relief

**Amazon Relief** is a project of **Secular Franciscans** working together internationally. It is our calling. As secular Franciscans we have promised (Rule XIII) that we will “strive to create (for the lowly) conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ.” And as Christians we are called *to care for the poor* and *to carry the Good News to the ends of the earth*.

Amazon Relief:

1. Provides immediate aid, and at the same time provides an education so as to break the cycle of poverty. Funds schools and programs to educate and assist “at risk” children (from pre-school through university level). With an education, jobs are available to these children and lives are forever changed—not only for the students but also for their future spouses and children.
2. Programs to help high school students prepare for employment developing computer, vocational, and workplace skills. Works with employers who make available to these students apprenticeship jobs which can then lead to full-time employment.
3. Provides “at risk” students with music and arts programs, library and computer facilities, computer training, tutoring and help in preparing for placement exams.
4. Helps people spiritually as well as physically. Religious education is a part of all programs. Aid is given to build churches and schools.
5. Helps fund (through a new program) the cost of installing Smart TVs in remote communities that only see a priest a few times a year. Weekly Liturgies are sent from the Archdiocese as well as religious education programs.
6. Feeds the poor. The schoolchildren and their families as well as other families identified as having severe problems.
7. Assists victims of leprosy. Provides food, caretakers and home repairs to victims of leprosy and their families.
8. Helps fund the formation of priests and deacons. Assists dioceses with costs to train lay leaders who serve in communities where priests cannot be present on a regular basis. These lay leaders then oversee sacramental preparation and religious education programs in their communities.
9. Assists missionaries and lay missionaries who minister to isolated indigenous tribes.

**No administrative costs** are taken out of donations. All of these costs are paid by some “angels” or from bank interest to assure that 100% of donations will go to serve the poor.

“Amazon Relief is a unique and amazing outreach—it is simple, direct hands-on Franciscan love in action. I’ve known Jim and Lois Flickinger for many years, and I am so thankful to them for the gift of this ministry and for the invitation to be a part of it. Let us put love into action by our generous support of Amazon Relief.”  
*Jan Parker, OFS, National Minister*

*There is a saying that “You can count the seeds in an apple...but you can’t count the apples in a seed.”*

*It’s an amazing truth when you consider it. When you plant a seed, the potential is limitless. And planting seeds is what we are doing when we help those in need.*