

 *Dear Brothers & Sisters*

From the Minister

Greetings my brothers and sisters.

Well, we ended up canceling our gathering on January 10th after nine members said they couldn't make it...our weather wasn't the best and it made me think that we should all get on a plane and join our Sister Stephanie in Florida for a fraternity meeting...how does that sound Steph? (*I'm all for it!*)

My mind is full of so many various thoughts that I want to share. So, let's go:

A definition of our rule...as said by an OFS member: "It's who we are." Amen.

Jan Novotkas' song, "Presence" sums up what our lives as Secular Franciscans should become by bringing Christ to others:

It's not what you do, but how you do it.
It's not what you see, but how you see it.
It's not what you say, what you know or achieve
It's the Presence, the Presence you are!

A fellow OFS, Francine Gilkow states, "I have often heard Secular Franciscans describe our way of life as it is who we are and be--understanding that we do not have a unifying apostolate or work. Rather, we use ourselves and our lives to rebuild the church by bringing Christ into the world. As Secular Franciscans we evangelize from the bottom up, meaning we evangelize not by preaching or apologetics but from our very being which proclaims Christ personally to a hurting world."

I need these constant reminders, to reflect on what we are called to be as we journey as Franciscan servants...to give to those in need, to be loving to those who feel unloved...to be welcoming to those who feel neglected. And embrace the lepers in our society today...how can we embrace those on the periphery?

Our challenge is...every day: To take up our cross and serve as Francis taught us over eight hundred years ago. Let walk the talk.

Thank you for listening to my thoughts, hopes and challenges for all of us.

Sue G. OFS

Our Monthly Gathering

Our monthly gathering will be on **Monday, February 14, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish in Inverness**. We will pray the Liturgy of the Hours. Please bring your Liturgy book and a small snack to share with your brothers and sisters.

The Dow Jones and the Little Tern - January 24, 2022

The morning temperature had been forty-four degrees - cold for far southern Florida. The "watch for falling iguanas" warnings were bandied about. (Iguanas sleep in trees hanging on to the branches. They are cold-blooded. When the temperatures fall too low, they can stiffen and lose their grip and fall from the trees. The warmth of day revives them and life goes on.)

The temperature in late morning is in the fifties, the skies are sunny and the winds are mild. We are getting ready to take a walk on the beach. The news is on and the news anchors are bemoaning the fact that the Dow Jones has plummeted 1,000 points this morning. Those with stock portfolios are chewing their fingernails. This is the seventh straight day in a row that the Dow has gone down.

On the sunny beach, it is warmer than high up in the condo. We amble along the waterline looking at the myriad of shells for which the Gulf coast beach is famous. It is low tide and many shells are the houses of occupants who were stranded as the tide receded. We toss those shells back into the water for another chance at life.

As we walk, a tiny tern hops along the sand. Egrets soar and sweep down toward the water looking for lunch. They don't stockpile for the future. They aren't worried about tomorrow, or next week or next year.

My brain cells flash. These beautiful creatures of land and sea and sky are not worried about Dow Jones averages going up and down. This is how God wants us to live. One day at a time, one moment at a time, just as these creatures of God. They enjoy the freedom of each moment. This is what Francis sought to do. This is what he encourages us, as secular Franciscans, to do.

"Look at the birds of the air. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? (Matt. 6:26)

Thoughts from your newsletter editor

And So We Pray...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY

Religious Sisters and Consecrated Women

We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our time.



RAYS OF LIGHT FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

Joy always endures born of our certainty that we are infinitely loved.
Life grows by being given away; it weakens by isolation and comfort.
Those who enjoy life most, leave security on the shore.
God's part we cannot do; our part He will not do.
It's not about religion; it's about a relationship with God.
It's not about money; it's about mercy.
It's not about rules; it's about freedom.
It's not about tradition; it's about truth.
Only he who sees the invisible can do the impossible.
Those who make God first, will find God with them at the last.
God provides food for every bird, but He does not place it in the nest.
In order to mold His people, God often has to melt them.

Profession Anniversaries

There are no specific profession anniversaries this month. Let us all remember what called us to embrace the life of the Secular Franciscan and our enthusiasm when we felt that call.

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2022

Monday, Feb. 14	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Liturgy of the Hours</i>
Monday, Mar. 14	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Communion Service</i>
Sunday, Mar. 27	Council Meeting, Minister's home at 1 p.m.
Monday, Apr. 11	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Monday, May 9	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Crown Rosary.</i>
Sunday, May 22	Council Meeting, Minister's home at 1 p.m.
Monday, June 13	Candidates' celebration will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness
Monday, July 11	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Day of Recollection</i>
Sunday, July 24	Council Meeting, Minister's home at 1 p.m.
Monday, Aug. 8	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Lectio Divina</i>
Monday, Sept. 12	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Liturgy of the Hours</i>
Sunday, Sept. 25	Council Meeting, Minister's home at 1 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 10	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Transitus</i>
Monday, Nov. 14	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Commemoration of our deceased</i>
Sunday, Nov. 27	Council Meeting, Minister's home at 1 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 12	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Communion Service</i>

Council Members

Minister	Susan Gribbon, OFS	<i>minister@nwfranciscans.org</i>
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Councilor-at-Large	Marion Tuttle, 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.
