



Dear Brothers & Sisters

From the Minister

Where is time going? Time is not slowing down, even in this Covid time. And speaking of time, let's remember the birthdays of fraternity members, Lou who is celebrating on November 28, and Marion, who celebrates her birthday on November 27. Congratulations!

In the words of Padre Pio, "Pray, Hope and Don't Worry!" Wow...words to cling to and chew on. It seems like everywhere I go, I see those who are hurting, going through some really difficult times, and suffering with illnesses and mental health issues. As we look around, it's as though our purgatory is right here on earth. Remember to keep praying for those in need...those we know and those whose names remain unknown to us...God knows their needs.

St. Francis had a general/common greeting, "Buona gente", good people loved by God. And his message for all is to believe in our own self-worth and to face life with courage and hope. As I write this month's message, I too have a heavy heart. I believe that to worry means that I don't trust. Let's believe in His love for us all. Let's be joyful, be there for each other...and yes, PRAY. Let's turn this darkness of life into a life of gratitude and light because of our belief and faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ. This is a GOOD THING!

Our next fraternity meeting will be at Holy Family Church November 8, 6:30 p.m. Please remember to bring the items that you signed up to bring for our Thanksgiving Baskets for the Palatine Township.

Also, we will be signing forms for: Who is our emergency contact and do we want a Franciscan prayer service when we pass? Please talk to your family about this as well.

Please call me and let me know if you cannot attend our fraternity meeting on November 8th.

Also please RSVP to me regarding our Mother Cabrini Regional Event on November 14th.

Have a blessed All Saints and All Souls Day!

See you soon!

Sue G. OFS

Our Monthly Gathering

Our monthly gathering will be on **Monday, November 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish in Inverness**. There will be a fraternity member in the narthex to guide you to this room. We will be Commemorating our Loved Ones who are no longer with us. Please bring your own beverage and a small snack that can be shared with your sisters and brothers. Thank you.

And So We Pray...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER

Universal intention - *People who suffer from depression*

We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

LET US PRAY...

A prayer when I am in the dark places

Heavenly Father, You alone are the secret keeper and know the darkest places within my heart. Lord, I am in the pit of depression. I feel tired, overwhelmed and unworthy of Your love. Help me to truly surrender the things that keep me imprisoned inside my heart. Replace my struggle with your joy. I want my joy back. I want to stand beside You and celebrate this life that You have paid so dearly to give me. Thank You, Lord. You truly are the greatest gift of all. Consume me in Your joy, for I believe that the Joy of YOU, Father, is where my strength is found. Thank you, Lord, in Jesus's name. Amen.

(Written by A. J. Luck)

A prayer for a child struggling with depression

Gracious Father, You are trustworthy, and yet I forget that. Too often I try to work out every situation in my own thoughts without once acknowledging You. Give me the right words to help my child. Give me a heart of love and patience. Use me to remind them that You are with them, You will be their God, You will strengthen them. Remind me You will uphold them. You will be their help. Please be my help today. Be my strength today. Remind me that You have promised to love me and my children eternally--and that You will never leave us. Please let me rest and trust in You, and help me teach my children the same. In Jesus's name, Amen.

(Written by Jessica Thompson)

A prayer for people who are experiencing depression

We come to You today, Lord, with hearts, minds, and spirits that may be struggling to keep their heads above water. We ask in Your name that You give them a refuge, a glimmer of hope, and a life-saving Word of Truth. We don't know every circumstance or situation they are facing, but Heavenly Father, You know.

We cling to You with hope, faith and assurance that You can heal our hurt places and pull us from the dark waters of depression and despair. We ask in Your Name that You will allow those who need help, to reach out to a friend, family member, pastor counselor, or doctor.

We ask You to release the pride that may keep one from asking for help. May we all find our rest, strength, and sanctuary in You. Thank You for setting us free and giving us a glimmer of hope in living an abundantly full life in Christ. Amen.

(Written by Annah Matthews)

Profession Anniversaries

11/5/1990 Rosemary McGraw (shut-in)
11/6/2005 Mary Kay Potnick

Congratulations! Abundant blessings be Yours!

Council Members

Minister	Susan Gribbon, OFS	<i>minister@nwfranciscans.org</i>
Vice Minister	Tim Panzica, OFS	<i>viceminister@nwfranciscans.org</i>
Formation Director	Kay Crnich, OFS	<i>formation@nwfranciscans.org</i>
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Spiritual Assistant	Jerry Stecker, OFS	<i>sa@nwfranciscans.org</i>
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.

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2021

Monday, Nov. 8 Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library (Breakout Room 1) at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. Remembrance Liturgy

Sunday, Nov. 21 Council Meeting, Minister's home at 1 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 13 Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library (Breakout Room 1) at Holy Family Parish, Inverness.

*A Blessed Thanksgiving to All Fraternity Members
and Their Families!*

Comfort for Those Who Mourn

So many people see in death nothing but a cruel separation from loved ones. In death there is certainly the very real pain and sorrow of physical separation. But it is equally true that our loved ones remain with us. They do not just go off to some dark and distant place. They simply continue into eternal life. We do not see them because we are still in the darkness of this world. But their spiritual eyes are always watching us as they wait for the day when we shall share their perfect joy.

I have often reflected upon this beautiful truth and found it the greatest and surest comfort in time of mourning. A firm faith in the real and continued presence of our loved ones has brought the conviction and consolation that death has not destroyed them, nor carried them away. Rather it has given them Life! A life with power to know fully and to love perfectly. With this new life and new power our loved ones are always present to us, knowing and loving us more than ever before.

The tears that dampen our eyes in time of mourning are tears of homesickness, tears of longing for our loved ones. But it is we who are away from home, not they! Death has been for them a doorway to an eternal home. They are still with us lovingly and tenderly waiting for the day when we, too, will enter the doorway of our eternal home. It is such a mistake to see death as separation and nothing more. For us who believe, death is a preparation for eternal union with those we love, in peace and joy.

A Word of Consolation

If a tiny baby could think, it would be afraid of birth. To leave the only world it had known would seem a kind of death. But immediately after birth the child finds itself in loving arms, showered with affection and cared for at every moment.

Passing through death is really a birth into a new and better world. Those who are left behind should not grieve as if there were no hope. Life is changed, not taken away. Our dear ones live on, in a world beautiful beyond anything we can imagine.

There they await the day when they will welcome us with joy.

Anonymous

Depression - Death - Deliverance

Depression. Death. Deep, dark descriptions. Deliverance! God's Light is always triumphant. November 28th is the First Sunday of Advent when we sing out *O Come, O Come, Emanuel! And ransom captive Israel.* Emanuel--God with us! The first Sunday of Advent when we prepare for the Light that came into the World and will never leave it. As followers of St. Francis, we, too, reverence the Incarnation as God's manifestation of His Divine Love for us.