



Dear Brothers & Sisters

From the Minister

Greetings my Brothers and Sisters,

"Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the ground and die, it remains but a single grain with no life." This was a theme today (March 17, 2024) for our Mass, both in our readings and our music. And a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr., found on page 48 of our St. Anthony Messenger: "Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime." And our Fr. Richard Rohr is quoted, "The pain of falling is necessary for the joy of rising." This encapsulates an essential truth about personal growth and resilience.

As Anne Lamott wrote in our St. Anthony Messenger (page 33): The 12-step program parallels, mirrors, and makes practical the same messages that Jesus gave us. Here is the union of the two:

"We suffer to get well.
We surrender to win.
We die to live.
We give it away to keep it."

Now we journey from Easter to our next gathering on Monday, April 8th at 1 p.m.. We have celebrated the Crib (in January), the Cross (in February) and now the Eucharist - the three loves of St. Francis - where we will have our ongoing formation centered on the Eucharist and celebrate with a Communion Service presided by Deacon Lou.

We will also have our biannual collection for Hopeful Beginnings of St. Mary's Services, Palatine, Illinois, during our gathering. See the lists of items needed in the Franciscan Outreach section of this newsletter.

1. Wear your brown shirt
2. Bring your items into the meeting space
3. Pray together that this collection given with love will be received and help those in need.

Also, please do not forget our Regional Retreat at Mayslake on Saturday, April 6th, as we are part of the "cluster" hosting this event. It will start with Mass at 9 a.m. The agenda for the event has been forwarded to you. Currently, the following are signed up to attend: Dave, Patti, Jerry, Carrie, Mary Anita, Kay, Matt, Stephanie, Rose Ann, Marion and myself. There is a \$10 cost for lunch. Please reimburse our treasury at our next meeting as I will pay for everyone on the day of the event. I will be leaving at 7 a.m. that morning and will have room for three (3) to carpool. Please let me know who would like to ride.

Minister's Message continued from page 1:

And so, I end with a prayer from our Bellarmine retreat:

*Lord, my God, when Your love spilled over into creation,
You thought of me.
I am of love, from love, for love.
Let my heart, O God, always recognize,
Cherish and enjoy Your goodness in all of creation.
Direct all that is in me toward Your praise.
Teach me reverence for every person, all things.
Energize me in Your service.
Lord God, let nothing ever distract me from Your love...
Neither health nor sickness, wealth nor poverty, honor nor dishonor,
Long life nor short life.
May I never seek nor choose to be other than You intend or wish.
Amen.*

(paraphrased by Jacqueline Bergan and Sr. Marie Schwan, CSJ)

Peace to you all.
Sue, OFS

Our Monthly Gathering

We will gather on **Monday, April 8, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness, in Room 83 on the lower level. There will be a Communion Service.

Profession Anniversaries

April 30 Brother Jerry celebrates thirteen years of profession. Abundant blessings be yours.

We Pray ...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR APRIL

For the Role of Women

Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognized in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world.

Franciscan Outreach

HOPEFUL BEGINNINGS

The next collection for Hopeful Beginnings will be at our **April** gathering. This will be a collection of clothes and baby items needed for spring and summer.

Specific needs for babies and toddlers:

diapers - sizes 3T, 4T, 5T, lotions and soaps (hypoallergenic, if possible), wash cloths, towels, formula, lotions, soap, bibs,

Clothing for Boys and Girls: Most needed sizes are 3T, 4T, 5T

Size 2T and 3T pants and jeans for boys are rarely donated (boys wear out the knees)

Snug-fitted foot cotton pajamas, loose-fit footed pajamas, jeans, pants, tops,

Also needed: underwear, socks, short sleeve tops, shorts, lightweight pants and jackets.

Contact **Sister Stephanie** for more information.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

This ministry packs bags of nutritious grain for those living in the poorest and most destitute areas on our planet. Members of our fraternity will participate in this work of service every other month from **2:00 to 3:45 p.m.**

Our next outreach is **May 29nd** from 2:00 to 3:45 p.m. Contact **Sister Sue** for more information.

Loose change wanted - at each monthly fraternity gathering, fraternity members have an opportunity to donate their loose change so that we can provide the funds to feed a child for a year. Whenever a total of \$53 in change is collected, it will be matched by \$53 from our Common Fund for a total of \$106, the cost of feeding a starving child in another country for a year. It is mindboggling to think that for the lack of a measly 29 cents a day, a child will starve.

JOURNEYS/THE ROAD HOME

We will again collect items for Journeys/the Road Home at our **August** gathering. Print out the list below and keep it in a handy place. When these items are on sale or you are at the Dollar Tree, pick up a few items and keep them for the August gathering. Contact **Sister RoseAnn** for more information on Journeys.

Most needed items:

Razors and shaving cream
Baby wipes
Large backpacks

Body wash - MOST NEEDED
Shampoo & conditioner - MOST NEEDED
Pullups - ALL SIZES

Food items:

Bottled water
Rice
Peanut butter
Jelly

Pasta (dried and canned)
Pasta sauce
Cereal - large boxes
Canned stew, fish and chicken*
* pop top cans preferred

Canned soups*
Canned fruit*
Canned vegetables*
Canned beans*
No bulk items

LAURIE CHILDREN'S/RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Save the pull tabs from soda and beer cans, soup cans, cat food cans. Bring these each month to the gathering. **Sister Sue** will collect these for recycling.

The funds from recycling are used to help families who stay at Ronald McDonald House while their child is being treated for cancer.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

As we have done the past few years, we will be putting together baskets of food for Thanksgiving to be given to families who live in Palatine Township and are desperately in need of food. There will be a sign-up sheet at the **October** gathering. It will include a list of the items needed for each basket that we donate. The items will be gathered into baskets at our November meeting.

Live Simply so that Others Might Simply Live.

The Double Commandment of Love

Homily by St. Augustine

The Lord, the teacher of love, full of love, came in person *with summary judgment on the world*, as had been foretold of him, and showed that the law and the prophets are summed up in two commandments of love.

Call to mind, brethren, what these two commandments are. They ought to be very familiar to you; they should not only spring to mind when I mention them, but ought never to be absent from your hearts. Always keep in mind that we must love God and our neighbor: *Love God with your whole heart, your whole soul, your whole mind, and your neighbor as yourself.*

These two commandments must be always in your thoughts and in your hearts, treasured, acted on, fulfilled. Love of God is the first to be commanded, but love of neighbor is the first to be put into practice. In giving two commandments of love Christ would not commend to you first your neighbor and then God but first God and then your neighbor.

Since you do not yet see God, you merit the vision of God by loving your neighbor. By loving your neighbor, you prepare your eye to see God. Saint John says clearly: *If you do not love your brother whom you see, how will you love God whom you do not see!*

Consider what is said to you: Love God. If you say to me: Show me whom I am to love, what shall I say if not what St. John says: *No one has ever seen God!* But in case you should think that you are completely cut off from the sight of God, he says: *God is love, and he who remains in love remains in God.* Love your neighbor, then, and see within yourself the power by which you love your neighbor; there you will see God, as far as you are able.

Begin, then, to love your neighbor. *Break your bread to feed the hungry, and bring into your home the homeless poor, if you see someone naked, clothe him, and do not look down on your own flesh and blood.*

What will you gain by doing this? *Your light will then burst forth like the dawn.* Your light is your God; he is your dawn, for he will come to you when the night of time is over. He does not rise or set, but remains forever.

The Double Commandment of Love continued from page 4

In loving your neighbor and caring for him you are on a journey. Where are you traveling if not to the Lord God, to him whom we should love with our whole heart, our whole soul, our whole mind? We have not yet reached his presence, but we have our neighbor at our side. Support, then, this companion of your pilgrimage if you want to come into the presence of the one with whom you desire to remain forever.

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2024

- Monday, Apr. 8** Monthly gathering will be held at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the **Lower Level** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. There will be a collection of clothing and baby items for Hopeful Beginnings *Liturgy - Communion Service*.
- Sunday, April 28** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, May 13** Monthly gathering will be held at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the **Lower Level** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. *Crown Rosary*.
- Sunday, May 19** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, June 10** Monthly gathering will be held at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the **Lower Level** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. We will bring items and fill Blessing Bags for Franciscan Outreach. *LOTH*.
- Sunday, June 23** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, July 8** Monthly gathering will be held at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the **Lower Level** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. *Liturgy TBD*.
- Sunday, July 28** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 12** Monthly gathering will be held at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the **Lower Level** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The biannual collection of items for Journeys/The Road Home will be held. *Liturgy Lectio Divina*.
- Sunday, Aug. 25** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, Sept. 9** Monthly gathering will be held at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the **Lower Level** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The triannual election of Council Members will be held at this gathering. *LOTH*.
- Sunday, Sept. 22** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 7** Monthly gathering will be held at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the **Lower Level** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. There will be a collection of fall clothing and baby items for Hopeful Beginnings. *Liturgy Transitus and Renewal of Profession Vows*.
- Sunday, Oct. 27** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, Nov. 11** Monthly gathering will be held at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the **Lower Level** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. We will pack

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings continued from page 5

- Thanksgiving baskets for the Palatine Township needy. *Liturgy will commemorate the deceased.*
- Sunday, Nov. 24** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 9** Monthly gathering will be held at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the **Lower Level** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. *Liturgy - Communion Service.*
- Sunday, Dec. 22** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.

Calendar of Regional Gatherings 2024

All events listed in this calendar are at Mayslake, except where noted.

- Saturday, April 6** Spring Formation Day (Cluster Four) *
- Saturday, May 18** Regional Election (REC)
- Saturday, May 25** Headstone Clean-Up Day, OFS Section, Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside, IL 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
- Saturday, August 3** Portiuncula (Virtual Only)
- Saturday, October 19** REC Meeting
- Sunday, October 27** All Soul's Day Prayer Service, OFS Section, Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside, IL 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
- Saturday, November 9** Mother Cabrini Celebration (Cluster One) location TBD

* Our fraternity is part of Cluster Four together with Junipero Serra fraternity and St. Maximilian Kolbe fraternity. As such we will be sharing the hosting of the Spring Formation Day.

Council Members

Minister	Susan Gribbon, OFS	<i>minister@nwfranciscans.org</i>
Vice Minister	Tim Panzica, OFS	
Formation Director	Kay Crnich, OFS	
Secretary	Marion Tuttle, OFS	
Treasurer	Kathy Fischer, OFS	
Spiritual Assistant	open	
Councilor-at-Large	open	

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