



Dear Brothers & Sisters

From the Minister

And so, I pray for ALL of you...what a journey we are on!

On February 27th, eight of us gathered at Feed My Starving Children where "many hands" packed Manna Packs to feed kids, feed spirits and empower communities around the world...on that day, we helped to pack 22,896 meals...two and a half pallets of food! In the end we prayed over that food...in thanksgiving for the generous donors and workers, that it would arrive safely and be accepted in the country it was being sent to, that it would bring nourishment and health to those receiving the food and that this food would be a source of hope for all those receiving these Manna Packets of food.

On Saturday, March 11th, nine of us gathered at Mayslake for our regional event: Franciscan Formation with the topic being: God's Love Incarnate: Revisiting Greccio. Our main speaker was Fr. Ed Tverdek, OFM, ... but we also heard from our own Brother Jerry and many other of our secular brothers and sister... (it takes a village).

Then on Monday, March 13th, we gathered at the Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House for an all-day retreat with Fr. Brad Held, SJ, where we experienced how Jesus attracts, pours into us and sends us forth. (Sounds very Franciscan to me.) We learned about the "Pirate Prayer"...

- A Acknowledge Jesus
- R Relate and Rely on Jesus
- R Receive and Listen to Jesus' response
- R Respond

It was good to be together, to be fed spiritually and physically in the beautiful surroundings of Bellarmine. Let's do this more often!

Our next fraternity meeting will **not** be on April 10th, as all of Holy Family will be closed on Easter Monday. It has been rescheduled for **Monday, April 17th at 1 p.m.** Please note this very important change.

Regarding our **April 17th** gathering: We are asking that you keep your donations for Hopeful Beginnings in your cars. **Do not** bring them into the church building. Since this is the date of our triennial Pastoral and Fraternal Visitation, the agenda for the gathering has changed.

1. We will ALL gather at 1 p.m. Our gathering will begin with prayer, followed by social time and our Fraternal Visitation with regional representatives.
2. Bring your five (5) Mother's Day cards with stamped envelopes into the gathering and give them to Sister Mary Anita who will send them on to prison ministry.
3. After social time, you can leave the gathering
4. Go to your car and transfer your donations for Hopeful Beginnings to my vehicle
5. The Council will remain for our Pastoral Visitation

I will have a Feed My Starving Children sign up for Wednesday, April 26th from 2:00-3:45 p.m. This is an awesome event, and for those who can't stand, there are sit down jobs to do. Please consider this.

And so, I end with: One step at a time, one thing at a time, one day at a time...and remember:

When God comes first, whatever comes second will always be right.

Peace to you all, my brothers and sisters.

Sue G. OFS

Our Monthly Gathering

We will gather on **Monday, April 17, 2023**, at 1:00 p.m. in the Senior Center at Holy Family Catholic Church. (**Note the change in date.**)

The triennial **Regional Visitation** will be held. Please abide by the following agenda:

1. Do **not** bring any donations for Hopeful Beginnings into the gathering.
2. Bring the Mother's Day cards into the gathering and give them to Sister Mary Anita.
3. Bring snacks for social time into the gathering. After a brief prayer, the gathering will **begin** with social time during which the representatives from the Region will join us to speak with the fraternity members and address any concerns that members may have.
4. Afterward, the Representatives will meet with the Council to review the life of the fraternity during the past three years. Those who are not on the council will be free to leave.
5. As you return to your vehicle, take your donations and bring them to Sister Sue G.'s SUV. She will take all the donations to Hopeful Beginnings on Tuesday.

If you will not be able to attend the gathering on April 17, but have items for Hopeful Beginnings, drop them off at Sister Sue G.'s house no later than Friday, April 14th.

We Pray ...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR APRIL

For a Culture of Peace and Non-violence

We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

Franciscan Outreach

HOPEFUL BEGINNINGS - APRIL

This month, we will have our **Spring and Summer** clothing drive for Hopeful Beginnings. All baby clothing, from newborn to 5 Toddler is needed for boys and girls. The greatest need is for toddler clothes. Also needed are the necessities for caring for babies and toddlers: diapers, formula, lotions, soap, bibs, socks, underwear, etc.

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Because this month is our Regional Visitation, and space in the senior center is limited, **please keep your donations in your vehicle until after the gathering when they will be transferred directly to Sister Sue Gs SUV.** Thank you.

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 - JOURNEYS/THE ROAD HOME

Shampoo and conditioner (all sizes) and body wash

Razors and shaving cream	Body wash - MOST NEEDED
Baby wipes	Shampoo & conditioner - MOST NEEDED
Large backpacks	Pullups - ALL SIZES

FOOD ITEMS -

Bottled water	Pasta (dried and canned)	Canned soups*
Rice	Pasta sauce	Canned fruit*
Peanut butter	Cereal - large boxes	Canned vegetables*
Jelly	Canned stew*	Canned beans*
	Canned fish and chicken*	
* pop top cans preferred	No bulk items	

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

This ministry packs bags of nutritious grain for those living in the poorest and most destitute areas on our planet. Nine members of our fraternity packed bags on Monday, February 27th. The next date for packing is **April 26th, 2:00 - 3:45 p.m.** Sister Sue G. will have the sign-up sheet at the April 17th gathering.

‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’
Matthew 25:40 NIV

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2023

Monday, Apr. 17	Monthly gathering will be held at 1 p.m. in the Senior Center at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. Triennial Regional Visitation.
Sunday, Apr. 23	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, May 8	Monthly gathering will be held at 1 p.m. in the Senior Center at Holy Family Parish, Inverness, <i>Communion Service</i>
Sunday, May 21	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, June 12	Monthly gathering will be held at 1 p.m. in the Senior Center at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Liturgy of the Hours</i>
Sunday, June 25	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, July 10	Monthly gathering will be held at 1 p.m. in the Senior Center at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Possible retreat</i>

Sunday, July 23	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, Aug. 14	Monthly gathering will be held at 1 p.m. in the Senior Center at Holy Family Parish, Inverness, <i>Lectio Divina</i>
Sunday, Aug. 27	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 11	Monthly gathering will be held at 1 p.m. in the Senior Center at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Liturgy of the Hours</i>
Sunday, Sept. 24	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 2	Monthly gathering will be held at 1 p.m. in the Senior Center at Holy Family Parish, Inverness, <i>Transitus, Renewal of Profession Vows</i>
Sunday, Oct. 22	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 13	Monthly gathering will be held at 1 p.m. in the Senior Center at Holy Family Parish, Inverness, <i>Commemoration of deceased/LOTH</i>
Sunday, Nov. 26	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 11	Monthly gathering will be held at 1 p.m. in the Senior Center at Holy Family Parish, Inverness, <i>Communion Service</i>
Sunday, Dec. 17	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.

Calendar of Regional Gatherings 2023

Sat/Sun May 6 and 7, 2023	Chapter of Ministers (REC)
Sat. Aug. 5, 2023	Portiuncula Gathering (Cluster Four)
Sat. Sept. 30, 2023	Fall Formation Day (Cluster One)
Sun. Nov. 12, 2023	Mother Cabrini Celebration (Cluster Five)
	All events are at Mayslake Village, except where noted.

Profession Anniversaries

This month, our Spiritual Assistant, **Brother Jerry**, will celebrate a dozen years of living as a professed secular Franciscan on April 30th. An abundance of God's blessings to our brother, who not only lives the secular Franciscan way of life himself, but guides us in our endeavors as well.

Council Members

Minister	Susan Gribbon, OFS	<i>minister@nwfranciscans.org</i>
Vice Minister	Tim Panzica, OFS	
Formation Director	Kay Crnich, OFS	
Secretary	Suzanne Rogers, OFS	
Treasurer	Kathy Fischer, OFS	
Spiritual Assistant	Jerry Stecker, OFS	
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.