



Dear Brothers & Sisters

From the Minister

"We're better together." (From the book *No Man [or Woman] is an Island* by Thomas Merton.)
..."We're made for community, for life together, as theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer puts it. Being together forms our identity. It gives us meaning and purpose and a sense of belonging. It's how we've come so far as a species. Individualism is a dead end; it goes against every aspect of our nature...Community is what Jesus formed around him in his ministry. Community is what the early Christians cultivated. Community is what we are made for; it's what God calls us to, in all of its different forms." (From *Points of View*, Kyle Kramer, page 42, July/August St. Anthony Messenger.)

And with this we read Rule 13: A sense of community will make them joyful and ready to place themselves on an equal basis with all people, especially with the lowly for whom they shall create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ. And Rule 22: The local fraternity is to be established canonically. It becomes the basic unit of the whole Order and a visible sign of the Church, the community of love. This should be the privileged place for developing a sense of Church and the Franciscan vocation and for enlivening the apostolic life of its members.

In our constitution, we read Article 28:1...The fraternity of the OFS finds its origin in the inspiration of St. Francis of Assisi to whom the Most High revealed the essential gospel quality of life in fraternal communion.

Our Rule and Constitution must be read and understood to live it. So, our Spiritual Assistant, Brother Jerry, will be helping us to review and understand our Rule. Please bring your copies of The Rule to our fraternity gatherings. Also remember WHY it is important to attend our monthly gatherings and be active with our service projects...this is what we professed to do.

If, for some reason, you are unable to attend our fraternity meetings, please let me know and how we can help you. If you are unable to read our newsletters or download them...let me know. Our newsletter is full of important dates and pieces of information. We are trying to keep everyone in the loop and on top of things.

For all future meetings - please bring all treats/food items for social time to the kitchen *before* our meetings begin. We will have our ongoing formation for everyone in the Senior Center beginning promptly at 1:00 p.m. Let's give our Spiritual Assistant respect as he leads us in this formation time so we can all hear and learn. For liturgy, we will go to the chapel (as available) and also have a short business meeting. We will return to the Senior Center for social time.

Our August gathering will have us bringing our donations/collections for Journeys/The Road Home. Sister RoseAnn is our coordinator for this ministry. Anyone interested in helping to shelve these items, please contact her at the meeting on August 14th.

So, let each of us follow St. Francis who made Jesus the center/focus of his life, living simply so others may simply live.

Peace to you, my Brothers and Sisters,
Sister Sue, OFS

Our Monthly Gathering

We will gather on **Monday, August 14, 2023**, at **1:00 p.m.** in the Senior Center at Holy Family Catholic Church. Please bring a snack to share at social time; drop it off in the kitchen as you come into the narthex. Our liturgy will be Lectio Divina.

We Pray ...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST

For World Youth Day

We pray World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

Profession Anniversaries

There are no anniversaries to be celebrated individually in the month of August. Let us *all* celebrate the incredible gift of vocation to the OFS that was given to each of us by our loving God.

Franciscan Outreach

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. The remaining dates for 2023 will be:

September 27

December 27

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.

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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	

HOPEFUL BEGINNINGS

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

Skin care:

diapers - sizes 3T, 4T, 5T

Dove Sensitive Skin Care Baby Lotion (hypoallergenic) 13 oz.

Baby Dove Bar Soak Rich Moisture 3.17 oz. bar - washes away bacteria, more gentle than ordinary baby soap (8 bars for \$19.99 on Amazon*)

Baby Dove Sensitive Skin Care Wash for Bath Time (hypoallergenic fragrance-free (20 oz. \$12.99 on Amazon*))

Dreft Stage 1: Newborn Hypoallergenic baby laundry detergent liquid soap (2 bottles \$19.99 Amazon*)

* Price when this copy was printed.

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

Also needed: underwear, socks, long sleeve tops, fall/winter jackets with hoods - snow pants - mittens

As you shop, keep checking those clearance racks; the deepest discounts on winter clothing may still be found as everyone is thinking summer. Also needed are the necessities for caring for babies and toddlers: diapers, formula, lotions, soap, bibs, socks, underwear, etc. Contact **Sister Stephanie** for more information.

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 children is being treated for cancer.

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2023

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. Aug. 5, 2023	Portiuncula Gathering - 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
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.

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	Jerry Stecker, OFS	
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.

On his deathbed, St. Francis freed his brothers by saying, "I have done what was mine to do, may Christ now teach you what you are to do."

Richard Rohr