



Dear Brothers & Sisters

From the Minister

Greetings my Brothers and Sisters.

As I write this we are all preparing for Thanksgiving...either to host it or going to someone else's home to enjoy. Whatever your plans, be safe, be joyful and be *Thankful*...as written by that beekeeper...me.

The mystic, Meister Eckhart, wrote: "Thank you is the single most important, most complete prayer we can ever say." Cultivate gratitude. Live in thankfulness. Happy Thanksgiving!

And so, this brings me to our Christmas prayer found in our November/December St. Anthony Messenger:

God, this Christmas help me give
hope and utopia and shalom a
chance, just as others have done
for me.

My mind and heart cannot
comprehend the magnitude of
what this means. But neither could
shepherds, the Three Wise Men, or
the owner of the inn; not even Mary
and Joseph understood the fullness
of their call. May Christ be reborn
in me this Christmas. Help me to
prepare a peaceful place for
Emmanuel to dwell.

Amen.

And so, on to our other matters of life. Currently, we have five fraternity members signed up for Feed My Starving Children on Wednesday, December 27, 2023, from 2:00 to 3:45 p.m. You are: Jerry, Kathy, Lou, Carrie and Sue. Please let me know if you cannot be present or if any of you would like to participate and join us.

And, lastly, don't forget that our December gathering will be at Kay's on December 11th at 1p.m. We will have our Christmas party and a baby shower for Becca and Tim. They are registered online at Amazon and Target under Rebecca P... Kenosha, WI, due date 1-3-24 for little Charlotte. It was decided at our last gathering that each of us will bring our own gift rather than one gift from the fraternity.

Below is a list of what each member has signed up to bring for the party on December 11th:

Marion and Sue..... Ham

Sue and Kathy Salads

Tom..... Rolls

Bonnie Soda

Christmas party list continued:

Mary Kay	Wine	Jackie	Fruit Salad
Stephanie	Dessert	Mary Anita	Wine
Jerry	Chips	Carrie	Dip for Chips
Patti	Chicken/broccoli slaw dish and a dessert	Faith	Flowers
Dave	Paper plates and napkins for 20 people	RoseAnn	Plastic dinner- ware for 20 people

And so, I end with a quote from Dr. Seuss: "Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more."
Peace, Hope, Joy and Love to you and yours.
Sister Sue, OFS

Christmas Creche

A God who became so small could only be mercy and love. St. Therese of Lisieux.

Seven hundred years before St. Therese wrote those words, our Father Francis sought to *show* people the love of the Babe by creating the first Christmas creche using real people and animals. Visual representations of the birth of Jesus spread throughout the nations and the centuries. As you pray before the creche, whether in your home or church, reflect on how You have been the hands and feet of the Babe in bringing mercy and love to people you will never meet. Take a moment to think:

- * Somewhere in the world children have been saved from starvation because of the spare change you donated to Feed My Starving Children... or, even better, you helped to fill the packets of food
- * Within our community there are babies and toddlers who are properly clothed for the weather because of your donations to Hopeful Beginnings
- * The homeless have been fed because of the donations given to Journeys/The Road Home
- * Families struggling to make ends meet in an inflationary economy gathered around a table filled with the food in the Thanksgiving baskets you filled
- * Ronald McDonald House is helped in hosting families of children with cancer by the pop tabs from cans that you donate

These are the priceless gifts that you bring to the Christ Child on His birthday. "As long as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." *Matthew 25:40*

Our Monthly Gathering - Important Notice

We will gather on **Monday, December 11, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.** at Sister Kay's home for our Christmas party. We will also have a baby shower for Brother Tim and Becca.

We Pray ...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER

For persons with Disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

Profession Anniversaries

There are no individual anniversaries in the month of December. As we kneel by the crib on Christmas Day, let us thank God for our vocation to follow in the footsteps of St. Francis who created the first Nativity in the town of Greccio over 800 years ago.

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 date for 2023 will be:

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 **February** 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 February gathering. Contact **Sister RoseAnn** for more information on Journeys.

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2023 and 2024

2023

- Monday, Dec. 11** Monthly gathering will be held at **1 p.m.** at **Kay's** home to celebrate Christmas and have a baby shower for Tim and Becca.
- Sunday, Dec. 17** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30

2024

- Monday, Jan. 8** Monthly gathering will be held at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the **Lower Level** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness, *LOTH.*
- Sunday, Jan 28** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 12** Monthly gathering will be held at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the **Lower Level** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. Items will be collected for **Journeys/The Road Home.** *Liturgy LOTH.*
- Sunday, Feb. 25** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, Mar. 11** Monthly gathering will be held at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the **Lower Level** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. *Liturgy Stations of the Cross*
- Sunday, Mar. 24** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- 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 - Crown Rosary.*
- 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. *Liturgy Communion Service.*
- 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.*

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings cont.

- Sunday, Sept. 22** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 1** 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 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 2023

The Calendar of Regional Gatherings will be published in a forthcoming issue of the newsletter.

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.

***May the Christ Child smile on You
as You play your little drum this Christmas!***