



Dear Brothers & Sisters

From the Minister

Greetings my Brothers and Sisters.

The Three Loves of St. Francis: The Creche, The Cross and The Eucharist.

And so, ten of us plus members of Jerry's Small Christian Community Franciscan Bible Study, carpooled to Marytown this past week to complete the steps for our Plenary Indulgence on the 800th Anniversary of St. Francis's Nativity at Greccio. We ended the day with brunch and a wonderful social time deciding that we will return in the summer to Marytown and walk the grounds together...what a wonderful experience. The Cross is our next stopping point to be addressed at our gathering on Monday, February 12th, with Ash Wednesday beginning Feb. 14th.

With all this planning, I pray to see more of you participate and be active in your Franciscan calling. Pope John Paul II called us a Community of Love and stated "The Church expects from you, Secular Franciscans, a courageous and consistent testimony of Christian and Franciscan life, leaning towards the construction of a more fraternal and gospel world for the realization of the Kingdom of God."

And, as our Constitution reads: "Therefore, you are asked, above all else, to bear personal witness before all in the environment in which you live: in your family life, in your work, in your jobs and sufferings, in your associations with all men and women, brothers and sisters of the same Father, in your presence and participation in the life of society, in your fraternal relationships with all creatures...fulfilling the promises made at Baptism and at Confirmation, renewed and confirmed in your Profession in the OFS. In virtue of your profession, the Rule and the General Constitutions must represent for each one of you the reference point for everyday experiences. It would be a contradiction to settle for a life of mediocrity." This is all from *The Franciscan Journey*, page 305. This is a book we use in formation for our new people, let us not forget...This is what we professed to do.

On our journey to "Be More", we have our next Feed My Starving Children event on Wednesday, January 31st from 2:00 - 3:45 p.m. Currently, we have Patti, RoseAnn, Kathy, Jerry and myself signed up to work. Remember, there are sitting jobs for those who are unable to stand that long or are allergic to soy. If you are interested in participating, please call me.

Our next Outreach Project is Journeys/The Road Home. All donations are to be brought to our next gathering on February 12th. Please see Franciscan Outreach in this newsletter for the list of needed supplies. Those who would like to shelf our donations, please contact Sister RoseAnn.

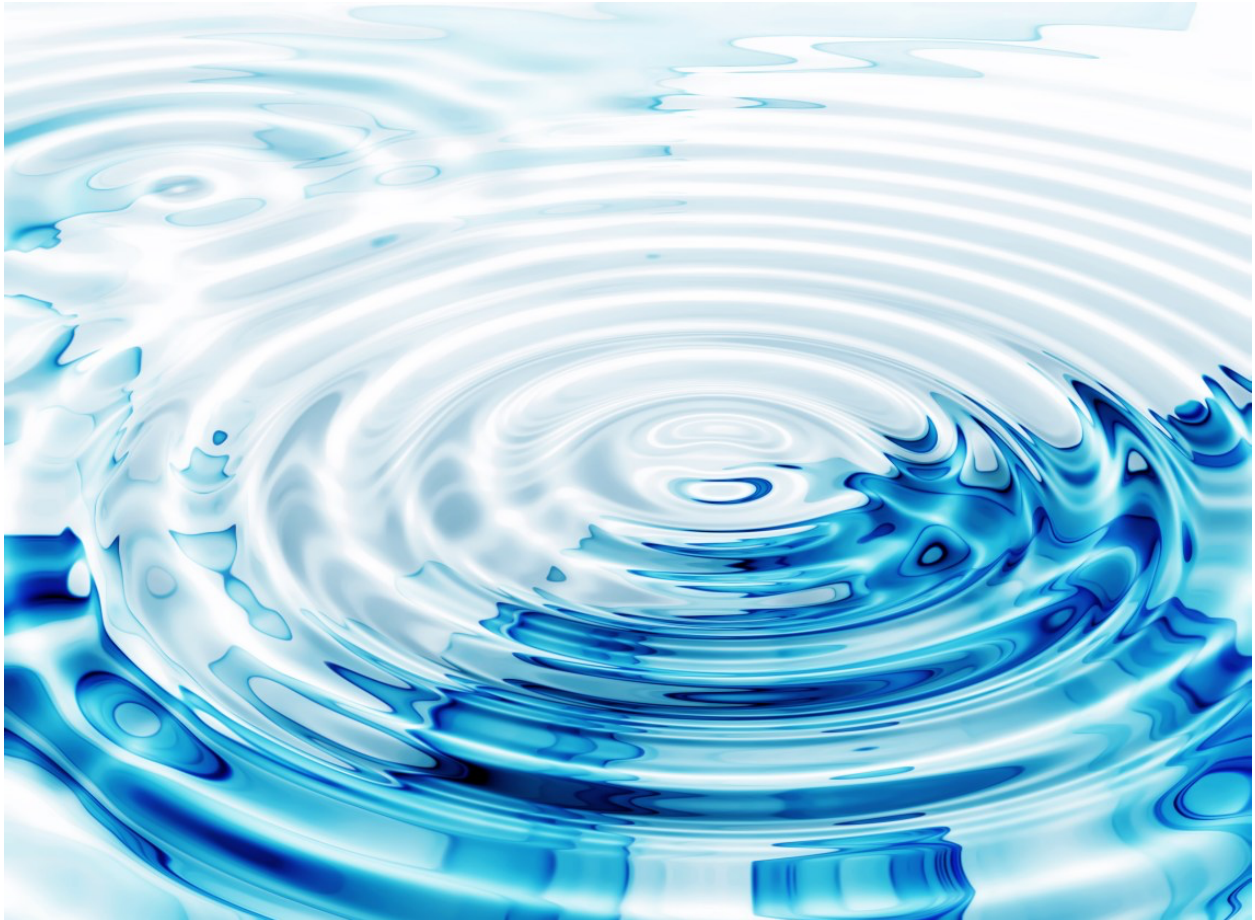
Lastly, our March gathering (Monday, March 11, 2024) will be a Lenten retreat at the Bellarmine Retreat House in Barrington from 9:00 - 3:00 p.m. I would like to see all of us attend. The cost is \$70. If you are unable to pay that, just pay what you can. Currently, those who have signed up are: Kay, Patti, Carrie, Marion, Dave, Kathy, Tom, Faith, Tim, Bonnie and me. Please let me know by the end of January (this month) if you want to sign up, as the registrations and fees need to be done early to hold a spot for us.

We, as a council, have attempted to have a variety of projects for all of us, at various levels of mobility and finances. Please find your passion and do something.

From the Minister continued from page 1:

Let us be more Franciscan...Let us be more Christ-like...this is what we professed to do...COME AND PARTICIPATE.

Peace always,
Sue, OFS



"...may Christ now teach you what you are to do."

St. Francis of Assisi

None of us can do everything in the world. But every one of us can bear witness to our secular Franciscan calling in the tiny part of the world that we inhabit. Like the pebble that creates ripples in the water, each of us can be the pebble that creates ripples of peace, love and service to those around us. If each of us committed to this work in our homes, families and communities, eventually the ripples would overlap and spread beyond our communities to cities and towns, perhaps, over time, even to the entire world. What do we have to lose?

Our Monthly Gathering

We will gather on **Monday, February 12, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness, in Room 83 on the lower level.

Bring your donations for Journeys/The Road Home and leave them in your car. They will be collected in the parking lot after our gathering.

We will pray the Liturgy of the Hours; please bring your books.

Profession Anniversaries

There are no specific anniversaries of profession in the month of February. As brothers and sisters in fraternity, let us help each other in living the life we professed on that memorable day years ago.

We Pray ...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY

For the Terminally Ill

Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

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 from **2:00 to 3:45 p.m.**

Our next outreach is January 31st 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.

Journeys/the Road Home

Most needed items:

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, fish and chicken*	Canned beans*
	* pop top cans preferred	No bulk items

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.

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.

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2024

- 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** Lenten Day of Reflection - All Shall Be Well at **Bellarmino Retreat Center**, Barrington, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m..
- 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.*
- 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

minister@nwfranciscans.org

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.