



Dear Brothers & Sisters

From the Minister

Greetings my Brothers and Sisters,

We know that our St. Francis of Assisi was a troubadour. The troubadours of the Middle Ages sang of chivalry and courtly love. And Francis used these skills in his ministry to live Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel. This subject matter became part of Brother Jerry's SCC-GIG Franciscan Bible Study discussion from the book *Chasing Francis* by Ian Morgan Cron.

There was a great discussion on how ART enhances liturgy. "Our Bible is a work of art filled with poetry, songs, stories, parables, history, apocalyptic drama and literature." (page 113 of *Chasing Francis*. Francis was an artist, many of his followers were artists.

So, this morning at daily Mass, as I thumbed through our daily Mass guide and music, I found this song: "Turn our Hearts Around" (page 279). Here is the refrain:

*Turn our hearts around.
Turn our hearts around.
Flood our souls completely,
Wash us in your love.
Turn our hearts around.
Turn our hearts around.
Hold us in your mercy,
Change us with your love.*

This brought me to tears. This is our daily conversion. This is what we are called to do. Let's all make that conscious effort to change and want change.

For those who know me...I can't carry a tune, but I love to sing. I find, in music, our God speaking to me. I am moved by the words of the music I hear during Mass as much as the Scripture I hear...And for this, I am Thankful. This allows us to listen with our minds and our hearts.

I will leave you with high recommendations for Jerry's group. It meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings of each month at 7 p.m. at Holy Family Church. Currently, there are four from our fraternity participating with other people from Holy Family parish. This is a great learning experience, another layer of our Franciscan journey.

Hopeful Beginnings was delighted and grateful to receive the donations that we collected in April. When they were delivered, the staff specifically commented on how much they looked forward to our semiannual donations. Thank you for your Franciscan generosity.

In September, we will have fraternity elections. Please read the list of job responsibilities for each council position *on page 6* in this newsletter. All, except those going through formation, are encouraged to give prayerful consideration to running for a servant leadership role. Also, give consideration to other fraternity members whom you feel have the qualities for each position.

Minister's Message continued from page 1

We need a member of the fraternity who will accept the nominations for council positions and put together the slate. This is a temporary position from May thru July. This person will contact the current council members to confirm whether or not they will seek re-election. You will accept the names of those who want to serve in a council position. Others will contact you with the name or names of fraternity members whom they feel would be ideal for a specific council position. You would then call the person nominated and ask if they accept the nomination. In July, you will give the slate of names of the nominees for each council position to the minister.

Lastly, our liturgy for May will be our Crown Rosary. Our Outreach Project will be Feed My Starving Children on Wednesday, May 22nd (NOT the 29th) from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. *Please note the change in date and time for FMSC.*

Thank you all for what you do in fraternity and in your parishes. Continue to live our rule and let your light help others find their way. God Bless You.

Peace always,

Sue, OFS

Our Monthly Gathering

We will gather on **Monday, May 13, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness, in Room 83 on the lower level. Our liturgy will be the Crown Rosary.

Profession Anniversaries

Two members of our council are celebrating anniversaries of profession this month:

May 8 Sister Sue G. celebrates 18 years of profession
May 13 Sister Kay celebrates 11 years of profession

May God's abundant blessings surround them as they serve not only those in need, but also, us, their brothers and sisters in fraternity.

We Pray ...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR MAY

For the Formation of Men and Women Religious and Seminarians

Let us pray that men and women religious and seminarians, grow in their own vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel.

Franciscan Outreach

BLESSING BAGS FOR THE HOMELESS

If you are able, pack five (5) one-gallon Ziploc bags with the following items and bring them to the **June** meeting:

Necessities: hand sanitizer (small size)
hand wipes

Soap and body wash
Wash cloths

Optional items:

toothpaste and toothbrush
packs of tissues
razors
lip balm

deodorant
Vaseline or lotion
socks
hard candy/mints

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 **2:30 to 4:00 p.m.**

Our next outreach is **May 22nd** from 2:30 to 4:00 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

Franciscan Outreach continued from page 3

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 for fall and winter.

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.

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2024

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| 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. <i>Crown Rosary.</i> |
| 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. <i>LOTH.</i> |
| 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. <i>Liturgy TBD.</i> |
| 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. <i>Liturgy Lectio Divina.</i> |
| 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. <i>LOTH.</i> |
| 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. <i>Liturgy Transitus and Renewal of Profession Vows.</i> |
| Sunday, Oct. 27 | Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m. |

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings continued from page 4

- 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 2024

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

- 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.

FRATERNITY COUNCIL POSITIONS

The Northwest Franciscan Community of the Immaculate Heart of Mary fraternity has the following Council Members: Minister, Vice-Minister, Formation Director, Treasurer, Secretary and Councilor-at-large. All positions are filled through general elections. Listed below are the council positions and the duties of each:

Minister

Preside at and direct the meetings and all events of the fraternity and council. This includes creating and distributing council meeting agendas, and keeping track of action items.

Coordinate and preside at all fraternity rites of Welcoming, Admission, Profession and Remembrance; wake services; and Profession anniversaries. This includes preparing all worship aids and materials (such as Profession or Jubilee certificates) as appropriate.

Prepare the annual report to be sent to the Regional fraternity after it has been approved by the local council. (See also: *MCRN*, Article 23.1.)

Participate in Regional level meetings and projects. This includes attending the Regional Chapter of Ministers held each **May**, and the Regional Chapter of Elections held every three years.

Particular to our Fraternity

Provide leadership and see that each council member fulfills his or her responsibilities.

Create a sense of community in the fraternity.

Get all to share in the planning of the fraternity.

Keep records faithfully and adequately.

Share all official correspondence with the fraternity council and others as needed.

Provide monthly newsletters to fraternity members to keep them abreast of events and happenings in the order.

See to the updating and preservation of the Fraternity Register, noting admissions, professions, deaths, withdrawals, and transfers from the fraternity. (*In the GC 52.2.b, this is normally a task assigned to the secretary.*)

Inform the Regional and National fraternities of all Profession, and deaths of Professed members.

Inform the National fraternity when Candidates are admitted so that the Candidates can start receiving TAU-USA.

Collaborate with the secretary to maintain and distribute *twice a year* (include with the monthly newsletter mailing) a Member Directory to all Candidates, Professed, and the spiritual assistant. We do *not* mail the Member Directory to guests, Aspirants, Inquirers, or anyone else on our newsletter list.

Fraternity Council Positions continued from page 6

Vice-Minister

Collaborate in a fraternal spirit and support the minister in carrying out his/her specific duties.

Take the place of the minister in both duties and responsibilities in case of absence or temporary impediment.

Assume the functions of the minister when the office remains vacant.

Particular to our Fraternity

Create a sense of community in the fraternity.

Formation Director

With the help of the other council members, coordinate the formative activities of the fraternity.

Together with the entire fraternity, instructs and enlivens the Aspirants during Orientation, Inquirers during the time of Initiation, Candidates during the period of Initial Formation, and Professed during Ongoing Formation.

Prior to Profession of Candidates, inform the fraternity council about the suitability of the Candidates for a commitment to live according to the Rule.

Particular to our Fraternity

Order formation books and supplies, as well as supplies needed for Rite of Admission ceremonies and Profession Masses.

Provide information to guests about the Franciscans and our way of life.

Keep the council, as well as the fraternity as a whole, abreast of the progress of all groups of Aspirants, Inquirers, and Candidates.

Responsible for groups of candidates, as they seek profession.

Treasurer

Guard diligently the contributions received, recording each receipt in the appropriate register, with the date on which it was given, the name of the contributor, or the one from whom it was collected. This includes bringing collection baskets/containers to fraternity gatherings to collect Common Fund donations.

Record in the same register the items of expense, specifying the date and the purpose, in conformity with the directions of the fraternity council.

Render an account of his or her administration to the assembly and to the council of the fraternity according to the norms of the national statutes.

Prepare the annual treasurer's report to be sent to the Regional fraternity after it has been approved by the local council.

Fraternity Council Positions continued from page 7

Treasurer's duties continued:

Send the fraternity's annual Fair Share contribution to the Regional fraternity.

Particular to our Fraternity

Together with the council, approve donations to be sent to various recipients as funds allow.

Secretary

Compile the official acts of the fraternity and of the council and ensure that they are sent to their respective proper recipients. This includes taking and maintaining the council meeting minutes.

Keep records of all members, which includes:

- letters of intent (Candidacy, Profession)
- letters of recommendation from clergy
- correspondence between the council and members (for example, copies of letters sent to Candidates notifying them of their Profession acceptance)
- transfer forms
- official copies of sacramental records
- *Franciscan Wake and Burial Instructions* forms

Provide for the communication of the more important facts to the various levels and, if appropriate, to provide for their dissemination through the mass media.

Particular to our Fraternity

Provide name tags, attendance sheets, and other sign-up forms at fraternity gatherings.

Collaborate with the minister to maintain and distribute twice a year, a Member Directory of all Candidates, Professed and the spiritual assistant.

Send out notification of acceptance letters to Candidates seeking Profession, and assist with any other correspondence as requested by the minister.

Councilor-at-large

Attends all council meetings and be familiar with the current issues of the council, so that should a council position be vacated due to illness or other reason, the councilor-at-large has the knowledge to step in to a position, temporarily, or until the next elections are held.

NOTE: Should the position of Minister be vacated, the Vice-Minister assumes the duties.

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve”

Mark 10:45