



Dear Brothers & Sisters

From the Minister

Beginning on September 1st, we begin the Season of Creation which ends on October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis. On September 17th, we celebrate the 800th Anniversary of the Stigmata of St. Francis. The theme for this Season of Creation is: “To Hope and Act with Creation”.

In our current St. Anthony Messenger on page 18, in the article *One Simple Word*, it states: “Thus, the simple word within this year’s theme (*with*) is so important because it reminds us that we are not stewards over, we do not hold dominion over, but rather we act *with* and live *with* creation. And this is our greatest hope to be of a mindset to embrace the mutuality of creation in its totality—human, plant, and animal alike.” And lastly...the last paragraph of the article states: “As the Franciscan Federation continues to grow as an inclusive space for all who identify as Franciscan, we, too, believe deeply in this call to mutuality, and we do our best to practice it. The mutuality extends to all of creation, but in a particular way—given the political climate in the United States this fall—it must also help us navigate difficulties with others. In many ways, it has become easy to see creation as the environment that cries out for our attention and care; but creation also includes all of humanity, whether we agree with each other or not. And so I call us during this Season of Creation to remember our humanity, to view it as a sign of creation, and for each of us to hope and act with all of creation.” *By Sara Marks*. Please think about this and mull over it.

Fraternity Elections

Our elections will be held at our next gathering, on September 9th, at 1 p.m. It is *important* that all professed members are present at this meeting, as we need a quorum for elections. We will have two regional visitors preside. The slate for elections is in a separate article in this newsletter. Also, please bring a snack to share with our visitors and other members.

OFS Fall Formation

Fall Formation will be held on Saturday, September 28th at Mayslake from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Fr. Richard A. Young, OSA, is an Augustinian priest who will present on “Marked for Life...Marked for Love” drawing deeply on the life and spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi. I will need an RSVP by September 20, 2024. For those attending, we are to bring:

1. Our own bagged lunch
2. A dessert to share
3. A favorite Crucifix or Cross
4. A journal/pen for reflection writing.

Joint Fraternity Gathering

We are planning to join with St. Juliana’s fraternity at Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in Des Plaines in late September or early October. This will be a Saturday. Our thoughts are to have a picnic lunch and visit the little chapel at the shrine. Possible dates are September 21, October 12, or October 19. Please email me as to which date(s) will work for you.

From the Minister continued from page 1:

Fraternity Gathering Dates and Times

Lastly, please do not let our gathering dates or time keep you from running for a position on the council. Currently, we are considering changing the date/time for be more convenient for those who work. Prior to COVID-19, the fraternity met for many years on the second Monday of the month in the evening. There are possibilities that could make our gatherings more convenient for all.

So I end...THIS IS ALL A GOOD THING! We have so much to be thankful for and we are trying to live our Franciscan Charism and be the hands and feet of Christ. We, on the council, have in all honesty done our best over the last three years. We are not perfect, but we are working from our hearts and trying to make our fraternity one of compassion, service, love and friendship. I am a phone call or a text away. Please feel free to contact me or get back to me about any of the above issues. See you in September.

Peace always,
Sue, OFS

Our Monthly Gathering

We will gather on **Monday, September 9, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness, in Room 83 on the lower level. The elections of our fraternity council will be held. It is vital for all professed members to attend. Please bring a snack to share during hospitality.

Fraternity Elections

The current candidate slate for Franciscan Elections on September 9, 2024 is:

Minister:	Sue Gribbon
Vice Minister:	Tim Panzica and Patti Kaczor
Formation Director:	Kay Crnich
Treasurer:	Kathy Fischer
Secretary:	Tim Panzica
Councilor-at-large	Patti Kaczor and Tim Panzica

Please note: It is *not too late* to nominate yourself or another professed member to a council position. Within the past year, our fraternity has experienced a significant decline in professed members, not through Sister Death but through personal decision. On our profession day, we promised to live as secular Franciscans for the rest of our lives. The older we are, the more challenges life presents. But, remember, we are brothers and sisters in fraternity. Hopefully, as good family members, each of us can support the others, using the abilities we have to mesh with those of the others, so that regardless of whoever can or can't do whatever the end result will be a strong, vibrant fraternity.

Profession Anniversaries

There are no profession anniversaries in the month of September.

We Pray ...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

For the cry of the earth

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

Franciscan Outreach

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Pack bags of nutritious grain for those living in the 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 **Sept. 25** 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.

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.

September is a great month for garage sales. Check out ones in your neighborhood for children's clothing in good condition. Look especially for winter jackets which can be very expensive. Sometimes these can be found at a garage sale for 10% or 20% of what they would cost in a store, even Walmart or Target. It can be a great way to provide much needed clothing for very little cost.

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.

Franciscan Outreach continued from page 3:

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

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

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 each year:

Necessities:	hand sanitizer (small size)	soap and body wash
	hand wipes	wash cloths
	socks	

Optional items:

toothpaste and toothbrush	deodorant
packs of tissues	Vaseline or lotion
razors	cotton balls
lip balm	pad of paper and pen
Q-tips	hard candy/mints

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2024

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. <i>The triannual election of Council Members will be held. 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>

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings continued from page 4

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. 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

Saturday, September 28 Fall Formation Day, Mayslake
Saturday, October 19 REC Meeting, Mayslake
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

Council Members

Minister	Susan Gribbon, OFS	<i>sgribbon1949@gmail.com</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.

As we prepare for our fraternity elections, perhaps it is a good time to remember this prayer:

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful and enkindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth Your Spirit and we shall be recreated –
And you will renew the face of the earth (Ps. 104:30).*

Let us pray: O God, who did instruct the hearts of Your faithful people by the light of Your Spirit, grant that by the same Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolation. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.