



## *Dear Brothers & Sisters*

Secular Franciscan Fraternity

We gather at **7:30 p.m** on the **second Monday** of each month at:

**St. Joseph's Home**  
80 W. Northwest Hwy.  
Palatine, IL

### **Council Members**

*Minister*

Stephanie Heavey, OFS  
[minister@nwfranciscans.org](mailto:minister@nwfranciscans.org)

*Vice-Minister*

Sue Gribbon, OFS  
[viceminister@nwfranciscans.org](mailto:viceminister@nwfranciscans.org)

*Formation Director*

Jackie Leo, OFS  
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*Secretary*

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*Treasurer*

Kathy Fischer, OFS  
[treasurer@nwfranciscans.org](mailto:treasurer@nwfranciscans.org)

*Spiritual Assistant*

Jerry Stecker, OFS  
[sa@nwfranciscans.org](mailto:sa@nwfranciscans.org)

*Councilor-at-Large*

Kay Crnich, OFS

Pax et Bonum to You during this New Year 2019. Let the peace of our Loving God reign in our hearts during this year regardless of what the year holds in store for us.

### **Our Monthly Gathering...**

Our next fraternity gathering is on Monday, January 14, 2019. All professed will gather at 6:30 p.m. in the library for formation. We will begin using the book *Waiting for Love* for formation. Read Chapter One for discussion at the gathering and reflect on the questions.

At 7:30 p.m. all members of the fraternity will meet in the chapel for a Communion Service followed by a brief business meeting. Afterward, we will gather in the ice cream parlor for social time. ☒

### **The Year in Review**

The year 2018 began quietly for our fraternity. Through the first several months of the year we were blessed to have visits from a number of people who expressed an interest in the secular Franciscan way of life.

In July, we held an Evening of Recollection for all fraternity members. Our guest speaker was Sister Madge, who focused on Bishop Barron's new book *"To Light a Fire"*. Sr. Madge's presentation lit fires in our own hearts.

In September the fraternity held its triennial elections to elect new council members who will guide the fraternity for the next three years. We also welcomed into Inquiry three persons discerning the calling to a secular vocation.

In November three more women were welcomed into Inquiry. We also gathered to complete the 120 gifts bags that are our annual gift for the homeless at the Marquard Center.

The fraternity almost made it through the year without a visit from Sister Death until she came on Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup> and took our dear Sister Connie to her eternal reward. Ten fraternity members gathered for a beautiful wake service which was held for Sister Connie on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. ☒

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For privacy, all personal addresses, phone numbers, email, prayer intentions, and (for non-council members) last names are removed from this web version.

## Anniversaries

Five of our fraternity members celebrate the anniversaries of profession in January.

Jan. 11, 2010	Stephanie Dcn. Lou
Jan. 11, 2016	Tim
Jan. 14, 2008	Sue Bonnie

*God's Blessings to All!*

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## Fair Share is Due

The **\$35** Fair Share is due by March 1<sup>st</sup>. It is a yearly obligation for the Professed including our shut-in and inactive members. The Fair Share supports our Regional and National fraternities. It is a **separate donation** from our monthly Common Fund donations which support our fraternity.

This month, or at the very latest in February, please give our Treasurer Sister Kathy, your check for \$35. If \$35 is a financial burden for you at this time, please contact Sister Kathy. ☒

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## Common Fund – Dec. 2018

Beginning balance	\$2060.44
Deposits	340.00
Expenses	396.00
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$2004.44</b>

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## Calendar for 2019

The new calendar for 2019 is on page 5 of this newsletter. Be sure to add the dates for our monthly gatherings to your calendar, whether it hangs on your wall, sits on the desk, or resides on your phone. ☒

*Dear Brothers & Sisters*    [www.nwfranciscans.org](http://www.nwfranciscans.org)

## And So We Pray...

### PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY

#### Evangelization – Young People

That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.

#### Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For our leaders and teachers in the church, that they may be the first to worship at the manger and present their gifts of mind and hearts to the Lord, we pray to the Lord,

That the Christmas grace of peace may radiate out into the whole world and bring our thoughts to the poor and lowly, we pray to the Lord,

For all who are suffering and poor and abandoned during this joyful season, in the memory of the Holy Family we may reach out to them in love, we pray to the Lord,

For all our loved ones who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, that they may now see their Savior in all His glory in heaven, we pray to the Lord,

#### WE PRAY FOR THOSE NEAR AND DEAR

[PRIVATE]

For all of our **shut-in sisters**, that the health issues that keep them separated from us will be attended to with compassion and love, we pray to the Lord,

For all the **residents of St. Joseph's Home** and for the **Little Sisters of the Poor**, who lovingly welcome us into their home each month, we pray to the Lord,

For our **homeless brothers and sisters** who are served by Franciscan Outreach, we pray to the Lord,

For our **fraternity and all secular Franciscans** that we live the Holy Rule we have professed, bringing the Gospel to Life and Life to the Gospel in the Spirit of St. Francis, we pray to the Lord,



## **Our Call to be a Secular Franciscan**

*This month we begin our stories of the path that led us to recognizing our call to become secular Franciscans. We begin with our Brother Tom who has been professed for over 40 years.*

My vocation began unexpectedly while making a retreat at Mayslake, the Franciscan-sponsored Retreat House in Oakbrook, Illinois, in April 1975. During a break in the talks, I visited the Retreat House library and read a magazine article that struck me, titled “Living the Gospel Life and the Beatitudes in the Spirit of Saint Francis of Assisi.”

I realized then that I needed to have a more structured spiritual life, and do more for my parish besides belonging to the Men’s Club. Shortly after returning home, I ordered a copy of the magazine, and when it arrived in June 1975, I knew that I needed to share the article with someone.

It so happened that my neighbor was having a cookout that evening, so I had an opportunity to share what I experienced and the effect it had on me. At the cookout was my neighbor’s mother who lived in Rocky River, Ohio. She was living in Palatine temporarily to care for a daughter who had a serious health issue. She said, “I

believe that you have a Franciscan heart.” She was a professed secular Franciscan and suggested that I join her for a meeting with the Northwest Franciscan Community of the Third Order of St. Francis. (That was the official name of the order prior to the Rule approved in 1978.) The fraternity met at St. James Parish in Arlington Heights.

I made a note of her invitation. Six months later on a cold January evening, I found the note and attended their monthly fraternity meeting. The celebrant of Mass that evening was Fr. Philip Marquard, OFM, who was the spiritual director of the fraternity, I was very impressed by his homily and other talks he gave that evening. I wanted to hear more, so I kept attending the meetings.

After three meetings, I was invited to join the fraternity. On May 2, 1976, I was received into the Novitiate of the Third Order. For one year, I had to learn about a proposed new Rule of Life called “Hidden Power in the Church, a study guide for Lay Franciscans. This study guide later became the new Rule of the Secular Franciscan which was approved by Pope Paul VI in June, 1978. I also read several books recommended by Fr. Philip and others.

I was admitted to profession as a “Lay Franciscan” on June 6, 1975. At that time Lay Franciscans chose a saint’s name as their Franciscan name. I chose St. Anthony of Padua. I owe my vocation to the deeply religious lady from Ohio who took an interest in me and encouraged me during my period of formation, to the example of many other members of the fraternity, and to Fr. Philip, who lived a holy Franciscan life and founded many Apostolates. After forty years, I still treasure my Secular Franciscan vocation, the many fraternity members who have made a lasting impact on my life by their love of God and of St. Francis, and the Rule (Way of Life) that he wrote for his followers.

Brother Tom

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***Live Simply  
So That Others Can Simply Live.***



*With the perennial custom of “making New Year’s resolutions” in mind, perhaps these ten points created by our Franciscan brothers and sisters to foster a spirituality of nonviolence are an excellent way of helping us become more nonviolent in the New Year.*

## **Decalogue (10 Points) for a Spirituality of Nonviolence**

Creative Nonviolence calls us:

1. To learn to recognize and respect “*the sacred*” (“that of God” as the Quakers say) in every person, including in ourselves, and in every piece of Creation. The acts of the nonviolent person help to free this *Divine* in the opponent from obscurity or captivity.
2. To accept oneself deeply, “who I am” with all my gifts and richness, with all my limitations, errors, failings and weaknesses, and to realize that I am accepted by God. To live in the truth of ourselves, without excessive pride, with fewer delusions and false expectations.
3. To recognize that what I resent, and perhaps even detest, in another, comes from my difficulty in admitting that this same reality lives also in me. To recognize and renounce my own violence, which becomes evident when I begin to monitor my words, gestures, reactions.
4. To renounce dualism, the “we-they” mentality. This divides us into “good people” and “bad people” and allows us to demonize

the adversary. It is the root of authoritarian and exclusivist behavior. It generates racism and makes possible conflicts and wars.

5. To face fear and to deal with it not mainly with courage but with love.
6. To understand and accept that the *New Creation*, the building up of the *Beloved Community* is always carried forward with others. It is never a “solo act.” This requires patience and the ability to pardon.
7. To see ourselves as a part of the whole creation to which we foster a relationship of love, not of mastery, remembering that the destruction of our planet is a profoundly spiritual, not simply a scientific or technological one. *We are one.*
8. To be ready to suffer, perhaps even with joy, if we believe this will help liberate the *Divine* in others. This includes the acceptance of our place and moment in history with its trauma, with its ambiguities.
9. To be capable of celebration, of joy, when the presence of God has been accepted, and when it has not been, to help discover and recognize this fact.
10. To slow down, to be patient, planting the seeds of love and forgiveness in our own hearts and in the hearts of those around us. Slowly we will grow in love, compassion and the capacity to forgive.

*Rosemary Lurch, ofsf  
Alain Richard, ofm  
From Violence to Wholeness*

### **Has there ever been a time when there were no wars? A Google search revealed:**

**War** is defined as a conflict that claims more than 1,000 lives.

In the past **3,400 years of recorded history**, humans have been entirely **at peace for 268 of those years**, or 8% of recorded history.

The **United States** has been engaged in a war for **225 out of 242 years**, or 8%.

At least **108 million people** were killed in wars in the twentieth century. It is estimated that the wars throughout all of human history killed from 150 million to 1 billion people. Currently, there are 30 wars worldwide.

## Our Apostolates

*Bringing the Gospel to Life, and Life to the Gospel in the spirit of St. Francis*

**BINGO.** Meets one night per month at 6:30 pm in St. Joseph's activity room. Please pick one month in which to volunteer. Contact Sisters Kay or Mary Kay to sign up.

**FRANCISCAN OUTREACH.** This is a year round project. With the closing of the Marquard Center in Chicago, the fraternity will work with Our Lady of the Angels Mission, a Franciscan mission on Chicago's near west side. Sister Geri will coordinate this ministry and determine the ways in which we can be of service. Contact Sister Geri for more information.

**PRAYER & PRAISE MINISTRY.** For our brothers and sisters unable to participate in our monthly gatherings due to poor health or transportation issues. For more information, or if you are ill or know of a member who is ill, please call our infirmarian, Sister Kay.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY.** We interweave prayers along with God's love, care, and warmth into the stitches as we knit or crochet shawls for others. For more information, contact Sisters Sue or Cyndy.

**SUPPORT (Money, Materials).** Quarterly donations are taken from any excess funds that are available in our Common Fund *after* all the fraternity obligations are met. The donations are given to: Franciscan Missionary Union, Franciscan Outreach, Poor Clares (Palos Park, IL).

**YOUTH PRAYER PARTNERS.** Coordinated by Brother Tom, this apostolate matches up fraternity members with young people who are preparing for First Communion or Confirmation. For more information, please call Brother Tom.

## 2019 Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, all events are at St. Joseph's Home.

### January

14: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)

### February

11: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours)

25: Council meeting, Sue's home

### March

11: Monthly Gathering (Stations of the Cross)

### April

08: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)

22: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

### May

13: Monthly Gathering (Crown Rosary)

### June

10: Monthly Gathering (Anniversary Mass)

24: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

### July

08: Fraternity Day of Recollection  
(Holy Family)

### August

12: Monthly Gathering (Mass)

26: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

### September

09: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours)

### October

03: Transitus of our Holy Father Francis

14: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)

28: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

### November

11: Monthly Gathering (Mass – with Rite of Remembrance)

### December

10: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)

TBD: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home