



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

Vice-Minister

Sue Gribbon, OFS
viceminister@nwfranciscans.org

Formation Director

Jackie Leo, OFS
formation@nwfranciscans.org

Secretary

Tim Panzica, OFS
secretary@nwfranciscans.org

Treasurer

Kathy Fischer, OFS
treasurer@nwfranciscans.org

Spiritual Assistant

Jerry Stecker, OFS
sa@nwfranciscans.org

Councilor-at-Large

Kay Crnich, OFS

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

Our Monthly Gathering...

Our next fraternity gathering is on Monday, February 11, 2019. All professed will gather at 6:30 p.m. in the library for formation.

Please read Chapter Two in *Waiting for Love* and reflect on the questions for discussion.

At 7:30 p.m. all members of the fraternity will meet in the chapel to pray the Evening Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours; please bring your Liturgy prayer books.

Prayer will be followed by a brief business meeting. Afterward, we will gather in the ice cream parlor for social time. ☒

The Heart of the Matter

This is the month of hearts. Red and pink hearts beckon to us from everywhere.

Is it a coincidence that in English the same letters that spell H-E-A-R-T also spell E-A-R-T-H?

That everything implied by the word “earth”, land, water, vegetation, animals, fish, birds, and especially all of humankind, is included in “heart”?

That the “**H**” of humankind is last in the concerns of the earth**H** and first in the concerns of the **H**earth?

Our Holy Father Francis would have loved it. Of all men, he truly understood how all of creation exists in and is part of the heart of God and, as such, must be treated with the same reverence given to God Himself. Francis said,

“If you have men who will exclude any of God’s creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men.”

Anniversaries

There are no anniversaries to be celebrated in February.

Let us all rejoice for our profession and how we are fulfilling the promises we made that day.

God's Blessings to All!

Fair Share is Due

The **\$35** Fair Share is now due. 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. Please write a separate check for Fair Share.

If you did not pay your fair share in January, 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. ☒

Common Fund – Jan. 2019

Beginning balance	\$2004.44
Deposits	415.00
Expenses	0.00
Balance	\$2419.44

Annual Open House

April 8 is our annual Open House. Included with this newsletter is a notice to be given to the bulletin editor at your parish. Please deliver this information immediately so it can be included in several bulletins before the April gathering. Two or three weeks lead time is necessary for all bulletin articles ☒

Dear Brothers & Sisters www.nwfranciscans.org

And So We Pray...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY

Universal - Victims

For a generous welcome to the victims of human trafficking, enforced prostitution, and violence.

Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the priests of the church, that they may compassionately confront those who have sinned, giving them the chance to repent and be forgiven,

That we may refuse to give the useless emotion of fear room to grow in our lives, but instead practice the trust that taps the saving power of Jesus,

For our brothers and sisters who are suffering thru various trials, that our loving prayers may draw down upon them the Lord's support and deliverance.

For our loved ones who have gone before us, that the Lord, who is good and forgiving, may show them His abounding kindness in the land of the living,

WE PRAY FOR THOSE NEAR AND DEAR [PRIVATE]

For all **youth who will be confirmed** this spring, we pray to the Lord,

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, that we bring the Gospel to Life and Life to the Gospel in the Spirit of St. Francis, that we live simply so that others can simply live, we pray to the Lord,



Our Call to be a Secular Franciscan

This month we continue our stories of the path that led us to recognizing our call to become secular Franciscans. This is the story of Lea, who has been professed for over 35 years.

As a child, a relative was a Third Order member whose group met at St. Peter's in the Loop and this inspired me. (Prior to Vatican II and the new rule of 1978, secular Franciscans were called Third Order members or Tertiaries which is Latin for third.)

While being taught by Franciscan sisters at Alvernia High School, I became attracted to their manner of following their faith in Jesus.

I worked downtown doing a civil service job and would pass by St. Peter's Church every day going to and from work. I truly loved my job. I lived on the northwest side of Chicago and eventually traveled to St. Peter's for the three years during my formation process to become a secular Franciscan. I was professed in the 1980's.

During bad weather, I found it difficult to travel to St. Peter's because I had far to walk. So I

transferred to a closer fraternity, St. Juliana's fraternity. When it became difficult to use public transportation to attend the meetings, I was put on shut-in status.

I live in a Franciscan community. I go to daily Mass and am a Eucharistic Minister. I live an active and full life but missed my Franciscan fraternity brothers and sisters.

When I was accepted into this fraternity, I was very happy and I look forward to helping and being more active with all the members. I thank God for my personal family and my secular Franciscan family...you.

"Being a Catholic Christian is the way to live and being Franciscan is the style in which I want to follow Christ."

Sister Lea

Confirmands needing Prayer

The young people listed below will be confirmed on February 23; please pray for those assigned to you.

If possible, **also write them a note** encouraging their decisions to bear witness to their faith, and letting them know you are praying for them. So that we can give them their notes before their confirmations, please bring your notes to February's gathering, or mail your notes to our Vice-Minister, Sister Sue.

[PRIVATE]

Confirmands needing Prayer cont.

[PRIVATE]

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

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. Our 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 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.