



## *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  
[formation@nwfranciscans.org](mailto:formation@nwfranciscans.org)

*Secretary*

Tim Panzica, OFS  
[secretary@nwfranciscans.org](mailto:secretary@nwfranciscans.org)

*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

The beauty of liturgical ritual, the Word, Eucharist and song filled the chapel at St. Joseph's Home on Monday, August 12, 2019, as **Sister Gail**, OFS, professed to live the rest of her life in fraternity according to the charism and the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order. The fraternity is grateful to **Fr. Ed**, OFM, who was the celebrant of the Holy Mass during which Gail made her profession. The beautiful music that stirred our hearts was made possible through the gifts of **Ellen**, a most talented musician and cantor. Her solo *Ave Maria* caused our hearts to soar joyfully and will be remembered by many.

The council thanks all members of the fraternity who worked together using their talents to make this profession a success. It was fraternity at its finest; many hands willingly doing whatever needed doing to create a flawless whole. Thank you, thank you, dear Sisters and Brothers. ☒

### **Our Monthly Gathering**

On Monday, September 9, 2019, we will meet at St. Joseph's Home for our monthly gathering. All professed and candidates will gather at 6:30 p.m. in the library for formation. Please read Chapter 7 in *Waiting for Love*, and reflect on the questions for discussion at the gathering.

At 7:30 p.m., all will gather in the chapel for Liturgy of the Hours. Please bring your liturgy books with you. After a short business meeting, we will share hospitality in the ice cream parlor. ☒

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### **October Gatherings – Save Both Dates**

This October the fraternity will gather twice. The first gathering will be on Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, to commemorate the Transitus of our Holy Father Francis from the Portiuncula of Assisi to eternal life.

The second will be our monthly gathering on the second Monday, October 14. More information will be in the October newsletter. ☒

## Anniversaries

No anniversaries in September.

*Therefore, in my secular state, I promise to live all the days of my life the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan Order by observing its Rule of life.*

Reading the phrase “**all the days of my life**” started me wondering just how many days could that be. Someday, “curiosity might kill this cat”. But she just had to find out. Here are some interesting statistics. Each professed has been living the gospel and Rule of Life for **at least:**

<b>Active professed:</b>	<b>Days</b>
Tom	15,440
Lea	12,775
Jackie	7,300
Mary Kay	5,113
Sue G	4,745
Bonnie	4,015
Dcn. Lou	3,285
Sue B	3,285
Cyndy	3,285
Stephanie	3,285
Kay	2,190
Geri	2,190
Tim	1,095
Kathy	730
Faith	730
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>69,380</b>

<b>Shut-in professed:</b>	
Kathleen	12,045
Dorothy	16,425
Sue J	4,015
Rosemary	10,685
Eddie	16,425
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59,595</b>

**CUMULATIVE GRAND TOTALS**  
**128,975 DAYS OR 353 YEARS**  
**OF LIVING THE GOSPEL AND RULE**

*What blessings we have been given  
and what blessings we have been!*

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## November 9<sup>th</sup> - Save The Date!

**Mother Cabrini Regional Celebration** to be held at the Franciscan Motherhouse in Frankfort Illinois. A most beautiful venue and terrific speakers. You don't want to miss this one.

**Note: It is being held on Saturday this year.**

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### Common Fund – August 2019

Beginning balance	\$2886.44
Deposits	265.00
Expenses	308.19
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$2843.25</b>

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### Franciscan Outreach

Since the Marquardt Center closed at the end of last year, the council has been searching for a good replacement for the apostolate which provided Gift Bags for the Homeless at Christmas. We have looked at several, such as Our Lady of the Angels and Addolorata Villa, which has benefited by some members volunteering time at the Villa.

Joyfully, we have found the perfect way to still remember our homeless brothers and sisters. It is one step beyond the Gift Bags which were given to the homeless at dinner on Christmas.

Franciscan Outreach, now located at 717 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, in the Pilsen area, is actively working to prepare each homeless person for a day when he or she will be able to have a place to go home to. Each individual is mentored through the health or personal problems which created the homelessness, through training for and securing employment, a necessary criteria for having one's own apartment.

Their success rate is phenomenal. So far this year they have been able to place at least 28 persons in apartments. Franciscan Outreach has sources for furniture and big appliances. It is the everyday items that are necessary to bathe, sleep, prepare food and clean that are needed.

Franciscan Outreach has put together a list of (continued on page 3)

items that are needed for one apartment. A copy of the list is included with this newsletter.

At the recent council meeting, it was decided that this project would be the replacement for the Gift Bags. All members can participate in one project and choose items to provide.

**For this year, 2019, we will work to provide one kit. Look at the list and determine which items are of interest to you.**

At the September gathering, there will be a sign up sheet listing the various items. Members can sign up for the items they will provide. In the case of larger, more costly items – two or more members might share.

The items you choose need to be brought to the October 3<sup>rd</sup> Transitus gathering or to the meeting on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Sister Kay, OFS, has generously offered to collect the items.

Large storage bins needed to transport the items will be bought and paid for through our Common Fund.

Sister Kay’s plan is to deliver one complete kit to Franciscan Outreach by the end of October while the weather for traveling is still good.

More details will be given and Questions will be answered during the business portion of the September gathering. ☒

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## Member Directory

An updated member directory has been sent together with the September newsletter.

Please review your information and let the minister know whether any changes need to be made. All changes will be noted in future issues of the newsletter.

**Of particular importance is your EMAIL ADDRESS.**

This is the preferred method of communication between the council and all the members to keep everyone up to date. If you have not been receiving the newsletter or emails updating us on the health concerns of our members and their families, please let the minister know.

Sometimes, strange things go on in cyberspace over which we have no control. Having an incorrect email address or not being told that emails aren’t being received adds to the issue. ☒

## And So We Pray...

### PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

#### Universal: The Protection of the Oceans

That politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world’s seas and oceans.

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

For all professed members of the fraternity, both active and shut-in, that we always remember to thank you, dear Lord, for the gift of our vocation to the secular Franciscan life,

For all of us, too, that we continue to joyfully serve you and our brothers and sisters to the best of our abilities, whether it is through activity or limited to prayer,

For all our candidates, that their hearts and minds will be enriched, not only through formation but also through their contact with every brother and sister,

### WE PRAY FOR THOSE NEAR AND DEAR

{PRIVATE}

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,



## 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 our Sister Sue.*

The St. Francis Connection  
(The Reader's Digest Condensed Version)

As far back as I can remember St. Francis has been a presence in my life. What is interesting is how long it took to find this out and to answer a call to become a Secular Franciscan.

Unbeknownst to me was the fact that my great-grandma, Antoinette, my grandma, Salma, my great aunt, Josephine, and my mom's cousin, Tom, all answered the call to follow St. Francis. I was taught by the sisters of St. Francis and my first violin teacher was a Franciscan. Yikes! That's a lot of Franciscans.

So, maybe, St. Francis was in my DNA, while I sure gave answering the call to follow a Franciscan way of life a run for its money. There was no point A to B here. Looking back, I see many calls that were not recognized. The Holy Spirit was persistent in guiding me, from a wonderful foundation to placing people into my life to guide me.

*Dear Brothers & Sisters* [www.nwfranciscans.org](http://www.nwfranciscans.org)  
Growing up, my family had several family picnics at the Franciscan Friary in Burlington, WI. I recall how much we looked forward to the gatherings. How could you not love time spent with amazing family. I remember watching my gram, aunts and uncles embracing this beautiful, peaceful sanctuary. I saw them praying and embracing our Catholic/Franciscan heritage. I learned faith, not only through stories, but through example. We children came home with pockets full of rosaries and holy cards and, most important, a seed that was planted in our heart. Time passed. Family dynamics changed. Role models passed on. My mom lost her mother and many of her siblings. At the same time a spiritual crisis enveloped me when I had one of my most devastating losses compounded by health issues with my youngest son. I questioned my faith. The Holy Spirit guided me and I found a website about the Franciscan Friary in Burlington. I invited my mom to go on a "field trip", aka an opportunity to reconnect with an important part of our past. It was a wonderful, peaceful outing which helped to heal our broken hearts.

My sisters and I returned to the friary for a family campout. I had been reading *The Little Flowers of St. Francis*. While on the campout, I saw a gentleman reading the same book and commented on it to his wife. She said that her husband was a Franciscan. How can you be married and be a Franciscan? This was my first encounter with a secular Franciscan.

After several years of active parish ministry, I was still searching and asked the pastor about a formation program that I could complete. I was interested in liturgy, but he suggested the Called and Gifted Lay Ministry Program. While there were roadblocks up to and including the opening retreat, it was meant to be. My heart sang as I began to answer the call.

While in the program, I met many like-minded people, one being Cyndy. We decided that after graduating from the program, we would treat ourselves to a pilgrimage to Italy.

I was excited because it was being led by a Franciscan and we would be visiting Assisi. Cyndy and I both had different spiritual

awakenings on this trip. Once home we began learning more about the secular Franciscan order. Bonnie, who had also been part of the pilgrimage, invited us to visit her fraternity at St. Joseph's Home.

That first evening, we spent some time in the chapel. I prayed, Is this where I am supposed to be? The first person I spoke with at fellowship was Tom, my mom's cousin. The Holy Spirit was working overtime.

Those little planted seeds took several years to germinate, but Cyndy and I finally made our profession on October 11, 2010. I am grateful to her for helping me find my way. Without her, I would probably still be searching.

Thus another generation of Franciscans has begun. I pray that St. Francis will continue to inspire my family.

Peace and all good,  
Sue B, OFS

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## 2019 Calendar

### 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

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*They say that we are too poor, but can  
a heart that possesses the infinite God  
be truly called poor?*

*Claire of Assisi*

## 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, OFS, or Mary Kay, OFS, to sign up.

**FRANCISCAN OUTREACH.** Our new project to benefit our homeless brothers and sisters will be to provide Welcome Kits for those who are transitioning from homelessness to an apartment. More information will follow.

**ADDOLORATA VILLA.** Members of the fraternity volunteer at the Villa in a variety of ways filling the needs of the residents. For more information or to volunteer, call Sister Sue, OFS.

**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, OFS.

**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, OFS, or Cyndy, OFS.

**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.

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

