



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

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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.

Mother Nature's bounty of rain and snow ended in time for our November gathering. We were blessed with **Friar Johnpaul, OFM** leading us in our discussion of the latest chapter of our formation book. He was also the celebrant of a Mass of Remembrance for those of our relatives and friends who died during this past year. Fr. Johnpaul was joined at the altar by our **Deacon Lou**, OFS. Thank you to our **Sister Sue**, OFS, and our **Brother Tim**, OFS, who led us in song.

During social time, **Sister Bonnie**, OFS, surprised Friar Johnpaul with a cake to celebrate his upcoming 24th anniversary of Ordination. Our tastebuds delighted in the delicious dessert. Thank you, Sister Bonnie, for your thoughtfulness. ☒

Our Monthly Gathering...

Our December meeting is not to be missed. The Spiritual Assistant of the Mother Cabrini region, **Brother Marc**, OFM, will lead us in a Mini Advent Retreat to help us prepare to receive Jesus with open hearts at Christmas. All professed will gather in the library at St. Joseph's at 6:30 p.m. for the retreat.

At 8:00 p.m., our brother **Dcn. Lou**, OFS, will preside at a Communion Service in the chapel.

Afterward, we will gather in the ice cream parlor for our last social gathering of the year. ☒

Guides for Liturgy of the Hours

The new **2020 Guides for the Roman-Franciscan Liturgy of the Hours** will be available at the December gathering. If you ordered a Guide, it will be on the table in the Library with your name on a post-it note.

The cost of the Guides is paid by the fraternity from the Common Fund. ☒

Anniversaries

As we all kneel before the crib of the Infant at Christmas Mass, our hearts will overflow with gratitude for the best gift the Babe has ever given to us—our vocation to Love by following in the footsteps of St. Francis who followed in the footsteps of the Little Bambino. ☩

Fr. Dennis Prisco, OFS



Fr. Dennis, OFS, and the members of the Philippine fraternity.

In early October, we received an email from Fr. Dennis, our former Candidate. When he returned to the Philippines in 2017, his bishop died unexpectedly which delayed his profession. On October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis, Fr. Dennis made his profession to live his life as a secular Franciscan. He is now working in the Philippines. He is in awe that – not only was he able to make his profession, but also he made it in the same town in which he was called to his priestly vocation. May God continue to shower abundant blessings on him and his ministries. ☩

Our Sister Gail, OFS, requested and received a transfer to the St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity. We wish her all blessings and joy. ☩

And So We Pray...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER

Universal: The Future of the Very Young

That every country determine to take the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all First Order Franciscan brothers, that they might announce the good news of the coming Messiah, just as John the Baptist did along the Jordan River, we pray to the Lord,

For all Poor Clares, our Second Order sisters, that they may always be joyful in their daily work and prayers, we pray to the Lord,

For all Third Order Regular Franciscan brothers and sisters, that they may bring the good news of the Gospel to all they meet, through their words and actions, we pray to the Lord,

For all Third Order Secular Franciscans, that we may embrace daily conversion as we prepare for the coming of the Birth of Jesus, we pray to the Lord,

For all those who live without faith and hope and love, that they may experience them in this Advent season, we pray to the Lord,

WE PRAY FOR THOSE NEAR AND DEAR

For all of our active fraternity brothers and sisters who are experiencing health issues, we pray to the Lord,

For our brothers and sisters who are dealing with job loss or problems related to their work, 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,



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 Kay.

Awareness of secular Franciscans started early in my life. When I was about four or five years old, my next door neighbor occasionally came to babysit. When she came over, I noticed her “funny belt”. She explained to me that it was a cincture. She wore it she said because she was a Tertiary, a third order Franciscan.

School started. Guess which order of nuns taught at our school? Franciscan. The nuns were spectacular, warm, funny and just wonderful human beings. The feast of St. Francis became a week of celebrations.

Time passed, and I started college. I thought about becoming a nun. Just about that time I met my husband. God had other ideas.

Now jump ahead to 1998. We had just moved to Palatine. As part of settling into parish life, I became a member of a Bible Study group at St. Thomas of Villanova. Sister Eddie was part of this group. Both she and I brought Communion to nursing homes and the hospi-

tal. We were part of the same rosary group. What a great mentor!

Thus began a journey to become a Secular Franciscan.

Sister Kay, OFS

Fair Share

Fair Share is what a fraternity is asked to contribute **as a whole** to support the regional, national and international fraternities.

There have been many misconceptions about the Fair Share in past years. It is not “**dues**” owed by each fraternity member. Paying it does not mean that one is automatically an active member in good standing in a fraternity. No one is required to pay a set amount to stay a member of the fraternity.

Article 25 of the Rule states:

*Regarding expenses necessary for the life of the fraternity and the needs of worship, of the apostolate, and of charity, **all the brothers and sisters should offer a contribution according to their means. Local fraternities should contribute toward the expenses of the higher fraternity councils.***

Each year, every local fraternity contributes a set amount to the Mother Cabrini regional council. In turn, the regional council contributes a set amount to the national fraternity to cover its expenses.

In past years, local fraternities have asked for a separate amount from each fraternity member for Fair Share. This will not be the practice in the future. The contribution to the region will be taken out of the Common Fund and will be sent to the regional council by March 1, 2020. **T**

2020 Calendar

The new calendar of events for 2020 is on the last page of this newsletter. **Please take a few minutes to insert these dates in whatever calendar you use – whether it is on your smartphone, a handy guide in your purse or pocket, or a wall calendar.** **T**

1 Corinthians 13 – a Christmas Version

If I decorate my house perfectly with strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, sing carols on the church steps and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I decorate the tree with baubles and fairy lights and attend a myriad of pre-Christmas parties but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to listen to loved ones.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of

Love will endure.

ONE SOLITARY LIFE

This is a popular poem about the life of Jesus Christ. Although the author is frequently cited as "unknown", the poem is actually attributed to James Allen Francis.

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant. He grew up in another village, where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was 30. Then, for three years, he was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a home. He didn't go to college. He never lived in a big city. He never traveled 200 miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself.

He was only 33 when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied him. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his garments, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave, through the pity of a friend.

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race. I am well within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that every reigned—put together—have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that One, Solitary Life.

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, at or Mary Kay Potnick, OFS, to sign up.

FRANCISCAN OUTREACH. This is a year round project. Welcome Kits with necessities for kitchen, bed and bath are needed for every person transitioning from homelessness to an apartment. We will buy the items needed and fill kits throughout the year. For more information, contact Sister Faith, 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, at 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. The donations are given to: Franciscan Missionary Union, Franciscan Outreach, Poor Clares (Palos Park, IL).

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.

2020 Calendar

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

January

13: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)

February

10: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours)

March

02: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

09: Monthly Gathering (Stations of the Cross)

April

13: Monthly Gathering (Divine Mercy chaplet)

27: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

May

11: Vocation Day (Mass)

June

08: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours)

22: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

July

13: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)

August

10: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours)

24: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

September

14: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours)

October

12: Monthly Gathering (Crown Rosary)

26: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

November

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

December

09: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)

TBD: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

***A Blessed Christmas
To You and Those You Love.***