



## 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  
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*Councilor-at-Large*

Kay Crnich, OFS

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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.

There was so much to absorb from the presentation, *Who is Our Neighbor*, that our Regional Spiritual Director Brother Marc, OFM, presented to us in December.

So many truths to ponder as we, secular Franciscans, go about our task of daily conversion. Just a few, both deep and light, that resonated with your minister.

### *Being Christian is Letting Yourself Be Loved.*

Nostalgia makes the **present tense** and the **past perfect** (Grammarians love this one.)

**Thoughts** become our  
**Words** which become our  
**Actions** which become our  
**Habits** which become our  
**Character** which become our  
**Destiny** .

Thank you, Brother Marc. ☒

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### Our Monthly Gathering...

The February gathering will be held on **Monday, February 10, 2020**. All professed and candidates will gather in the library for formation at 6:30 p.m. Please read Chapter Eleven in *Waiting for Love* and be prepared to discuss the questions.

At 7:30 p.m., all will gather in the chapel to pray the Liturgy of the Hours followed by social time in the ice cream parlor. ☒

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### Anniversaries

*Let us all praise God for the vocation He has given us!*

## And So We Pray...

### PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY

#### Listening to the Migrants' Cries

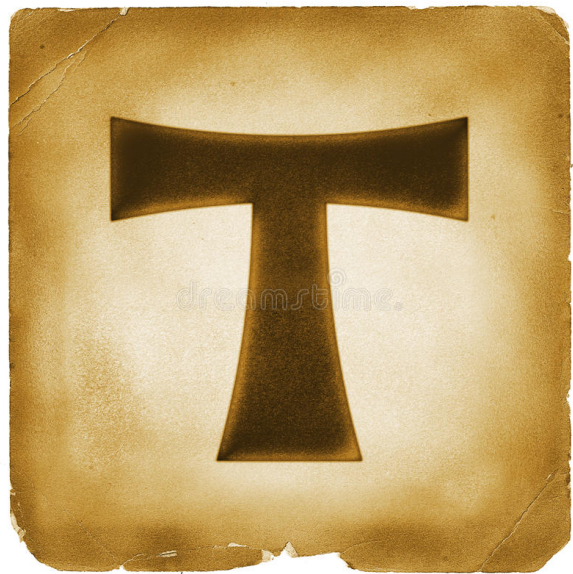
We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

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### WE PRAY FOR THOSE NEAR AND DEAR

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

For our **grandparents and other ancestors** who willingly sacrificed much so that we, their descendants, could thrive in this land of opportunity, in gratitude we pray to the Lord,  
For those **immigrants** who still come to our shores with the same thoughts and desires for their children, may we share with them the gifts God has given to us, we pray to the Lord,  
For the **homeless, the hidden poor, and the unwanted**, that the circumstances which caused their present situations will be resolved not only by prayer but by action, we pray to the Lord,  
For our **relatives and friends** who are sick, that they bear their illnesses with patience as they hope for a full recovery, we pray to the Lord,  
For all of our **shut-in sisters**, that this new year will bring comfort and healing in abundance, we pray to the Lord,  
For **all of our brothers and sisters in fraternity**, that our daily needs and desires will be met, we pray in confidence to the Lord,  
For the **men and women** who will come to us this year to discern a calling to the secular Franciscan way of life, 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 all those who are served by **the members of our fraternity** in the many capacities in which we participate, we pray to the Lord,  
For **all those who have no one to pray for them**, 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 Kathy.*

### My History of Becoming a Secular Franciscan

Looking back over the years, I started out in 2014. My teacher was Jackie. Faith and I studied together under Jackie's tutelage. We met at her house once a month to study the Franciscan way. During that time we also met at St. Joseph's Home for continual formation and Franciscan celebrations.

What was my initial attraction to join the Franciscans? In hindsight, I see the Holy Spirit at work, subtly guiding me to this way of coming closer to God through St. Francis. It is the simple, down to earth way of St. Francis which I found I could follow. My hobby is gardening and statues of the Blessed Mother as well as St. Francis have their prominent places in my garden.

I am consecrated to the MI, the Militia of the Immaculata, especially since she is the patron of our fraternity. My life is in her hands. She

is the bridge between heaven and earth and she is such a good and loving mother. She leads me to her Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

My biological mother was also instrumental in helping me to come close to Mother Mary. I vaguely remember visiting many Marion shrines with her as a child and youth.

Why are we doing all this? My interpretation is that the Blessed Mother and the Saints are guiding us to the Trinity. We may not realize it at the moment but we profess in our Creed that we believe in a Community of Saints. If our heart is open to it, the guidance to our eternal home is evident. And is this not the reason for us humans to follow our Lord, our heavenly shepherd who leads us to green pastures. He will eventually lead us home to be with Him for ever and ever.

Sister Kathy, OFS

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## Common Fund

At the Council meeting in December 2019, a change in the sharing of the Common Fund balances with the fraternity members was presented.

So that all the members of the fraternity may be more fully aware of the fraternity's income and expenses, a quarterly report will be sent by email to all active members of the fraternity.

The quarters will be as follows:


January 1 to March 31

April 1 to June 30

July 1 to September 30

October 1 to December 31

This report will be compiled by the Treasurer and distributed to the active members after the end of each quarter. So the reports will arrive in your email box in April, July, October and January.

Each report will include the income for each month in the quarter and the expenses. Small expenditures will not be itemized. Large expenditures, such as Fair Share, donations and Profession will be itemized, as such. 

## A Valentine Message

*May the last line of this meditation be a Valentine message of True Love in this month which celebrates Love.*

### The World Carried Inside

When so much of our world is focused on making us feel like human “doings” instead of human beings, moving into solitude and silence of both a gift and a burden. Once we have overcome the external pressure to perform, we are left with our own interiority. The trouble—and the opportunity—in solitude is that there is no one around to blame for our moods and difficulties. We are stuck with ourselves. ...

A story from the Desert Fathers illustrates that even in the desert there is no escaping our own habitual responses:

*A brother was restless in the community and often moved to anger. So he said: “I will go and live somewhere by myself. And since I shall be able to talk or listen to no one, I shall be tranquil, and my passionate anger will cease.” He went out and lived alone in a cave. But one day he filled his jug with water and put it on the ground. It happened suddenly to fall over. He filled it again, and again it fell. And this happened a third time. And in a rage he snatched up the jug and broke it. Returning to his right mind, he knew that the demon of anger had mocked him, and he said: “Here I am by myself, and he has beaten me. I will return to the community. Wherever you live, you need effort and patience and above all God’s help.” And he rose up, and went back. (1)*

I have experienced similar frustration more times than I care to count. It seems that wherever we go, there we are, warts and all. The gift and grace of contemplation is in receiving God’s gaze. Love sees our nakedness, accepts us unconditionally, and empowers us to change. *Excerpted from Richard Rohr’s daily meditation January 23, 2020*

(1) Belden C. Lane, *The Solace of Fierce Landscapes: Exploring Desert and Mountain Spirituality* (Oxford University Press: 1998), 165, 168.

## 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. 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.

**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 inter-weave 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 B. 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:, Francis-can 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.

*Bringing the Gospel to Life  
and  
Life to the Gospel.*

## 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 (Regional Visitation)

### 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

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

### December

14: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)

TBD: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

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*Live Simply so That Others  
Can Simply Live.*