



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.

Visitors from the Mother Cabrini regional fraternity meet with the members of each local fraternity at least once every three years. On Monday, March 9, 2020, we will be visited by members of the regional council. Our Fraternal visitor will be Barb, OFS, who is the Formation Director for the region. She will be accompanied by Stephen, OFS, who will be observing. Stephen is the regional Councilor for Youth/Young Adults. Brother Marc, OFM, will be our Pastoral Visitor. Brother Marc, Barb and Stephen are looking forward to meeting all fraternity members and engaging in conversation with us and sharing hospitality with us.

This is an excellent opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the regional fraternity as they learn about our fraternity. ☒

Our Monthly Gathering...

The March gathering will be held on **Monday, March 9, 2020**. All fraternity members are to gather in the library for our visitation by members of the regional council. (See above.)

At 7:30 p.m., all fraternity members who are not part of the council will meet in the chapel for Stations of the Cross. The council members will remain in the library with the regional visitors for a brief meeting. After the Stations of the Cross and the council meeting, all fraternity members will gather with our visitors for social time in the ice cream parlor. ☒

Anniversaries

March 30 Sister Dorothy will be celebrating her 46th Anniversary as a secular Franciscan. Let us keep our Sister in our prayers as she keeps us in hers.

God's abundant Blessings be Yours!

And So We Pray...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR MARCH

Catholics in China

We pray that the church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

As we enter into the Season of Lent:

FOR COURAGE TO DO JUSTICE

O Lord, open my eyes that I may see the needs of others;
Open my ears that I may hear their cries;
Open my heart so that their need not be without assistance.

Let me not be afraid to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong.

Nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich.

Show me where love and hope and faith are needed, and use me to bring them to those places,

And so open my eyes and ears that I may this coming day be able to do some work of peace for you.

Alan Paton

LET US PRAY

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the grace in this year of political campaigning to discern wisely the true character of **candidates running for office** in *all* aspects of life, we pray to the Lord,

For the grace to **speak about the candidates** and their positions with knowledge and wisdom and a calm demeanor, we pray to the Lord,

For the grace to **listen to the opinions of others** with a calm demeanor, we pray to the Lord,

For the grace to vote for those **candidates who will work together** to better the life of *all* citizens from womb to tomb, we pray to the Lord,

For our **homeless brothers and sisters** who are served by Franciscan Outreach, 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 conclude our stories of the path that led us to recognizing our call to become secular Franciscans. This is the story of our Sister Faith.

I've always had a lot of faith which helped me through many traumas. After the death of my husband in 2002 which I thought was the worst thing that could happen in my life -- except for daily mass, I stayed home and did nothing. My daughter who had been trying to get me to do something suggested volunteering at Alexian Brothers Medical Center. Since I had worked there from 1980 to 1995 I did it.

In 2011 I lost my 43 yr. old son and realized that was the worst thing that could ever happen to a parent. I continued to volunteer but felt a need for something more spiritually fulfilling. There was an invitation in my parish bulletin to visit the Secular Franciscans (it was put there by Geri a parishioner who was familiar to me). When I went to the gathering, I was impressed and wanted to learn more. At social time I felt so welcome with everyone's sincerity I knew the Holy Spirit had led me there. I wanted what those people had. The "Journey" has been wonderful and my proudest moment was when I made my Profession on June 12, 2017. I am continually fed through our ongoing formation. Every day is a gift.

Sister Faith, OFS

[E=mc2](#)

By Medard Laz on Feb 20, 2020 01:00 am

Albert Einstein was a German-born physicist who developed the special and general theories of relativity and won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1921. Einstein is generally considered the most influential physicist of the 20th century.

Einstein slowly watched his homeland give in to Adolf Hitler's fascist dictatorship.

Einstein wondered if any institutions were going to stand up and oppose Hitler: *"When Hitler and Hitlerism came to Germany I expected the universities to oppose. Instead they embraced it. I hoped for the press to denounce it, but instead they propagated its teachings. One by one the leaders and institutions which should have opposed the Nazi philosophy bowed meekly to its authority.*

Only one institution met it with vigorous opposition and that was the Christian Church."

Einstein confessed, *"That Church which I once despised, I now love with a passion I cannot describe."* *The commitment of the Church in standing against evil made a profound impression upon Albert Einstein.*

Those individuals in the 1930's understood the cost associated with their actions, and they did not back down.

We are now observing the 75th Anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp where 1.1 million men, women and children were murdered.

Piotr Cywinski, the director of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum recently said: *"More and more we seem to be having trouble connecting our historical knowledge with our moral choices today.*

"I can imagine a society that understands history very well but does not draw any conclusion from this knowledge. In this current political moment, that can be very dangerous."

Why do you think the universities embraced Hitler and the media propagated Nazism?

Fr. Medard Laz

www.treatsforthesoul.org daily meditations

After reading Fr. Med's article, I wondered, How many religious people who opposed Hitler were victims of the Third Reich because of their opposition?

I found this quote from a secret decree sent to regional party leaders by Martin Bormann, private secretary to Adolf Hitler and one of the most powerful people in the Third Reich on June 6, 1941, regarding the true intentions of the Nazi regime toward the Christian churches.

"More and more the people must be separated from the churches and their organs, the pastors... Just as the deleterious influences of astrologers, seers and other fakers are eliminated and suppressed by the State, so must the possibility of church influence also be totally removed . . . Not until this has happened, does the state leadership have influence on the individual citizens. Not until then are the people and Reich secure in their existence for all time."(Relationship of National Socialism and Christianity)

I read Fr. Med's "Treat for the Soul" after praying the Liturgy of the Hours this morning.

The first image that comes to my mind when I hear or read the name "Hitler" is one of him on a podium ranting and raving and espousing his campaign for a "perfect German race".

Then I thought of the Office of Readings for this morning. Excerpts from the first reading from the Book of Proverbs 9:1-8:

Wise men store up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool is imminent ruin.

It is the lips of a liar that conceal hostility; but he who spreads accusations is a fool.

Where words are many, sin is not wanting; but he who restrains his lips does well.

The actions of the Christian church as a whole enlightened the great mind of Albert Einstein.

What can I as a secular Franciscan do when I see wrongs that need to be made right? As a solo secular, perhaps not much. But in fraternity I can help to make our "corner of the world" a better place to live according to the Gospel and the charisms of our Father Francis.

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 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 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: Regional Visitation (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

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

December

14: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)

TBD: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

***We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You,
because by Your Holy Cross You have
redeemed the world.***