



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.

For a third month, the restrictions imposed on us to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 prevent us from gathering in full fraternity for formation, liturgy, and socialization. Throughout these past few months all of us have kept our fraternity brothers and sisters in thought and prayer.

During the month of June, we will go one step further. Each of us will primarily direct our thoughts and prayers to one specific member of the fraternity. We will focus on what we know about that person and pray accordingly. *Each of us will have a secret prayer partner.*

On June 1st, a packet was sent by snail mail to each member of the fraternity: professed, candidates, aspirant, as well as our spiritual assistant. At the bottom of your letter is the name of the special person for whom you are to pray and hold close in heart and thought through the month of June.

In each packet there is also a document that is a condensed version of the Vocation Stories of the Professed that were part of the monthly fraternity newsletters during 2019 and 2020. If your secret prayer partner is professed, reflecting on their vocation story may be helpful.

Only you know the name of your secret prayer partner. To keep it secret and make sure that someone didn't receive their own name, your minister's daughter stuffed the envelopes.

IN JULY, WE WILL ALL LEARN THE IDENTITIES OF OUR SECRET PRAYER PARTNERS.

Hopefully, by then, we will all be able to gather in full fraternity. ☒

Anniversaries

June 3, 1974	Sister Eddie
June 6, 1975	Brother Tom
June 12, 2017	Sister Faith
	Sister Kathy

God's abundant Blessings be Yours!

And So We Pray...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR JUNE

The Way of the Heart

We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.

PRAYER DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

O clement, O loving, O sweet Mother Mary,
We, your children of every nation,
Turn to you in this pandemic.

Our troubles are numerous; our fears are great.
Grant that we might deposit them at your feet,

Take refuge in your Immaculate Heart,
And obtain peace, healing, rescue,
And timely help in all our needs.

You are our Mother.
Pray for us to your Son.
Amen

Morning Offering, The Catholic Company

LET US PRAY

Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For **Marion** as she mourns the loss of her brother, we pray to the Lord,

For the mother and sister of **Lukas**, that their recovery from COVID-19 will be swift and full, we pray to the Lord,

For **an end to all violent tendencies**, especially those we sometimes unknowingly harbor within ourselves, we pray to the Lord,

For **the gift of fraternal love** that recognizes that *every person in the world* is one of God's beloved children and, therefore, our brother or sister, we pray to the Lord,

For the **Little Sisters of the Poor** and the **residents of St. Joseph's**, that their needs be met and their health sustained, we pray to the Lord,

For **all those who have no one to pray for them**, we pray to the Lord, ☩

From our Vice Minister

A quote: We collaborate. We learn to be empathetic to people who have other ideas. We listen to each other. We talk. We have a difference of opinions. Growth is being open. We can't allow our difference of opinions to drive us apart. Come together...work together.

Our Rule 19 states: *Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon. We are a community of love.*

Art. 26.2 of our General Constitution reads: *In the fraternity, the brothers and sisters should promote mutual understanding and they should see to it that the atmosphere of their meetings is welcoming and that it reflects joy. They should encourage one another for the good.*

Art. 30.1 *The brothers and sisters are co-responsible for the life of the fraternity to which they belong and for the OFS as the organic union of all fraternities throughout the world.*

Art. 30.2 *The sense of co-responsibility of the members requires personal presence, witness, prayer and active collaboration, in accordance with each one's situation and possible obligations for the animation of the fraternity.*

Art. 53.3 *Insertion into a local fraternity and participation in fraternity life is essential for belonging to the OFS. Appropriate initiatives should be adopted according to the directives of the national statutes to keep these brothers and sisters united to the fraternity who for valid reasons of health, family, work or distance cannot actively participate in community life.*

The new NAFRA directives for transfers now reads that transfer requests can be requested if a member moves outside/away from their original fraternity or in the case of cessation of a fraternity.

In our fraternity, our infirmarian is in contact with our sisters who cannot actively participate in community life. She reaches out to them at least once a month. They are mailed hard copies of the fraternity newsletter and the regional Prayer and Praise.

If a fraternity member has an issue that impinges on active participation, the member should present the issue to the council and work with the council to resolve the issue in a way satisfactory to all.

Amid the turmoil, the Holy Spirit is at work. And so I pray, as I write this. We are stronger for our differences. We are all different...and that is a good thing. Difference of opinions should not drive us away. Our presence is so important at each and every fraternity meeting and our regional events. Profession is not the end of our formation. Profession is the beginning of a life lived in fraternity that requires regular conversion and ongoing formation. Our Franciscan life is given preference in making personal decisions. Ordinarily nothing takes preference except for special circumstances. This is true of our attendance at the regular gatherings of the local fraternity.

I'm addressing all of this, my Brothers and Sisters, because we always need to come together...not run away. We all have special gifts to offer to help our fraternity become the Kingdom of God....living, working and praying together in fraternal harmony. The local fraternity is the primary cell of the OFS. The local fraternity is the foundation of all that is done regionally, nationally and internationally in the OFS. Without the cooperation and support of the local fraternity, the OFS would exist without a firm foundation. While troubling issues may arise, our council's goal is to provide tools to live life with greater dedication.

Let's look again at Our Rite of Profession that we all pledged at the beginning of our Franciscan journey. Our Rite of Profession reads: *I _____, by the grace of God, renew my baptismal promises and consecrate myself to the service of his kingdom. Therefore, in my secular state, I promise to live all the days of*

my life in the gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan Order observing it's rule of life. May the grace of the Holy Spirit, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and our holy father, St. Francis, and the fraternal bonds of community always be my help, so that I may reach the goal of perfect Christian love. Ritual, 23-24

And so I pray. Let's each of us recommit to making our fraternity more active, joyful, welcoming and prayer filled. Thank you. ☩

While the current restrictions encouraging social distancing because of COVID-19 prevent us from being physically present at gatherings, Sister Sue's words of love and guidance are timeless in the life of every fraternity. Thank you, Sue.

Member Directory

Please send the following current, correct information to the minister. *EVEN IF YOUR INFORMATION HAS NOT CHANGED IN THE RECENT PAST, PLEASE SEND A COPY OF THE CURRENT INFORMATION TO:*

minister@nwfranciscans.org

Thank you to those who responded to this request last month. Your prompt response is appreciated.

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE
PREFERRED PHONE NUMBER; indicate if cell or home phone
EMAIL ADDRESS
PARISH YOU ATTEND
BIRTHDATE – Month and day only
SPOUSE'S NAME – if applicable

The Portiuncula Celebration which was scheduled for August 1st at Mayslake has been cancelled in keeping with COVID-19 restrictions. ☩

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 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.

***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 (Stations of the Cross)~~

April

~~13: Monthly Gathering (cancelled)~~

~~27: Council Meeting via email~~

May

~~11: Vocation Day (cancelled)~~

VOCATION DAY WILL BE RESCHEDULED

June

08: Monthly Gathering (cancelled)

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
