

# Dear Brothers & Sisters



February 2016

Newsletter of the

## Northwest Franciscan Community of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Palatine, Illinois

Secular Franciscan Order

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Submission deadline is the **last Tuesday** of each month.

For privacy, all personal addresses, phone numbers, email, prayer intentions, and (for non-council members) last names are removed from this web version.

## From the Minister

On Monday, January 11, as many snowflakes filled the sky as graces filled the hearts of our newest Professed, Sister Mary and Brother Tim. This most joyful evening would not have been possible without the helping hands of so many:

Thank you to our Spiritual Assistant, Brother Patrick, for his valuable guidance as well as finding our presider and cantor/organist; Brother Dcn. Lou, for his assistance at Mass; Brother Marc, our lector, and Sister Cyndy, our cross bearer; Sister Sue, for securing the spacious room for our reception and for quietly and efficiently making sure that all facets of the profession were complete; Sister Geri, for ordering a beautiful cake and coordinating hospitality with Sisters Eddie and Mimi; Brother Tom, for photographing the occasion for history; and to Sisters Jackie and Bonnie, for welcoming our guests and handing out worship aids.

And thank you to all our members who may have helped in ways unknown to make sure that our newly-Professed felt only fraternal love.

■ **Fair Share is Due.** The \$35 Fair Share (formerly called *Per Capita*) is due next month. It is a yearly obligation for all *Professed* and *Candidates*, including our shut-in and inactive members. The Fair Share supports our Regional and National fraternities. It is separate from our Common Fund donations, which benefit our fraternity.

Please give our Treasurer, Brother Tom, your Fair Share at this month's gathering, or you can mail it to him. If possible, please make out a separate check for the Fair Share. If \$35 is a financial burden for you at this time, please contact Brother Tom.

■ **Bring Your Prayer Shawls.** Professed brothers and sisters, please bring to this month's gathering the prayer shawl lovingly made for you by a member of our Prayer Shawl Ministry. While praying Vespers, we will clothe ourselves in the warmth and love created by our sisters as we lift our communal prayer to our Heavenly Father.

■ **Open House Flyers.** Included with this month's newsletter is a flyer for our annual Open House in April. Please give a copy to your parish as soon as possible so it can be included in the bulletin for several weeks. Copies will be available at this month's gathering, if you need more. Please also personally invite to the Open House someone you know who might like "to come and see" who we are and share our joy.

■ **Religious Goods "Sale".** During social time at our March gathering, we will have a used religious goods "sale", coordinated by Sister Cyndy. Please bring new or gently used books, statues, prints, medals, DVDs, CDs, etc. to the gathering. Items can be "purchased" for free-will donations, which will be used to benefit our Common Fund.

In order to ensure a successful sale:

- **Do not** bring any items you received in the mail from charities, as we all have boxes of those.
- All leftover items **must be picked up and taken home by the donor.** ☒

## At This Month's Gathering ...

■ **Ongoing Formation.** Professed brothers and sisters, please read **Chapter 03** in *What it Takes*. Please reflect on and write down your answers for all the questions.

Please be aware that **all Professed** are to attend ongoing formation and our monthly gatherings. If, for whatever reason, you're unable to attend, you *must* call our Minister, Stephanie.

■ **Vespers & Social Time.** Everyone, please join us at 7:30 p.m. for Vespers, followed by a brief business meeting and social time (remember to bring your breviaries, prayer shawls, and your own mugs). ☒

## Common Fund Report

**December** beginning balance: \$815.34; deposits: \$485.00; expenses: \$325.60; ending balance: \$974.74. ☒

## Next Monthly Gathering:

Monday, February 08, 2016

St. Joseph's Home  
80 W. Northwest Hwy., Palatine

**6:30 p.m.:** Professed brothers and sisters, please arrive at this time for Ongoing Formation. Candidates are encouraged to observe.

**7:30 p.m.: Start of our Gathering**  
with Vespers, followed by a business meeting and social time.  
All welcome!

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**You must call Stephanie if you cannot attend.**

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Our gatherings are at 7:30 p.m. on the **second Monday** of each month.

# Our Apostolates

■ **Bingo.** Meets one night per month at 6:30 p.m. in St. Joseph's activity room. Everyone, please see the sign-up sheet at our gathering and pick one month for which to volunteer. For more information, call Sisters Kay or Mary Kay.

■ **Franciscan Outreach.** We collect items for delivery to the guests at Franciscan Outreach's Marquard Center. Call Sister Stephanie for more information.

■ **Prayer & Praise Ministry.** For our brothers and sisters unable to attend our gatherings due to poor health or transportation issues. For more information, or if you're ill or know of someone who's ill, please call our Infirmarian, Sister Jackie.

■ **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 or Cyndy.

■ **Support (Money, Materials).** Quarterly donations from our Common Fund of any excess funds available *after* fraternity costs go to the following: Franciscan Missionary Union, Franciscan Outreach, Poor Clares (Palos Park, IL), Amazon Relief.

■ **Youth Prayer Partners.** Coordinated by Brother Tom, this apostolate matches up fraternity members with children preparing for First Communion or Confirmation. **The young people listed below will be confirmed on April 29; please pray for those assigned to you.**

If possible, **also write them a note** encouraging their decisions to bear witness to their faith, and letting them know you are praying for them. So that we can give them their notes before their confirmations, please bring your notes to next month's gathering, or mail your notes to our Vice-Minister, Sister Geri.

- [PRIVATE] 

## Anniversaries This Month

09: **Mary Joan** (*shut-in*), Professed in 2003;  
**Mimi**, Professed in 2009.

*God's blessings for your years of  
Franciscan living!*

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## Calendar

### February

09: Monthly Gathering

22: Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Stephanie's home

### March

14: Monthly Gathering

21: Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Stephanie's home

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## Remember in Your Daily Prayers

- [PRIVATE]
- [PRIVATE]
- All infirm, shut-in, and deceased fraternity members.
- All those in initial formation and their formation instructors.
- Our entire Franciscan Family, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> (Secular & Regular) Orders: For strength in commitments, increase in vocations, and the work we do, especially for Franciscan Outreach, Franciscan Missionary Union, the Poor Clares in Palos Park, and Amazon Relief.
- The guests of Franciscan Outreach's shelter and soup kitchen: That they know God's loving care and overcome the difficulties that keep them homeless.
- Little Sisters of the Poor and the residents of St. Joseph's Home.
- Our families and loved ones.

**Please pray that our fraternity  
and all Franciscans:**

- Live the Holy Rule we've professed,
- Bring the Gospel to Life, and Life to the Gospel in the spirit of Francis,
- Live simply so that others may simply live, and
- Are active and participate in the Franciscan apostolates.