

Dear Brothers & Sisters



June 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

The Holy Spirit was definitely at work when our May gathering was fortuitously held on the Monday before the Feast of Pentecost, and ongoing formation centered on the impact of the Holy Spirit on our lives. Formation was permeated with the Holy Spirit as His breath surrounded us and came to us through our brothers and sisters, and to them through us. As we all shared our beliefs about the Holy Spirit and the incredible ways in which we were touched by His gifts, one could feel His presence. As one brother or sister would speak, still in awe, at how the Spirit had worked in his or her life, one could see little lights (or flames of fire?) of understanding shining in others.

Thank you to our Spiritual Assistant, Brother Patrick, for leading us in the Franciscan Crown, and Sister Jackie, for leading us in the beauties of song.

For this month's gathering, we have the joy of its date being the Feast of St. Anthony of Padua. Accordingly, we will celebrate the Mass for his feast along with remembering our fraternity's Patroness, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, whose feast is also this month (June 04).

■ **"Keeping in Touch"**. The astonishing movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives as brothers and sisters is exemplified by the happenings related in a new section of our newsletter, "Keeping in Touch". **To our Professed Sisters Catherine, Connie, Dorothy, Eddie, Kathleen, Mary Joan, and Rosemary:** While you can no longer be physically with us, we would very much like to hear from you and learn from you the wisdom of living as Secular Franciscans through all of life's seasons. From time to time, we would like to use this section as a means of communication between you and the entire fraternity. As you are willing and able, please share with us. You are a part of us.

While you are in contact with our Infirmarian, Sister Jackie, and receive the newsletter which helps you know what we are doing, the fraternity would like to know what you are doing and thinking.

■ **Fraternity Yearly Calendar.** Making its debut on page 3 is our fraternity's 2016 calendar, which will be in each month's newsletter in order to help us remember our commitments to fraternity as we organize our busy lives. As a reminder, we also have our entire 2016 calendar of events listed on our fraternity's Web site, nwfranciscans.org.

■ **Summer Get Together.** At this month's gathering, we'll again have a signup sheet during social time for a summer party at my home on **Sunday, July 31**. This is a family gathering, not only for you, my brothers and sisters, but also for your spouses, and children who may share your home with you. Please see me if you wish to bring a dish to the party. ☒

At This Month's Gathering ...

■ **Ongoing Formation.** Professed brothers and sisters, please read **Chapter 07** 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, Sister Stephanie.

■ **Mass & Social Time.** Everyone, please join us at 7:30 p.m. for Mass, followed by a brief business meeting and social time in the ice cream parlor (remember to bring your own mugs). ☒

Next Monthly Gathering:

Monday, June 13, 2016

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

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

7:30 p.m.: Start of our Gathering with Mass, followed by a business meeting and social time.

All welcome!

* * *

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.

Common Fund Report

by Stephanie Heavey, OFS, Minister

At the end of **April**, the balance in our Common Fund was **\$1,454.69**. As a result of new policies at the bank where we have our account, a \$12 charge was incurred because the balance was under the new monthly minimum of \$1,500. This will occur every month as long as the balance is below \$1,500, which means that we could spend as much as \$144 a year just in bank fees.

Thank you to our Treasurer, Brother Tom, who contacted the bank several times by phone and in person to see if our nonprofit status could negate the fee. Despite his efforts, there is no change in the bank's policy or its effect on us.

One-hundred and forty-four dollars can go a long way toward the projects we hold dear to our hearts as Secular Franciscans eager to help others. Please consider this when donating to the Common Fund each month. As with our personal bank accounts, there should be enough in reserve in our Common Fund to allow for unanticipated monthly expenses without incurring penalties. ☒

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. We last prayed for a group of students on their journey to Confirmation, and will pray again for a new group of students when we have more details. For more information, call Brother Tom. ☒

Directory Updates & Corrections

Please make the following **change** to your copies of our Member Directory:

- [PRIVATE] ☒

Anniversaries This Month

03: **Eddie**, Professed in 1974.

04: **Catherine** (shut-in), Professed in 1984

06: **Tom**, Professed in 1977.

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

Remember in Your Daily Prayers

- [PRIVATE]
- All infirm, shut-in, and deceased fraternity members.
- All those in initial formation and their formation instructors.
- Our entire Franciscan Family, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd (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.

2016 Calendar

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

January

- 10: Monthly Gathering (Profession Mass)
- 24: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

February

- 08: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours)
- 22: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

March

- 14: Monthly Gathering (Stations of the Cross)

April

- 11: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)

May

- 09: Monthly Gathering (Franciscan Crown)
- 23: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

June

- 13: Monthly Gathering (Mass, Feast of IHM)

July

- 11: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours)
- 31: (Sunday) Fraternity Summer Gathering, 2 p.m., Stephanie's home

August

- 08: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)
- 29: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

September

- 10: (Saturday) Fraternity Day of Recollection, St. Colette's
Replaces regular fraternity gathering

October

- 03: Transitus of our Holy Father Francis
Replaces regular fraternity gathering

November

- 14: Monthly Gathering (Mass, with Rite of Remembrance)
- 20: (Sunday) Franciscan Outreach Project, Stephanie's home
Council meeting, Stephanie's home

December

- 12: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)

Keeping in Touch

by Stephanie Heavey, OFS, Minister

Our Infirmarian, Sister Jackie, received the following note from Sister Mary Joan, which we're sharing with all. Please see Sister Jackie for more information.

"Greetings for Springtime, but especially Pentecost and Corpus Christi ... I'm still hoping you can make a visit during this nice weather. Our first floor of the building has been reorganized, everything from a larger library, reel room and dining area to a new building that includes a swimming pool! ...

"Lovingly in Christ, Mary Joan"

A similar invitation was given to me by Sister Eddie, last month. Sister Eddie was my mentor during Candidacy and became a role model of how I wanted to live my years as a Secular Franciscan. When she moved to Clare Oaks, I felt the loss. As many of you know, my ability to drive anywhere at any time has been limited.

Enter the Holy Spirit.

When I learned that the formation meetings for the St. Bernadine of Siena fraternity are held at Clare Oaks on the second Friday of the month in the evening, I bummed a ride from Brother Jerry (St. Bernardine of Siena, Wayne).

Sister Eddie has a lovely apartment furnished with all her cherished belongings in a beautiful facility. As we sat and talked, she related that several years ago, her daughters approached her about her choices in a retirement residence should the need arise at a time when she wasn't capable of making such a decision. She said that the only one with which she had experience was Clare Oaks, because when she could drive, she would visit her friend, Marion, who lived there until she passed away eight months ago. She added that Marion, also a Secular Franciscan, had been instrumental in Sister Eddie's Franciscan vocation.

Then she said that she had visited several other residences and apartments, and when she visited Clare Oaks, the coordinator took her to the first apartment on the list. When she entered the empty apartment, it looked familiar. The coordinator checked and found that it had been Sister Marion's apartment. That clinched it. Another Secular is now living in that apartment.

On the way home, I was relating this to Brother Jerry when he said, "Oh, Marion. She was in my fraternity." Not only that, but his initial formation was held in Sister Marion's apartment, after which she would join the group in praying the Liturgy of the Hours.

That's not all.

As I related the story at our fraternity council meeting, our Treasurer, Brother Tom, well remembered Sister Marion, and our Spiritual Assistant, Brother Patrick, added that when he served as Regional Minister, Sister Marion and her husband, Maurice (also a Secular Franciscan), were given a national award as a couple who most exemplified the Secular Franciscans. The National Minister came to the Mother Cabrini Regional celebration that year and to present the award to them.

How inscrutable are the ways of God. ☩

Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

On May 13, 1917, the Blessed Mother appeared to three young children who were tending sheep in the Cova da Iria, Fatima, Portugal. On the 13th of each month through October 1917, she appeared to them and told them that it was the wish of Her Son that devotion to her Immaculate Heart be established in the world. She said that the world was to be consecrated to her Immaculate Heart.

Pope Pius XII solemnly consecrated the Church and the whole world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the eve of All Saints in 1942 (see below). In May 1943, in the midst of World War II, the Pope urged Catholics to invoke the intercession of Mary and consecrate themselves to her Immaculate Heart. In 1945 the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary was established and was to be solemnly celebrated each year throughout the world. The feast would promote devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary so that all nations might enjoy peace and religious liberty, sinners could be converted and virtue among all the faithful would increase.

The words of consecration written over seventy years ago echo the state of our world today.

Consecration of Mankind to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by Pope Pius XII

Queen of the most holy rosary, Refuge of the human race, Victress in all God's battles, we humbly prostrate ourselves before your throne, confident that we shall have mercy, grace, bountiful assistance, and protection in the present calamity, not through our own inadequate merits, but solely through the great goodness of your maternal heart.

To you, to your Immaculate heart in this, humanity's tragic hour, we consign and consecrate ourselves in union not only with the mystical body of your Son, Holy Mother Church, now in such suffering and agony in so many places and sorely tried in so many ways, but also with the entire world, torn by fierce strife, consumed in a fire of hate, victim of its own wickedness.

May the sight of the widespread material and moral destruction, of the sorrows and anguish of countless fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, and innocent children, of the great number of lives cut off in the flower of youth, of the bodies mangled in horrible slaughter, and of the tortured and agonized souls in danger of being lost eternally, move you to compassion.

O Mother of Mercy, obtain peace for us from God and above all procure for us those graces which prepare, establish, and assure the peace.

Queen of Peace, pray for us and give to the world now at war the peace for which all people are longing, peace in the truth, justice, and charity of Christ. Give peace to the warring nations and to the souls of men, that in the tranquility of order the kingdom of God may prevail.

Extend your protection to the infidels and to all those still in the shadow of death; give them peace and grant that on them, too, may shine the sun of truth, that they may unite with us in proclaiming before the one and only Savior of the world: "Glory to God in the highest and peace to men of good will."

Give peace to the peoples separated by error or by discord and especially to those who profess such singular devotion to you, and in whose homes an honored place was ever accorded your venerated icon (today perhaps often kept hidden to await better days). Bring them back to the one fold of Christ under the one true Shepherd.

Obtain peace and complete freedom for the holy Church of God; stay the spreading flood of modern paganism; enkindle in the faithful the love of purity, the practice of the Christian life, and an apostolic zeal, so that the servants of God may increase in merit and in number.

Lastly, as the Church and the entire human race were consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, so that in reposing all hope in Him, He might become for them the sign and pledge of victory and salvation; so we in like manner consecrate ourselves forever also to you and to your immaculate heart, our Mother and Queen, that your love and patronage may hasten the triumph of the kingdom of God and that all nations, at peace with one another and with God, may proclaim you blessed and with you may raise their voices to resound from pole to pole in the chant of the everlasting magnificat of glory, love, and gratitude to the Heart of Jesus, where alone they can find truth and peace. AMEN. ☩

Hands and Feet of Christ

by Bl. Teresa of Kolkata

Do you want my hands, Lord, to spend the day helping the sick and the poor who need them? Lord, today I give you my hands.

Do you want my feet, Lord, to spend the day visiting those who need a friend? Lord, today I give you my feet.

Do you want my voice, Lord, to spend the day speaking to all who need your words of love? Lord, today I give you my voice.

Do you want my heart, Lord, to spend the day loving everyone without exception? Lord, today I give you my heart. ☩