



## *Dear Brothers & Sisters*

Secular Franciscan Order  
Palatine, Illinois

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](mailto:minister@nwfranciscans.org)

*Vice-Minister*

Geri Allaire, OFS  
[viceminister@nwfranciscans.org](mailto:viceminister@nwfranciscans.org)

*Formation Director*

Sue Gribbon, OFS  
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*Secretary*

Marc Golab, OFS  
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*Treasurer*

Tom Sharapata, OFS  
[treasurer@nwfranciscans.org](mailto:treasurer@nwfranciscans.org)

*Spiritual Assistant*

Patrick Mendés, OFS  
[sa@nwfranciscans.org](mailto:sa@nwfranciscans.org)

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

*May the grace of the Holy Spirit,  
the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
and our holy father Saint Francis,  
and the fraternal bonds of community  
always be my help,  
so that I may reach the goal  
of perfect Christian love.*

These were the words each of us personally spoke on the day of our profession. We committed to a way of life governed by the rules of the Secular Franciscan community.

The words of our National Minister, Jan Parker, OFS, in her eulogy of Deacon Tom Bello, OFS, former National Minister, best express the promise each of us makes on our profession day when we make a lifelong commitment to the Secular Franciscan Order. **“We live with our families and work out in the world, but **gather regularly with our Franciscan brothers and sisters in our local fraternities. It is there that we are formed and transformed, as we strive for ongoing daily conversion.**”**

We cannot be a member of the secular Franciscans in isolation. We committed to a way of life governed by the rules of the secular Franciscan community. In Article 30 of the General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order, we are told:

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.
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.

3. *Rule 25* In a family spirit, each brother and sister should make a contribution to the fraternity fund, according to each one's means, to provide the financial means needed for the life of the fraternity and for its religious, apostolic, and charitable works. The brothers and sisters ought to provide the means necessary for supporting the activities and the operations of the fraternities at higher levels, both by their financial assistance and by their contributions in other areas as well.

The *Calendar for 2017* is included in this newsletter. Let us all sit down with our cell phones, wall calendars, or appointment books or whatever we use to keep track of commitments and mark off the twelve days when we will gather as fraternity as **definite commitments**.

At some point in all our lives, we experience serious illness or an unforeseen family crisis, or some other occasion which is rare and will conflict with our fraternity gatherings. That is understood. Beyond these, **nothing should take precedence over gathering with our brothers and sisters**. Our commitment is only one day of each month – 12 days in a year of 365 days. Family get-togethers, “grandchild activities, attendance at parish meetings and programs, social obligations should be scheduled or attended to on any of the other days in the month. The activities we choose indicate our priorities.

In the Gospel, we read that “the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and

sold all that he had and bought it.” Each of us during formation spent much in time and perseverance because we had found that pearl of great price in our vocation. We purchased it with our profession. Let us keep its luster forever gleaming by our commitment to the rules we promised to obey. Our unwavering dedication will evangelize our families and friends who will come to realize that the profession we made is vastly different than membership in the Ladies Sodality or the Men’s Club.

We are family. Just as our families are strengthened by being with each other regularly and the more often the better, so, too, with our Franciscan family. The reality is that we grow stronger in our commitment as seculars by our attendance. And even though at times we may not “feel” that we have benefited from our attendance at fraternity, we will never know the impact our just being there or something we said or did may have on one of our brothers and sisters. ☒

## Our Monthly Gathering...

All professed fraternity members will gather on Monday, December 12, 2016 at 6:30 pm. Formation will be a discussion of the book *Liturgy for Dodos* led by our Spiritual Assistant Brother Patrick.

All are invited to join us in the chapel at 7:30 p.m. for a Communion Service followed by social time in the ice cream parlor. Notify the minister if it is impossible to attend.

The formation books for 2017 and the Liturgy Guides will be available for those who haven't received them. ☒

## 2017 Calendar

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

### January

09: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours)

### February

13: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours)

27: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

### March

13: Monthly Gathering (Stations of the Cross)

### April

10: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)

### May

08: Monthly Gathering (Franciscan Crown)

22: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

### June

12: Profession Mass (Kathy and Faith)

### July

10: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours)

### August

14: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)

28: Council Meeting, Stephanie's Home

### September

09: (*Saturday*) Fraternity Day of Recollection, St. Colette's *replaces regular fraternity meeting*

### October

03: Transitus of our Holy Father Francis *replaces regular fraternity meeting*

### November

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

19: (*Sunday*) Franciscan Outreach Project, Stephanie's home

19: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home, (following Outreach gathering)

### December

11: Profession Mass (Fr. Dennis)

## Remember in Your Prayers

### THE INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS FOR DECEMBER

#### Universal: End to Child-Soldiers

That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over.

#### Evangelization: Europe

That the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life.

[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 and Regular) Orders**: For strength in commitments and increase in vocations.

For the **work we do as fraternity**, especially for **Franciscan Outreach, Franciscan Missionary Union, the Poor Clares** in Palos Park, and **Amazon Relief**.

For the **Guests of Franciscan Outreach's Soup Kitchen**: that they know God's loving care and overcome the difficulties that keep them homeless.

For the **Little Sisters of the Poor** and the residents of St. Joseph's Home.

For our **families and loved ones**.

## 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.** Donations are accepted year round in the Christmas stocking at each monthly gathering. 100 Gift Bags are made up in November for the guests at the Franciscan Outreach soup kitchen in Chicago. Contact Sister Stephanie for more information.

**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 Jackie.

**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 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 Missionary Union, Franciscan Outreach, Poor Clares (Palos Park, IL) and Amazon Relief.

**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.

## New Membership Directory

The new membership directory is included with this newsletter. Please take a moment to review the correctness of your personal information. Any changes will be printed in the next newsletter. ☒

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### Common Fund Report-November

Beginning balance:	\$1,944.94
Deposits:	200.00
Expenses:	-168.60
Ending balance:	\$1,976.34

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## COMMON FUND

Donations to our Common Fund have decreased significantly in the past six months and will be stretched very tightly in December as the payments come due for:

1. the formation books ordered and the 2017 Liturgy Guides;
2. our donation to the Little Sisters of the Poor who graciously do not charge us for using the library, the chapel, the ice cream parlor and the auditorium, and
3. the cost of the items used in our Franciscan Outreach Gift bags which was not covered by free will donations for the project.

The bank's increase from \$1,000 to \$1,500 as the minimum amount needed in the account to avoid monthly fees does not help.

Please review your monthly donations to the Common Fund and discern if you are financially able to add to your donation. Thank You. ☒