



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

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January did not disappoint us weather-wise. Snow began to fall two hours before our meeting at St. Joseph's Home was scheduled to begin. Yet even with less than desirable traveling conditions all except one of our brothers and sisters gathered in community on January 9<sup>th</sup>. The library was filled with New Year's greetings, hugs and kisses, and much joyful conversation.

We began formation with Session One in *The Holy Year of Mercy* written by Pope Francis. The enthusiasm with which the questions were discussed was pervasive. The brothers and sisters were unanimous in the desire to devote as much time as necessary to the discussion of each Session. Session One will continue at the February gathering.

The Feast of the Baptism of Jesus was celebrated at the Communion service in the chapel. We lived our vocation as secular Franciscans at its finest, in community. Vickie Klick, OFS, our former Regional Minister, said it best: "We try to make it clear to Secular Franciscans that **the fraternity gathering should be their #1 regular church priority after their Sunday Mass obligation.** If some other activity seems to be more important every time the fraternity meeting comes around, it's time to think about the meaning of profession and re-evaluate those priorities ... each member is a gift to the others, and our absence deprives the others of that gift. We need to give God the opportunity to work through us for the benefit of our brothers and sisters!"

Our gratitude to Brother Patrick, for leading us in our discussion, Brother Deacon Lou, for presiding at the Word and Communion Service and to Sisters Sue and Jackie, and to Brother Tim, for leading us in song.

## Our Monthly Gathering...

All professed members will gather on Monday, February 13 at 6:30 pm. We will continue discussing the questions for Session 1 of *The Holy Year of Mercy* for our formation.

All are invited to join us in the chapel at 7:30 pm for the Liturgy of the Hours. (*Bring your Liturgy books to the gathering.*) Prayer will be followed by a short business meeting and social time in the ice cream parlor. Notify the minister if it is impossible for you to attend.

## In March...

We will have our fraternal and pastoral visitation. This visitation occurs 18 months after fraternity elections to ensure fidelity to our charism. To accommodate our visitors' schedules, **there will be no ongoing formation. Instead Liturgy will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel,** followed by social time. While the fraternity is at social time, the council will meet at 7 p.m. with our Regional Minister and a Spiritual Assistant. After the Visitation, the visitors and council will rejoin the fraternity for a brief meeting and continuation of social time.

## Common Fund-December

Beginning balance:	\$2,016.45
Deposits:	390.00
Expenses:	543.13
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$1,863.32</b>

## Anniversaries

On February 9<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the professions of two of our fraternity members. *God's Blessings to You!*

Feb. 9, 2009	Mimi
Feb. 9, 2003	Mary Joan

## Fair Share is Due

The **\$35** Fair Share is due this month. It is a yearly obligation of both *Professed* and *Candidates* as well as our shut-in and inactive members. The Fair Share supports our Regional and National fraternities. It is a **separate donation** from the monthly Common Fund donations which support our fraternity.

Please give your Fair Share (separate check, please) to our Treasurer Brother Tom, at this month's gathering. If \$35 is a financial burden for you at this time, please contact Brother Tom.

## Open House Notices

April 10<sup>th</sup> will be our annual Open House, and we have included with this newsletter a notice for you to give to your parishes. Please deliver this notice as soon as possible so it can be included in bulletins several weeks before our April gathering. Personal invitations are the ideal way to let others know about our Order. If you can, please try to invite at least one person to our Open House. Invite them to *Come and See!*

## 2017 Calendar

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

### January

09: ~~Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)~~  
23: ~~Council Meeting, Stephanie's home~~

### February

13: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours)

### March

13: Monthly Gathering (Stations of the Cross)  
27: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

### 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)  
24: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

### August

14: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)

### September

09: (*Saturday*) Fraternity Day of Recollection, St. Colette's *replaces reg. fraternity mtg.*  
25: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

### 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 FEBRUARY

#### Comfort for the Afflicted.

That all those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and marginalized, may find welcome and comfort in our communities.

(*Beginning this year the Pope will present only one prayer intention each month rather than two. A second prayer intention will be added related to urgent situations.*)

#### [PRIVATE]

For the health concerns of our dear **shut-in sisters**.

For all **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**, and for those we support: **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**.

#### **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 can simply live.

Are active and participate in Franciscan apostolates.

## 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 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 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.

## Youth Prayer Partners

The following young people will be Confirmed on February 17, 2017. Let us pray for these young people and if possible write a note encouraging their decisions to bear witness to their faith. The notes can be given to Brother Tom at the February meeting.

[PRIVATE]