



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

Vice-Minister

Geri Allaire, OFS
viceminister@nwfranciscans.org

Formation Director

Sue Gribbon, OFS
formation@nwfranciscans.org

Secretary

Marc Golab, OFS
secretary@nwfranciscans.org

Treasurer

Tom Sharapata, OFS
treasurer@nwfranciscans.org

Spiritual Assistant

Patrick Mendés, OFS
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.

Blessings were ours on February 13 as we were greeted with good weather and joyfully welcomed into Inquiry, Gail. Gail, our prayers are with you as you explore our Secular Franciscan way of life.

Our Spiritual Assistant, Brother Patrick, spoke to us about the priority that fraternity gatherings should take in our lives. We all witnessed the vibrancy of our December and January meetings when we were all together.

The liveliness of our January formation spilled over into February as we continued to discuss the questions in Session One of *The Holy Year of Mercy*. What a good preparation for praying the *Liturgy of the Hours*.

Thank you to Brother Patrick, for leading us in the Liturgy; and Sisters Sue and Jackie and Brother Tim, for leading us in song.

Common Fund – February

Beginning balance	\$2,589.18
Deposits	590.00
Expenses	-1,063.72
Balance	\$2,115.46

The deposit noted above is comprised of donations to both the Common Fund and Fair Share. Under expenses: **\$1,050 was sent to the Mother Cabrini Region for our Fair Share.** The remainder was for supplies and postage. Gratefully our balance keeps us over the \$1,500 minimum which is necessary to prevent bank charges. It will also help with annual expenses in March. Thank you.

Our Monthly Gathering...

Our Fraternal and Pastoral Visitation is this month. **On Monday, March 13 at 6:30 pm, all fraternity members will gather in the chapel for the Stations of the Cross, followed by social time.** While the fraternity is socializing in the ice cream parlor, the council will meet at 7 p.m. with Bob Burnham, OFS, the Regional Councilor for Youth/Young Adults who will represent the Mother Cabrini Region. He will be accompanied by Fr. Ed. MacKenzie, OFM, Spiritual Assistant. Afterward, the council and visitors will rejoin the fraternity, and the visitors will be available to meet with all fraternity members.

The OFS General Constitutions describe Visitation in this way:

The purpose of both the pastoral and fraternal visits is to revive the evangelical Franciscan spirit, to assure fidelity to the charism and to the Rule, to offer help to fraternity life, to reinforce the bond of unity of the Order, and to promote its most effective insertion into the Franciscan family and the Church. (Art. 92)

The fraternal visit is a moment of communion, an expression of the service and concrete interest of the secular leaders of the various levels, so that the fraternity may grow and be faithful to its vocation. (Art. 94)

The pastoral visit is a privileged moment of communion with the First Order and the TOR. It is carried out also in the name of the Church and serves to guarantee and promote the observance of

the Rule and the Constitutions and fidelity to the Franciscan charism. The visit is carried out with respect to the organization and the law proper to the OFS itself. (Art. 95)

The visitors are in a role of service. They come to be of fraternal service to us, and not to do an “inspection”. They want to hear your concerns, to offer guidance to support and encourage, and, only if need be, to offer correction.

Please take time to prepare for this valuable opportunity and discern whether there are ways in which the visitors could be of help to you, and thereby to all of us.

Anniversaries

In March, we celebrate the profession of one of our shut-in fraternity members. *God's Blessings Be Yours, Dorothy!*

March 30, 1974 Dorothy

Annual Open House

April is our annual Open House. Notices were distributed with the February newsletter for you to share with your parishes. We also sent event information to the “Community Calendar” on Relevant Radio (930 and 950 AM); the *Chicago Catholic* “Around the Archdiocese” section; and to the *Senior Connection*. Copy will also be sent to the “Your Faith section” of *The Daily Herald* for publication later in March. Please let us know if you hear or see us mentioned!

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 MARCH

Support for Persecuted Christians.

That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church.

[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, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd (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 **those who have no one to pray for them**.

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. One hundred 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.

Lenten Meditation

Once, when St. Mother Teresa was in the hospital, she was contemplating the Scripture passage where Jesus asked Peter, "Who do you say I am?" She took out a piece of paper and a pencil and answered the question as if it were asked of her.

Jesus is the Word made flesh.
Jesus is the Bread of Life.
Jesus is the Victim offered for our sins on the Cross.
Jesus is the Sacrifice offered at the Holy Mass for the sins of the world and mine.
Jesus is the Word – to be spoken,
Jesus is the Truth – to be told.
Jesus is the Way – to be walked.
Jesus is the Light – to be lit.
Jesus is the Life – to be lived
Jesus is the Love – to be loved.
Jesus is the Joy – to be shared.
Jesus is the Sacrifice – to be offered.
Jesus is the Peace – to be given.
Jesus is the Bread of Life – to be eaten.
Jesus is the Hungry – to be fed.
Jesus is the Thirsty – to be satiated.
Jesus is the Naked – to be clothed.
Jesus is the Homeless – to be taken in.
Jesus is the Sick – to be healed.
Jesus is the Lonely – to be loved.
Jesus is the Unwanted – to be wanted.
Jesus is the Leper – to wash his wounds.
Jesus is the Beggar – to give him a smile.
Jesus is the Drunkard – to listen to him.
Jesus is the Retarded – to protect him.
Jesus is the Little One – to embrace him.
Jesus is the Blind – to lead him.
Jesus is the Dumb – to speak for him.
Jesus is the Cripple – to walk with him.
Jesus is the Drug addict – to befriend him.
Jesus is the Prostitute – to remove from danger and befriend.
Jesus is the Prisoner – to be visited
Jesus is the Old – to be served.

To me –
Jesus is my God.
Jesus is my Spouse.
Jesus is my Life.
Jesus is my only Love.
Jesus is my All in All.
Jesus is my Everything.