



Dear Brothers & Sisters

Secular Franciscan Order Palatine, Illinois

Gathering - **second Monday**
each month at **7:30 p.m** at:
St. Joseph's Home
80 W. Northwest Hwy.
Palatine, IL

Council Members

Minister

Stephanie Heavey, OFS
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**Newsletter submissions welcomed
by 25th of each month.** Send to:
minister@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.

Sister Snow most definitely cooperated in allowing the members of our fraternity to gather with each other for Stations of the Cross and our visitation from the Mother Cabrini Region. We greatly enjoyed meeting and sharing with Brother Bob Burnham, OFS, the Regional Councilor for Youth/Young Adults who represented our regional minister, and with Friar Ed McKenzie, OFM, the Provincial Spiritual Assistant of Sacred Heart Province.

Our visitors joined fraternity members in praying *Everyone's Stations of the Cross*, a beautiful dialogue between Christ and everyone which was written by Clarence Enzler and published in 1970. Afterward the visitors met with the council and then shared social time with other fraternity members in the ice cream parlor.

Thank you to Brother Patrick, who brought us the beautiful *Everyone's Stations of the Cross*, and to our Sisters Sue and Jackie and Brother Tim, for leading us in song. ☩

Our Monthly Gathering...

Monday, April 10th is our **Annual Open House**. All professed will gather for formation at 6:30 pm. We will discuss Session 2 of *The Holy Year of Mercy*. Please read Session 2 including *Understanding! Grow! Reflect! Act*.

Afterward, we will gather in the Chapel for a Communion Service followed by a short talk by Brother Patrick about our fraternity and our Franciscan charism.

During social time, please mingle with our guests and share your Franciscan vocation with them. **Everyone is asked to bring a simple snack or dessert to share** – something that can be eaten without a fork or spoon, even without a plate, with perhaps only a napkin. ☩

Praying the Rule

The minister's column in the April issue of the Mother Cabrini *OFS News* contains *Pray the Rule* by Liam McCarthy, OFM. It is a beautiful way to remind ourselves of the rule as we ask God to help us live it. ☩

Anniversaries

On Easter Sunday, our Spiritual Assistant will celebrate 56 years of profession.

An Abundance of Blessings, Brother Patrick!

April 16, 1961

Patrick

Our Sister Has Found a Home...

Happily for her, Sister Lisa has found a fraternity in Wisconsin where she can continue to live out her Franciscan vocation in community. Sister Lisa has officially transferred to the St. Paschal Baylon Fraternity. Thank You, Sister Lisa, for your tireless work on our behalf during the years you were part of this fraternity and for continuing to be the webmaster for our fraternity website. ☒

A Symbol of Blessing

"He saved others, Himself He cannot save." These words we will hear again and again this week with the Passion story. We ask ourselves, could Jesus not have saved Himself?

He might have followed the advice of His friends and avoided Jerusalem altogether.

He might have left the garden instead of quietly waiting for Judas.

He might have compromised with the priests and made a bargain of future silence with Caiaphas.

Had not Pilate almost pleaded with Him for an excuse, any excuse, for not sending Him to His death?

He might have made His Kingdom political instead of spiritual. That would have pleased and silenced Judas. He might have chosen the expedient.

As He Himself reminded Peter, He might have called upon twelve legions of angels to rescue Him and to show His great power.

Yes, He might have saved Himself. He had the power. Many ways of escape were available...

But then He would never have been our Savior!!

Had not Christ said, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd gives His life for His sheep"?... **Gives His life?...**

Could not our salvation have happened without that final price?

NO! For when you and I sin to the uttermost, when sin sinks us to our very lowest point, no mild remedy can help us.

What then? In a world where death by crucifixion was still possible, no polite and perfumed half-measures could suffice.

A **blood transfusion** was necessary...rich, red blood, human blood, divine blood. And if talk of blood offends us, let us remember that crucifixion would offend us, too.

Perhaps we need to be reminded that our religion is not all sweetness and light.

Christianity is much more than pretty pictures of Jesus among flowers and singing birds, moving with a smile among simple folk.

The Gospel is much more than the Golden Rule...much more than the Christmas Story and the fair green hills of Galilee.

Christianity deals with reality, with life as you and I experience it. For it recognizes that this is not always a pretty world. It is a world in which dreadful things can happen.

The faith that is nourished and sustained by the Spirit of God faces frankly these human situations that often make our faith difficult.

More than that, Christianity has a **cross** at the very heart of it. Leave out Calvary and Christianity dwindles to a weak and empty cult, to a system of impossible ethics.

Christ did not come into the world merely to proclaim a new morality or a code of ethics or to set up a new social order.

He did not show us how to work out our own salvation by good deeds, by charities, or by trying to live respectable lives.

Jesus came, He said, "To save that which was lost..." Jesus Christ came to save all those who were lost in the sense that they had lost their way.

That is why a hideous cross has become the world's symbol of blessing.

Fr. Med Laz

Holy Family Parish bulletin

April 8, 1990

Directory Updates:

Please make the following changes to your copies of the Member Directory:

[PRIVATE]

Common Fund – March 2017

Beginning balance	\$2,115.46
Deposits	320.00
Expenses	250.00
Balance	\$2,185.46


Did You Know??

Fraternity History

The first newsletter of the **IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY FRATERNITY** recorded that the first meeting of the fraternity was held on **November 27, 1960** in the basement at St. James Parish in Arlington Heights. At that first meeting twelve Postulants (Inquirers) were welcomed into the fraternity. This is the description used at the time:

What is the Third Order?

The Third Order Secular of St. Francis is an association of the faithful who strive to achieve Christian perfection in the world, under the direction of the Franciscan Order and according to its spirit, but in a manner suited to life in the world. This they do according to the Rule drawn up for them by the Seraphic Father Francis, as approved and interpreted by the Apostolic See. (Canon Law, n 702)

In **March 1961**, the twelve Postulants were received as Novices (Candidates) into the Franciscan order. 

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Let Us Pray

THE INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS FOR APRIL - YOUNG PEOPLE

That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.

[PRIVATE]

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

For all **deceased** fraternity members.

For all **those in initial formation** and their formation instructors.

For the **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.

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. 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.

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)
17: Council Meeting Stephanie's home

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)