



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
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Spiritual Assistant

Patrick Mendés, 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.

It is with great joy that we look forward to the Mass of Profession for Candidates Kathy and Faith on **Monday, June 12th at 7:00 p.m.** in the chapel at St. Joseph's Home. **There will be no ongoing formation this month.**

Please arrive shortly before 7:00 p.m. and gather in the chapel. Professed brothers and sisters should sit in the pews marked "Reserved" at the front of the chapel.

Social time and refreshments will follow immediately after Mass. Professed members, please bring a snack or dessert to share at the reception after the Profession. All refreshments should be dropped off in the auditorium before gathering in the chapel. ☒

A beautiful explanation of Profession was given at the Mother Cabrini celebration last November. Below is a capsulized version.

God is Love

Profession is the Journey to Love

Profession is less about **doing** than about **becoming**. It is a public action that marks you forever as a Franciscan person. Profession is a confession of Faith. All professions are another Pentecost, a calling down of the Holy Spirit on the professed. Profession changes from within.

Profession is a sanctification of the professed to become saints. It incorporates us into the Franciscan family in fraternity. It is *not* a license to 1) do our own thing, 2) impose our spirituality on others, 3) dominate. What fraternity does do is make God's graces more attainable for us. The professed can expect the fraternity to aid in attaining their salvation. This puts an obligation on the entire fraternity to live up to this expectation.

Our Baptism was a consecration of ourselves to God through the Paschal Mystery of Life, Suffering, Dying and Rising of Jesus. Profession is also a consecration. Consecration means to dedicate. Through our Profession we dedicate ourselves to God to be used in any way He chooses for His service. In Profession you no longer belong to yourself but are totally at God's disposal. A Secular

Franciscan becomes the property of God. Profession gives a new—not better—relationship with the Church. Our Baptismal promises become more clear through profession. Each of us through our Profession has agreed to join our Father Francis in building up the church, “the house falling into ruins”. Each of us is to make Christ available to people.

Profession is also a *priestly act of offering oneself*. The specific act of priesthood has always been to offer sacrifice. The word is taken from the Latin *sacrum facere* which means to *make holy*. Profession empowers us to perform a priestly function. Profession is to be a priest publicly—to make our lives holy publicly.

During Mass, the Bread and Wine offered are gifts of ourselves. When placed on the altar, they become part of Christ who is symbolized by the altar. The Ritual of Profession *before* the offering of the gifts make the newly professed both victim and priest. It is an act of oblation that is pleasing to Jesus, *the priestly action of offering oneself*.

Implicit in our profession is embracing the vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience.

Poverty as professed by Secular Franciscans is not the poverty of being penniless, but the poverty of *not owning ourselves*. We become the property of God. And as such, absolutely everything we do that is sinless—from the simplest act of breathing to the most complex actions—can be used for the greater honor and glory of God and the building up of His kingdom. This is how we preach the Gospel always without using words. The Gospel values are what we live. Father Francis has taught us that the Gospel is the blueprint for salvation.

Chastity is our fidelity to God, deeming our relationship to Him greater than any other.

Obedience is listening to the other, including God.

Profession calls us to live the Gospel life as our Father Francis did. But not by following him exactly step by step. He looked at the Gospel and interpreted it according *to his time*. We need to look at the Gospel and interpret according to the time in which we are living. “The Lord gave me what was mine to do; may the Lord teach you what is yours.” ☒

Anniversaries

This June we celebrate the anniversaries of three of our members.

An Abundance of Blessings to All!

June 3, 1974	Eddie (shut-in)
June 4, 1984	Catherine (shut-in)
June 6, 1977	Tom

Congratulations, Tom, on 40 Years of Devoted Service as a Secular Franciscan.

Common Fund	-	May 2017
Beginning balance		\$2,401.46
Deposits		355.00
Expenses		50.00
Balance		\$2,706.46

Save the Date! August 5, 2017

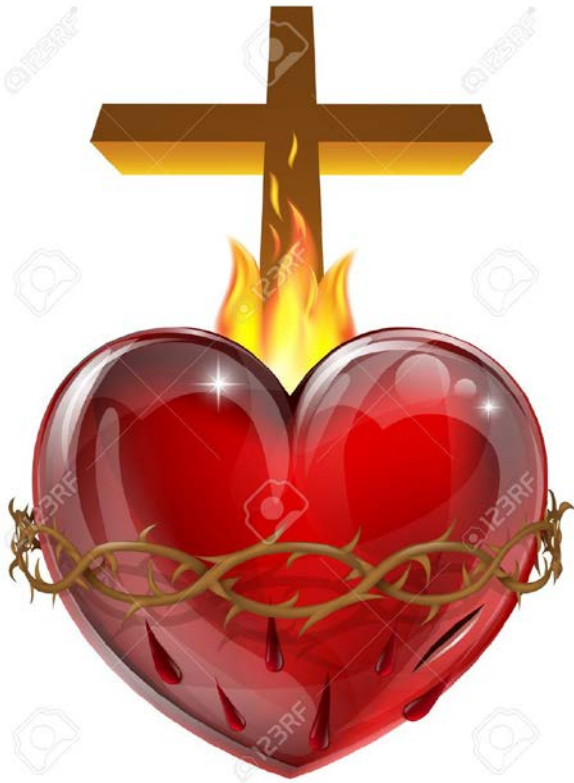
Our next Regional Gathering, The Feast of the Portiuncula, will be Saturday, August 5th at Mayslake/Oak Brook. Fr. Ed Mackenzie, OFM, will be our speaker. Subject to be determined and more details to follow. So please mark your calendars and let’s make this a great turnout for this annual Franciscan celebration. ☒

The Eighth Sacrament is You

(St.) Pope John XXIII said, “You are the only Christ with His life and His love and His truth that an unbeliever can receive.”

In other words, ”YOU” are a sign chosen by Christ to give grace. So, if you don’t set a value on yourself and your neighbor, you are not living. You are a child of God...His image...the temple of His Holy Spirit...the brother or sister to Jesus Who redeemed you with His precious blood. Your real home is heaven. So if you are so valuable and lovable in God’s sight: Rejoice – wear a Resurrection smile and become the real YOU. ☒

Reprinted from the November 1971 issue of the newsletter of our fraternity.



Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

O most holy heart of Jesus,
fountain of every blessing,
I adore you, I love you,
and with lively sorrow for my sins,
I offer you this poor heart of mine.
Make me humble, patient, pure
and wholly obedient to your will.
Grant, Good Jesus, that I
may live in you and for you.
Protect me in the midst of danger.
Comfort me in my afflictions.
Give me health of body,
Assistance in my temporal needs,
Your blessing on all that I do,
and the grace of a holy death.
Amen.

Remember in Your Prayers

THE INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS FOR JUNE

National Leaders.

That national leaders may firmly commit themselves to ending the arms trade, which victimizes so many innocent people.

Pray for our sisters in fraternity, **Sisters Kathy and Faith**, as they begin their lives as professed Secular Franciscans.

[PRIVATE]

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

Pray for all **deceased** fraternity members.

Pray for all **those in initial formation** and their formation instructors.

Pray for our entire **Franciscan Family, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd (Secular and Regular) Orders**: For strength in commitments and increase in vocations.

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

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

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

Please pray that our fraternity and all Franciscans:

Live the Holy Rule we've professed.

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 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)~~

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: (*Tuesday*) 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)