



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

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Secretary

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Treasurer

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Spiritual Assistant

Jerry Stecker, 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.

Saturday, September 9th was an absolutely perfect day on which to gather with our brothers and sisters from other fraternities and reflect on who we are as Brothers and Sisters of Penance. All fraternity members were on hand early in the morning and by 9 am all initial set up was complete and we were ready to welcome our visitors.

Fr. Ed McKinzie, OFM, spoke about the Letter to the Faithful – A Preamble to our Rule, and how the current document came to be. Fr. Ed also spoke about the historical times in which Francis lived, about the reality of life back then. He focused on the battle in which Francis fought against the Perugians and in which he was taken prisoner. Fr. Ed quoted from the book *Francis of Assisi*, written by Arnaldo Fortini, who was mayor of Assisi during World War II, and who was an avid historian. Fortini accessed documents written during Francis' time which described the horror of that battle. It was a massacre.

Although it will never be known for certain, Fr. Ed postulated that all that Francis, who had led quite a sheltered life, experienced as a result of that battle and his imprisonment might have made Francis a victim of PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder). A different way of looking at that time in Francis' life and one that makes sense given what we know about the sufferings he experienced in body, soul and mind.

Our deepest thanks to Fr. Ed for an excellent presentation and for also celebrating a beautiful liturgy during which all the professed renewed our profession promises. Whether it's been 3 months or 30+ years, we were all taken back to *that* moment when we gave ourselves to the service of our Good God.

Thank you to our spiritual assistant, Brother Jerry, for keeping all aspects of the day running smoothly, and to those talented women who always bring the beauty of music to our liturgies, Sisters Sue and Jackie. Thank you also to Sister Sue, who devotes time and energy and puts so much love into hospitality that always goes above and beyond. And to all the brothers and sisters who just did what had to be done with thoughtfulness, a bit of muscle here and there, laughter and hugs and kisses, you are family at its best. How blessed I am to be a part of this Franciscan family. ☒

Anniversaries This Month

11: Sue and Cyndy,

Professed in 2010.

12: Marc, Professed in 2003.

n/a: Kathleen (shut in), Professed in 1986.

God's blessings on your years of Franciscan living!

Our Monthly Gathering...

Our monthly gathering in October will be on **Tuesday, October 3, 2017**, which is the day on which our Beloved Father Francis transitioned from earthly life to eternal life. Father Francis died lying on the ground outside his beloved Portiuncula, the Chapel of Our Lady of the Angels, which is in the valley below Assisi. His tomb is in the lower level of the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy.

All brothers and sisters are required to attend as we will *not* be gathering on the second Monday, as we would usually do.

All professed are to gather in the library at St. Joseph's Home at 6:30 p.m. for formation. Please read Chapter 5, Compassion: The Touch of Mercy in *The Holy Year of Mercy* and complete the sections: Understand, Grow, Reflect, Act.

After formation, we will gather in the chapel at 7:30 pm to celebrate the Ritual of Transitus, which will be followed by social time. ☒

Common Fund – Sept. 2017

Beginning balance	\$2,675.78
Deposits	245.00
Expenses	325.68
Balance	\$2675.78

Mother Cabrini Feast Day Sunday, November 12, 2017

On December 22, 2017, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the death of our regional patroness, Mother Cabrini. Our fraternity is part of the cluster responsible for hosting the celebration during this special year. Because it falls on the day prior to our normal gathering, we will **not** meet on the second Monday, However, **all fraternity members** are required to attend the Mother Cabrini Feast Day Celebration on Sunday, since it will be the substitute for our Monday gathering. Please mark your calendars and plan to be at Mayslake by 9:30 am to help with setup and registration. Consider carpooling with other fraternity members. See flyer for more details. ☒

Franciscan Outreach Project

We will meet at the minister's home on **Sunday, November 19, 2017**, at 1 p.m. to work on our Christmas Bags for the homeless who are served by Franciscan Outreach. ALL fraternity members are invited to gather for hospitality and fun socializing while we do a Franciscan version of an assembly line. *There will be a sign-up sheet at social time after the Transitus.*

Your generosity toward our less fortunate brothers and sisters shone brightly last month as all but two items were claimed. Still needed are: 120 emery boards and 120 black ink pens.

If you would like to purchase an item, please email the minister letting her know which item you have selected. ☒

2017 Calendar

November

- 12: Monthly Gathering – Mother Cabrini Feast Day Celebration, Mayslake
- 19: (*Sunday*) Franciscan Outreach Project, Stephanie's home
- 19: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home, (following Outreach gathering)

December

- 11: Profession Mass (Fr. Dennis)

From our Spiritual Assistant

I heard a story today you might find amusing. A man driving in his car approached a traffic signal, you know the ones that have the cameras. He noticed the light changing and didn't want to chance he could make it through the intersection before the light turned red, so he stopped. The woman directly behind him slammed on her brakes and in a fit of anger jumped out of her car and began yelling at the man using all sorts of foul language and gestures at the poor guy. She almost hit him and was angry the man didn't try to make the light. A policeman pulled up behind her, got out of his squad car and very unceremoniously placed the woman under arrest and after parking the woman's car took her in and had her fingerprinted and placed in a holding cell. After some time he came back to the woman's cell and released her with his regrets. He said to the woman "I'm so sorry for arresting you but when I saw you acting the way you did and noticed the sticker on the back of your car that said Jesus saves and the stainless steel fish with the heart inside I figured the car belonged to someone else and you stole it!"

When I heard this story today with some friends we all laughed. It was funny, yet I kept thinking about this and it struck me that we do see so many cars with all sorts of stickers and symbols that seem to mark us with a sign of our faith. I wonder, though, if our actions demonstrate to others how deep our faith really is.

We have a sign that we wear, or should wear, to demonstrate to all our commitment to our Franciscan promises. This is the Tau of St. Francis. I read a short description about the Tau recently and I would like to share a bit of it. This is from a small book of Franciscan Readings, English version edited by Fr. Marian Habig OFM.

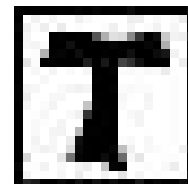
"The Tau takes its shape from the Greek letter T, which is a cross. This method of forming the cross is very ancient, and goes back even to the days of the Old Testament. 'Go through the midst of Jerusalem', spoke the Lord God to the destroying angel, 'and mark Tau upon the

forehead of the men that sigh and mourn for all the abominations that are committed in the midst thereof.' (Ezech. 9,4) Historians generally agree that Francis was present at the Fourth Lateran Council, opened November 11, 1215 at St. John Lateran at which Pope Innocent III gave the opening address. After depicting the profanation of the Holy Places of the Saracens, the pontiff deplored the scandals dishonoring Christ's flock, threatening it with God's punishment if it did not reform. He recalled Ezekiel's famous vision in which the Lord God, his patience exhausted, cries out in a loud voice, and after quoting the passage above, the pope continues: "The Tau has exactly the same form as the Cross on which the Lord was crucified on Calvary. And only those will be marked with the sign and will obtain mercy, who have mortified their flesh and conformed their life to that of the Crucified Savior."

The Tau is our sign, our bumper sticker if you will. This is our habit. We make promises to live out our Baptismal promises and dedicate ourselves to the service of His kingdom. We promise to live the gospel every day by observing our rule of life. We do this with the help of the Holy Spirit, Our Blessed Mother, Father Francis and the fraternal bonds of our fraternity.

We should always wear the Tau as a sign of this commitment. I have the large silver Tau I sometimes wear. I have a small silver Tau I always wear. On my suits and sport coats I have a Tau pin I usually wear. Let's remember though we are to be examples of the gospel life. Let's not be like the woman who was suspected of stealing her own car because she did not reflect the bumper stickers she displayed to everyone.

Jerry Stecker, OFS



Remember in Your Prayers

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR OCTOBER Workers and the Unemployed.

That all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights, and that the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good.

Let us pray to the Lord ...

For the **millions of people** who have suffered loss of life and property because of monsoons and hurricanes and earthquakes

[PRIVATE]

For all **deceased** fraternity members.

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

For 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, the Poor Clares** in Palos Park and **Franciscan Missionary Union**.

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**.

For our fraternity and all Franciscans, that we:

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.

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. This is a year round project. Fraternity members can either donate to the cost or purchase the specific items for 120 Gift Bags which 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.