



## *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*

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**Newsletter submissions welcomed  
by 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.** Send to:  
[minister@nwfranciscans.org](mailto: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.

Within 24 hours this past October, death claimed my familial sister, Marie, and in our fraternity, Sister Mary. Each death was at opposite ends of the spectrum.

Marie's death was sudden, a massive cerebral hemorrhage exacerbated by temporarily being on a blood thinner after a recent surgery. It blindsided her husband and two sons and the entire family. She was full of energy and plans for the future with no chronic illnesses. She had had the surgery so that she wouldn't "have to worry about that and get on with my life."

Our Sister Mary's death was the culmination of a years long fight with a respiratory disease. In spring she was told that there was nothing more that could be done and that she should consider hospice care. Mary was ambulatory, but tired easily. Her problem was not a lack of oxygen. She could breathe in; it was expiration that was difficult.

Mary grappled with this finality as she strove to live each day as normally as possible. Each morning she expended energy to dress in fresh clothing and put her makeup on and brush her hair. She continued baking goodies for others for as long as she could even though she could no longer eat them herself. She continued to read voraciously as long as her eyesight allowed her to do so. She wrestled with the mysteries of life and death in long conversations and came to be at peace with her future. At times, she voiced impatience that it was taking so long. She walked with one foot on earth and one in heaven. Peacefully, she breathed her last at dawn on October 11, 2017. With heavy hearts, we mourn her loss to us, but with our Franciscan joy, we rejoice, for Sister Death has led her to God's everlasting embrace. ☩

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The Transitus of St. Francis was celebrated on the evening of October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you to our Spiritual Assistant Brother Jerry, for leading us in a new liturgy which was meaningful and uplifting, and to all who participated in this remembrance of the evening when the soul of our Father Francis was seen to rise to the heavens like a glowing star. ☩

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## *Anniversaries This Month*

**05: Rosemary (shut-in),**  
Professed in 1990.

**06: Mary Kay,** Professed in 2005.

*God's blessings on your years of Franciscan living!*

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## **Our Monthly Gathering...**

The **Mother Cabrini Celebration on Sunday, November 12, 2017**, will be our fraternity's monthly gathering. All brothers and sisters are to be at Frigo Hall at 9:00 am. Many hands will make light work of setting up the serving tables and helping arrange the Hall for our celebration. A preliminary agenda is attached to this newsletter. ☑

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## **Mass of Profession in December**

We look forward with joy to the celebration of the Mass of Profession for Fr. Dennis on December 11<sup>th</sup> in the chapel of St. Joseph's home. There will be no ongoing formation that evening. Please arrive shortly before 7:00 p.m., and gather in the chapel. Professed brothers and sisters should sit in the "Reserved" pews at the front of the chapel. Social time and refreshments will follow immediately after Mass. Professed, please bring a snack to share at the Profession.

### **Volunteers are needed for Profession Mass.**

We need 2 volunteers to (1) clean up the chapel after Mass, and (2) volunteers to help set up and clean up the refreshments in the ice cream parlor during social time. Please let the Minister know if you are willing to take on one of these tasks. Please contact the minister by email. The council needs this information before their meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup> after the Franciscan Outreach gathering. Thank you for your generosity in serving your brothers and sisters in fraternity and Fr. Dennis' guests.

*Dear Brothers & Sisters*      [www.nwfranciscans.org](http://www.nwfranciscans.org)

## **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. If you did not sign up at the Transitus gathering on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, let the minister know if you will be participating.

All items for the bags need to be brought ready to put into the gallon-sized gift bags.

**IMPORTANT: Fr Johnpaul is NOT available to celebrate Mass as in past years. You will need to fulfill your Sunday obligation earlier in the day or Saturday.** ☑

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## **Guides for Liturgy of Hours 2018**

In past years, the council purchased Guides for the Roman-Franciscan Liturgy of the Hours for every member of the fraternity. This year it has come to the council's attention that not every member uses the Guides.

Each member of the fraternity is asked to email the minister as to whether she/he uses the Guide and needs one for 2018. If you do not use the Guide, please do not request one. The Guides are costly to purchase and a waste of funds and paper if not used all the time.

The Guides requested will be purchased and distributed at the December gathering. ☑

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## **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)

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## Remember in Your Prayers

### PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER Christians in Asia.

That Christians in Asia, bearing witness to the Gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace, and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions.

### Let us pray to the Lord ...

For the souls of our dearly departed sisters – **Sister Mary Joan** and **Sister Mary**, and all deceased fraternity members.

### [PRIVATE]

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

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

For 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**, 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 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.