



## *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](mailto:minister@nwfranciscans.org)

*Vice-Minister*

Geri Allaire, OFS  
[viceminister@nwfranciscans.org](mailto:viceminister@nwfranciscans.org)

*Formation Director*

Sue Gribbon, OFS  
[formation@nwfranciscans.org](mailto:formation@nwfranciscans.org)

*Secretary*

Marc Golab, OFS  
[secretary@nwfranciscans.org](mailto:secretary@nwfranciscans.org)

*Treasurer*

Tom Sharapata, OFS  
[treasurer@nwfranciscans.org](mailto:treasurer@nwfranciscans.org)

*Spiritual Assistant*

Jerry Stecker, OFS  
[sa@nwfranciscans.org](mailto:sa@nwfranciscans.org)

**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.

The dull gray skies and light rain could not dampen the spirits of the many regional brothers and sisters who joyfully gathered to celebrate the Mother Cabrini Feast Day on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death in 1917.

Mary Frances Cabrini was a Franciscan Tertiary (secular Franciscan) long before she founded her order of missionaries. She professed and lived the rule and way of life of St. Francis of Assisi with great joy while dreaming of being a missionary in China. She applied to two religious orders but was rejected because of poor health.

It was her Franciscan joy that attracted other women to her as she directed a school for orphans and taught them. When the local bishop encouraged her to found a religious order, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, I'm sure she happily did so, thinking that her dream was not far off. Soon she would be serving in China. Instead, the Pope directed her, not East to China but West to the United States, to serve the Italian immigrants who were needy in a foreign land. This was not her dream but she embraced it as God's will for her.

In the spirit of a good secular Franciscan, Mother Cabrini gathered together six companions and sailed for New York where she quickly had to feel disillusioned. Was this really God's will? The city of New York was not missionary territory. Its bishops and priests viewed her as a busybody intruding into their territory and did not treat her kindly. What was the Pope thinking?

Mindful of the Poverello who had faced similar disillusion, she continued to put all her trust in God, one day at a time. She conquered the pride of thinking that she knew better than He. The mustard seed of that humility blossomed into a mighty growth of 2,000 sisters and 67 schools and orphanages and other institutions.

In her day, she was the Mother Teresa of the Americas.

Heartfelt Thank You's to Luana Leinhart, OFS, Regional Councilor for JPIC, and Bob Burnham, OFS, Regional Councilor for Youth/Young Adults, both of whom encouraged us to follow the example of Mother Cabrini as we live our vocations as secular Franciscans by being attuned to the needs of others and working to provide for those needs, especially those of the less fortunate and disadvantaged and of our youth and young adults. ☒

## Our Monthly Gathering...

**December 11, 2017**

THERE WILL NOT BE A PROFESSION ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>.

Fr. Dennis is still in the Philippines awaiting appointment by his new bishop, so he will not be professed on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

On Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, we will gather at **6:30 p.m.** in the library for a half hour to share the Christmas traditions of our families. At **7:00 p.m.** we will proceed to the chapel for Mass which will be celebrated by Fr. David, with music by Ellen, who cantored the profession Mass in June.

Mass will be followed by a brief business meeting and a celebration of Christmas in the ice cream parlor. Please bring one of your favorite Christmas treats to share with your brothers and sisters. ☒

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## Common Fund – October 2017

Beginning balance	\$2,419.50
Deposits	228.00
Expenses	0.00
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$2,647.50</b>

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## 2018 Guides for the Liturgy of the Hours

The 2018 Guides for Roman-Franciscan Prayer have been ordered *for those members who have requested a copy*. They will be available at the December meeting. If you ordered a Guide, it will be on the table in the library with your name on it. ☒

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**The Schedule of Gatherings and Special Functions for 2018 is on the last page of this newsletter. Mark your calendars now to avoid conflicts with other activities during the year.** ☒

## Remember in Your Prayers

### PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER The Elderly.

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

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

For the **millions of children** throughout the world who mirror the newborn Babe, homeless and living in poverty.

### [PRIVATE]

For our **dear shut-in sisters** who may be out of our sight but never out of our prayers.

For all **deceased** fraternity members.

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 our fraternity and all Franciscans, may 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.

Are active in Franciscan apostolates.

## ADVENT – SEASON OF HOPE

Today is the first day of a new liturgical year and the first day of Advent, the season of Hope. A story that has always exemplified Hope was written by Henry Van Dyke, a Victorian author who filled his writings with spectacular beauty and always with hope.

In *The Fourth Wise Man*, Artaban is a Mede from Persia scheduled to meet the other Magi, who are astrologers, Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar at a temple on the outskirts of Babylon ten days after they see the new star rising at the time of the conjunction of the planets Jupiter and Saturn. The new star foretells the fulfillment of the ancient prophecy of a new King in Judea who is worthy to be served by all. They will go to Jerusalem and find him and pay him homage. For his gifts to the newborn King, Artaban carries with him three exquisite jewels – a sapphire, a ruby, and a flawless pearl.


Without time to spare and just before he reaches the assigned meeting place, Artaban encounters along the road an old Jewish man who is dying from lack of care; a man whose ancestors chose to remain in Babylon after the Jewish captives were freed. Artaban is torn. He is running late to meet the other Magi but is moved with compassion by the plight of the man. Mercy wins and he stops to tend to the man who tells him that the Jewish prophecy is that the Messiah will be born, not in Jerusalem but in Bethlehem. His action delays his journey and he misses meeting the caravan of the other wise men. He can't cross the desert riding his horse, so he trades the sapphire for the camels and drivers and supplies he needs for the journey to Bethlehem.

When he arrives in Bethlehem, the town is eerily quiet. Stopping at a house, a young mother with a baby son tells him that the other wise men had already been there three days earlier and had left as suddenly as they came. Just as suddenly, the man from Nazareth took his wife and child that very night and left Bethlehem; it was rumored that they had gone to Egypt. As Artaban and the woman speak Herod's soldiers descend upon the town going

from house to house to slaughter all the male babies. Artaban saves the life of the woman's baby boy by giving the captain of the soldiers the blood red ruby.

Determined to find the King, Artaban travels to Egypt, to Heliopolis and Alexandria where a Jewish rabbi tells him that the prophecies also say that the Messiah will not come from royalty, but from the common people. For years Artaban travels through many cities and towns and villages in Judea and other countries. He never finds the Messiah to worship but he finds many people who are starving for bread, shivering in the elements, brought low by plagues, hopeless in the face of cruel slavery. And he helps whomever and wherever he can.

Artaban never gives up his hope that he will find the Messiah and pay him homage and give to him the only gift of great value that he now has, the pearl. After many years he finds himself in Jerusalem once again. There is tumult in the city and he learns that a man called Jesus of Nazareth who has been doing much good among the people who love him is being crucified because the elders said he claims to be the Son of God. Pilate is sending him to the cross because he said he was "King of the Jews." Could this be the man for whom he had been searching? As he hurries toward Calvary, he encounters a young girl who is being sold into slavery to pay for the debts of her dead father. He uses his last gift, the pearl, to pay for her freedom.

Left without any gift for the Messiah, Artaban begins to walk toward Calvary with the newly freed girl. The earth begins to heave and the buildings of Jerusalem shake. A tile falls from one building and hits him in the temple. As he lays dying and contemplates the failure of his quest, he hears a voice saying "As long as you have done it to one of the least of my brethren, you have done it to me." He dies filled with wonder and joy. "His journeys were ended. His treasures were accepted. The Fourth Wise Man had found his King." 

*The entire story can be read as an ebook at [Gutenberg.org](http://Gutenberg.org).*

## 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.

## 2018 Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, all events are at St. Joseph's Home.

### January

08: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)  
22: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

### February

12: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours)

### March

12: Monthly Gathering (Stations of the Cross)  
26: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

### April

09: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)

### May

14: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours)  
28: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

### June

11: Monthly Gathering (Lectio Divina)

### July

09: Fraternity Day of Recollection  
(Holy Family)

23: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

### August

13: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours)

### September

10: Fraternity Elections (Liturgy of the Hours)  
24: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

### October

03: Transitus of our Holy Father Francis  
*replaces regular fraternity meeting*

### November

12: Monthly Gathering (Mass – with Rite of Remembrance)

18: (*Sunday*) Franciscan Outreach Project,  
Stephanie's home

### December

10: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)