



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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**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.

A Blessed New Year to You and Those You Love.

For our fraternity, 2017 was definitely memorable. It began quietly and happily enough with the admission into Inquiry of **Gail** in February.

In March, we had our triennial regional visitation. This was the first visitation conducted by the new Provincial Spiritual Assistant, **Fr. Ed McKenzie, OFM.**, accompanied by **Bob Burnham, OFS**, who is Regional Councilor for Youth/Young Adults.

In May, the fraternity learned that it was part of the cluster of three fraternities responsible for hosting the Mother Cabrini celebration on November 12th.

In June, joy reigned as **Sisters Faith** and **Kathy** were professed. Sister Death, who had so graciously overlooked us in 2016, made herself known on June 5th, when our Spiritual Assistant and fraternity **Brother Patrick** was suddenly taken from us. August was joyful as **Brother Jerry** was installed as our new Spiritual Assistant and **Gail** became a Candidate.

In September, **Fr. Ed McKenzie, OFM**, led our annual Day of Recollection. At month's end, on September 23rd, our **Sister Mary Joan** met Sister Death. On October 3rd, we celebrated the Transitus, the passing of our Holy Father Francis from life thru death to eternal life. A week later, on October 11th, our **Sister Mary** also happily greeted Sister Death.

November embraced the Mother Cabrini celebration for 100 regional Franciscans on the 12th, and one week later, the Franciscan Outreach potluck and assembly line for our Outreach Gift Bags for the homeless.

December 11th was the fraternity gathering that never was. At first, it was supposed to be the happy profession Mass for **Fr. Dennis**. The profession had to be put on hold until his bishop in the Philippines could meet with him and give him directives for the future. The revised plan to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, was thwarted when a sudden snowstorm wreaked havoc with the roads and the meeting was cancelled. Thank you to all who formed an impromptu phone tree to contact all members.

Our Monthly Gathering...

January 8, 2018

On Monday, January 8th, professed will gather at **6:30 p.m.** in the library for formation. Please read Chapter 6, Mercy is Greater than Prejudice in *The Holy Year of Mercy* and complete the sections: Understand, Grow, Reflect, Act. At 7:30 pm all will gather for a Communion Service in the chapel followed by a brief business meeting and social time in the ice cream parlor. ☒

Welcome to Marion

who joined us at the Mother Cabrini Celebration at Mayslake and also for our Outreach gathering on November 19th. We invite you to join us again for the Communion service at 7:30 pm in the chapel and afterward for social time. ☒

Marc, you will be missed...

Due to transportation issues and timing, **Brother Marc** has transferred to St. Bernardine of Siena fraternity in Wayne. We will miss him greatly, but are happy that he is in another fraternity in which he can continue to live out his Franciscan vocation.

Brother Marc, we thank you for the selfless service that you have happily given to the fraternity in the years you have been with us, especially as secretary.

Our **Sister Kay** will be our new secretary and serve in this capacity until the fraternity elections in September. Sister Kay, thank you for your willingness to assume this duty. ☒

Common Fund – October 2017

Beginning balance	\$2,647.50
Deposits	165.00
Expenses	200.00
Balance	\$2,612.50

Dear Brothers & Sisters www.nwfranciscans.org

Schedule of 2018 Gatherings

The Schedule of Gatherings and Special Functions for 2018 is on page 4 of this newsletter. Please mark your calendars now to avoid conflicts with other activities during the year. Thank You. ☒

2018 Guides for the Liturgy of the Hours

Since we did not have a gathering in December, the 2018 Guides for Roman-Franciscan Prayer were mailed before Christmas to *those members who requested a copy*. ☒

Anniversaries

Six of our fraternity members celebrate the anniversaries of profession in January.

Jan. 11, 2010	Stephanie Dcn. Lou
Jan. 11, 2016	Tim
Jan. 13, 2000	Connie
Jan. 14, 2008	Sue Bonnie

God's Blessings to All!

Fair Share is Due

The \$35 Fair Share is due by March. It is a yearly obligation of both *Professed* and *Candidates* as well as our shut-in and inactive members. The Fair Share supports our Regional and National fraternities. It is a **separate donation** from our monthly Common Fund donations which support our fraternity. Please give our Treasurer Brother Tom your check this month or at the latest in February. If \$35 is a financial burden for you at this time, please contact Brother Tom. ☒

Remember in Your Prayers

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY

Religious Minorities in Asia.

That Christians and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom.

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, 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, 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.



The Work of Christmas Begins

When the song of the angels is stilled

When the star in the sky is gone

When the shepherds are back with their flock

The work of Christmas begins...

To find the lost

To heal the broken

To feed the hungry

To release the prisoner

To rebuild the nations

To bring peace among people

To make music in the heart.

Author unknown

These words were not written by our Father Francis, but they could have been. The humility of God Who would choose to divest Himself of His divinity to become a helpless Babe – one of us – was at the core of Francis' unwavering dedication to living his life as Jesus taught us in the Gospels. What king in Francis' time or president in ours would think of leaving all that power and grandeur and assume the look and work of a tenant farmer or itinerant worker? What mortal ever loved his people that much? The Son of God, Whose love is limitless, chose to become one of us to show us how to live a life of love. The evangelists recorded His life in the Gospels. Francis' heart was filled with the music of joy when thinking of the Incarnation. He knew that to keep that music of joy forever in his heart, he needed to become another Christ. Just as Jesus divested Himself of all that bound Him to heaven, Francis knew he needed to free himself of all that bound him to earth and live as Jesus did, in boundless Love.

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 homeless 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)