



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

Vice-Minister

Geri Allaire, OFS
viceminister@nwfranciscans.org

Formation Director

Sue Gribbon, OFS
formation@nwfranciscans.org

Secretary

Kay Crnich, OFS
secretary@nwfranciscans.org

Treasurer

Tom Sharapata, OFS
treasurer@nwfranciscans.org

Spiritual Assistant

Jerry Stecker, OFS
sa@nwfranciscans.org

**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.

Sisters Snow and Ice rested quietly in January and travel to St. Joseph's for our gathering was easy. It was good to once again sit companionably with our brothers and sisters most of whom we had not seen since before Thanksgiving. There was no lack of opinion and personal experiences as we discussed Pope Francis' topic *Mercy is Greater Than Prejudice*, not only in relation to the Gospel story of the Samaritan woman at the well, but also within the context of our own lives.

Thank you to Deacon Lou, who presided at a Word and Communion Service, to our spiritual assistant, Brother Jerry, who assisted, and to our musicians, Sisters Jackie and Sue, and Brother Tim. A special thank you to Sister Kathy, for cheerfully taking over the duties of hospitality on short notice.

Although the month of February is the shortest month in number of days, it is shaping up to be a very busy month for all members of the fraternity.

Our prayers will include the children whose names we were given via email. These young people will be participating in the sacrament of Confirmation on February 24.

Included with this newsletter is a Fraternity Survey (see page 2 for more information). The fraternity does not *belong* to the council or to the spiritual assistant. It is *our* fraternity and every member has the right to voice his or her opinions, complaints, ideas, suggestions. How do *you* envision fraternity?

Also included with this newsletter is a press release regarding our April Open House. Please see that a copy of this release is given to the editor of your parish bulletin. If there is a bulletin board, see if it can be posted. Think about other ways in which we can spread the word about us and our Open House. Word of mouth is always the best advertising. Invite a friend to "Come and See" what we are all about.

February is also the month in which we need to write out a second check to the fraternity. This one is for \$35 to pay our Fair Share. This donation supports our Regional and National fraternities. The fraternity's Common Fund provides for the expenses our fraternity incurs throughout the year. Thank you to those who have already contributed their Fair Share. (More information on page 2.)

Our Monthly Gathering...

On Monday, February 12th, professed will gather at **6:30 p.m.** in the library for formation. Please read Chapter 7, The Patience of Mercy in *The Holy Year of Mercy* and complete the sections: Understand, Grow, Reflect, Act. At 7:30 pm all will gather in the chapel to pray the Liturgy of the Hours Evening Prayer followed by a brief business meeting and social time in the ice cream parlor.

Important: Professed, please bring your prayer shawls to the meeting so that they can be worn while we pray the Liturgy of the Hours. ☒

Welcome to Jillian and John

who joined us at our gathering in January. We invite you to join us on Feb. 12th 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 assuming this duty. ☒

Common Fund – December 2017

Beginning balance	\$2,612.50
Deposits	90.00
Expenses	50.00
Balance	\$2,652.50

Anniversaries

Our **Sister Mimi** celebrates her anniversary of profession on February 9th.

God's Blessings be Yours, dear Sister!

Fair Share

Thank You to those who gave Tom their Fair Share offering in January. The \$35 Fair Share is due next month. This is a yearly obligation for all *Professed Secular Franciscans and Candidates*, and includes our shut-in and temporarily excused members. It supports our Regional and National Fraternities. It is separate from our Common Fund donations which benefit our fraternity.

If you have not already given you Fair Share, please give it to Brother Tom, our treasurer, at this month's gathering. Or you can mail it to him. If possible, please make out a separate check for Fair Share. If \$35 is a financial burden for you at this time, contact Brother Tom. ☒

Fraternity Survey

A survey form for professed members of the fraternity and candidates is accompanying this newsletter. *Your unabridged thoughts, opinions, suggestions and complaints are necessary for the vitality of the fraternity as it enters its 57th year.* Please review the questions posed and bring the completed survey to the February gathering. On the table in the library, there will be a folder in which you can place your completed form. (It can also be emailed to the minister.) Your input will be used to determine the ongoing course of the fraternity. ☒

Open House

April is our Annual Open House. Included with this newsletter is a notice for you to give to your parishes. Please be sure to deliver this information as soon as possible so it can be included in bulletins several weeks before our gathering in April. ☒

And So We Pray...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY

Universal. Say “No” to Corruption.

That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

For the grace that we may live the gospel we hear and help each other to know and understand its message thru our lived example, *we pray to the Lord.*

For workers around the world, especially children who work long hours for little pay, that we might all seek ways to promote fairness, justice and dignity in their lives, *we pray to the Lord.*

For leaders around the world, that they might find ways to bring an end to war and violence, and promote peace and development for all nations, *we pray to the Lord.*

For the many people entrusted to our prayers, especially:

[PRIVATE]

All our shut-in sisters, always in our hearts,
For the children who will be confirmed,
we pray to the Lord.

For our departed loved ones and fraternity members, especially **Brother Patrick** and **Sisters Mary Joan and Mary**, that with them we may one day behold the face of God, *we pray to the Lord.*

For the Little Sisters of the Poor and all residents of St. Joseph’s Home, who have graciously open their home to us every month, *we pray to the Lord.*

For all the intentions held deep in our hearts, *we pray to the Lord.* ☒



Church of the Beatitudes on the Sea of Galilee

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

This is an abridged version of the daily email from Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM, on February 3rd.

Jesus was a wisdom teacher, within an ancient tradition called sophia perennis (perennial wisdom), which is in fact at the headwaters of all the great religious traditions of the world today. – Cynthia Bourgeault

Our supreme purpose in life is not to make a fortune, nor to pursue pleasure, nor to write our name on history, but to discover this spark of the divine that is in our hearts. – Eknath Easwaran

The Sermon on the Mount is the very blueprint for Christian lifestyle, and most scholars see it as the best summary of Jesus’ teaching.

To live simply is to live gently, keeping in mind always the needs of the planet, other creatures, and the generations to come. In doing this we lose nothing, because the interests of the whole naturally include our own. – Eknath Easwaran

Grief allows one to carry the dark side, to bear the pain of the world without looking for perpetrators or victims, but instead recognizing the tragic reality that both sides are caught up in. To live a just life in this world is to identify with the longings and hungers of the poor, the meek, and those who weep.

Practice Loving Kindness

We all need to practice being kind, particularly to ourselves. Only when we first reconnect with the infinite love...that is our ground of being, can we extend that love to others.

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 Reflection

(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)