



## *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 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.



**A Blessed Easter to You  
And Those You Love.**

## Our Monthly Gathering...

All professed will gather on Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at **6:30 pm** in the library; please try to arrive a bit before that time so we can start promptly. In place of ongoing formation, there will be a group discussion of the results of the fraternity survey and how they can be implemented.

While any interested person is welcome to join us throughout the year, this is our annual open house for visitors which has been advertised. At **7:30 pm**, we will gather in the chapel for a Word and Communion service. Our Formation Director, Sister Sue, will give a brief introduction to the secular Franciscan charism for our visitors during the business portion of our gathering. During social time, please mingle with our guests and share your Franciscan vocation with them. ☒

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## Anniversaries

While there are no specific anniversaries this month, let us all celebrate our vocation to the secular Franciscan way of life. ☒

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## Common Fund – March 2018

Beginning balance	\$2,276.37
Deposits	260.00
Expenses including Fair Share	200.00
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$2,336.37</b>

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## And So We Pray...

### ... An Easter Prayer

Help me, Risen Christ, to live your resurrection  
By bringing good news to those who are ignored,  
By releasing captives of prejudice with my open mind,  
By welcoming strangers with my approachable ear,

By speaking only truth and healing,  
By listening to learn more than I have experienced,  
By letting my small ideas die so that great values live.

Help me, Risen Christ  
To be the Good Samaritan of your parable,  
To chase out demons of intolerance,  
To receive all people with your openness,  
To enjoy the mix of your creation,  
To celebrate variety,  
To encourage fellowship between all your loved peoples.

Help me, Risen Christ, to live your resurrection.  
Amen. ☒

(Author unknown)

## PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR APRIL

### For those who have responsibility in Economic Matters

That economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths.

## WE PRAY FOR THOSE NEAR AND DEAR

**Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.***

[PRIVATE]

For **all our shut-in sisters**, always in our hearts, we pray to the Lord,  
For our **dearly departed loved ones and fraternity members**, 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 the residents of St. Joseph's Home who share their home with us with open hearts, we pray to the Lord,

**AN ANCIENT EASTER SATURDAY HOMILY  
“he descended into hell” Apostles Creed**

Something strange is happening—there is a great silence on earth today, a great silence and stillness. The whole earth keeps silence because the King is asleep. The earth trembled and is still because God has fallen asleep in the flesh and he has raised up all who have slept ever since the world began. God has died in the flesh and hell trembles with fear.

He has gone to search for our first parent, as for a lost sheep. Greatly desiring to visit those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death, he has gone to free from sorrow the captives of Adam and Eve, he who is both God and the son of Eve. The Lord approached them bearing the cross, the weapon that had won him the victory. At the sight of him Adam, the first man he had created, struck his breast in terror and cried out to everyone: “My Lord be with you all.” Christ answered him: “And with your spirit.” He took him by the hand and raised him up, saying: “Awake, O sleeper, and rise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”

I am your God, who for your sake have become your son. Out of love for you and for your descendants I now by my own authority command all who are held in bondage to come forth, all who are in darkness to be enlightened, all who are sleeping to arise. I order you, O sleeper, to awake. I did not create you to be held a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead. Rise up, work of my hands, you who were created in my image. Rise, let us leave this place, for you are in me and I am in you; together we form only one person and we cannot be separated.

For your sake I, your God, became your son; I, the Lord, took the form of a slave; I, whose home is above the heavens, descended to the earth and beneath the earth. For your sake, for the sake of man, I became like a man without help, free among the dead. For the sake of you, who left a garden, I was betrayed

to the Jews in a garden, and I was crucified in a garden.

See on my face the spittle I received in order to restore to you the life I once breathed into you. See there the marks of the blows I received in order to refashion your warped nature in my image. On my back see the marks of the scourging I endured to remove the burden of sin that weighs upon your back. See my hands, nailed firmly to a tree, for you who once wickedly stretched out your hand to a tree.

I slept on the cross and a sword pierced my side for you who slept in paradise and brought forth Eve from your side. My side has healed the pain in yours. My sleep will rouse you from your sleep in hell. The sword that pierced me has sheathed the sword that was turned against you.

Rise, let us leave this place. The enemy led you out of the earthly paradise. I will not restore you to that paradise, but I will enthrone you in heaven. I forbade you the tree that was only a symbol of life, but see, I who am life itself am now one with you. I appointed cherubim to guard you as slaves are guarded, but now I make them worship you as God. The throne formed by cherubim awaits you, its hearers swift and eager. The bridal chamber is adorned, the banquet is ready, the eternal dwelling places are prepared, the treasure houses of all good things lie open. The kingdom of heaven has been prepared for you from all eternity.

*Anonymous*

**This is the Day  
the Lord has made;  
Let us Rejoice  
and be Glad!  
Alleluia!  
Alleluia!**

## 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)

### June

04: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

11: Monthly Gathering (Lectio Divina)

### July

09: Fraternity Day of Recollection  
(Holy Family Parish)

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)