



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.

Even though Mother Nature refused to admit that by the calendar it was Spring, there was Spring in our hearts and a spring in our steps as we gathered in fraternity on April 9th. During formation, the results of the recent fraternity survey were shared and ideas and plans for the fraternity were eagerly embraced.

Our Annual Information Evening allowed us to meet several people who are exploring the charism of the Secular Franciscans. Our guests joined us in a Word and Communion service and shared hospitality with us. Thank you to **Sister Kathy** and to **Brother Tim**, for leaving our Ongoing Formation to watch for and greet our guests.

Thank you also to our **Brother Dcn. Lou**, who presided at the Word and Communion Service; **Sisters Sue** and **Jackie**, and **Brother Tim**, who led us in song together with our Spiritual Assistant **Brother Jerry**, and to **Sister Sue**, who gave our guests a brief overview of what it means to be a Secular Franciscan. ☒

Welcome to Rachel, Mary Anita, Linda, Anthony, and RoseAnn

who decided to “come and see” what we are about on that lovely evening. We invite you to join us at our next gathering on May 14th at 7:30 pm. in the chapel. ☒

Our Monthly Gathering...

All professed will gather on Monday, May 14th, at **6:30 pm** in the Library. Our Formation Director, **Sister Sue**, will lead the meeting in a most enjoyable way on that evening. At **7:30 pm** all will gather in the chapel for the Liturgy of the Hours, which will be followed by hospitality in the ice cream parlor. ☒

Anniversaries

God's Abundant Blessings as our sisters celebrate their special day.

May 8, 2006 Sue
May 13, 2013 Geri, Kay

Change in Liturgy in June

Please note that there is a change in the calendar for our gathering on June 11th. Originally our liturgy was scheduled to be Lectio Divina. However, the Saturday prior to our gathering is the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the patroness of our fraternity.

Fr. David, OFM, will be joining us on June 11th and will preside at Mass. ☩

Fraternity Day of Recollection Monday, July 9th

Everyone Mark Your Calendars

Monday, July 9th is our annual mini-retreat, not to be missed! Our focus will be on Bishop Barron's book "To Light a Fire".

The venue will be a bit different than in the past; however, as part of the evening, we will attend Mass, and, of course, enjoy Franciscan hospitality. There will be more details in the June newsletter.

Please note that the starting time will be earlier – 5:30 pm. This may impact a few of our professed and our new comers who work. That is understood. Just mark your calendar and come when you can.

Common Fund – April 2018

Beginning balance	\$2,336.37
Deposits	275.00
Expenses including Fair Share	117.39
Balance	\$2,493.98

And So We Pray...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR MAY

Evangelization: The Mission of the Laity

That the lay faithful may fulfill their specific mission, by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today.

Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

We pray for all who are being tested through suffering, that Jesus who was also tested through what He suffered, may help them as a merciful and faithful high priest,

We pray for our Holy Father, our bishops and priests, as they face the trials and challenges of our times, that Our Lady may share with them the profound trust for which she has been called blessed,

We pray for our brothers and sisters who have followed the Master in this life and have gone before us in death, that they may now enter into God's rest,

We pray for the grace of unity in the church, that God's laws of love and forgiveness may be in our minds and written upon our hearts,

We pray that we may merit the title brother or sister of Jesus by our earnest efforts to do the will of God in our daily lives,

We pray that our work may be modeled on the work of St. Joseph, done for the Lord alone and in the name of Jesus,

WE PRAY FOR THOSE NEAR AND DEAR

For our **Guests** who joined us at our gathering in April, as they discern the path which Jesus wants them to follow, we pray to the Lord,

[PRIVATE]

For **all our shut-in sisters**, always in our hearts, 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,



This month devoted to Mary, the Patroness of our fraternity under the title of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, includes the Feasts of the Ascension, May 13th, Pentecost, May 20th and the Feast of the Holy Trinity, May 27th.

PRAYER TO MARY, SPOUSE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Mary, we often forget that your intercessory power extends to the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity. We love to remember you as the favored daughter of the Heavenly Father. We never could forget you as the chosen Mother of the Divine Son. But we seldom think of your beautiful third relationship, as chaste spouse of the Holy Spirit. Yet for you all happiness began when the Holy Spirit overshadowed you and the power of His love descended upon you, and through Him you became the mother of the Incarnate God. Your mission began when the Holy Spirit chose you as His untouched and unstained bride.

Of all mankind you alone understood the promise which Christ was making of the Paraclete to come. For already the Paraclete had come to you and dwelt in your heart in the fullness of His grace. You know His consolation and strength from beautiful personal experience. So, when the Apostles, after the Ascension, gathered about you in trembling woe, you awaited confidently the coming of the Holy Spirit. And when He came, you, the Mother of the Infant Church, knew that it had found the

source of its strength and courage, its inspiration and guidance, in that same Divine Person who was the tender spouse of your soul. The parted tongue that rested upon the head of each of the Apostles, filling them with the fire of courage and the flame of inspired knowledge, rested upon your head as well. Again, He had honored you above all womankind.

Powerful, then, must your intercession be with the Holy Spirit. If the Father loves you as His daughter and the Son loves you as His mother, the Holy Spirit loves you as His chosen bride. What could He refuse to one so closely and purely united to His Divinity?

Mary, your children need the help and strength and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Our minds are dull to the truths of faith. But so were the minds of the disciples until the Holy Spirit came with His light and inspiration. Beg of Him, then, to fill our minds with the clear light of His divine knowledge. Ask Him to strengthen our faith and make it firm against assault and strong in the face of temptation.

Surely and sorely we need courage, To live and fight and be pure and honorable, requires courage more than is human. Beg, then, we beseech you, of the Holy Spirit to give us something of His courage that sent the timid disciples forth to conquer a world on whose hands the blood of the crucified Savior was still fresh. Ask Him to give us the strength to live splendidly, to fight bravely, to have the courage of right and good, even when the world calls our goodness foolish. Ask Him, too, to give us an abiding sense of His presence in our souls, so that in time of need or momentary blindness or sharp peril, we may turn to Him instinctively and eagerly.

Mary, chaste spouse of the Holy Spirit, intercede for us your children with the One who chose you out of all womankind for His purest and deepest love. Amen.

*Hail, God's Palace
Hail, Tabernacle of the Most High.
Hail, House of God.
Hail, his Holy Vestments.
Hail, Handmaid of God.*

St Francis of Assisi

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 Cindy.

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).

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 (Mass)

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)