



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

Sue Gribbon, OFS
viceminister@nwfranciscans.org

Formation Director

Jackie Leo, OFS
formation@nwfranciscans.org

Secretary

Tim Panzica, OFS
secretary@nwfranciscans.org

Treasurer

Kathy Fischer, 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.

It was a glorious September evening, both outside and inside St. Joseph's Home as all professed fraternity members gathered to elect a new council who will serve the fraternity for the next three years. The members of the new council are listed in the sidebar of this newsletter.

Our former fraternity brother, Marc, was the Presider for the elections and the Fraternal Witness for the region. Brother Marc Sheckells, OFM, the Regional Spiritual Assistant, was the spiritual witness of the elections. Our Spiritual Assistant, Jerry, officiated as secretary. Candidate Gail and Sister Mary Kay were the tellers.

After the elections, the professed met with our aspirants in the chapel for a prayer service composed by our spiritual assistant and highlighted by our music ministers. Afterward, three of our aspirants, **Jillian, Anthony, and Marion**, were welcomed into the Inquiry phase of formation.

The evening was capped off by the joy we all felt as we socialized in the ice cream parlor. ☒

Our Monthly Gathering...

Our monthly gathering in October will be on **Wednesday, October 3, 2017**, which is the day on which our Beloved Father Francis transitioned from earthly life to eternal life. As Sister Death made her approach, our Holy Father Francis determined to meet her as he had entered life. Father Francis died lying on the ground outside his beloved Portiuncula, the Chapel of Our Lady of the Angels, which is in the valley below Assisi. His tomb is in the lower level of the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy.

All brothers and sisters are required to attend as we will *not* be gathering on the second Monday, as we would usually do.

All professed are to gather in the library at St. Joseph's Home at 6:30 p.m. for formation with our Spiritual Assistant.

After formation, all fraternity members will gather in the chapel at 7:30 pm to celebrate the solemn Ritual of Transitus, which will be followed by social time. ☒

Anniversaries

Three of our professed are celebrating their anniversary of profession in October.

11: Sue and Cyndy,

Professed in 2010.

n/a: **Kathleen** (shut in), Professed in 1986.

God's blessings on your years of Franciscan living!

Ongoing Formation for Professed

For ongoing formation we will be using *Waiting for Love* by Lester Bach OFM and Vinal Van Benthem OFS. This is the book that our Spiritual Assistant Brother Jerry, selected for the extra curricular Saturday gatherings. Unfortunately, everyone's enthusiasm for these gatherings was diluted by conflicting schedules.

I need to know who has this book because they signed up for the book gathering. If you already have a copy, please email me ASAP. I will order copies for those who do not respond assuming that they do not have the book. The cost will be \$10.00 plus shipping and handling. (The total depending on S/H will be \$12.50 to \$13.00 per copy payable by each member who does not let me know they have a copy.)

Common Fund – Sept. 2018

Beginning balance	\$2,080.86
Deposits	350.00
Expenses	250.00
Balance	\$2,180.86

Our income (deposits) in September was larger than usual because Brother Marc refused to accept the stipend for his role in our elections. We are grateful. Please do not forget your Common Fund donation each month. It is the *only* income we receive and pays for all of the fraternity expenses which are watched care-fully by the fraternity council.

And So We Pray...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR OCTOBER

The Mission of Religious

That consecrated religious men and women may bestir themselves, and be present among the poor, the marginalized, and those who have no voice.

Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

We pray that all of us, who have professed or wish to profess, may never bury our gifts and talents out of fear or laziness, but diligently put them to use for the good of all and the approval of the Master,

We pray that this month in particular, we may remember the life and example of our father Francis and the impact he has had in our lives and vocation,

We pray for all who have asked our prayers in a time of trouble, pain, or grief, that God, who is faithful and filled with abundant goodness, may see to their healing and restore their joy,

We pray for those we know who have died, who have met their Master in their own personal encounter, that His mercy may lead them to a place of refreshment, light, and peace,

WE PRAY FOR THOSE NEAR AND DEAR

[PRIVATE]

For all of our **shut-in sisters**, that the health issues that keep them separated from us will be attended to with compassion and love, we pray to the Lord,

For all the **residents of St. Joseph's Home** and for the **Little Sisters of the Poor**, who lovingly care for them, we pray to the Lord,

For an **increase in vocations** to all three orders of the Franciscan family, we pray to the Lord,

For the **homeless brothers and sisters** who are served by Franciscan Outreach, we pray to the Lord,

Mother Cabrini Celebration

The regional celebration of the Patroness of our Region, St. Frances Cabrini, will be held on Sunday, November 11, 2018, at St. Peter's Church on Madison Avenue in Chicago's Loop. Details will be in the regional newsletter.

Our fraternity will need to give a count of the members who will be attending. There will be a sign-up sheet at our October meeting.

Please note that we will also be gathering as fraternity on our usual meeting day, Monday, November 12th.

Mother Cabrini was chosen as the patroness of the region for several reasons. Sister Frances, born in Italy, founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and had set her heart on being a missionary in the Far East. Instead the Pope suggested that she "go west, not east" and serve the impoverished Italian immigrants who were flooding the United States, into cities such as New York and Chicago.



Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini

In joyful obedience to the successor of St. Peter, she herself became an immigrant on March 31, 1889, when she arrived in New York and began her work with her immigrant brothers and sisters. She was naturalized as a U.S. citizen in 1909.

Dear Brothers & Sisters www.nwfranciscans.org

She encountered much disappointment and opposition when she arrived. Yet, she remained faithful to her mission. In 28 years, she founded 67 orphanages, schools and hospitals in the United States and in South America, before succumbing to dysentery. Mother Cabrini died on December 22, 1917, at Columbus Hospital in Chicago, a hospital that she had founded.

Only twenty-one years later, Mother Cabrini was beatified on November 13, 1938, after she restored the sight of a baby boy who had been blinded at birth by an overdose of silver nitrate. Eight years later, the child, Peter Smith, was present at her canonization on July 7, 1946. He later became a priest.

Thoughts About Sin

Namaste (the recognizing by one person, who holds the divine spark in their heart, of the divine spark in another person) asks something huge of us: If the divinity in me recognizes the divinity in you, how could I abuse, debase, violate, or harass? I would, after all, only be punishing myself. . . .

St. Gregory of Nyssa (c. 335-c. 394) offered another beautiful, succinct, and useful definition of sin. *Sin*, he [suggested], *is a refusal to keep growing.* [3]

This is a growing moment. Growth is painful.

I don't believe hell or heaven to be post-life destinations. I believe they are states of consciousness largely visible here and now. A world of objects is a kind of hell. A world of subjects—divine beings honoring the divinity in the other—is surely heaven. May we point our feet toward this heaven and begin the hard and necessary work of walking there.

Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM

Franciscan Outreach

Thank you to all who signed up for items for Franciscan Outreach.. ☒

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 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).

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)~~

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)~~

August

~~13: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours)~~

~~20: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home~~

September

10: Fraternity Elections (Prayer Service)

24: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

October

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

22: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

November

12: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours)

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

18: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

December

10: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)