

Dear Brothers & Sisters



July 2015

Newsletter of the

Northwest Franciscan Community of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Palatine, Illinois

Secular Franciscan Order

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Submission deadline is the last Tuesday of each month.

For privacy, all personal addresses, phone numbers, email, prayer intentions, and (for non-council members) last names are removed from this web version.

From the Minister

At last month's gathering, we were blessed to have Fr. Charles with us to celebrate Mass in honor of our patronal feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (which this year was on June 13). Thank you again to our Spiritual Assistant, Brother Patrick, who arranged for Father to be with us.

After Mass, we joyfully welcomed Kathy and Faith into the Candidacy phase of their Franciscan journey to Profession. Then during social time, we celebrated the 90th birthday of Sister Eddie. Thank you to Sister Cyndy, for coordinating the party; Brother Patrick, for bringing the cake; and everyone who brought treats.

■ **Day of Recollection.** As we've been mentioning since January, our fraternity is holding a Day of Recollection on **August 22 (Saturday)**, which counts as our **August gathering**. The council will handle the continental breakfast items and beverages, but we need your help with the potluck lunch. Because we've opened up this event to all Secular Franciscans in the Region, **it's vital that every fraternity member signs up to bring an item.**

At this month's gathering, I will have the potluck sign-up sheet, so please start thinking now about what you'll bring. The following categories and openings for each are available:

Misc. Items (2 slots; both open)

1. Plates (paper/plastic) & Cutlery: Open
2. Cups & Napkins: Open

Beverages (2 slots; both filled)

1. Canned Soda (assorted): *Council member*
2. Bottled Water: *Council member*

Appetizers (3 slots; all open)

Ideas: Cheese and crackers, chips and dips, hummus and pita, veggie plate, etc.

Salads (3 slots; all open)

Ideas: Caesar, pasta, etc.

Entrées (6 slots; all open)

Ideas: Beans and rice, chili, fried chicken, lasagna, tacos, tea sandwiches, etc.

Desserts (3 slots; all open)

Ideas: Brownies, cake, cookies, fruit platter, etc.

See the full agenda and details on page 3.

■ **Fraternity Elections.** As a reminder, we **will be holding our fraternity elections in September**. If you would like to nominate someone or are interested in serving on the council, please call our Nominating Coordinator, Sister Geri, by **August 21 (Friday)**. For detailed information on all council positions, see "Council Elections" on pages 2-4 of our May newsletter. ☒

Next Monthly Gathering:

Monday, July 13, 2015

St. Joseph's Home
80 W. Northwest Hwy., Palatine

6:30 p.m.: Professed brothers and sisters, please arrive at this time for Ongoing Formation. Candidates are encouraged to observe.

7:30 p.m.: Start of our Gathering with Vespers, followed by a business meeting and social time. All welcome!

* * *

You must call Lisa if you cannot attend.

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Our gatherings are at 7:30 p.m. on the **second Monday** of each month.

At This Month's Gathering ...

■ **Ongoing Formation.** Professed brothers and sisters, please read the **Preface** and **Chapter 1** in our new ongoing formation book, *What it Takes to be an OFS Franciscan* by Fr. Lester Bach, OFM CAP., and be sure to write down your answers for all questions.

Please be aware that **all Professed** are to attend ongoing formation and our monthly gatherings. If, for whatever reason, you're unable to attend, you *must* call our Minister, Lisa.

■ **Vespers & Social Time.** Everyone, please join us at 7:30 p.m. for Vespers, followed by a brief business meeting and social time (remember to bring your breviaries and your own mugs). ☒

Common Fund Report

May beginning balance: \$1,678.75, deposits: \$235, expenses: \$259.30, ending balance: \$1,654.45. ☒

Our Apostolates

■ **Bingo.** Meets one night per month at 6:30 p.m. in St. Joseph's activity room. Everyone, please see the sign-up sheet at our gathering and pick one month for which to volunteer. For more information, call Sisters Kay or Mary Kay.

■ **Franciscan Outreach.** We collect items for delivery to the guests at Franciscan Outreach's Marquard Center. Call Sister Stephanie for more information.

■ **Prayer & Praise Ministry.** For our brothers and sisters unable to attend our gatherings due to poor health or transportation issues. For more information, or if you're ill or know of someone who's 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 from our Common Fund of any excess funds available *after* fraternity costs go to the following: Franciscan Missionary Union, Franciscan Outreach, Poor Clares (Palos Park, IL), Amazon Relief.

■ **Youth Prayer Partners.** Coordinated by Brother Tom, this apostolate matches up fraternity members with children preparing for First Communion or Confirmation. We last prayed for Confirmands at St. Thomas of Villanova (Palatine), and will pray again for a new group of students when we have more details. For more information, call Brother Tom. ☒

Prayers for Our National Minister

In June, our National Minister, Dcn. Tom Bello, OFS, underwent surgery to remove several tumors from his small intestines. Unfortunately, he was diagnosed with metastatic melanoma. While there is no cure, he is currently receiving treatment and asks for our prayers, and prayers for his wife, Judy. Please also pray for our National Vice-Minister, Elaine Hedtke, OFS, as she assumes the duties of the Minister's office during his recuperation and treatment. ☒

Anniversaries This Month

11: **Delphine** and **Jackie**, Professed in 1999.

God's blessings for your years of Franciscan living!

Calendar

July

13: Monthly Gathering

27: Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Arlington Heights Memorial Library

August

22: Day of Recollection, St. Colette's

24: Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Arlington Heights Memorial Library

Remember in Your Daily Prayers

- All infirm, shut-in, and deceased fraternity members.
- All Candidates and Inquirers and their formation instructors.
- Our entire Franciscan Family, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd (Secular & Regular) Orders: For strength in commitments, increase in vocations, and the work we do, especially for Franciscan Outreach, Franciscan Missionary Union, the Poor Clares in Palos Park, and Amazon Relief.
- The guests of Franciscan Outreach's shelter and soup kitchen: That they know God's loving care and overcome the difficulties that keep them homeless.
- Little Sisters of the Poor and the residents of St. Joseph's Home.
- Our families and loved ones.

Please pray that our fraternity and all Franciscans:

- 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 may simply live, and
- Are active and participate in the Franciscan apostolates.

Day of Recollection for Secular Franciscans

“In their finite humanity, on the margins, in their everyday struggles, consecrated men and women live out their fidelity, giving a reason for the joy that lives in them.”

~ Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, “Rejoice! A letter to consecrated men and women”, Feb. 2014 (#1)



**Going from Gospel to Life
and Life to Gospel:
Secular Franciscans Celebrate
the Year of Consecrated Life**

**August 22 (Saturday)
9 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

About the Event

Fr. Robert Pawell, OFM will present a Day of Recollection on “Going from Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel: Secular Franciscans Celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life” at St. Colette Catholic Church, 3900 Meadow Dr., Rolling Meadows. Aside from Mass, all activities will take place in Halpin Hall, located in the church’s basement. As a reminder, this event replaces our regular August gathering, so if, for whatever reason, you’re unable to attend, you *must* call our Minister, Sister Lisa.

While the council will handle the continental breakfast items and beverages, **fraternity members need to bring potluck items**. If you miss signing up for a potluck item (see page 1) at our July gathering, please contact Sister Lisa with your item by August 08 (Saturday).

About the Speaker

Fr. Robert was born in Chicago and grew up on the city’s northwest side. He entered the Order of Friars Minor in 1959 and was ordained in 1966. Fr. Robert holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy and Psychology from Quincy University, Illinois; a Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical University Antonianum, Rome; a Master’s Degree in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University Chicago, Institute of Pastoral Studies; and a Certificate in Spiritual Direction from the Institute for Spiritual Leadership, Chicago. After 20 years of working in a variety of ministries around the country, in 1996 he returned to Chicago, where he cofounded Holy Evangelists Friary on Ashland Ave. He is currently the Director of Programs at St. Peter’s Church in the Loop, and also serves as confessor, preacher and Eucharistic minister. On weekends, he assists at St. Bonaventure Oratory in Chicago.

Fr. Robert is an experienced spiritual director, parish mission preacher, retreat director and preacher, and days of recollection speaker for priests, religious, and laity. In his preaching, he makes use of poetry and story, the wisdom of saints and mystics, and insights from contemporary psychology to illuminate the Good News of the Gospel.

Agenda

- 9:00 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast (Halpin Hall, in the church’s basement)
- 9:45 a.m. Presentation
- 10:45 a.m. Mass (upstairs Chapel, behind the main altar); Celebrant/homilist: Fr. Bob
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Franciscan Crown and quiet prayer (Chapel)
- 1:45 p.m. Break
- 2:00 p.m. Concluding Presentation
- 3:00 p.m. Evening Prayer (bring your copy of *Liturgy of the Hours*)