

# Dear Brothers & Sisters



August 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

As we've been mentioning since January, our fraternity is holding a Day of Recollection on **August 22 (Saturday)**, which counts as this month's gathering. If you're unable to attend, please call me.

We've gotten several responses from other fraternities in the Region who will be joining us, so if you haven't yet signed up to bring a potluck item for lunch, please call or email me with the item you're bringing. We still have 1 opening each for appetizers and entrées.

Remember to bring your breviaries, since we'll conclude the day with Vespers. For the full agenda, see page 3 of our July newsletter.

■ **Transitus in October.** As we've also been mentioning, our October gathering will be replaced by a celebration of the Transitus of our Holy Father Francis on **October 3 (Saturday)**, at St. Joseph's. We will begin the liturgy at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel, after which we will have social time; there will be no ongoing formation.

Because the Transitus celebration counts as our monthly gathering, if, for whatever reason, you're unable to attend, you *must* call our fraternity's new minister (that will be the gathering after our September fraternity elections).

■ **Fraternity Elections.** Just a reminder that **we will be holding our fraternity elections next month**. Please think about those in our fraternity whom you feel may be qualified for one (or more) of the positions, and also prayerfully consider if you are being called to serve in a council role (Minister, Vice-Minister, Formation Director, Secretary, and Treasurer). Professed brothers and sisters are encouraged to nominate someone for an office, or run for an office themselves.

If you would like to nominate someone or are interested in serving, 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.

■ **Ongoing Formation Resumes in November.** Because of our Day of Recollection this month, fraternity elections in September, and Transitus in October, our next Ongoing Formation session is in **November**.

■ **Where to Find *Laudato Si*.** During our ongoing formation last month, our Spiritual Assistant, Brother Patrick highly encouraged everyone to read Pope Francis' new encyclical, *Laudato Si*. Here are various options for obtaining copies:

*Online:* You can read it for free online at the Vatican's site: <http://goo.gl/tb0B7T>. Note that they also have a downloadable PDF version.

*Hardcopy:* If you would like to purchase a hardcopy, here are some options (in order of lowest to highest price):

- Daughters of St. Paul (Pauline Books and Media)  
"On Care for Our Common Home (Laudato Si)", \$10.95  
<http://store.pauline.org> (800.876.4463)

## Next Monthly Gathering:

**Saturday**, August 22, 2015

### **St. Colette Catholic Church**

3900 Meadow Dr.,  
Rolling Meadows

**9:00 a.m.:** Registration & Continental Breakfast (Halpin Hall)

**9:45 a.m.:** Start of our Gathering with first presentation.

All welcome!


\* \* \*

**You must call Lisa if you cannot attend.**

\* \* \*

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


"MINISTER", continued from page 1 ...

- Our Sunday Visitor  
"Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home", \$12.95  
[www.osv.com/Shop.aspx](http://www.osv.com/Shop.aspx) (800.348.2440 x2173)
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
"On Care for Our Common Home", \$13.95  
<http://store.usccb.org> (877.978.0757) 

## Common Fund Report


June beginning balance: \$1,654.45, deposits: \$251, expenses: \$50, ending balance: \$1,855.45. 

## 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. 

## Excerpt from *Laudato Si*

by Pope Francis (#75)

A spirituality which forgets God as all-powerful and Creator is not acceptable. That is how we end up worshipping earthly powers, or ourselves usurping the place of God, even to the point of claiming an unlimited right to trample his creation underfoot. The best way to restore men and women to their rightful place, putting an end to their claim to absolute dominion over the earth, is to speak once more of the figure of a Father who creates and who alone owns the world. Otherwise, human beings will always try to impose their own laws and interests on reality. 

## Anniversaries This Month

*There are no anniversaries this month.*

## Calendar

### August

#### 22: Day of Recollection, St. Colette's

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

### September

#### 14: Monthly Gathering: ELECTIONS

28: Transitional 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, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> (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.