

Dear Brothers & Sisters



November 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

The Transitus of our Holy Father Francis last month was a beautiful celebration; thanks to our Spiritual Assistant, Brother Patrick, who did all the planning and gave a beautiful reflection. We are also grateful to Brother Dcn. Lou, who reserved the Chapel and Ice Cream Parlor; Sister Jackie and Candidate Tim, for leading us in song; and to everyone who brought snacks and treats for our social time.

We were happy to welcome **Fr. Dennis** to our celebration of Transitus and to chat with him during social time. We look forward to praying and socializing with him at future gatherings.

Our fraternity gathering this month is not to be missed. Sister Barbara Elkins, OFS, our Regional JPIC Counselor, will speak to us on justice, peace and integrity of creation, and her presentation will be in place of November's ongoing formation. Our worship will include Mass celebrated by Fr. David, during which Brother Patrick will lead us in the Rite of Remembrance for our dearly departed Sister Delphine.

■ **2016 Guides for the Liturgy of the Hours.** Copies of the *Guide for Roman-Franciscan Prayer* will be distributed at this month's gathering to all active Professed and Candidates. Our Infirmarian, Sister Jackie, will ensure that our shut-ins receive their copies. The guides correspond with the One-Volume Edition, *Christian Prayer: Liturgy of the Hours*, with the Franciscan supplement. While not everyone may use the One-Volume Edition with the Franciscan Supplement, the guide makes it easier for everyone to know the appropriate prayers for the day.

■ **Franciscan Outreach Project.** Our annual gathering for our Outreach Project will be on November 22 (Sunday) at 1 p.m. at my home. Fr. Johnpaul will celebrate Mass. Afterward, we will share hospitality and have fun packing the 100 gift bags for the guests at the Marquard Center. There will be a sign-up sheet at this month's gathering; this is also the last month for donations toward the items needed for the bags. If you have any questions, please contact me.

■ **Flood Relief.** In response to a plea from our National Fraternity (NAFRA), the council voted to send a donation of \$50 to NAFRA to help our brothers and sisters impacted by the recent floods in the Carolinas and Georgia. ☒

At This Month's Gathering ...

■ **Ongoing Formation.** In place of ongoing formation, Sister Barbara Elkins, OFS will bring us up to date on Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC).

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, Stephanie.

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

Common Fund Report

September beginning balance \$1548.33; deposits \$270; expenses \$135; ending balance \$1683.33. ☒

Next Monthly Gathering:

Monday, November 09, 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 Mass, followed by a business meeting and social time.

All welcome!

* * *

You must call Stephanie if you cannot attend.

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

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. ☒

Updated Member Directory

Enclosed with this month's newsletter is an updated *Member Directory*, which lists all Candidates, Professed, and our current spiritual assistant.

Please check your listing for accuracy and let us know if there are any errors or updates needed. Thank you! ☒

Excerpts from You Know You're A Secular Franciscan When ...

Compiled by Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR; National Spiritual Assistant to the OFS from *TAU-USA*, Summer 2010, Issue 67 (p. 20)

- you notice an unmistakable lack in desire to acquire more stuff
- peacemaking becomes incredibly attractive to you
- your eyes fill up when you hear about a trip to Assisi
- you want to dress (and LIVE) more and more simply
- Christmas is for you the greatest feast day
- you take off work on October 4
- you laugh loudly and often when you get together with other Franciscans
- you hug people a lot, especially other Franciscans
- all your gatherings are noted for having too much and wonderful food
- you follow the Franciscan Saint of the Day religiously
- the term "fair share" not only means something to you, you try to give more than your fair share to the common fund
- ... you don't have to dust off your Tau every month to wear it to the monthly meeting, because you wear it every day everywhere ☒

Anniversaries This Month

05: **Rosemary**, Professed in 1990.

06: **Mary Kay**, Professed in 2005.

God's blessings for your years of Franciscan living!

Calendar

November

09: Monthly Gathering

22: Council Meeting, 5 p.m.,
Stephanie's Home

December

14: Monthly Gathering

Remember in Your Daily Prayers

- [PRIVATE]
- [PRIVATE]
- [PRIVATE]
- [PRIVATE]
- [PRIVATE]
- All infirm, shut-in, and deceased fraternity members.
- All Candidates, Inquirers, and Aspirants 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.