



Dear Brothers & Sisters

From the Minister

Greetings my Brothers and Sisters.

As I write this for January 2024, our Christmas has not arrived yet. And so I begin in prayer:

"Jesus, the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth, may we begin to see the world in the light of understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart. May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving. Amen."

At our last council meeting, we discussed our Jackie's recommendation to sponsor a child from India through the Foundation for Children in Need (FCN). We currently have a full Franciscan Outreach schedule for 2024 (a collection or event each month). So, it was recommended that if any of you are interested in doing this individually or as a family, you can contact me for the information. Thank you, Jackie, for the suggestion.

Last spring, we all attended a one-day retreat at the Bellarmine Retreat Center in Barrington... Well, we would like to repeat this event. On Monday, March 11th (which is the day of our March gathering) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., there is a Lenten Day of Reflection on: All Shall Be Well. The cost is \$70. The council will need to pay the registration fee when we register for all who want to attend. So, please mark your calendars and come prepared to sign up and pay at our January 8th fraternity meeting...or the February 12th meeting at the latest.

We continue to pray for many of our fraternity members as well as family members and friends. Please let's stay in contact, call or visit them, send notes...just stay connected.

And so, I end with a Franciscan Prayer for the New Year:

"As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends. Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for those are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way."

Let that be our challenge every day of 2024 (and always). Thank you for all that you do while we walk this Franciscan journey together being the hands and feet of Christ. This is the call that we professed. We are "Companions on the Journey" and I love walking and working with you.

Peace always,
Sue, OFS

Our Monthly Gathering

We will gather on **Monday, January 8, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness, in Room 83 on the lower level. We will pray the Liturgy of the Hours; please bring your books.

We Pray ...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY

For the Gift of Diversity in the Church

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

Profession Anniversaries

1/11/2010	Stephanie H., Lou R.,
1/11/2016	Tim P.
1/14/2008	Susan J. (shut-in), Bonnie M.

Congratulations! Abundant blessings be Yours!

Franciscan Outreach

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

This ministry packs bags of nutritious grain for those living in the poorest and most destitute areas on our planet. Members of our fraternity will participate in this work of service every other month from **2:00 to 3:45 p.m.**

Our next outreach is January 31st from 2:00 to 3:45 p.m. Contact **Sister Sue** for more information.

Loose change wanted - at each monthly fraternity gathering, fraternity members have an opportunity to donate their loose change so that we can provide the funds to feed a child for a year. Whenever a total of \$53 in change is collected, it will be matched by \$53 from our Common Fund for a total of \$106, the cost of feeding a starving child in another country for a year. It is mindboggling to think that for the lack of a measly 29 cents a day, a child will starve.

JOURNEYS/THE ROAD HOME

We will again collect items for Journeys/the Road Home at our **February** gathering. Print out the list below and keep it in a handy place. When these items are on sale or you are at the Dollar Tree, pick up a few items and keep them for the February gathering. Contact **Sister RoseAnn** for more information on Journeys.

Franciscan Outreach continued from page 2

Journeys/the Road Home

Most needed items:

Shampoo and conditioner (all sizes) and body wash

Razors and shaving cream	Body wash - MOST NEEDED
Baby wipes	Shampoo & conditioner - MOST NEEDED
Large backpacks	Pullups - ALL SIZES

Food items:

Bottled water	Pasta (dried and canned)	Canned soups*
Rice	Pasta sauce	Canned fruit*
Peanut butter	Cereal - large boxes	Canned vegetables*
Jelly	Canned stew, fish and chicken*	Canned beans*
	* pop top cans preferred	No bulk items

HOPEFUL BEGINNINGS

The next collection for Hopeful Beginnings will be at our **April** gathering. This will be a collection of clothes and baby items needed for spring and summer.

Specific needs for babies and toddlers:

diapers - sizes 3T, 4T, 5T, lotions and soaps (hypoallergenic, if possible), wash cloths, towels, formula, lotions, soap, bibs,

Clothing for Boys and Girls: Most needed sizes are 3T, 4T, 5T

Size 2T and 3T pants and jeans for boys are rarely donated (boys wear out the knees)

Snug-fitted foot cotton pajamas, loose-fit footed pajamas, jeans, pants, tops,

Also needed: underwear, socks, short sleeve tops, shorts, lightweight pants and jackets.

Contact **Sister Stephanie** for more information.

LAURIE CHILDREN'S/RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Save the pull tabs from soda and beer cans, soup cans, cat food cans. Bring these each month to the gathering. **Sister Sue** will collect these for recycling.

The funds from recycling are used to help families who stay at Ronald McDonald House while their child is being treated for cancer.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

As we have done the past few years, we will be putting together baskets of food for Thanksgiving to be given to families who live in Palatine Township and are desperately in need of food. There will be a sign-up sheet at the **October** gathering. It will include a list of the items needed for each basket that we donate. The items will be gathered into baskets at our November meeting.

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

Matthew 25:40

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2024

- Monday, Jan. 8** Monthly gathering will be held at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the **Lower Level** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness, *LOTH.*
- Sunday, Jan 28** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 12** Monthly gathering will be held at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the **Lower Level** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. Items will be collected for **Journeys/The Road Home.** *Liturgy LOTH.*
- Sunday, Feb. 25** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, Mar. 11** Lenten Day of Reflection - All Shall Be Well at **Bellarmino Retreat Center**, Barrington, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m..
- Sunday, Mar. 24** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, Apr. 8** Monthly gathering will be held at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the **Lower Level** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. There will be a collection of clothing and baby items for Hopeful Beginnings *Liturgy - Crown Rosary.*
- Sunday, April 28** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, May 13** Monthly gathering will be held at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the **Lower Level** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. *Liturgy Communion Service.*
- Sunday, May 19** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, June 10** Monthly gathering will be held at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the **Lower Level** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. We will bring items and fill Blessing Bags for Franciscan Outreach. *LOTH.*
- Sunday, June 23** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, July 8** Monthly gathering will be held at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the **Lower Level** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. *Liturgy TBD.*
- Sunday, July 28** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 12** Monthly gathering will be held at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the **Lower Level** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The biannual collection of items for Journeys/The Road Home will be held. *Liturgy Lectio Divina.*
- Sunday, Aug. 25** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, Sept. 9** Monthly gathering will be held at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the **Lower Level** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The triannual election of Council Members will be held at this gathering. *LOTH.*
- Sunday, Sept. 22** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 7** Monthly gathering will be held at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the **Lower Level** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. There will be a collection of fall clothing and baby items for Hopeful Beginnings. *Liturgy Transitus and Renewal of Profession Vows.*
- Sunday, Oct. 27** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings cont.

- Monday, Nov. 11** Monthly gathering will be held at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the **Lower Level** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. We will pack Thanksgiving baskets for the Palatine Township needy. *Liturgy will commemorate the deceased.*
- Sunday, Nov. 24** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 9** Monthly gathering will be held at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the **Lower Level** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. *Liturgy Communion Service.*
- Sunday, Dec. 22** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.

Calendar of Regional Gatherings 2024

All events listed in this calendar are at Mayslake, except where noted.

- Saturday, April 6** Spring Formation Day (Cluster Four) *
- Saturday, May 18** Regional Election (REC)
- Saturday, May 25** Headstone Clean-Up Day, OFS Section, Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside, IL 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
- Saturday, August 3** Portiuncula (Virtual Only)
- Saturday, October 19** REC Meeting
- Sunday, October 27** All Soul's Day Prayer Service, OFS Section, Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside, IL 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
- Saturday, November 9** Mother Cabrini Celebration (Cluster One) location TBD

* Our fraternity is part of Cluster Four together with Junipero Serra fraternity and St. Maximilian Kolbe fraternity. As such we will be sharing the hosting of the Spring Formation Day.

Council Members

Minister	Susan Gribbon, OFS	<i>minister@nwfranciscans.org</i>
Vice Minister	Tim Panzica, OFS	
Formation Director	Kay Crnich, OFS	
Secretary	Marion Tuttle, OFS	
Treasurer	Kathy Fischer, OFS	
Spiritual Assistant	open	
Councilor-at-Large	open	

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