



Dear Brothers & Sisters

From the Minister

Happy Christmastide, my Franciscan Brothers and Sisters for, as I write this, Christmas has not happened, yet. And by the time you receive this, we will be into the New Year.

We are all on our journey of service, compassion, hope, justice, love and a smile. And in this past month, I have seen the products of all our service come to be. We started on December 5th, with nine of us working at Feed My Starving Children, helping to pack 28,080 meals. That food was shipped to Guatemala, Moldova and El Salvador. On December 12th, we gathered at Kay's for a beautiful and heartwarming Christmas party...the food, Kay's home, the company and sharing were what we ALL needed... Thank you, Kay! A final result of that gathering was that we collected 50 Blessing Bags for Franciscan Outreach. These items, along with food items from Tom S. were delivered to the Harrison Street Shelter at 2715 W. Harrison Street, Chicago...with many Thanks to ALL of you. You've been busy being wonderful human beings...being Franciscans! And with all of that, your council members voted to not have a December council meeting. Thank You!

So now we begin again. Starting January 9th, ALL of our Monday fraternity gatherings will be held at 1:00 p.m. at Holy Family Parish. For January, our Liturgy will be our LOTH...so please make sure to bring your LOTH books. We will also have a visitor, Dave P. He is interested in the Franciscans; please welcome him. If my memory is correct, Sue R. will report on her psalm reading at the January gathering. I believe you all now have your 2023 LOTH guides. Please let me know if you do not have yours. Our next council meeting will be Sunday, January 29th, at 1:30 p.m., at my house.

In February, we will be collecting food and needed items for the homeless at Journeys/The Road Home, located right here in Palatine. A listing of the items needed is printed in the Franciscan Outreach update. RoseAnn will be our coordinator for this event. Please contact her with any questions.

Whew!...So now, I close...keeping each of you in my thoughts and prayers...wishing you all Quiet Wonder, Simple Blessings and Gentle Peace.

Sue G. OFS

Our Monthly Gathering

We will gather on **Monday, January 9, 2023**, in the Senior Center at **Holy Family Parish in Inverness** at **1:00 p.m.** for formation. Our Liturgy will be the Liturgy of the Hours; please bring your LOTH books. Social time will begin **afterward**. Please consider bringing a snack to share.

We Pray ...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY

For educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable of all.

Franciscan Outreach

JOURNEYS/THE ROAD HOME

RoseAnn, the coordinator for **Journeys/The Road Home**, will oversee the next collection of food and items needed by the homeless. The collection will be taken up at our **February 13, 2023** gathering. A list of items needed is posted below. Contact **RoseAnn** for more information.

MOST NEEDED ITEMS - JOURNEYS/THE ROAD HOME

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*	Canned beans*
	Canned fish and chicken*	
* pop top cans preferred	No bulk items	

HOPEFUL BEGINNINGS - APRIL

Our next clothing drive will be in April for spring and summer clothing. If you are taking advantage of after Christmas sales, remember those who Pope Francis mentions above - the youngest and most vulnerable of all - the babies and toddlers whose needs are being met by Hopeful Beginnings ONLY with the help of donations. These are the children of parents who chose to be prolife and not have an abortion. Now, they need our help.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

This ministry packs bags of nutritious grain for those living in the poorest and most destitute areas on our planet. Another date to serve will be selected. Contact our **Minister Sue** to sign up and/or for more information.

'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 NIV

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2023

Monday, Jan. 9	Monthly gathering will be held at 1 p.m. in the Senior Center at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Liturgy of the Hours</i>
Sunday, Jan 29	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 13	Monthly gathering will be held at 1 p.m. in the Senior Center at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Liturgy of the Hours</i>
Sunday, Feb. 26	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, Mar. 13	Monthly gathering will be held at 1 p.m. in the Senior Center at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sunday, Mar. 26	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, Apr. 10	Monthly gathering will be held at 1 p.m. in the Senior Center at Holy Family Parish, Inverness, Crown Rosary
Sunday, Apr. 23	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, May 8	Monthly gathering will be held at 1 p.m. in the Senior Center at Holy Family Parish, Inverness, Communion Service
Sunday, May 21	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, June 12	Monthly gathering will be held at 1 p.m. in the Senior Center at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Liturgy of the Hours</i>
Sunday, June 25	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, July 10	Monthly gathering will be held at 1 p.m. in the Senior Center at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Possible retreat</i>
Sunday, July 23	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, Aug. 14	Monthly gathering will be held at 1 p.m. in the Senior Center at Holy Family Parish, Inverness, <i>Lectio Divina</i>
Sunday, Aug. 27	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 11	Monthly gathering will be held at 1 p.m. in the Senior Center at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Liturgy of the Hours</i>
Sunday, Sept. 24	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 2	Monthly gathering will be held at 1 p.m. in the Senior Center at Holy Family Parish, Inverness, <i>Transitus, Renewal of Profession Vows</i>
Sunday, Oct. 22	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 13	Monthly gathering will be held at 1 p.m. in the Senior Center at Holy Family Parish, Inverness, <i>Commemoration of deceased/LOTH</i>
Sunday, Nov. 26	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 11	Monthly gathering will be held at 1 p.m. in the Senior Center at Holy Family Parish, Inverness, <i>Communion Service</i>
Sunday, Dec. 17	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.

Calendar of Regional Gatherings 2023

Sat. Mar 11, 2023	Spring Formation Day/St. Bonaventure establishment (Cluster Three) St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church, 5545 N. Paulina St., Chicago, IL 60640
Sat/Sun May 6 and 7, 2023	Chapter of Ministers (REC)
Sat. Aug. 5, 2023	Portiuncula Gathering (Cluster Four)
Sat. Sept. 30, 2023	Fall Formation Day (Cluster One)
Sun. Nov. 12, 2023	Mother Cabrini Celebration (Cluster Five)
	All events are at Mayslake Village, except where noted.

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!

A Prayer of Gratitude

Thank you, God, for being God, thank you for Christmastide, for Jesus who revealed Your immense love and mercy for us, for the holy men and women of the Old Testament and the New Testament, thank You for St. Stephen and all the Martyrs, thank You for St. John and all the Apostles, thank You for all creation. You made us even knowing that we would not be faithful to You and, therefore, need Your Son Jesus to redeem us. For what should we not thank You? Everything good and true and beautiful comes from You. All we really have is our misery and unhappiness which You want us to give over to You. Help us surrender all that we are and all that we have to You. Free us from everything that displeases You. O God, on behalf of every man, woman, and child living and dead, from the beginning of time to the present and until the end, we praise, adore, thank, and love You. Make us holy, Lord, make us holy through Jesus and through the intercessions of Mary, Joseph, St. John the Evangelist, all the saints, our guardian angels and every member of the nine choirs of angels, through the pleading and yearning of the poor souls in purgatory and the prayers of the devout still with us in exile. Amen.

A prayer posted on Divine Liturgy.org on Dec. 27, 2021.

Year End Accounting

Consider what You have accomplished by contributing to Fraternity projects:

1. In August, a carload of needed items and food was delivered to Journeys/The Road Home.
2. In October, an SUV full of clothing for babies and toddlers was delivered to Hopeful Beginnings.
3. In November, 3 Thanksgiving baskets were delivered to Palatine Township for needy families.
4. In December, food was packed for starving people at Feed My Starving Children; 50 Blessing bags were delivered to Franciscan Outreach in Chicago for the homeless.

Well done, good and faithful servants.

Matthew 25:23

Council Members

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

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