



## *Dear Brothers & Sisters*

### **From the Minister**

Who are we? A community of Love...We live the Gospel message in our service and in all that we do. What is ours to do? In fraternity, we pray, work, listen, learn, accept others and are nourished so that we can bring the joy of knowing Christ to all. The least among us is the most important. And so, I challenge you...**BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE.**

In the last two weeks, we have had a fraternity gathering, a council meeting and, this past Saturday and Sunday (May 21-22) we had our Regional Chapter of Ministers meeting at Mayslake. So, I have lots to share with you.

#### **Profession Anniversary Celebration**

On June 13th, at 6:30 p.m., we will begin with a Communion Service in the chapel for all, including our guests and newcomers. Afterward, we will proceed to the Senior Center (where we met last summer) for a party to celebrate the one-year Profession Anniversary of Mary Anita, Marion, Suzanne and RoseAnn. We are asking all fraternity members to bring finger foods (sweet and savory) to share for this event. Please plan on arriving *earlier* than 6:30 p.m. so that you can drop your dish off in the Senior Center before the Communion Service.

#### **Franciscan Fraternity T-shirts**

Secondly, we now have Franciscan T-shirts (and one sweatshirt) on order. If you were not at the May gathering to order a t-shirt, you can google: Red Bubble, St. Francis Coat of Arms T-shirt by the Kindly King. The sizes are: S, M, L, XL and 2XL. The cost is \$22.66 plus tax. We ordered brown and I should have them by the June gathering. For those who haven't ordered, but want one, please let me know. For those who did order one, I will be sending out an email with the amount you owe for your shirt; this can be paid back to the fraternity at the next gathering. These t-shirts are something that we will wear at regional events, outings, and all Franciscan Outreach projects that we do together. They will bring attention to "who" we are.

#### **Franciscan Outreach**

Thirdly, we have a Franciscan Outreach coordinator, Stephanie. She has already identified two areas of focus for our fraternity.

Journeys/the Road Home in Palatine, working to supply personal items for our increasing population of those who are homeless

Hopeful Beginnings, also in Palatine, which has a baby closet that provides clothing from newborn to toddler size 5 for boys and girls, as well as crib sheets, blankets, diapers, lotions and other necessities.

Stephanie will be working with the Council as we decide and plan the directions we want to take with these agencies and how best we, in the fraternity, can SERVE.

## **Tau Magazine**

Next, at our May gathering, some of the fraternity members said they are not receiving the Tau Magazine (which now comes out quarterly). Please let me know if you are no longer receiving it. Jerry has said that the Tau magazine is now available online.

## **Member Directory**

At our last last gathering, we handed out an updated/new fraternity directory. Please let me know if your information is not correct.

## **Mother Cabrini Celebration in November**

On Sunday, November 13th, the Regional Mother Cabrini Celebration will take place. Cluster 4 (of which our fraternity is a part) will host this event. So, I am asking that you circle this date on your calendar and plan to attend. I will be connecting with the ministers of Junipero Serra and Maximilian Kolbe fraternities to start planning/working for this event. In this case..."It takes a village" ...so please be available to work and enjoy the event.

## **News from our Mother Cabrini Region**

We are now 379 active professed members with 57 candidates, 20 fraternities, 1 emerging fraternity, and 1 newly forming group. We are growing! We are in need of 12 Spiritual Assistants for our fraternities and one is still needed at our Regional level.

There is still time to register for the "Q" this summer and there are scholarships funds available for those who want to go. Let me know if you are interested.

Our OFS News, the regional newsletter, will no longer be monthly online. Instead, we will all need to go to the website at: [ilsfo.org](http://ilsfo.org) and check for periodic updates and information from the region. We are also encouraged to send in pictures and articles from our fraternity regarding activities and projects that we have done and would like to share with the region.

The region has two Apostolates that we all support:

1. \$4,000 a year to aid the residents of Mayslake with dental/vision and hearing wellness programs.
2. At Queen of Heaven cemetery in Hillside, members visit and clean the stones of the Secular Franciscans buried there in Section 12 off Wolf Road. For \$3,380, this is an option for all of us to be buried there in this special section for Seculars. This includes the grave site, the headstone with the OFS St. Francis Coat of Arms, the liner and opening/closing of the grave.

That's just the highlights, my brothers and sisters. Yes, my head is spinning. If you have questions about any of the above, please contact me. Just trying to keep everyone informed.

And, in the end, please keep all of your fraternity brothers and sisters in your prayers...so many are struggling with issues. Let's pray for us all.

Peace and All Good.

Sue G, OFS

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## **Our Monthly Gathering**

Our monthly gathering will be on **Monday, June 13, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.** beginning in the **Chapel at Holy Family Parish in Inverness** with a **Communion Service**. This will be the delayed celebration of our members who made their professions last June: Mary Anita C., Suzanne R., Marion T., and RoseAnn Y. Because of COVID, the full celebration of profession with family and friends had to be postponed.

## Profession Anniversaries

This month we will celebrate the following profession anniversaries:

June 6	Tom S.	45 years professed
June 12	Faith P.	5 years professed
June 12	Kathy F	5 years professed
June 27	Mary Anita C.	1 year professed
June 27	Sue R.	1 year professed
June 27	Marion T.	1 year professed
June 27	RoseAnn Y.	1 year professed

Fifty-nine years of Franciscan living. Blessings in abundance!

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## And So We Pray...

### PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR JUNE

#### For families

We pray for Christian families around the world; may they embody and experience unconditional love and advance in holiness in their daily lives.

As Sue mentioned in From the Minister, many of our members, now are struggling with difficulties of all sorts. Let us not forget our shut-in sisters who have been dealing with many health issues that have denied them the blessings of being active members of the fraternity. Let us pray this month for all of our fraternity members and for their families that God have mercy on them and give them strength, courage and, most of all, peace of heart knowing that He is always at our side even when our lives seem the darkest.

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## The Newsletter on our Website

This monthly fraternity newsletter has been published exclusively on our website for the past two years since technology interfered with all members being able to open the document sent via email. The website address is: [nwfranciscans.org](http://nwfranciscans.org).

The website opens to the Home page. On this page is a photo of St. Francis with information on where our fraternity gathers, and a column called Latest News which supports the From the Minister message of each newsletter. *This is NOT the entire newsletter.*

In the brown border at the top of the webpage, there are four pages listed: Home, About Us, Contact, and Newsletter. *You must click on Newsletter* to read the current newsletter as well as every fraternity newsletter going back to January 2015.

Please know that our infirmarian does print out copies and send them to our shut-in sisters.

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# Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2022

<b>Monday, June 13</b>	One year Anniversary Celebration will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel at Holy Family Parish, Inverness with Communion Service.
<b>Monday, July 11</b>	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Day of Recollection</i>
<b>Sunday, July 24</b>	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:00 p.m.
<b>Monday, Aug. 8</b>	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Lectio Divina</i>
<b>Monday, Sept. 12</b>	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Liturgy of the Hours</i>
<b>Sunday, Sept. 25</b>	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:00 p.m.
<b>Monday, Oct. 10</b>	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Transitus</i>
<b>Monday, Nov. 14</b>	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Commemoration of deceased</i>
<b>Sunday, Nov. 27</b>	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:00 p.m.
<b>Monday, Dec. 12</b>	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Day of Recollection</i>

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## Council Members

<b>Minister</b>	Susan Gribbon, OFS	<i>minister@nwfranciscans.org</i>
<b>Vice Minister</b>	Tim Panzica, OFS	<i>viceminister@nwfranciscans.org</i>
<b>Formation Director</b>	Kay Crnich, OFS	<i>formation@nwfranciscans.org</i>
<b>Secretary</b>	Suzanne Rogers, OFS	<i>secretary@nwfranciscans.org</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kathy Fischer, OFS	<i>treasurer@nwfranciscans.org</i>
<b>Spiritual Assistant</b>	Jerry Stecker, OFS	<i>sa@nwfranciscans.org</i>
<b>Councilor-at-Large</b>	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.*

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## Hot Porridge and Holiness

One thing puzzled Francis all his life long and that was the seemingly great happiness of some publicly known sinners and the gloom that seemed to veil the faces of so many pious souls. There were men and women he knew in Assisi, who lived with an exuberance and carefree spirit that radiated enthusiasm for life, and they "sinned" with great exhilaration and abandon, never seeming to regret anything of the past and embracing the present with joy. Francis never believed that they were the sinners that people thought they were, and he was drawn to these simple celebrators of life. He could understand why Jesus had associated with sinners and publicans if they were anything like these men and women of Assisi. They were often more honest and more

basically good than some pious souls he knew. Perhaps there was a great chasm between piety and goodness. Piety, after all, was something mainly external and goodness was in the heart. Perhaps, too, joy and enthusiasm for life, like charity, absolved a multitude of sins.

He saw the distinction between piety and goodness manifested quite clearly in his brothers. The holiest of them were anything but pious. They joked and laughed and took life much less seriously than saints were supposed to. And Francis loved them for it. They saved the brotherhood from those melancholy personalities whose goodness he never questioned, but whose gloom cast a pall over some of the communities of brothers.

If only all the brothers could have a touch of Brother Juniper, the little clown of God. He was a perpetual tonic for Francis, especially during trying times or when he was beginning to take himself too seriously. Brother Juniper was entirely what Francis ever strove to be, a living symbol of the joy of loving God.

Nor was Juniper so naive as some thought him to be. True, he was guileless, but because of that he often could correct the brothers better than anyone else, for no one took offense at what he said. And correct them he did! Francis remembered one story very clearly, even though it was only repeated to him, and he did not actually witness the incident itself.

Brother Juniper had been staying with some brothers whose Brother Guardian was quite a stern though practical and competent superior. Juniper had that afternoon--during siesta yet--given a lavish alms to a beggar who appeared at the door of their hut. The Good Guardian reprimanded Brother Juniper for being so prodigal with the goods that had been begged with so much humility by this poor community of brothers.

In the middle of the night, the Brother Guardian felt a tugging at his tunic; and when he opened his bleary eyes, there was Brother Juniper beaming from ear to ear and offering the Guardian a big bowl of boiling porridge. The Brother Guardian was furious; but before he could utter a word, Juniper announced disarmingly, "Brother Guardian, I noticed that when you reprimanded me this afternoon, your voice was a bit hoarse. This porridge with the huge lump of butter I put into it will do wonders for your throat and chest." The guardian, who was anything but stupid, understood immediately what Juniper was doing, and he dismissed both him and the porridge as sternly as he could.

Juniper, a good match for this man, was not one to be put off that easily, so he said to the still drowsy but angry Guardian, "Well, Brother Guardian, if you won't eat this porridge, we certainly mustn't let it go to waste in a community as poor as this one! Would you mind very much holding this bowl, so *I* can eat the porridge?"

And with that Brother Juniper thrust the hot bowl into the fumbling hands of the startled Guardian and began to eat with enormous enthusiasm and noise. The Brother Guardian was so taken aback that he burst out laughing at the ludicrous position he had let himself get into. The two men ended up eating the porridge together and swapping stories about how serious some of the brothers were becoming.

Then Francis would begin running and hollering, jumping up and clicking his bare heels together while the poor novices stood open-mouthed and shocked at this silly performance from the "great" Father Francis, who had inspired them by his littleness of and fervor of soul to leave everything and follow the poor Christ of the Gospels. Those who burst out laughing and ran after Francis remained in the brotherhood.

*Francis, the journey and the dream*  
Murray Bodo, OFM

## ***Pax et Bonum!***