



Dear Brothers & Sisters

From the Minister

As stated in the Tau-USA, Celebrating the Rule, 1223-2023: "All members of the Franciscan Family profess a Rule that becomes a pattern of life and consists in observing the Gospel." As we celebrate the Later Rule, we are reminded that for Francis of Assisi, the nucleus of his Rule was the Gospel, as he stated in his Testament: "The Most High confirmed it Himself and revealed to me that I should live according to the pattern of Holy Gospel. And I had this written down simply and in a few words and the Lord Pope confirmed it for me." Having listened prayerfully to the words of Jesus Christ, Francis and his first brothers explained: 'This is what we want, this is what we are seeking.' And blessed Francis said: 'This will be our rule.' (The Anonymous of Perugia 11, FF 1497).

And thus we live: Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel.

My Brothers and Sisters...we are doing this and our actions are showing this:

In February, within days of the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria, our fraternity sent a donation of \$500 to Catholic Relief Services.

At our last fraternity gathering, we collected food and other items of need for JOURNEYS-The Road Home, and then some of us shelved the food there, two days later.

On Monday, February 27th, nine members of our fraternity worked at Feed My Starving Children in Schaumburg, helping to pack food for the neediest in our world.

And at our Regional Event, on March 11th in Mayslake, our fraternity will donate shampoo and other needed items to make up Welcome Bags for the Women and Children of Bethany House.

YOU are all amazing!

And so in March...we glide a little...a Regional event on March 11th, a fraternity retreat on Monday, March 13th, at the Bellarmine Retreat House...a time to learn, reflect and pray. A time to fill our cups, so to speak.

"Who is my neighbor?" Everyone...And our service to all is a good reflection of our living the rule.

Thank you!

Sue G. OFS

Our Monthly Gathering

We will gather on **Monday, March 13, 2023**, at the **Bellarmino Retreat Center, 420 County Line Road, Barrington** at **9:00 a.m.** for our Lenten retreat.

Live Simply so that Others Can Simply Live.

We Pray ...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR MARCH

For Victims of Abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

Franciscan Outreach

JOURNEYS/THE ROAD HOME

RoseAnn, the coordinator for **Journeys/The Road Home**, oversaw the collection of food and items needed by the homeless at our **February 13, 2023**, gathering. Fraternity members helped stock the shelves with the donated items at Journeys, two days later,

We will again collect items for Journeys at our August 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 August gathering. Contact **RoseAnn** for more information on Journeys.

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	

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

This ministry packs bags of nutritious grain for those living in the poorest and most destitute areas on our planet. Nine members of our fraternity packed bags on **Monday, February 27th**. Contact our **Minister Sue** for more information on our next time of service.

HOPEFUL BEGINNINGS - APRIL

Next month, at our April gathering, we will have our **Spring and Summer** clothing drive for Hopeful Beginnings. As your daughters and granddaughters, spring clean, ask them to give you the gently used or new baby and toddler clothing that your grandchildren have outgrown. As you shop sales or go garage saleing, pick up an outfit or two for these children who are most in need. Sizes from newborn to Toddler 5 are accepted. The most needed sizes are 3T, 4T, 5T, especially continued on next page)

little boys jeans and pants. They do have a way of wearing out the knees in all their exuberant play. These are the children of parents who chose to be prolife, often with great odds, and not have an abortion. They need our help. This is a classic case wherein we can "put our money where our mouth is". Contact Stephanie 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, Mar. 13	A Lenten Day of Reflection from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Bellarmino Retreat Center , 420 County Line Road, Barrington. Lunch provided.
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**, Mayslake Village, 1801 35th Street, Oakbrook, IL 60523

Calendar of Regional Gatherings continued:

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

This month we will celebrate the profession of our shut-in sister, **Dorothy B.** who has been professed for 49 years. Dorothy was professed on March 30, 1974.

This month, Dorothy begins her fiftieth year of living her vocation as a secular Franciscan through whatever trials and blessings God has sent her way.

Congratulations, Dorothy, on a life dedicated to following the way of St. Francis who followed the Way of the Cross. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Thoughts of St. Marianne Cope

St. Marianne Cope was born in Germany on January 23, 1838 and baptized Barbara Koob. The following year her family immigrated to Utica, New York, where the name was soon Anglicized to Cope. When she was in eighth grade, her father developed a disability; she left school to work in a textile factory to support her family. By the time her father died in 1862, the younger children were old enough to support themselves. Barbara felt free to pursue her long-felt religious calling. She joined the Sisters of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis in Syracuse, New York, where she received the name of Marianne upon profession.

She began religious life as a teacher of the many German immigrant children in New York. In the 1870's she founded two Catholic hospitals in central New York state.

By 1883, she was 45 years old and Superior General of the Congregation. She received a plea from King Kalahaua of Hawaii for help in caring for the lepers in Hawaii. More than fifty other religious communities had declined. St. Marianne responded with enthusiasm:

I am hungry for the work and I wish with all my heart to be one of the chosen Ones, whose privilege it will be, to sacrifice themselves for the salvation of the souls of the poor Islanders... I am not afraid of any disease, hence it would be my greatest delight even to minister to the abandoned 'lepers.'

She and five other sisters arrived in Hawaii on November 8, 1883. They worked in an overcrowded hospital for lepers in Honolulu. The administrator was highly abusive of the lepers. St. Marianne appealed to the government. Either a new administrator was appointed, or the sisters would return to New York. She was appointed administrator. Over the years she oversaw the establishment of homes for girls and children with leprosy on Moloka'i. In November 1888, she moved there from Honolulu to care for the dying Fr. Damien. When he died in April 1889, the government gave her charge of the boy's facilities as well. When four Brothers of the Sacred Heart arrived six years later, in 1895, she withdrew her sisters to the facilities for leprous women and girls. St. Marianne Cope died on August 9, 1918, of natural causes.

I do not think of reward; I am working for God and do so cheerfully. 1902

If we, with the help of God do our duty and work for His honor and glory, no one will interfere with us. 1887

My heart bled for the children and I was anxious and hungry to help put a little more sunshine into their dreary lives. 1889

Try to accept what God is pleased to give you no matter how bitter. 'God wills it' is the thought that will strengthen you and help you over the hard places if we wish to be true children of God. 1905

I am going to put hot coals on the minister's head by sending him a nice Easter cake.

I daily pray with a bleeding heart for the conversion of those who lost the way. May the Good Shepherd bring them back to the fold.

Let us make the very best use of the precious moments and do all in our power for His dear sake and for HIS GREATER HONOR AND GLORY. 1900

You will never be a leper. I know we are exposed but God has called us for this work. If we are prudent and do our duty, He will protect us.

Our own dear St. Francis, the saint who followed so closely our heavenly Spouse in deepest humility; he was ever ready to obey the simplest novice. How will our life compare to his? 1905

Be as careful as you can. But never neglect your duty and never forget that charity is the greatest of all virtues.

For Jesus' dear sake, take up your cross and follow Him on the thorny path His bloodstained feet have trod for you. Follow Him cheerfully and patiently even though it be in the performing of hospital duties. 1882

Our dear heavenly Mother Mary ... how little do our trials and sorrows appear when compared to her bitter sufferings. 1891

Creep down into the heart of Jesus; He alone can comfort you in your sorrow. 1904

Nothing is impossible. There are ways which lead to everything; and if we have sufficient will, we should always have sufficient means.

What little good we can do in this world to help and comfort the suffering, we wish to do it quietly and so far as possible unnoticed and unknown. 1888

I, too, sometimes look at the dark side, not long however. I think life is all too short to spend any part of it in worry and anxiety. 1887



St. Marianne Cope 1838-1918

“Blessed are you when you do not consider yourself any better when you receive praise by others than when you are considered ignorant and despised. That which you are before God, is what you are, and no more.”

*Writings of St. Francis of Assisi
Admonition 20*

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.