



## *Dear Brothers & Sisters*

### **From the Minister**

Greetings my Brothers and Sisters,

As we live and experience Lent 2024, we should be living in Hope and Renewal...a time of change for each of us to Grow and Be More like Christ...and like our St. Francis.

A very good friend of mine sent me a card with a quote from St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1583), a Spanish Carmelite and mystic.

*Christ has no body now on earth but yours,  
no hands but yours,  
no feet but yours.  
Yours are the eyes through which Christ's  
compassion is to look out to the world.  
Yours are the feet with which Christ is to go  
about doing good.  
Yours are the hands with which Christ  
is to bless all people now.*

For as our Pope Francis said in St. Anthony Messenger, February 2024, page 39 ..."Easter gives us a shift of focus, a way to let go of the darkness and embrace the light. Easter reminds us that the greatest sign of hope for the human race is Christ's resurrection from the dead. But at the heart of the story on Easter Sunday is the empty tomb. The stories of the appearances will come later, unfolding the mystery of the Resurrection...Our joy in the risen Christ calls us to a quiet love and service, wrapped in the awareness that our life in Christ needs no trumpet or pomp and earthly glory. We have a peace in our hearts that is stronger than death itself. All our hope lies in that promise."

And, so I end, in this Season of Lent with a challenge...To stay positive, to remain in service, to live in gratitude and thanksgiving and make mass and the Eucharist your start each day. We are what we eat.

Remember that our next gathering, March 11th, will be a Lenten retreat at the Bellarmine/Jesuit Retreat House, 420 W. County Line Road, Barrington, IL.

On Wednesday, March 27th, from 2:00 - 3:45 p.m., we will serve at Feed My Starving Children. Currently, we have Jerry, Rose Ann, Patti and myself signed up. More are welcome. Just let me know.

Also, we have a sign up for the Cabrini movie on March 8th. It shows in Elk Grove at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., and at the Streets of Woodfield at 12:30 p.m....we could do lunch or coffee after (social time). Please let me know if you are interested.

And lastly, please keep our shut-in, Dorothy Burroughs in your prayers. She currently in in hospice. She was professed in 1974 and tells us that she is ready to go home.

Peace and all good my Franciscan family.

Sue G., OFS

## Our Monthly Gathering

We will gather on **Monday, March 11, 2024** at the **Bellarmino Retreat Center**, 420 W. County Line Road, Barrington, IL for our annual retreat from **9:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

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## Profession Anniversaries

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

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## We Pray ...

### PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR MARCH

#### For New Martyrs

Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive.

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## 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 **March 27th** 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.

### 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,

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**Hopeful Beginnings continued:**

**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.

**JOURNEYS/THE ROAD HOME**

We will again collect items for Journeys/the Road Home 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 **Sister RoseAnn** for more information on Journeys.

**Most needed items:**

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

**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.

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*Live Simply so That Others may Simply Live.*

## Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2024

- 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 - Communion Service*.
- 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. *Crown Rosary*.
- 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.
- 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.

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- 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.

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## 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.

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## Council Members

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