



Dear Brothers & Sisters

From the Minister

Greetings my Brothers and Sisters. I am so happy with the activity and service in which our fraternity has been active.

On Saturday, September 10th, ten members of our fraternity attended the Leadership Study Day in Mayslake. And then we topped it off with our fraternity meeting on the 12th.

Our October Franciscan Outreach project will be Hopeful Beginnings, helping to replenish their baby closet. Remember, too, that if any member is interested in volunteering there, let Stephanie know, as she has applications.

I also have flyers from St. Padre Pio Fraternity to join a pen pal group, reaching out to incarcerated women and men to foster positive communication...this would be fulfilling a corporal work of mercy. If you are interested, please let me know.

In November, we will collect items for and contribute 3 Thanksgiving baskets of food for the Palatine Township.

"As Franciscans of the third millennium, we in the OFS do indeed have an important task. We are seeking to continue the work of our Order begun by Francis. To live a conversion-based, Gospel-centered life, bringing Franciscan values to bear in our contemporary setting. We **MUST** answer the call in our times to 'rebuild my church' as Franciscans before us have and as Franciscans who follow after us will do."

The above statement comes from our Handbook for Secular Franciscan Leadership. Whatever we do to the least of our neighbors, we do to Him. I love the direction our fraternity is taking...one of action, service and growth. Thank you.

Peace and ALL good to you all.

Sue G. OFS

Our Monthly Gathering

We will gather on **Monday, October 10, 2022**, in the Library at **Holy Family Parish in Inverness** at **6:30 p.m.** for formation. Our Liturgy will be a remembrance of the Transitus of St. Francis. Social time will begin **afterward**. Please consider bringing a snack to share.

And So We Pray ...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR OCTOBER

For a Church open to everyone

We pray for the Church; ever faithful to, and courageous in preaching the Gospel, may the Church be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of solidarity.

Franciscan Outreach

HOPEFUL BEGINNINGS - October

At our fraternity gathering on October 10th, we will collect all the donations of clothing and other baby items for the Baby Closet. It is important that all items be brought on that day as the donations will be delivered to Hopeful Beginnings the following day. *If you have donations and cannot attend on the gathering on October 10, please give your items to another fraternity member who can bring them to the gathering. Or drop them off at Stephanie's home BEFORE October 10.*

Several members will also be donating Christmas gifts for the children who might otherwise not receive any gifts.

The fraternity elected to take \$300 from the Common Fund and use it to buy baby formula. Every baby needs formula which has become very difficult to obtain due to shortages. It is also being rationed.

PALATINE TOWNSHIP - THANKSGIVING BASKETS

The fraternity has been signed up for the donation of three (3) Thanksgiving baskets to the Palatine Township for needy families. The signup list for the donation of items will be filled out at the October gathering. The items **MUST** be brought to the November gathering. The baskets will be delivered to the Township offices the following day.

For the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi - October 4th

The Lepers

The hospital for the lepers of the commune of Assisi stood near the castle of Arce. As were all the old leper hospitals, it was dedicated to St. Lazarus, the Biblical beggar covered with sores. Only in the fourteenth century, when devotion to St. Mary Magdalen became widespread, was it given the name of the woman who suffered from leprosy of the soul: Mary of Magdala.

There is nothing left of the old hospital today but the chapel with its façade of rough-cut stones and a little bell tower rising over it. (It is about a kilometer from the Assisi train station at Santa Maria degle Angeli wherein is the basilica that houses the Portiuncula.) The church is lonely, the countryside around it is silent. But in the evening, when the bell begins to ring in the darkening air, all comes to life again, real enough to shake the heart. The very walls, bare as in the days of the long-vanished hospital, repeat the ancient rite.

The leper lived hidden until someone reported him. We see him torn away from his house, brutally taken off to his new destiny. Then he is here, in the church, terrified and embittered as a wild beast caught in a trap from which there is no escape. He is on his knees in front of the altar for the sacred rite that will solemnly proclaim his separation from human society.

All the candles are lit. In the shadows, some objects can be dimly seen on a table at the side of the sacristy door. The church is comfortably filled with people--devout, curious, pious. The bell rings. The priest comes out in surplice and stole, preceded by clerics carrying the cross. He goes up the steps of the altar, turns, and with the same gesture he uses at funerals, sprinkles with holy water the one who is about to die to the world. Then he delivers his admonition.

"My brother, dear poor little man of good God, by means of great sadness and tribulation, of sickness, of leprosy, and of many other miseries, one gains the kingdom of heaven, where there is no sickness or sorrow, and all is pure and white, without stain, more brilliant than the sun. You will go there, if it pleases God. In the meantime, be a good Christian, bear with patience this adversity, and God will be merciful to you."

The terrible words fall into a silence as profound as the silence of a cemetery. The living corpse bends still lower to the ground. He seems to be looking for his grave.

"My brother, the separation has to do only with your body. As for the spirit, which is more important, you are still, as you were before, a participant in the prayers of our Holy Mother Church, as if every day you were assisting in the Divine Offices. Charitable men will provide for your lesser needs, and God will never abandon you. Take care of yourself and have patience. God is with you. Amen"

From the hands of the acolyte the celebrant takes a handful of black earth brought from the nearby cemetery; he sprinkles it on the head of the sick man.

"Die to the world, be born again in God. O Jesus my Redeemer, who made me of earth and clothes me with a body, make me to rise again in the new day."

The people respond, "My bones tremble, my soul loses its way. Alleluia. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Keep us from evil."

The Gospel is read. It is the story of the ten lepers, the one that begins: "As Jesus was entering a village he was met by ten men with leprosy. They stood some way off and called out to him, 'Jesus, Master, take pity on us.'"

Then it is time for the inexorable instructions:

"My brother, take this cloak and put it on in a sign of humility and never leave here without it. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

The tunic, made of *gattinello* (a poor and coarse cloth made primarily of cotton with some wool), is full and long, as the statutes prescribe. Reluctantly, the leper puts it on. It is the ominous uniform that will make everyone he meets flee from him.

"Take this little flask. Put in it what will be given you to drink, and under penalty of disobedience I forbid you to drink from the rivers, from the springs, from the wells.

"Take these gloves. You are forbidden to touch anything that is not yours with your bare hands.

"If, while walking about, you should meet someone who wishes to talk to you, I forbid you to reply before you put yourself against the wind.

"You are forbidden to be with any woman who is not of your family. You are forbidden to touch young people or to offer them anything. And from eating from anything but your own leper's bowl. And from entering churches or rectories, and from going to fairs, to mills, and to markets. And from walking through narrow streets where those who meet you cannot avoid you.'

At last, he is given the wooden clapper, the kind sounded in Holy Week.

"Take this *tentennella*; carry it always with you. Sound it to warn others of your presence."

A cortège forms as if the body is to be accompanied to a cemetery, the cross in front, then

the clerics, the priest, the leper, the faithful. The *tentennella*, shaken by the leper, fills the air with its dismal, clear sound. The flames of the candles throw light along the long corridors and narrow passages, on the high columns. The procession seems to be passing through a walled cemetery, amid deathlike odors of dampness and decay.

The cell is ready. A wooden cross is on the door. Inside are a low, mean bed, like a bier, a table, a chair, an old lamp, a strong box. An attendant hands the newcomer sandals, a camel skin hood, an earthenware pot, a beechwood bowl, a copper jug, a belt, a knife. Everything else the leper owns will go to the hospital of the commune.

Now he is required to make the proper response:

"Here is my perpetual resting place. Here I shall live. This is my vow."

Before the door is a stump for the collection of alms. First the priest puts an offering there; then the other faithful follow his example.

Then the cortège, without the leper, who is left to his seclusion, returns to the church. Again, the chant of the priest rises:

"Omnipotent God, who throws down the pride of the ancient enemy through the sufferings of your only Son, give to your servant the necessary strength to bear with devotion and patience the evil that oppresses him."

The people respond: "Amen."

Francis of Assisi

Arnaldo Fortini 1959

translated by Helen Moak 1980

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2022

Monday, Oct. 10	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Transitus</i>
Sunday, Oct. 23	Council meeting, minister's home at 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 13	Mother Cabrini Regional celebration
Monday, Nov. 14	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Commemoration of deceased</i>
Sunday, Nov. 20	Council meeting, minister's home at 2:00 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 12	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Communion Service</i>
Sunday, Dec. 18	Council meeting, minister's home at 2:00 p.m.

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.