



Dear Brothers & Sisters

Secular Franciscan Fraternity

We gather at **7:30 p.m** on the **second Monday** of each month at:

St. Joseph's Home
80 W. Northwest Hwy.
Palatine, IL

Council Members

Minister

Stephanie Heavey, OFS
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Vice-Minister

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Jackie Leo, OFS
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Secretary

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Treasurer

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Spiritual Assistant

Jerry Stecker, OFS
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Councilor-at-Large

Kay Crnich, OFS

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

At our gathering this month we will pray the Franciscan Crown Rosary (or Seraphic Rosary) which consists of seven decades. In the Franciscan tradition of Joy, each decade celebrates one of the Joys in the life of Mary, our Mother.

They are: the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Nativity, the Visitation of the Magi, the Finding of Jesus in the Temple, the Resurrection of Jesus and the Assumption of Mary into heaven.

According to the Franciscan historian, Fr. Luke Wadding (1588-1657) the origin of the Franciscan Crown dates back to the year 1422. In that year, Mary appeared to a Franciscan novice named James.

Every day, beginning in his childhood, James would offer to the Virgin Mary a crown of roses. When he became a novice with the Friars Minor in Assisi, he was very distressed to learn that he could no longer offer this daily gift. Mary appeared to him to comfort him. She told James that there was another offering he could make. Every day he could pray seven decades of Hail Marys. During each decade, he could think about one of the great joys which she had experienced during her life.

Through the years the Crown Rosary has been granted many indulgences. There has also been added the custom of praying two additional Hail Marys at the end of the rosary. This brings the total of Hail Marys to seventy-two which tradition states was the age of Mary when she died and her body was assumed into heaven. ☒

Our Monthly Gathering...

Our next fraternity gathering is on Monday, May 6, 2019. All professed and candidates will gather at 6:30 p.m. in the library for formation. Read Chapter 5 in *Waiting for Love* and reflect on the questions for discussion at the gathering.

At 7:30 p.m. all members of the fraternity will meet in the chapel to pray the Crown Rosary in honor of our Patroness, Mary. If you have a crown rosary, please bring it with.

There will be a brief business meeting after which all will gather in the ice cream parlor for social time . ☒

Anniversaries

Four members of our fraternity are celebrating the anniversaries of their profession this month. In particular, we congratulate our **Sister Lea**, who has honored her profession commitment for **35 Years**. You inspire us!

May 6, 1984 Lea
May 8, 2006 Susan
May 13, 2013 Geri
 Kay

God's blessings be yours for all your faithful service to Him as secular Franciscans.

Member Directory – S.O.S.

A copy of the Member Directory was sent to all professed and candidates **by email only** together with the April newsletter.

Please take a minute to be sure that your information is accurate. **If you haven't already done so, let the minister know that all is OK.**

An updated Member Directory will be completed in June and will be available not only as a digital document but also as a print copy for those who do not have print capabilities. ☒

Common Fund – April 2019

Beginning balance	\$2250.44
Deposits	170.00
Expenses	0.00
Balance	\$2420.44

Thank you for your continued support of the fraternity. In the coming months, there will be expenses for our Evening of Reflection in July and for an upcoming Profession in August. ☒

And So We Pray...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR MAY

Evangelization: The Church in Africa, a Seed of Unity

That the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent.

Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all mothers that they may follow the example of our heavenly Mother, whom we honor this month,

For all those who are graduating from schools at all levels, that they may follow the example of Mary's Son, Jesus, and use their knowledge to serve others,

For all who have given their lives in service to our country, that we might enjoy the hard earned fruits of freedom,

WE PRAY FOR THOSE NEAR AND DEAR

[PRIVATE]

For all of our **shut-in sisters**, that the health issues that keep them separated from us will be attended to with compassion and love, we pray to the Lord,

For all the **residents of St. Joseph's Home** and for the **Little Sisters of the Poor**, who lovingly welcome us into their home each month, we pray to the Lord,

For our **homeless brothers and sisters** who are served by Franciscan Outreach, we pray to the Lord,

For all those who are served by **the members of our fraternity** in the many capacities in which we participate, we pray to the Lord,



Our Call to be a Secular Franciscan

This month we continue our stories of the path that led us to recognizing our call to become secular Franciscans. This is the story of Sue , who will celebrate the 13th Anniversary of her profession this month.

This is my vocation story...but it involves another Secular Franciscan, my friend and sister in fraternity, Jackie. Jackie and I go way back to Bible Study classes at St. Theresa's in Palatine when our children were younger (mine are now 44 and 42). It was probably in the late 1990's Jackie started talking to me about being a Secular Franciscan, but my life was busy and I was involved in "other things".

In 2003, after Mass one Sunday, Jackie handed me a book about St. Francis and just said, "I think you'll like this book." I read it and wanted more. She then told me that there would be an open house at St. Joseph's Home and to come and meet the Secular Franciscans and learn more about them.

I talked to my lady friends after Mass to see if any of them might be interested in going to the open house. Six of us went to the open house.

After the meeting the six of us went to Baker's Square and talked and talked. I asked if any of them felt like going back for more meetings. They all bailed out.

Everything I had read and experienced about the Franciscan charism felt "right". This is what I wanted and so I continued. I went through formation with three other persons.

On May 8, 2006, three of us made our profession. My three friends were there at my profession.

Now that I look back, St. Francis has been a part of my life for a long while. When I went away to college, I ended up at Quincy College (now Quincy University), a Franciscan school. When I married, John's parents gave me a statue of St. Francis that had belonged to John's grandmother. These were times, places and things that I treasured.

I am thankful that Jackie didn't give up on me and that St. Francis and the Holy Spirit kept knocking on my door.

I love my journey...I remain half baked. Our fraternity and region are my family.

This Franciscan journey is awesome. It continues to challenge and enrich my life.

Sister Susan, OFS

Seeing God in Creation

God brought things into being in order that God's goodness might be communicated to creatures, and be represented by them; and because that goodness could not be adequately represented by one creature alone, God produced many and diverse creatures, that what was wanting to one in the representation of the divine goodness might be supplied by another. For goodness, which in God is simple and uniform, in creatures is manifold and divided. —Thomas Aquinas [1]

Let us enjoy the diversity of our brothers and sisters in fraternity.

Our Apostolates

Bringing the Gospel to Life, and Life to the Gospel in the spirit of St. Francis

BINGO. Meets one night per month at 6:30 pm in St. Joseph's activity room. Please pick one month in which to volunteer. Contact Sisters Kay OFS, or Mary Kay, OFS, to sign up.

FRANCISCAN OUTREACH. This is a year round project. With the closing of the Marquard Center in Chicago, the fraternity will work with Our Lady of the Angels Mission, a Franciscan mission on Chicago's near west side. Sister Geri, OFS, will coordinate this ministry and determine the ways in which we can be of service. Contact Sister Geri, OFS.

PRAYER & PRAISE MINISTRY. For our brothers and sisters unable to participate in our monthly gatherings due to poor health or transportation issues. For more information, or if you are ill or know of a member who is ill, please call our infirmarian, Sister Kay, OFS.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY. We interweave prayers along with God's love, care, and warmth into the stitches as we knit or crochet shawls for others. For more information, contact Sisters Sue, OFS, or Cyndy, OFS.

SUPPORT (Money, Materials). Quarterly donations are taken from any excess funds that are available in our Common Fund *after* all the fraternity obligations are met. The donations are given to: Franciscan Missionary Union, Franciscan Outreach, Poor Clares (Palos Park, IL).

YOUTH PRAYER PARTNERS. Coordinated by Brother Tom, OFS, this apostolate matches up fraternity members with young people who are preparing for First Communion or Confirmation. For more information, please call Brother Tom.

2019 Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, all events are at St. Joseph's Home.

January

~~14: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)~~

February

~~11: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours)~~

~~25: Council meeting, Sue's home~~

March

~~11: Monthly Gathering (Stations of the Cross)~~

April

~~08: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)~~

~~22: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home~~

May

13: Monthly Gathering (Crown Rosary)

21: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

June

10: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)

24: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

July

08: Fraternity Evening of Recollection

Please note change of venue. We will gather at St. Joseph's in the Library as usual. See June newsletter for details.

August

12: Profession Mass at St. Joseph's

26: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

September

09: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours)

October

03: Transitus of our Holy Father Francis

14: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)

28: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

November

11: Monthly Gathering (Mass – with Rite of Remembrance)

December

10: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)

TBD: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

SAVE THE DATE! AUGUST 3, 2019

Sr. Madge SSJ-TOSF, will be Guest Speaker at the Portiuncula Gathering at Mayslake. A day not to be missed.