



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

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Councilor-at-Large

Kay Crnich, OFS

A beautiful blue sky highlighting the sun. Vibrant greenery forming a verdant backdrop for fresh floral blooms in every shape and size and color. Weather warm enough to forego the heavy jacket. All these were the gifts of the Good God on June 10th as we welcomed three Aspirants into the fullness of the entire Franciscan family. In a joyful ritual, **Mary Anita, Suzanne** and **RoseAnne** each expressed their desire to become Candidates in the Secular Franciscan Order and were received into the Franciscan family. During the period of Candidacy, they will become more familiar with our Holy Father Francis, the SFO Rule, and life in fraternity. During this time they will discern whether or not they are called to profession, the act of professing to live in fraternity as a Secular Franciscan for the rest of their lives. **Mary Anita, Suzanne** and **RoseAnne**, the fraternity congratulates you on your decisions to become candidates and will help you in every way to achieve your goal of profession. ☒

Our Monthly Gathering...

Our next fraternity gathering is on Monday, July 8, 2019. All professed and candidates will gather at **6:00 p.m.** in the library. This is our annual **Evening of Reflection**. Please note the earlier starting time. It is understood that those who do work may not be able to arrive by 6:00 p.m. Come as soon as you possibly can.

The evening will begin **promptly at 6:00 p.m.** with Reflections and Discussion of the Aposolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exultate*” by Pope Francis. ‘Rejoice and be Glad’ is the Pope’s call to holiness.

At 7:30 p.m., we will gather in the chapel for a Communion Service.

Afterward, we will share hospitality **which will be provided by the fraternity Council.**

On this evening, we ask that you arrive empty handed, **bring nothing except for your copies of the Rule and the General Constitutions of the OFS.** (continued on page 2)

Our Monthly Gathering continued...

Our Spiritual Assistant, Jerry, OFS, will be leading us in this evening of reflection.

LISTED BELOW ARE QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Are we as seculars called to holiness? What articles in the Constitution or part of the rule calls us to this? Explain.
2. How do we live our commitment of faith each day? According to which rule or article in the Constitution do we see this explored? Explain.
3. What part does Baptism play in our calling as seculars? Which article or part of the rule shows us? Explain.
4. What part does conversion play in our vocation? How is this shown in the rule or article of the constitution? Explain.
5. What part does prayer play in our lives as seculars? What article or part of the rule speaks to this? Explain.
6. Do seculars show any special concern for the beatitudes? How do we do this? What articles or parts of the rule speak to this? Explain.

These questions are meant to complement the Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exultate* by Pope Francis. "Rejoice and Be Glad," the Pope's call to holiness. Jerry will be sharing parts of the message in this document with the hope that we see our Franciscan vocation in this message. The questions are a way for us to explore where in our rule and constitutions we see this message in our lives.

We see our spirituality of communion that implies also the ability to see what is positive in others, to welcome it and prize it as a gift from God. We are called in the special way to "fraternal communion" in order to support our brothers and sisters in living the Gospel and also to become a sign of Christ's presence in the world. ☒

Portiuncula Gathering Aug 3rd

The Annual Celebration of the Feast of the Portiuncula will be held at Mayslake on August 3rd. This is a regional celebration that all fraternity members are expected to attend.

This year the guest speaker will be **Sister Madge, SSJ-TOSF**, who inspired us with her words of wisdom and humor at our evening of reflection last year.

A copy of the information on the gathering has been included with the OSF newsletter. There will be a signup sheet at the July 8th gathering. ☒

Anniversaries

God's Abundant Blessings on **Sister Jackie** who celebrates her 20th anniversary of profession on July 11th. She was professed in 1999.

Name Badges and Sign Out/In

Our secretary, **Brother Tim, OFS**, has made new name badges for all professed and for all candidates. The badges will be distributed at the July 8th gathering.

In the past there have been many badges that have "gone missing". Brother Tim has created a system for keeping track of the badges. The new procedure is:

At each monthly gathering, when a member signs in, he or she will also put their initials on the sign-in sheet in the first column under *Badges Sign Out* and pick up their badge. Before leaving the gathering, the member will return the badge and put his or her initials in the column under *Badges Sign In*.

Common Fund – June 2019

Beginning balance	\$2572.44
Deposits	300.00
Expenses	150.00
Balance	\$2722.44

And So We Pray...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR JULY

Universal: The Integrity of Justice

That those who administer justice may work with integrity, and that the injustice which prevails in the world may not have the last word.

Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all the candidates who are seeking to secure the nomination for President of the United States in 2020, that they may heed Pope Francis' plea and work justly for all peoples,

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 our Brother Deacon Lou.

About 35 years ago a friend of mine gave me a book as a birthday present. The book was a biography of St. Francis of Assisi. I didn't realize at the time that this was the beginning of a journey, guided by the Holy Spirit.

I continued reading books about St Francis and I was continually moved by his commitment to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. In 1992 I started my Diaconate formation process, which I believe was inspired by being mentored by St. Francis' journey. Formation started at Mundelein Seminary for two years and then 2 years at Trinity High School. During my two years at SML I met Patrick, OFS, who was there in formation for the "Called and Gifted" program. Needless to say my conversations with Patrick led to his evangelizing me to become a Third Order Franciscan which he was very excited about and wanted to share his story with me. It was interesting for me to hear his sharing as it peaked my experience reading about St. Francis over the past several years.

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Being in the middle of my Diaconate formation I had to stay focused on that and put my interest in St. Francis on the back burner even though I kept reading about him. I believe reading about "Deacon" St. Francis during this time inspired me to follow in the footprints of Jesus as Francis did.

After my Diaconate Ordination in 1996 I was focused on my duties and ministries as a deacon, but kept reading about St. Francis and deep down desired to live a life following the Gospel message.

Fast forward to 2006 when in God's time I was led to an information night at St. Joseph's Home where the Northwest Franciscan Community of the Immaculate Heart of Mary held their monthly meetings. To my surprise one of the first persons I met was Patrick and his words to me were, "What took you so long?"

Ten years after Patrick shared his story with me, the Holy Spirit led me into the next chapter of my life as a Catholic Christian.

After the discernment process, I applied to become a Candidate, and that started my 3 years of formation to be Professed in January 2010.

As a Secular Franciscan, I try to live the "Rule" and contribute to the Fraternity as the Holy Spirit leads. Going forward is a mystery until God unfolds His plan for my life as a Deacon in His church and as a Professed Secular Franciscan.

Pax et Bonum,
Deacon Lou, OFS

Profession – August 12, 2019

On Monday, August 12, 2019, we will celebrate the profession of our **Candidate Gail** who is choosing to live the remainder of her life as a Secular Franciscan. As is our custom, Gail's guests will be treated to Franciscan hospitality. There will be a sign-up sheet at the July 8th gathering for members to let the hospitality committee know what they will bring. Finger foods – appetizers, small sandwiches, fruit, cookies, are always best.

Dear Brothers & Sisters www.nwfranciscans.org

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 Gribbon'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 (Communion Service)

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

09: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)

TBD: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home