



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
minister@nwfranciscans.org

Vice-Minister

Sue Gribbon, OFS
viceminister@nwfranciscans.org

Formation Director

Jackie Leo, OFS
formation@nwfranciscans.org

Secretary

Tim Panzica, OFS
secretary@nwfranciscans.org

Treasurer

Kathy Fischer, OFS
treasurer@nwfranciscans.org

Spiritual Assistant

Jerry Stecker, OFS
sa@nwfranciscans.org

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.

For the first time in three months, the council members of our fraternity met face to face on June 22nd to collectively breathe life into our fraternity forced into dormancy by COVID-19.

During this most fruitful meeting, the council members discussed several issues affecting the fraternity and made decisions. There are several **must read** items in this newsletter that describe the issues and the decisions that were made.

Our Monthly Gathering...

In July, we will meet for our monthly gathering. The details are below. ***The DAY and TIME and VENUE have changed.***

VENUE	Home of our Spiritual Assistant, Brother Jerry
DATE	Sunday, July 5, 2020
TIME	2:00 p.m.

All fraternity members are asked to bring their own beverage AND a lawn chair. We will NOT have any other hospitality. We will follow safe distancing practices. The wearing of masks will be up to the individual fraternity member. ***Weather permitting this will be an outside gathering. In the event of rain, the gathering will be held in Jerry's garage which is quite spacious.***

Our formation at this gathering will continue with Chapter 13 in *Waiting for Love*. Please be prepared to share your thoughts on the content and to discuss the questions at the end of the chapter. Our **Liturgy** will be the Liturgy of the Hours. Bring your liturgy books. We will also learn the name of our Secret Prayer Partner, who has been praying for us throughout the month of June. ☒

Anniversaries

July 11, 1999 Sister Jackie

God's abundant Blessings be Yours, Jackie!

And So We Pray...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR JULY

Our Families

We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.

PRAYER DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

O clement, O loving, O sweet Mother Mary,
 We, your children of every nation,
 Turn to you in this pandemic.
 Our troubles are numerous; our fears are great.
 Grant that we might deposit them at your feet,
 Take refuge in your Immaculate Heart,
 And obtain peace, healing, rescue,
 And timely help in all our needs.
 You are our Mother.
 Pray for us to your Son.
 Amen

Morning Offering, The Catholic Company

LET US PRAY

Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For **all parents** as they adapt their parenting practices to the needs of the pandemic, we pray to the Lord,

For all **young adults**, that they will recognize that their actions have consequences and temper their enthusiasm for socialization during this time of contagion, we pray to the Lord,

For **children**, that they will be able to understand to the best of their individual abilities the reasons for the changes in their lives to we pray to the Lord,

For **the gift of fraternal love** that recognizes that *every person in the world* is one of God's beloved children and, therefore, our brother or sister, we pray to the Lord,

For the **Little Sisters of the Poor** and the **residents of St. Joseph's**, that their needs be met and their health sustained, we pray to the Lord,

For **all those who have no one to pray for them**, we pray to the Lord, ☩

Franciscan Outreach Project

IMPORTANT!

ALL items for the second Welcome Kit for Franciscan Outreach should be brought to the July gathering at Brother Jerry's home. We will pack the storage bins with the items. Sisters Sue and Kay have graciously volunteered to take the donation down to Franciscan Outreach in the city.

If you cannot attend the July gathering, it is IMPORTANT that you give your items to another fraternity member who can bring them to the gathering.

It has been many months since most of us purchased our donations. If you are unsure what you are donating, contact Sister Faith. She has the Master List of donations. ☩

Future Monthly Gatherings

First and foremost, at the recent council meeting the location of our future fraternity gatherings was discussed.

For many years, St. Joseph's Home has been our fraternity's home. We have been so graciously welcomed by the Little Sisters of the Poor and by the residents. Hopefully, we will be able to continue this relationship in the future.

However, at the present time, the health and well-being of the residents, sisters and care givers is paramount and visitors are restricted. Since COVID-19 will still be part of life for a while, it is unlikely that we will be able to gather at St. Joseph's this fall.

The August fraternity gathering will be held at the minister's home. Please see the Revised Calendar for the date and time.

Meanwhile, council members are looking into the possibility of fall gatherings at various locations. We would appreciate your thoughts and suggestions. ☩

Fraternity Hospitality

As part of the council's discussion of future gathering sites, we also discussed hospitality. It was unanimous that one fraternity member should *not* be responsible for hospitality every month.

During our July and August gatherings, which will be outside, we are asking all members to bring their own beverage of choice and a lawn chair. We will not share food items.

Our future venue(s) will determine what is possible for hospitality. ☒

Amazon Relief Project

Amazon Relief is a nonprofit charitable organization that has been wholeheartedly approved by the National Ministers of the OFS since 1991. This includes our Brother Patrick who was National Minister. The organization does not use donations for salaries or other expenses. All donations go toward helping the people who live in the Amazon.

About 64% of the people who live in the Amazon are Catholic. They are good people who have been baptized and married in the Church. Yet many have had little ongoing faith formation. They live in communities that are accessible only by boat, and only accessible at certain times of the year (the high water season). At the same time there are too few priests and too large an area for the priests to regularly serve all the communities.

This past year Amazon Relief has been working with the Archbishop of Amazonas, the Institute of Theology in the Amazon, and other bishops and priests to use technology to provide regular spiritual formation in remote areas of the jungle where priests are rarely present.

In November 2019 Amazon Relief installed large screen (55") Smart TVs in the chapels of six "priestless" communities. At the same time the Archbishop trained lay leaders in each of the communities to lead Sunday Liturgy of the Word services, with Sunday readings, prayers

and music. Homilies of 15-30 minutes duration were prepared and pre-recorded and put onto memory sticks for viewing as part of the Sunday liturgy.

The initial six communities were considered "test" communities from Advent 2019 through Easter 2020. Amazon Relief wanted to be sure that the Smart TVs could be easily seen and heard and that the parishioners were responding well to this means of prayer and religious formation.

The results have been amazing. There were no technological problems and the response of the people to the liturgies and homilies is very, very positive.

The Archbishop of another diocese has asked to have these installations in his diocese. Amazon Relief has a goal to install the TVs and begin Liturgy of the Word services in 200 additional communities.

Priests (Franciscans, of course!) are preparing Bible Studies for use on the televisions. The Augustine Institute in Denver will convert some programs into Portuguese (the native language of Brazil) for adult education and sacramental preparation.

The cost of purchasing and installing a TV and preparing and providing the homilies is about \$1,000 per community. There is a donor who is willing to match dollar-for-dollar all donations that are made for this project.

The council unanimously agreed that this was an excellent way to provide for the spiritual welfare of people we will never meet, but who are our brothers and sisters. A donation of \$300 has been sent to Amazon Relief from our fraternity. For more Info: amazonrelief.org ☒

MONEY says: "Earn me, forget everything!"

TIME says: "Follow me, forget everything!"

FUTURE says: "Struggle for me, forget everything!"

GOD simply says: "Just remember me! I'll give you everything!"

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 or Mary Kay to sign up.

FRANCISCAN OUTREACH. This is a year round project. Welcome Kits with necessities for kitchen, bed and bath are needed for every person transitioning from homelessness to an apartment. We will buy the items needed and fill kits throughout the year. For more information, contact Sister Faith.

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.

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 B. or Cyndy.

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 Outreach, Poor Clares (Palos Park, IL).

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

***Bringing the Gospel to Life
and
Life to the Gospel.***

2020 Calendar

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

January

~~13: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)~~

February

~~10: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours)~~

March

~~02: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home~~

~~09: Monthly Gathering (Stations of the Cross)~~

April

~~13: Monthly Gathering (cancelled)~~

~~27: Council Meeting via email~~

May

~~11: Vocation Day (cancelled)~~

~~VOCATION DAY WILL BE RESCHEDULED~~

June

~~08: Monthly Gathering (cancelled)~~

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

July

05: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours) Brother Jerry's home

August

02: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours) Minister's home

23: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

September

14: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours)

October

12: Monthly Gathering (Crown Rosary)

26: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

November

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

December

14: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)

TBD: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home
