



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.

On Sunday, August 2nd, the Feast of the Portiuncula, we gathered once again in the side yard of our Spiritual Assistant Brother Jerry. Ominous gray skies poured the proverbial buckets of rain to the east, to the north and to the south. Some of it washed the cars of a few members as they drove toward our gathering. None of the rain touched the ground where we sat. Amazing grace ! ☩

Our Monthly Gathering...

In September we will gather again in Brother Jerry's side yard for our monthly meeting. So far the weather predictions are good – in the 70's with no precipitation forecast.

Please remember to bring a lawn chair and your beverage of choice.

Date: Sunday, September 20, 2020

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Brother Jerry's yard

The day before the August Council meeting, Brother Jerry took part in a ZOOM conference with 96 OFS spiritual assistants from all over the country. He will enthusiastically share with you (as he did with us) all the workings of the Holy Spirit that have and will become part of Formation for the professed as well as those who are discerning their vocation.

We will pray the Liturgy of the Hours as a fraternity. Please bring your prayer book or iPad or phone app, so that all can participate in this communal prayer. ☩

Anniversaries...

There are no specific anniversaries for the month of September.

***God bless us as we strive to live our commitment
as secular Franciscans each and every day.***

And So We Pray...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

Respect for the Planet's Resources

We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner. ☩

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 our **Sister Bonnie**, that our Lord will bless her patient endurance and grant her respite from pain and suffering, we pray to the Lord,
For **the natural treasures of earth which are limited in supply**, that we will use them wisely and share them with all those who live on this planet, we pray to the Lord,

For **patience** to sustain us during this time of separation from our families, friends, jobs and activities which we enjoyed, we pray to the Lord,

For **honesty and clarity of vision** as we look at ourselves and our thoughts and actions that contribute to racial injustice and prejudice, 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 **all those who have no one to pray for them**, we pray to the Lord, ☩

Dear Brothers & Sisters www.nwfranciscans.org

Greeting Card Ministry

A ministry to keep in touch with all members of the fraternity on a regular basis is being embraced by our Candidate Marion who has graciously volunteered her time. This ministry has been a wish for a long time. Thank you, Marion.

At our gathering on Sunday, September 20, we are asking for your thoughts on what times in our lives are most important and need the support of the fraternity. Please think about this next week and share your thoughts with us on the 20th. ☩

Mother Cabrini Celebration

The annual regional celebration of the feast of our patroness, Mother Cabrini, held each year in November has been cancelled because of the restrictions of COVID-19. We cannot gather at Mayslake, a senior community, and the number of seculars who attend is far greater than the maximum number of people allowed to gather. There will be more information in October on the region's plans for a virtual celebration. ☩

Franciscan Outreach Welcome Kits

The packing of the 2nd Welcome Kit for Franciscan Outreach was not easy. There was a complete list of the items necessary and a fraternity member's name by each which meant that the item had been purchased by that person. Sisters Sue G and Kay and Candidate Marion offered to pack the bins and deliver them to Franciscan Outreach in the city. Sister Sue took the numerous boxes and bags to her home. While organizing the items, she found that some necessities were missing and there were some items that were not part of a welcome kit. Sister Sue and Marion purchased the missing items and completed the kits. Sue's husband offered to drive the three women down to the center to drop off the kit.

September 2020

2

Part of the confusion was created by the very long time since the first kit was completed. In that time, our members did purchase items and let Sister Faith know. Most probably, trying to remember what was purchased and where one stashed it became the issue.

Until such time when we can once again meet regularly, the Welcome Kit ministry will be inactive.

The council is looking for other ways in which we can actively support the homeless. Share your ideas with any council member at our September gathering. ☒

2020 Calendar

Until we can meet regularly, the venue for our gatherings may change from month to month. This newsletter will contain all information on what will occur each month.

September

20: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours)
Brother Jerry's side yard at 2 p.m.

October

04: Monthly Gathering (Crown Rosary)
Brother Jerry's side yard at 2 p.m.
26: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

November

Date, place and time to be determined

December

Date, place and time to be determined
TBD: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home

We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become. If we love things, we become a thing. If we love nothing, we become nothing. Imitation is not a literal mimicking of Christ, rather it means becoming the image of the beloved, an image disclosed through transformation. This means we are to become vessels of God's compassionate love for others.

St. Clare of Assisi

Our Ministries

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.*