

# Dear Brothers & Sisters



January 2016

Newsletter of the

## Northwest Franciscan Community of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Palatine, Illinois

Secular Franciscan Order

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Submission deadline is the last Tuesday of each month.

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

## From the Minister

It is with great joy that I wish each of you a healthy and blessed New Year filled with 366 days of God's Grace and Love. On page 2, I offer to you a New Year's challenge, "The Fellowship of the Unashamed", which could have been written by St. Francis (but wasn't.) It is what we are called to do as Secular Franciscans. Wish I could be brave enough to live it.

Looking back, our December gathering was a well attended, joyful time. Thanks to Brother Dcn. Lou for presiding over a Word and Communion Service which was enhanced by the gifts of our musicians Sisters Sue and Jackie, and Candidate Tim. We welcomed a guest, Alexander, and look forward to his joining our gatherings again in the coming months.

Looking forward to this month's gathering, it is with joyous anticipation that we prepare for the celebration of the Mass of Profession for Candidates Mary and Tim, which will take place at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel at St. Joseph's Home. **There will not be ongoing formation this month.**

Everyone, please arrive shortly before 7:00 p.m. and gather in the chapel. Professed brothers and sisters should sit in the pews marked "Reserved" at the front. Social time and refreshments will immediately follow after Mass. **Professed and Candidates, please bring a snack or dessert to share at the celebration of the Professions of Mary and Tim.**

■ **Fair Share is Due.** The \$35 Fair Share is due in March. This is a yearly obligation for all Professed Secular Franciscans, which includes our shut-in and inactive members. The Fair Share supports our Regional and National fraternities and is separate from our Common Fund donations, which benefit our fraternity.

Please give our Treasurer, Brother Tom, your Fair Share at this or next month's gathering, or you can mail it to him. If possible, please make out a separate check for the Fair Share. If \$35 is a financial burden for you at this time, contact Brother Tom.

■ **Regional Elections.** Regional elections were held in December. Please see the *OFS News* for the new list of council members. Let us keep the new council in our prayers as they work together to lead the Mother Cabrini Regional Fraternity.

■ **2016 Guides for Liturgy of the Hours.** Many of the 2016 guides were distributed at our November gathering. The day after, the sharp eyes of Sister Lisa noticed that the guide was *not* the Roman-Franciscan version with notations for feasts specific to the Franciscans. Unfortunately, the company from whom we obtained the guides would not replace them with the correct ones. We have ordered a limited number of the correct ones from a different company, and they should be available at our January gathering.

■ **March Religious Goods "Sale".** As the Christmas decorations are being put away, keep an eye out for items to bring to our fraternity's used Religious Goods "Sale", which will be held at our March gathering. Items can include new or gently used statues, books, artwork, rosaries, CDs, DVDs, etc. The free-will donations given for these items will benefit our Common Fund. ☒

## Our Apostolates

■ **Bingo.** Meets one night per month at 6:30 p.m. in St. Joseph's activity room. Everyone, please see the sign-up sheet at our gathering and pick one month for which to volunteer. For more information, call Sisters Kay or Mary Kay.

## Next Monthly Gathering:

Monday, January 11, 2016

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

### **7:00 p.m.: Start of our Gathering**

with Profession Mass,  
followed by social time.

All welcome!

\* \* \*

**You must call Stephanie  
if you cannot attend.**

\* \* \*

Our gatherings are *normally* at  
7:30 p.m. on the **second Monday**  
of each month.

■ **Franciscan Outreach.** We collect items for delivery to the guests at Franciscan Outreach's Marquard Center. Call Sister Stephanie for more information.

■ **Prayer & Praise Ministry.** For our brothers and sisters unable to attend our gatherings due to poor health or transportation issues. For more information, or if you're ill or know of someone who's ill, please call our Infirmarian, Sister Jackie.

■ **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 or Cyndy.

■ **Support (Money, Materials).** Quarterly donations from our Common Fund of any excess funds available *after* fraternity costs go to the following: Franciscan Missionary Union, Franciscan Outreach, Poor Clares (Palos Park, IL), Amazon Relief.

■ **Youth Prayer Partners.** Coordinated by Brother Tom, this apostolate matches up fraternity members with children preparing for First Communion or Confirmation. We last prayed for Confirmands at St. Thomas of Villanova (Palatine), and will pray again for a new group of students when we have more details. For more information, call Brother Tom. ☒

## The Fellowship of the Unashamed

Adapted from the original (author unknown) by Patrick Madrid, [www.patrickmadrid.com/articles/mission-statement/](http://www.patrickmadrid.com/articles/mission-statement/)

I AM A PART of the Fellowship of the Unashamed.

The die has been cast. The decision has been made. I have stepped over the line. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away or be still.

My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is in God's hands. I am finished and done with low living, small planning, the bare minimum, smooth knees, mundane talking, frivolous living, selfish giving, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, applause, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, the best, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by faith. I lean on Christ's presence. I love with patience, live by prayer, and labor with the power of God's grace.

My face is set. My gait is fast, my goal is heaven. My road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions are few, my Guide is reliable, and my mission is clear.

I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, let up or slow up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and spoken up for the cause of Christ.

I am a disciple of Jesus. I am a Catholic. I must go until He comes, give until I drop, speak out until all know, and work until He stops me. And when He returns for His own, He will have no difficulty recognizing me. My banner is clear: I am a part of the Fellowship of the Unashamed. ☒

## Anniversaries This Month

11: **Stephanie and Lou**, Professed in 2010.

13: **Connie** (shut-in), Professed in 2000.

14: **Susan and Bonnie**, Professed in 2008.

*God's blessings for your years of  
Franciscan living!*

## Calendar

### Month

11: Monthly Gathering (Profession Mass)

25: Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Stephanie's Home

### Month

08: Monthly Gathering

22: Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Stephanie's Home

## Remember in Your Daily Prayers

- [PRIVATE]
- [PRIVATE]
- [PRIVATE]
- All infirm, shut-in, and deceased fraternity members.
- All Candidates, Inquirers, and Aspirants and their formation instructors.
- Our entire Franciscan Family, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> (Secular & Regular) Orders: For strength in commitments, increase in vocations, and the work we do, especially for Franciscan Outreach, Franciscan Missionary Union, the Poor Clares in Palos Park, and Amazon Relief.
- The guests of Franciscan Outreach's shelter and soup kitchen: That they know God's loving care and overcome the difficulties that keep them homeless.
- Little Sisters of the Poor and the residents of St. Joseph's Home.
- Our families and loved ones.

### Please pray that our fraternity and all Franciscans:

- Live the Holy Rule we've professed,
- Bring the Gospel to Life, and Life to the Gospel in the spirit of Francis,
- Live simply so that others may simply live, and
- Are active and participate in the Franciscan apostolates.