

# Dear Brothers & Sisters



August 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 was a warm summer's evening when 18 Secular Franciscans and Candidates, led by our Spiritual Assistant, Brother Patrick gathered to reflect on "Life in Fraternity", generating serious discussion and sharing of thoughts and ideas liberally sprinkled with much humor and laughter. "Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves; they will never have a dull moment."

Brother Patrick also led us in praying the Liturgy of the Hours, accompanied by Sister Jackie, who led us in song. Following the Liturgy of the Hours, our Formation Director, Sister Sue, led the recitation of the new **Franciscan Family Chaplet**, created by Nicholas H. Kovacs, OFS of St. Thomas More Fraternity (Houston), and introduced at the Quinquennial Conference in St. Louis.

The chaplet is a short prayer for vocations to all three orders in the Franciscan Family. Chaplets were given to everyone attending the meeting. Those who could not attend will receive the chaplet at the August meeting. The chaplets have also been sent to all shut-in members of fraternity as well.

We were pleased to welcome **Sister Karen** to our fraternity. Sister Karen has recently relocated to the area from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Welcome, Sister Karen. ☒

## At This Month's Gathering ...

■ **Ongoing Formation.** Our Spiritual Director, Brother Patrick, will lead us in a round table discussion of the great Marian feasts, Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula (Aug. 2) and the Assumption of Mary (August 15) and the Queenship of Mary.

Please be aware that **all Professed** are to attend ongoing formation and our monthly gatherings. If, for whatever reason, you're unable to attend, you *must* call our Minister, Sister Stephanie.

■ **Communion & Social Time.** Everyone, please join us at 7:30 p.m. for a Communion Service, followed by a brief business meeting and social time (remember to bring your own mugs). ☒

## Common Fund Report

Thank you to all members who responded to the necessity of keeping our Common Fund over \$1,500 to avoid account charges.

**July** beginning balance: \$1934.73; deposits: \$275; expenses: \$150.00; ending balance: \$2059.73. ☒

## Day of Recollection

As we've been mentioning since January, our fraternity is holding a Day of Recollection on **September 10 (Saturday) which counts as our monthly gathering.** The council will handle the continental breakfast items and beverages, but we need your help with the potluck lunch. Because this event is open to all Secular Franciscans in the Region, **it is vital that everyone signs up to bring an item.**

At this month's gathering, I will have the potluck sign-up sheets so please start thinking now about what you will bring. The following categories and openings for each are available:

### Next Monthly Gathering:

Monday, August 08, 2016

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

**6:30 p.m.:** Professed, please arrive at this time for Ongoing Formation. Candidates and Inquirers are encouraged to observe.

**7:30 p.m.: Start of our Gathering** with Vespers, followed by a business meeting and social time. All welcome!

\* \* \*

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

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

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### Misc. Items (2 slots; both open)

1. Plates (paper/plastic) and cutlery: Open
2. Cups and napkins: Open

### Beverages (2 slots; both filled)

1. Canned soda (assorted): *Council member*
2. Bottled water: *Council member*

### Appetizers (3 slots; all open)

*Ideas: cheese and crackers; chips and dips; hummus and pita, veggie plate, etc.*

### Salads (3 slots: all open)

*Ideas: Caesar, pasta, etc.*

### Entrées (6 slots; all open)

*Ideas: Beans and rice, chili, fried chicken, lasagna, tea sandwiches, veggie casserole, etc.*

### Desserts (3 slots; all open)

*Ideas: brownies, cookies, cake, fruit tray, fruit pies, etc.*

■ **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.

■ **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 a group of students on their journey to Confirmation, and will pray again for a new group of students when we have more details. For more information, call Brother Tom. ☒

## Two-page Newsletter

Thanks be to God, our dear Sister Lisa was blessed to be offered the new job her heart desired!

Sister Lisa has much to do before beginning a new chapter in her life in August. And while she would be more than willing to put this newsletter together more professionally, there is enough on her plate, so your minister has bumbled her way through a short summer newsletter. *Peace and all Good.* ☒

## Anniversaries This Month

*There are no anniversaries this month.*

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## Remember in Your Daily Prayers

- [PRIVATE]
  - All infirm, shut-in, and deceased fraternity members.
  - All those in initial formation 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.