



## *Dear Brothers & Sisters*

Secular Franciscan Order  
Palatine, Illinois

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  
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**Newsletter submissions welcomed**  
**by 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.** Send to:  
[minister@nwfranciscans.org](mailto:minister@nwfranciscans.org)

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

What a jam packed evening we all enjoyed at our August fraternity gathering. There was a spirited discussion of Chapter 4, Christ's Wounds of Mercy, *The Holy Year of Mercy* by Pope Francis. We focused on the Gospel of St. John describing Jesus' appearance to the disciples on Easter Sunday. He calmed their fears by saying "Peace be with you" and then showing them his wounded hands and side to prove that he was truly alive, and not an apparition. Not a word was said about where they were the previous Friday. Instead Jesus continues to focus on their mission. "As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." Jesus reassures his disciples that despite their denials and their fear, they are still his chosen messengers to the world. He acknowledges the weakness of their humanity and assures them it doesn't matter. After all, God gave them that humanity. And us. No matter what we do in the weakness of humanity, if we truly acknowledge our failure, Mercy prevails.

What a precious message for us, as we strive each day to live our secular Franciscan vocation to the best of our individual abilities. We need not worry about the times when we feel we have fallen short of our goal. We are human. God gave us that humanity. All we need do is our best and trust Him. How comforting that is!

Afterward, once again joy filled the chapel at St. Joseph's Home as we celebrated two Franciscan rituals. Brother Marc Sheckells, OFM, the regional spiritual assistant, joined us and presided at the Rite of Installation of our Spiritual Assistant, Brother Jerry. As his first official act as our spiritual assistant, Brother Jerry presided at the admission of Gail into candidacy. Congratulations to Brother Jerry and to Gail, as both begin walking different paths in Franciscan spirituality.

Thank you to our Brother Dcn Lou, who presided at the Word and Communion Service and to Sisters Sue and Jackie, and Brother Tim, for leading us in song. ☩

*While you are proclaiming peace with your lips,  
be careful to have it even more fully in your heart.*

*St. Francis of Assisi*

## Our Monthly Gathering...

Will be our **Day of Recollection** on **Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>** at St. Colette's Church. All brothers and sisters are to gather in Halpin Hall at 8 a.m. Many hands will make light work of all the set up that needs to be done for our guests. To date we have 20 guests who will join us.

Our menu is as follows:

### Appetizers:

Veggie plate	Jackie
Fruit plate	Stephanie

### Salads:

Broccoli	Cyndy
Potato	Lou
Pasta	Gail

### Entrées:

Chicken salad	Geri
Quinoa salad	Kathy
Chili	Kay
Sausage, peppers, onions	Faith
Lasagna	Mary Kay
Chicken noodle casserole	Mimi

### Desserts:

Baklava	Marc
Pistachio cream/nut cake	Tom
"Surprise"	Jerry

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## Anniversaries

*There are no specific anniversaries to celebrate this month.*

*Let us all offer thanksgiving to our Good God for the grace of vocation He has given to all of us.*

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## Common Fund – August 2017

Beginning balance	\$2,756.46
Deposits	245.00
Expenses	325.68
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$2,675.78</b>

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Dear Brothers & Sisters [www.nwfranciscans.org](http://www.nwfranciscans.org)

## Transitus of St. Francis



Tomb of St. Francis in the Basilica of St. Francis, Assisi, Italy

Our monthly gathering in October will be on **Tuesday, October 3, 2017**, which is the day on which our Beloved Father Francis transitioned from earthly life to eternal life. Father Francis died lying on the ground outside his beloved Portiuncula, the Chapel of Our Lady of the Angels, which is in the valley below Assisi. His tomb is in the lower level of the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy.

All brothers and sisters are required to attend as we will *not* be gathering on the second Monday, as we would usually do.

All professed are to gather in the library at St. Joseph's Home at 6:30 p.m. for formation. Please read Chapter 5, Compassion: The Touch of Mercy in *The Holy Year of Mercy* and complete the sections: Understand, Grow, Reflect, Act.

After formation, we will gather in the chapel to celebrate the Ritual of Transitus, which will be followed by social time. **T**

## Franciscan Outreach Project

At last month's gathering, a sign-up sheet was available listing the items needed for the gift bags which we will put together in November for the homeless at the Marquard Center. The folks at the center have told us that they serve approximately 120 guests each evening. So our goal is to provide 120 Gifts Bags of necessities for their guests.

There are only a few more items that need to be claimed. Below is the item, the quantity needed, approximate cost, and store with best price (so far).

Men's combs	120	\$20.	Dollar Tree
Emery boards	120	\$15.	Dollar Tree
Pens, black ink	120	\$15.	ck school ads

If you would like to purchase an item, please email the minister letting her know which item you have selected.

Thank you for generously considering the needs of our homeless brothers and sisters. ☒

## Updated Member Directory

Although a new directory was sent out in July, an updated Member Directory is being emailed with this newsletter. It incorporates the changes that have occurred in the past few months.

Since all of our active members do have access to email, the directory will be updated and emailed as necessary, rather than only twice a year as previously done.

Printed copies of the directory will not be automatically mailed out through USPS each time the directory is updated. ☒

## Mother Cabrini Feast Day

As mentioned in the August newsletter, our fraternity is part of the cluster responsible for hosting the feast day celebration this year on **Sunday, November 12, 2017**. Members of the three clusters will meet later this month to finalize plans which will be published in the October newsletter. ☒

## Remember in Your Prayers

### PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER Parishes.

That our parishes, animated by a missionary spirit, may be places where faith is communicated and charity is seen.

### Let us pray to the Lord ...

For the **millions of people in India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Texas**, who have suffered loss of life and property because of monsoon and hurricane.

### [PRIVATE]

For all **deceased** fraternity members.

For all **those in initial formation** and their formation instructors.

For our entire **Franciscan Family, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> (Secular and Regular) Orders**: For strength in commitments and increase in vocations.

For the **work we do as fraternity**, especially for **Franciscan Outreach, the Poor Clares** in Palos Park and **Franciscan Missionary Union**.

For the **Guests of Franciscan Outreach's Soup Kitchen**: That they know God's loving care and overcome the difficulties that keep them homeless.

For the **Little Sisters of the Poor** and the residents of St. Joseph's Home.

For our **families and loved ones**.

**For our fraternity and all Franciscans, that we:**

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 can simply live.

## 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.** Donations are accepted year round in the Christmas stocking at each monthly gathering. 100 Gift Bags are made up in November for the guests at the Franciscan Outreach soup kitchen in Chicago. Contact Sister Stephanie for more information.

**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 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 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 Missionary Union, Franciscan Outreach, Poor Clares (Palos Park, IL) and Amazon Relief.

**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.

## 2017 Calendar

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

### January

~~09: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)~~  
~~23: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home~~

### February

~~13: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours)~~

### March

~~13: Monthly Gathering (Stations of the Cross)~~  
~~27: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home~~

### April

~~10: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)~~  
~~17: Council Meeting Stephanie's home~~

### May

~~08: Monthly Gathering (Franciscan Crown)~~  
~~22: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home~~

### June

~~12: Profession Mass (Kathy and Faith)~~

### July

~~10: Monthly Gathering (Liturgy of the Hours)~~  
~~24: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home~~

### August

~~14: Monthly Gathering (Communion Service)~~

### September

~~09: (Saturday) Fraternity Day of Recollection, St. Colette's replaces reg. fraternity mtg.~~  
~~25: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home~~

### October

~~03: Transitus of our Holy Father Francis replaces regular fraternity meeting~~

### November

~~12: Monthly Gathering – Mother Cabrini Feast Day Celebration, Mayslake~~  
~~19: (Sunday) Franciscan Outreach Project, Stephanie's home~~  
~~19: Council Meeting, Stephanie's home, (following Outreach gathering)~~

### December

~~11: Profession Mass (Fr. Dennis)~~