



Dear Brothers & Sisters

From the Minister

Lex orandi, lex credendi, literally means the law of prayer (the way we worship) is the law of belief (what we believe)...a motto of our Christian Tradition.

As Catholics, every facet of the Creed is what we are and believe.

As Franciscans, to Live and BE Franciscans, we must know and practice our Franciscan Rule daily.

A quote from *Welcome to the Wisdom of the World* by Joan Chittister, page 101, "We are born to finish what God has left undone"...with the gifts He has given us.

So, I will try to tie this all together as we travel on this Lenten journey...together. My prayer is for us to be authentic...to become what we consume every time we partake of the Eucharist. To say what we believe every time we recite the Creed and to be and live what we professed as Franciscans...This is our choice, our hope and our goal and we do this in fraternity.

Speaking of fraternity, a reminder to all, that beginning on April 14th our time for our gatherings will begin at 4:30 p.m. In April we will begin with a Communion Service in the chapel. Please remember to bring the items that you signed up to donate for our Welcome the Stranger outreach. I have recently sent out to everyone a list of those items...our fraternity will be stocking a bathroom. Please bring those bathroom items into the building as we will have carts by the chapel to collect everything...THANK YOU!

The council collected \$80 and it was voted to take \$70 from our treasury so that we, as a fraternity, could donate \$150 towards St. Francis Catholic Worker House. This is the outreach that the cluster hosting our regional event on March 29th has chosen to aid.

We are in need of 2 people to assist at each gathering, by arriving early, setting up our table and chairs downstairs and making coffee...and then, putting the chairs back and cleaning up the coffee pots and any food items at the end of our meetings. Perhaps this team could also be responsible for scheduling 2 people each month to bring food to share. As you know, Social time is very important to Franciscans. Please let me know if you are interested in this hospitality ministry. Thank you!

And lastly, please remember that we will be reading and sharing our thoughts on the 2nd Admonition, so read ahead and be ready to discuss it.

So, I end. There is a LOT going on. Remember to keep in your prayers our entire Franciscan family, especially our shut-ins. You are all in my prayers *each and every* day. "The Lord is Kind and Merciful"...let us be the same to ALL. This is a good thing!

Peace, Sue, OFS

Our Monthly Gathering

We will gather on **Monday, April 14, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. in the Chapel at Holy Family Parish in Inverness for a Communion Service**, a Lenten meditation, and our business meeting.

Afterward, we will have formation and social times in Room 083 in the lower level. All items for Welcome the Stranger collection should be brought to this gathering. The items will be prayed over for the welfare of those receiving them. **If you cannot bring your designated items, please give them to a fraternity member who will bring them for you. The leaders of the WTS ministry will be picking the items up after the gathering.**

We Pray ...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR APRIL

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the human person, and help us face the crises of our times.

Profession Anniversaries

April 30, 2011 Jerry S.

May God's abundant blessings be yours.

Franciscan Outreach Schedule for 2025

The schedule for Franciscan Outreach for 2025 is as follows:

January	FMSC	(Feed My Starving Children) – packing bags of grain.
February	Journeys/The Road Home	– collection of food and necessities for the homeless
March	FMSC	March 26, 2025 from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.
April	Welcome the Stranger	– collection of items needed by a refuge family who are moving into an apartment in their new country
May	FMSC	May 28, 2025 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.
June	Blessing Bags	– creation of plastic bags of necessities for the homeless
July	FMSC	July 30, 2025 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.
August	Journeys/The Road Home	
September	FMSC	September 24, 2025 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.
October	Welcome the Stranger	
November	Thanksgiving food baskets	for the needy
December	FMSC	December 17, 2025 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Pack bags of nutritious grain for those living in the most destitute areas on our planet. Members of our fraternity will participate in this work of service every other month from **2:30 to 4:00 p.m.** Sign-up sheets are available at the fraternity gatherings for the next opportunity. Contact **Sister Sue** for more information.

Loose change wanted - at each monthly fraternity gathering, fraternity members have an opportunity to donate their loose change so that we can provide the funds to feed a child for a year. Whenever a total of \$53 in change is collected, it will be matched by \$53 from our Common Fund for a total of \$106, the cost of feeding a starving child in another country for one year.

JOURNEYS/THE ROAD HOME

We will again collect items for Journeys/the Road Home at our **February** and **August** gatherings. Print out the list below and keep it in a handy place. When these items are on sale or you are at the Dollar Tree, pick up a few items and keep them for the February and August gatherings. Contact **Sister RoseAnn** for more information on Journeys.

Most needed items:

Razors and shaving cream	Body wash - MOST NEEDED
Baby wipes	Shampoo & conditioner - MOST NEEDED
Large backpacks	Pullups - ALL SIZES

Food items:

Bottled water	Pasta (dried and canned)	Canned soups*
Rice	Pasta sauce	Canned fruit*
Peanut butter	Cereal - large boxes	Canned vegetables*
Jelly	Canned stew, fish and chicken*	Canned beans*
	* pop top cans preferred	No bulk items

WELCOME THE STRANGER

This is a new ministry that was selected for Outreach in 2025. Welcome the Stranger works in tandem with Exodus to provide the necessities that a family would need when moving into an apartment for the first time. We will be helping to provide these necessities in the months of **April** and **October**.

Welcome the Stranger conducts gatherings of these items through specific collection times at Holy Family Parish. The complete collection includes items for the kitchen, bathroom, bedrooms and cleaning supplies. The Council has signed up our fraternity to provide the items needed for the Bath. The necessary items are listed below. A sign-up sheet will be available at the March and September gatherings. Items selected will be brought to the fraternity gatherings in April and October.

Bath items to be provided: SEE SUE'S EMAIL OF MARCH 24 FOR APRIL DONATIONS

Bath towel – hand towel – washcloth (8 sets in neutral colors)
Bath mat – neutral color
Shower curtain with hooks – neutral color
Shower curtain liner (if shower curtain is cloth)
8 bars of soap
2 bottles of shampoo
8 toothbrushes
2 tubes of toothpaste
deodorant
feminine protection pads
10 disposable men's razors and shaving cream

- 8 rolls of toilet paper
- 2 bottles of hand lotion
- 4 boxes of Kleenex
- 2 small trashcans

BLESSING BAGS FOR THE HOMELESS

This ministry is being tweaked for 2025. We will be packing the Blessing Bags in June at our June gathering. In May a list will be distributed asking members to sign up to bring specific items for the Blessing Bags. *(This will be similar to the sign-up that is done for the Thanksgiving baskets.)*

The items will be brought to the June gathering and together we will pack the Blessing Bags.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

As we have done the past few years, we will be putting together baskets of food for Thanksgiving to be given to families who live in Palatine Township and are desperately in need of food. There will be a sign-up sheet at the October gathering. It will include items for each basket. The items will be gathered into baskets at our November meeting. Last year, we contributed Three Baskets of food to the Township needy.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Sister Sue accepts all tabs from pop top cans which are then donated to Ronald McDonald House. The tabs are sold to aluminum recyclers and the proceeds help pay for kidney dialysis for children.

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2025

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Monday, Apr. 14 | Monthly gathering will be at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. There will be a Communion Service.
There will be a collection of items for Welcome the Stranger . |
| Sunday Apr 27 | Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m. |
| Monday, May 12 | Monthly gathering will be at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The liturgy will be the Crown Rosary. |
| Sunday, May 18 | Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m. |
| Monday, June 9 | Monthly gathering will be at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. There will be a Communion Service. Blessing Bags for the homeless will be packed at the gathering. |
| Sunday, June 22 | Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m. |
| Monday, July 14 | Monthly gathering will be at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The liturgy will be the Liturgy of the Hours (LOTH). |
| Sunday, July 27 | Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m. |
| Monday, Aug. 11 | Monthly gathering will be at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The liturgy will be Lectio Divina.
There will be a collection of items for Journeys/The Road Home |
| Sunday, Aug. 24 | Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m. |

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings continued from page 4

Monday, Sept. 8	Monthly gathering will be at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The liturgy will be Liturgy of the Hours (LOTH).
Sunday, Sept. 28	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 6	Monthly gathering will be at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The liturgy will be Transitus of St. Francis. <i>Note: this is the First Monday of the month.</i>
	There will be a collection of items for Welcome the Stranger.
Sunday, Oct. 26	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 10	Monthly gathering will be at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The liturgy will be a Commemoration of the Deceased. We will pack Thanksgiving baskets for the Township.
Sunday, Nov. 23	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 8	Monthly gathering will be at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The liturgy will be a Communion Service before our Christmas potluck.
Sunday, Dec. 28	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.

Regional Calendar of Events

Saturday, April 12	REC Meeting (Mayslake)
Saturday, May 10	Chapter of Ministers at Marytown
Saturday, May 17	Headstone clean-up day, OFS section, Queen of Heaven Cemetery Hillside, IL 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, July 12	REC Meeting (Mayslake)
Saturday, August 2	Portiuncula (virtual only)
Saturday, September 6	REC Meeting (Mayslake)
Saturday, September 20	Fall Formation Day (Cluster Four)
Saturday, October 18	All Souls Day Prayer Service, OFS section, Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside, IL 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, November 9	Mother Cabrini Celebration (Cluster Two) location TBD

Council Members

Minister	Susan Gribbon, OFS	<i>sgribbon1949@gmail.com</i>
Vice Minister	Tim Panzica, OFS	
Formation Director	Kay Crnich, OFS	
Secretary	Stephanie Heavey, OFS	
Treasurer	Kathy Fischer, OFS	
Spiritual Assistant	open	
Councilor-at-Large	Marion Tuttle, OFS	

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