



## *Dear Brothers & Sisters*

### **From the Minister**

Greetings, my Franciscan Brothers and Sisters,

Buen Comino! A greeting used on the pilgrimage of the Camino de Santiago. It means “Have a Good Way!”

As Pilgrims or Travelers, we are making our way to a holy place. Our pilgrimage is a lifetime of walking toward God. This is what our topic was at our Lenten Retreat this month at the Bellarmine Retreat House in Barrington. Ten of us answered the call and attended. We surrendered the time, the day, the physical stuff and opened ourselves up to the journey of Lent—traveling to our inner core. We traveled without expectations. We let go and let God.

Then, last week, some of us attended the Holy Family Lenten parish mission for three nights with a dynamic speaker, Dr. ValLimar Jansen. Dr. Jansen led us to our inner core and helped us see and feel with our eyes and hearts what God’s love is all about. Each of the three nights, the church was packed and we ALL left feeling joyful and hopeful.

Then, it was pointed out to me that our former Spiritual Assistant, Patrick Mendes, OFS, who had also been a member of our fraternity and National OFS Minister, was quoted in the latest TAU Magazine (Winter 2026, page 8). Patrick said: “It is not what we do but what we bring to what we do. What we bring is our charism – our charism of peace and joy and love for God’s creation.” The article ends with a quote from Jan Novotka: “It’s not what you do, but how you do it. It’s not what you see, but how you see. It’s not what you say, what you know or achieve. But it’s the presence, the presence you are!”

So, on this Franciscan journey that we all chose to follow through our profession, let us surrender to God, to be the hands and feet of Christ and become what God made us to be and see Christ in everyone around us. And I end with another quote from that same article: “His presence can be contagious. Nothing evangelizes more powerfully than a life filled with the joy of God!”

That is my Lenten Mission...and may it continue for me and you...every day.

Peace and all good,

Sue, OFS

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### **Our Monthly Gathering – April 2026**

We will gather on **Monday, April 13, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Inverness**, for our monthly gathering. We will pray the Liturgy of the Hours; please bring your books. Kay C. will give a report on St. John Bosco. There will be a collection of items for the Household Pack for Welcome the Stranger. Snacks will be provided by Maria B and Anne F.

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# We Pray ...

## PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR APRIL

### For priests in crisis.

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

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## Important: Must Read

### Care of our Gathering Room at Holy Family

The charism of St. Francis—and ALL of his followers—was **to serve, not to be served**. As members of the Secular Franciscans, we are to embrace that charism.

Our performance, however, is sadly negligent.

After our gathering in February, one of our members returned to the gathering room to retrieve an item and was appalled to find that the hospitality counter was full of crumbs, some of the chairs had not been put back where they belonged, and MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, THE COFFEEPOT WAS STILL PLUGGED IN. This could have resulted in a catastrophic calamity for the church.

Holy Family Parish has graciously allowed us to use the chapel and gathering room without cost. (This is not the case with some other fraternities and the parishes wherein they meet.)

*However, it is up to US to see that the premises are left exactly as they are found, clean and orderly.*

Ideally, **ALL** of us should lend a hand in returning the room to its original state before we sail out of the meeting.

To ensure that the room is in good shape at the end of each gathering, the Council has decided that the Two Persons assigned to bring hospitality for that month will also be responsible for assuring that the room is left as we found it. The countertop is wiped down, the coffeepot is unplugged and cleaned, and the chairs are put where they belong.

Let's all take FIVE minutes before we leave to help. That is who we are supposed to be as Secular Franciscans – SERVANTS, not the served.

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## Ongoing Saint Formation for 2026

April	St. John Bosco	Kay C.
May	Blessed Franz Jagstetter	Lou R.
June	Blessed Angela Salawa	Mary S.
August	Pope St. Pius X	Anne F.

## Snacks Signup for 2026

May	Lou R. and Sue G.
June	Tom S. and Jerry S.

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## Profession Anniversaries

April 30, 2011

Jerry S.

May God's abundant blessings be yours as you celebrate 15 years as a Secular Franciscan.

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## Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2026

- Monday, Apr. 13** Monthly gathering will be at **4:30 p.m.** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. Liturgy of the Hours; Kay C. will report on St. John Bosco. There will be a collection of the items for Welcome the Stranger. Snacks provided by Maria B. and Anne F.
- Sunday, Apr. 26** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:00 p.m.
- Monday, May 11** Monthly gathering will be at **4:30 p.m.** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. Liturgy will be Crown Rosary. Lou R. will give a report on Blessed Franz Jagstetter. Snacks by Lou R. and Sue. G.
- Sunday, May 24** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:00 p.m.
- Monday, June 8** Monthly gathering will be at **4:30 p.m.** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. **This will be our Triennial Regional Visitation.** We will pray the Liturgy of the Hours. Mary S. will give a report on Blessed Angela Salawa. There will be a collection of items for Journeys/The Road Home. Snacks by Tom S. and Jerry S.
- Sunday, June 28** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:00 p.m.
- Monday, July 20** Profession of Matthew S. is scheduled for **4:30 p.m.** in the chapel at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. **Note Date change.**
- Sunday, July 19** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:00 p.m. **Note Date change.**
- Monday, Aug. 10** Monthly gathering will be at **4:30 p.m.** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. Liturgy of the Hours. Anne F. will speak on Pope St. Pius X. There will be a collection of items for Journeys.
- Sunday, Aug. 23** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:00 p.m.
- Monday, Sept. 14** Monthly gathering will be at **4:30 p.m.** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. Liturgy to be determined.
- Sunday, Sept. 27** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:00 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 5** Monthly gathering will be at **4:30 p.m.** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. We will celebrate the **Transitus of Father Francis.** There will be a collection of items for the Household Pack for Welcome the Stranger.
- Sunday, Oct. 25** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:00 p.m.

## Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings continued from page 3

- Monday, Nov. 9** Monthly gathering will be at **4:30 p.m.** at Holy Family Parish. Liturgy will be the Liturgy of the Dead. There will be a collection of the items needed for the Palatine Township Thanksgiving baskets.
- Sunday, Nov. 22** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:00 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 14** Monthly gathering will be at **4:30 p.m.** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. Communion Service. It will be our Christmas celebration.
- Sunday, Dec. 27** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:00 p.m.

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## Calendar of Regional Gatherings

- Fri. May 8 – Sun. May 10** Regional Visitation from NEC – Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe (Marytown)
- Sat. May 9** Chapter of Ministers – Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe (Marytown)
- Sat. May 30** Headstone Clean-Up Day, OFS section, Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside, IL 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
- Sat. Sept. 26** Fall Formation Day (Cluster Two)
- Sat. Oct. 31** All Soul's Day Prayer Service, OFS Section, Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside, IL 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
- Sun. Nov. 8** Mother Cabrini Celebration (Cluster Three) location TBD

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## Franciscan Outreach Schedule for 2026

The schedule for Franciscan Outreach for 2026 has been streamlined to make it easier for all fraternity members. In 2026 the fraternity determined that we will concentrate on **THREE** organizations that help those **MOST IN NEED: Feed My Starving Children, Journeys/The Road Home and Welcome the Stranger.**

### 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.

**Dates for Feed My Starving Children:** Wednesday, January 28, 2026  
Wednesday, March 25, 2026

## Franciscan Outreach Schedule for 2026 continued from page 4

### Dates for Feed My Starving Children cont.

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Wednesday, December 30, 2026

**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

This organization serves persons in our community who are homeless, on the verge of losing their home and have other needs that impact the norms of daily living. We collect food and needed items. Fraternity members are needed to help stock the items at Journeys when they are delivered.

### Dates for Journeys/The Road Home collections:

Monday, February 9, 2026

Monday, June 8, 2026

Monday, August 10, 2026

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.

### Most needed items:

Razors and shaving cream

Baby wipes

Large backpacks

Body wash - MOST NEEDED

Shampoo & conditioner - MOST NEEDED

Pullups - ALL SIZES

### Food items:

Bottled water

Rice

Peanut butter

Jelly

Pasta (dried and canned)

Pasta sauce

Cereal - large boxes

Canned stew, fish and chicken\*

Canned soups/vegetables\*

Canned fruit\*

Canned beans\*

Canned beans\*

## WELCOME THE STRANGER

Welcome the Stranger works in tandem with Exodus to support refugee families who have come here in recent years. We will be helping to provide necessities for these families in the months of **April and October**.

The necessary items are listed below. A sign-up sheet will be available at the February and September gatherings. Items will be brought to the fraternity gatherings in April and October.

### KITCHEN

Bottle of dish soap

2 sponges w/scrubby side

Tall kitchen trash bags

4 rolls paper towels

plastic wrap

### BATH

4 bars of hand soap

2 bottles of shampoo

4 toothbrushes/ 2 tubes toothpaste

Feminine supplies (pads)

10 disposable men's razors/shaving cream

**CLEANING ITEMS**

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|--|--------------------------|
| All purpose cleaner spray (without bleach) | 8+ rolls of toilet paper |
| Toilet bowl cleaner                        | Bottle of hand lotion    |
| Laundry soap                               | 2 boxes Kleenex          |
| Roll of quarters (for laundry)             | 2 Deodorant              |
| Scouring powder                            |                          |
| Floor cleaner                              |                          |

**THANKSGIVING BASKETS**

As we have done the past few years, in **November** 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 Two 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 benefit Ronald McDonald House.

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**Council Members**

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|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Minister</b>            | Susan Gribbon, OFS    | <i>sgribbon1949@gmail.com</i> |
| <b>Vice Minister</b>       | Stephanie Heavey, OFS |                               |
| <b>Formation Director</b>  | Kay Crnich, OFS       |                               |
| <b>Secretary</b>           | Marion Tuttle, OFS    |                               |
| <b>Treasurer</b>           | Jerry Stecker, OFS    |                               |
| <b>Spiritual Assistant</b> | open                  |                               |

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

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**The Responsibility Poem**

There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it.  
**Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it.  
**Somebody** got angry about that because it was **Everybody's** job.  
**Everybody** thought that **Anybody** could do it,  
But **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** couldn't do it.  
It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have.  
Charles Osgood

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***Easter Blessings to You and Those You Love.***