



Dear Brothers & Sisters

From the Minister

It is with great pleasure that we welcome **Carrie, OFS**, as a Professes member into our OFS fraternity.

Since our own Brother Jerry started his Franciscan Small Christian Community (SCC) at Holy Family, I have attempted to be a part of it. While we may not always read Franciscan authors or writings, we ALWAYS find Franciscan wisdom in our readings. Currently, we are reading *Gospel Life* by John Shea. In this book, Shea is quoted as saying, “the path to service is gratitude.” And we know that as Franciscans we must live in gratitude. Another quote in the book pertains to Elizabeth of the Trinity who wrote a letter to her supervisor with one line repeated over and over again...”Let yourself be loved...Let yourself be loved...Let yourself be loved.” Note the emphasis on LET. John Shea states that “Something will happen if we can just keep from pushing away...Divine love is unconditional.” (page 154).

Our God is not asleep. We cannot be timid. Pray. Ask. Seek. Knock. Ask for the Holy Spirit to be in your lives. And lastly, be assured of the generosity of God...”the source of life is always giving.” (page 161).

So in living in Thanksgiving and Service to one another, let’s sing *The Servant Song* as we journey together in fraternity, in our families, with our friends and in all that we do. Remember, we live with HOPE, knowing that we are loved and, as Secular Franciscans, how can we NOT say, “This is a good thing.”

Let the Spirit illumine our hearts and give us the Grace and Wisdom to be more Franciscan and Christlike in all that we think, say and do on this journey called LIFE.

Peace and Love to you all,

Sue, OFS

Our Monthly Gathering – August 2025

We will gather on **Monday, August 11, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. in the Chapel at Holy Family Parish in Inverness** for prayer. Afterward, we will adjourn to Room 183 on the lower level for business meeting, formation and social time.

Important – August is the month when we provide items for the homeless at Journeys/The Road Home. Please see the Franciscan Outreach section for the items most needed. In the summertime, it is *especially important to be generous* as society in general is more focused on vacation time and less likely to think of our needy brothers and sisters.

We Pray ...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST

For mutual coexistence

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, religious, political or ideological reasons.

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	– collection of food and necessities for the homeless
September	FMSC	September 24, 2025 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.
October	Welcome the Stranger	– collection of items needed by a refuge family who are moving into an apartment in their new country
November	Thanksgiving food baskets	for the needy
December	FMSC	December 17, 2025 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

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

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.

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:

Bath towel – hand towel – washcloth (8 sets in neutral colors)	4 boxes of Kleenex deodorant
Bath mat – neutral color	feminine protection pads
Shower curtain with hooks – neutral color	10 disposable men's razors
Shower curtain liner (if shower curtain is cloth)	shaving cream
2 small trashcans	8 toothbrushes
8 bars of soap	2 tubes toothpaste
8 rolls toilet paper	deodorant
2 bottles of shampoo	2 bottles of hand lotion
8 rolls of toilet paper	

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 benefit Ronald McDonald House.

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2025

Monday, Aug. 11	Monthly gathering will be at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish. The liturgy will be Lectio Divina. Collection of items for Journeys .
Sunday, Aug. 24	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
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 for Transitus of St. Francis. <i>Note: this is 1st 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. Communion Service followed by Christmas Potluck.
Sunday, Dec. 28	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.

Regional Calendar of Events

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 location TBD

Council Members

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

Live Simply so That Others May Simply Live.