



Dear Brothers & Sisters

From the Minister:

Greetings, my Franciscan Brothers and Sisters,

As I write this, we have just had our July's fraternity council meeting and tomorrow we will celebrate the profession of our own, Matthew Sadler.

Congratulations, Matthew!

Change seems to be the theme in my life right now and it appears to be happening all around us. We call it transformation. Our St. Francis is said to have summarized transformation by saying, "Start by doing what is necessary, then do what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

And then there is the Serenity Prayer: Lord, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time, one moment at a time, accepting hardships as a pathway to peace, knowing that you'll make everything right in your own time.

So, with change we must trust in our Lord ... God has a plan ... and that has become my mantra.

Our Lea Nicholson, OFS, professed forty-two years ago, was buried last week. Our fraternity will be having Masses said at the Addolorata Villa in Wheeling for her on May 6th and October 18th, her profession date and birthdate.

I would like to acknowledge the wanderings our recent formation has taken. We have had two big events that took a lot of planning. Our regional visitation in June and a profession in July, back-to-back. Recently, we have also received information from the National and Regional levels as to the direction that we should be going regarding ongoing formation.

With these National and Regional guidelines in mind, in August, we will begin again. Stay tuned as we continue to learn together what it means to be Franciscans – today, tomorrow, and always.

We have our next Feed My Starving Children event, in Schaumburg, on Wednesday, July 29th, from 2:30 to 4 pm. All are welcome. But please call/text me if you want to

participate as we need to register first. I will be going ... if you need a ride, let me know.

Also, I am attaching to the email the information from the region regarding our Fall Formation Day, in Mayslake, on Saturday, September 26th. I am urging you to attend, especially those who are in formation. This is an opportunity to meet your larger Franciscan family and spend the day building friendships beyond our fraternity.

I close for now, but I am a call/text away. Let us know if you cannot attend a meeting, or are in need of anything.

Peace and ALL good to you and yours,

Sue, OFS

Our Monthly Gathering – August 2026

We will gather on **Monday, August 10, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Inverness, in the chapel** for the Liturgy of the Hours after which we will gather in Breakout Room 1. There will be a collection of items for **Journeys/the Road Home**. Hospitality will be provided by: **Marion T. and Bill K.**

We Pray ...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST

For respect for evangelization in the city.

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

Our Tau Cross

The following was written by a Secular Franciscan. The name is lost to me and I have excerpted from his article. Newsletter editor

You may have heard this story and found it amusing. A man driving in his car approached a traffic signal with a camera. He noticed the light changing and didn't want to chance that he could make it through the light before it turned red. He

stopped. The woman directly behind him slammed on her brakes, jumped out of her car and began yelling at the man using all sorts of foul language and gestures. A policeman pulled up behind her car, got out of his squad car and unceremoniously placed the woman under arrest. After parking her car, he took her to the station, had her fingerprinted and placed in a holding cell. After some time, he came back to the woman's cell and released her with his regrets. He said to her: "I'm so sorry for arresting you, but when I saw you acting the way you did and noticed the sticker on the back of your car that said "Jesus Saves" and the stainless-steel fish with the heart inside, I figured the car belonged to someone else and you had stolen it."

When I heard this story with some friends, we all laughed. It was funny, yet I kept thinking about this and it struck me that we do see so many cars with all sorts of stickers and symbols that seem to mark us with a sign of our faith. I wonder, though, if our actions demonstrate to others how deep our faith is.

We have a sign that we wear—or should wear—to demonstrate our commitment to our Franciscan promises. This is the Tau of St. Francis. I read a short description about the Tau recently and I would like to share a bit of it. This is from a small book of Franciscan Readings, English version, edited by Fr. Marian Habig, OFM.

"The Tau takes its shape from the Greek letter T, which is a cross. This method of forming the cross is very ancient, and goes back even to the days of the Old Testament. ... The Tau has exactly the same form as the Cross on which the Lord was crucified on Calvary."

The Tau is our sign, our bumper sticker, if you will. This is our habit. We make promises to live out our Baptism promises and dedicate ourselves to the service of His kingdom. We promise to live the gospel every day by observing our rule of life. We do this with the help of the Holy Spirit, Our Blessed Mother, father Francis and the fraternal bonds of our fraternity.

We should always wear the Tau as a sign of this commitment. Let's remember, though that we are to be examples of the gospel life.

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2026

Monday, Aug. 10 Monthly gathering will be at **4:30 p.m.** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. Liturgy of the Hours. There will be a collection of items for Journeys.

Sunday, Aug. 23 Council meeting, vice minister's home at 1:00 p.m.

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- 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, vice 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, vice minister's home at 1:00 p.m.
- 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.

Calendar of Regional Gatherings

- 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) Mayslake

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
	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
Canned soups/vegetables*
Rice
Peanut butter
Jelly

Pasta (dried and canned)
Pasta sauce
Canned fruit*
Cereal - large boxes
Canned stew, fish and chicken

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

CLEANING ITEMS

All-purpose cleaner spray (without bleach)
Toilet bowl cleaner
Laundry soap

BATH

4 bars of hand soap
2 bottles of shampoo
4 toothbrushes
2 tubes toothpaste
Feminine supplies
10 men's razors/shaving cream
8+ rolls of toilet paper
Bottle of hand lotion
2 boxes Kleenex
2 deodorants

CLEANING ITEMS continued

Roll of quarters (for laundry)

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.

Council Members

Minister	Susan Gribbon, OFS. sgribbon1949@gmail.com
Vice Minister	Stephanie Heavey, OFS
Formation Director	Kay Crnich, OFS
Secretary	Marion Tuttle, OFS
Treasurer	Jerry Stecker, 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.

***Our Father Francis was devoted to the Gospel in a time when most people
were illiterate. He admonished his followers to
“Preach the Gospel always and if necessary use words.”
In today’s world, We might be the only Gospel some people read.***