



Dear Brothers & Sisters

From the Minister

Greetings my Brothers and Sisters,

As I write this, Thanksgiving is this week and Advent with the new liturgical year will begin. Where does time go?

I found a small prayer in the St. Theresa bulletin from last week that called to me:

PRAYER OF SEASONS

As the seasons change, be with me.

As my life shifts and shapes, be with me.

As I face what the future holds, be with me.

As I seek the beauty to be found today
help me to find You there.

And so that old saying, “nothing is so constant in life as change” comes to mind. And a title of an article in our Nov./Dec. St. Anthony Messenger stating, I’d like to Say: It’s Time to Act like St. Francis, written by Brother Gregory Cellini, OFS, pages 34-35. He ends his article with, “Moving Forward. For me, the most important day of this election cycle is not Tuesday, November 5, but the day the results are finalized, and a winner is declared. This is when my prayers for the president—regardless of my choice—will begin. My dream is during the next four years, our nation will unite. More than one person has told me this will take a miracle. Maybe if I can give up the need to be right and instead be a peacemaker, I can help create this miracle. Let’s consider what St. Francis would do to cultivate respect and understanding.”

Yesterday, I saw the movie, *Bonhoeffer*, with 16 members of my small bible study group. The theme is to fight the corruption of the time and fight for the marginalized and oppressed. One quote from Bonhoeffer is: “Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.” So, I pray that we all practice and put into action compassion and understanding and care for “the other” that we encounter each and every day. Let’s not foster fear, but HOPE. LOVE and ACTION by living out our Franciscan Rule each and every day. Sts. Francis and Clare, pray for us.

And into our Christmas potluck that we will share on December 9th, our next fraternity gathering at Holy Family. Currently this is who we have signed up:

The fraternity will purchase a sandwich tray from the Jewel	
Appetizers:	Tim and Kay
Salads:	Kathy and Marion
Desserts:	Mary Anita and Mary Schaefer
Chips:	Stephanie
Side dish:	Patti
Beverages, cups and ice:	Sue

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Napkins, plates, flatware: Jerry

Please keep the following in your prayers: our shut in (Tim's grandmother) Susan J, our Tom and Dave who are all having health issues right now. Actually, I think we would all benefit from/with prayers for our health.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours.

See you in December.

Peace, Sue OFS

Our Monthly Gatherings – VERY Important Info

As all are aware, the council has been considering the best time for our monthly gatherings in the future. Our current gathering day and time is conducive to most current members who are retired. However, as evidenced by our recent elections in September, in order for our fraternity to survive, we must be more welcoming and accommodating to younger persons who may have a vocation to the secular life and work during the daytime.

As of the writing of this newsletter, the council is working with staff at Holy Family to assess the possibilities.

At least through February, we will continue to meet on the second Monday at 1:00 p.m. So:

We will gather on **Monday, December 9, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. in the chapel** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness, for a Communion Service. Following the service, we will go downstairs to our designated meeting room to celebrate our Christmas potluck.

Monthly Gathering Sign-In – Must Read

Please note that the Sign-In Sheets have been revised to make the process more Welcoming to our First Time and Returning Visitors.

Beginning with the December gathering, Professed, Candidates and Inquirers will sign-in beginning on Page 2.

Thank you for being as Welcoming as we can be to our Visitors.

Profession Anniversaries

There are no profession anniversaries in December.

We Pray ...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER

For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this coming Jubilee Year 2025 strengthens our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

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
April	Welcome the Stranger – collection of items needed by a refuge family who are moving into an apartment in their new country
May	FMSC
June	Blessing Bags – creation of plastic bags of necessities for the homeless
July	FMSC
August	Journeys/The Road Home
September	FMSC
October	Welcome the Stranger
November	Thanksgiving baskets for the needy
December	FMSC

In the January issue, there will be a full description of each of our outreach agencies and what we will be doing to help.

Each month we will continue to collect loose change for Feed My Starving Children and pop top tabs for Ronald McDonald house (kidney dialysis for children).

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2024

Monday, Dec. 9	Monthly gathering will be a Christmas potluck held at 1 p.m. in the Gathering Room on the Lower Level at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. There will be a Communion Service <i>prior</i> to the potluck in the chapel.
Sunday, Dec. 22	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2025

- Monday, Jan. 13** Monthly gathering will be at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the Lower Level of **Holy Family Parish, Inverness**. Our liturgy will be the Liturgy of the Hours (LOTH).
- Sunday, Jan. 26** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 10** Monthly gathering will be at **1 p.m.** in the **Gathering Room** on the Lower Level of **Holy Family Parish, Inverness**. Our liturgy will be the Liturgy of the Hours (LOTH).
There will be a collection of food and items for Journeys/The Road Home.
- Sunday, Feb. 23** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, Mar. 10** Monthly gathering will be at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The liturgy will be the Stations of the Cross.
- Sunday, Mar. 23** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, Apr. 14** Monthly gathering will be 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 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 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 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 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.
- Monday, Sept. 8** Monthly gathering will be 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 Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The liturgy will be Transitus of St. Francis.
There will be a collection of items for Welcome the Stranger.
- Sunday, Oct. 26** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.

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- Monday, Nov. 10** Monthly gathering will be 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 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.

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.

The Golden Box

Some time ago, a mother punished her 5-year-old daughter for wasting a roll of expensive gold wrapping paper to decorate a box to put under the Christmas tree. The next morning the little girl brought the box to her mother and said, "This is for you, Momma."

The mother was embarrassed by her earlier over reaction, but her anger flared again when she opened the box and found it was empty. She spoke to her daughter in a harsh manner. "Don't you know, young lady, when you give someone a present there's supposed to be something inside the package?"

The little daughter had tears in her eyes and said, "Oh, Momma, it's not empty! I blew kisses into it until it was full."

The mother was crushed. She fell on her knees and put her arms around her little girl, and she begged her forgiveness for her thoughtless anger.

An accident took the life of the child a short time later, and it is said that the mother kept that gold box by her bed for all the years of her life. Whenever she was discouraged or faced difficult problems, she would open the box and take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us, as human beings, has been given a golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family, friends and God. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.

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