



Dear Brothers & Sisters

From the Minister

Greetings my Brothers and Sisters.

By the time this reaches you, Thanksgiving will have come and gone, and Advent will be right around the corner. The older I get, the faster time goes by.

On November 9th we celebrated our regional Mother Cabrini Celebration where Fr. Michael Surufka, OFM, was our dynamic speaker. And one of his quotes was: "You should be thankful for the worst thing that ever happened to you...as it made you who you are...it shapes your heart." In Luke 2:19, Mary was treasuring all these things, pondering them in her heart. Mary knew loss. Fr. Surufka challenged us to face life with faith, love, acceptance and gratitude. And lastly, perfect joy is finding our Blessings in everything...the good, the bad and the ugly.

I write this as I hear from so many of you who are hurting and going through STUFF. I, too, am stumbling through STUFF. Let us be there for one another, share our stories and keep each other in our prayers.

Remember, we live in HOPE and BELIEVE in miracles. We trust in the Lord and believe that He has our backs and so we go forward in faith, love and gratitude.

Going into the holidays is not always a Hallmark time of the year. It can be hard. So be aware of others who may need a hug, a visit, a call or just someone to listen to them. When we give to others...we, too, are receiving help.

On a lighter note, our fraternity gathering on Monday, December 8th at 4:30 p.m. will begin with a Communion Service in the chapel. We will also be welcoming Bill, Anne and Mary into Candidacy and have a short business meeting. Then we will go downstairs for our Christmas party. The following is a list of what you have signed up to bring:

Dessert:	Lou and Carrie
Salads:	Mary, Kathy and Mary Anita
Fruit:	Jerry
Main Entree:	Kay and Bill
Soda and Ice:	Anne
Paper/flatware:	Marion
Centerpieces:	Sue

If for some reason you cannot make the event, please let me know so that we can arrange to have someone else bring your items.

Our last Feed My Starving Children event for the year will be on Wednesday, December 17th from 2:30-4:00 p.m. So far, we have Maria and me working. Is there anyone else who would like to attend? Please let me know...I will have a sign-up sheet at our gathering on December 8th. Remember, there is also a need for those who can't stand—to label the packages we fill. So, let's make this our fraternity Christmas gift for the neediest of the needy—starving children.

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Included in this newsletter is the Calendar of Gatherings for 2026. I urge you to sit down NOW and add these dates to your 2026 calendars for our Fraternity Gatherings in 2026.

In closing, You are ALL in my prayers each day. I thank God for you and this Franciscan journey we share. We have done a lot this year...and I look forward to doing more with you in 2026.

Peace and all Good.

Merry Christmas.

Sue, OFS

Our Monthly Gathering – December 2025

We will gather on **Monday, December 8th, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. in the Chapel at Holy Family Parish in Inverness** for a Communion Service. Afterward, we will joyfully welcome Anne F, Bill K. and Mary S. into Candidacy. There will *not* be a saint's report this month to allow for enough time to celebrate Christmas in our gathering room on the lower level.

We Pray ...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER

For Christmas in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2025

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 1:00 p.m.

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2026

Monday, Jan. 12	Monthly gathering will be at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The liturgy will be the Liturgy of the Hours. Marion T. will give a report on the life of St. Rose of Viterbo.
Sunday, Jan. 25	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:00 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 9	Monthly gathering will be at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The liturgy will be the Stations of the Cross. A report will be given by Carrie C. on Blessed Solanus Casey. There will be a collection of items for Journeys/The Road Home.

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2026 continued from page 2

Sunday, Feb. 22	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:00 p.m.
Monday, Mar. 9	Monthly gathering will be at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. Liturgy to be determined. A report will be given by Anne F. on Pope St. Pius X.
Sunday, Mar. 22	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:00 p.m.
Monday, Apr. 13	Monthly gathering will be at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. This will be our Regional Visitation.
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 to be determined. Lou R. will give a report on Blessed Franz Jagstetter.
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. Liturgy to be determined. Kay C. will give a report on St. John Bosco.
Sunday, June 28	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:00 p.m.
Monday, July 13	Monthly gathering will be at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. Liturgy to be determined. Bonnie M. will give a report on Pope St. John XXIII
Sunday, July 19	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:00 p.m.
Monday, Aug. 10	Monthly gathering will be at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. Liturgy to be determined.
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.
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.
Sunday, Oct. 25	Council meeting, 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.
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. It will be our Christmas celebration.
Sunday, Dec. 27	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:00 p.m.

Once the fraternity has determined the Liturgy for each gathering and any other pertinent information, it will be added to this calendar. Meanwhile, it is important that you add these dates to your wall calendar, phone calendar or any other way in which you keep track of appointments. This is your monthly appointment with the Divine Cardiologist.

Snack Signup for 2026

January 12	Maria B.	Bill K.
February 9	Kathy F.	Mary S.
March 9	Marion T.	Stephanie H.
April 13	Maria B.	Anne F.
May 11	Lou R.	RoseAnn Y.
June 8	Tom S.	Jerry S.

Franciscan Outreach Schedule for 2025

The schedule for Franciscan Outreach for 2025 is as follows:

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.

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 support those 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 March and September gatherings. Items selected 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
- Roll of quarters (for laundry)
- Scouring powder
- Floor cleaner

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
- 8+ rolls of toilet paper
- Bottle of hand lotion
- 2 boxes Kleenex
- 2 Deodorant

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 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.

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.
