



Dear Brothers & Sisters

From the Minister

Now we have the memories of our Christmas past...and so we begin again...with a new year, a new month, a new week, a new day. We celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation,,to begin again. Our transformation is daily.

In the month of January we were reminded of the phrase “seamless garment” (in our St. Anthony Messenger editorial)...in how we can’t protect some of life and not ALL of life. It was stated, “The phrase comes from John 19:23, which references Christ’s tunic being seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. The concept has been referred to as a consistent ethic of life and care from womb to tomb.”

We, on the council, have looked and prayed over the monthly outreach projects at our gatherings. These projects were listed in our January 2025 newsletter. We will be looking to aid, work, donate and assemble items to assist: FMSC, Journeys/The Road Home, Welcome the Stranger, Blessing Bags for Franciscan Outreach, Thanksgiving baskets for Palatine Township as well as collecting aluminum pop tops for the Ronald McDonald House at Lurie’s Children’s Hospital and collecting loose change to feed a child for a year through FMSC. In the past, your generosity has been a Blessing. Let’s continue to Walk the Franciscan Talk and be the hands and feet of Christ.

And we will continue our journey in our Spiritual Growth as we learn, read and discuss the Exhortations and Admonitions of St. Francis over the next year. By now you should all have a copy of these. Each admonition is followed by some questions. Please read the first 2 admonitions for our February gathering and reflect on these questions. Please come to the gathering prepared to share and discuss these questions.

Our February and March fraternity meetings will remain starting at 1:00 p.m. But, beginning on April 14th, we will be starting our meetings at 4:30 p.m....Not 1:00 p.m. This was voted on at our last gathering in January. *Please note this change.*

Our fraternity website is now back up and running but with a new domain name. We can be found at: nwfranciscans.online. Thank you, Tim!

Nothing is so constant in life as change...but we can do this together. I’m keeping you in my prayers. See you in February.

Peace always,

Sue, OFS

Our Monthly Gathering

We will gather on **Monday, February 10, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in the Chapel at Holy Family Parish in Inverness for Liturgy of the Hours.** Afterward, we will proceed to the lower level for formation and social time. We will be collecting items for **Journeys/The Road Home.** See Franciscan Outreach column for items needed.

Most Important – Must Read

Beginning with our **April 14, 2025**, gathering, we will be meeting at a **later time**.
The new time for gatherings is:

Second Monday of each month from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The calendar in the newsletter has been adjusted accordingly. Please make all adjustments on your **phone, wall and pocket calendars**. Thank you.

Profession Anniversaries

February 9, 2003 Patti K.
Abundant Blessings be Yours on Your Anniversary.

We Pray ...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY

For vocations to the priesthood and religious life

That those in the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

Ongoing Formation for 2025

BIOGRAPHIES OF SAINTS

Part of ongoing formation will be focusing on the biographies of saints who were secular Franciscans. Some were secular Franciscans and then went on to found religious orders. Some were diocesan priests who could also be part of the Third Order Franciscans. *(A member of any other religious order is not permitted to become a secular in another order. Diocesan priests are not part of any specific religious order.)*

Below is the list of months in 2025 and into 2026, the saint selected and the selectee:

2025

February	St. Marianne Kope	Mary Anita C.
March	Padre Pio	Kathy F.
April	St. Elizabeth of Portugal	Tom S.
May	Blessed Solanus Casey	Carrie C.
June	St. Maximilian Kolbe	Mary S.

Ongoing formation schedule of saints continued from page 2

July	Blessed Franz Jagenstetter	Dcn. Lou R.
August	St. John Bosco	Kay C.
September	St. Pope John XXIII	Bonnie M.
October	St. Francis de Sales	Sue G.
November	St. Frances Cabrini	RoseAnn Y.
December	no biography	

2026

January	St. Rose Viterbo	Marion T.
February	St. Pius X	Anne F.
March	St. John Vianney	Tim P.

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
September	FMSC September 24, 2025 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.
October	Welcome the Stranger
November	Thanksgiving food baskets for the needy
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.

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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
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*
* pop top cans preferred

Canned soups*
Canned fruit*
Canned vegetables*
Canned beans*
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 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 (multiple sets)
Shower curtain with hooks
8 bars of soap
2 bottles of shampoo
8 toothbrushes
2 tubes of toothpaste
deodorant
10 disposable men's razors and shaving cream
feminine supplies (pads)
8 rolls of toilet paper
bottle of hand lotion
4 boxes of Kleenex
2 small trashcans

BLESSING BAGS FOR THE HOMELESS

This ministry is being tweaked for 2025. We will be packing the Blessing Bags in June at our June gathering. In May a list will be distributed asking members to sign up to bring specific items for the Blessing Bags. *(This will be similar to the sign-up that is done for the Thanksgiving baskets.)*

The items will be brought to the June gathering and together we will pack the Blessing Bags.

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 help pay for kidney dialysis for children.

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2025

Monday, Feb. 10	Monthly gathering will be at 1 p.m. in the Chapel of Holy Family Parish, Inverness for Liturgy of the Hours. 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 1:00 p.m. 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 4:30 p.m. 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 4:30 p.m. 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 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. There will be a Communion Service. Blessing Bags for the homeless will be packed at the gathering.

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings continued from page 5

Sunday, June 22	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, July 14	Monthly gathering will be at 4:30 p.m. 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 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The liturgy will be Lectio Divina.
Sunday, Aug. 24	There will be a collection of items for Journeys/The Road Home 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, Inverness. The liturgy will be Transitus of St. Francis. <i>Note: this is the First Monday of the month.</i>
Sunday, Oct. 26	There will be a collection of items for Welcome the Stranger. 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.
Sunday, Nov. 23	We will pack Thanksgiving baskets for the Township. 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. 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.
